



Volume V Issue 3
February-March 2024



Orchid Society
of Greater
Kansas City

OSGKC.ORG

*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 2nd Sunday of each month. Annual dues are \$25 for Individuals and \$30 for Household.

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February-March News!

Comments from Jean Rogers, President



Hello OSGKC!!

Well, we went from a housebound driven by very cold January to a balmy, get out and enjoy each other and celebrate a Chiefs win, February. Thirty-eight came for comradery at the February meeting. This included one new member and four guests which turned into four new memberships. At our upcoming meetings please look for and get to know Laila Scherer, Lyle McLane, Carol and Elliott Stringfellow, and Vickie Avery. WE are so excited to have them!!

March event opportunities are right around the corner. Hope you will participate in what's available. **The first weekend in March will be the Arkansas Show. March 9th OSGKC will have a table at Powell Garden Orchid Delirium.** There will be informative, delightful speakers that day including our own David Bird from Bird's Botanicals (See more information in 'Ideas, Items, Inquiries'.) **March 16 & 17 will be the Springfield Show and Sale. Omaha Show and Sale will be March 24th & 25th.** These are amazing events and it's so fun to peruse together with other orchid enthusiasts at these orchid events. It is also great fun and educational to participate!! Clerking is unforgettable, and even if you have never done it before, even if you are a very beginner there is a place for you on a clerking team – one job is hanging ribbons – contact Crystal cdmeyer@gmail.com or Jean Rogers jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com, if you can join in, whether clerking or helping set up or tear down our exhibit!!

And let's not forget OSGKC will have it's annual fundraising auction April 14th. I hope you are checking for donations you can make – more information on that later.

I hope this is the year everyone gets involved in our fantastic Society!! I look forward to seeing you in person in March.

Happy Orchid Growing,
Jean

Comments from Jean Rogers, Editor

Thanks to Mark Prout and Cassie Nagy and Susan Olsen for proofing!!!

Please remember that we'd like to see your blooming orchids. Feel free to take pictures anytime during the month and then send them when I let you know I'm working on the newsletter. We love seeing each others' successes.

If you find a new product or potting information, have an inquiry, or any other thing you think other members might be interested in, please send it to me and I'll include it in the newsletter. jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com Check out "Ideas, Items, and Inquiries" after the pictures.

If you have questions/problems, remember to bring your plant or pictures of it to the meeting. 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.

Jean

P.S.: I've received communication from Powell Garden regarding their upcoming Orchid Symposium March 9th. Please see information in Community Service, pg.22 – just before "Outside OSGKC Resources".



From the Society in Arkansas

13th annual Orchid Show & Sale

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks



Friday, March 1
5 pm-7:30 pm
(200 members preview)

Saturday, March 2
9 am-5 pm

Sunday, March 3
noon-4 pm

Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
4703 N. Crossover Rd.
Fayetteville

Hundreds of plants in bloom!
Care classes!
Look, photograph, learn, buy!

Find us on Facebook

Botanical GARDEN www.oso-web.org www.bgozarks.org

Co-sponsored by the Orchid Society of the Ozarks and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks

From the Omaha Orchid Society



Thirty-Fifth Annual
Orchid Show and Sale



March 23 - 24, 2024
Lauritzen Gardens
100 Bancroft St.
Omaha, NE
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
www.greateromahaorchidsociety.org



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

***The 5th Orchid Culture Day is Coming!
Explore and learn about four fascinating genera***

Don't miss it! Four expert orchid speakers and programs. **Eric Sauer**, prominent Maxillariologist from River Valley Orchids, **George Hatfield**, from Hatfield Orchids, **Lourens Grobler** from AfriOrchids, and **Julien Baruch**, from Krull Smith.

The American Orchid Society is proud to announce its 5th Orchid Culture Day
"ORCHIDS FOR ENJOYMENT"
EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF FOUR FASCINATING GENERA

Join us Sunday, March 3rd, 2024 at 11:00 AM EST!

We have lined up four outstanding speakers who will take us on visits to the worlds of four wondrous orchid genera.

We will explore and learn from these experts on maxillarias, cymbidiums, angraecoids and phalaenopsis.

\$35 fee. For details and to register please visit the AOS website, www.aos.org

The Wheel of Prizes will spin!

Let's Enjoy a Day of Orchids and their Culture!

Eric Sauer
River Valley Orchids
(Centerville, OH)

Julien Baruch
Krull-Smith
(Apopka, FL)

George Hatfield
Hatfield Orchids
(Oxnard, CA)

Lourens Grobler
AfriOrchids
(South Africa)

Enjoy a day learning about these four fabulous genera, their history, hybridizing and of course **CULTURE!** There will be door prizes.

Schedule (All times EST)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Eric Sauer "It is Not Just tenuifolia Anymore"**

12 -12:15 am - Break

12:15 - 1:15 pm - **Lourens Grobler "New African Species in Cultivation and How to Grow Them"**

1:15 - 1:30 pm - Break

1:30 - 2:30 pm - **George Hatfield "Growing Award-winning Cymbidiums"**

2:30 -2:45 pm - Break

2:45 - 3:45 pm - **Julien Baruch "Phalaenopsis Culture and Breeding"**

3:45 - 4:00 pm - Wheel of Orchid Fortune

\$35 fee for this all-day seminar. Register [Here](#)

Can't attend the live streaming? Not a problem! Just register and we will send you a link to the recording of the talks.

[Register Today!](#)

MAILING ADDRESS: American Orchid Society | PO Box 565477 | Miami, FL 33256-5477

AOS LIBRARY: 10901 Old Cutler Road | 2nd Floor | Coral Gables, FL 33156

WEBSITE: www.aos.org | **TELEPHONE:** 305-740-2010 | **FAX:** 305-747-7154 | **EMAIL:** theaos@aos.org

Remember our Auction!! Flyers are ready!
Please start passing the word!!!



ORCHID AUCTION

Sunday, April 14, 2024

2:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Merriam Community Center

6040 Slater St. Merriam, KS 66202

Free admission

www.osgkc.org

A fundraiser for

The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

Non-Auction Plants starting at \$5

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 page. If you need Facebook help (I know I did and still do!!) contact Kristy (charland.ek@outlook.com). She'll be glad to help. **If you want to email us**, please contact Cindy Hobbs – Mentor Chair, tincan1201@aol.com

January Speaker Review by Crystal Remington

Doug Martin “The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids: Orchid Pollination”

Long-time member, Doug Martin, gave the members an eye-opening, entertaining, and informative look at how orchids attract their pollinators. He outlined several techniques the orchids have developed over the millennia. Of course, fragrance is one of the main elements, with sweet odors emitted in the early morning hours to attract butterflies, and other morning creatures. Heavy, sweet and sometimes acrid odors emitted at night to attract moths and even bats. The offensive (to our noses) odor of rotting meat that *Bulbophylums* and other orchids put out that flies are attracted to. What's more, some orchids not only smell like rotting meat, but the center of the flower looks like meat, inviting the pollinator to just the right place to pick up or deposit the pollinia. Then color too has its purpose: white flowers for night creatures, the better to be seen, and certain colors like red to wave a bright flag of attraction in the breeze.

But as the presentation continued, punctuated by Doug's droll humor and one liners, stranger affectations were described: orchids that mimicked the appearance of females of the species, attracting repeated suitors, only to be jilted, and rejected from the flower. But mission accomplished, as the jilted pollinator was now flying to the next flower, with a pollinia attached to do the intended job.

What was most fascinating was the realization that orchids have slowly evolved in harmony with the pollinators in their environment. The plants that developed the right attributes, continued to produce off-spring, guaranteeing the survival of the species. Those that did not, vanished. But what kind of intelligence did a plant have to do this? And that, folks, is the great mystery of life in a microcosm.

Meetings Upcoming meeting(s) and Events - From Susie Hanna, OSGKC Program Chair:

March 10, 2024

Our next speaker is Nicholas Rust, owner of Rusty Exotics, and he will be speaking via Zoom on *Habenarias* at our March 10 meeting. This genus is a group of terrestrial orchids that grow from tubers which have the marvelous characteristic of going dormant during the winter months, requiring no care. An appealing feature for growers who want a break from being a constant plant care giver!

Nicholas is a fairly new member of the orchid world. His interest began in 2015 when someone gave him a mini-Phal as a gift. Yes, this is the way it starts for most people! First one small orchid, then another, and another! He then began exploring the wide world of orchids, and became fascinated with terrestrials, including *Habenaria*, Jewel orchids, *Catasetinae*, and Australian terrestrial orchids. He began a hybridization program in 2018 which focuses on terrestrial orchids, especially *Habenaria*. In 2019, this interest bloomed into a small orchid and exotic plant nursery, Rusty Exotics.

Nicholas has an excellent article on setting up a grow room and the use of LED lights in the current issue of *Orchids* (February 2024), the monthly publication of the American Orchid Society.

More information will be distributed soon on pre-ordering plants and tubers. Meanwhile, start your shopping list at <https://rustyexoticsorchids.com/pages/shop>.

Project Plant Update by Kristy Charland

Hello growers! The general consensus seems to be that folks would like to try growing a Mini Vanda type plant for 2024. I have made inquiries to growers, and I will let the members know when I have a response and a proposed plant or plants to order. Please continue to document your progress on our past project plants on our Facebook page noted above, or by emailing me if you aren't a Facebook participant. I would like the name of the plant and a picture please. Charland.ek@outlook.com Be well!

Judging Notes...

Upcoming Shows & AOS Judging 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 2nd 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.

March 1-3, 2024

Orchid Society of the Ozarks “13th Annual Orchids in the Garden”, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, 4703 N. Crossover Rd, Fayetteville, AR 72764

March 3, 2024

American Orchid Society 5th Culture Day – “Orchids for Enjoyment” – <https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/news/2024/orchid-culture-day.aspx>

March 16-17, 2024

Springfield Orchid Society Show, Springfield Greene County Botanical center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO.

March 23--25, 2024

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Show & Sale, Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft St., Omaha, NE

April 3, 2024

AOS Spring Member’s Meeting in conjunction with the Apopka International Orchid Festival and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Krull-Smith, 2800 W Ponkan Rd, Apopka, FL 32712

April 13, 2024

Mid-America Judging Center monthly judging, noon, Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

April 26-28, 2024

Tulsa Orchid Society Show & Sale, Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa, OK

May 4-5, 2024

Oklahoma Orchid Society Show & Sale, Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK

May 11, 2024

Mid-America Judging Center monthly judging, noon, Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

May 18, 2024

Great Plains Judging Center monthly judging, 10:30 am, Beech Science Center, 100 College St., Winfield, KS

May 17-19, 2024

Memphis Orchid Society Show and Sale, Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Rd, Memphis, TN

OSGKC Judging

Ribbon judging at our meetings at the Merriam Community Center are not official AOS judging events, but are an introduction to the judging process and a way for members to share and learn more. Any plant you enter, you should have owned and cared for, for at least 3 months (not just bought recently and brought in. Also, bring the same flowers in for judging only once. For example, if you enter a Paph. one month and the next month it is still in bloom, please do NOT enter it again. Seeing orchids in flower is one of the greatest joys of our meetings and we are so happy to be able to do this again. Please bring in your blooming orchids, even if you don't think they are "award quality". You will always learn something by bringing plants in to discuss and share with other members. And, ribbons count for points which build through the year for our year-end award presentation each December.

February Meeting Judging Results and pictures by Anh Rongish

Thanks to all who brought orchids to enter and show: Jeanne Smith, Kristy Charland, Cindy Hobbs, Mike Rafferty, Katerina Jenkins, Mark Clements, Jean Rogers, Emily Albrecht, Ariel Paulson, Susie Hanna and Al Clinton

White Ribbon Winners

Cattleya: C. Rubin by Cindy Hobbs

Red Ribbon Winners

Cattleya: C. Ethyl's Pink by Cindy Hobbs

Oncidium: Onc. Twinkle by Katerina Jenkins

Phalaenopsis: Phal. Timothy Christopher by Kristy Charland

Paphiopedium: Paph. Hawaiian Moment (Hawaiian Volcano 'Jake's Glow' x Stella Scope 'Yellow Blaton') by Jeanne Smith

Paphiopedium: Paph. Promises Promises by Kristy Charland

Paphiopedium: Paph. Petula's Magnificence by Katerina Jenkins

Other: Cymbidium Shocking Moon 'Carol' by Emily Albrecht

Blue Ribbon Winners

Cattleya: Catt. Portia (Gur. bowringiana x C. labiata) by Jean Rogers

Phalaenopsis: Phal. NOID Katerina Jenkins

Paphiopedium: NOID by Michael Rafferty

Oncidium: Burr. Francine 'Roseglow' by Katerina Jenkins

Other: Cymbidium Grand Dame 'Nancy' x Brenda 'Geysersland' by Mark Clements

First Bloom: Cl. Rebecca Northen by Kristy Charland



February

Orchid of the Month

**Paphiopedilum NOID by
Michael Rafferty**

For Fun and Learning!!

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

February Blue Ribbon Winners and special orchids and –” How I grow It”:



Paphiopedilum (Paph.) NOID By Michael Rafferty

Light: plant is on a stand 4 ft high against the west wall of a south-facing room about 4 ft from the large bay windows. Day light is filtered through a 60% shade, supplemented with an LED lamp roughly 12-14 inches above the foliage, 9 hrs/day in December gradually increasing to 10 hrs now.

Water: twice weekly with RO or rainwater.

Feed: every other watering with First Rays K-lite (1/4 tsp in 2 gal) + 1 tbs Cal-Mag, pretty much year-round, adding about a tbs or so monthly of Kelpak starting in Spring through November.

Humidity: 50-60% maintained by humidifier running constantly - the room is large with high (18 ft) ceiling at peak so keeping winter humidity up is a challenge.

Potting: The plant seems to respond well to annual repotting in RePotMe paph/phrag mix. I keep it in a 6 in clear plastic pot all the

time, trimming off previous year's growth if necessary to make it fit.



Cattleya: C. Portia by Jean Rogers

I grow this in my bedroom on a shelf cart under LED lights - it also gets a little light from a window.

The temperature is pretty consistent, probably about 69. During the summer it's a little warmer.

I water about once a week with a pump up sprayer

Fertilizer: I use First Rays program - K-lite weakly with every watering, Kelpmax and Quantum monthly

Humidity: there is a humidifier set at 45 in front of the shelves

Potting: - needs badly to be repotted but I missed the time and it is bifoliate.



(Oncidium) Burr. Francine 'Roseglow' by Katerina Jenkins

I grow it in the kitchen next to a large window (east). I also use grow lights (4 hours in the morning and 4 hours in the evening). It is about 68 degrees in the winter (64 degrees at night) and about 74 degrees in the summer. I water it every 10-14 days and use MSU orchid food by Repot Me and time release orchid fertilizer. I use purified water and rainwater. It grows in a mixture of bark and a sphagnum moss. I usually re-pot it every 2-3 years.



(Other Category) Cymbidium Grand Dame 'Nancy' x Brenda 'Geyserland' by Mark Clements

Light: south facing greenhouse window with diffused light until October, then light with no diffusion over the winter

Temperature: summer: 80-100 day, 70-90 night; winter 68-88 day, 55-62 night

Humidity: 65-70

Water & Fertilizer: 90% RO water, 10% tap (to toughen them up a bit and challenge their immune systems), approx. 4 week cycle (give or take 2 days depending on water needs), weeks 1 and 3 weakly with Norman's optimal

(1/8 tsp/gallon), and then dynagro (now called Superthrive) 1/2 the strength recommended on the bottle, 30-10-10 week 2 and 10-52-10 week 4

Potting mix: XL coconut husk I think (i obtained the plant with this potting mix last summer)



Phal. NOID by Katerina Jenkins

I grow it in the bathroom next to an eastern window and it gets about 2 hours of direct sun every morning. It is about 64 degrees at night and about 68 degrees during the day (it can get up to 74 in the summer).

I water it every 14 days and use MSU orchid food by Repot Me and time release orchid fertilizer. I put it outside when it rains (in the summer) and bring it in as soon as it stops raining. Otherwise I use purified water. It grows in a mix of bark and moss (layers). I usually re-pot it every 2-3 years.



First Bloom: Cl. Rebecca Northen by Kristy Charland

For *Catasetinae*, I follow Fred Clarke's instructions on Sunset Valley Orchids website. These guys bloom when the plant is dormant. When not dormant, re-pot at first sign of new growth.

When that growth is about 4" tall, begin to slowly water and add slow release fertilizer. When in active growth, I move them outside where they can get a full dose of full morning sun. Keep them well watered, and add more fertilizer when the first dose has expired. In the fall, I move them inside and watch the process of going into dormancy and gradually slow down on watering and eliminate fertilizer. When all leaves are brown, stop watering but maintain good light and humidity. Humidity is enhanced by setting the pot suspended in a jar with some water in it, being careful not to get the pot wet or submerge at all.

Blooming Orchids for Show

For your VIEWING PLEASURE! Thanks to members who donated!!

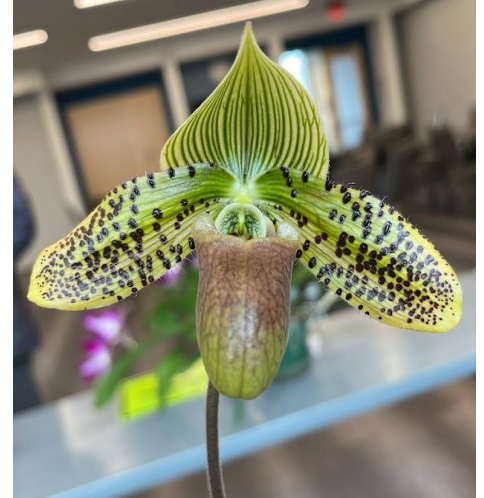
Did you know we now have an amazing 137 members in our membership??? Yes, 137!!! It would be beyond my wildest dream if even $\frac{3}{4}$ of you sent a picture for 'Viewing Pleasure'!!! Share your beauties!!! Become involved in the Society as much as you can. It is so fun and rewarding associating with all of you!!!



Phal. Timothy Christopher
By Kristy Charland



Cymbidium Shocking Moon 'Carol'
By Emily Albrecht



Paph. Hawaiian Moment (Hawaiian Volcano
'Jake's Glow' x Stella Scope 'Yellow Blaton')
By Jeanne Smith



Oncidium Twinkle
By Katerina Jenkins



C. Ethyl's Pink
By Cindy Hobbs



Paph. Petula's Magnificence
By Katerina Jenkins



Paph. Promises Promises
By Kristy Charland



C. Rubin
Cindy Hobbs



Cattleya lueddemaniana (Coerulea) 'Rubicon'
by Barbara Hadel



C. Alarcon 'Gran Sarah'
HCC/AOS by Jean Rogers



Den. Memoria Marjorie
Morton by Jean Rogers



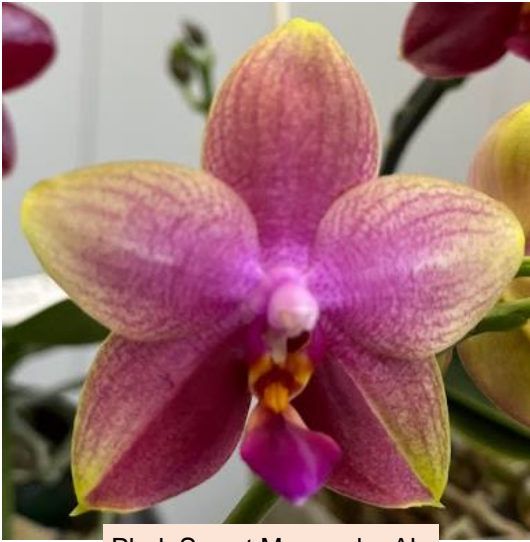
Phal. NOID by Jean Rogers



Tolumnia Jairak Flyer 'Red Spread'
by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Phal. Ken Avant AM/AOS by Al
Clinton & Susie Hanna



Phal. Sweet Memory by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Phal. venosa ('Ontario' x 'Monte Vista') by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Masdevallia Red Wing by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Dendrobium Chocolate Antlers (tangerinum x gouldii) by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Epc. Kyoguchi x Sc. Beaufort by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Phal. Pylo's Sofia 'Peter's Pride' HCC/AOS by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Holcoglossum Pink Yawi by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



Epc. Atomic Kyoguchi (Kyoguchi x aurantiaca) by Al Clinton & Susie Hanna



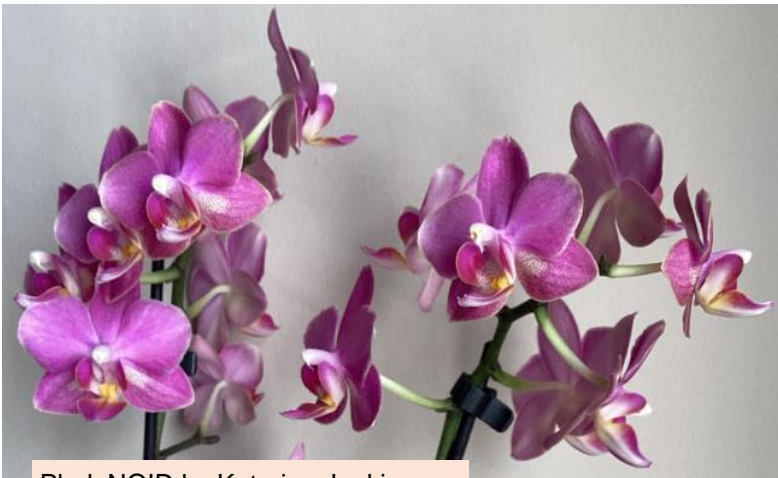
Phragmipedium Lou's Love by Katerina Jenkins



Ctt. Naranja en Flor by Katerina Jenkins



Blc. Hausermann's Holiday 'Christmas' by Katerina Jenkins



Phal. NOID by Katerina Jenkins



Eny. Exotic Seashell by Mark and Joy Prout



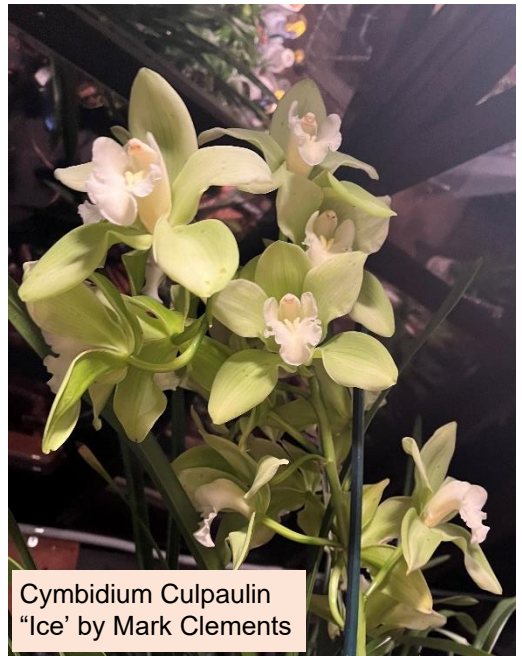
Cattleya intermedia (Coerulea) by Mark & Joy Prout



Phal. (Tying Shin World Class x Lianher Happy Kitty) by Mark and Joy Prout



Eny Magic Wand by Mark and Joy Prout



Cymbidium Culpaulin 'Ice' by Mark Clements



Den. (Norma Jackson x discolor) by Mark Clements



Ludisia discolor by Jean Rogers



Zygopetalum 'Jumpin Jack' by Justin Jenkins



Cahuzacara [Chz.] Hsinying Naranja 'Golden Sunshine' by Justin Jenkins



Phal. schilleriana 'Pink Butterfly' by Justin Jenkins



Stanhopea reichenbachiana by Justin Jenkins



Phal. Morelia by Justin Jenkins



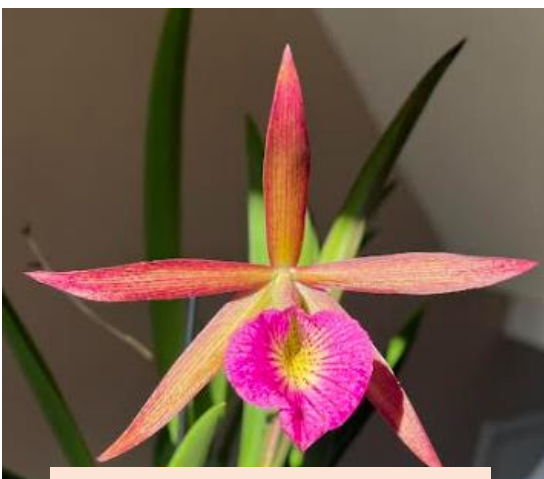
Den. spectabile by Justin Jenkins



Den. Royal Chip by Justin Jenkins



Den. uniflorum by Justin Jenkins



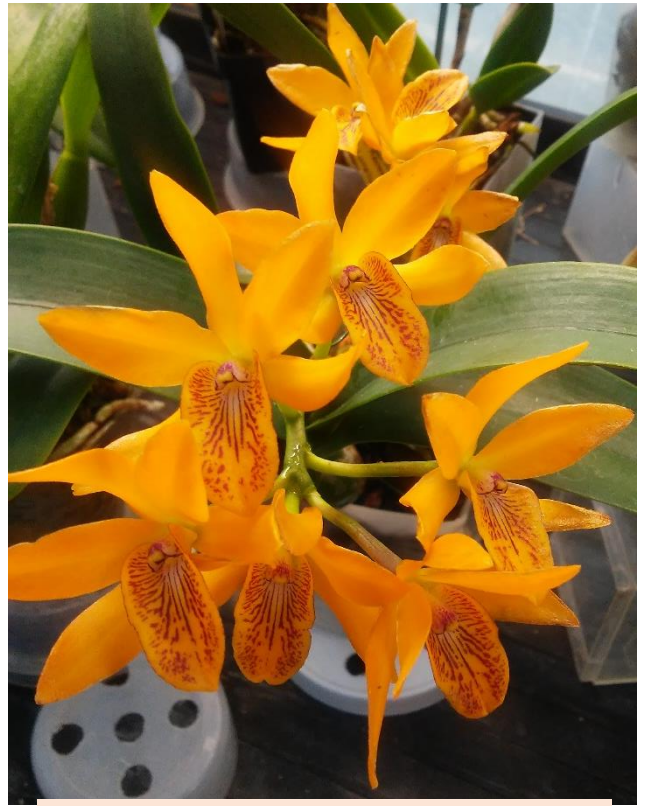
Bc. Hamlyn's Magic 'Leilani' by Justin Jenkins



Phalaenopsis 'Fang-mei Colorful Bird' by Justin Jenkins



Rlc. Duh's White 'Peppa Pig' by Susie Hanna and Al



Epc. Atomic Kyoguchi by Susie Hanna & Al Clinton



Phal. Sacajawea by Susie Hanna & Al Clinton



Phal. Ken Avant 'Krull Smith' by Susie Hanna & Al Clinton



Epidendrum ibaguense by Lalia Scherer



Phragmipedium besseae by Laila Scherer



Rhynchoaelia digbyana by Laila Scherer



Bc. Yellow Bird by Laila Scherer



Paph. Fanaticum by Albert Liu & Matthew Montoya Rush



Den. Poco Nieve by Albert Liu & Matthew Montoya Rush



Stelis ciliaris by Albert Liu & Matthew Montoya Rush



Phrag. Margo's Pinky by Albert Liu & Matthew Montoya Rush



Gastrochilus retrocallus by Albert Liu & Matthew Montoya Rush

Ideas, Items and Inquiries (If you know of something for this section, please send to jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com for inclusion)

Thanks to **Alishia Cole** for finding this item. It is from Steve Howard on the Beginning Orchid Growers Facebook page.

Orchids need three things to live, grow and flower - air, light and water. The three essentials. I've often mentioned this simple and effective test for light levels outdoors. It's as simple as holding your hand 12 inches above the plant and analyzing the shadow. Bright light suits Dendrobium, Cattleya, Oncidium, Vanda, Cymbidium, to name a few. A strong defined sharp-edged shadow. Medium light is good for shade lovers such as Phals and Zygopetalum. Low light only suits a few orchids, with Paphiopedilum and Jewell orchids the most notable. Correct light gives strong healthy plants and reliable flowering. Too much light can bleach or burn leaves. Some react with pigmentation, not unlike sunburn on us. Insufficient light results in poor or no flowering and is clearly a major reason plants grow but won't flower, or if they do its very poor. Growth becomes soft, pale and sappy, often unable to hold itself up. One of the most important observations you can make is the ability to assess how good or poor your light levels are and correct them during the growing season. This simple diagram that Leanne Schulz found was perfect for a post like this. Please do not try this at night. It doesn't work.



From the AOS – Orchids Magazine – Mark Prout uses small cone coffee filters

USEFUL TIP

How to Fertilize Using Mesh Bags

Text and photograph by Karla Velasco

THE WAY I grow orchids has evolved tremendously over the years. It can be impacted by our location, access to supplies, and our level of effort. I have grown orchids in Florida, South Korea, Texas, and now Phoenix. With each new location, my growing strategies have evolved.

Orchids grown in baskets or mounted have been hard for me to fertilize. I use sheer mesh bags that sell as party favors or jewelry bags. I fill these up with slow-release fertilizer, and Bonide granules (contains imidacloprid, which affects honey bees and is banned in several northeastern states, Puerto Rico and Canada). They are then placed on my orchids. These bags are inexpensive. A pack of 100 is easily found online for under \$10.

I found fertilizer baskets not to be as effective as these mesh bags. The basket's holes are too big to hold the granules and the baskets hold very little fertilizer. The drawstring of the mesh bags makes them easy to close and hang. The material is flexible and if roots creep into the bag, they can be easily cut apart. These bags have certainly made a difference in my growing.

If you experiment with these bags or have other ideas regarding how they may be used, I would love to hear about it.

— Karla Velasco (email karlaavelasco@gmail.com).



Kristy Charland made an observation that is very interesting.

I saw this phal at IKEA (photo on left) and couldn't resist. It had a few more unopened buds and more empty stems, so I was hoping for extended blooming. I got what I had hoped for. It is next to my picture windows in my kitchen. As you can see, the cooler temperature that the new buds developed in has caused a deeper coloring (photo on the right) Kristy



At the picnic this summer, we plan to have a “division” silent auction. That being the case, I've been on a hunt to help with ideas for doing the dividing. Several years ago, I watched a video that showed growing new plants from back bulbs. The grower severed the back bulbs, at least 3 but preferably 4 or 5 that have at least an eye or two. He then put them in a plastic grocery bag with a little wet sphagnum and he said “hang them under the bench in the greenhouse and forget them till they put on roots and growth.” He did this with Cattleyas. The article below is about applying the method to Cymbidiums. I have **BOLD** printed the section below about this method. I've also tried a version of this by putting rocks or leca or glass marbles in the bottom of tall cut-flower vases and kept water in the rocks for the humidity. Plastic wrap can cover the top if desired.

I cannot find the video I watched but Thanks to Brian Milligan and the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc. for putting this in print. He is applying it to Cymbidiums but describes exactly what I saw being done with Cattleyas.



For the benefit of novice growers I should explain that a back-bulb is a bulb that has lost all its leaves, hopefully because of age rather than disease. When a cymbidium is repotted, it's desirable to remove these leafless bulbs, preferably by severing the rhizome linking them to the rest of the plant. It's best to use a sterile knife or scissors, but some growers simply twist the connecting rhizome by hand until it breaks. Having removed the back-bulbs, how do you 'strike' them and why? 'Striking' is jargon for encouraging the back-bulb to produce new growth from incipient leaf nodes, which are mostly located near the base of the bulb.

To prepare a back-bulb for 'striking' first remove any old leaf husks, as these may harbor scale and other insect pests. Then cut any residual roots back to their junction with the back-bulb and trim the break if the bulb was removed by twisting. To minimize infection by any of the organisms responsible for rot the cut surfaces should be sealed, either with Steri-Prune® (or similar sealing paste) or by leaving the bulb lying in the shade for a few days for the cut surfaces to form a scab or callus. Alternatively, the cut surfaces can be dusted with a fungicide. Leaving the back-bulbs to dry for a few days is the simplest option.

There are many different ways of striking back-bulbs. I've used several different methods, each with a fair measure of success. The simplest method, involving least effort, is simply to bury the back-bulb to two thirds of its depth in the same potting medium that you use for the rest of your collection. If you use a 4-in pot then no attention will be needed for two years except regular watering and the addition of a little slow release fertilizer in spring.

Some back-bulbs strike more rapidly than others. If a leaf growth appears within three months you're doing well, while six months would be average. If there's no sign of growth within twelve months all but the super-optimist should give up (there are always a few back-bulbs each year that fail to strike). Generally, roots do not appear until the leaf growth is several inches tall, and there is no point in applying slow-release fertilizer until this stage is reached. If you're keen, there may be some benefit in applying liquid fertilizer to the foliage at an earlier stage as liquid fertilizers are absorbed by leaves as well as by roots.

In recent years I've struck back-bulbs of my more highly valued cymbidiums using Sphagnum moss as the potting medium. This method seems to produce more rapid growth, but that's probably because I place the pots in my heated glass-house during winter. After about a year the moss is removed and replaced with conventional cymbidium mix. A modified version of this method has been used by some growers for many years. **The back-bulbs are placed in a plastic bag with a little very wet Sphagnum moss and the bag is then sealed and hung in the shade-house.** The struck back-bulbs are potted in cymbidium mix when the leaves and roots are a few inches long.

The old back-bulb eventually rots and it should be removed from the new plant as soon as rot is detected. While the bulb is in good condition it provides the plant with nutrients, so it's best to leave it attached as long as possible. However, some growers remove the old back-bulb as soon as the new plant appears able to support itself and then attempt to make it strike a second time. This often works, particularly with large back-bulbs, although the chances of the bulb rotting during its second year are much greater, of course.

So, novice grower, now you know how to increase your cymbidium collection. But be warned – it takes four years on average for the new plant to reach flowering size and if you strike all your back-bulbs you will soon have to move to larger premises!



Cymbidium Do Wop 'Woopie'
HCC/OSCOV



Community Service

If you have knowledge of an upcoming event, or something you think others might like to know of, please let me know and I can put it 'HERE' in the newsletter – jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com



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Where to Find David Bird Speaking:

- Powell Gardens Orchid Seminar Day,
Saturday March 9th at 10am on Orchids

Don't forget about our Orchid 102 Class on Thursday, March 28th at 6pm at the Merriam Community Center.
Email Vashti.bird@gmail.com for registration!



Join us for our 3rd Annual Orchid Symposium, featuring presenters David Bird and Brent Tucker. Attendees will also make a moss art piece to take home.

Boxed lunch and drink included with symposium. Attendees will also receive a 15% off good and plants in the Marketplace on March 9th. *Exclusions apply.*

Schedule of Events

10:00AM-11:00AM: David Bird, "Growing & Blooming Orchids Successfully"

11:00AM-11:30AM: Bird's Botanicals Plant Sale

11:30AM-12:30PM: Lunch/ Break

12:30PM-1:30PM: Make and Take Moss Art

1:45PM-3:00PM: Brent Tucker, "The Scents of Orchids"

Here is the link to register. <https://25043p.blackbaudhosting.com/25043p/2024-Orchid-Symposium>

Outside OSGKC Resources

It's show season and orchid buying season (well every season is orchid buying season, but opportunity is paramount now). Recently a member bought a rather expensive Cattleya, only for buds to open to streaky questionable flowers. Indeed it tested positive for virus. Below is an article I reprinted from Sue Bottom in 12/20 and another one that Katerina Jenkins found for me (Thanks Katerina).



We thank Sue Bottom and the St. Augustine Orchid Society for allowing us to print any of her Care and Culture articles from their website in our newsletter! If you have not checked out St. Augustine website, please do so.

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/>

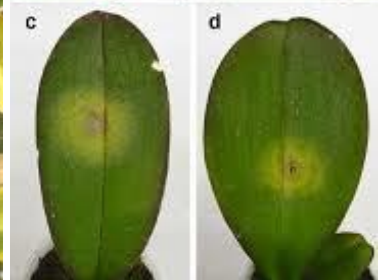
Orchid Pests and Diseases - Orchid Viruses

Information assembled by Sue Bottom



Orchid Viruses

[View More Images](#)



Symptoms: Chlorotic and necrotic spots, streaks, lines and rings in the leaves. Flowers may show necrotic spots and streaks as well as color break. The virus, if present, is present in all parts of the plant.

Treatment: There is no treatment for a virused plant. Destroy the plant to prevent it from infecting other

plants. If the plant is valuable, isolate it completely from other plants and follow precautions to prevent infecting other plants.

Prevention: Strictly adhere to good sanitation practices:

Use Sterile Cutting Tools – Viruses are spread by transmitting the plant sap from one plant to another via mechanical means. The primary means by which viruses are spread from plant to plant is by improperly sterilized cutting tools. There are two ways to keep cutting tools sterilized, either use sterile single edged razor blades that are discarded after each and every use or use a hot flame to sterilize cutting tools after using the tools on a given plant. The cutting tool should be sterilized for 15 to 20 seconds with a hot flame on each side.

Controls During Repotting – Viruses can be spread whenever there is mechanical transmission of sap from an infected plant to another plant, even by leaves rubbing against one another. Observe these additional controls:

- Latex Gloves. Wear latex gloves when handling a given plant and discard those gloves when you are done handling the plant. Your bare hands can come into contact with plant sap containing the virus and infect the next plant.

- Newspaper on the Potting Surface. Keep the potting surface sterile. Keep a stack of newspapers handy and when repotting, place newspaper under the potting area. Upon completion, wrap up the newspaper, gloves and other detritus and discard them before touching the next plant.

Disinfect Your Pots Prior to Reuse – Make sure your pots are sterile:

- Disinfection of Plastic Pots. Plastic pots can be disinfected by first washing them with soap to remove residual organic matter, then soaking them for an hour in a 20% bleach solution, then soaking them for an hour in Phytan mixed per label instructions.

- Disinfection of Clay Pots. Clay pots are porous and cannot be sterilized against viruses by using bleach and Phytan alone. Follow the normal disinfection routine for plastic pots above and then bake them in an oven at 400F for two hours to kill any residual virus.

Controls During Routine Activities – Viruses can be spread whenever there is mechanical transmission of sap from an infected plant to another plant, even by leaves rubbing against one another. Observe these additional controls:

- Cutting Inflorescences. Use a sterile tool to cut each inflorescence from the plant. The easiest way to do this is to use a sterile, single edged razor blade to remove the inflorescence and discard it after each use (or bake in a 350F oven for an hour). If you use shears, you should flame sterilize them between each inflorescence.

- Removing Inflorescences by Hand. Don't do it! A virus, if present, can be unknowingly transmitted to your hand and you can infect the next plant when you touch it or remove the next dead flower bud by hand. Instead, use a sterile razor blade and discard it after each use.

Read More:

[What is an Orchid Virus](#) (Ross & Liz Maidment, Aranbeem Orchids)

[Cymbidium Orchid Viruses](#) (Joshua White, Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victory)

[Orchid Viruses](#) (Loren Batchman, *Orchids*)

[Virus in Cattleyas](#) (Sue Bottom)

[Color Break in Orchids](#) (McMillan and Vendrame)

[Common Virus Diseases of Orchids](#) (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

[Orchid Virus Diseases in Taiwan and their Control Strategies](#) (Dr. Ching-An Chang)

[Ornamentals Infected by Brevipalpus Mite-Transmitted Viruses](#) (Kitajima, et al)

[Virus testing an \(entire\) orchid collection for CymMV & ORSV](#) (Ancient Energy Orchids)

[Virus Testing - Do You Really Want to Know?](#) (Sue Bottom)

[A two step method for orchid virus disinfection of repotting tools](#) (Ancient Energy Orchids)

[The Relationship Between Insects and Plant Virus](#) (Raymond Cloyd)



[How to Test for Virus](#), tbottom14

Contact [Agdia](#) for ImmunoStrips and testing services.



This cattleya was growing vigorously but had ugly black splotches on the leaves that did not look like any of the common maladies. It tested positive for virus.

I finally got tired of not knowing what those ugly black markings were on my cattleyas. I pulled together a group of plants that had similar blotches and streaking for testing to see if the culprit was virus. Agdia makes ImmunoStrip test kits for at home testing that are easy to use, cost between \$6 and \$10 each depending on how many you buy and give you a result in less than 5 minutes. The ImmunoStrip can be used to detect Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (CyMV) and Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (ORSV), the two most prominent viruses found in orchid plants although there are perhaps more than 20 viruses that can infect orchids.

Virus Detection. I assembled a group of ugly duckling cattleyas that had similar leaf blighting. This group of ugly plants had necrotic markings that tended to occur initially on the older growths and then moved into the newer growths. The markings tended to express themselves on both sides of the leaves. They didn't rub off like a sooty mold, they weren't raised like edema, they weren't sunken like bacterial brown spot and they weren't surrounded by yellow halos like a bacterial infection. Sometimes

the plant vigor was impaired and the plant looked sickly, other times it was a vigorously growing plant with one or more flower sheaths. The results were not pretty.



The virus test is easy to do. You cut off a quarter size piece of the plant using sterile tools and wearing gloves. I usually cut from one of the older leaves. Insert the plant tissue into the mesh bag provided and smash it with a meat tenderizer or something similar to extract the sample until the fluid in the bag turns green.

Insert the test strip into the extract; there is a slot on the side of the bag for this purpose (though I didn't know that at the time). The strip is dipped about ¼ inch deep into the fluid up to the white sample line. If you immerse it too deeply, it might overwhelm the test strip and invalidate the test.

Then you wait for the pink coloration to start traveling up the strip and ultimately form distinct lines. From left to right, the strips indicate CyMV, ORSV, a double infection with both CyMV and ORSV, and a clean test with only the control line showing.

You can probably diagnose severely infected plants exhibiting significant blotching and streaking by sight without spending the money on test strips. Other plants may just look unhappy. Despite your efforts to get them growing, they have no vigor and sometimes this lack of vigor is a consequence of the presence of virus. After testing many plants, you may think your eyes are calibrated and you can tell whether or not a plant is virused by its appearance. The only way to know with certainty is to test the plant. If the plant is so ugly that you don't want it in your growing area, don't hesitate to discard it. If it is has odd leaf markings, it is a valuable plant or the plant has sentimental value, you may want to confirm your suspicions by performing a virus test to be sure.



These cattleya alliance hybrids all have one thing in common, they are really ugly plants. Some tested positive for CyMV, some for ORSV and some for both. The black necrotic splotching, spotting and streaking were indicative of severe viral infections.



This bifoliate was not growing well and the leaves had maroon rather than black splotching. It tested positive for virus.



This *Cattleya dowiana* was a poor grower and looked unhealthy though the flower was gorgeous. It tested positive for virus.



You may find you don't want to test a plant because you don't really want the answer, as with this cattleya with red spotted flowers. It tested positive for virus.



The circular sunken lesions were suspicious on this cattleya, but it tested negative for virus. The sunken lesions are probably bacterial in origin.



This myrmecophila hybrid had suspicious reddish mottling but it tested negative for virus. The semicircular reddish spotting is probably some sort of fungal infection rather than virus.



This cattleya had suspicious chlorotic mottling but it tested negative for virus. The heat mottling is perhaps symptomatic of a magnesium deficiency rather than virus.

Response to Virus. Once you confirm the presence of virus, what next? Some plants you may have had for many years. Some may be famous clones. Some may have fabulous flowers. Should you play it safe and discard the plant to prevent the spread of virus to the rest of the growing area or isolate infected plants? I turned to my go to guy for advice, Dr. Courtney Hackney, who offered his approach:

My approach is to discard any plant whose flowers exhibit color breaks. I have found that orchids with true color break are always virused. Any plant that has unexplained poor growth I discard, whether it tests positive or not, unless it is a really special plant. I hate the black leaves, but keep a few with it. In my opinion, the jury is still out on transmission by thrips and other insects. The prime way to transmit virus is through cutting without flaming. When I started testing my plants, I discovered that some of the plants in my collection for 30 years were virused, but never showed any symptom. What surprised me was that my entire collection had not become infected since the plant had been among them for many years.

As you might suspect, many of the old things I find have one of the viruses but do not have any spots on leaves. They look perfect so leaf spotting is not always a positive or negative indicator. When they test positive, it is usually Cymbidium Mosaic Virus. The one virus that really causes problems is the Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus, especially when combined with another virus. There are 20+ other viruses out there, but we can only test for a few easily. Some viruses of the same type are less vigorous and probably less infectious than other strains.

At one time, I tested every one of the old clones I found, but finally realized that I was going to keep them no matter what, so I no longer do that. Most grow very well. I only hybridize with them as the pod parent and sow as dry seed to prevent passing the virus along.

Newly purchased plants may also be virused, whether or not the signs of virus are immediately noticeable. I regularly used to get photos of what were clearly virused flowers from people on the internet who responded that it could not be virused because it was a mericlone they just purchased. Often an orchid that is being grown fast will show no signs of virus until growth of the plant slows and virus catches up with the new growth. Also, the handling associated with commercial production, transport, and retail sales practices can be the source of virus. The plant may have left the nursery healthy, only to be infected when placed into commerce.

Virus not only can give your orchid a case of ugly plant syndrome, it can ruin the flowers that you've been waiting for for so long. Severe color break is characterized by variegation in the flower, where the normal pigment of the petals and sepals is replaced with irregular patches of tissue that are either more or less intense in color than the normal flower. You occasionally might see floral damage that is suggestive of color break but is really caused by crippling, environmental stresses, genetic quirks or thrips. In addition to color break, virus can cause Blossom necrotic streak, a strain of the CyMV that becomes visible on the flower a week or so after opening, starting on the midribs of the flower.





These cattleya alliance hybrids all have flower blighting from virus, the top two images are color break and the bottom two images are blossom necrotic streak.

I follow Courtney's rules in handling sickly or virused plants.

Courtney Rule Number 1. Any plant, regardless of whether it tests positive or not, that has color breaks in flowers is discarded.

Courtney Rule Number Two: Discard any plant that has unexplained poor growth, whether it tests positive or not. The only exception to this rule is if it is a really special plant.

Courtney Rule Number Three: If you decide to isolate plants, place them in a quarantine area that you recognize as such and use extra special precautions in handling these plants to prevent the transmission of plant sap from infected plants to other plants.

Preventing Transmission of Virus. The most common way in which CyMV and ORSV can infect your orchids is mechanical transmission via your hands and cutting tools. There are other viruses that can infect orchids like Tospoviruses, potyviruses, Cucumber mosaic virus and Orchid Fleck, and some of these can be transmitted by plant pests including thrips. The best way to prevent spreading the mechanically transmitted viruses is to treat every plant as if it were potentially virused. Viruses can be spread whenever sap from an infected plant contaminates the sap of another plant. Good sanitation practices include:

Use Sterile Cutting Tools –The primary means by which viruses are spread from plant to plant is by using improperly sterilized cutting tools.

- *Sterilize Tools.* Only use sterile cutting tools. *Single edged razor blades* can be used and either discarded after each and every use or baked in an oven at 400F for two hours prior to reuse. A *torch* such as those sold by BernzOMatic equipped with a MAPP gas (propylene) tank is an ideal tool for sterilizing shears or other cutting tools on a given plant. The cutting tool should be sterilized for 15 to 20 seconds with a hot flame on each side. You can also sterilize your tools by dropping them in a supersaturated solution of *trisodium phosphate (TSP)*. TSP alone will sterilize cutting tools, but the books say the cutting tools should sit for 20 minutes in the solution before they are sterile. Do not substitute the ecofriendly nonphosphate version of TSP because it does not have the same sterilization capacity. To make a supersaturated solution with water, add more TSP to a container than can be dissolved in the water so there are undissolved TSP crystals in the bottom of the container. The solution should be refreshed at least daily.

- *Added Protection with TSP Dip.* After Courtney flames his cutting tools, he dips them in the TSP solution for a moment. The heat in the metal quickly evaporates the TSP solution leaving a surface film of TSP, hopefully getting into every nook and cranny of the cutting tool. He stores his tools in a

supersaturated solution of TSP when not in use. The TSP also keeps the cutting tools from rusting so they just have to be sharpened periodically.

- *Cutting Inflorescences.* Use a sterile tool to cut each inflorescence from the plant. The easiest way to do this is to use a sterile, single edged razor blade to remove the inflorescence and discard or sterilize it after each use. If you use shears, you should flame sterilize them between cutting each inflorescence.
- *Removing Inflorescences by Hand.* Don't do it! A virus, if present, can be unknowingly transmitted to your hand and you can infect the next plant when you touch it or remove the next dead flower bud. Instead, use a sterile razor blade and discard it after each use.

Controls During Repotting –Observe these additional controls when repotting:

- *Gloves.* Wear latex or nitrile gloves when handling a given plant and discard those gloves when you are done handling the plant. Your bare hands can come into contact with plant sap containing the virus and infect the next plant.
- *Newspaper on the Potting Surface.* Keep the potting surface clean. Keep a stack of newspapers handy and when repotting, place newspaper under the potting area. Upon completion, wrap up the newspaper, gloves and other detritus and discard them before touching the next plant.

Disinfect Your Pots Prior to Reuse – Make sure your pots are sterile:

- *Disinfection of Plastic Pots.* Plastic pots can be disinfected by first washing them with soap to remove residual organic matter, then soaking them for an hour in a 10% bleach solution. You can add Phytosan mixed per label instructions for more killing power.
- *Disinfection of Clay Pots.* Clay pots are porous and cannot be sterilized against viruses by using bleach and Phytosan alone. Follow the normal disinfection routine for plastic pots above and then bake them in an oven at 400F for two hours to kill any residual virus.

Viruses can infect just about any plant in the entire plant kingdom, not just orchids. You should not become overly paranoid, thinking every blemish is indicative of virus. Likewise, do not become overly complacent about virus. Fine tune your orchid practices. Examine plants for vigor and coloration before purchasing them and bringing them into your growing area. Once plants are in your care, be dogmatic about sanitation. Keep your growing area clean and weed free. Periodically spray bleach on and under benches in your growing area. Observe your plants, looking at each one, as you water for signs of stress or other problems. Use sterile potting mixes, tools and pots. Be vigilant, but most important of all, enjoy your beautiful orchids.

Citations and Additional Reading:

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The following articles I printed in the January 2021 Newsletter. Seems the topic returns for many. Maybe one of the pictures helps you identify what's going on for you. I think the orchids (as well as the caretakers) are ready to go outdoors in nature, the sun, the breeze.

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.

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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 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.

I found this great article and requested permission to reprint it. **Customer Service Team
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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

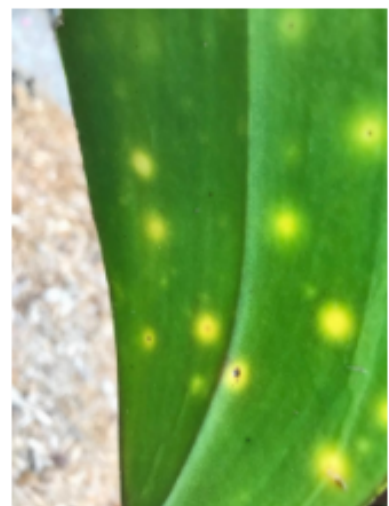
Cercospora usually presents itself on the underside of a plant's leaves as yellow spots. Over time, these yellow spots grow and will eventually take over the underside of the leaf if untreated. By the time most growers notice Cercospora, it has spread to the topside of the leaves turning from a yellow 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!

Let's Get to Know Each Other

OSGKC Members!

FEBRUARY
MARCH

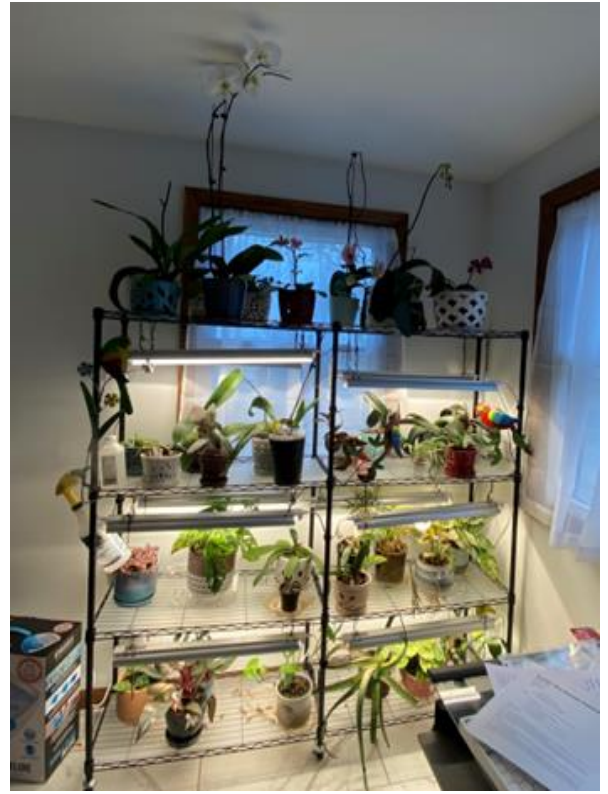


Alisha Moore Cole

Birthday March 13th

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?) Since 2019
2. How long have you been growing orchids? Since 2018
3. What got you hooked? A class at Powell Gardens
4. What type of orchid is your favorite? Lady's Slipper
5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can)
On a shelf in front of a curtained west window in my bedroom
6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired? I am a Social Historian and museum professional.
7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..." I collect dolls.
9. Do you have any pets? No





Nancy Kasparek

Birthdate March 15

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?) I have been a member almost 2 years
2. How long have you been growing orchids? Over 10 years
3. What got you hooked? The challenge of learning a new type of plant and the beauty of the blooms.
4. What type of orchid is your favorite? The one currently in bloom generally.
5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can). Mine are inside in her grow lights in a timer. In the winter I have 2 humidifiers running, and I always have a small fan oscillating covering that side of the room.
6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired? I worked as an RN for 45 years in critical care for babies. I retired in 2021.
7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..." my creativity goes beyond orchids into quilting and genealogy.
8. Birth Month and Day". March 15
9. Do you have any pets? One, a Jenday conure



Anna Archibald

Birthday March 18



My husband Will and I joined OSGKC in October 2019, a couple of years after we moved to Lawrence from New York. I've been growing orchids since 2015, when I purchased a NOID Phal from Home Depot and went deep down a rabbit hole looking up care tips. Now, I love Paphs, Dendrobiums and Cattleya, but have also collected a variety of other genera. I grow my orchids under lights and on eastern- and southern-facing window sills alongside hoyas, succulents, begonias and aroids.

I grew up in Kansas and, after graduating with my Bachelor's in Journalism from KU, I moved to New York to work as a writer and editor, with stints at Women's Health, SHAPE, Wine Enthusiast and Thrillist. Now I cover food, drink, travel, horticulture and parenting as a freelancer. Working from home allows me plenty of time with our young daughter Maeve, my orchids (which I keep an account of on Instagram at @orchidaceae101) and our two cats, Patsy Cline and Joey. One surprising fact about me: I can tap dance!



Sarah Pratt

Birthday - March 19th

1. Joined a year ago, and have known many of you for years.
2. Their incredible diversity
3. Semi-alba cattleyas (white with colored lips)
4. 30' x 48' Commercial greenhouse
5. Recently retired (after 45 years) veterinarian
6. I have been known to quilt (by hand)
- 7 Down to two porch cats at the moment



Dan Schlozman

Birthday March 20

1. I've been in the orchid Society about 30 years. I joined about two years after I started growing orchids.
2. Hence, I've been growing orchids for about 32 years beginning shortly after I built my greenhouse.
3. With the greenhouse I began growing all sorts of tropicals and forcing other plants into bloom. Through a friend at Rosehill, I met Vivien Walters, owner with her husband of VCLI orchids and she became my mentor. My interest in tropicals and all other greenhouse growing rapidly waned and I was hooked on the intricacies and challenges of orchid growing.
4. Hard to pick one orchid genus in a multi use greenhouse. My favorites vary from time to time. Currently I'm most interested in the warmer growing plants - late blooming Phals. And Habenarias.
5. I grow orchids in an 8 x 13 Wendy's style greenhouse.
6. I'm a retired physician. I formerly practiced pulmonary critical care medicine.
7. One surprising fact about me is that I've stumbled into a lifelong hobby complete with a series of excellent friends and acquaintances.
8. My birthday is March 20, 1938, which makes me 85.
9. I have an Irish Doodle named Ron Weasley. (We're Harry Potter fans.)

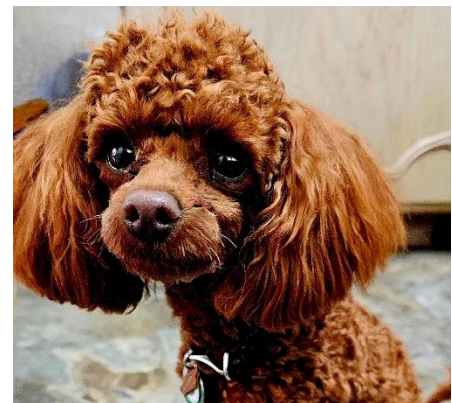




Amanda Spicer
Birthday March 28



1. I joined OSGKC about two years ago!
2. I've been growing off and on for about ten years, but really got into them about four years ago.
3. I've always enjoyed how interesting and unique orchids can be. The variations between different genera is amazing.
4. I love orchids of all types but am quite partial to long tailed paphs and phrags, and also masdevallias and draculas. I also love any orchid that has really unusual flowers.
5. Currently they're all on a five-tier shelf in my sunroom, but I'm working on developing a grow area in my basement with lights and an automated watering system. I have some in a semi hydroponic setup in a converted aquarium.
6. I'm a registered nurse and have a bachelor's of science in nursing and a master's in public administration with a graduate certificate in healthcare administration. I work in regulatory compliance and enforcement.
7. I have 15 pet tarantulas.
8. Birth - March 28
9. Pets include - The aforementioned tarantulas, three birds, one snake, two rats, and one miniature poodle.





Megan Mayo
Birthday March 29



1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?) I can't remember...perhaps 10-12 years
2. How long have you been growing orchids? Just a little longer than 10-12 years
3. What got you hooked? We went to Hawaii to see our son in the Navy and had some plants sent home from there
4. What type of orchid is your favorite? Right now, it's neofinetia falcata....OH MY
5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can) I grow them by the windows, windows along with lights, under lights only....they're everywhere!!
6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired? I'm at preschool, guitar, church, choir and violin lessons.
7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..." I'm very involved at my church, singing, and playing guitar and violin.
8. Do you have any pets? I have birds, fish and a dog. We had lots of different pets when the kids were young...that might be surprising...Mike and I have been only married to each other for 46 years and had 5 kids together and still live in the same house we purchased together after 1 or so years of marriage.



News from the AOS

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!



WHAT ARE WEBINARS?

Webinars are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming **webinar** or watch the recorded **webinars** any time at your convenience.

It's easy to find the [scheduled webinars](#) and to register on the AOS website.

Webinars offer new material each month and recorded sessions allow you to search a multitude of topics to

view on your personal schedule. The popular monthly **Greenhouse Chats** are open to everyone. AOS membership is not required. However, if you are an AOS member there are so many more webinars available to view.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

At a Glance:

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.
 Register now and view on your time schedule.
 Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Feb. 07, 2024 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 08, 2024 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Mar. 03, 2024 Sunday EST 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mar. 14, 2024 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Phalaenopsis: From Soup to Nuts <i>A Panorama of Moth Orchids for Everyone</i>	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb.05</i>	Orchid Culture Day Online Seminar <i>Explore the Wonders of Four Fascinating Genera</i>	Designing and Building Home Greenhouses <i>Environmental Necessities to Help Your Orchids Thrive</i>
Presenter	David Edgley AOS Judge, Judging Committee Chair	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Four Guest Speakers \$35 registration	Jean Allen-Ikeson National Judging Education Coordinator

Use the
WEBINAR
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Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram
and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Upcoming Webinars – more detailed info:



AOS CULTURE DAY ‘ORCHIDS FOR ENJOYMENT’

Cheryl Erins et al

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

11:00 AM CST (10:00 AM EST, 8:00 AM PST)

The AOS is proud to announce the rescheduling of the 5th Orchid Culture Day! ‘ORCHIDS FOR ENJOYMENT’. Explore the wonders of four fascinating genera. Only \$35 for an all-day seminar with four great speakers and programs.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



Designing and Building Home Greenhouses

Jean Allen-Ikeson

Thursday, March 14th, 2024

8:30 PM EST

Learn about the tricks of the trade for designing and installing home greenhouses for orchids Texas to Canada: types, foundations, floors, ventilation, shading and benches you can make yourself and keep your orchids happy.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



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

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

Please check www.osgkc.org for updates and changes to our program
schedule.

March 9, 2024

Powell Garden, *Orchid Delirium and Symposium*,
1609 NW Route 50, Kingsville, MO 64061

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS
*Speaker: Nicholas Rust, Rusty Exotic Orchids, "Habinaria: A Basic
Overview of the Traits of the Species"*

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Auction

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS
*Speaker: Brandon Tam, The Huntington Orchid Collection, "Searching
for the Rare Selenipedium aequinoctiale"*

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Douglas Needham, OSU, "Orchid Care in the Home"

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Orchid Growers Tour

Sunday, August 18, 2024

OSGKC Member Picnic

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS
*Speaker: Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids, "Mini Vandaceous Species
and Hybrids for the Home Grower"*

Sunday, October 13, 2024

TBA

Sunday, November 10, 2024

*Speaker: Dennis Steinbeck, Flask & Flora, a Central Ohio, nursery,
"Orchids of Colombia"*

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS
Holiday Party and Awards Presentation