

President's Message May 2021



So, the days are getting longer and warmer and the puppies are spending more time romping outdoors and so are usually nicely tired and less rambunctious in the evening; **but** I'm also spending time pushing a lawn mower around. I'm starting to think seriously about getting my orchids out for the summer

(well maybe not quite yet), **but** that also means I can't delay the repotting and grooming that I've been putting off. Everything seems to be balancing.

We're getting closer to the end of this strange MOS year, as well. The COVID limitations have been an obvious bummer, **but** I feel that we've done a pretty decent job of keeping the MOS and our community of orchid folks connected and mutually supported. More balance (if I'm right and not just delusional), **but** a balance that I wasn't sure last summer that we'd be able to pull off. THANK YOU all for helping with that!

As we look ahead to this year's finish line, I'm especially pleased to see more program contributions of the home-grown sort. Be sure to get logged in on ZOOM promptly for our May meeting; Clark Riley will be virtually guiding us through his impressive collection of terrestrial orchids he maintains in outdoor beds. Then in June, to finish up the program year, our own Arne Schon will present on his mounted orchids (look for details in next month's Newsletter).

Again, be safe, stay healthy, and grow beautiful orchids that you can share with us.

John Heínbokel

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Tom's presentation overviews the most popular orchids, the cattleyas and their relatives. These have recently undergone a very confusing and unpopular revision by the taxonomist. This talk seeks to clear up some of the controversy.

Tom Mirenda has been cultivating plants since his early childhood and lives to create beauty with plants in botanic Garden settings for more than half of his adult life. Originally trained as a Marine Biologist, Tom moved to Hawaii in his early 20s to pursue a MB career and worked on the Trophic relationships of denizens of Coral reefs in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (Midway and French Frigate Shoals). There he realized he was better suited to Horticultural pursuits and took positions at New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden and at the Incredible Greentree Estate in Long Island where he cared for a first class Orchid collection. During this time, Tom also was the floor manager of the legendary New York International Orchid Show. Eventually Tom accepted the Orchid Collection Specialist Position at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC where he cultivated and curated a huge diverse orchid collection for the past 17 years. The collection was used to create massive 4 to 5 month long educational orchid exhibits displayed to literally millions of visitors each year.

For the past 18 years Tom has contributed 2 monthly columns for the ORCHIDS magazine, the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society, and has developed an international following, as a writer, speaker and advocate for orchid conserva-tion around the world. Three years ago Tom Co -authored The Book of Orchids with Two scientists from Kew and has done speaking tours in the British isles for the last three summers. Presented at the last 3 world Orchid conferences and several IOCC and AOCs on Conservation topics. Tom was a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and continues his support of orchids conservation there, and around the world.

Last fall, Tom took a major gamble and left the security of his job with the Smithsonian to take a leadership position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, an exceptionally beautiful jewel on the lush Hamakua coast just north of Hilo on the Big Island (aka the Orchid Island!). What Tom found there was an Orchid Paradise where myriad spectacular orchids of all types, both lowland and montane species and hybrids seem to thrive, simply planted in the trees, placing them thoughtfully in the landscape.

Ultimately, he believes that the concept of growing orchids in Garden settings, to be a viable model world-wide for orchid conservation and encourages the ex-situ cultivation of orchids by diverse stakeholders in the orchid community and that it is only with the cooperation of Botanical Garden Professionals, Commercial Growers, academia and committed orchid collectors and backyard growers, that orchids will survive the vicissitudes of climate change.

Maryland Orchid Society News and Surrounding Events

MISCELLANY

An Every-Once-in-a-While (Monthly?) Item of Potential Interest to the MOS Membership

Have you run into a resource that provides some useful information or just an oddity related to our passion for orchids? Please share that discovery with your friends and colleagues of the MOS. Please submit your findings to John Heinbokel (jheinbokel@hotmail.com), for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

Following up on the report on the World's Ugliest Orchid from the April 2021 Newsletter, let's keep with the leafless theme, but move all the way to other end of the attractiveness scale ... to the American **Ghost Orchid**, Dendrophylax lindenii, found rarely and endangered in Florida.



We offer three tidbits on that theme for your pleasure this month:

• A professional, roughly 16 minute Youtube video describes recent efforts to confirm which animal is responsible for pollinating this iconic leafless flower from South Florida (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9IIrpOLJ14).

• As mentioned during the April 2021 monthly meeting, the Native Orchid Conference is virtually conducting its annual Symposium with a monthly series of on-line presentations. The first of these, "My three decade affair with the ghost orchid," by Mike Owen, was given in late March but is now available on line (https://www.nativeorchidconference.org/symposium) – scroll to the bottom of the page).

• Finally, the National Geographic has published a couple short articles on-line in recent years. One summarized the pollination story from the first link above. This one speaks to the threat presented to the ghost orchid by environmental disruption. (https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/florida-ghost-orchids-threatened-by-development).

NOTE: you may need to subscribe to get full access to this source.

Contributed to MOS Newsletter by John Heinbokel, Apríl 2021.

Monthly Request



Help Is Needed...

Aaron Webb is trying to locate any member in the MOS who might have extra <u>Orchiata Orchid Mix</u> they would like to sell. Aaron Webb:<u>awebb71574@aol.com</u>



Lights For Sale

Set of 3 - Adjustable height, 4' long, T5 lights. \$100.00 for all three. Contact Sarah Spence@live.com





American Orchid Society and Surrounding Events



2021 APRIL AOS Corner - for Affiliated Societies

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications. We encourage use of the <u>AOS website</u> by all members. <u>http://www.aos.org</u> <u>https://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.aspx</u>

While spring has sprung from where I sit, it's hard to believe that at this late date on the calendar, there are still some places on the globe that are receiving snowfall. Nothing better illustrates that orchids are not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. You must investigate those that will thrive under your conditions. It is so important to connect with other orchid-growing locals through an affiliated society to get a handle on the orchids that will do best for you.

We understand for the last year that meetings in any form may have been extremely difficult for many affiliates. If your society has not met in person, we hope you have not lost touch with each other entirely. We hope your orchids have thrived under your expert supervised care throughout the last year and that everyone can soon rejoice as we cautiously move back to shared in-person meetings.

Simply Curious, We Are All In This Together

- Did your society meet in any form from March 2020 through March 2021?
- If you did not meet in-person, how did you carry on the business of your society?
- Did you join an online meeting of your society or join as a guest of another society?
- Did you utilize any of the speakers on the AOS Speaker's List for remote presentations?
- Did you present any AOS webinars to your members in lieu of a guest speaker?
- Did you have online Orchid Drawings/Raffles for your members?
- Did you share monthly virtual bloom table show & tell?
- What has the worst thing about not meeting in-person over this twelve-month period?
- What has the best thing about not meeting in-person over this twelve-month period?
- Have you implemented any new procedures that you will carry over to in-person meetings?

Share any other valuable information about how your society handled challenges during this twelve-month time frame. Please share your answers via email <u>eileenh@aos.org</u>. I will compile them and share them here in future issues of the AOS Corner (answers will be published anonymously unless you/your society request to be named).

AOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

AFFILIATED SOCIETY BONUS - EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY

Affiliated Societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member they recruit. If you start now, with twelve new AOS members, your Affiliated Society can obtain a FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership! Be sure and advise new members to note their society affiliation in the comments section online at checkout or on the <u>printed membership form</u>. https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/AOSJoinForm2020.pdf

AOS Representatives, please remember to let your society members know that we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join the AOS today! Once they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources available to help make orchid growing enjoyable and successful. https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Many of our affiliates have not met in person throughout the pandemic, and a number of our affiliates' membership in the American Orchid Society have expired.

Affiliated Societies Committee members have called on the AOS Representative contact that we have on file to advise of expired status.

To continue to receive the benefits of affiliated membership, it is important that your society information is updated with the AOS and that your affiliated membership in the American Orchid Society is renewed.

If you are receiving this newsletter, please check your society expiration date, or pass this message along to the appropriate person within your society. If you have questions about your society membership, our AOS Home Office Contact is:

Affiliated Societies (sndra@aos.org) Sandra Kurzban (305-740-2010 ext 102)

Valerie Lowe -AOS/ODC Representative



MAKING SURE PEOPLE CAN REACH YOUR AFFILIATED SOCIETY IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER

There's a new easier way to keep your society's AOS information current.

An authorized Rep. can simply sign into www.aos.org with society credentials to update your AOS Profile immediately.

Click Access your account and quick links

Choose **My Account** Click **Edit My Profile** (directly below "Welcome Back")

Make the necessary changes to contact details and address and **Save changes** (lower left corner of the screen)

Help us ensure the AOS Corner, renewal notices and important correspondence reach you. Update any time you have a change.

Affiliates Become Cheerleaders for the American Orchid Society

Tampa Bay Orchid Society normally installs an educational display at the Florida State Fair in early February for a twelve-day run. It is a competitive display entered in the horticultural division. Because of COVID, the fair was postponed until April this year. Society members still wary of COVID, decided against putting in an exhibit. Instead, several of our AOS members from the affiliated society built a display focusing on the American Orchid Society and the most active affiliates associated with the Florida North Central Judging Center (FNCJC). Society displays generally consist of live orchids requiring members to tend the booth several times throughout the duration of the fair.

The AOS visual touch-free display takes visitors on a self-directed "tour" of the AOS through QR (quick response) codes. Visitors can point their smart phones at any of the custom QR codes to visit key elements of the AOS website. Featured QR codes take them to the affiliated societies, culture sheets, webinars, judging and membership pages. A large wall calendar has custom QR codes linked to affiliated society websites and inserted on the weeks and days of the month they meet.

The AOS banner and tablecloth are central in the display. A colorful table centerpiece depicting an orchid library, and a floor mat made from the covers of 45 AOS magazines illustrate the diversity in the orchid world and complete the display. Donated issues of Orchids magazine are on hand for interested viewers to take home.

Fair visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite display. A People's Choice award winner receives a cash bonus. The society has agreed to donate the installation stipend and any further winnings to the Florida North Central Judging Center.



Reciprocity, from Miscellaneous Ideas, to Concept, to Completion

State Fair exhibit created and installed by Eileen Hector and Laura Newton, assisted by Ruth Ullery

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



Show Trophy

Subjective

or Objective

Marc Burchette

Head of Biltmore

Estate Orchid

Greenhouse Chat

(Orchid Q&A)

Send in your

Ron McHatton

Chief Education

and Science Officer

Questions!

Prosthechea

karwinskii in Mexico,

threatened species

AOS Conservation

Grant Recipient

reintroducing a

Julia Douglas

Collection

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

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

Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,

Topic

Presenter

Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Greenhouse Chat

(Orchid Q&A)

Send in your

Ron McHatton

Chief Education

and Science Officer

Questions!

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.orgNoteWorthy

Recently Orchids magazine has reinstated a QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS It contains excerpts from the Greenhouse Chat webinars. Greenhouse Chat webinars address everything orchids, from culture to pests and diseases.

While we're on the subject of orchid Q & A, today I asked Ron McHatton what is one of the most asked questions for Greenhouse Chats? He said, "What caused these spots on the leaves?"

Ron said the question does not have a single answer. He continued..."the spots are everything from mites to scale to fungus and bacteria, sunburn and even some that are clearly virus." His answer did not surprise me at all. It demonstrates that there is no one single answer to all of our orchid questions. Again, proving that orchids are not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. We keep coming back to learn more to grow our orchids better. Have you tuned in to a Greenhouse Chat?

Let's Get Wild About Vandaceous Orchids

The AOS 2021 supplemental issue will go in-depth with this family of orchids Each special issue is underwritten by <u>donations</u> from orchid growers like you. <u>https://secure.aos.org/donate</u>

Noteworthy

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Vandas Selected from Most Recent Awards in OrchidPro...



'Award No: 20211503 Vanda tessellata 'Marta' AM/AOS (85 points) West Palm Beach Judging Center Exhibitor: Juraj Kojs Photographer: Nick Nickerson Award No: 20211314 Vanda A. F. Buckman "Leslies in the pink" CCM/AOS (88 points) Vanda falcata x Vanda christensonia Florida North-Central Judging Center Exhibitor: Leslie Belew Photographer: Wes Newton Award No: 20211309 Vanda Motes Green Goblin 'Pippen's Protégé' AM/AOS (83 points) Vanda tessellata x Vanda longitepala Florida North-Central Judging Center Exhibitor: Cheryle Daniel Photographer: Wes Newton

<u>ORCHIDPRO</u> the AOS awards database, is available at no extra cost to members. A digital version is included with every AOS membership. You have access to the same program that the judges use at monthly orchid judging. Visit often to view quality and outstanding culture in awarded orchids. <u>https://op.aos.org/award</u>

To learn more about <u>orchid awards and judging visit https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx</u> Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award (DASSA)

REMINDER - In this centennial year of special recognition, we invite our affiliates to submit a nomination for the DASSA. This prestigious award is given to an affiliate in recognition of sustained, outstanding contributions in areas of service and support in the field of orchidology. Nominations for the DASSA may be made by any member of an AOS affiliate and should be forwarded to the <u>Affiliated Societies Committee</u>. If you think your society may be a contender, review the criteria for the award and send off your submission by June 01, 2021. <u>affiliated societies@</u> aos.org https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/DASSA_Nomination_Form.pdf



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May: The Month of Exploration and Adventure by Thomas Mirenda

A great thinker named Helen Keller once wrote this: "Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." I dare say she had a very different perspective about life than the rest of us, but I believe that perspective revealed a larger truth to her. I can't imagine how dangerous it would be to be blind, nor what an adventure it would be to discover, or rediscover, our world minus the incredible gift of sight! In a way, without venturing out into the world, we are blind to its many glories and mysteries. Some, like our beautiful native orchid species, might be just outside our back doors whereas others require treks across mountains, oceans and hemispheres to discover.

This is a remarkable planet with outstanding and dazzling diversity. To spend your life in just one place, however safe and lovely, would be like reading just one page of the encyclopedia. The fields and forests of May are a wonderland of floral magic and I encourage you to get out there and see them for yourself. I try to go on an orchid trip every spring; sometimes a local jaunt to the Green Swamp Preserve in North Carolina is all I can muster, but it is still most incredibly satisfying. I guarantee you that there are some fascinating and beautiful wild and orchid-rich areas well within driving distance. With a little bit of research, you can easily find out about them. Last year a group of my friends reveled in the spring spectacle that occurs annually on the island of Sicily. It was probably one of the best experiences of my life. Don't sit on the sidelines! Get out there and explore your world! Enjoy an adventurous spring this year!

EMERGENCY Don't be alarmed! Spring is all about emergence. And your orchids are showing the signs of this. New roots and growths are popping out of your plants rhizomes with incredible vigor now! Everything wants to grow in May while the air is cool, fresh and moist! The flowers in your garden will attest to this basic truth of the spring.

TAKE ME OUT Any cool- to intermediate-growing orchids in your collection can be moved outside this month. Bringing orchids out for the fine weather will produce stronger and tougher growths. Spring rains are falling and the delicious rainwater can be a tonic for struggling orchids. Chlorine and fluoride added to our water are often the culprits when an orchid seems to languish. If such plants seem to perk up when exposed to spring rain and weather, it may be worth your while to invest in rain barrels or a reverse osmosis water purification system for your orchids.

DO ME PROUD Take this spring growth spurt as your golden opportunity to repot. Reporting during dormancy, while sometimes necessary if a plant falls over or starts to rot, is rarely a good idea. But the spring, when new orchid roots are searching for fresh bark to adhere to, is just about the best time to take on this annual chore. Cattleyas that have grown to the edge of their pots, oncidiums and miltonias with brokendown mixes, catasetums and lycastes coming out of dormancy and any pot that has weeds growing in it, should be taken and redone while they are in active new growth. Plants establish best when reported with about 1 to 2 inches (25–50 mm) of new root growth. Roots longer than this are more easily damaged.

THE EDGE OF WETNESS Always soak your bark overnight before a potting session. Orchids take in water through the velamen in their roots by osmotic pressure. If your mix is too dried out, it will actually desiccate your orchids by wicking moisture out! This being said, roots are searching for moisture and keeping them too wet will inhibit their colonization of your new medium. Always allow newly potted plants to dry out a bit between waterings for best results. Watering and fertilizing in general should be stepped up this time of year. Take advantage of your orchid's natural willingness to grow in the spring. Water and fertilize accordingly!

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD Whether it's the wooded area down the street or across an ocean, wild orchids are patiently waiting for you to discover them this month. Don't disappoint them! Many orchid societies and botanic gardens offer nature walks and other excursions this month to see some pretty incredible places, encrusted with fantastic plants at their peak. If such trips are just too challenging to participate in, I encourage you to go to your local public garden! National Public Garden Day is on May 9 this year: www. nationalpublicgardensday.org/ gardens.

I hope each and every one of you ventures out that day to see all the great marvels of nature, which are everywhere on our spectacular planet.

- TOM MIRENDA has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com).

ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx

Download a Free issue of

Orchids Magazine

aos.org



From the AOS website...

AOS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DATES: October 27th - 30th, 2021

We are proud to present the American Orchid Society's Centennial Celebration!

The four-day celebration will encompass our 2021 Fall Members Meeting activities, an exciting live auction, and a splendid gala banquet that will feature a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, music, and dancing in a beautiful and historic setting.

Please join us 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:

- Wednesday, October 27 Meet and Greet reception for registrants 5-6 p.m.
- Thursday, October 28 AOS Judging, hosted by East Everglades Orchid Society
- Friday, October 29 Special Centennial Auction, starting at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, October 30 Speaker Series, until 3 p.m.
- Saturday, October 30 Centennial Gala, starting at 6 p.m.

https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings/schedule.aspx

You and your society can become sponsors of this event! Make your contribution here: <u>https://secure.aos.org/event/sponsor</u> Forever, be a part of the AOS Centennial.

Cheers to the next 100 years!

CARE TO SHARE?

Please share a PDF copy of your society newsletter in the Files section of our <u>Affiliated Societies Facebook page</u>. Take a virtual visit to other affiliates. Exchange information with our online groups. We currently have 16.9K international followers on the AOS <u>Instagram</u> account. To participate on Instagram, please email your photos to <u>americanorchidsociety@gmail.com</u>. The grower or society gets credit/tag for photos. You may include any other information you wish to share about your orchid or event. <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS</u> <u>https://instagram.com/americanorchidsociety?igshid=16ixfciczkyo1</u>

If you would like to spotlight an issue or share news with other affiliated societies, we welcome your input. Let us know what you would like to see in this newsletter! If there is something within your society that is working extremely well – let's share it here. If there is something you could use help with – let us know. By chance, another affiliate may be able to offer a solution, or want to try something you have achieved. Your contributions are critical to bringing fresh, timely content to this publication each month. Please send your questions, solutions and submissions for the AOS Corner to <u>eileenh@aos.org or askmasc@verizon.net</u>.

Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner! Eileen Hector, <u>AOS</u> Corner - <u>Affiliated Societies N</u>ewsletter <u>E</u>ditor

We Are Your National Volunteers Let us Know What We Can Do For You

Valued Members and Volunteers

An organization is only as good as its members. The AOS is deeply indebted to the many talented and dedicated volunteers who give their time and service to encourage a widespread interest in orchids. They advance the mission of the AOS more than they will ever know. *Please contact any of us if you would like to join our committee.*

Affiliated Societies Committee

affiliated_societies@aos.org Denise Lucero, Chair Chad Brinkerhuff, Lois Dauelsberg, Edna Hamilton, Eileen Hector (vice-chair), Candace Hollinger, Donna Petitt, Graham Ramsey, Alex Rodriguez Staff liaison: Naya Marcano

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> Valerie Lowe -AOS/ODC Representative



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