

2019 DECEMBER AOS Corner – for Affiliated Societies

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely or in part, in their society publications.

We encourage use of the [AOS website](http://www.aos.org/) by all members. <http://www.aos.org/>

Insight for our AFFILIATED SOCIETIES
<http://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.aspx>

Welcome Back Affiliates!

Recently I was clerking at an affiliated orchid society show. My job at an orchid show is organizing and tracking the paperwork that is required to account for AOS awards granted at the show. While there in the exhibit hall with five affiliated orchid society exhibits in front of me, many visitors to the show inquired how it all works. Well, we all know the truth is that we wave a magic wand and wiggle our nose and...okay, maybe not.

A number of things intrigued the visitors about all of the displays. Where did all of those orchids come from? How did the ribbons get there? What were all of those plants on the table in front of me, separated from the displays (AOS nominations)? Hoping to offer a little insight, briefly I explained as best I could, about society members loaning their blooming orchids for the displays, Ribbon Judging teams, and the nomination process for AOS awards. Shows generally include Ribbon Judging where allied genera orchids are compared for first, second and third place ribbons. Societies often sponsor trophies for best selections in the show. AOS nominations are like the upper echelon of orchids and are reviewed and scored for other awards.

This month we will focus on how you can bring the Orchid Judging experience to your society.

DECEMBER Focus: Orchid Judging
<http://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx>

Has your society ever explained the orchid judging process to your members?

Do you know where your [nearest AOS Judging Center](#) is located?

<http://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/aos-judging-centers.aspx>

DID YOU KNOW? Full-fledged orchid show judging might work a little different from monthly or outreach judging. However, all judging offers society members and the orchid-growing public a chance to display their orchids and a chance to receive recognition for their growing abilities. For AOS judging, whether at a monthly, outreach or show judging, there are [different levels of awards](#) granted to quality plants. Each award level is based on a 100-point scale, with points awarded to each attribute on the score sheet. <http://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/aos-awards.aspx>

DID YOU KNOW? If you do not have an opportunity to attend a local orchid show, there are thirty-seven judging locations throughout the USA and Canada. The AOS has also made special accommodations to bring the judging process directly to you. **Outreach Judging** can be requested for your monthly meeting. If your society is not quite ready to put on a full-fledged show, this may be a good option for you. There is no fee for Outreach Judging. You still need to request the service through the [application process](#) with a two-month minimum lead-time.
<http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/ShowApp-Effective0418.pdf>

Schedule your Outreach Judging for a time when you anticipate many blooming orchids in your area. Invite the public and encourage your members to get their blooms in the best possible condition for judging. Create excitement and make it a big event. Orchids are growing in popularity! You can bet that there are many good growers among your membership and the people in your community. This is a good opportunity to gain new members for your society and for the AOS. Believe me, the excitement of an AOS award for you and your plant does not wear off.

DID YOU KNOW? The new awards program, **OrchidPro**, can help you evaluate your orchids ahead of judging. There are no downloads or software necessary. There are user-friendly tutorials to get you started. If you are an AOS member, this fantastic feature is now included with your membership. Sign-on to the AOS website. Enter your password and look for the drop down menu under your name. Select OrchidPro. Allow yourself some time to explore and discover how the program works. This is one tool that AOS Judges use in the evaluation process at orchid judging.

DID YOU KNOW? The AOS is always looking for members interested in joining the ranks of judges. Any person aspiring to become an AOS Judge and fulfilling the requirements, regardless of their place(s) of residence, may apply to any Judging Center for appointment as a student judge. A [training program](#) under the mentorship of accredited judges is offered in every judging center. Judging Centers are open to the public. Sitting in on a team of judges and observing the process is inspiring and educational. <http://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/training-resources.aspx>



[Check out the Complete Affiliated Benefits Package](http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/Benefits-of-being-an-Affiliated-Societies-Member-v5.pdf)

<http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/Benefits-of-being-an-Affiliated-Societies-Member-v5.pdf>

REMINDERS

Encourage your members to join the AOS today. Membership rates will increase in 2020.

The holidays are approaching! Give the gift you would like to receive - [membership](http://www.aos.org/about-us/aos-membership.aspx) in the American Orchid Society <http://www.aos.org/about-us/aos-membership.aspx> You are giving so much more than a magazine subscription!

Please keep the American Orchid Society in mind when preparing your annual society budgets. The American Orchid Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the passion for orchids through education, conservation, and research. **Your donations are tax-deductible.** <https://secure.aos.org/donate/default.aspx>

AFFILIATED SOCIETY BONUS - EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS

Affiliated societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member that they refer. With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership!

It is a good idea to have [printed membership applications](#) with your society's name already filled in and available at your monthly meetings. http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/AOS_Join_Form_2016_Effective_091416.pdf When signing up for individual [membership through the AOS website](#), please note your Society Affiliation in the comments section at checkout. <https://secure.aos.org/join/membership.aspx>

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? An affiliated society may use recorded webinars for presentations at their monthly meetings. With Wi-Fi access, it's easy! Webinars are an internet-connected audiovisual presentation. You can view from anywhere that you have an internet connection, via Mac, PC or even your mobile device. It's easy to find the [scheduled webinars](#) and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

If you do not have internet access, you can contact the AOS Education Committee, Sandra Svoboda at stillisch@cox.net and request [a program from the recorded list](#). <http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/Webinars-for-Affiliated-Societies-7-24-19.pdf> The video file with instructions for use will be sent to you. Copy the file to a flash drive or copy it to your computer hard drive and show the webinar at the meeting.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	December 10, 2019 8:30 EST Tuesday	January 09, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday	January 16, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday	February 11, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday
Topic	Conservation of <i>Saccolia lanceolata</i> in Florida, a success story	Orchid Travels in Peru	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Large Flowered Cattleyas
Presenter	Jennifer Reinoso Accredited AOS Judge and Special Funding Chair	Ken Jacobsen Accredited AOS Judge	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Art Chadwick Founder Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc.

To view **REGISTRATION is REQUIRED:** <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure from the same webpage.

Send your **Greenhouse Chat** questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

If you want to view independently from home, you can join live, either on your computer or by phone. ALL past webinars are recorded and indexed by topic, for future viewing.

FOR YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Remember to let your society members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources available to help make orchid growing enjoyable and successful.

JOIN NOW – Membership rate increase scheduled for 2020

Reciprocal Garden Admissions Program



As a member of the AOS, you receive FREE or discounted admission to nearly 300 Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. Show your AOS membership card at admissions and benefit from the Reciprocal Garden Admission program. Members enjoy [free or reduced admission](#) or discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide. <https://www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap/find>

Please reference the [American Horticultural Society guidelines](#) about how to take advantage of your Reciprocal Admissions Program benefits. It is recommended that you call all gardens prior to your visit. Each garden has its own unique admissions policy and some may have exclusions about special events, exhibits, etc. <https://www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap#guidelines>

CULTURE CONNECTION

[CULTIVATE](#), to grow in a prepared medium

Baby It's Cold Outside - Winter Care Tips by the AOS Education Committee

Except for a few parts of the country, winter is in full swing. The shorter and often dull days, along with cooler temperatures, affect our orchids in both good and bad ways.

First, the good news; cooler temperatures and/or shorter days send the signal to many orchid species and hybrids that it is time to flower. Inflorescences on many *Phalaenopsis* and *Cymbidium* hybrids should be well developed by Christmas. Be on the lookout for bugs that think of your precious orchid buds as tasty winter treats. Mealybugs will be the most likely suspects. Fortunately, these soft-bodied pests can be easily controlled with 1 teaspoon (5 ml) castile soap (we use Dr. Bronner's peppermint soap) in a quart (0.9 L) of water in a hand sprayer. This safe home treatment may require several applications every other day until control is achieved. Do not be tempted to mix any chemical control, even one as benign as soap, stronger than recommended.

It is a good idea to begin staking *Phalaenopsis* spikes before they get too far along. Done while the inflorescence is still pliable it is easy but if you wait too long they become brittle like asparagus and it is so easy to accidentally snap them off. For a brief description of staking *Phalaenopsis* spikes see <http://www.orchidworks.com/showguide/index.html> Certain *Cattleya* species bloom on cue for the holidays, notably *Cattleya trianae* and *Cattleya percivaliana* (although both bloom across wider seasons in nature). It is a good idea to stake cattleyas also, as the flowers will display better. Decorating the home with blooming orchids can provide colorful accents that are always admired by guests. If you have any orchid shows nearby at this time of year, try to make the time to attend one and pick out a few plants that will bloom reliably at the holidays for years to come.

Here are a few suggestions to keep your orchids healthy this winter: If you are a windowsill grower, the light will be entirely different at this time of year. Assess it carefully and make any necessary adjustments. A south window may be brighter due to bare trees and the sun being lower in the sky. Watch for sunburn and move plants back from the window or add a sheer curtain to cut down the light. Shorter days and gloomy weather in many parts of the country can cause plants to produce soft growths that are more susceptible to pests and disease. Some orchids will not flower if they do not receive enough light. If necessary, use a grow light on a timer to provide additional light in winter.

Orchids grow more slowly in winter and will need less water and fertilizer. Most growers cut their fertilizer back to twice a month at half strength. Monitor orchids to keep them at their proper moisture level for their type. Generally, orchids will need about half as much water in winter as they do in summer. Some orchids must have a dry winter rest in order to flower.

The loss of humidity as a result of forced-air heating can take its toll on your orchids. Remember, most orchids grow optimally with 60–75 percent humidity. If your home is especially dry, and you will know by the way your own skin reacts to winter, provide extra humidity for your orchids. A tried and true method is to set orchid pots on trays of pebbles that are filled with water; just make sure your plant is not set in the water. Misting a couple times a day can also help.

Winter is cold, so protect plants from drafts. If buds start falling off of a *Phalaenopsis* inflorescence the first thing to suspect is a drafty window. Do not put plants close enough to a window to touch the glass!

If you happen to be lucky enough to live in an area where you grow your orchids outdoors year-round, don't be caught with your guard down. Even South Florida, the Gulf Coast and Southern California can experience damaging cold temperatures. Have a plan and supplies for covering or moving plants should cold weather be heading your way. Providing a little extra attention to your orchids at this

time of year will get them through the winter in good health and bloom! (*Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 82 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2013*)

Worth the Read - ORCHIDS December Preview

A Selection of the Best - Photo of the Week - All orchid hobbyists and photographers are invited to submit digital images for consideration as the "Photo of the Week" to be featured on the homepage of the AOS website, and then for possible selection featuring the best of the best, in the December issue of ORCHIDS. Follow the submission guidelines and your photography might be chosen in the future for this special feature. <http://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/photo-of-the-week.aspx>

Don't miss out! Membership offers something for everyone

- New Refugium Botanicum - Phragmipedium xtalamancanum
- Orchid Growing in a Retirement Community
- Orchids Illustrated - Laelia
- The Strange Case of Phragmipedium xtalamancanum, an International Story of Conservation and Taxonomy
- The Catasetinae, Part 4: Cycnoches warszewiczii and its Influence in Breeding
- Orchids in the Gilded Age New York
- Pass on Your Love of Orchids - And Watch it Grow

LOOK for your awarded orchids in the sixteen-page awards gallery in each issue of ORCHIDS! The magazine awards gallery features all of the awards granted month by month in the previous year.

LOOK on the AOS website to find the [most recently awarded orchids!](#)

<https://secure.aos.org/orchid-awards.aspx>



Left) Bulbophyllum Lady Sam 'Mike's Surprise' HCC/AOS (76 points)
(Bulbophyllum macrobulbum x Bulbophyllum echinolabium)
 Exhibitor: Mike and Joni Sielaff
 Photographer: Kay Clark



Center) Habenaria medusa 'Cat's Whiskers' AM/AOS (87 points)
 Exhibitor: Joel R. Edwards
 Photographer: Lois Cinert



Right) Aerides quinquevulnera 'Garrett's Pink Lady' AM/AOS (83 points)
 Exhibitor: Sharon and David Garrett
 Photographer: Wes Newton

Please send your questions and submissions for the AOS Corner to
askmasc@verizon.net or affiliated_societies_committee@aos.org

Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner!

Eileen Hector, AOS Corner - Affiliated Societies Newsletter Editor