



# The Maryland Orchid Society Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Society

April 2019

Website: [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

## The Vice President's Message



Dear orchid-obsessed amigos,

**VERY IMPORTANT!** Our April meeting is a week later than usual this month—April 25!

**Spread the word.**

Spring has sprung, so start preparing your plants for warmer weather and longer days of sun. After there is no danger of frost, slowly acclimate them to a vacay outside if you can, and ramp up your watering and humidity for certain plants. Repot, if needed. Pay attention to those *Catasetum* (*Catasetums*? *Catasetinae*? The orchids that should remain dry in winter.) Make sure the roots are at least 3" long. You don't want to water them too early or they'll rot.

We'd like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the MOS show, loaned plants, assisted in set-up, put in beautiful exhibits, clerked, judged, mentored, or otherwise provided moral support. The consensus was that the show went very well and was run like a Viennese waltz. The AOS judges were extremely complimentary of both the displays and the individual plants— choice, quality, size, gorgeousness, etc. They commented that the MOS produces one of the best, if not the best show. And, yes it is...quite a production.

Thank you also to the judges and the vendors. We learned a great deal from the judges. This was Sunisa's last MOS Show before retiring, so I hope you were able to pick up some of her stunning clay orchids. If you missed the show, you missed an exciting event. Please try to attend next year!

Also, thank you in advance to everyone who helped with the SEPOS show and all who are donating plants or assisting in any way! Results hopefully to come at our April meeting.

Next up, the MOS Orchid Workshop is Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Woodbrook Baptist Church. We can always use volunteers to help. And, you don't have to be

an MOS member to attend the fascinating demonstrations and lectures, and hands-on repotting in the afternoon. Each attendee may bring one plant to repot with the help of our expert growers. The cost is \$20, which includes a delectable lunch. RSVP to Sarah Spence.

Lastly, the MOS board meeting is May 2 at my home. Anyone is welcome to attend. Just let me know how much Tender Vittles to put out or what you will be bringing.

**Grow long and prosper, and may the orchids be with you.**

*Laura*



## April's Speaker

Roddy Gabel has been a member of the National Capital Orchid Society for over 25 years and is currently President of NCOS. He has been a member of the American Orchid Society for nearly as long, and he also belongs to and is currently Vice President of the Slipper Orchid Alliance. From 1991 to 2014, when he retired, he worked in the International Affairs Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, primarily on CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) under which international trade of orchids is regulated.

### Spiders, Donkeys, and Flying Ducks

The Orchids of Southwest Australia

Roddy's work offered numerous opportunities for international travel, including visits to exotic orchid locales and nurseries. One trip, to attend and speak at the First International Orchid Conservation Congress, took him to Perth, Western Australia, in 2001. Following the meeting, there was a 5-day post-conference tour of southwestern Australia to various national parks, wildlife management areas, and sanctuaries to visit known orchid sites. The tour was guided by botanists from Kings Park Botanic Gardens, who knew exactly where to find orchids in bloom and served as on-site orchid references.

# March 2019 Show Table Winners by Tom McBride

## Novice

1. Phal. Hybrid - Debbie Lippincott
2. Phal. aphrodite - Pat Schiavi

## Home Grown

1. Paph. Fairly Sauced - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Phrag. Jersey - Chris Bauer  
Phal. Paiho Lucky Stripe - John Dunning  
Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Aprocot Glow' HCC/AOS - Bob Johnston
3. Paph. Hawaiian Tea - Bob Travers

## Greenhouse

1. Bro. negrilensis X L. crawshayana - David Smith
2. Cyr. retusum - Clark Riley

## Cattleya

1. Iwan. Apple Blossom - Marc Kiriou
2. Tie Blc. Ranger Six 'A-OK' FCC/AOS - Mai Conaway  
Enc. vitellina - Sarah Hurdel
3. Tie C. lueddemanniana - Michael Moran  
Gur. skinneri 'Heiti Jacobs' FCC/AOS - David Smith

## Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Liu's Cute Angel 'KF#3' - Sarah Hurdel
2. Tie Phal. Everspring 'Plum Satin 23' - John Dunning  
Phal Hybrid - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Tie Phal. Hybrid - Debbie Lippincott  
Phal. Golden Angel - The Zickuhrs

## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Julius - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Phrag. Boulder River 'Zelda Graham' HCC/AOS - Joel Graham  
Paph. Magic Lantern 'Loch Raven' - Marc Kiriou  
Paph. glaucophyllum - Laura Sobelman
3. Tie Paph. Magical Venus 'Hampstead' AM/AOS - Sarah Hurdel  
Paph. Pinocchio - Bob Johnston

## Dendrobium

1. Den. Dream 'Ace' - Ben Nees
2. Tie Den. (Aussie's Chip x rhodostictum) - Sarah Hurdel  
Den. Violet Yamaji 'Puanani' - Marc Kiriou  
Den. kingianum - Eric Wiles
3. Tie Den. (Green Mist X Andrae Millar) - Bob Johnston  
Den. Andrea Millar - Chris Zajac

## Oncidium

1. Hwra. Mini-Primi 'Harford' - Marc Kiriou
2. Odcdm. Wildcat - Mai Conaway
3. Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS - Sarah Spence

## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. V. Hybrid - Fay Citerone
2. Stsc. Vanguard 'Fireball' JC/AOS - Diane Elam

## Species

1. Max. tenuifolia - Michael Moran
2. Tie Phal. philippinense - Craig Sherman  
Sppm. breve - Marc Kiriou  
Paph. delenatii - Chris Zajac

3. Tie Bulb. longissimum - Sarah Hurdel  
Bulb. taiwanense - Bob Johnston  
Arpo. gigantea - Eric Wiles

## Miniature

1. Lept. bicolor 'Khairul Bariah' - Arne Schon
2. Tie Pths. macroblepharis - Marc Kiriou  
Mts. hariotiana - Eric Wiles
3. Soph. coccinea 'SVO' AM/AOS - Clark Riley

## First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. fairieanum - Marc Kiriou
2. Tie Phrag. (Saint Ouen X andreettae) - Chris Bauer  
Paph. Prime Child - Joel Graham
3. Phrag. longifolium - John Dunning

## Fragrance

1. Phal. japonica - Michael Moran
2. Tie Rl. glauca - Kathi Jackson  
Oeniella polystachya - Eric Wiles
3. Rhy. gigantea - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

## The Judges Choice of the Evening

was

Lept. bicolor 'Khairul Bariah', exhibited Arne Schon.

**Thank You** to our judges who were, Joel Graham, Laura Sobelman and Bob Travers.

Our show table had an incredible display of 103 beautiful flowering plants.

A special THANKS to all that make our show table such a great success. It is truly breathtaking!



Submitted by Tom McBride - Show Table

# Maryland Orchid Society News and Surrounding Events



## **Leptotes bicolor 'Khairul Bariah'**

Leptotes bicolor is my oldest and very first orchid in the US. I acquired the plant within a week after I arrived in Baton Rouge from Sweden in September 2000. As I had previous experience with this species back in Sweden I decided to mount it on a piece of bark immediately after it arrived. It didn't have much time to adjust to the conditions in Louisiana as my wife and I moved to Baltimore already eight months later. Some more moves between apartments followed before we finally settled in our house some years later. I dragged the little Leptotes with us all the time and maybe it could have grown into specimen size quicker if we had settled earlier. The plant grew dramatically during 2014 and produced a cascade of 56 flowers in spring of 2015 when it received a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) with the clonal name after my wife. This year I believe it has about 75 flowers.

Leptotes bicolor grows in bright light but does not tolerate direct sunlight during summer. From June until the end of September I have it hanging outdoors where it gets water every day. It spends the rest of the year in an east facing window and can be kept drier with watering every two-three days from November until the flower buds emerge in February – March.

Submitted by - Arne Schon, PhD

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In 2012, Roddy learned that an equivalent tour was being offered in connection with the triennial Australian Orchid Conference and Show. His mother, also an avid orchid grower, had so enjoyed the photos and his account of the first trip, he invited her to go, and off they went!

Roddy's presentation will include images of native, largely terrestrial orchids--both odd and beautiful--and their habitats, other plants and wildlife, and a sampling of the orchid show, including the Table of Champions!

### **MOS Future Speakers:**

May: To be determined

June: Nancy Mountford, NCOS & MOS; Big-Lipped Phalaenopsis

## *Sarah's Corner*

Welcome to new members...

MariJo Bushman  
Dr. Ann M. Bain



## David's Corner



The April Ed Corner will be presented by Monica Sparber. Monica is a new member, but she has been quite active referencing the AOS website. She will give a presentation about AOS webinars. Simply stated, these webinars are televised AOS programs produced by various orchid growers with much experience with

different aspects of orchid growing. They usually last about an hour. I will have a projection of webinar possibilities and Monica will have a handout along with her talk.

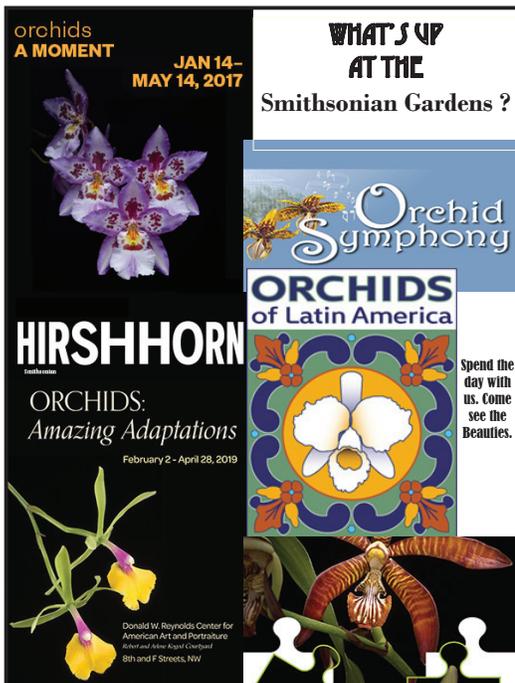
Next month there will, hopefully, be a "class" on other Internet sources of orchid information. Later, in June, possibly a reprise of taxonomy, nomenclature, and botanical terms for interpretation of orchid names and descriptions, writing a correct orchid name, understanding some botanical terms, and sources of those seemingly mysterious and inscrutable words.

Next year we will talk about plant prep for the show table with another description of the show table point systems, installing a show exhibit, labeling, and much more. Don't skip the Ed Corner because you think it is not for you because it can be useful for every member, especially new and curious members. How about cultivation of various orchids? Well, that will be covered to some extent, but Internet information will be emphasized for that aspect.

Submitted by David Smith -  
Education Corner



# Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Exhibit



## Orchid Exhibition: Orchids: Amazing Adaptations

February 2 - April 28, 2019

in the

Kogod Courtyard Orchids

Escape the winter cold and step into a floral oasis in the Kogod Courtyard with Orchids: Amazing Adaptations. A joint collaboration with Smithsonian Gardens, United States Botanic Garden, SAAM, and National Portrait Gallery, this installation fills the courtyard with hundreds of orchids of stunning variety. The installation showcases how orchids have adapted to their many different environments, and can be found on every single continent except Antarctica.

Orchids: Amazing Adaptations is part of Habitat, a Smithsonian Gardens-wide exhibition exploring the importance of habitats and how we can help protect them. Habitat is the first in a series of changing exhibitions connecting all of Smithsonian Gardens' spaces with a single theme. From 2019 to 2020, Habitat will feature a variety of indoor and outdoor displays, exhibits, and educational programs.



# The Maryland Orchid Society Calendar 2019

April 13, 2019 – Spring Workshop  
April 25, 2019 – Monthly Meeting  
May 2, 2019 – Board Meeting  
  
May 16, 2019 – Monthly Meeting  
  
June 20, 2019 – Monthly Meeting

### Please note change in submission dates for the MOS Newsletter.

All articles for the monthly Newsletter must be submitted to Barbara Buck (barbarabuck2015@comcast.net) by the first Sunday of each month as follows.

For May Newsletter by May 5  
For June Newsletter by June 2

Submitted by Joan Roderick - President

Submitted by The Board

MOS Group Perlite Buy - Contact Bob Travers

## The Member's Spotlight

It has been about a year since I have brought Perlite to a MOS meeting for sale. I received several inquires at the Christmas meeting, so I will again coordinate a group purchase of Orchid Screen Perlite for MOS Members. I will repackage and provide in smaller size bags. Prices include transportation and handling and **deliveries will be brought to the MOS Meetings.**

The Perlite is sourced direct from the manufacturer Pennsylvania Perlite, and is offered in 4 cubic foot bags. They have a Standard Screen for Orchids which yields a particle size of 3/8" to 1/2". The pictures below are from a previous purchase. This falls between a Grade #3 and #4 and is a significantly larger particle size than you will find at garden centers or the big box stores. Usually this is ordered through orchid supply companies and would incur additional shipping charges.

Repackaged sizes and prices (Note price increase passed on from Penn Perlite)

One gallon Bag	\$4.00
Two Gallon Bag	\$6.00
Five Gallon Bag	\$11.00
4 Cu. Ft. Bag	\$28.00

**Please respond to Bob Travers anytime,** with your order request. Payment accepted at the meeting your Perlite is delivered.

Contact Bob Travers email [subobtrav@zoominternet.net](mailto:subobtrav@zoominternet.net) or phone 410-557-9901.



# The 2019 Maryland Orchid Society Show at the Timonium Fair Grounds

Greeters



The Show opened with a lot of viewers



Ways to exhibit your orchids





There are many ways to exhibit your orchids. You could arrange your own exhibit, join in with others, or just borrow plants from other members.



## Our Vendors

# American Orchid Society News and Surrounding Events

## AOS ORCHID-GRAM

www.aos.org

### Support the AOS

[Renew](#)

[Donate](#)

### Forgot your Password?

If you would like to log into our website but you are not sure what your password might be, you can reset your password at any time from your home computer or laptop.

Click on 'Member - Sign In' at the top corner of the page to be taken into the login prompt. Select 'Forgot Your Password' and a box should appear requesting your email address. Once you type it in and click 'Find', make sure to scroll down on that box and click on the confirmation button in order to have an email sent to you.

If you continue having trouble or you can only access your account on a mobile device, you can reach out to us and we will gladly reset your password for you! You can reach us at our offices by calling (305) 740-2010, Monday through Friday, from 9AM - 5:30PM EDT.

### Orchidist's Word of the Month parthenogenesis (par-thin-oh-JEN-e- siss):

The process by which a seed may develop without fertilization; plants so produced have the genetic constitution of the seed-bearing plant.



### April Issue of ORCHIDS

The April issue of *ORCHIDS* is now in the mail to current print members. **All Current AOS members can [log in to read it online now.](#)**

April 2019 Issue Cover The April issue is our annual awards issue featuring an article by Nile Dusdieker detailing the stunning winners of the 2017 year-end special awards and a recap by Carol Klonowki of the 52 First Class Certificate winners from 2018. These along with 16 pages of new AOS awards and a beautifully illustrated article by Sergey and Elena Skoropad on the creation of small orchid displays, make the April issue especially captivating.

### Order Your Copy of the Proceedings of the 22nd World Orchid Conference Before it is Too Late!



There is still time before it goes to press. At 886 pages, this is the largest WOC Proceedings. To order your copy for yourself or your society library, email Ms. Albita Flores in Guayaquil at [aflores@expoguayaquil.com](mailto:aflores@expoguayaquil.com). Do so quickly because once it goes to print, no more copies will be printed! To date and with your copy you will receive both the English and Spanish versions of the fantastic book on Ecuador and its orchids by Arcadio Arosemena G. -- ALL POSTAGE PAID! The price for all three books is \$175. Given the size of the main volume and the two additional books sent to you postpaid, this is truly a bargain. For those interested in bulk purchases, a special price of \$135/Proceedings volume is available for purchases of 10 or more copies.

Click to Register for This Webinar! To order your copy for yourself or your society library, email Ms. Albita Flores in Guayaquil at [aflores@expoguayaquil.com](mailto:aflores@expoguayaquil.com). Do so quickly because once it goes to print, no more copies will be printed!

### Don't miss these webinars in April

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT**

**Greenhouse Chat** - Join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchids. *Open to all*

**Thursday, April 18, 2019 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT**

**How to Grow Habenarias** - Jim Heilig will discuss how to culture these exotic deciduous terrestrials. Member Exclusive Webinar.

### Looking for Orchids?

Find vendors of orchid plants, seedlings, supplies, greenhouses, fertilizers, watering equipment, potting mixes, lighting setups and other orchid-related products in our online Orchid Source Directory!

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### Looking to visit a garden?

AOS Members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide. See a list of participating gardens near you!

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### Give a gift membership.

A great gift for the orchid lover in your life!

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### Notes from the 2019 Spring Members Meeting

We've just returned from this year's Spring Members Meeting in San Diego, California! The event was held in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Society's annual spring show titled "**Orchid Treasures.**" Members and friends in attendance enjoyed several days of AOS activities, fabulous speakers, and great camaraderie. Thank you to all who registered and to those who supported the event, even if you were unable to be there! You are a vital part of this organization. During our Meeting of the Members, elections were held, and a new group of Trustees was inducted into our Board for the 2019-2022 term. Please welcome:

**Jay Balchan**

**Greg Filter**

**Luiz Hamilton Lima**

**Joyce Medcalf**

**Jeff Saal**

A heartfelt "Thank You" to our speakers: Fred Clarke, Bill Jasen, Charles Wilson, Tim Culbertson, Tara Luna, and James Heilig, Ph.D.. What a great array of topics and a knowledge shared!

Now, **save the date** for our next members gathering! Make plans to come down to Homestead, Florida - October 16th - 20th. Join us and the East Everglades Orchid Society's annual show.

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### The newest addition to our book collection is nearly here!

Orchids and their Culture Our massive shipment of the American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture is on its way!

This book is crammed with nearly 250 pages of valuable information on orchid culture, paired with stunning, full-color images from cover to cover. It appears that Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons have delivered a quintessential guidebook for facilitating a blossoming interest in orchids!

These handy books will be available in our web store at \$24.95, **but with your 10% Membership discount, your copy comes out to \$22.46!**\* Make sure you are logged in before making any purchases on our web store for your discount on all AOS Publications to apply!

You may give us a call to reserve a copy today! Please bear in mind that we cannot take any payments until they arrive, as we will need to calculate shipping costs for your orders.

\*Price does not include that of shipping, which may vary depending on your location or amount of copies ordered.  
Orchids and their Culture



# Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



THE APRIL 2019 AOS CORNER – From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee ([Affiliated\\_Societies@AOS.org](mailto:Affiliated_Societies@AOS.org)).

For newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner, in whole or in part, in their society newsletters. We encourage promotion of AOS website use by your members.

## **AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

A few months back we asked AOS affiliates to let us know (by email or Facebook) what their biggest challenge was when running a local orchid society. We received several great topics with ‘How to Attract New Society Members’ standing out on top. Since show season is upon us and that is the time when most societies draw a majority of their new members, we decided to make this part of our Affiliated Societies (AS) Committee Meeting discussion at the AOS Members Meeting in San Diego, CA.

Great orchid shows have a way of inspiring new growers and is the very reason many of us were first intrigued. We will certainly be inspired by the beauty all around us at the AOS Members Meeting hosted by one of our great affiliates, the San Diego Orchid Society. As you are reading this April edition of the Corner we may be meeting at the very same time and are hoping some of you are with us. Look for the results of our AS Committee brainstorming in the May version of the AOS Corner. We look forward to sharing with everyone!

It's been a tough winter and struggles to maintain our orchid environments has been difficult at best for most of us. Hopefully, as spring arrives and the days grow longer, your orchids are appreciating the additional light and warmth enough to commence their annual growth cycle and are producing abundant blooms. This brings us to one of my favorite times of year... Orchid Show time! One of the primary efforts of the Affiliated Societies Committee is to provide support for the success of the affiliates. Through our sharing, we have found creative activities that are easy to include and can aid in your own show's success. Consistently appreciated is a Kids' Corner which helps to make the show a positive experience for children. One idea we love and first saw at the Houston Orchid Society, that's simple to create, is a "Photo Panel". Anyone can take pics of the happy faces of the orchids and the kids love it!



Photographer - Sandy Stubbings

Here's the project link from the AOS Kids' Corner pages: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/kids-corner/kids-photo-wall.aspx>.

(PS – It's recommended to create a panel on vinyl that can be used year after year, but I've seen this done on a budget, in a smaller scale, by blowing up a pic at the local copy shop and using poster board.)

Make sure to check out AOS President Susan Wedegaertner's message in April's issue of ORCHIDS magazine and you'll get to know the Judging Committee or "JC" as it's commonly known. Chaired by Taylor Slaughter, Vice-Chair David Edgley, Secretary Abu Salleh, the committee is made up of all the 26 Judging Center Chairs. This large committee oversees all judging activities and operates with several sub-committees to maintain the integrity of the AOS Award System. The SITF (Species Identification Task Force), the National Training Coordinator and the Handbook task force are all under the direction of the JC. This is one busy Committee!

We're always looking for ideas to bring kids into the world of orchids. While planning your next orchid show don't forget to check out the AOS Kids Corner for ideas. Here's the link to the main page: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/kids-corner.aspx>. See other articles for instructions on how to create activities we've tested out or make up your own great activities. Please share your ideas and experiences with the education Committee at [sstubbings@comcast.net](mailto:sstubbings@comcast.net).

Thanks again for all the pics that you are sending in for the Instagram feed. Our Instagram Administrator, Candace Hollinger, sends her appreciation to you all. It's wonderful to see such a variety of everything orchid that's enjoyed around the globe. Please remind your members that we would love pics of how they grow, what's blooming now or anything they love about orchids. Please continue to send your photos and short videos to: [americanorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americanorchidsociety@gmail.com). Be sure to send a short caption explaining your photo. Also, if you are bilingual and can include your caption in English plus your other language(s)—it will help with our universal outreach. Remember to check-in on our Facebook Group Page for Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society. The response has been great, many thanks to all of you who added pics of show banners. We can all learn from what has been successful for other societies. Let us know how your show went, and what was successful for you, or what didn't quite make the mark. Our administrator, Chad Brinkerhuff, monitors the feed and is a great resource for all that the AOS has to offer. Keep us up to date on what's going on at your local society and let us know how we can help you.

Don't forget to check out the **NEW [List of Speakers](#)** to help you plan society meeting programs. You will now find the Affiliated Societies link on the home page under the "About Us" heading. And... Here's a link to check it all out - <http://www.aos.org/>

### **Special Announcement**

We are pleased to announce the completion of the Greenhouse Chat index project. The idea is simple enough. When you click on LEARN MORE on any recorded greenhouse chat webinar, you will now see a time stamped table of contents that you can browse for topics that interest you. So, if you missed a chat, or could not remember the chat where a specific topic of interest to you was discussed, you can quickly zero in on what you want to see, and skip directly to that section when you view the recording. These webinars are such a great asset to our membership and we encourage you to take advantage of them.

Also, of note is that the indexes are integrated into the search capabilities of aos.org. so, you can expect to see Greenhouse Chats in the list of search results. For example, if you search on MSU (because you are interested in MSU fertilizer) you will notice that is discussed in 2 chats; June 2018 and February 2015.

### **Cultural**

#### **Feed Me: The Basics of Choosing a Fertilizer and Application**

Prepared by the AOS Education Committee/Photographs by Greg Allikas

Originally published in ORCHIDS magazine April 2013

If their other requirements are met, orchids will grow and flower for fairly long periods without fertilizer. Witness the people in tropical areas such as South Florida who grow them mounted on trees and let nature do the rest. Indeed, that is how epiphytic orchids grow in nature. But hobbyists generally try to give their orchids more than the bare minimum so that the plants flower at or above their potential.

There are many different points of view on how to fertilize orchids and what fertilizer to use. Everyone has a favorite fertilizer or supplement. There are so many variables that how and when you fertilize depends on what kinds of orchids you grow and how and where you grow them. This article will offer a brief explanation and general guidelines on fertilizing orchids. For more specific application, join your local orchid society and ask someone there who grows the same kind of orchids as you. It is unlikely that you will kill any orchids with orchid fertilizer so following the recommendations here will provide your plants needed nutrition.

If you are a gardener, you are probably familiar with the N-P-K listings on fertilizer bags. Orchid fertilizers have them too. Let's go over these three elements and see how they affect plant growth. Nitrogen (N) helps make plants green and helps them grow faster. It is the element responsible for vegetative growth (the leafy parts). Phosphorus (P) is good for root growth, disease resistance, seed and fruit growth, and especially for blooming and flowering. Potassium (K) helps with increasing root growth, drought resistance and disease resistance.

#### **OPTIONS There are three main types of fertilizers used for orchids: balanced, high nitrogen and bloom booster.**

■ Balanced fertilizers have been traditionally recommended for use with orchids potted in inorganic potting media such as lava rock and Aliflor, and tree fern (which has fallen out of favor due to conservation concerns). Plants mounted

■ High-nitrogen fertilizers have long been recommended for use with orchids potted in fir bark or fir bark mixes. The reason for extra nitrogen is that the bacteria that cause the bark to decay use up much of the available nitrogen, thus depleting the orchid. This practice has recently come into question. Nonetheless, using a high-nitrogen fertilizer, especially in the spring at the beginning of the growing season, can promote strong vegetative growth under ideal conditions. An example of high-nitrogen fertilizer would be 30-10-10.

■ Bloom or blossom-booster formulas are high in phosphorus. Typically, high-phosphorus fertilizers are applied every other week for four to six applications the season before expected bloom. For winter-spring blooming orchids, bloom booster is usually applied in the autumn. Vandaceous hybrids and other orchids that bloom throughout the year can be given bloom booster every third or fourth fertilizing. An example of a bloom booster would be 10-30-20. Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and because orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently.

## **APPLICATION**

How fertilizer is applied varies as much as orchids themselves. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during spring and summer and every two weeks in the autumn and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you choose, most experienced growers use ½ the label-recommended strength. Remember, in nature epiphytic orchids' roots are exposed and the only nutrients they receive are from bird and animal droppings, decaying insects and detritus. The old saying about fertilizing orchids is: Feed them weekly weakly. Fertilizer is best applied in the morning on sunny days. For mounted orchids, or orchids with exposed roots, such as vandas in empty baskets, many growers routinely first water the plants and then follow with fertilizer a half hour later. The watering before fertilizing prepares the spongy velamen of the orchid roots to better utilize the fertilizer. Orchids in pots are usually not watered first but some growers have their own techniques.

There are requirements specific to certain orchids. For instance, do not fertilize nobile-type dendrobiums after early autumn. This rule actually applies to all orchids that have decided rest periods and all deciduous orchids. Fertilizing them while in their rest period keeps them in continual growth instead of resting before producing flowers. In other words, you may get a lot of growth and no flowers.

There are also many secret recipes growers use that supposedly produce stronger plants or more flowers. Certainly, vitamins and micronutrients are as essential as the building blocks of plant growth mentioned above. Elements such as magnesium, boron, calcium, carbon and others are required for strong plant growth. All in all, although there are certain practices that are documented as being helpful, it has not been proven that supplements actually contribute to improved growth in orchids — but it probably doesn't hurt to use them.

## **UPCOMING WEBINARS**

It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the All About Orchids tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of the monthly Corner.

### **American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton**

**Tuesday, March 26th, 2019 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST**      **Open to all**

Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchid. He will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by Sunday, March 24th. Remember to include pictures.

**Register now** using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1217234533193976065>

### **American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton**

**Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST**      **Open to all**

Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchid. He will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by Sunday, April 7th. Remember to include pictures.

**Register now** using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4032749560393528833>

### **How to Grow Habenarias with Jim Heilig**

**Thursday, April 18th, 2019 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST**      **MEMBERS ONLY**

Join Jim Heilig, PhD., AOS Accredited Judge, and a specialist in growing tricky Habenarias. Learn how to be successful in growing these beautiful orchids as Jim discusses how to culture these exotic deciduous terrestrials.

**Register now** using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5601506362333121795>



Habenaria Light Wings 'Matt's Lemon Gem' HCC/AOS -  
Photographer: Ken Jacobsen

**Note:** After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the seminar.

### **WHAT ARE WEBINARS?**

Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

### **WANT TO LEARN, BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE?**

The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

**THE APRIL ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE** will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- The New Refugium Botanicum – Eriopsis werklei - Franco Pupulin
- Orchid Gardens – Inkaterra, Peru – Tom Miranda
- For the Novice: Adaptation to an Epiphytic Lifestyle - Sue Bottom
- Judges' Corner: The Species Identification Task force - Jay Norris
- Judges' Forum: An Analysis of Cymbidium Awards - Kevin Hill
- Look Twice, Think Thrice: The 2018 First Class Certificates - Carol Klonowski
- The 2017 Year-End Special Awards: Special Orchids, Special People - Nile S. Dusdieker
- The Art of Small Displays - Sergey and Elena Skoropad

### **YOUR SOCIETY CAN EARN FREE AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS:**

Upcoming shows are a good time to encourage new membership to AOS. Affiliated societies can now earn a one-month extension of their AOS society membership for each new AOS member that they refer (note: membership renewals don't count). Make sure to note your Society Affiliation in the comments section of the application.

With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a FULL YEAR OF FREE AOS membership! Be sure to have membership applications with your society's name already filled in and available at your club meetings!

Remember to let your members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources at their disposal making growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful.

Digital Access to Over 350+  
past issues of Orchids magazine extending back to 1932!

### **ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!**

16-page award gallery of breath taking pictures of recently awarded orchids.



Lycaste Spring Present 'Redwood' AM/AOS -  
Photographer: Chaunie Langland

**RECENT ORCHID AWARDS PICTURES ON THE AOS WEBSITE:**

See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new "Latest Orchid Awards" page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. Free to members and non-members.



Mormodia Jumbo World 'Biltmore's Lemon Lime' AM/AOS -  
Photographer: James Curtis

**Let's grow together,  
Denise Lucero**

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AOS/ODC News submitted by our AOS/ODC Representative, Valerie Lowe

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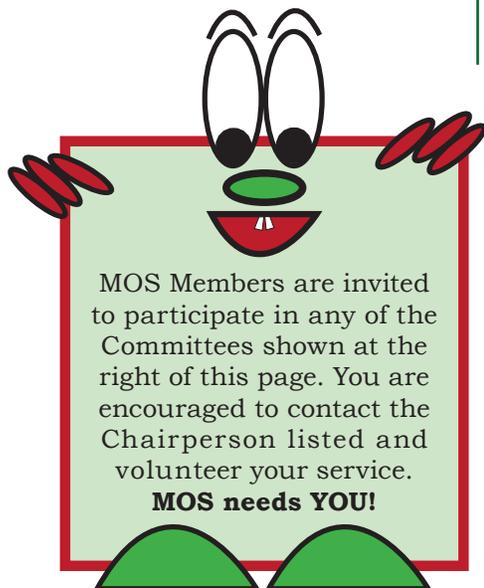
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