

<http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org>



President's Message

Even though we're still in late winter, we're far enough south that there are recognizable seasonal changes going on inside our greenhouses. Now is the time to stake Phals for proper display in the next month or two. The regular preparation for spring growing time is on you now. Next month repotting time begins in earnest. I saw a mealy bug in my greenhouse 10 days ago, so I have to do a pesticide treatment this week. We have enough days with warm overnights in a row that we don't have to worry as much about keeping our orchids too cool overnight so that botrytis affects our flowers. Botrytis has caused me weeks of delay showing and appreciating my flowers. It loves cool, damp conditions. I have found that calculating when I water and how deeply I water can keep botrytis at bay. For the last three years I water as little as possible and not only does it keep botrytis from being an issue, my plants actually flower better. Those of us with Vandas have more of an issue with the winter watering, because these Vandas drop leaves when they don't get watered often. Buying plants for the conditions you can provide is an art itself. As winter dormancy ends, new cycles of watering, fertilizing, and air movement begin. It's all fun and makes us think more deeply keeping us as young as we feel.

Good growing to you all.

Al Taylor



Meeting Time and Place:
Sunday, February 15, 2026
Time: 2:30 pm

Show & Tell entry is 2:00-2:20
**Program: Orchid Roundtable
Q&A Discussion**
Presented By: Myrna Ayo

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

**Refreshments: Pat, Yvonne, and
Myrna**

Central Louisiana Orchid Society Officers

President – Al Taylor
Vice President – Eron Borne
Secretary – Heather Wilfert
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

FEBRUARY MEETING

Orchid Roundtable Discussion

This has been a popular idea that has been brought up from time to time. This month, we will hear from all our members in a round-table discussion. Myrna will lead the discussion and we ask all members come up with a question to ask at the meeting in addition to some standard pre-arranged questions.

Please send your question to Myrna at myrnaayo@gmail.com.

We have lots of very experienced growers in our club and this is a great opportunity to hear their suggestions and tips!



Tip of the Month

The lower overall temperatures of February call for less frequent and lighter applications of fertilizer as was the practice in January. If any reddening of the foliage persists, another application of Epsom salts (1 tbsp per gal), preferably in combination with potassium nitrate, is called for. Nitrate nitrogen is more available to the plants under cooler conditions than ammoniacal nitrogen. If your resolve holds steady not to water (or above all) fertilize those Himalayan dendrobiums, your reward may shortly become evident in bursting flower spikes.

Many cattleyas and other sympodial orchids have bloomed and are just commencing new growth in February. Right after flowering is usually an excellent time for repotting from the plant's perspective and the cool day time temperatures in the greenhouse are hospitable to the orchid grower as well. It's still a bit early to re-basket vandas, but an early start on the cattleyas will allow plenty of time and energy for those spring chores which are right around the corner. With that thought setting out to secure a good supply of pots in anticipation of the potting season ahead is on February's agenda.

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.



February Birthdays



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

Central Louisiana Orchid Society
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2026

1.0 Call to Order

President Al Taylor called the meeting to order at 1429.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes were approved from our December meeting by all members.

3.0 Officer Reports

3.1 President Report

3.1.1 Al announced January's birthdays for Pat, Andrea, Lisa, Russel, and Richard. All members wished them a Happy Birthday.

3.1.2 It was decided to table our participation details in the upcoming Calcasieu Orchid Society show, March 14, 2026.

3.2 Vice President Report

3.2.1 Heather Wilfert will present a program of her experience growing orchids and other plants in a sunroom at February's meeting. Our March program will be a round table discussion and April will be our annual repotting at Andreas.

3.2.2 Eron offered to order orchid potting medium for anyone who would like some and for our society.

3.3 Treasurer Report

The treasurer report was given by the treasurer Russel Deroche, Jr.

Our annual contribution to the church and our insurance liability was paid.

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.

3.4 **Secretary Report** – Heather sent Al the updated ads for CenLa Focus monthly and he will send them in to be published.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 The February Judges Workshop hosted by the Dallas Judging Center was moved to June 13th.

4.2 We will revisit our meeting date for June because of Father's Day and if it should be changed.

4.3 December meeting will be on the 20th.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Congratulations Andrea for this years', her third, Gremillion Trophy! This was accomplished by having the highest Show and Tell points for the year. Photo was taken of Eron presenting her with a certificate and gift from our society.

5.2 Eron presented Russel with Certificate of Appreciation from AOS and CLOS for his contributions. He has served as President for two years, Show Co-chair twice and handles the classification and entries for our shows.

Program

Growing Cymbidiums in the South presented by Rick Allardyce. Rick gave a well thought out presentation on cymbidium care. He shared his experience on watering, pesticides, potting.

6.0 Raffle and Show & Tell

Raffle Winners: Pat, Al, Yvonne, Linda, Russel and Rick.

Door Prize Winner: Eron

Al and Rick provided the refreshments this month.

Show and Tell voting and winners presented as follows:

Best Grown Plant: *Lc.* Tropical Trick – Myrna

Cattleya Alliance: 1st – *Lc.* Tropical Trick – Myrna

2nd (tie) – *Rth.* Kin Star FC – Al

2nd (tie) – *Pot.* Star fire – Andrea

All Others Group: 1st (tie) – *Phrag.* Inca Embers 'Julia Elizabeth' HCC/AOS -Eron

1st (tie) – *Bulb. cercanthum* – Eron

2nd – *Den.* Quintal's Punch – Myrna

There was no other business.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Wilfert
Secretary

Show and Tell Winners - Cattleya Category



1st – *Lc. Tropical Trick* – Myrna (also Best Grown), 2nd (tie) – *Rth. Kin Star FC* – Al,
2nd (tie) – *Pot. Star Fire* – Andrea, & Myrna with her best grown cattleya plant (below)



Other Category



1st (tie) – *Phragmipedium Inca Embers 'Julia Elizabeth'* HCC/AOS – Eron, 1st (tie) – *Bulb. cercanthum* – Eron,
3rd – *Dendrobium Quintal's Punch* – Myrna (below), Show and Tell Table (below right)



Choosing a Container for your Orchid

One sometimes hears the question: *“What’s the best pot for my orchid?”*

The correct answer to that is that there isn’t a single, best pot. In fact, it might not be a pot at all! Instead, when choosing a container, it is best to consider the needs of the plant, how the pot interacts with the medium – and how the two, together, interact with your environment, and how much you like to “mess with” your plants.

When choosing a container for a plant, you have several options:

- Clay with solid sides
- Clay with slots or other perforations in the sidewall
- Solid, opaque plastic
- Solid, clear plastic
- Slotted, opaque plastic
- Slotted, clear plastic
- Semi-hydroponic (clear or opaque)
- Net
- Plastic basket
- Wooden basket

While there are always exceptions, I am not including glazed, clay pots in the list, as they tend to be too suffocating to the plant, so should only be used as decorative pot covers, and not as the primary container.

The pot is designed to contain the potting medium the plant is growing in, but can affect that volume of medium and the resulting local conditions with its own properties – evaporation rate being the most significant.

If we have the same potting medium in each (We'll ignore S/H, as that's more than just a pot choice), the loss of water due to evaporation will vary greatly, in the following order – slowest to fastest:

1. Solid plastic
2. Slotted plastic
3. Clay
4. Perforated clay
5. Net
6. Baskets

As a side note, clear plastic may allow faster evaporation than opaque plastic, as the warming light flux can heat the medium, although one could argue that black or green plastic will absorb the energy and pass it onto the medium – I doubt either is all that significant for windowsill growers, but might be for outdoor or greenhouse growers.

The evaporation rate has a direct connection to the frequency of watering needed for the plant, but keep in mind that fast evaporation means there will be some evaporative cooling as well, which can affect the temperatures in the root zone, an important consideration.

That's pretty much it for the container, but now you have the added variable of choosing a potting medium, and as each choice results in an entirely different root zone environment that will react differently to the pot choice, you need to consider both.

Until next time... *Good Growing!*

Upcoming Orchid Shows

Calcasieu Orchid Society
Presents

A French Garden of Orchids

Orchid Show and Plant Sale



ORCHID EXHIBITS, PLANT VENDORS, ORCHID ART

March 14, 2026 - 12:00 Noon until 6:00PM

March 15, 2026 - 12:00 Noon until 5:00PM

Bulber Auditorium

McNeese State University

4305 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA

The American Orchid Society 2026 Spring Conference



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

*In conjunction with the Apopka
Spring International Orchid Festival
Apopka, FL*

April 8th -11th

Featuring:

- *Expert Orchid Speakers*
- *Hands-On Workshops*
- *Meeting of the Members*
- *Award Presentations*
- *AOS Elections*
- *Top Quality Vendors*
- *AOS Judging*
- *Welcome Reception*
- *Live & Silent Auctions*
- *Sumptuous Gala Dinner*

For more information visit <https://aos.org/members-meetings> or email TheAOS@aos.org.

Terrebonne Orchid Society Show and Sale
ORCHID REFLECTIONS

April 24, 25, 26, 2026

Southland Mall; 5953 West Park Avenue; Houma, LA 70364

24thWOC



Germany 2026

24th World Orchid Conference
26-29 March 2026 Dresden



2026 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.

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 pink orchid. 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: Percentage 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
 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	Feb. 10, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 12, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Mar. 03, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Special Selections
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 07</i>	Happy Roots Happy Orchids Get to the root of the matter to help you grow healthy orchids. How to create the ideal orchid root ecosystem.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 28</i>	All About Pests and Diseases Identify them and how to manage them. Filter Pests & Diseases from the recorded FULL INDEX category.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Orchid grower with success in various environments	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	AOS Chief Education and Science Officer, and Agdia Rep.



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 ***
Tolumnia (toh-LUM-nee-ah)



Native Orchid of the Month—February

Spiranthes vernalis (spring lady's tresses)

Spiranthes vernalis, commonly known as spring lady's tresses, is widely distributed across the eastern and central United States, from Texas to New Hampshire. It is pubescent and varies from ½ to 3 feet tall and produces four to five basal leaves which usually persist through flowering. The leaves are thick and up to 12 inches long, but only ½ inch wide.



The plant bears a spiraled inflorescence of up to 50 small white, cream-colored, or yellowish flowers that are fragrant and less than ½ inch long. The inflorescence is covered in small hairs, and the labellum or lip occasionally has two orange or brown spots near the center and curves downward.

It flowers as early as January, but more likely April and May, in the southern portion of its range. It is typically found in dry to moist meadows, prairies, fields,

along roadsides, and occasionally in bogs. *Spiranthes vernalis* is one of the more common species of native orchids.



*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*



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>