

<http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org>



President's Message

It seems that we are in the time of year where we can experience any season of weather. Stay vigilant with your watering, heating, and/or cooling, as well as constant circulation of the air. Within the last couple of weeks we have had snow, in-the-teen temperatures, rain, sun, and temps in the low 80's, and back to the 30's. Quite a hodgepodge of experiences, so stay vigilant with your orchid care. Of course, one of my heaters went out over one of those low-temp nights and the Vandas are dropping yellow leaves kind of like the snow. Hope no one else experienced that.

February birthday wishes to Heather Wilfert (Feb 10) and Linda Roberts (Feb 27). Enjoy your celebrations and remember it's just a number!

Our show is upon us again and those 18 months seem to have flown by. We will need all the help we can get because it takes everyone's participation to have a successful show. If you are available, don't be too timid to just jump in where you can. Friday is the big day to set up, judge, and award trophies, so try to be there and pitch in where needed. If you are interested in helping to clerk for the show, please let Jim B. know. It is a great learning experience for beginners and experienced members, too. The easiest way to learn about orchids is to experience them at many different shows. We all have our favorite genera, and various shows will have things we may never see at our show. So, keep that in mind for planning your future schedule.

We will have other shows coming up this year and will need volunteers to set up and break down our exhibits at those shows. Please try to volunteer when you can and enjoy the shows you attend.

Happy growing! *Russel Deroche, Jr.*



Meeting Time and Place:
Sunday, February 16, 2025
Time: 2:30 pm

Show & Tell entry is 2:00-2:20
Program: Final Show
Preparation and Planning

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

Refreshments: Russel

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

2025 Orchid Show

We need help from ALL of our CLOS members. Please come to this month's meeting as we are finalizing planning for our show. Thank you and we look forward to an amazing show this year!



Central Louisiana Orchid Society

Orchid Show and Sale

“Carnival of Orchids”

Friday, February 28, 2025, 2:00-5:00pm

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 8:00-4:00pm

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

February Birthdays

Heather Wilfert (Feb 10), Linda Roberts (Feb 27)

FEBRUARY MEETING

Final Show Planning

We will not have a formal program this month as we will spend the meeting doing final planning and preparation for our show later this month.

Tip of the Month

Spring is around the corner. Order your potting supplies early to make sure they are not sold out when it is time to repot.

Observe plants (including companion plants like bromeliads) carefully for signs of disease and insects. Avoid having heated or air-conditioned drafts blowing directly on orchids. Do not bring you plants out too early. It is starting to warm but you can expect more orchid threatening cold fronts through March.

- 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.

Central Louisiana Orchid Society
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2025

1.0 Call to Order

President Russel Deroche called the meeting to order at 1441.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes were approved from our December meeting. All were in favor.

3.0 Officer Reports

3.1 President Report

- 3.1.1 Russel announced this month's birthdays are Russel, Andrea and Richard.
- 3.1.2 Russel reported our bank account to be balanced but that we need to think about selling plants at our show. Al said he will be able to acquire plants for this purpose.
- 3.1.3 Russel went through this year's Refreshment sign-up and months still available.

3.2 Vice President Report

- 3.2.1 Vice-President Richard was unable to attend.

3.3 Treasurer Report

The treasurer report was given by the treasurer Jim Barnett.

- 3.3.1 Overview of CLOS Deposits/Withdrawals since last month and current financial state of the society.
- 3.3.2 Raffle Tickets for sale – Many items were donated for the raffle this month. Everyone was encouraged to buy tickets.
- 3.3.3 Treasurer Jim gave Al T. a check to pay insurance for our society. Jim will also pay our SWROGA membership dues and an annual donation to St. James Episcopal Church for the use of their clubhouse for our monthly meetings.

- 3.4 **Secretary Report** – Heather explained she had been unsuccessful so far in contacting the Girl Scouts but would continue to try.

4.0 Old Business

- 4.1 Al reported plants for our show for sale are set to be ordered.
- 4.2 Russel and Eron have been going over the schedule for our spring show. Members discussed types of publicity and materials needed for our show.
- 4.3 Al will be the judging coordinator and has been reaching out to all the other judges. The judges' dinner and hospitality will be arranged by Andrea and Judy. Staging will be handled by Eron, Russel and any members present.

- 4.4 Our society has enough awards and trophies. Linda will be the Trophy committee chair for the show; Janie will help Linda. Linda will have merchandise for sale with two tables.
- 4.5 To encourage new members, we will give a free orchid to each person who joins.

5.0 New Business

- 5.1 We welcomed new CLOS members today, Janie and Scott, and Jacob! Eron explained Jacob was a part of the AOS youth program last year. In addition, Jacob was in the December addition of the American Orchid Society's ORCHIDS magazine.
- 5.2 Our society's show has been published at the SWORGA site. Eron will forward the SWORGA newsletter to members.
- 5.3 Al had the receipt, policy, and details for our new insurance.
- 5.4 Congratulations Andrea for this year's Gremillion Trophy! This was accomplished by having the highest Show and Tell points for the year.

6.0 Program

Our program today was "Brassavola orchids and Broughtonia sanguinea" and was presented by Eron Borne. This was a nice educational program with beautiful images of orchids to enjoy.

7.0 Raffle and Show & Tell

Raffle Winners: Andrea, Janie and Russel

Door Prize Winner: Al

Eron provided the refreshments this month.

Show and Tell voting and winners presented as follows:

Best Grown Plant: *Coelogyne wentzellii* – Al

Cattleya Alliance: 1st – *Lc. Alarcon* 'Gran Jeanne Marie' Am/AOS – Eron

2nd (tie) – *Epc. Butterfly Kisses* – Andrea

2nd (tie) – *Pot. Starfire* – Andrea

Dendrobium Alliance: 1st – *Den. Enobie* – Linda

2nd – *Den. Popper Red* – Andrea

3rd – *Den. Unknown* – Andrea

All Others Group: 1st – *Coelogyne wentzellii* – Al

2nd – *Dracula Swamp Fox* – Eron

There was no other business.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1632.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Wilfert
Secretary

Show and Tell Winners - Cattleya Category



1st – *Lc. Alarcon 'Gran Jeanne Marie'* AM/AOS –Eron, 2nd (tie) – *Pot. Starfire* – Andrea, 2nd (tie) – *Epc. Butterfly Kisses* - Andrea

Dendrobium Category



1st – *Den. Enobie* – Linda, 2nd – *Den. Popper Red* - Andrea, 3rd – *Den. unnamed* - Andrea

Others Category



1st – *Coelogyne wentzellii* – Al (and also best grown) (above), 2nd – *Dracula Swamp Fox* – Eron (below)



President Russel presenting Andrea Mattison with the 2024 Gremillion Trophy for the most show and tell points last year. Congratulations Andrea!



Basic Orchid Growing in a Nutshell

A great many folks will give out advice about orchid growing, but they tend to tell you WHAT to do, rather than explaining WHY you should, which will help your understanding of the hobby. This document seeks to be a basic primer to help you grow your orchid better and more easily.

Orchids are the "Goldilocks" of the plant world, with each type having its own set of "just right" cultural conditions. Plants within a single genus often have similar requirements, but not always. There are some variations within the commonly grown genus, phalaenopsis, for example. A few of the species, such as bellina and venosa, like it hot, approaching triple digits and never getting cooler than about 75°F, while others, such as wilsonii and honghenensis, originate in locations that can reach freezing and rarely see temperatures above 75°F.

Orchids are not particularly difficult to grow, but to be successful, one must understand exactly what the plant needs, so that those cultural parameters may be met. In the case of hybrids, it is usually acceptable to "average" the requirements of the species in their backgrounds.

Feeding and watering often confuses growers but can be greatly simplified. Fertilizer is one of the least important aspects of orchid culture. For any plant to add a pound of mass - a few weeks for corn (maize) in the middle of summer, several years for a phalaenopsis, or a lifetime for a tiny pleurothallis - it only needs to consume and process about 5 grams - about a teaspoon - of fertilizer, most of that being nitrogen. So, pick one with a complete formula and use it sparingly and regularly. In my 50+ years of orchid growing, I have found that applying a solution containing 75-125 ppm nitrogen per week is a great level to sustain growth and blooming. Fortunately, there is an easy way to estimate that: Simply divide 8 by the %N in the formula; the result is teaspoons/gallon for the middle of that range, giving you room to round up or down for measuring convenience.

For example, a 30-10-10 fertilizer would require $8/30=0.2667$, so one-quarter teaspoon per gallon, which is fine for weekly application. If you feed every two weeks, double that numerator to 16. (Think of "ppm N" as

being the plant equivalent of our dietary "calories" - fewer "meals" requires more "calories" per meal.)

Water is the true driving force for growth. To gain that same one pound of mass, in addition to the teaspoon of fertilizer, the plant must absorb and process about 25 gallons (~200 pounds) of water. Plus, as plants can lose as much as 95% of their absorbed water through transpiration, that means the total water demand is more on the order of 500 gallons (~2 tons)!

Good roots means good plants, but how to care for them can be confusing, as there seems to be as many options as there are growers. Let's start by dispelling a few myths: ? Water does not cause root rot, ? orchids do not need to dry out between waterings, and ? there is no single potting medium that is perfect for any plant in any environment.

Unlike terrestrial plants that do almost all their respiratory gas exchange processes through their leaves, orchids have evolved, presumably as a water retention strategy, to do much of that through their roots. That means we must be careful to provide the roots with plenty of air in addition to water, and that's where the choice of potting medium comes into play.

For the most part, orchids get no nutrition from the potting medium. Instead, it provides the plants with mechanical stability and acts as temporary storage of water and nutrients. Let's look at what's going on in the pot when we water.

When we water an orchid, most of the solution just pours right through. Some is immediately absorbed by the plant and the potting medium, but it is a third fraction of that solution that is important to consider - that held in the voids between the particles of the potting mix.

If the voids in the mix are small, due to it being too tightly packed, becoming more and more dense as it ages, or if too fine of a mix is used in the first place, then the surface tension will be strong enough to fill them, preventing free airflow around the roots, leading to their suffocation and death. It isn't the water that kills roots, it's the lousy potting medium! (If you let that medium dry, those pathways reopen, which is probably where the myth that "orchids must dry out between watering" originated.) If, on the other hand, the potting mix used is sufficiently coarse, gravity overwhelms the surface tension and the larger void spaces drain, allowing

the root system to "breathe" and stay healthy. THAT is where we must make a "judgement call" and do a bit of experimentation.

A coarse mix provides plenty of air, but holds less water and dries out rapidly, so requires frequent watering. A finer mix holds more water so can be watered less frequently but poses a potential root suffocation risk. Plus, you need to consider how the rest of your growing conditions affect that. High humidity slows evaporation, while higher temperatures, light levels and air movement accelerate it. Your #1 task as a grower, is to find that "just right" balance to keep "Goldilocks" happy.

That can be accomplished by selecting an "in between" grade of potting mix ingredients, by mixing a small amount of a high water-holding ingredient in with a coarser mix (bits of sphagnum in a coarser bark is often seen), or by using a plastic pot with only bottom drainage, rather than a highly perforated-, or clay container.

Think about what the plant needs, then think about how all the factors above play a role in achieving that, and put a "personal preference" layer on top - do you like to "mess with" your plants, or are you more of one to "admire from afar"? What does your schedule permit?

A word about changing potting media. At some point, you're going to have to repot the plant, whether that is because the container and medium it's in when you get it is inappropriate for your situation, the plant may have outgrown the current container, or because the potting mix has aged and is decomposing. Understand the following about roots:

As roots grow, they "tailor" themselves on a cellular level to function optimally in that environment, and once they have grown, they cannot change. If you move the plant into a different potting medium, you change the root environment and have immediately rendered the existing roots "sub-optimal", and they will begin to fail. How rapidly that happens is controlled by the extent of the differences between the old and new media. Therefore, the best time to repot is just as new roots are emerging from the base of the plant. The old roots will fade away, but the new ones will take over and support the plant.

Once you have settled on the "just right" container and potting mix for a plant, the best strategy is to replace that mix with the same material before

it has aged significantly. That way, the "old" and "new" conditions will be so similar, the plant will experience little- to no repotting stress.

Until next time... *Good Growing!*



2025 February 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.

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When	Feb. 05, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 12, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	March 05, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	April 03, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 02</i>	Inorganic Potting Media, Never Repot Again Part 2 Inorganic Potting Media	Why Won't It Bloom? Explore Common and Other Reasons Your Orchid Fails to Bloom	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 31</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Long time orchid grower across multiple states and in different environments.	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer



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

Use the WEBINAR Display Filter

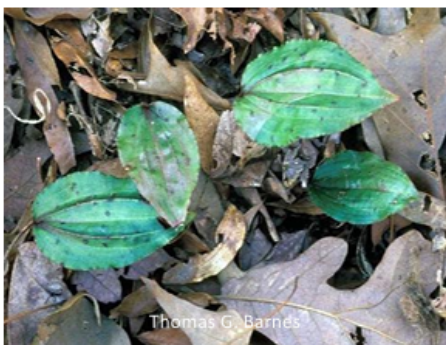
Native Orchid of the Month—February

Tipularia discolor (crippled crane-fly orchid)

Tipularia discolor or crippled crane-fly orchid is widely distributed throughout the eastern United States and it is found across most of northern Louisiana (see map). Its habitat is in humus-rich soil of deciduous woodlands; frequently in sandy, acid oak-pine woods near streams.



The plant is easy to identify during the winter months because of its distinctive leaves. The dull to shiny green leaves (sometimes with raised purple spots) and purple on the bottom side show up well against a brown ground cover of dead leaves and needles. They appear as single



oval shaped leaves that emerge in autumn (September and October), over-winter, and disappear in the late spring. There are no leaves at the time the orchid blooms.

Usually, the leaves wither away by the end of April. The flowering stem is 15 to 20 inches tall, erect, herbaceous, greenish-brown, glabrous, and essentially leafless. It originates from a small corm to flower from June to September and may have up to 40

small, greenish-purple flowers with a spindly, fly-like appearance. It is one of few orchids with distinctly asymmetrical flowers.

Moths pollinate the plant. The flowers have pollinaria. Pollinaria are specialized structures containing pollen found in orchids. The moth travels to the flower, the pollinaria attaches to the moth's eyes, and then the moth can transfer the pollinaria to another flower for pollination.



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
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*For more information contact us at
judges@aos.org*

