

<http://www.centrollouisianaorchidsociety.org>



### President's Message

As we make it through the hot August heat, I hope you are regularly checking your watering and feeding schedules. Make sure your orchids don't get overstressed. Remember the sun has changed position and you might need to reposition some plants to avoid excessive heat and leaf burning. Also, remember to stay hydrated if you spend a lot of time outdoors.

We need to discuss a permanent date change for our June meetings because of Father's Day. We also need to check our February and March meetings as it relates to Mardi Gras.

Don't forget that August is our Ice Cream party meeting and bring the toppings you might want to add. Heather will bring ice cream, and I will bring bowls, spoons, and napkins. Please bring whatever you want to drink for this meeting.

Not much more to report at this time. Just remember that September is coming and plan for any possible bad weather that might come our way.

Happy growing and blooming,

*Russel Deroche, Jr.*



**Meeting Time and Place:**  
**Sunday, August 17, 2025**  
**Time: 2:30 pm**

Show & Tell entry is 2:00-2:20  
**Program: Repotting Paphiopedilums**

Place: St. James Episcopal Church  
Youth Building  
1546 Albert Street, Alexandria, LA  
71301

**Refreshments: ICE CREAM  
SOCIAL (feel free to bring any  
favorite flavors and toppings!)**

#### Central Louisiana Orchid Society Officers

President – Russel Deroche, Jr.  
Vice President – Richard Smith  
Secretary – Heather Wilfert  
Treasurer – Jim Barnett  
Director – Al Taylor  
Director – Andrea Mattison  
SWROGA Director#1 – Eron Borne  
SWROGA Director#2 – Heather Wilfert  
AOS Representative – Eron Borne  
ODC Representative – Andrea Mattison  
Conservation Rep - Jim Barnett  
Newsletter Editor – Eron Borne  
Show & Tell – Al Taylor  
Webmaster – Eron Borne

# AUGUST MEETING

## *Repotting Paphiopedilums*

Paphiopedilum orchids are usually available for purchase at orchid shows and many places online. Russel will show videos on a couple of different ways to repot your Paphiopedilums.

At the July meeting, Al presented a program on creating new Phalaenopsis plants from flower stem cuttings (stem propagation.) They have been sealed and no one has looked at them yet. He will present his findings this month if he is able to make it!

## Tip of the Month

Good air circulation and proper watering are the keys to disease prevention. Remember that your plants will have increased considerably in size by this point in the growing season. They have added extra growths and extra leaves across the summer. August is a good time to evaluate the spacing of our plants. Remember the old Florida saw that one needs a cat to grow good orchids because when properly spaced a cat should be able to navigate the benches between plants without knocking them over. While we cannot recommend specific chemicals, the county agent recommends Banrot, a convenient combination of Thiophanate-methyl and Truban which controls a number of leaf-spotting diseases and soft rots, for home owner use. A combination of Thiophanate-methyl and mancozeb has also been recommended. This can be found pre-packaged as Duosan. If one can overcome the aversion to chemicals and can learn the safe application of them, they are valuable tools to better orchid growing. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure especially before the soft, slow drizzle of September sets in

Martin Motes, PhD, is the author of Florida Orchid Growing, which gives advice for orchid growers in Florida. As Louisiana conditions are almost the same, it pertains to us also.



## August Birthdays



Liliana Taborn (Aug 21), Pauline Godron (Aug 20), Bill Caldwell (Aug 30)

**Central Louisiana Orchid Society**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20,2025**

**1.0 Call to Order**

Russel Deroche, Jr. called the meeting to order at 1445.

**2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

June Meeting was cancelled for Father's Day

**3.0 Officer Reports**

**3.1 President Report**

3.1 Russel wished a Happy Birthday to Catherine Turner

**3.2 Vice President Report**

3.2.1 Richard had nothing to report at this time.

**3.3 Treasurer Report**

No report for canceled June meeting

**3.4 Secretary Report** – Nothing to report

**4.0 Old Business**

**5.0 New Business**

5.1 Baton Rouge Orchid Show report

Best Grown Misc. Group

5.2 Russel pointed out the new "Orchid word of the month" in our monthly newsletter.

5.3 We welcomed new member Myrna Ayo to CLOS.

**6.0 Program**

Al presented a program on creating new Phalaenopsis plants from flower stem cuttings and will present his findings in August.

**7.0 Raffle and Show & Tell**

Raffle Winners: Russel, Myrna, Richard, ?

Door Prize Winner: Myrna

Russel and Rick provided the refreshments this month.

Show and Tell voting and winners:

Best Grown Plant: V. Thailand Gold ‘Fightin Tigers’ – Al  
Epi. magnoliae - Al

Cattleya Alliance: 1<sup>st</sup> – Enc. plicata – Al  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Epi. magnoliae - Al

All Others Group: 1<sup>st</sup> – V. Thailand Gold “Fighin Tigers” - Al  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Phal. valentinii Louisiana - Al  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Onc. Sweet Sugar - Al

There was no other business.

## **8.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1605.

Respectfully submitted,

Russel Deroche, Jr.  
President

**Show and Tell Winners – Unfortunately, we didn’t get any pictures of the beautiful show and tell plants from our July meeting.**

## **Air Management**

**“Air management” is probably the single, most significant aspect of orchid culture, but a subject that is usually never directly addressed in discussions about how to grow them.**

**Let’s start with the basics: Orchids, for the most part, are epiphytes – “air plants” – growing attached to trees or rock outcroppings, or in the leaf litter on the forest floor, and have their extensive root systems rambling around the surface, where they are exposed to lots of air. They are not parasites, but have evolved to the point of not needing a soil medium from which to take nutrients, instead gleaning their existence by absorbing their water and nutritional needs primarily from nutrient-bearing rainwater cascading on them from the canopies of the forests and jungles in which they live. One of the more observable aspects of that evolution is the water-storage mechanisms of the plants, such as pseudobulbs or thick, fleshy leaves, and the development of the sponge-like layer of cells on the root surface, the gray or silvery velamen that turns mostly transparent when saturated, showing the green inner cells of the root. Another part of that evolutionary development, but one we tend to ignore, is that of gas exchange.**

**We are all aware of the fact that “animals take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide, while plants take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen”. (Actually, plants do both.) In animals, that gas exchange occurs through the lungs or gills, while in plants, it occurs pretty much over their entire surface. Orchids, because they have evolved to hold onto moisture in between potentially infrequent periods of rainfall, tend to have limited gas exchange from the leaves and pseudobulbs, so have shifted much of that important activity to the root system.**

**As we “domesticate” our plants, putting them in pots, we unnaturally confine the root system and “set up” our plants for potential problems, some of which have led to the proliferation of orchid-culture myths.**

**In a pot, the volume of air to which the roots are exposed – and with which the gas exchange must happen – is limited to the pore space in the potting medium and is refreshed only through whatever openings are available in the pot itself. The more densely the medium is packed, the less volume of air is available to the root system, and some of those “air pockets” are effectively cut off from the others, so do not get refreshed. When we water those potted plants, some of the liquid is absorbed by the particles of potting medium, but another part of it is held by surface tension in little pockets between the particles, effectively reducing the free air volume and further cutting off the connecting pathways between the remaining pores, reducing the refresh rate even more. The plants are still going through their essential gas exchange processes, but they have to deal with a root environment of “polluted”-, rather than fresh air to do so. That situation sets up two stressful scenarios – suffocation and poisoning.**

**(As an aside, it is the gas-flow limiting effect of the trapped water that leads to problems, not the presence of water itself, although that’s what we’ve all been taught about “overwatering causing root rot”. Consider that plants grown hydroponically have constant water exposure without rotting.)**

**Gas exchange occurs through diffusion, a natural process in which the concentrations of ions on either side of a membrane – root cell walls in this case – try to equalize. In free air, the carbon dioxide content is typically around 0.04%, so any level slightly higher than that easily leaves the root cells and disperses in the air. If the reduced airflow of the compact or saturated medium restricts that, the gas concentration in those isolated pockets gets much higher, stopping or even reversing**

the osmotic process, and suffocation and cell death can occur.

Additionally, as it cannot be dispersed easily into the air, the carbon dioxide can react with the water to form carbonic acid, which can poison the roots.

In both cases, the plant responds to the stress by producing phenols in an attempt to “kill” the stressful agent. Unfortunately, those phenols are toxic to the roots themselves, so if that stress is not eliminated relatively quickly, root death will occur. It is those phenols, by the way, that give the roots the brown and black colors we see in “rotted” roots.

So what is the practical significance of this to the grower?

When selecting a potting medium for the plant, above all, think in terms of maintaining free and adequate flow of air to the root system.

Consider the pore size within the medium and how it relates to root size (yes, roots can clog air flow too), and how “bridging” water droplets will play a role upon watering. Choice of medium can affect the latter, as some materials are more sponge-like than others, so “suck up” those bridging droplets and release them slowly. (Another aside here – the old adage about letting the potting medium dry out between waterings has nothing to do with letting the roots dry, it’s done to allow those bridging water droplets disappear so the plants’ roots can “breathe” again.)

Also consider the moisture needs of the plant and your ability to provide an adequate supply. Obviously a mounted plant should have no air supply issues, but in the home, it’s most difficult to water mounted plants often enough, and maintain the [humidity](#) to give the plant time to absorb the water before it evaporates. To compensate for that, we utilize potting media that absorb and hold moisture to different degrees and for various lengths of time. We can utilize different particle sizes as well (smaller particles have higher surface-to-volume ratios than do larger ones, and can absorb more water more quickly), but then we

might be compromising the size and volume of those passageways for air to reach the roots.

Keep in mind that uniform particle size in the medium provides the maximum void space. A room full of basketballs and a room full of ping-pong balls have the same void space (you can do the math yourself), but when you start to mix particle sizes, the small ones fill the voids between the big ones and the free volume is reduced. Read more about that here.

Armed with this information, if you aim for an airy potting medium that works with your watering habits to provide your plants with an adequate moisture supply, your growing should be headache free. All you have to do is remember this priority list:

Air → Water → Air → Nutrition → Air!

Until next time... *Good Growing!*

## Upcoming Shows

### Acadian Orchid Society Show, Lafayette, LA

#### **Contact**

Eddie Dupuy  
337-445-9252  
[eddiedupuy@cox.net](mailto:eddiedupuy@cox.net)

#### **Location**

The Our Lady of Fatima,  
Knights of Columbus  
Hall, 111 Goodnight Drive,  
Lafayette, LA 70503

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The Acadian Orchid Society Show is being held  
October 4 - 5, 2025 at The Our Lady of Fatima,  
Knights of Columbus Hall, 111 Goodnight Drive,  
Lafayette, LA 70503.

Judging is being held on October 3, 2025 at 6:00  
PM.

Show Times:  
Sat: 9am-5pm  
Sun: 9am-3pm



## 2025 August AOS Corner – for [Affiliated Societies](#)

We encourage use of the [AOS website](#) by all members.

### Got Orchids?

The American Orchid Society website is your portal to knowledge for all things orchid. The AOS website, along with ongoing Webinars and OrchidPro, offers a plethora of information to help you grow and show your orchids to peak performance. We encourage use of the [AOS website](#) by ALL orchid growers. The next best place to learn about the orchids that will thrive in your area, is to attend and become involved in your local [Affiliated Society](#) meetings.

[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.

Whether you are new to the hobby or an established successful grower, there is always more to learn. Review the AOS website.

An infographic titled "EXCITING REASONS TO JOIN THE AOS TODAY..." in yellow text on a dark background. The central text reads: "Become a better grower with exclusive resources, benefits & savings enjoyed by thousands of people like you from around the world." Below this is a video player showing a collage of orchids. Surrounding the central text are six purple hexagonal callouts with icons and text:

- Top left: Book icon, "Orchids magazine & digital archive"
- Top right: Piggy bank icon, "Exclusive savings from top 50 orchid vendors"
- Middle left: Envelope icon, "Orchidpro - search 100K+ photos"
- Middle right: Percent sign icon, "\$700+ vouchers for 2 year members"
- Bottom left: Computer monitor icon, "Over 100+ ready-to-watch webinars"
- Bottom right: AOS logo icon, "Join the AOS today! Under \$5 per month"

At the bottom, it says: "Watch the 4-minute video above to see what AOS membership offers you. Join today using the secure form below or by calling (305) 740-2010"

# Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members

**Webinars - Coming Attractions!**

REGISTRATION IS EASY [www.aos.org/webinars](http://www.aos.org/webinars)  
 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](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)  
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	Summer Refresher	Aug. 07, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 11, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 23, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Choose Your Topic From Our Library of RECORDED WEBINARS	<b>Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q &amp; A</b> Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by August 04</i>	<i>Master Orchidist Series</i> <b>Best Methods for Indoor Pest Management</b> Explore pest problems of indoor orchid growing.	<b>AOS Awards—The Honor of Cultural Excellence</b> Review the plants that earned this award for their grower/owner. Get growing Tips.
Presenter	Expert Growers, Conservationists, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, and more	<b>Ron McHatton</b> AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Ron McHatton</b> AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Sandra Svoboda</b> AOS Judge and AOS Past President


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



**\* Orchid Word of the Month \***

**Phragmipedium** (frag-meh-PEE-dee-um)

## MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Hello everyone! Hope your summer has been a good one. We send our prayers for recovery to Texas from the devastation near Kerrville. Our climate is definitely changing. We see it every day, especially in the summer. Excessive heat, heavy storms that park over an area for hours uprooting everything. We saw it with Ashville and now this year in multiple places. That brings me to discuss how orchids fare in this changing environment. Orchids are wonderful barometers of climate. If it is too hot, they don't bloom and languish even in their growing areas. If it is too wet, they show signs of fungus and rot. They are telling you something if you grow outside or even take them outside for the summer. If you grow outside you know what I am talking about. I put my *Catasetum* out and they should love that right? Nope, too hot, too dry, even with shade cloth they were not happy. Here, in the southeastern suburbs of Chicago, we have had little rain and are considered in an acute drought. The northern suburbs had had some rain, but not enough rain to support our crops. Everywhere we face the problems of climate change. Europe as well has many issues with the weather that they have never had before. How did I react? I doubled the shade cloth on my little growing area outside and made sure at night that the plants had some moisture, a light spray of humidity. All my "outdoor plants" are relishing the double screening and the light evening spray. I am very careful not to get water settling in the leaf junctions. Just a light mist is perfect. We will all need to make changes as we see our weather change for our areas. For some it may mean a total change of location due to heat and perhaps just increasing the percentage of shade cloth will be a remedy. We also may need to change our watering habits in some areas where rain is scant. For those who are suffering with too much water, you may need to go out in the mornings and tilt all the plants so water does not sit in the leaves. In the jungles, most orchids grow tilted so water does not collect. We need to do that too. It is also common to see some fungus affecting the leaves so make sure you treat appropriately. Wet and wild can generate disease. For you new members, take advantage of our webinars and culture sheets. The greenhouse chats every month are there for you to learn more about what people experience growing their orchids. They are also indexed so you can check what is discussed in each one. If you have questions, send them to [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org). We can discuss the weather and how you are affected by it. Send me an email. [cerins@aos.org](mailto:cerins@aos.org).

## ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WAY TO GROW OUR ORCHIDS

BY JILL BLAKE SMITH

Last month we included an article about growing orchids in cork coozies and if you've decided to try this growing method, we wish you good luck and humbly request that you give us a report on how it's working for you! Although we all grow our orchids in pots, baskets, or on mounts, there are alternative ways to grow and display our beauties. These unusual and sometimes experimental methods make it more interesting and yes, fun!

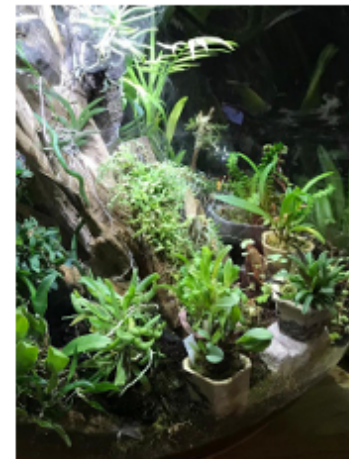
There are Wardian Cases, attributed to Nathaniel Ward back in the 1800's, which were decorative and often ornate glass enclosed containers used for both displays and transporting plants. These cases eventually morphed into what we generally refer to today as terrariums. Terrariums can be open at the top or completely closed. Flowering plants like succulents and orchids can grow surrounded by mosses and ferns to replicate a tropical environment.



One of our top orchid growers in the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society is Vicki Hallock and she loves "all things tiny!" She, herself, is small in stature and she loves to grow little bitty orchids. In the past few years as she looked into growing in terrariums and creating stunning designs with suitable plants, she discovered the concept of the biOrb. BiOrbs are a special type of pricey terrarium with all the bells and whistles— a 360 degree covered terrarium with automated humidity, a mister, LED lighting and adjustable air flow created by tiny fans. As her minute orchids bloom on a fence behind her home, she moves them into one of her several biOrbs, perfectly placed to complete the tropical design. Vicki also prefers to choose species orchids of the genera Lepanthes, Grosourdia, Schoenorchis, Specklinia, Platystele. With her extreme patience and good tweezers, she might also incorporate miniature ornamental figurines, a park bench, a bunny during the Easter season, a Santa at Christmas, a tiny sun dial—Vicki even has a

diminutive dragon as well as an alligator! Pieces of bark or wood with ferns and moss also give an outdoorsy feel to the display. These small touches add an air of whimsy to the beautiful mini rain forest she has created in the biOrb. Vicki's work is most appreciated by our AOS judges! Her terrariums have won five Artistic Certificates as well as Best in Show at the Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Show.

BiOrbs are becoming more and more popular, especially with folks who prefer to grow indoors and with those who enjoy "minis." But keep in mind, patience and creativity are musts. If you seem to be in a growing rut with the same old same old, maybe it's time to give your attention to something different! Try a biOrb!



Native Orchid of the Month—August

*Platanthera integra*  
(yellow fringeless orchid)

Yellow fringeless orchid, *Platanthera integra*, found in southern New Jersey and eastern North Carolina south to Florida and Texas and north to Tennessee, has orange-yellow flowers with a fringeless lip. It flowers from July to September and it found on pine barrens, peaty depressions in pine savannas, and wet sandy woods.

*Platanthera integra* is a medium-sized terrestrial orchid up to 18 inches tall and bearing a flower head 3 inches or smaller in height.

The small yellow to orange flowers have slightly lacerated edges (but not the deep fringing seen in other *Platantheras*) and are packed in a very dense cluster atop a fluted, blue-green

stem. The leaves (one to three) start out rather long for the small plants at the base of the plants, but are quickly reduced to the size of the floral bracts somewhat below the actual flower head.



Although small, the flowers are quite conspicuous. Perhaps the best time to look for these is in the late afternoon, when the sunlight itself is golden. Under such conditions, the flowers of these orchids have been described as looking like small torches having been lit within their grassland setting.



*Platanthera integra* is considered globally vulnerable and is rare throughout parts of its range.



Data compiled from various sources and provided courtesy of the Central Louisiana Orchid Society.  
[www.centrollouisianaorchidsociety.org](http://www.centrollouisianaorchidsociety.org)

\*Remember, previous newsletters can be found at our Central Louisiana Orchid Society website under the About Us tab.

<https://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org>

## **Become an AOS Judge**

### **The American Orchid Society Judging Program**

is seeking highly motivated orchid enthusiasts to join the judging ranks

*Work with other like-minded people in support of AOS awards programs and educational efforts*

*For more information contact us at  
[judges@aos.org](mailto:judges@aos.org)*



The American Orchid Society has a regional Judging Center that meets in Alexandria on the fourth Saturday of every month. The Central Louisiana Orchid Society sponsors the Louisiana Judging Center. If you are interested in joining the judging program, please contact CLOS members Al Taylor and Eron Borne.