CENTRAL LOUISIANA ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 48 ISSUE 8

August 2026

http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org

President's Message

Hello, CLOS members.

It's been a very tough month for me personally, and my greenhouse and outside orchids have suffered. Luckily we haven't had daytime temps that were too overwhelming. I only got 1.33" last Friday and none on the other days where it was raining all around me. But I'm grateful for what I got.

There's no rain in the Central Louisiana area for the next week, so outside watering depends on us. Also, the temperatures will be spiking next week so take precautions to keep you and your orchids cool.

I'm still fertilizing, but not as often as the Catasetinae group needs. August sun is not good for your plants, so take extra care not to let them burn up. See you Sunday.

Al Taylor

The arrangement the CLOS sent Doug when he was in the hospital.

Meeting Time and Place:
Sunday, August 16, 2026
Time: 2:30 pm

Show & Tell entry is 2:00-2:20
Program: The Native Orchids of the Mid-Atlantic Region
Presented By: An AOS Webinar by Bob Sprague

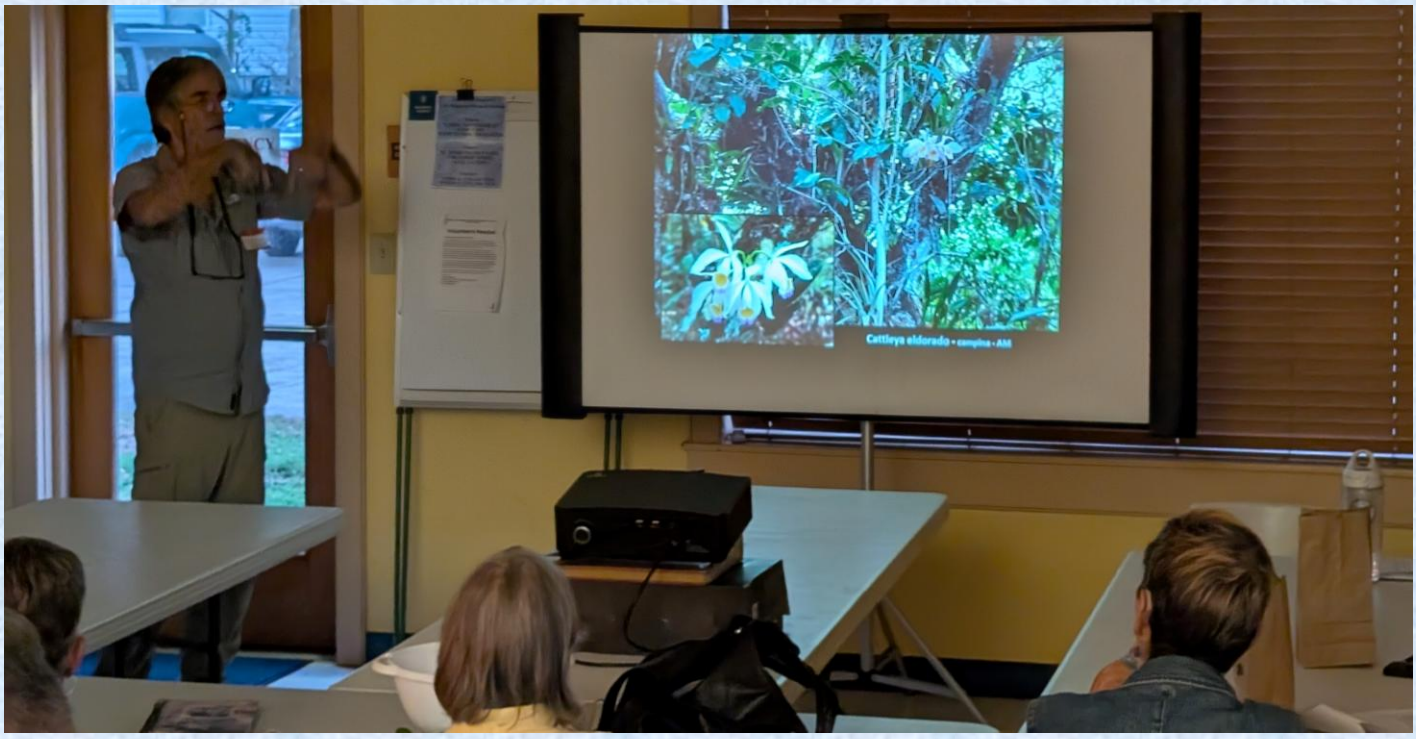
Place: St. James Episcopal Church Youth Building
1546 Albert Street, Alexandria, LA 71301

Refreshments: Eron

Central Louisiana Orchid Society Officers

President – Al Taylor
Vice President – Eron Borne
Secretary –Myrna Ayo
Treasurer – Russel Deroche, Jr.
Director – Rick Allardyce
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

Pictures from our special July meeting with Franciso Miranda of Miranda Orchids



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.

Many sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growing cycle and require less nitrogen. Cattleyas and oncidiums have maturing bulbs. Genera that become deciduous in winter like nobile dendrobiums, calanthes and catasetums should be given much less nitrogen in August to prevent them producing an unwanted off season growth and perhaps forgetting to flower. Substitute an additional application of potassium nitrate and Epsom salt (1 tbsp each per gal) instead of the balanced 20-20-20. Vandas will respond well to this also, as several of the parental species of our hybrids produce blooms on shortening day lengths and lower levels of nitrogen in their fertilizer seems to egg them on.

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 (August 21), Pauline Godron (August 20)C

Bill Caldwell (August 30)

CENTRAL LOUISIANA ORCHID SOCIETY
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 23, 2026

Location: St. James Episcopal Church Youth Building

1. CALL TO ORDER

Time: 6:40 p.m.

Called by: Russel Deroche

Russel welcomed our guests Eddie and Denise from the Acadian OS, John from the Calcasieu OS, and Wendy and Ida from Shreveport.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

No changes. The June minutes were approved.

3. OFFICER REPORTS

President:

No report this month.

Vice President:

It was brought up that a theme for the October show was needed, and any suggestions should be sent to Al or Eron.

Treasurer:

Russell gave the treasurer's report, and it was accepted.

Secretary:

No report this month.

4. OLD BUSINESS

An overview was given of the BOS Orchid Show. A thank you was extended to Al, Pat, and Myrna for setting up and taking down the exhibit. Our exhibit won three first-place awards, one second-place award, and three third-place awards. The next show in which we will participate will be the Acadiana Orchid Society Show, October 2-4. Our show was brought up again, including the date, location, and flyer. A sign-up for society exhibits will be sent out.

5. NEW BUSINESS

The Houston Summer Workshop on August 8 and the Louisiana Short Course, which will be held in Lake Charles on Saturday, December 5, 2026, were announced. Our newsletter has the flyers with the sign-up information.

6. PROGRAM

Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids was the speaker. His presentation was on Cattleyas of Brazil. He began by explaining the many changes in taxonomy and the confusion they cause. He explained the different climate areas and the number of Cattleya species in each. Most of his talk included species in three groups - bifoliates, unifoliates, and others. They were all described, and he provided pictures and explained how they were used to produce hybrids in nature and by man. He also included interesting stories. His presentation was thorough and certainly informative.

7. RAFFLE / SHOW & TELL

Door Prize: Yvonne

Raffle Winners: Ida, Myrna, Linda, Denise, Wendy, Rick, Russel

Refreshments: Attendees were invited to have dinner (dutch treat) with Francisco Miranda at Hotel Bentley Restaurant.

Best Grown Plant: *Mtps.* Tome Yokoyama 'Golden Gate' - Eron Borne

Plant: Cattleya Alliance

1st Place: Enc. Phoenicia x Enc. Plicata - Eddie Dupuy
2nd Place: C. Motte Spot x C. Cognac - Andrea Mattison
3rd Place: Ctt. Gorgeous Becky - Al Taylor

Plant: Cypripendium Alliance

1st Place: Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Candor Redrum' AM/AOS - Eron Borne
2nd Place: Phrag. Beresford 'Catahoula' HCC/AOS - Eron Borne
3rd Place: Phrag. longifolium 'Catahoula Mint' AM/AOS - Eron Borne

Plant: Other

1st Place: Mttssa. CM Fitch 'Izumi' - Myrna Ayo
2nd Place: Odnta. Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara' HCC/AOS - Myrna Ayo
2nd Place: Mps. Tome Yokoyama 'Golden Gate' - Eron Borne
2nd Place: Hab. Erich's Pink Thing - Eron Borne

8. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myrna Ayo, Secretary

Central Louisiana Orchid Society

Orchid Show & Sale

Friday, October 9, 2026 | **2:00–5:00 PM**

Saturday, October 10, 2026 | **8:00 AM–4:00 PM**

Kees Park Community Center

2450 Highway 28 E, Pineville, LA

FREE ADMISSION

- Amazing displays and galleries of orchids
- Orchid growers will be present to give tips on growing and repotting
- Beautiful orchids available for purchase
- *Bring your kids!* Orchid treasure hunt and ribbons awarded.

www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org

AUGUST PROGRAM

Native Orchids of Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic Region

An AOS Webinar by Bob Sprague

The Mid-Atlantic region is home to a surprising number of native orchids; most of them are threatened or endangered. Although some are colorful and flamboyant, many are small and inconspicuous. This presentation by Bob Sprague will employ the magic of macro-photography to provide close-up views of most of them. In addition, you will learn about the amazing life histories of a number of these fascinating native plants. The program concludes with a discussion of current threats to our native orchid flora, ongoing research/conservation efforts, and how you can help.

A long-time Pennsylvania resident, Bob is the past President of the Native Orchid Conference (NOC) and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society (SEPOS) president.

WINTER SHORT COURSE
"ALL ABOUT ORCHIDS"

Hosted by Calcasieu Orchid Society and McNeese State University Collegiate FFA

SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 2026
In Gayle Hall, McNeese State University, 4380 Ryan St., Lake Charles LA, 70605
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bring plants for judging by 9 a.m.
AOS and Ribbon Judging will follow lunch, about 12:30 p.m.

ORCHIDS WILL BE FOR SALE BY SPRINGWATER ORCHIDS
(Pre-sale information to come)

SPEAKERS and DEMONSTRATIONS (not in stone; still being organized)

Thanh Nguyen — *Cattleyas, Paphs and Dendrobiums (details later)*
— *How to Prepare for a Frost*
Daria Souvorova - — *How to Prepare Plants for Showing*
— *How to Build an Award Winning Display*
Cecily Maciejeski & judges — *Hard Hat Repotting. We will discuss, then attack monster plants with saws and hammers.*

REGISTRATION:

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE: _____

Pay with Zeffy
Take photo of QR code

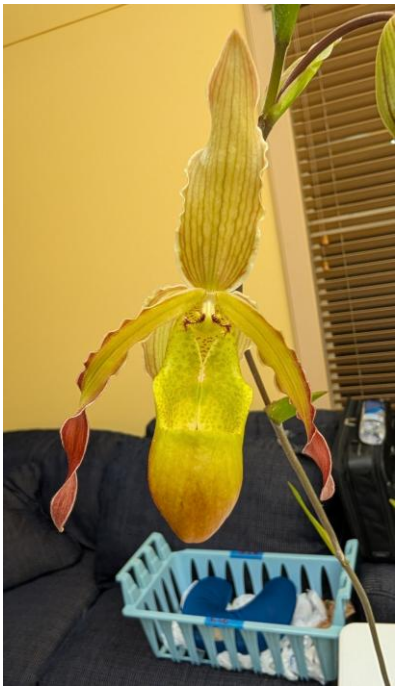
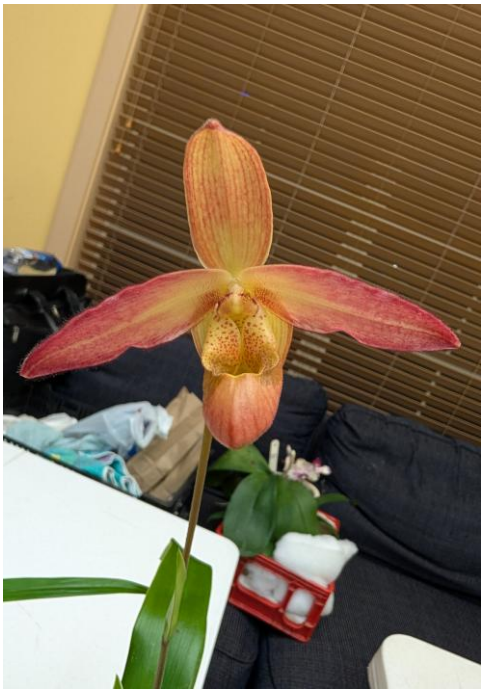
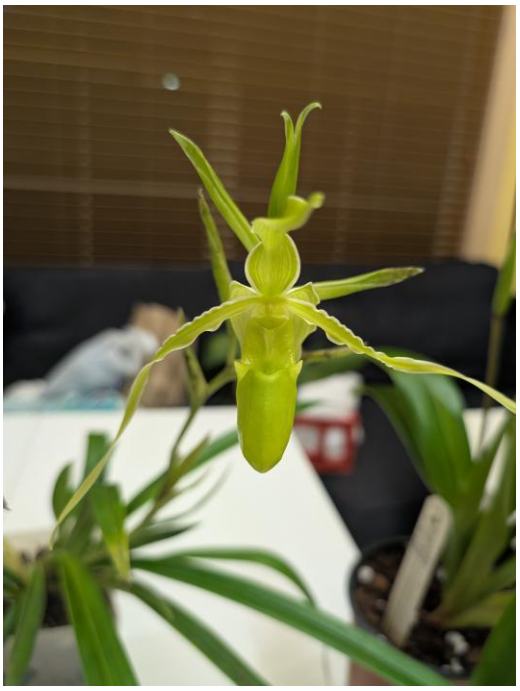
Cost for the Short Course is $40. Lunch is included.
Send checks to Calcasieu Orchid Society, c/o Mary Richardson, 4618 W Autumnwood Ln, Lake Charles, LA 70605
Questions?? Call Mary at 337-540-7713 or email to stmaryofbanners@gmail.com

Special Thanks to Randy Fuerst for sponsoring this event

Show and Tell Winners - Cattleya Category

1st Place: *Enc.* (Phoenicia x Plicata) - Eddie Dupuy
2nd Place: *C.* (Motte Spot x Cognac) - Andrea Mattison
3rd Place: *Ctt.* Gorgeous Becky - Al Taylor

Show and Tell Winners – Cypripedium Category

1st Place: *Phrag.* Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Candor Redrum' AM/AOS - Eron Borne
2nd Place: *Phrag.* Beresford 'Catahoula' HCC/AOS - Eron Borne
3rd Place: *Phrag. longifolium fma. album* 'Catahoula Mint' AM/AOS - Eron Borne

Show and Tell Winners – Other Category

1st Place: *Mttssa.* CM Fitch 'Izumi' - Myrna Ayo
2nd Place: *Odnta.* Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara' HCC/AOS - Myrna Ayo
2nd Place: *Mtps.* Tome Yokoyama 'Golden Gate' - Eron Borne – And Best Grown Plant (pictured below left)
2nd Place: *Hab.* Erich's Pink Thing - Eron Borne

Francisco Miranda speaking to the CLOS (below right)

The following is provided courtesy of Ray Barkalow of First Rays Orchids, at www.firstrays.com.

WATERING: DRENCH OR DUNK?

Water is the true driving force for growth, and a well-watered plant will grow and bloom better than one that is not as hydrated. Many orchid growers assume that leaving a plant submerged for an extended period will result in greater hydration than a simple watering. While soaking certainly has its place, orchid root physiology suggests that periodic drenching may be just as effective — sometimes more so and often more practical — for maximizing water uptake.

Orchid roots are designed to capture water quickly. The velamen, the spongy outer layer covering the roots, can become saturated within 30 seconds to a few minutes of exposure to water. Once saturated, water begins moving into the living tissues of the root and throughout the plant. Research and grower experience indicate that most of this uptake occurs during the first 15 to 30 minutes after wetting.

Because of this rapid absorption, the benefits of prolonged soaking diminish quickly. A one-hour soak generally provides only marginally more hydration than a 20- to 30-minute soak. Beyond that point, the roots continue to absorb water, but at a much slower rate as the plant approaches equilibrium.

Periodic drenching takes advantage of this same rapid uptake mechanism. A thorough watering saturates the velamen and root zone, initiating the same absorption process that occurs during soaking. If the roots are drenched again after they have begun to dry, the plant receives another opportunity for rapid uptake. In effect, multiple wetting cycles can stimulate repeated periods of particularly efficient absorption.

This mirrors the conditions under which many epiphytic orchids evolved. In nature, roots are rarely submerged for hours. Instead, they experience frequent rainfall, dew, or mist events that thoroughly wet the roots. Orchid roots evolved to exploit these brief hydration opportunities.

There are situations where soaking can be beneficial. Severely dehydrated plants, orchids growing in highly water-repellent media, and species with exceptionally thick roots may benefit from extended immersion to ensure complete wetting. However, for routine watering, prolonged soaking often provides little additional benefit compared to a thorough drench.

For growers whose primary goal is maximizing water uptake, which maximizes growth and flowering, the evidence suggests that success depends less on the duration of a single watering event and more on achieving complete wetting of

the root system whenever water is applied. Once the roots are fully saturated, repeated wetting cycles are often more effective than keeping them submerged for extended periods.

Other advantages of drenching over soaking is flushing fertilizer residues and plants wastes from the medium and aerating it. Consider these scenarios for two pots containing the same level of contamination:

1. Pot One is set into a tub of fresh water and allowed to soak for an extended period of time. Over that period, some of the contaminants, which are primarily deposited near the top surface of the medium due to accelerated evaporation, will dissolve in the water and be spread uniformly throughout the medium and absorbed. Meanwhile, being submerged, there is no gas exchange happening in the roots.

2. Pot Two is placed in the sink and a heavy "shower" of water is directed to the top surface of the potting mix. That "simulated rainfall" will mostly flush any contaminants down through medium column and out the bottom of the container. The motion of the water also entrains air, drawing it down through the mix, thoroughly oxygenating it at the same time.

Until next time... ***Good Growing!***

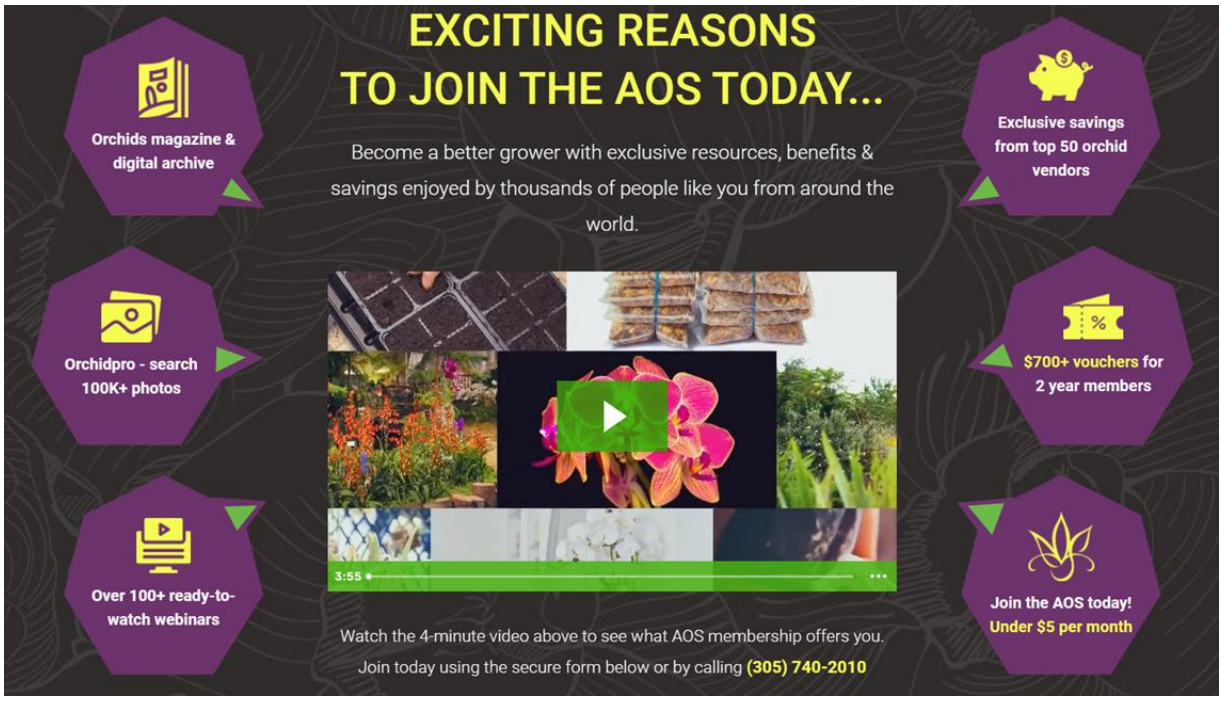
2026 August AOS Corner – for Affiliated Societies

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.



Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY 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
*Greenhouse Chat **webinars are recorded** and **summarized** by topic for future viewing.*

When	**July 09, 2026** **Thursday** 8:30 pm EDT	**SUMMER BREAK** **Review the Full Index of Recorded Webinars on the AOS Website**	**In Search Of Webinar Presenters**
Topic	***FREE Live*** **Greenhouse Chat** **Orchid Q & A** Answers to your questions about all things orchid. *Send in your Photos and Questions by July 07*	**Filter** by **Members Only** or **All** Viewers **Select From Title - Choose** Culture, Virtual Events, Judging, Pests and Diseases, Greenhouse Chats and More. Click **Register** or **Watch Now.**	**Future Webinars** You are invited to share *your* orchid knowledge with an enthusiastic audience of thousands. We can show you how. *Contact webinar organizer for details.* *greenhousechat@aos.org*
Presenter	**Ron McHatton** AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	**The Experts** Orchid Growers, Orchid Judges, Biologists, Scientists *and More.* Offering Culture Tips and Education.	**Expert Growers, Hobby Growers, AOS Judges, Scientists, Biologists and YOU!**

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 *

Oncidium (on-SID-ee-um)

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Welcome, I keep talking about judging and awards, because a big part of what you see in Orchids magazine—especially in the annual April issue—is the direct result of what happens at affiliated society shows, monthly judging center judging, and even outreach judging.

One thing most of us can agree on is that the beauty of the orchids displayed in the magazine is exactly why we open it as soon as it arrives. If you read it online, you get a head start—but for those of us who are old school enough to want to hold something in our hands, that first flip through still feels special.

Every April issue also gives us a moment to celebrate the plants that received the Special Award in each category for the year covered by that issue. For example, the April 2026 edition showcases the winners from 2024.

If you're new to orchids, the Special Awards are endowed and named in honor of people who were special in the orchid world. I didn't have the pleasure of meeting Herbert Hager, but I know the genus Phalaenopsis was near and dear to his heart, because it's his name that graces the Special Award for Phalaenopsis. I chose to mention it because a Phalaenopsis is often the "gateway orchid" into the orchid-growing mania that affects—or at least charms—many of us judges. There are currently 25 endowed Special Awards for specific species, or hybrids, or intergeneric hybrids. I encourage you to re-read the April 2026 issue to learn about all of the Awards.

One of those awards, the Merritt W. Huntington Award—given for the most outstanding flower awarded a First Class Certificate (FCC)—can only recognize one flower. Well in 2025 there were 116 FCC awards. Carol Klonowski's article on the 2025 FCC winners in the April 2026 magazine, "Pointed Praise," highlights and includes pictures of all 116 FCC winners.

Another thing you might not realize is how long it takes for that recognition—and the award photos—to make it into the magazine. The April 2026 issue recognizes plants awarded in 2024. Part of the reason for the lag is that it takes time to enter all the awards, and then each Judging Center votes to select its best candidate for each Special Award category. Some categories have many choices, which makes the decision especially challenging, while other categories may have fewer plants grown, shown, and awarded. Often, a specific Judging Center has a particularly beneficial climate or particularly strong growers for a certain type of orchid. When fewer than about 15 plants are awarded in a Special Award category each year, all the plants in that category are added to the candidate pool so that judges around the country can see and vote on a variety of flowers.

There are two rounds in the selection process. In the first round, each Judging Center makes its selection from all its awards for that year and sends it to Laura Newton for compilation. Laura is the Director of Awards and Special Projects, she is integral to the Special Award process. In the second round, after the Special Award categories are populated by Laura, each active 2 | Page AOS Affiliated Societies Newsletter AOS Corner August 2026 judge—whether emeritus, senior, accredited, associate, or student—votes on each Special Award.

Once the votes are tallied, the results are presented each April, along with a picture of the winning orchid and a brief description that includes the award, the exhibitor, where the award was granted, and, of course, the photographer—Nile Dusdieker is the author of the 2026 article featuring all of the 2024 Special Award winners.

There are also awards especially for the grower. These are granted to the person who grew a plant that was awarded a CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit) or a CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence). The "trick" to this kind of award is that the plant itself has to be as spectacular as the flowers—it's not enough to have beautiful blooms. This is truly one of the highest honors one can receive.

If you see a plant with a tag that has AM/CCM/AOS, that means it has both a quality award and a cultural award. When you spot a plant on the vendor bench at a show, or at your society auction, with multiple awards shown on the tag snag it. It's a great plant to acquire—because it should grow really well. Happy growing!

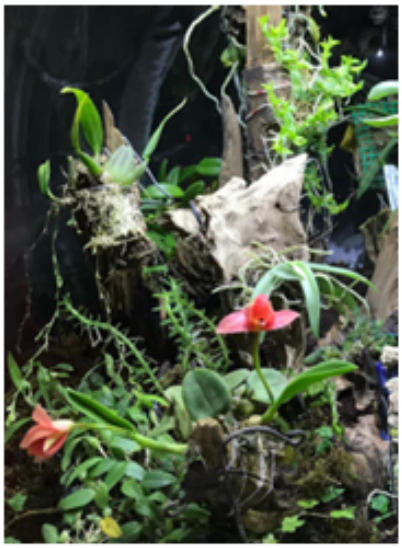
AOS Affiliated Societies Newsletter **AOS Corner** August 2026

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.



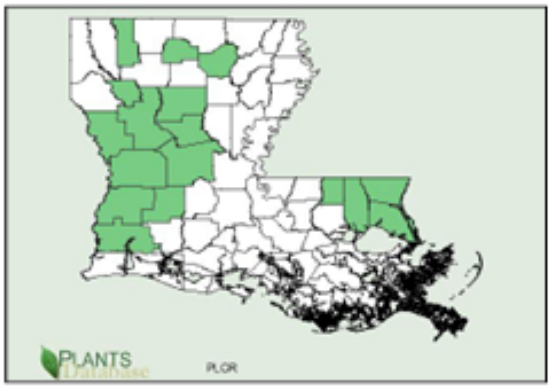
One of our top orchid growers in the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society is Vicki Hallock and she loves "all things tiny!" She, herself, is small in stature and she loves to grow little bitty orchids. In the past few years as she looked into growing in terrariums and creating stunning designs with suitable 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, Grosourdya, 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 cristata
(crested yellow orchid)

The rare perennial crested yellow orchid (*Platanthera cristata*) can be found in low moist meadows and open woods. It grows from a tuberous root with a stem that is 12- to 32-inches tall with flower heads up to 4-inches long. It has two to four lanceolate leaves that are glossy-green and lance-shaped. The leaves are about 8-inches long at the base of the stem, but much shorter higher up the stem.



The 30 to 80 flowers are borne in a showy raceme at the top of the stem. The flowers are small, about 1/2 –inch tall with elongated spurs and deeply fringed lips. They range in color from yellow to deep orange. The column forms a beak or hook over the lip, which is diagnostic for this species.

Crested yellow orchid is an attractive plant that ranges along the east and Gulf coasts and southern states. The northern limit of its range is in eastern Massachusetts.

It blooms from June through August and is found in moist sandy and peaty meadows, marshes, prairies, pine savannas, wet wooded flats, seeping slopes, and sphagnum bogs.

Central Louisiana Orchid Society

Data compiled from various sources and provided courtesy of the Central Louisiana Orchid Society.
www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org

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

https://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.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.

https://louisianajudgingcenter.weebly.com