



2020 APRIL 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.

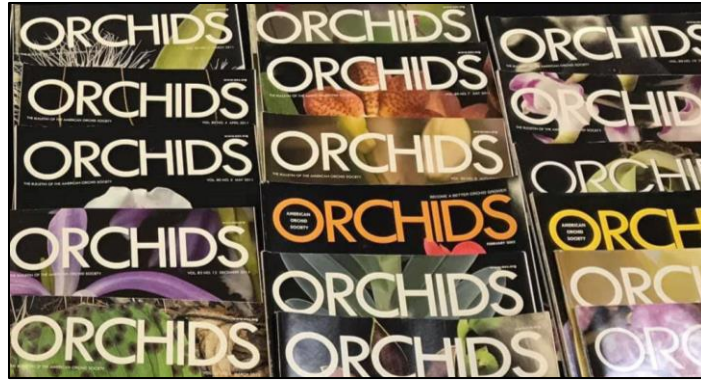
We encourage use of the **AOS website** by all members. <http://www.aos.org>

CAUTION AFFILIATES: It has come to our attention that a phishing email has recently circulated with an authentic looking appeal for donations. Look closely at appeals like this. Please keep in mind that AOS donation appeals are orchid-related and will always come from an aos.org address.

APRIL Focus: Sharpen Your Pencils

Do You Get it?

A printed copy of **ORCHIDS magazine** is distributed monthly to our American Orchid Society Affiliates and is available both in print and digital versions for individual AOS members. It is a monthly reminder to grow our knowledge base. Each month it includes articles, advice and encouragement to help us expand our passion for orchids. If you have hit upon a successful method of caring for your orchids, or something novel in your growing area set-up that may work for others, write those ideas down. If you have something that has worked extremely well within your society, write it down. If you have tried and true tips to share, write them down. Our editorial staff is always looking for new content for our flagship monthly publication. **Submit an article** to the magazine for consideration. Follow these guidelines and you may soon see your name in print. <http://www.aos.org/about-us/article-submissions.aspx>



DID YOU KNOW? There is an event calendar on the AOS website. It includes orchid shows, auctions and monthly orchid judging center dates. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, many of our societies and judging centers have had to cancel their events. Please remember to contact the AOS home office to advise of any cancellations from your group so the AOS **News & Events Calendar** can be updated. In case you have not seen or heard - the **AOS Spring Members Meeting** has also been postponed. Stay tuned for new dates. <http://www.aos.org/news-events/event-calendar.aspx>

DID YOU KNOW? Every year the American Orchid Society holds a contest that offers a cash prize for the winner and publication of the winning essay in ORCHIDS magazine. There is a new theme each year. The annual **Gordon W. Dillon - Richard C. Peterson Memorial Essay Contest** was established in 1985 by the AOS Northeast Judging Center to honor the memory of two former editors of the AOS Bulletin (now ORCHIDS). Gordon Dillon served as editor from 1943 through 1968 and again from 1970 through 1973. Richard Peterson's name first appeared on the masthead of the AOS Bulletin in April 1971 as associate editor. In 1973, he was named editor and, upon Dillon's retirement in 1977, he became the executive director, retaining his position of editor through 1984.

Incorporate any of the following ideas into your 2020 essay – The AOS is celebrating its **Centennial Anniversary** in 2021. To join in the fun, the 2020 Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest is asking for in-depth articles relating to significant people, events, programs or even plants or technology changes that have helped shape the direction of the AOS or are likely to in the future. Was there someone special in the AOS who mentored and inspired you and others? Did an AOS award you received plant the seed that resulted in you becoming involved in judging—could you tie that into how the judging program has helped shape the AOS and Affiliated Societies? Perhaps it is technological changes that the AOS has adopted that have changed and will change the AOS and your enjoyment of orchids. Share why the AOS has had and will have an enormous influence over many lifetimes. There are rules to follow and deadlines to meet. <http://www.aos.org/about-us/article-submissions/dillon-peterson-essay-contest.aspx>

LOOKING FORWARD

Find out how your society can participate in this once in a hundred years celebration!
There will be more news on the Centennial Celebration in the AOS Corner in the coming months.



A preview of the bling circulating for the Centennial Celebration in April 2021



REMINDERS

Insight for our **AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

<http://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.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>

AFFILIATED SOCIETY BONUS - EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY

Affiliated Societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member they recruit. If you start now, with twelve new AOS members, your Affiliated Society can obtain a FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership! Be sure and advise new members to note their society affiliation on the printed membership form or in the comments section online at checkout.

2020 **updated membership** rates and membership material NOW on the AOS website!

<http://www.aos.org/about-us/aos-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!






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| When | April 23, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday | May 12, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday | May 21, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday | RECORDED WEBINARS at your convenience |
| Topic | Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i> | Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i> | Australian Dendrobiums | Culture, Judging, Pests and Diseases, Greenhouse Chats indexed by topic |
| Presenter | Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer | Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer | Fred Clarke AOS Judge, Orchid Hybridizer & Greenhouse Owner | AOS Members, Judges, Concerned Conservationists, Scientists & More |

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 anyway!

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 Greenhouse Chats are indexed by topic, for future viewing.

Remember to check in with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS/>

<https://instagram.com/americanorchidsociety?igshid=16ixfciczky01>

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. *Individual society membership and AOS Membership are not the same. Although affiliated, each requires separate membership dues.*

Orchid growers are often surprised to know just how good of a grower they are when they finally gain the confidence to take their orchid(s) to one of the **26 judging centers (34 sites)** throughout the United States and Canada and receive an American Orchid Society Award. That prestige means sometimes you get to give your orchid a unique clonal name and your orchid is photographed for publication on the **Latest Orchid Awards** page the AOS website and in **ORCHIDS** magazine, both digitally and in print. If you are an American Orchid Society member you receive reduced processing fees for AOS judged awards. AOS Members save \$20 on processing fees for each AOS award granted.

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

<http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>



CULTURE CONNECTION

CULTIVATE: to grow in a prepared medium

Visit the AOS website for a **Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care**

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/march-april-checklist.aspx>

April: The Month of Niceness

Thoughtful Gestures in the Orchid Community Promote Positive Attitudes

By Thomas Mirenda

Spring is a most uplifting time of year, with its cool, fresh weather, its astonishing rainbow palette of floral exuberance and accompanying fragrant essences in the air. Whatever hardships life may lay at our

doorstep, daffodils, cherry blossoms and spring cattleyas are, at least, a temporary respite from adversity. Spring is nice. I had a teacher years ago who chided me for using that word too often and opined that “nice” was actually an insult, that it was an adjective used to describe something bland. Something “nice” couldn’t be branded with any superlatives. It merely described an object or experience that was pleasant, but evoked no passion. As I’ve matured I’ve come to think differently about “niceness” and its importance and relevance. For example, I’ve discovered that in my desire to always be right or correct, I’ve also become confrontational, calling people out when they say something inaccurate or that I do not agree with. However justified I may be in correcting someone, in the end this appears as negativity and drives away potential friendships and relationships. Being nice is something I have to work on every day, but this work has also yielded fantastic, if immeasurable, results.

At the risk of sounding like an elementary school teacher, I believe that, no matter what, it is always important to be nice, to listen to and respect others’ points of view and to be kind to everyone, even those we completely disagree with. This kind of sensitivity is especially important in today’s orchid world and particularly in the orchid judging community. It is frequently lamented that participation in judging has been waning over the years and that, in particular, young people are underrepresented or even absent from our meetings and events. While this is often blamed on the seductive pull of the internet, that is really a lame explanation, as in the orchid world, there is no image or website that can substitute for the real thing. It is up to us to create a nurturing environment for everyone who wants to take part in the joy of orchid growing, no matter how old and crotchety, how young and callow or how odd and quirky. It is this diversity that makes us stronger, and diversity is what I love most about orchids. We are all good at nurturing and coddling our plants, but seemingly less successful in growing our own ranks. I think that in this regard, niceness can go a long way.

MILDNESS even though spring rains and storms are still likely in April, we can all agree that the weather has improved greatly since the bleak midwinter. Orchids reflect the changes too and are stimulated by the lengthening days and increased light levels to begin their new growths. Even plants such as *cymbidiums*, *lycastes* and *phalaenopsis* that have just finished blooming are already producing new roots, leaves and growths that are the beginnings of this year’s pseudobulbs. There is a lot of imminent work to be done now. You must take advantage of all this growing activity as this is the time when plants establish themselves most easily.

PREPAREDNESS Before repotting season gets seriously underway, be sure you have all the supplies you’ll need to do a good job. Hit the garden centers or crack open the supply catalog and get a generous supply of clean new pots and baskets in assorted styles and sizes, fresh orchid mixes, rhizome clips, blank labels for any divisions you might make and fresh, unspoiled fertilizers. If you’re anything like me, having everything needed at your fingertips makes for a fun and efficient session of repotting. If I have to keep going back to the store or discover I do not have everything I need, I risk doing a poor or incomplete job or recycling supplies that may be suspect. In the end, the plants will suffer and so will your growing. Your orchids’ needs are not that complicated. Just like when you are cooking, it is always true that the best results come directly from your best efforts and quality ingredients.

MINDFULNESS Go through every plant in your collection and assess its needs and progress. This will help you set priorities in terms of which plants need to be repotted first. While most everything benefits from a spring repotting, some plants, particularly cattleyas and species from seasonally dry forests such as *encyclias*, *catasetums* and *brassavolas*, are rapidly coming out of dormancy now and you should try to repot them before the new roots are 2 inches (5 cm) long. Otherwise, the new roots may be damaged and crushed while repotting. Allowing roots to develop and grow naturally into their new fresh medium is what we all strive for at this time of year.

GRACIOUSNESS Invite your curious friends, neighbors and even that surly teenager across the street to help you during potting season. If they are not interested they will likely politely turn down your entreaties, but you just might be surprised how interested they might be. Reward anyone who helps you with a nice division or a new blooming phalaenopsis from the supermarket. Your invitation to them into this unfamiliar but totally fascinating world might create a new orchid enthusiast. And besides, it's a nice thing to do. (*As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 82, NO.4, APRIL 2013*)

AOS members have access to over 2,050 articles published between the years 2003 - 2009 and 2011 - 2018 through the [digital archives](http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx).
<http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

Worth the Read - ORCHIDS April Preview

The April edition of ORCHIDS features spectacular photography of spectacular orchids in this all-awards issue. This year, along with the traditional FCCs from 2019 and the year-end special awards for 2018, it will include an additional 16 pages of 2018 awards. LOOK for *your* awarded orchids in the sixteen-page awards gallery in each issue of ORCHIDS!

VIEW the beauty and diversity of the [most recently awarded orchids on the AOS website!](https://secure.aos.org/orchid-awards.aspx) Exhibits are also included in the latest awards gallery. Check it out to get some great ideas for your next display.
<https://secure.aos.org/orchid-awards.aspx>



Left **Award 20201333:** Renanstylis Manoa Queen 'Kakaukani' HCC/AOS (79 points)
(Renanstylis Maui Queen x Rhynchostylis gigantea)
Exhibitor: Naoki Kawamura, Photographer: Kay Clark

Right **Award 20202261**: *Maxillaria cacaoensis* 'Sunshine' HCC/AOS (79 points)
Exhibitor: Galen Carpenter, Photographer: Kathy Barrett



Exhibit **Award 20202576**: American Orchid Society Show Trophy 'Valentine's Togetherness' ST/AOS (82 points) Exhibitor: Batavia Orchid Society, Photographer: Cheryl Erins

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

Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner!

Eileen Hector, AOS Corner - Affiliated Societies Newsletter Editor