



# ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS

A Communication Instrument for Society Members and Others

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Volume III Issue 1  
January 2021



**Orchid  
Society of  
Greater  
Kansas City**

*As a non-profit organization to...  
...Promote interest in and to  
disseminate information in  
culture, development, and  
hybridization of orchids.....*

**The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Annual dues are \$25 for Individuals and \$30 for Household.**

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Dues unpaid by Feb. = non-member

## January-February News!

### Comments from Jean Rogers, President

Please remember that Dues are due by January 1<sup>st</sup> and membership goes delinquent if not paid by the February meeting. The day after the meeting, membership information is sent to Joann Curtain for its inclusion in the yearbook. You don't want to be left out!! 😊

Hope you enjoyed our January 10<sup>th</sup> program: Carri Raven-Riemann: "Moss Growing Demystified". WOW, wasn't that informative?? Just a reminder, she gets hers at Kelly's Korner Orchid Supplies.

I hope you are excited about the Member Picture Digital Pamphlet. Please send your picture right away to Cindy Meyer at [cameyeri@gmail.com](mailto:cameyeri@gmail.com) and, include your birth day and month. If you have Family Membership, send info for both!! And, if you need a LITTLE more time to do your bio, please send just as soon as you can.

We are so pleased to get the Beginner Group started again at the February meeting. Iva Stribling is such a knowledgeable grower and will be a great Host. Remember it will be from 1:00-1:30 for members with less than 2 years experience in the Society – others can listen in (I sure plan to) but not participate. Everyone can participate in Round Table immediately following Beginners Group from 1:30-1:55 hosted by Cindy Hobbs. **If you have questions/problems, please send them and pictures to Cindy at [tincan1201@aol.com](mailto:tincan1201@aol.com) as soon as you can** so she can work on finding members to address the issue. Please remember that if you don't want to wait till next meeting, you can always post to Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page and get help from other members. And If you don't do Facebook but you are an AOS member, you can send pictures to the Greenhouse Chat (see AOS Webinar Chart below) and experts will help you during the Webinar Chat AND follow up with you. If you are not an AOS member, please consider becoming one. You can do that at their website.

<https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew> And for any help, please contact Mark Prout, AOS Rep for our Society.

Also, please remember that Dues were due during December. Unpaid memberships go delinquent after the February meeting.

One more thing – I want to say thank you to all of you for being a part of OSGKC and participating in it. I appreciate the Diamond Award so much; it was such a shock. I just do what I do because I love this Society and all of you. I immensely miss being in person with you. Thank you for your support and expression of appreciation.

Happy orchid growing.  
Jean

## Project Plant Recap & Update

Sunset Valley Orchids provided the offsprings of (C. Fire Fantasy 'H&R' x C. Cosmic Delite 'SVO' HCC/AOS), now registered as C. Warpaint. Please share pictures when yours blooms. Iva's is in bloom this month – I think it is the most red we've had. WOW!! Anything else happening??? Kristy Charland has formed an 'album' on our Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page where we can see how different the flowers can be.



Please go to the website listed below to keep up with the blooming. Fun, Fun!!!!

## Facebook Group

Our Facebook page, Orchid Growers of OSGKC, is a great place for us to communicate, share, learn from each other. All through the month we have orchids that bud and bloom and we get so excited and want to share it, and the meeting is sooooo far away!! Use the Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook Page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878999427064/?ref=share> It is easy to post your precious orchids and get oooohhs and ahhhs from other members. Or something is going on and you want to ask someone – post it on this website. If you need Facebook help (I know I did and still do!!) contact Kristy ([charland.ek@outlook.com](mailto:charland.ek@outlook.com)). She'll be glad to help. **If you want to email us**, please look at March's Newsletter for contact information of willing helpers in the Society and their 'specialty'. (Can't find the March issue – email [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)). This is all especially important since we can't meet in person.



## Meetings

### Upcoming speaker - From Susie Hanna, OSGKC Program Chair:



We are really looking forward to hearing Sarah Hurdel speak to our group on how to grow Habenarias, is a widely distributed genus of terrestrial orchids. There are about 880 species. The most interesting characteristic is that they grow from tubers and drop all their leaves in the winter and go dormant. Sarah will give us good instructions on how to grow these and will have tubers available for our members to purchase.

If you'd like to know more about Sarah and her amazing orchid collection, please connect with her on Facebook.



### Last Month's Meeting Speaker Notes by Cindy Meyer and Crystal Remington

1/10/2021

We sponged up the wonderful knowledge of Carri Raven-Riemann about New Zealand sphagnum moss. If used properly this incredible media can be adapted to a variety of orchids species. Carri benefits from using the moss to increase time between watering, less frequent fertilizing and taking advantage of a better growing environment. This allows her more freedom to travel to Taiwan to judge orchids.

An example of head-to-head phalaenopsis growth comparing moss vs bark over two years showed improved leaf size and root plumpness. The trick to the best moss is quality; look for grades like Classic, Supreme and Premiere. Moss should have multiple long fluffy strands and minimal debris. This potting technique is best adapted to clear, deep ventilated pots allowing for root photosynthesis.

Preparing the moss is critical to success. Using a colander lightly spritz and toss the moss (do not drench) then leave it for a few hours. Allow the water time to evenly travel through the fluffed moss. If the moss seems too dry simply spritz again, never ring it out or squeeze the moss. (DO NOT TREAT your moss with anything. You can let unused moss dry completely)

Prepare the plant for repotting by removing old media, and decayed roots, do not hesitate to get a bit snip happy, the plants will be fine. Remember, sphagnum moss was used as a wound dressing and it will heal even the most desperate of plants. Do not fear packing the plant too tight, proper sphagnum moss will stay fluffy. Continue packing moss into the pot using a tricky swirling movement. (The swirl helps keep the roots going in the same direction.) Please view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqUX26QXDAA>.

Watering with moss is a little different, but if you follow these simple tips you should be successful. The advantage of clear pots with moss is the ability to directly monitor the roots. Watch the root velamen if they are silver, it's time to water. And when in doubt wait to water! For opaque pots, wait for the moss to dry to the touch but not shrink from the edge of the pot. Practice neglect, We have all killed a plant with too much kindness. Always lightly water from the top, stopping when water backs up over the pots' rim. Unless the plant is bone dry, then water from the bottom. Be sure to keep newly watered roots warmer for the first day.

High quality moss can last up to two years, when it turns a dark tan or brown its time to repot. Moss as it breaks down holds and retains more fertilizer therefore, less fertilizer is needed but she does recommend MSU if at all. Other helpful tips: When cutting roots always sterilize your cutters, look for charcoal bamboo mounts, and Pantyhose can be used as a great tether for mounting.

What a wonderful speaker and we are profoundly grateful to have Carrie speak for our Society. Please visit [www.facebook.com/orchidphile](http://www.facebook.com/orchidphile) for more information.

### Diamond Award to Jean Rogers by Susie Hanna

The Board of Directors of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City is pleased to announce that Jean Rogers, President of OSGKC, has been awarded the **Orchid Digest Diamond Award**.

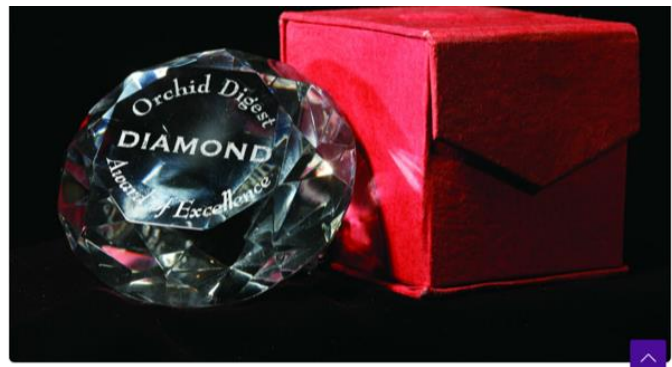
Jean was elected President of our society in January 2020, and immediately worked to expand our educational efforts, starting a monthly digital newsletter and forming a growers' round table for members.

Only two months into office and the pandemic started. Unfazed, Jean quickly learned how to host zoom meetings. Her enthusiasm and optimism drew members into updating their computer skills and connecting to the Zoom platform. This has kept our society afloat during this difficult time. We have actually gained membership instead of losing members.

In the five years Jean has been in OSGKC, she has helped create displays at regional orchid shows, chaired the membership committee, held the offices of president, vice president, newsletter editor, and has twice won Orchidist of the Year for her excellent growing skills. Jean wrote and self-published a book called "Orchid Care Crib Cards," 2018 to help new growers. She is also the chair of our fundraising auctions, and again, she jumped right into the digital world and organized a very successful Zoom auction in September of 2020 to keep funds flowing into the organization.

In addition to receiving a Crystal "Diamond" paper weight, Jean will be acknowledged in an article to be published in the magazine, **Orchid Digest**.

Hats off to Jean Rogers!!



# Judging Notes...

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## Upcoming Shows & Judgings Around Our Region

If you have an orchid blooming that you think is FANTASTIC – Contact Mark Prout. If it is time for a meeting at the Judging Center – they could take your plant to be evaluated for an award (and/or give you their best opinion if it indeed should be looked at). There are Judging Centers all-across America. The one closest to us is the MidAmerica Judging Center in St. Louis, MO. It holds monthly judging on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. The mission of the Judging Centers is to provide orchid growers in the region with the opportunity to have their plants evaluated and judged for AOS awards. These include HCC, AM, FCC, JC, AQ, CBR, CHM, CCM, and CCE.

**Stay Tuned-these were scheduled dates but the meetings have not resumed at this time:**

**March 10, 2020**      **Mid-America Judging Center**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**March 17, 2021**      **Springfield Orchid Society Show**

Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**March 24, 2021**      **Greater Omaha Orchid Society Show**

Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**April 14, 2021**      **Mid-America Judging Center**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**May 12, 2021**      **Mid-America Judging Center, Business Meeting**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

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## December OSGKC Judging

16 members submitted 56 blooming orchids for judging and show in December.

**Blue Ribbons** were received by: Kristy Charland for Ctna. Why Not in the Cattleya category and for Liparis lacerate in Species category, Sabrina Markese for a Harlequin Phalaenopsis Phal. NOID #5, Multiflora Phalaenopsis Phal. Sogo Vivien 'Marginata' JC/AOS, Red Phalaenopsis Phal. Maurish Fancy 'Rich Lantern', Spots Phalaenopsis Phal. NOID #6, and Misc. Phalaenopsis Phal. NOID #4, Jennifer McAroy for Onc. Castle Issa 'Hilo Bay', Jean Rogers for Paph. Fairre Helen, and Crystal Remington for Zygopetalum Jumping Jack in the Misc. Category.

**Red Ribbons** were received by: Anna Archibald for C. NOID #2, Dan Schlozman for C. Gaskell-Pumila 'Azure Sky' HCC/AOS, Crystal Remington for Barkeria Rebecca Marsh 'With Love' HCC/AOS, Sabrina Markese for Harlequin Phalaenopsis Phal. GW Green World 'Yaphon' AM/AOS, Multiflora Phalaenopsis Phal. Formosa Cranberry 'Peloric' and Phal. Chiacle Story 'Raspberry', Cindy Hobbs for Phal. Pylo's Sofia 'Peter's Pride', Sabrina Markese for Spots/Stripes Phalaenopsis Phal. NOID #3, Carol Gregg for Spots/Stripes Phalaenopsis Phal. Sunhope Raraavis, Anna Archibald for Rossioglossum Rawdon Jester 'Great Bee' in the Oncidium category, Megan Mayo for Paph. Deperle, Cindy Hobbs for Bark. palmeri f. coerulescens in Species Category, and Dan Schlozman for Ctsm. Leto Correa in Misc. Category

**White Ribbons** were received by: Dan Schlozman for Bsn. Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS and C. NOID #1 both in the Cattleya Category, Sabrina Markese for Phal. (GW Green World x Yaphon Gold Rose) and Phal. YangYang Red Diamond 'Prince' both the Harlequin Phalaenopsis, Jennifer McAroy for Multiflora Phal. Jia Ho Summer Love, Sariah Kinney for Multiflora Phal. Jiaho's Pink Girl, Megan Mayo for Red Phal. Pylo's Sofia 'Peter's Pride', and Megan Mayo for Tolumnia Tequila Sunrise in the Oncidium Category



December **Orchid of the Month** (drum roll)  
Paph. Fairre Helen grown by Jean Rogers



**Members Choice:**  
Rossioglossum Rawdon  
Jester 'Great Bee'  
grown by Anna  
Archibald

“Just for Viewing Pleasure” – Thanks to; Susie Hanna & Al Clinton, Kristy Charland, Jean Rogers, Sue Bondurant, and Mark Prout for submitting pictures for our viewing pleasure.

### January Digital Ribbon Judging -2<sup>nd</sup> month of points for 2021 awards.

Since it's January, - a reminder:

\* Flowers will only be judged once per bloom cycle. For example, if you have a Phal. that is in bloom for three months, you can only submit it for judging for one of those months. A plant with a reblooming growth habit can be submitted for separate months if the flowers are new.

\* Please only submit plants for judging if the plant has been in your care for more than three months.

Points are accrued from 1)number of plants submitted, 2)ribbons earned, and 3)number of categories ribbons were earned in.

1)Ribbon judging will be by designated 'judges' from the society based on 2 pictures – a close up of the best flower and a picture of the plant showing all flowers/plant. Both pictures need to be submitted in order to be in the judging. Ribbon winners will receive digital awards which, if they desire, can be traded for real ribbons when we meet again.

2)Members' Choice – members have **5 days** from date newsletter is emailed, to send your nomination (vote) in for the orchid of the month that is your favorite, again, based on the two pictures in the newsletter. Please send your nomination (vote) to Jean Rogers at [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) This month - Send by the end of the day **Saturday Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>**.

### Blooming Orchids for Show and/or Judging.

Deadline for submissions was **January 20<sup>th</sup>**. Watch for the **February** dates in an upcoming email. Huge thank you to all the members who sent pictures.

Orchids for Judging: (Send your “Member’s Choice” to [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) by January 30<sup>th</sup>)



C. Fairyland





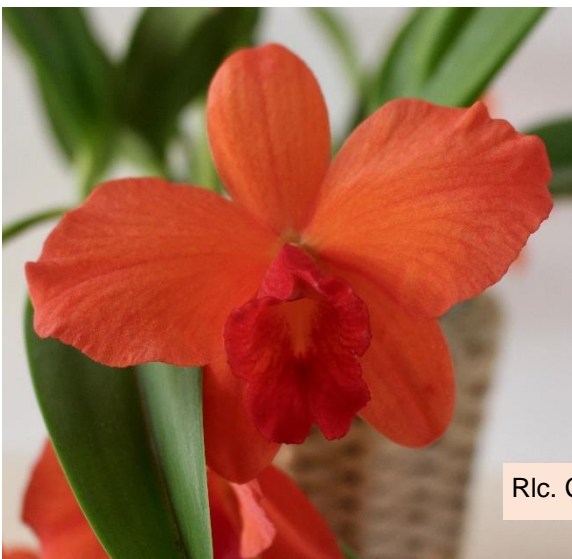
Bc. Maikai Mayumi



Rlc. Hsinying Williette '#6'



Ctt. Spring Prominence



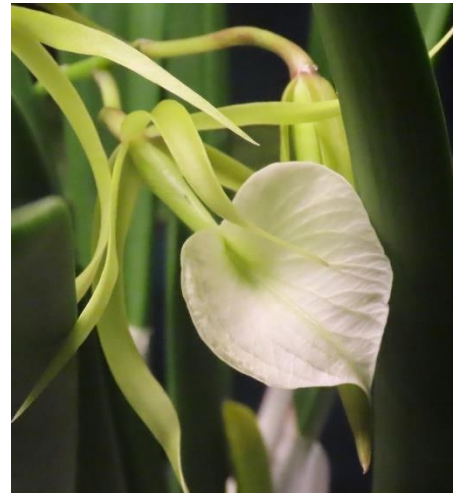
Rlc. Cosmic Sparks



Ctt. Orquidancea's Small Fortune



C. NOID



B. Little Stars



Rlc. Garnet Power





Phal. Sogo Vivien



Phal. TJ's Pink



Phal. NOID #1



Phal. NOID #2







Phal. schilleriana



Phal. Mituo King 'Red Pepper'



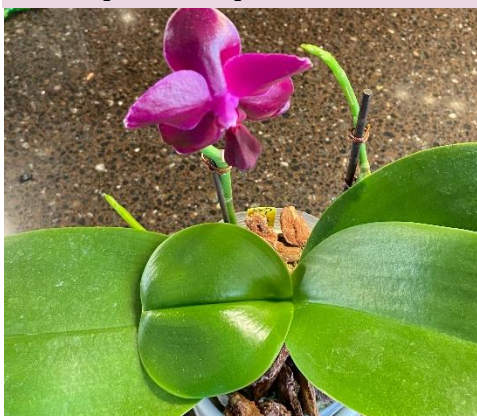
Phal. Sogo Berry x Sogo Medal



Phal. Sogo Rose 'Sogo F987' AM/AOS #1



Phal. Sogo Rose 'Sogo F987' AM/AOS #2

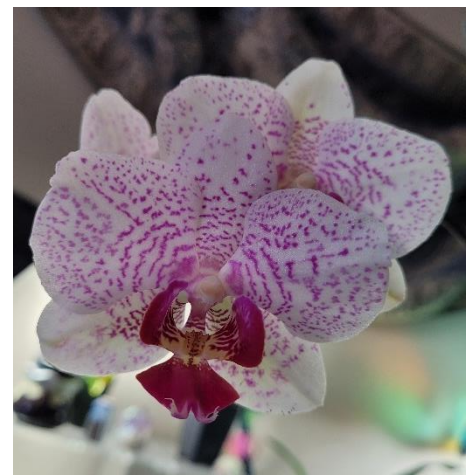




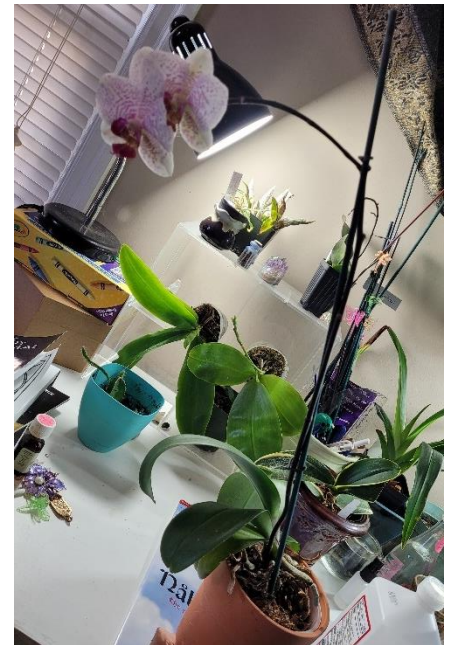
Phal. Millie's Tropical Sunset 'Canary'



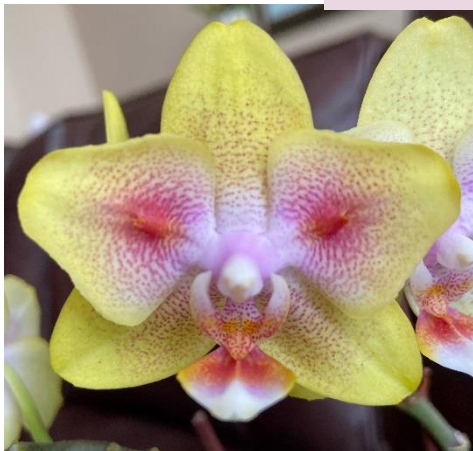
Phal. YangYang Red Rose



Phal. NOID #3



Phal. Yaphon Green Batman 'ES Peloric'

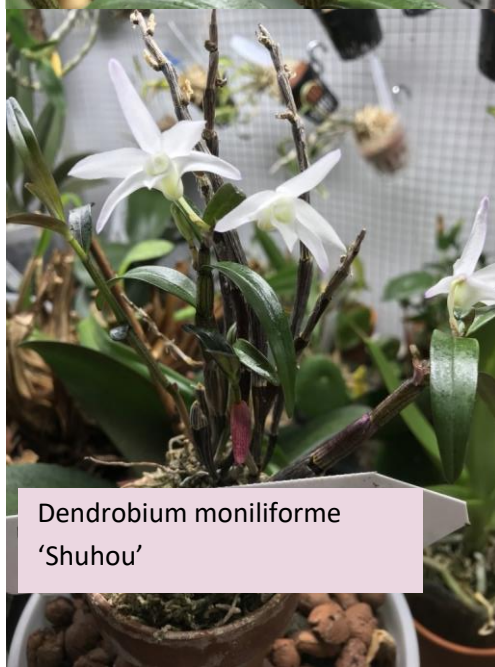




Phal. Sogo Shito x Kingfisher's Kaiulani Passion



Dendrobium schuetzei x sib



Dendrobium moniliforme 'Shuhou'



Paph. Larry Booth





Paph. Hsinying Majakun



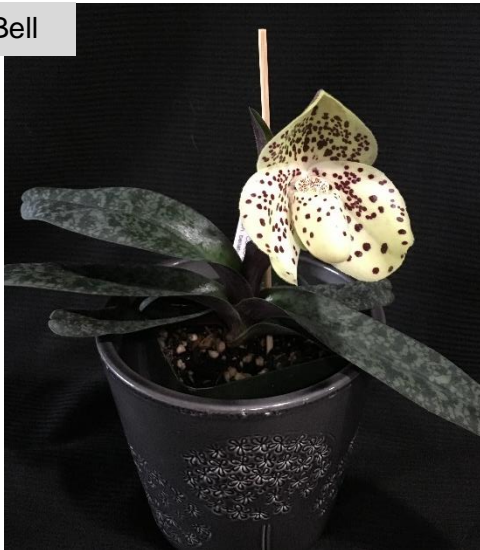
Paph Promises  
Promises  
'Eventually'

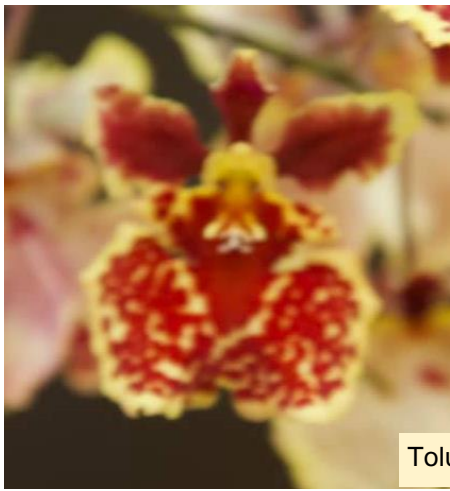


Paph. Tawan



Paph. Concon Bell





Tolumnia NOID



Bnfd. Gilded Tower



Neofinetia falcata 'Fuji-Musume'



**NOT for JUDGING – just for your VIEWING PLEASURE!**

**From Jean Rogers**

**From Iva Stribling**



Phal. Pylo's Sofia



Mini Phalaenopsis NOID



Max. sanguinea

**From Susie Hanna**



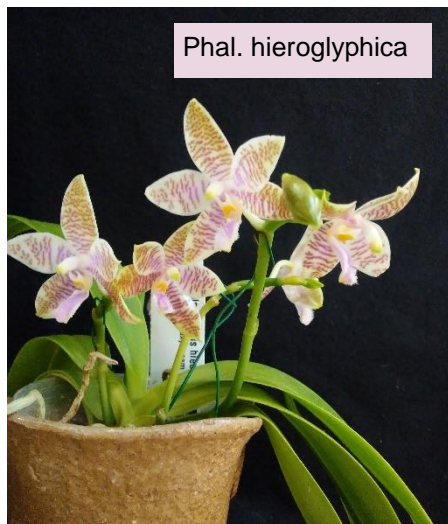
Phal. Zuma Aussie 'Zuma Canyon' AM/AOS



Phal. Fuller's Gold Stripe



Phal. venosa



Phal. hieroglyphica



Onc. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'



Slc Jeweler's Art

Phal. Linda Cheok



Ops. Nelly Isler 'Swiss Beauty'



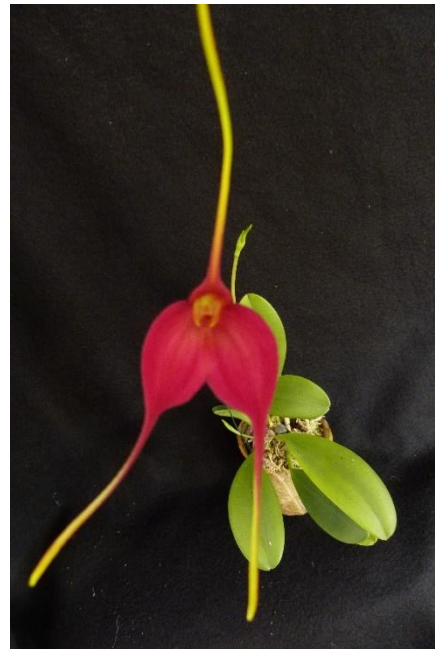
From Al Clinton



Masd. Anna Chai



Masd. Fred Bergman



Masd. Magenta Zinger



Masd. Machu Picchu



Masd. posadae



Masd. Magenta Zinger



Masd. Mountain's Linebacker

**From Mark and Joy Prout**



Phal. Fuller's Gold Stripe 'Joy's Peloric'



Phal. Liu's Cute Angel 'KF#7' AM/AOS



Phal. NOID



Rodrumnia Double Pink







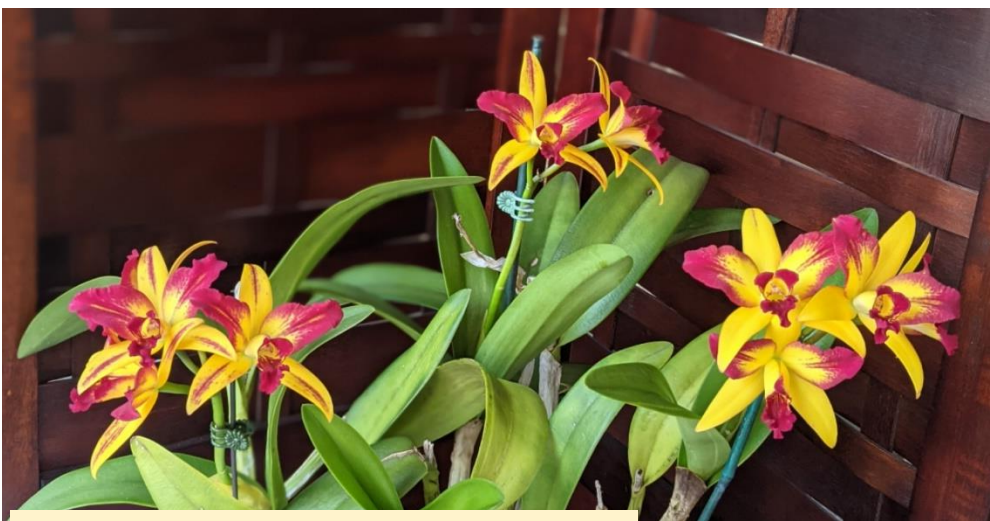
Phal. Sogo Lawrence 'F1557' AM/AOS



Tolumnia Jairak Flyer 'Super Brite'



Paph. Snowbird 'Robin' AM/AOS



Rth. Laughing Boy 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS

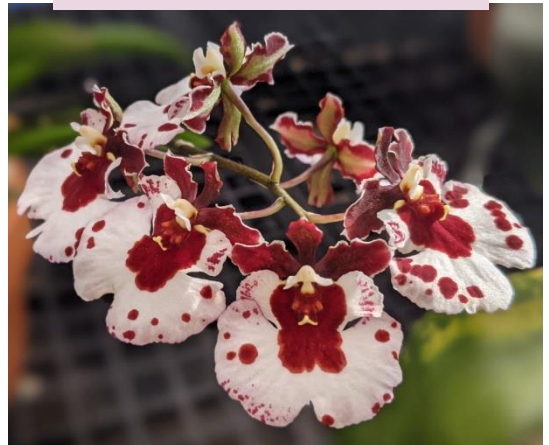


Fdk. After Dark 'Sunset Valley Orchids' FCC/AOS

Rth. Love Sound 'Lemon Star' AM/AOS



Tolumnia Bravo 'Nalo Beauty'



Zelumguezia Orchidom Smashing



Paph. Jerry Spence

From Lance Jessee



Ludisia discolor

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# For Fun and Learning!!

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## Orchid Growing Tidbits (How I Grow It.....)

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### Some individual genera – Blue Ribbon Winners and special orchids - *How I grow it:*

Sabrina Markese for a Harlequin Phalaenopsis Phal. NOID #5, Multiflora Phalaenopsis Phal. Sogo Vivien 'Marginata' JC/AOS, Red Phalaenopsis Phal. Maurish Fancy 'Rich Lantern', Spots Phalaenopsis Phal. NOID #6, and Misc. Phalaenopsis Phal. NOID #4, ,



#### **From Jean Rogers**

##### **Paph. Fairre Helen**

My Paphs. stay in the house year round. It is in front of an NE window (with many trees and a house overhang; so it is also under 2 LED light tubes. In the grow room, the temperature is 60 nights to 75 days. I water once a week typically with water from my dehumidifier. I fertilize with MSU pure water fertilizer at ¼ strength, and some CalMag at ½ tablespoon/gal about every 3 weeks. The other weeks it gets the same water just with the CalMag. There is a humidifier within about 2 feet of it. It is in a medium mix for Paphs. and Phrags. from rePotme. There are two oscillating fans and a ceiling fan in my grow room.



#### **From Crystal Remington**

##### **Zygopetelum Jumping Jack, Misc.**

This fragrant colorful orchid lives near a south facing window where it gets more sun in the late afternoon. As it's potted in moss, I'm careful not to over-water it. Every other week it is watered with MSU in an RO water mixture and that seems to keep it happy. There is a definite temperature range and even in the winter I've been able to get it up to 80 degrees, due to the direct sunlight and night time temperatures 67. I'm certain it is warmer in the summer,(but only recently put a thermometer next to it) so I will often close the blinds giving it more filtered light. Other than the leaves growing fast, I have no idea why it's named "Jumping Jack"?



#### **From Kristy Charland**

**Ctna. Why Not, Cattleya Category** Typical cattleya care. Medium to high light, let dry slightly between watering, generally once a week, ½ strength Norman's Nutrients fertilizer every two weeks, and the other weeks I have been using MegaThrive foliar spray. Keep humidity at least 35-40% and have a fan running on the shelves. Such a fun little plant!



**From Kristy Charland**  
**Liparis lacerate, Species**

This one is fun too. He's potted in sphagnum moss. Likes to be constantly moist, but not too wet. The leaves will accordion if left too dry, similar to oncidiums. I water with distilled or some type of "clean water" and use MSU fertilizer for this one, twice a month. Average level light, he's with paphs and phals, and there's a ceiling fan constantly running in the room. Humidity is important but I usually can only achieve 35% in this area.



Phal. Sogo Vivien 'Marginata' JC/AOS

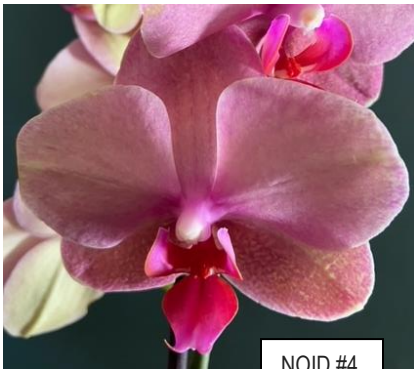


Phal. Maurish Fancy 'Rich Lantern'

**From Sabrina Markese**  
**Phalaenopsis**

These are potted in Birds larger orchid mix. We have floor to ceiling Northwest facing windows where I keep the majority of my orchids. Water once weekly.

Fertilize with Grow More (20/10/20) every other week year round, switching to Grow More Bloom formula (6/30/30) when blooming. No other supplements. No special lighting.



NOID #4



NOID #5



NOID #6

# Outside OSGKC Resources

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## *Kristy's Korner*

January 15, 2021

### **Hello orchid fans!**

Hey everybody! Happy New Year!!!

Ok, so this month, let's explore ways to find orchid growing supplies.

Our recent guest speaker was praising Kelly's Korner. By golly, they have an excellent selection of everything to use in growing! Rumor has it that they're soon going out of business though, so check them out soon. Website is <https://www.kkorchid.com/> located in NH, and they currently have a special on Wood Baskets, Plastic Vanda Baskets, Ultimate Orchid Baskets and Wood Slat Rafts at 25% off. Another great source for wooden baskets is Lowe's online.

There are two suppliers of note in Florida, Green Barn Orchid Supplies <https://www.greenbarnorchid.com/> and OFE International, Inc <https://ofeintl.com/> Both have excellent inventories. Shop their fantastic and varied selection.

Locally, I have purchased a few things at Sprout House Supply, 2854 Rte 291, Independence, MO; <https://sprouthousesupply.com/> Check out their inventory on the website, call them to place an order, and drive up for excellent service. I ordered a big bag of clay pebbles, never left my car, and they loaded it for me. They are mainly a hydroponics store, but have some items that we, as orchid growers often use, and maybe want to splurge on, like grow tents. A great chance to support a local business.

Stay warm,

Kristy

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If you are like me, a speaker generates SOOOO many questions. I found this great article by Sue Bottom who has graciously granted me permission to reprint it and sent a Word version so that I can. Thanks to Sue!!! And please check out her references – our January speaker is in the list!!!



### **The Mystery of Sphagnum Moss**

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

Orchid growers have a love hate relationship with sphagnum moss. Those that hate it say it caused their plants to rot, and those that love it have probably learned how to properly water plants growing in it. They've learned that you don't water because it's Saturday morning, your normal watering day. You water plants growing in sphagnum when the moss

approaches dryness. Grower, know thyself. If you have a heavy hand with watering, sphagnum moss may be problematic for you as you will have to struggle not to water your plants until the moss is nearly dry. If your busy schedule keeps you from watering very often, you may have the opposite problem where the moss can become so dry it becomes crusty and is hard to rehydrate.

Knowing how sphagnum moss grows in nature gives the orchid grower valuable insights. A living layer of moss grows in carpet-like communities in very wet areas floating on a thick layer of partly rotted plant material. The carpet consists of vertically oriented leafy stems that grow upward while the lower stems become buried, die and ultimately decompose to form beds of peat moss. Sphagnum moss tends to acidify its surroundings having a pH as low as 3, which not many bacteria or fungi can tolerate so decomposition occurs slowly. The sphagnum stems are filled with air spaces and have an impressive water holding potential. The moss grows in a low nutrient environment to which it has adapted by having a high cation exchange capacity largely as a result of its high uronic acid content.



Which would you rather pot your orchids in, the long fibered New Zealand sphagnum on the left or the commercially available sphagnum on the right?

There are many qualities of sphagnum moss that make it a good growing medium for epiphytic orchids. The air filled porosity of sphagnum moss (a measure of the void spaces in the potting mix) ranges from 15 to 26% under general conditions, comparable to bark and greater than peat moss. Its high air filled porosity is great for our epiphytic orchids because it allows air to circulate around the roots. Sphagnum can hold up to 20 times its weight in water, so moisture is retained around the roots for subsequent uptake by the plant. Sphagnum moss holds enough moisture and stores positively charged nutrients like calcium, magnesium and potassium for later use rather than them being flushed through the pot. Of course this also means you have the potential to accumulate high concentrations of soluble salts. The acidic nature of sphagnum results in a root zone environment that is hostile to bacteria and fungi, which helps protect the roots from certain diseases and in fact can help nurse ailing orchids back to health.

**Grades of Sphagnum Moss.** There are approximately 150 species of Sphagnum moss found world-wide and these various species can differ greatly in size, color and chemical properties. *Sphagnum cristatum* is generally considered the highest quality moss available and grows natively in New Zealand. It is known for its robust leaf structure and longer stem lengths that are great for wrapping around roots. Some report good success with 5 star Chilean moss which is predominantly *Sphagnum magellanicum*. Chilean moss has shorter strands but is very leafy which can reduce the air available to the plant when compacted into a pot. Less expensive mosses may be found originating from Japan (typically *Sphagnum palustre*) and China (typically *Sphagnum palustre* or *Sphagnum cuspidatum*). Wisconsin and Canadian mosses are typically inexpensive and are a blend of several species native to their respective regions. These less expensive mosses tend to be more fragile, breaking down quickly and increasing the need for more frequent re-potting. This grade of sphagnum is okay if you plan to repot every 6 months, because that's about how long it will last in the pot before turning into a sodden mess that will suffocate the roots of your plant.

**Sources of Moss.** There are many choices of sphagnum moss available to growers. If possible, only buy the high quality, long fibered sphagnum moss. This high quality moss will last for 2 to 5 years in the pot depending on the quality of your irrigation water as well as how much you water and fertilize. Some report good success with 5 star Chilean moss although others believe the New Zealand moss is fluffier. If you cannot find the high quality, long fibered sphagnum moss in your local stores, search online.

**Grades of Moss.** There is much confusion about the grades of sphagnum moss offered in commerce. Some producers use a star rating for their moss while others use letters or a combination of letters and numbers. It is difficult, if not impossible, to compare grading claims from one producer to another because they are likely different species. Besgrow, who also produces Orchiata, is moving away from alpha or numerical grading systems. Besgrow offers New Zealand *Sphagnum cristatum* in different grades which are distinguished primarily by strand length. The longer the strand the better the moss is suited for wrapping and achieving a high quality display (Besgrow, personal communication). You don't need to spend the extra money buying the highest quality moss unless you're planning to join the Fūkiran Society, but strand length is important particularly if you wrap the sphagnum around the roots rather than just mashing it into the pot. It would be best to use the moss labeled Supreme by Besgrow with its long strands ideal for wrapping roots, although this grade may be difficult to find in the USA. Don't use a quality lesser than the Premier grade for potting orchids in pure moss and not less than the Classic grade for putting together blends incorporating sphagnum.

<b>Grades of New Zealand Sphagnum Moss Produced by Besgrow</b> <b>All <i>Sphagnum cristatum</i></b>	
<b>Besgrow Name</b>	<b>Besgrow Spagmoss Description</b>
Premier Strand	90% of strands longer than 16" (400mm). Bright natural color showing white/cream with some green tips. Uniform length moss all layered in same direction for high quality decoration and wrapping, for premium display.
Supreme (packaging used to say AAA)	80% of strands longer than 7" (175mm). Bright natural color showing white/cream with some green tips. Good bulk and thickness which allows excellent water retention giving good aeration and fertilizer holding. Very easy for root wrapping with beautiful aesthetic value. Long lasting in the pot, for premium commercial and high end hobby.
Premier (packaging used to say AAG)	50% of strands longer than 6" (150mm). Various golden browns, cream and light greens. Good bulk which allows excellent water retention giving good aeration and fertilizer holding. Very easy for root wrapping and long lasting in the pot, for commercial and hobby.
Classic (packaging used to say AA)	70% of strands longer than 4" (100mm). Various golden browns, browns, cream and light greens. May contain occasional stained or dull ends. Thickness varies but has good water retention giving good aeration and fertilizer holding. A good moss for standard retail and some hobby and good for lining baskets.

**General Guidelines.** Despite its many great qualities, many hobby growers avoid sphagnum because they have had orchids rot when potted in sphagnum. In year-round warm climates, many plants resent being grown in sphagnum moss, especially if the atmospheric humidity is very high. As a serial overwaterer, I have had my difficulties with orchids growing in sphagnum so here are some general rules for its use.

**Wrap the Root Ball.** Wrap the sphagnum moss around the root ball, don't just cram the sphagnum moss into the pot. For small plants out of flasks, compots or plug trays, wrap the sphagnum moss around the roots and insert the wrapped plant into a small pot. You do not have to be as meticulous about wrapping the moss strand by strand as when *Vanda* (syn. *Neofinetia*) *falcatas* are potted Japanese style, but take the time to wrap the moss. The longer the strands of moss are, the easier it is to wrap the roots particularly with larger plants.

**Pack Moss Firmly.** Sphagnum moss is much easier to work with when it's wet, so moisten it prior to use. Some people like to pack the moss into the pot very loosely believing this allows the moss to dry more rapidly. It may seem somewhat counterintuitive, but loose sphagnum moss actually holds more moisture than more tightly packed moss. Think of the moss as a sponge, when you squeeze a sponge it retains less water. On the flip side, if you pack the sphagnum very tightly into the pot, you can potentially compact it so much that you reduce its air holding capacity. I tend to take the middle ground and pack the sphagnum firmly but not densely around the plant, tightly enough that the plant holds itself upright in the pot.

*Smaller and Taller Pots Seem to Work Better.* Smaller pots seem to work better when using sphagnum. This may simply be a case of a smaller pot having a greater surface area to volume ratio so the moss tends to dry out more quickly. With pots larger than 4 inches, consider blending the sphagnum with porous material like Styrofoam or leaving an air space below the sphagnum via the collaring technique. Pot shape is important too. Even though it seems backwards, taller pots of a given size dry faster than shallow pots. With open baskets and rafts, the moss can be packed a little more loosely because it is open to the atmosphere on all sides.

*Salt Retention.* Sphagnum moss will retain the salts present in your water supply as well as those introduced by your fertilizer. If you use a pure water like rainwater, this may be less of a problem, but many growers may have to compensate for the tendency to accumulate salts by flushing their pots regularly and using dilute fertilizer solutions or fertilizing half as often.

*Sporotrichosis, aka the Rose Thorn Disease.* Sporotrichosis is a rare infection caused by a fungus called *Sporothrix schenckii* that lives throughout the world in soil, plants and decaying vegetation, including contaminated sphagnum moss. Skin infection is the most common form of infection, although pulmonary infection can occur if a person inhales the microscopic, airborne fungal spores. Most cases of sporotrichosis are sporadic and occur through small cuts or punctures from thorns, barbs, etc. To avoid the potential for a problem, cautious individuals or those with a compromised immune system can wear gloves when working with sphagnum moss.



This Calanthe Baron Schröder has been in the same 8 inch bulb pot in long fibered New Zealand sphagnum for 4 years. I almost repotted it last year but the moss was still in good shape and the plant was growing so vigorously it was deforming the plastic pot. It had about 15 flower spikes last year. This year's blooming was even better.

**When and How To Use Sphagnum.** Sphagnum may not work for all your potting needs, but there are certain situations in which sphagnum moss works better than any of the alternatives. Think of sphagnum as one more arrow in your quiver.

*Winter Dormant Orchids.* Winter dormant orchids like catasetums, habenarias and calanthes like a dry winter rest during which the top growth may die back and wither away. But when the bulbs wake up in the spring, they grow with wild abandon because they have to compress a year's worth of growing into their 7 or 8 month growing season. They require copious amounts of water and fertilizer to match their growth spurt. What could be more perfect for these vigorous summer growers than sphagnum, that stays evenly moist and retains nutrients. If you are growing outdoors where they receive lots of uncontrolled rainfall, keep the pots on the smallish size and top dress with timed release fertilizer, and then watch them grow. I used to repot my catasetums every year, but one day I asked myself why I felt compelled to traumatize the plants with the annual repotting marathon when the moss still had plenty of life left in it; so I didn't repot this year and now the catasetums are blooming earlier and more freely, with roots still happy in the long fibered New Zealand sphagnum moss.

*Water Loving Orchids.* As you might suspect, any of the moisture loving genera like bulbophyllums, masdevalias, jewel orchids and dendrochilums are good candidates for growing in sphagnum moss. Pot size and shape are critical, choose smallish pots. Even with bulb pans you might think of adding a layer of Styrofoam peanuts at the bottom. You can also use plastic or clay saucers if you drill holes in them.





This *Dendrochilum cobbianum* had a multitude of flower spikes. The pot it is growing in is hidden by the decorative pot in the image to the left. But in the image to the right you can see it is growing happily potted in sphagnum moss in an uber shallow saucer.

*Cool Growers in Warm Climates.* Sometimes you are determined to grow a type of orchid that is not well suited to your climate. For those in warm climates, potting the cool growers in sphagnum in a clay pot is an old grower's trick to try to lower temperatures a few degrees, particularly if they are grown in a shadier, cooler location. You can double down by dropping the clay pot into a second larger clay pot with a little sphagnum in between.

*Sphagnum to the Rescue.* Small seedlings, back bulbs and weak or sickly plants all need tender loving care. Sphagnum has antiseptic properties that help lower the incidence of rot as well as good water retention so delicate roots can develop, both great qualities when trying to nurse a sick plant back to health. You can try the sphag in a bag technique, where you put a little wet sphagnum at the bottom of a tall plastic bag (like the newspaper comes in), put two holes in the bottom of the bag and one at the top, drop the sick plant in and hang it in a shady location. If you're lucky you'll have roots and maybe a new growth within 6 months or so. Alternatively, just put the back bulbs or sick plant in a small pot packed with sphagnum and wait for the plant to grow new roots and sprout new growth from dormant eyes.



My experiment with growing stanhopeas in coco fiber didn't end well. Terry made a Jill Godfrey style raft out of hardware cloth to which I secured the remaining pieces of *Stan. grandiflora* and draped some sphagnum loosely around the roots in the that hope the plant will revive.



These plants from Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids show how well the collaring technique works. The plant roots are wrapped with a thin band of sphagnum moss about half the depth of the pot and then placed in the pot with an open void space at the bottom into which the roots happily grow.



Sure wish I had followed Keith Davis' advice to cover newly emerging roots with sphagnum moss before the roots got damaged.



The moss helps keep pests away, stimulates the roots to grow faster into the mix and keeps the green tips long and hydrated.

*Top Dressing.* You can use sphagnum as top dressing over your mix of choice. It is a simple way to protect new root growth when the roots are above the potting mix. It works particularly well on bifoliate cattleyas that generally only produce a flush of roots once a year so if they are damaged, the plant will suffer a setback. If you grow paphiopedilums in a low humidity environment, you might find the roots dry up before they can grow into the potting mix. A thin layer of sphagnum over your potting mix can supply the desired humidity.

*Collaring.* Here's an Alan Koch trick for small or seedling orchids. Use a small pot and wrap sphagnum around the roots about half the depth of the pot and insert the plug into the pot with the air space below it so the roots will grow into the void space between the sphagnum and pot.

*Sphagnum Blends.* If you find you have trouble with sphagnum or need to put an orchid in a pot larger than 4 inches or basket larger than 6 inches, you may consider creating a custom blend attuned to your growing situation. For outdoor growers, adding polystyrene chips, styrofoam chunks or other inert material to the sphagnum will help with the tendency to stay overly wet. If you like growing in bark, adding about 20% chopped sphagnum is reported to be an improved potting mix for growing phalaenopsis and phragmipediums.

*Repotting Out of Sphagnum.* If you decide sphagnum is not for you but you happen to buy an orchid growing in sphagnum, you will have to transition to a new mix. The roots growing in sphagnum have become acclimated to the moist acidic growing conditions. If you repot directly into a completely different type mix such as hydroton, the plant will have to grow a new set of roots acclimated to this different environment. If you find yourself in this predicament, consider potting into a transitional custom blended mix. A 50% ProMix HP and 50% coarse sponge rock mix works well for Phalaenopsis, although you may have to top dress with a thin layer of sphagnum to prevent the mix from washing out of the pot. For your other orchids, consider blending some sphagnum moss into your mix of choice the first time you're repotting out of sphagnum. Others recommend removing a part of the sphagnum from around the plant base and watching for the plant to begin its rooting cycle. When new roots begin to emerge, carefully remove the rest of the sphagnum moss from around the roots and repot.



Culture king Andy Phillips uses green tree moss in small baskets and on some mounts. We'll be experimenting with it, report to follow!

This *Angcm. calceolus* from Andy's Orchids is a monster bloomer that loves growing in green tree moss and being watered every other day.

For wateraholics, there is another moss of potential interest, green tree moss, sometimes called shag or sphagnum mountain moss. I discovered this moss when I bought an angraceum from Andy's Orchids last fall that was in a small basket filled with this new (to me) moss. Check out Andy's booth at orchid shows, it is filled with plants potted in small baskets or mounted with this moss. Green tree moss is airy and does not retain moisture like sphagnum so it can be watered frequently without becoming sopping wet although it is probably best used in small volumes so it will dry rapidly.

There are two challenges to overcome when using sphagnum moss. The first is finding a high quality moss, which used to be synonymous with AAA long fibered New Zealand sphagnum moss. If you search online, you will find several Besgrow grades being offered as AAA sphagnum. Caveat Emptor. The second is learning how to water plants growing in sphagnum. This basically means don't water until the moss approaches dryness. Once you master the ins and outs of sphagnum moss, you will understand why so many commercial orchid nurseries grow and sell their plants in long fibered sphagnum moss.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Garry Clark of Besgrow and Maggie Maye and Jeff Saal of Acadian Supply, Inc. for their insights on long fibered New Zealand moss as well as their many comments and suggestions for improvements to this article.

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I also found this great article by Amanda Matthews of Orchideria who has graciously granted me permission to reprint it and sent a Word version so that I can. Thanks to Amanda!!! You can find the original article at <https://orchideria.com/sphag-bag-method/> There, you can find links to many other articles by Amanda. Additionally, in emailing back and forth, I discovered that Amanda lives in the Kansas City Area and I'm excited to say, she is our newest member. Welcome Amanda!!

## Sphag & Bag Method: Rescuing an Orchid with no Roots

Occasionally when you repot, you'll pull out what seemed like a healthy orchid out only to find it has no roots—not one. How do you save an orchid with no roots? There's hope to rescuing this rootless orchid, using a method called the Sphag and Bag Technique, and help it grow new roots. But first, you have to know what caused the roots to fall off in the first place.

With no roots, orchids are also slowly dehydrating and will die if not treated. Sphag and Bag Method prolongs the time an orchid has before dying, enough to hopefully grow a new root. The aim of the Sphag and Bag Method is to raise the humidity around the leaves so they will absorb water in the newly created micro-atmosphere. With enough water, an orchid with no roots will eventually create new roots.

## Why does Root Rot Occur?

Roots fall off for many reasons but mainly because of overwatering. Technically, water is not the culprit, but it's the first domino to knock down a long line in the process, leading to root rot.

Think about how an orchid grows in nature, clenched to a tree nook with aerial roots both grasping the bark and roaming in the wind currents. The natural habitat is usually one with very high humidity, with filtered light from the overhead leaves, limbs, and flowers above them, and high temperatures. It rains almost every day or every other day for about an hour or two, then the hot wind dries out the roots.

To create this similar process at home and indoors, we pot our orchids in a potting medium that allows air to circulate freely through the root system. This is why hanging baskets and mounted orchids are very similar to the original conditions of the plant.

Root rot occurs when trapped water can't escape through the exits in the potting medium. The roots sit in a drenched pot, which is constantly in contact with the roots. When water can't exit the pot, it reacts with the medium it has near it, deteriorating it. Sphagnum moss, peat moss, bark, and to a lesser degree, charcoal all will deteriorate quickly if they are in constant contact with water.

When the potting medium deteriorates, it breaks down in to smaller pieces that limit the airflow and also compact the medium inside the pot. Without airflow, the roots can't expel the oxygen inside them and trade it for carbon dioxide. Oxygen and other gases then builds up inside the root, which becomes toxic to the plant.



Once the orchid notices the high levels of oxygen, it will liberate a chemical reaction to reduce the oxygen levels. This is a positive reaction which does eliminate the oxygen, but destroys the root cells in the process. In order to save the plant, the roots are sacrificed. This is why overwatering is not the real problem, but the open door that leads to root rot.

### What are Early Signs of Root Rot?

If the orchid has lost all its roots, the leaves will slowly dehydrate. Loose, limply leaves with deep veins are the first sign. They can't absorb water through roots, because there are none. The leaves start to lose their firmness and can easily bend between your fingers.

## How to Save an Orchid with no Roots with the Sphag and Bag Method?

The way to save an orchid with no roots, be it from root rot or not, is to encourage new root growth.

This method isn't considered an active method to save your orchid, but just to stall it so it can have enough time to grow roots. An orchid loses water through the leaves (pores in the leaf structure called stomata) when the exchange gas. Yet, if you reverse that, and make the environment more humid than the inside of the leaf, the humidity will enter the leaf cells during air exchange. You can have such a high concentration of relative humidity (rH) that the leaves absorb water during that process. While they absorb water, they lengthen the time of survival, enough to grow a new root.

Think of the Sphag and Bag Method as one that stalls the dehydration process long enough for your orchid to grow new roots.

How Long will the Sphag and Bag Method Take?

This slow hydration method will be sufficient to grow new leaves, but this is a long struggle, so don't expect results to be quick. We are looking at a minimum of one month for the first root, and two months for a few more roots.

Why does Sphag and Bag work so well with orchids that have no roots?

Since the orchid will breathe through its leaves, you can raise the humidity level to near 100% around the leaves. This is nearly impossible without a greenhouse but is fairly easy with the Sphag and Bag Technique.

The humidity will be trapped inside the bag and force the leaves to absorb more than they would naturally. The extra humidity will hydrate the existing leaves back to health and still have enough nutrients in orchid to create new roots.

Step-by-Step Method of Sphag & Bag:

1. Take the orchid out of its old pot and remove all older medium. Medium will be clinging to the roots, if it has any roots at all. Clean it as well as you can.
2. With sterilized scissors, trim away all the dead material. All of it. You don't want any old, decayed, rotted material in your bag since this will cause mold.
3. This step is optional, but if you have the materials, it might be worth the try. Soak your orchid in one teaspoon per gallon of a root enhancer for an hour.  
Look for root enhancers, stimulants, hormones, or a fertilizer that promotes root growth. Just dilute it a lot. KelpMAX, Dyna-Gro K-L-N Rooting Concentrate, or SuperThrive will all work fairly well, but don't expect miracles. If you don't have these products, no harm done either.
4. After the soak in warm water, continue to remove any debris that is still attached to the orchid. It is essential that all the potting medium come off.
5. Use a long, clear bag or a Ziploc bag and placed some humid sphagnum moss in the end. You can find these at flower shops and nurseries, but if your orchid is small, a bread bag works well, too. Arrange your bag so that it can accommodate both the sphagnum and the orchid in different spaces. You can use two pots, or one pot inside another pot, or keep the orchid on a higher level and the moss hanging off a shelf... Anyway, that works for you.
6. Soak your sphagnum in water for at least thirty minutes. Fresh sphagnum right out of the bag doesn't retain humidity well at all. In fact, it will end up soaking up any of the humidity that was meant for your orchid. Once the sphagnum moss has had time to soak, squeeze out the excess water. Don't place drenched sphagnum moss in your bag, and don't substitute this for peat moss. It has to be sphagnum moss. If you don't have that, you can use a paper towel, but it will get icky toward the end of the month. To know if your moss is the right humidity, give it a tight squeeze. It should drip, but not a lot.
7. Place your orchid on the other side of the bag. Don't let the orchid touch the sphagnum or the water. You might even want to place it in a plastic cup with more holes than sides to it, just to keep the water off and away from it. This is where most people error with the Sphag and Bag Method. The orchid touches the edges of the water and this promotes more root rot. With no roots, the water will seep into the crown, leaves, and stem, and after a week, you'll have a rotting orchid for sure.
8. You don't need to Ziploc the bag shut, but you do need to minimize the air exit. Position the bag over your orchid so it has enough room to keep maximum humidity and a small air hole to promote some circulation inside the bag.
9. Place your orchid in a place that meets these three conditions: (1) low light, (2) high heat, (3) it can be left undisturbed for weeks.

Low light because if this bag gets direct sun, it will transform the micro-environment into a sauna. You don't want to create a terrarium or a micro-tropical-climate inside the bag, just raise humidity. Light will promote growth that is uncalled for, like microorganisms of all kinds. The light also interferes with the leaf growth, stimulating it. You don't need new leaves. The aim is new roots. Less light induces root production. Light also quickly breaks down a chemical compound called auxin, which is the base of your hormone treatments. If you added hormone treatment to your sphagnum moss, then you'll definitely want to keep it in the shade.

The high heat will speed up the metabolism in the plant, and new growth can occur faster than in colder climates.

Note: If you used synthetic root hormones, then cooler climates will enhance their production more than higher temperatures will. In fact, the higher temperatures will break down their chemical reaction faster, so it will be wasted money.

10. Leave your orchid in a forgotten place and forget about it. Orchids hate to be manipulated, as in handled (not lied too.) Sorry, I had to throw that joke in there. Anyway, the less you pull out the bag, inspect them, turn them in different angles, move them inside the pot, the more they will appreciate the time alone to regather their thoughts. They can calmly work on root production without wondering why their environment is being turned, squished, moved, and changed.
11. If your bag has a wider opening at the top, then you'll need to mist the sphagnum every once in a while. If the opening is rather small and the sphagnum looks well hydrated, then you're all set. If you zipped your bag totally shut, then you'll probably have a mold collection and a dead orchid. The only way to not get mold is to add springtails, which are kind of cute little critters that we place in terrariums. They eat the mold and keep the terrarium clean on the inside, permitting the enclosure to stay completely sealed for months. After one month, check up on your orchid. There should be at least one new root sprouting from the stem.



## When not to use the Sphag and Bag Technique?

If your orchid has two good roots, or even one long excellent root, don't follow this method. That one good root is enough to raise the percentage of water in your plant. I'd try full hydroponic method or a semi-hydroponic method directly. That one or two roots will be sufficient to absorb and nutrients and minerals for your plant and the Sphag and bag method might hurt them in the long run.

What the best thing to do for a few roots is to go semi-hydroponic and place a bag over the entire pot. This way the humidity will be high enough to keep the orchid safe until new roots and new leaves grow.

I hope this tutorial on the Sphag-n-bag method is a step in the right direction of saving your orchid. It's always worth a try, but if the roots have been gone for a long time and the leaves are severely dehydrated, even this method might not work to save your orchid.

I mentioned in this article about hydroponics and semi-hydroponics. If this is something you'd might try, read this article. If you think your orchid is on its last leg (or leaf) then this article about orchid's life cycle might explain more what to expect and how long your orchid has to live.

Please leave a comment below if you have used the Sphag-n-bag method or if there is anything that you think I should mention in this tutorial that I happened to leave out.

Happy Cultivating!

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**Several of you have indicated problems that possibly involve Fungus. I've included several articles about that topic.**

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## Phyllosticta Leaf Spot

By Susan Jones

Phyllosticta leaf-spot fungus (*Phyllosticta capitalensis*) spreads easily and causes unsightly blemishes on the leaves of orchids. It is most common in warmer climates, but can be found throughout the world on a number of different types of orchids. This blight is also known as Guignardia; the names apply to two different sexual stages of the same fungus.



Phyllosticta is almost impossible to eliminate from an infected plant.

Dendrobiums and plants in the Vanda alliance are most prone to this fungus.

## Host Orchids

Although it is most often seen on dendrobiums and the Vanda Alliance, the fungus also infects *Brassolaeliocattleya*, *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Epidendrum*, *Laelia*, *Laeliocattleya*, *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Phalaenopsis* and a broad range of other orchids.

## Life Cycle

Two types of spores of this fungus germinate when moisture is present: conidia and ascospores. Conidia can quickly be carried from diseased plants to healthy ones by splashing rainwater, sprinklers or watering. In addition, the ascospores are discharged into the air and can travel between plants on a breeze or current. If they land on a moist leaf, ascospores germinate, infect the orchid host, and begin the cycle anew.

Although *Phyllosticta* does not kill an orchid, it may weaken the plant to the point where it easily falls prey to other pests or diseases.

## Symptoms

The first signs of a *Phyllosticta* infection in vandaceous orchids appear as elongated tiny purplish or black spots along the veins of the leaves. These lesions gradually grow in size, appear as long, blackish, diamond-shaped streaks, and eventually take on the characteristic eyespot appearance — the perimeter of the spot outlined in black, surrounding a tan or gray area of dead tissue, with a black fruiting body at the center. As the infection progresses, the spots can coalesce to cover the leaf. The leaf may eventually die and drop.

On dendrobiums, the fungus shows up as leaf spotting, starting as small, circular yellow spots that gradually turn black. As the fungus matures, the leaves yellow, exhibit a black weblike pattern, become more susceptible to brown rots, and may die and drop.

Symptoms of *Phyllosticta*'s presence take three to six weeks to appear as tiny spots on infected leaves, and several weeks longer to manifest as easily visible lesions. Higher light levels and dry conditions inhibit the growth and spread of the fungus, where in lower-light growing areas where as there is plenty of humidity, or during a series of rainy, overcast days, *Phyllosticta* has a greater opportunity to gain a foothold.



Spores can be easily spread by splashing water.

## Prevention

Isolate new plants for a period of a month to two months if possible before introducing them to the rest of your collection. This should allow enough time for any pest or disease to present itself and be dealt with, rather than allowing them to spread to healthy plants. Segregate any infected plants from those that are healthy; this fungus is highly contagious and easily spread. Watering practices should allow for the plant to dry before nightfall, to keep the environment less hospitable to fungi and bacteria that thrive in moist, dark and cooler conditions. Keep the growing environment clean. Remove all dead plant material and allow for adequate air circulation between and around plants.

## Treatment

Remove and dispose of affected leaves from infected plants to keep the fungal spores from spreading into the growing environment. Some growers have reported covering the mature lesions with clear nail polish to prevent the dissemination of spores.

Repeated applications of fungicides such as Dithane M45, Captan, Ferbam, Mancozeb or thiophanate-methylbased treatments will help control infection levels and can prevent new infections in healthy plants, but it is difficult if not impossible to completely eradicate the fungus in an infected host plant. As always, when using any sort of chemical control on your orchids, strictly follow the manufacturer's instructions for dosage and safety.

## References

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*Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446*

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Excerpt from:

# What's wrong with my orchid?

From the AOS

### **Rots & Spots**

Wet foliage and high humidity encourages the spread of fungal and bacterial diseases. Bacterial diseases do not respond to fungicides and vice versa so it's very important to know which disease you are dealing with. Perhaps the easiest way to distinguish between the two is by smell. The most common bacterial disease in orchids produces a foul smell often likened to dead fish. If you've ever had cut flowers stand too long in water you know the sort of smell we're talking about.

Diseases can spread quickly! Bacterial diseases kill plants especially rapidly and time is of the essence. Both bacterial and fungal diseases are spread by splashing water and this includes rainfall. Use a clean cutting tool like a single-edge razor blade, cut off the infected tissue as well as at least an inch of clean, green area and then treat the cut surface with a fungicide. Even if the problem is bacterial, you don't want a fungal infection to start in the wound. Cinnamon, yes the common spice, is effective against fungal diseases and this can be used to coat the cut surface as well. It's perhaps not as effective as a chemical fungicide but it's readily available and does work.

The most common fungal and bacterial rots encountered in orchids include:

**Black Rot**, a fungal disease characterized by soft, rotted areas that begin on leaves or new growth, then spread to rhizomes and roots. Infected areas are at first a purplish brown, then turn black. The outer margins of the infection site are yellowish.



**Black rot can spread quickly through an orchid collection.**



**Root Rot**, a fungal disease that usually enters the plant through the roots. Infected plants are stunted and wilted. Brown to black areas may extend from the roots into the rhizomes. As the disease advances, leaves will become twisted, wrinkled and yellowish.

**Bacterial Brown Spot**, a bacterial disease that begins as a sunken, water-soaked lesion on the leaf. Lesions will eventually turn brown or black and exude a dark liquid.



**Bacterial rot is typified by a watery lesion on a leaf and is spread by splashing water**

**Erwinia**, a bacterial disease that begins as a water-soaked, chestnut to chartreuse lesion on leaves or pseudobulbs. These lesions exude a yellowish liquid with a characteristic foul smell. The disease is most prevalent on plants that are seriously stressed and is a very common problem in Phalaenopsis during hot, prolonged summers.

**Leaf Spot**, typically fungal diseases that start out as yellow areas on the undersides of leaves. As these spots develop they become visible on both sides of the leaf and turn brown or black.



**Cercospora leaf spot on an Oncidium leaf.**

**Petal Blight**, a common fungal disease favored by high humidity and cool conditions. The disease appears as small circular pink, gray or tan spots that appear on the open flowers. While this disease is not life-threatening to the plant, flowers infected are ruined and unsightly. The disease spreads by arial spores and good housekeeping is essential to control.

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I found this great article and requested permission to reprint it. Not only did they graciously grant me permission, they emailed back, said they'd like to give some potting donations as gifts to the Society because they like supporting Societies. They sent potting mix, bark, fertilizer, clips, and beginner books. Amazing!!!  
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Better-GroOrchidBlog

# Fungal Infections to Detect, Treat and Prevent

8/12/2019

Summer is a time when fungal infections can quickly spread through your orchids. Fungi thrive in warm, humid conditions which coincidentally are the same conditions that most orchids need to survive. So, whether you are a greenhouse grower or your orchids are grown outside, you need to be vigilant about watching for the first signs of an infection. If left untreated, a fungus can kill your plants. But don't worry, follow these instructions below to help detect, treat and prevent to bring your plants back to good health.

Let's talk about the most common types of fungi that may impact your orchids:

## Cercospora

### Signs

Cercospora usually presents itself on the underside of a plant's leaves as yellow spots. Over time, these yellow spots grow and will eventually take over the underside of the leaf if untreated. By the time most growers notice Cercospora, it has spread to the topside of the leaves turning from a yellow to yellow-ish green color. As the fungus progresses, the color will change to purple-ish or even black. If left untreated, the entire infected leaf will die off and drop. Cercospora most often infects Dendrobiums but can be seen in other orchid varieties as well.

### Treatment

Using sterile clippers, remove infected leaves and dispose of them away from your plants. Spray infected plants with Captan Fungicide, Thiophanate Methyl or Mancozeb according to the manufacturer's instruction. Be sure when spraying that the fungicide reaches into the leaf crevices to kill fungal spores.

### Prevention

Cercospora thrives in a wet environment. Place your plants so that the leaves receive air circulation and adequate sunlight to dry between waterings.



## Botrytis

### Signs

Botrytis causes small brown spots on your flowers, ruining an otherwise beautiful flower. As the fungus spreads, you will notice more spots that are larger in size.

### Treatment

Use a fungicide such as Physan 20, Daconil, Thiphanate Methyl according to the product directions. For a less toxic option, you may also use Hydrogen Peroxide in a spray bottle. You should know that spraying a fungicide will help control the fungal problem, but may also spot a flower or brown the edges.

### Prevention

Improve the air circulation around your plants and remove dead plant materials (expired blooms, old pseudobulbs and dead leaves). Avoid watering flowers, and water early in the morning to allow plenty of time for excess water to be absorbed or evaporated. Also, monitor night temperatures and avoid dips below 60 degrees when possible.



## Guignardia and Phyllosticta (Commonly referred to as the Thai Orchid Disease)

### Signs

Guignardia and Phyllosticta are known to be the same organism which is why we have included them together. They infect Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums and are widely recognized for plaguing Vandas. They show up as small elongated black or dark-purple spots on a plant's leaves or pseudobulbs. Over time, the spots will grow larger and will eventually lead to a necrotic infection that causes the plant to prematurely drop the infected leaves.

### Treatment

Using sterile clippers, cut and remove leaves to a point below where they show infection. This type of pruning will likely be unsightly for your plant, but it will save your orchid and other surrounding orchids in the long run. Treat plants with Dithane M45, Captan or Thiphanate Methyl using the manufacturer's instructions for dosage and frequency.

### Prevention

These fungi are highly contagious and will spread quickly through your orchids. Separate infected plants for up to two months, if possible. As in the previous fungal prevention sections, remove dead leaves and expired blooms. Spread out your plants to improve air circulation and water in the morning to allow your orchids to dry before nightfall.



We hope you never find evidence of these fungal infections among your orchids. However, know that if you do catch it early, you can save your plant before it is too late.

Remember to keep a clean growing environment, remove dead plant debris, allow for proper air circulation and water plants early in the morning. These simple suggestions will help keep the fungi away.

Happy Blooming from Better-Gro!

We thank r.f. Orchids, Inc. for allowing us to use Care and Culture articles from their website in our newsletter! If you have not checked out r.f. Orchids, Inc., please do so. They have contributed generous donations to our auctions and have amazing orchids for sale. Robert Fuchs, President, is currently AOS President. <http://rforchids.com/>

## Caring for your orchids.



### HOW WE GROW DENDROBIUMS, PART 4

Another group of Dendrobiums, section Pedilonum, includes about 80 species from a wide swath of Asia, from India across southeast Asia to the Philippines and south to New Guinea. Many of the species in this section are cloud forest plants which require cooler conditions than we have in South Florida, but some of the most beautiful and interesting species are warm to warm-intermediate growers, and we do cultivate those here at R.F. Orchids.

These orchids grow at sea level, or at low elevations, where the temperature is warm to hot all year long, and with two exceptions (noted below), the plants do not experience any significant dry season. We'll cover *Den.*

*bullenianum* (syn. *topaziacum*), *Den. capituliflorum*, *Den.*

*goldschmidtianum* (syn. *miyakei*), *Den. purpureum*, *Den. secundum* and *Den.*

*smillieae*. In this group, the individual flowers are small but the plants produce clusters of them all at once, making a spectacular display. *Den. secundum* and *Den. smillieae* are usually spring bloomers; the other species can bloom at nearly any time of the year.

*Dendrobium secundum*



#### *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum*



#### **Cultural requirements**

For the most part, the warm-growing species in section Pedilonum are medium sized to large epiphytes, with slim, leafy canes (stems) that become pendent as they grow.

Typically these canes are deciduous after about a year, and the plants bloom from nodes along the bare stems. *Den. purpureum* is the largest of the species in this group, with canes that can grow to three or four feet long; the plants strongly resemble *Den. anosmum* (*superbum*) but have different cultural requirements. There are several color forms of *Den. purpureum*; the most commonly cultivated forms are pink, and white with green tips.



*Dendrobium purpureum* subssp. *candidulum*

**Temperature.** These dendrobium species require warm to even hot daytime temperatures, and warm (above 60F) nights, year-round. Exposure to cooler temperatures can result in rapid leaf-drop, so these plants must be protected in cool weather. Even here in South Florida, our winter nights can be too cool for these orchids to remain outdoors on cold nights.

**Light.** Grow these dendrobiums in bright shade, about the same light levels you have for your cattleyas. *Den. smillieae* will take somewhat brighter light during the winter months.

**Water.** In general, the species in this group come from habitats where there is year-round moisture. Most don't need a dry resting period in the winter, although both *Den. secundum* and *Den. smillieae* should be watered less during the winter. Never allow the plants to remain dry for an extended period, however; in their native habitats rainfall is only slightly less in winter and early spring than in the rest of the year. Good air circulation is important, and the plants should be watered regularly but not be constantly wet. In all cases, be careful with water when the new growths begin, and keep water out of the tops of the new growths until they are two or three inches tall. The new growth is highly susceptible to rot if water is allowed to collect in the tip.

**Fertilizer.** These dendrobiums benefit from regular feeding when they're actively growing. Any balanced, water-soluble fertilizer can be used, diluted according to package directions. Jack's Classic 20-20-20 is a good option; we feed once a week during the growing season (spring through fall). If the plants are growing – making new leaves at the tips of the canes, or new growths from the base of the mature canes – fertilize regularly. During the shorter, cooler days in winter, feed less often.

**Potting.** These dendrobiums can be grown in pots, baskets or on mounts. Because most of them are medium to large plants with eventually pendent stems, many growers prefer to mount the plants on a sturdy substrate; cork, treefern, teak root or driftwood work well. It's also possible to encourage upright growth by staking the new canes as they grow; left to themselves the canes will eventually become horizontal or pendent. *Den. capituliflorum* has shorter, thicker pseudobulbs that generally don't require staking. The short form of *Den. smillieae* grows more upright than the large form. Plants in pots or baskets need an open, fast-draining medium.

*Dendrobium smillieae*



*Dendrobium secundum* v. *album*



**Problems.** These dendrobiums have few really major pest problems. Snails and slugs may damage the leaves and canes, and occasionally during wet weather you may see some minor damage from leaf-spotting fungal diseases. In dry weather, mites can set up housekeeping on the underside of the leaves. Stale or decayed potting medium can lead to root problems, as with any potted orchids. Reminder: all the orchids noted in this chapter are very warm-growing. The plants must never be exposed to cool temperatures. (There are other species in Section Pedilonum which are cool or cool-intermediate

growers; we don't grow or sell those plants)

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## January 2021 Sunset Valley Orchids Catasetinae Growing Tips

Now that it's the middle of winter, all but the last of the previous season's mature growths of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, and *Mormodes* have finished flowering. However, some plants don't even start to develop inflorescences until after all water is stopped and the plant is leafless! It's time for the *Clowesia* species like Cl. *rosea*, and Cl. *warczewitzii* and their hybrids Cl. Rebecca Northen and Cl. Grace Dunn to bloom. Their strong citrus fragrance always reminds me of the furniture polish, Lemon-Scented Pledge.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture. This change in conditions causes the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. By now, most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off. It's time to cease watering completely. This marks the start of the dormant period.



These 4 plants illustrate the progression of late season Catasetinae dormancy, from left to right: 1) leaf yellowing & abscission, 2) near leafless plant with one yellow leaf, 3) and 4) leafless plants.

The gradual reduction of watering frequency and an increasingly longer dry interval usually is accepted by the plants without complaint. Of course, there are exceptions. If pseudobulbs show signs of shriveling late in the growing season, watering once or twice will quickly plump them back up.



A shriveled pseudobulb



After one watering and 24 hours later, it's plumped back up.

The onset of dormancy generally occurs naturally; however, when plants are cultivated in consistently warm growing areas, such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged. I have found that managing irrigation is one of the best tools to trigger dormancy. If you still have plants in January with a full complement of green leaves, it's time to take a more aggressive approach. Allow the media to become dry, regardless of the number of green leaves. Let the media stay dry for 3-4 days, then water sparingly, about one or two ounces of water. The water may flow right through the media, and that's okay. Allow the media to dry and wait 4-5 days before following the same stingy irrigation procedure. Repeat this process, increasing the dry interval between waterings. This process will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the transition. Not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

By late January, it's important to get your Catasetinae into the dormant stage and provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season that will help them to develop big bulbs and lots of flowers!

Those of you in Florida and the southern states might already be seeing the first beginnings of new growth. Remember to start watering and fertilizing when new roots are approximately 3"-6" long and new growths are 6"-12" tall. Generally, these early new growths will develop slowly until day length begins to lengthen significantly.

I've been getting questions about indoor light levels during dormancy. It is best to keep the plants in nearly the same light levels as in the growing season: target 2000-2500 foot candles. It is easy to download a Foot Candle Reader app for your phone. If you're growing under lights, you do need to adjust the day length throughout the year, as all Catasetinae experience changes in the number of daylight hours per day. This adjustment is important for all your orchids that come from areas where day length changes during the year.

## Light level management Indoors

Growing under lights for optimal results:

April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.

November: reduce light schedule hour to = 14 hrs.

December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.

January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.

February: add one hour = 13 hrs.

March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.

April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

I shared this idea before, and it's worth sharing again. If you've had challenges overwintering your *Catasetinae* plants, it is most likely due to excessive dehydration, perhaps caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution being used successfully by some ingenious growers to increase localized humidity around the roots while keeping the potting media dry.



Set the pot in a jar with water, making a loose-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot. The reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, even while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers who are using this method.

Now that the days are getting longer, I'm looking forward to seeing the first signs of new growth from my resting *Catasetinae* in the very near future.

**Please join our Facebook page:**

**Fred Clarke and Carlos Lopez**

**Sunset Valley Orchids Inc.**

**(760) 310-0778**

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[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)



# Let's Get to Know Each Other

## Your Board Members

### OSGKC Board Members!



**Susie Hanna,** Program Chair

Birthday February 13<sup>th</sup>

My husband (Al Clinton) and I joined 17 years ago in 2004. I've been growing orchids since 1996, or 25 years. I've been a plant grower since I was a youngster growing up on a Kansas farm. I first met Joyce Moulis (long-time member of OSGKC) in 1996 at a garden fair held at Christa McAuliffe Elementary school in Lenexa where Al was teaching. I bought a Phalaenopsis from the OSGKC table and was hooked.

Phalaenopsis remains my favorite, although I have many other genera in my collection. We have a four-seasons' plant room attached to the north side of our house that we supplement with a variety of lights. We grow some orchids outside in warm months, with protection under a clear polycarb roof with shade cloth.

I have a journalism degree from KU and worked at a number of companies doing market research. I'm now semi-retired, managing rental properties. The most surprising things about me will remain a secret, but I can say that I like a good challenge and enjoy learning completely new things.

I love cats, and currently have one black cat named Munchkin.





## Cindy Meyer, Co-Secretary

Birthday April 24<sup>th</sup>

My biggest life regret will forever be the 1 year in Taiwan and the 4 years I lived in China; wasting the glorious opportunity at my fingertips, by having well below adequate orchid knowledge. (2006, 14-18)

My orchid addiction blossomed in the fall of 2019 when my sister and I attended our first OSGKC auction. Ever since that day I've become hooked! Like my fellow OSGKC members I love animals and have 6 cats, countless chickens, herds of guineas, and flocks of peacocks. On occasion I massage a few horses. I am very grateful and thankful to be apart of this fascinating group of orchidists. To loving to learn- Cheers



## Ariel Paulson, Board Member at Large

Birthday May 19<sup>th</sup>

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?)

2014

2. How long have you been growing orchids?

2014

3. What got you hooked?

Complexity of doing it right, also have been growing houseplants all my life.

4. What type of orchid is your favorite?

Vanilla

5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can)

Steel racks, LEDs and humidity tents.

6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired?

Biology degree, currently work in biological data analysis and software development.

7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..."

I have somewhere around 5000 books.

8. Birth Month and Day"

May 19

9. Do you have any pets?

Springtails and fungus gnats, I suppose.



## Joy Prout, Treasurer

Birthday June 30<sup>th</sup>

Mark and I saw orchids at the ViCli Orchids booth at the Lawn and Garden show years ago. We went to their greenhouse and picked out 2 orchids. Mark was able to rebloom them and he was hooked. So, we joined OSGKC around 1998 or 99.

Peloric phals are my fav, and Mark grows them for me. I occasionally inspect them for critters.

The university I went to had a cougar (Chimega) as a mascot. I helped take care of her: food, walks around campus, basketball games.

I am retired from Sprint IT. Just getting used to sleeping in later-no 5am mtgs with India anymore.

We used to have 2 Bichon Frises. **If you know of any hypoallergenic small female dog(s), we're interested**





## Kristy Charland, Vice President

Birthday August 16<sup>th</sup>

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?) **Joined in 2015**
2. How long have you been growing orchids? **Since 2014**
3. What got you hooked? **Challenge of reblooming, beauty, flowers no matter the season**
4. What type of orchid is your favorite? **Probably cattleyas, also very fond of phalaenopsis and tolumnias. I have many genera in my collection though.**
5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can) **They are scattered around my house, under lights and on window sills. Planning a room dedicated to growing in my new house.**
6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired? **Real estate broker/interior designer/professional mom!! Never retired from being a mom. I no longer work outside the home.**
7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..." **I'm a Daughter of the American Revolution and can trace my family back to multiple patriots of the Revolution**
8. Birth Month and Day" **August 16**
9. Do you have any pets? **Yes, an AKC champion Lakeland Terrier named Rae. I showed her 2018-2019**  
I should add my kid's names and ages? **Evan drives for American Central Transport and is 32. Claire is a L/D nurse at Advent Health and is 29.**  
I have been married to my husband Ed for almost 37 years.



## Brian Donovan, Board Member at Large

Birthday October 25<sup>th</sup>

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?)  
I joined the OSGKC in 2008.
2. How long have you been growing orchids?  
I've been growing orchids since 2007.
3. What got you hooked?  
Someone gave me an orchid as a gift and I promptly killed it. I bought another one. Within a few months I owned a dozen.
4. What type of orchid is your favorite?  
My all-time favorite is Phalaenopsis equestris because it's always up to something. I love Paphiopedilums. Lately I've been interested in Latouria Dendrobiums. I especially love miniatures, but if I had

unlimited light and growing space I would grow a lot of Cattleyas and Brassavolas.

5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can)

I grow them in a windowsill and under lights. I put most of them in a shade house during the summer.

6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired?

I'm a historical sociologist. I've been a professor in the Sociology Department at KU since 2001. My latest book, [\*American Gold Digger: Marriage, Money, and the Law from the Ziegfeld Follies to Anna Nicole Smith\*](#), examines the "gold digger" stereotype in American culture.

7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..."

One surprising fact about me is that I'm a massive fan and aficionado of house music. I also have a wide appreciation for disco and other forms of dance music.

8. Birth Month and Day"

October 25

9. Do you have any pets?

Natalie and I have seven cats (four Cornish Rexes, two Lykois, and a domestic short hair): Squirrel, Otter, Bunny, Aardvark, Wee Possum, Myshka Mouse, and Snape



## Iva Stribling, Beginner's Group Chair

Birthday November 4<sup>th</sup>

Before going to a OSGKC Auction I had 2 orchids. I join OSGKC at the Auction and bought 5 plants for myself and one for a friend. When Vi-Cli sold her mature orchids for \$5 each shortly after the auction I bought 20 and some supplies. My membership is over ten years.

Phalaenopsis orchids are my favorite both the Mini & the full-size ones. I grow my orchids and many other plants in my basement Greenhouse. I will try any other kind of orchid at least twice.

I am retired from doing Tax Returns and now have plenty of time to do my favorite thing, which is to propagate all kinds of plants! Playing with my plants is always a pleasure.

Pets add joy to my life. Our dog (Lizzy), two toads (Claude & Maria), 4 goldfish, and worms to feed to the toads. My birthday is November 4th, our sons learned at an early age Mom only wants plants with roots on them for gifts.

One surprising thing about me is I am good at fixing items, it seems I have a mechanical ability.



## Crystal Remington, Co-Secretary

Birthday November 9<sup>th</sup>

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?): November 2019
2. How long have you been growing orchids? I didn't start to get serious until joining the society, but my first phalaenopsis was in 2013 a gift from my husband.
3. What got you hooked? Attending one of the Auctions!
4. What type of orchid is your favorite? Dendrobiums
5. Where and how are you growing orchids? Mostly along my windowsills, but I recently created a growing space in my basement under lights.
6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired? Optometrist
7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..." I invented and hold a patent on a contact lens
8. Birth Month and Day" November 9th
9. Do you have any pets? Yes one orange cat named Miss Morris



## Jean Rogers, President

Birthday November 10<sup>th</sup>

I Joined OSGKC in fall of 2015 after moving here from Omaha Nebraska where I was a Home Ec/Culinary teacher. I retired that year and moved here to be near my daughter and her family including 3 grandchildren - a baby, 2 year old, and 4 year old. I grew up on a farm in Iowa. My family always had 2 big gardens and lots of flower beds. Fortunately, I grew up loving the outdoors and gardening rather than hating it. So when I moved here my daughter urged me to apply to the K-State Master Gardening program. I did that and was accepted. On the first day of class, we all had to introduce another member. It was through those introductions I learned of Cindy Hobbs, President of OSGKC at that time. WELL!!! I had a few orchids I had accumulated over the previous 15 years and that really caught my attention. I was determined to meet her, and that I did at lunch. She invited me to an orchid meeting, I went. Almost immediately she had me on the Membership Committee with her. Then I added the position of Vice President in 2018 and President in 2020.

Those ORCHIDS!!! They had me hooked 20 years ago with their beauty but I really didn't know a thing about growing them. It is amazing that I still have one of my 1st orchids - Den. Woon Lang. I still love it and it has won an AOS award for me. I still LOVE Dendrobiums but now, I guess I love Cattleyas. And oh, I can't forget that I now have a new love for Paphs. and Phrags. Oh, and then there are Tolumnias and Barkerias that are SOOOOO sweet!! And Phals., oh, the Novelty ones are so precious and long lasting. I love Maxilarias with their coconut aroma (I just can't get them to bloom or Epidendrums!!!) My daughter said early on after I moved here, "Mom, you're not going to be a CAT lady in you old age, you're going to be a PLANT lady, and that I guess I am. When we bought our home here, I immediately hired a remodeler, and had a grow room built out into the back yard. That is where I spend most of my time. I've even moved my computer so I can sit amongst my orchids - That's where I am most of the time hanging out with my gray cat Smokie and my orchids, and where you see me on our Zoom meetings.

Birthdate: November 10th



# News from the AOS (AOS Corner has not been received since 10/2020)

We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these AOS Corner items in our newsletter! Even if you're not an AOS member, there are lots of free resources available to everyone...and of course we encourage you to join. AOS membership includes digital access to ORCHIDS magazine, including digital archives of more than 350 issues dating back to 1932!



**This is a public webinar – No need to be a member.**

## Speakers Day



Five Experts

**REGISTER NOW!** Date: February 6

Featuring the following speakers:

Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids- Growing Miniatures 11 – 11:45 AM

Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids – Brazilian Habitats and Species 12—12:45 PM

Ron McHatton Chief Science Officer, AOS – Those Pesky Bugs 1—1:45 PM

Dave Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise – Growing Paphs Successfully 2-2:45 PM

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids — Dendrobium Culture 3-3:45 PM

Online Registration \$30 <https://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/webinars/public/speakers-day.aspx>



**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** It's easy to find the [scheduled webinars](#) and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here:

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

## Webinars-Coming Attractions!



<b>When</b>	<b>February 09, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>February 16, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 02, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 09, 2021</b> 8:30 pm EST Tuesday
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Native Orchids of the Heartland	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Star Search: Judging Angraecoid Orchids
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Doug Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge, Member - Native Orchid Conference	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Beth Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! *Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.* We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure. GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing. **Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)**

From the AOS website...[ORCHIDS THAT FLOWER IN THE WINTER MONTHS](#)

C= 50F minimum, I = 55F minimum, W = 60-65F minimum

***Cattleya percivaliana*** (KAT-lee-ah purr-sih-VAL-ee-an-ah) and many of its hybrids (I)

***Coelogyne cristata*** (see-loh-GUY-nee KRIS-tah-tah) (C)

***Laelia superbiens*** (LAY-lee-ah sue-PURR-bee-enz) [also known as Schomburgkia superbiens](C)

***Lycaste skinneri*** (lye-CASS-tee SKIN-er-eye) and many of its hybrids (I)

***Trichocentrum cavendishianum*** (try-koe-SENT-rum cav-en-DISH-ee-an-um) [also long known as Oncidium - Oncidium is pronounced as on-SID-ee-um] (C)

***Phaius tankervilleae*** (FAY-us tan-ker-VILL-eye) [the Nun's Orchid] (I)

***Phalaenopsis*** (fail-en-NOP-sis) Many species and their hybrids (W)

***Angraecum eburneum*** (W)

***Angraecum sesquipedale*** (an-GRAY-kum sess-kwih-PED-ah-lee) (W)

***Brassavola nodosa*** (bra-SAH-voe-lah NOE-dose-ah) (I)

***Cymbidium*** (sim-BID-ee-um) Early flowering species and hybrids (C)

***Dendrobium nobile*** (den-DRO-bee-um NOE-bee-lee) and its hybrids (C winter)

***Epidendrum ciliare*** (sil-ee-AH-ree) (I)

***Laelia anceps*** (LAY-lee-ah an-SEPS) (I-C)

***Masdevallia*** (maz-dee-VAHL-ee-ah) Many species and hybrids (C-I)

***Rhynchostylis gigantea*** (rink-oh-STY-liss jye-gan-TEE-ah) (W)

***Cattleya coccinea*** (KAT-lee-ah COCK-sinn-ee-ah) (C) and many of the miniature cattleyas developed from this species.

The names above are derived from the Latin and Greek languages and can, at first, be daunting to pronounce. It's easier if you remember that, with few exceptions all letters are pronounced. You will often hear names pronounced somewhat differently than indicated as a result of regional differences. There are also pronunciations that are not technically correct but have found their way into common usage. The common pronunciation, stan-HOPE-ee-ah rather than the technically correct stan-HOPE-ah for Stanhopea is an example. This pronunciation has no doubt evolved because of the "pronounce every letter rule" although that would sound more like stan-HOPE-AY-ah.

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/winter-flowering-orchids.aspx>

From the AOS website...[WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR WHEN I BUY AN ORCHID?](https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-care/what-should-i-look-for-when-i-buy-an-orchid.aspx)

Many consumers, both retail and retailer, find themselves in a position today of having to make purchase-oriented decisions about an entirely new -- to them, at least -- class of plants: orchids. What should they be looking for? How can the purchase dollar be maximized? How can the best shelf life -- of vital importance for both the retail and retailing consumer -- be obtained?

Here are three helpful hints:

#### The Plant

Should be in proportion to the container, have roots in the media, be clean and unblemished, turgid and medium green, free of visible pests.

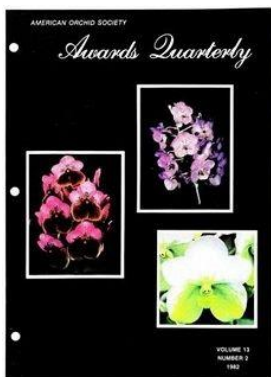
#### The Flowers

Should be lustrous and held well above the foliage on a strong, well-supported spike, be unblemished and free of fungal spotting, have some buds yet to open (never, ever accept a plant with flowers open to the tip of the spike, as it is impossible to judge flower life after all flowers have opened), and have a generally appealing aspect that fits with your decor.

#### The Vendor

Is the overall aspect one of cleanliness and order? Do the production plants look good? Is the staff attentive and interested in your welfare? Can they answer the most elementary of your questions? Selecting an orchid plant isn't really that different from any other flowering plant purchase, including the satisfaction that comes with the proper decision. *The AOS thanks Ned Nash for this essay.*

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-care/what-should-i-look-for-when-i-buy-an-orchid.aspx>



#### AWARDS QUARTERLY to [ORCHIDPRO](#)

The judging system record of awarded orchids has come a long way, from its paperback black and white print version, available at an extra cost to judges and members, to a fully digital version included with every AOS membership.

From *OrchidPro*... **Brassavola Little Stars 'Glen #3' CCM | AOS (84 points)**

*Brassavola nodosa* x *Brassavola subulifolia*

Award No: 20206602 Date: Dec 19, 2020, Exhibitor: David Medus, Photographer: Wilton Guillory

#### DESCRIPTION

Approximately 655 stellate flowers and 30 buds on 117 inflorescences on a robust, well grown plant 50cm wide and 30cm tall, grown in a 36-cm slat basket; sepals and petals light green; lip white; substance average; texture matte.



The criteria for receiving a Certificate of Cultural Merit: A CCM is awarded to the exhibitor of a well-flowered specimen plant of robust health. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least 12 months immediately prior to the

award and must score between 80 and 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale. To date there are 8874 CCM AOS awards on record. <https://op.aos.org/award>

There have been nineteen AOS awards granted to this hybrid. The awards range from an HCC with 79 points to a CCE with 91 points. Congratulations to the grower of this well-grown specimen!

To learn more about the awards you and your orchids can win, check the [Orchid Awards and Judging](#) page on the AOS website. <https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/aos-awards.aspx>

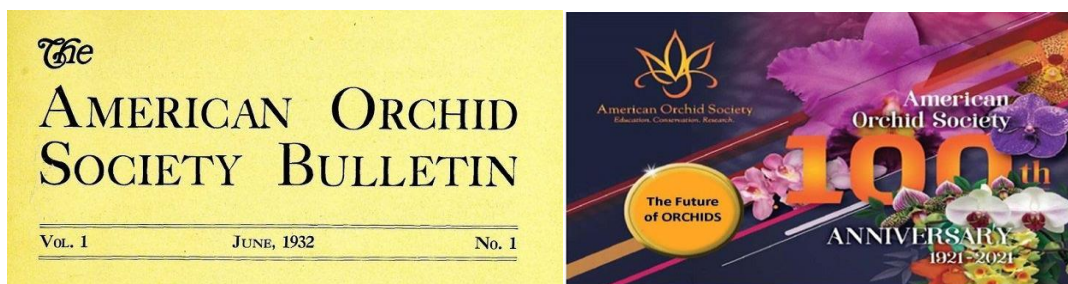
### **You are invited to attend the [AOS VIRTUAL SPRING MEMBERS MEETING](#) Saturday, March 13**

It is recognized that many members of our community may be reluctant or unable to travel due to institutional mandates and other external factors and this year's virtual event ensures that you won't miss out.

AOS Committee Meetings will be held at various times prior to the Members Meeting. If you'd like to attend one or more of these, kindly contact the Committee directly for details. (<https://www.aos.org/about-us/committees.aspx>) *To attend the [Affiliated Societies Committee](#) meeting during this event, send us a message with your contact information by March 03 and we will add you to our meeting list.*

Current AOS members will receive an email notification and coordinates to attend the Meeting of the Members, aka Virtual Town Hall. Keep an eye out for it! There will be no charge to attend this event.

<https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/event-calendar/2021/2021-03/aos-2021-spring-members-meeting.aspx>



Originally, a quarterly publication, each member now receives a monthly magazine either in print or digitally. <https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

### **[ORCHIDS MAGAZINE](#)**

*Coming in February 2021*

**WHERE IT ALL STARTED** The AOS turns 100 on April 21st and our February magazine is dedicated to this historic event. The February edition will feature the Society's history and the many changes in the orchid world over those hundred years. Watch your mailbox for this commemorative issue.

### **AOS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION NEW DATES! October 27th - 30th, 2021**

In order to ensure a safe and successful event, the Board of Trustees and the Centennial Celebration Committee have decided to reschedule the Centennial Celebration including the Members Meeting activities and Gala Banquet to the Fall of 2021. As previously announced, it will take place at the beautiful landmark location - The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate this momentous occasion.

Events include:

- AOS Judging - Thursday, October 28, 2021
- Special Centennial Auction - Friday, October 29, starting at 7 p.m.
- Speaker Series - Saturday, October 30, until 3 p.m.
- Centennial Gala - Saturday, October 30, starting at 6 p.m.

You and your society can become [sponsors](#) of this event! Make your contribution here:

<https://secure.aos.org/donate>

Select "Centennial Celebration Fund" from the Distribution drop-down list.

From the AOS website... [The AOS and ORCHID CONSERVATION](#)

Conservation of orchid species and their habitats has been a cornerstone of the AOS since our founding in 1921. Through its members and staff, the Society plays a major role in the formulation of world orchid conservation opinion and policies. By working to save orchids and their habitats here and abroad, we preserve their beauty and important role in the planet's ecosystem.

The AOS Conservation Committee serves as a communication point for conservation-related news and information. Its members are often called upon for expertise in matters relating to orchid conservation. The AOS's publications are in the forefront of communicating conservation-related news, particularly on CITES issues as well as import and export-related items. AOS Staff and Conservation Committee members have also played an increasingly important role as liaison with United States federal agencies, such as USDA and USFWS, in communicating the opinions of the orchid community.

The American Orchid Society grants awards for non-commercial conservation projects, as well as experimental projects of fundamental and applied research on orchids. The purpose of these grants is to advance the conservation and preservation of orchids in every aspect. Conservation projects supported have been in areas as diverse as CITES publication funding, a conservation program for an orchid reserve, establishment of a secretariat for the IUCN/OSG, and other informational resources.

*Be sure to check out the sidebar with additional topics. Read about past conservation projects, view related webinars and see additional conservation information.*

<https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchid-conservation.aspx>



## Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

**OSGKC.ORG**

**A non-profit, educational organization  
stimulating interest in orchids and their  
culture**

### **ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY**

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**Vice-president** - Kristy Charland

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### **Membership:**

Visit [www.OSGKC.org](http://www.OSGKC.org) and click the  
"membership" link, and then under PayPal  
click donate

Dues \$25 Individual, \$30 Household

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Webmaster: Ariel Paulson

**On Facebook:**



Facebook.com/OSGKC/

@OSGKC on Facebook or Messenger

Orchid Growers of OSGKC -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878999427064/>

**Like us, post your pictures or  
comments, join the community!!**

## What's Ahead ...

While we try our best to promote our unique hobby and continue to engage the interest of our orchid growing members, your safety and health must be our primary concern. We plan to do events by zoom until Health Officials report it's safe to gather again, and OSGKC Board determines likewise. Please check [www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) for updates and changes to our program schedule.

### **February 14, 2021**

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Sarah Hurdel, "Growing Habenarias"

### **March 14, 2021**

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids, "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 1"

### **April 18, 2021**

Annual Auction

### **May 7-9, 2021** Southwestern Regional Orchid Growers Association

Show Kansas Orchid Society in Wichita

See: [kansasorchidsociety.com](http://kansasorchidsociety.com)

### **May 16, 2021**

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids, "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 2"

### **June 13, 2021**

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Jim & Yvonne France, Oakwood Orchids, topic to be announced

### **July 11, 2021**

Tour of Orchids, area members' growing spots

### **August 15, 2021**

Picnic??

### **September 12, 2021**

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker - Edgar Stehli, Windswept in Time Orchids - "Growing Epidendrums and Encyclias"