CENTRAL LOUISIANA ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 42 ISSUE 7 July 2021

http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org

From the President

Greetings CLOS members. Our usual meeting place will NOT be available for our July orchid meeting. We should be on line to have access in August. So hang in there.

The Louisiana Judging Center is finally meeting at the West Side Regional Library, our new permanent location. Our next meeting of the LJC will be Saturday July 24, 2021, which is our usual fourth Saturday of the month meeting date, starting at 11:00AM with training and 1:00PM actual judging.

Any members of our CLOS society are welcome to attend and view or even help with the judging. Bring any of your blooming orchid plants to be evaluated for an AOS national award. Last judging we awarded four out of nine entries.

Hope to see all of you in August.

Wilton



CLOS meetings canceled until meeting room becomes available.

July meeting canceled

Central Louisiana Orchid Society Officers

President –Wilton Guillory Vice President – Al Taylor Secretary –Andrea Mattison Treasurer – Jim Barnett Director –Eron B SWROGA Director#1 Linda R SWROGA Director#2 Eron B AOS Representative –Wilton ODC Representative – Wilton ODC Representative – Andrea Mattison Conservation Rep-Jim Barnett Newsletter Editor – Connie Guillory Show& Tell –Rick Allardyce



Barkeria melanocaulon 'Louisiana' HCC/AOS 79 points

Al Taylor's plant



Phrag. Vingtaine duRoquier 'Catahoula Goliath' AM/AOS 85 points Eron Borne's Plant



C. Catahoula Sunset 'Julia Katherine' AM/AOS 82 points

Eron Borne's Plant



Choloscista vinidiflava 'Snookie' HCC/AOS 77 points

Dr. Mary Mancini's plant

The Summer Doldrums: How to Care for Your Orchids During the Wilds of Summer

Summer presents challenges in the form of increased pest activity, fungal and bacterial problems in traditionally wet areas and desiccation in those areas with Mediterranean-like climates where summers are typically quite dry. Observation is the watchword for the summer months. Careful observation of your plants is the best way to identify small problems before they become big problems and in the summer, the time between these two events is dramatically shorter due to higher temperatures --- the earlier you catch a problem, the easier it is to control.



Pest Control

For small collections, the best thing to do is to physically wipe insects off and clean the plant. Isopropyl alcohol and a cotton swab are very effective against most pests and if you want to increase its effectiveness, a drop of Ivory dishwashing liquid added to the alcohol helps wet the typically waxy surface of orchid leaves. If you haven't been watching carefully and the infestation gets out of control, you might have to use chemicals. Few pesticides are specifically rated for use on orchids but you can use any that are labeled for ornamentals. Use care and follow the label directions. This is NOT a situation where if a little is good, more will be better!

In areas with dry summers, mites can be a serious problem especially on Phalaenopsis. These creatures attack the surface of the leaves producing a sort of rough, silvery appearance. Mites are not insects and insecticides offer little or no control. Mites do not like humid conditions so efforts to increase humidity are beneficial. Light infestations can be controlled by thoroughly cleaning plants but

in hot, dry climates light infestations rapidly become serious and control is best accomplished by the use of a miticide.



Bacterial rot on Phalaenopsis leaf.

Areas with wet summers

Wet foliage and high humidity encourages the spread of fungal and bacterial diseases. Bacterial diseases do not respond to fungicides and vice versa so it's very important to know which disease you are dealing with. Perhaps the easiest way to distinguish between the two is by smell. The most common bacterial disease in orchids produces a foul smell often likened to dead fish. If you've ever had cut flowers stand too long in water you know the sort of smell we're talking about.



Black rot, a fungal disease on Cattleya leaves.

Diseases can spread quickly! Bacterial diseases kill plants especially rapidly and time is of the essence. Both bacterial and fungal diseases are spread by splashing water and this includes rainfall. Use a clean cutting tool like a single-edge razor blade, cut off the infected tissue as well as at least an inch of clean, green area and then treat the cut surface with a fungicide. Even if the problem is bacterial, you don't want a fungal infection to start in the wound. Cinnamon, yes the common spice, is effective against fungal diseases and this can be used to coat the cut surface as well. It's perhaps not as effective as a chemical fungicide but it's readily available and does work.

In wet summer areas, the to control is to keep your plants as dry as possible. Alternatively, provide a lot of air movement. When you water, try to do so as early in the day as possible. This will allow adequate time for the foliage to dry before nightfall.

Dry summer areas

The bane of orchid growers in these areas is extremely low humidity and this leads to two issues. The first of these is an increase in the rate at which plants dry out and the other is the ever-present mite

issue.

Orchids in dry summer areas dry out much more rapidly than they did in the winter. Depending on temperature, plants watered every two weeks in the winter may need to be watered every few days in the summer. Here again, nothing will take the place of careful observation. If you have an extensive collection of plants, you might want to consider installing a misting system similar to those used in open-air restaurants in dry areas. Low pressure units that install on hose lines are inexpensive and work reasonably well to raise humidity as well as cool the growing area somewhat.



A desiccated Cattleya note lack of live roots.

Summer sun - how does that affect orchids

Solar radiation is much more intense in the summer and plants that have been happily in full sun all winter may need a little extra protection (shade) when the sun is the strongest or, often during the late afternoon when the temperatures are highest. Orchids are easily sunburned and you should take care when moving plants around, especially if you are moving plants grown inside during the winter to a spot outside for the summer. Sunburn, while not in itself a serious problem is irreversible and will make your plants look ugly. In serious cases the plant can be killed outright and any leaf damage is an invitation to a secondary infection in the damaged area.



Sunburn on a Bifrenarialeaf.

Orchid foliage should be a light yellow-green. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. If the problem is caught before the chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.

Capitalizing on the high-growth season

Because of the increased light and temperatures, your plants will benefit from more fertilizer (increased frequency NOT concentration). This is especially true for those varieties that put out new growth during this time. Avoid fertilizers that contain significant amounts of urea. Urea requires soil organisms to convert it to forms useable by orchids and the process liberates significant amounts of acid. If you are growing in a predominantly inorganic media like rock or aliflor, soil organisms aren't prevalent and these media have poor buffering capacity. If you are growing in fir back media, as the medium ages, it naturally becomes more acidic and less able to buffer the pH shifts caused by metabolism of urea.

Plants will also dry out faster and to avoid root damage, water your plants first before fertilizing. This way the roots will be wet and much less easily damaged by the salts in the fertilizer solution.

If you grow your plants inside during the cooler months, moving them outside for the summer is very often a "shot in the arm" and your plants will respond with renewed vigor. There's something about natural air movement, humidity and rainfall that just can't be duplicated indoors. Just remember, make the transition slowly. Place them under very heavy shade for a few days, then somewhat less shade for a few days and then move them to their summer homes paying careful attention to the color of the foliage. You'll be glad you did.

Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education, 2009

Taken from: https://www.aos.org/orchids/additional-resources/summer-orchidcare.aspx?utm_source=ONTRAPORT-email-broadcast&utm_medium=ONTRAPORT-emailbroadcast&utm_term=Active+Members&utm_content=Your+July+AOS+Orchidgram&utm_campaign=07072021 https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/centennial-celebration.aspx

AOS

Our Centennial Celebration at the Historic Biltmore Hotel

From our founding in 1921, the AOS has been the go-to resource for orchid growers of all stripes. Many members are hobbyists who enjoy growing orchids and want to learn more about them. Others enjoy the thrill of exhibiting their orchids in shows hosted by local orchid societies. And still, others aspire to become an orchid judge. Many are interested in the latest hybridizing trends, others in protecting orchids in the wild, and still others in research that advances orchidology.

From our award-winning Orchids magazine to the well-attended educational Webinars about all things orchid... from the expert speakers and outstanding vendors at the popular AOS members meeting to the highly respected system for awarding orchids of superior quality... from our conservation initiatives support to our research projects sponsorship... the AOS is the connecting place for people whose common interest is the orchid.

The Board of Trustees and the Centennial Celebration Committee look forward to welcoming you to this momentous event and its Fall Members Meeting activities.

Join us at the beautiful landmark location - The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida, for days of camaraderie, orchids, and jubilee as we reminisce about our past and aim forward to the next 100 years!



2021 JULY AOS Corner – for Affiliated Societies

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications.

We encourage use of the AOS website by all members. http://www.aos.org

https://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.aspx

Anyone working with deadlines recently? Time to water, fertilize or repot your orchids? While many communities are resuming activity nearly equal to post pandemic, there are still some that are more restrictive than others. Our local society is holding an in-person auction this month and there is some apprehension as to whether it will be successful or not. We have the plants, but will we have the people on hand to bid and make it successful? Is this what the new normal looks like? Meanwhile there is opportunity to get more deeply involved in the leadership of the orchid community by serving as an American Orchid Society volunteer, and an opportunity to get your story published in the annual essay contest. They both have deadlines.

Call for Nominations for the American Orchid Society Board of Trustees

The AOS is seeking nominations for members of the Board of Trustees of the American Orchid Society, for all <u>six</u> <u>officers</u> (for 2022-2024) and <u>four trustees</u> (for 2022-2025). Members may nominate any AOS member in good standing, including themselves, and shall provide a rationale as to why they should be considered. All nominations will be evaluated by the Nominating Committee and a slate will be mailed, in accordance with the by-laws, prior to the election at the Members Meeting in the spring of 2022. The following competencies have been determined by the Board and will be used in the evaluation.

All nominees shall:

- be members of the AOS, and embrace the mission and priorities of the AOS
 - exhibit integrity and ethical behavior
 - possess strong interpersonal and communications skills
 - have board experience,
- preferably with have board experience, preferably with a non-profit organization

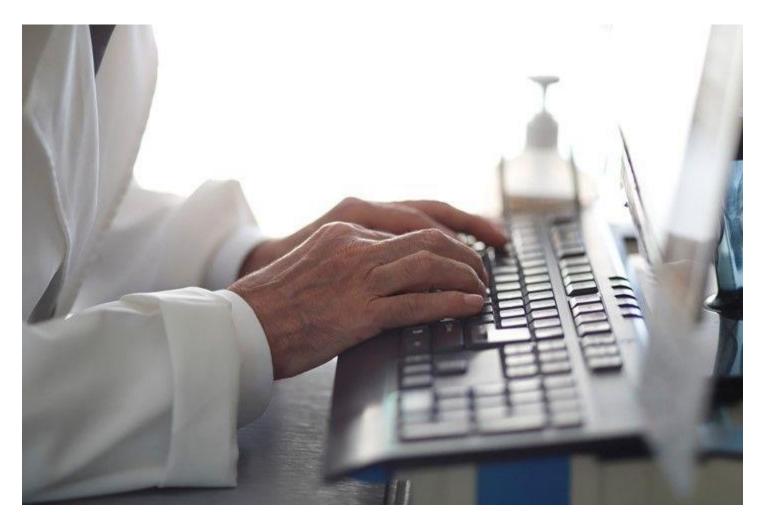
Expertise in some of the following is desirable and will weigh in the evaluation:

- finance, business and/or investment strategies
 - legal background
 - development/fund-raising
 - strategic planning and implementation
 - marketing
 - conservation, research or education

Responsibilities:

- attend conference-call type meetings when scheduled (two per month for officers, one for trustees)
- attend two face-to-face members' meetings annually (must pay own travel expenses, there is no compensation)
 actively participate and contribute to Board activities and work
 - financially support the organization in a manner commensurate with one's ability, while seeking additional financial support elsewhere
 - advocate on behalf of the organization and be ambassadors to the orchid community

Volunteer job descriptions can be found here: <u>https://www.aos.org/about-us/job-descriptions.aspx</u>



Send nominations to <u>chairnominatingcommittee@aos.org</u> Nominations will be accepted through October 27, 2021

Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest – Commemorating our Society's 100th Anniversary in 2021

The <u>Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest</u> is asking for in-depth articles relating to significant people, events, programs, technology changes, or even plants that have helped shape the direction of the AOS or are likely to in the future. IDEAS - Was there someone special in the AOS who mentored and inspired you and others? Did an AOS award that you received plant the seed resulting in you becoming involved in judging? Could you tie that into how the judging program has helped shape the AOS and Affiliated Societies? Perhaps there are technological advancements that have evolved, or the AOS has adopted, that will change the AOS and your enjoyment of orchids. Share why the AOS has had, and will have, an enormous influence over the lifetime of orchid enthusiasts.

CONTEST RULES

- The essay must be an original, unpublished article.
- The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
- Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in English and should be submitted electronically as MS Word or compatible file.
- Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
- Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.

The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate suitable for framing. Deadline for submission is November 30, 2021

https://www.aos.org/about-us/article-submissions/essay-contest-winners.aspx

Submit all entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize:

Ron McHatton - American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

PO Box 565477, Miami, FL 33256

Email: rmchatton@aos.org

Nonwinning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications with the written permission of the author.

CARE TO SHARE?

Please share a PDF copy of *your* society newsletter in the Files section of our <u>Affiliated Societies Facebook page</u>. Take a virtual visit to other affiliates. Exchange information with our online groups. We currently have 18.2K international followers on the AOS <u>Instagram</u> account. To participate on Instagram, please email your photos to <u>americanorchidsociety@gmail.com</u>. The grower or society gets credit/tag for photos. You may include any other information you wish to share about your orchid or event.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS https://instagram.com/americanorchidsociety?igshid=16ixfciczky01



The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a group with close to 65,000 members, and a page. Each allows you to post photographs and ask questions about your orchids. The group is the most active of the two, and group members usually respond quickly to posts. The page is parallel to the AOS Instagram

account. https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839 https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOrchidSociety

If you would like to spotlight an issue or share news with other affiliated societies, we welcome your input. Let us know what you would like to see in this newsletter! If there is something within your society that is working extremely well – let's share it here. If there is something you could use help with – let us know. By chance, another affiliate may be able to offer a solution, or want to try something you have achieved. Your contributions are critical to bringing fresh, timely content to this publication each month. Please send your questions, solutions and submissions for the AOS Corner to <u>eileenh@aos.org</u> or <u>askmasc@verizon.net</u>.

AOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

AFFILIATED SOCIETY BONUS - EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY

Affiliated Societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member they recruit. If you start now, with twelve new AOS members, your Affiliated Society can obtain a FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership! Be sure and advise new members to note their society affiliation in the comments section online at checkout or on the <u>printed membership form</u>.

https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/AOSJoinForm2020.pdf

AOS Representatives, please remember to let your society members know that we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join the AOS today! Once they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources available to help make orchid growing enjoyable and successful. <u>https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew</u>

Individual society membership and AOS Membership are not the same. Although affiliated, each requires separate membership dues.

Reprint: TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST JULY: THE MONTH OF BACKSTORY By Thomas Mirenda

First impressions, while super-important for events such as job interviews, party mixers and speed dating, rarely tell the full story, as anyone who has ever followed up on a speed date will tell you. We humans are complicated creatures formulated through a strange, alchemic mixture of ingredients: where we grew up or went to school, who nurtured us, who tortured us, who loved us, etc. Not to mention the mind-boggling genetic component of our natures. We are such complex organisms that to fully understand and appreciate each other is a truly monumental task. We simply cannot do it all. On the regrettably rare occasions I do reach out and connect with new friends, I am invariably amazed at their stories and inner beauty. We are all who we are for real reasons and understanding what motivates others requires real time and effort.

Understanding your orchids is not different. Whether species or hybrid, to delve into the back-story of your individual orchids is the key to success with them. In the same way that a friendship is nurtured by conversations and storytelling about the past, orchids have a history and a context that, once uncovered, fully explains their needs and natures. July is a month laden with historical events. It is also a month many of us travel or go on vacations. Take this month as an opportunity to reflect and learn. Cultivate some new friends, and learn exactly what your orchids need. If you can do the former, the latter is actually much easier.

GRILLING One great way to make friends is to throw a summer barbecue. People will rarely turn down a fantastic feast. Most orchids will be outside as well enjoying the humid, tropical weather. A dappled area under a tree or lath area is an ideal spot to summer your orchids, and feeding your orchids is most appreciated this time of year. While I hesitate to recommend a particular fertilizer regimen, formula or brand, I encourage you to ask among your orchid friends (while they are eating that burger you just grilled for them) what works best for them. Plying them with some beer or wine can also be helpful in finding out their orchid cultivation secrets.

COOL IN THE POOL On a hot summer's day, is there anything better than plunging into the cool water? While certain warm-growing orchids, such as myrmecophilas, encyclias, trichocentrums, brassavolas, standard hard-cane dendrobiums and most vandas thrive in the torrid weather, most orchids from more montane habitats prefer cooler conditions. Wetting them down during the heat of the day will often keep the plant's metabolism working well, which in turn will keep your orchids growing despite the summer heat. Beware of waterlogging orchids with excessive mistings though.

LET US MOVE! BUT GENTLY Whether your orchids are inside or out, a little air movement mimicking the mountain breezes of their natural habitats can be really beneficial. Sweltering, still air combined with direct sunlight on an orchid leaf will almost always result in overheating and sunburn. Even orchids that crave the heat and sun, such as dendrobiums, really benefit from air movement this month. Just like water, light levels and food, air movement must be given in moderation. If the movement is too strong and relentless, orchids may have trouble respiring. Gentle air caressing your orchids is always a good idea.

RELATIONSHIPS All of this summer socializing, while fun and exciting, actually serves a larger purpose. Engaging in the social aspect of orchids — the plant societies, the shows, the auctions, supporting orchid businesses, etc. — broadens our knowledge and capabilities. The complexity of the orchid world is pretty incredible. No one can really know it all. But because of this, it is also wildly fulfilling. New orchid species are discovered virtually every day, and thousands of lovely, novel and rewarding hybrids are created frequently by professional breeders and enthusiasts around the world. The backstory of orchids is endlessly fascinating, and once you look past the awesome first impressions they make, a profound, deeper bond will invariably form between you and your orchids.

- Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS

Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com).

AOS members can view articles dating back to 1933 in the digital <u>ORCHIDS MAGAZINE</u> archives. <u>https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx</u>



Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	July 06, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	July 12, 2021 8:30pm EDT Monday	July 15, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday	August 05, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday
Торіс	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) Send in your Questions!	Judges Forum: Botanical Awards, CBM, CBR, CHM, What's the Difference?	Cyrtochilums: Dancing Ladies of The High Andes	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) Send in your Questions!
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Jean Allen-Ikeson National Education Coordinator for Judging (presented w/Peter Poot)	Dr. Leslie Ee, ND Associate Judge President of COC	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,

Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter. We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure. GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing. ORCHIDPRO the AOS awards database, is available at no extra cost to members. A digital version is included with every AOS membership. You have access to the same program that the judges use at monthly orchid judging. Visit often to view quality and outstanding culture in awarded orchids. https://op.aos.org/award

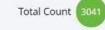
The July 12th webinar addresses three specific award types granted to orchids that have been brought in to judging centers or AOS judged shows. The charts below illustrate abbreviated data from OrchidPro. The CBM (Certificate of Botanical Merit) with 976 awards is an award type that has been discontinued but was a precursor to the current CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition). Notice that one award type has a point score while the other does not. That is not a mistake. Tune in to the webinar to understand the differences.

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стіс	ONS Selec	t Action	(0)		Total Count 976							
Drag	a column hea PHOTO	der an	d drop it here to c GENUS	jroup I	by that column	CULTIVAR	R	AWARD	ı	SCORE	1	DATE
			Stelis		emarginata	Haverhill		СВМ		81		Feb 22, 1978
	۲		Cymbidium		canaliculatum var. marginatum	Orchidglad	le I	СВМ		80		Feb 08, 1978
	0		Dendrobium		ruppianum	Oxford		СВМ		84		Jan 28, 1978
			Aeranthes		filipes	Casa Luna		CBM		83		Jan 14, 1978
	0		Bulbophyllum		lasiochilum	Dale's Dre	am	СВМ		83		Dec 17, 1977
	~					George						



ACTIONS Select Action (0)

-



	рното	:	GENUS	NAME	CULTIVAR	AWARD	:	SCORE	:	DATE
			Himantogloss	calcaratum subsp. jankae	Red Lizard	CBR		0		May 22, 2021
	8		Prosthechea	aemula	Irene	CBR		0		May 15, 2021
	6		Neotinea	tridentata	Neptune	CBR		0		Apr 10, 2021
Ę	0		Neotinea	ustulata	Burnt Ends	CBR		0		Apr 10, 2021
	-		Epidendrum	agoyanense	Orkiddoc	CBR		0		Mar 13, 2021
	0		Pterostylis	concinna	Dusty's Pea- Wee	CBR		0		Feb 13, 2021

ACTIONS

Select Action (0)



PHOTO	:	GENUS :	NAME :	CULTIVAR :	AWARD :	SCORE :	DATE
		Vanda	perplexa	Ponkan	СНМ	82	Apr 28, 2021
0		Vanda	curvifolia f. franksmithiana	Shocking Pink	CHM	86	Apr 09, 2021
		Caucaea	sanguinolenta	Lolita	СНМ	80	Oct 17, 2020
		Bulbophyllum	longistelidium	Susan	СНМ	83	Oct 03, 2020
0		Pomatocalpa	angustifolium	Annie	СНМ	83	Sep 12, 2020
		Grammatoph	ravanli	Irene	СНМ	82	Aug 15, 2020
		Systeloglossum	panamense	Bryon Rinke	СНМ	82	Jul 18, 2020

CHM (Certificate of Horticultural Merit)

The 2885 awards are to well-grown and well-flowered species or natural hybrids with characteristics that contribute to the horticultural aspects of orchidology, such as aesthetic appeal. This award is granted provisionally and filed with the judging center Chair pending taxonomic verification.



2021 Fall Members Meeting & Centennial Celebration October 27-30th, 2021 The Biltmore Hotel A National Historic Landmark 1200 Anastasia Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134

Event Registration (aos.org) https://secure.aos.org/event/register

<u>Members Meeting Schedule (aos.org)</u> <u>https://www.aos.org/News-and-Events/Members-</u> <u>Meetings/schedule.aspx</u>

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Many of our affiliates have not met in person throughout the pandemic, and a number of our affiliates' membership in the American Orchid Society have expired.

Affiliated Societies Committee members have called on the AOS Representative contact that we have on file to advise of expired status.

To continue to receive the benefits of affiliated membership, it is important that your society information is updated with the AOS and that your affiliated membership in the American Orchid Society

is renewed. https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/AffSoc_Renew.pdf

If you are receiving this newsletter, please check your society expiration date, or pass this message along to the appropriate person within your society. If you have questions about your society membership, our AOS Home Office Contact is:

Affiliated Societies (sandra@aos.org) Sandra Kurzban (305-740-2010 ext 102)

Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner! *Eileen Hector, AOS* Corner - <u>Affiliated Societies Newsletter Editor</u>

We Are Your National Volunteers Let us Know What We Can Do For You

Valued Members and Volunteers

An organization is only as good as its members. The AOS is deeply indebted to the many talented and dedicated volunteers who give their time and service to encourage a widespread interest in orchids. They advance the mission of the AOS more than they will ever know. *Please contact any of us if you would like to join our committee.*

Affiliated Societies Committee

affiliated_societies@aos.org Denise Lucero, Chair Chad Brinkerhuff, Lois Dauelsberg, Edna Hamilton, Eileen Hector (vice-chair), Candace Hollinger, Donna Petitt, Graham Ramsey, Alex Rodriguez Staff liaison: Naya Marcano

American Orchid Society | PO Box 565477 | Miami FL 33256-5477 Telephone: 305-740-2010 | FAX: 305-747-7154

DO NOT CLICK THE "MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION" LINK BELOW

UNLESS YOU WANT TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM EVERY AOS EMAIL

Native Orchid of the Month—July

Platanthera ciliaris (yellow fringed orchid)

Yellow-fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) is a large and showy species. It grows in "acid soil of hillside seepage bogs" in the longleaf pine landscapes of the Gulf Coast. Like many species in these habitats, including flatwoods, it is dependent upon recurring fire to create open



conditions. Farther north, it is found in <u>bogs</u>, but even there it may be dependent upon fire to create open conditions.

Plants may be to 36 inches tall with a raceme of up to fifty flowers, each about

1 inch from dorsal sepal to the end of the lip. The flowers are borne in a

cluster at the top of the plant that can be six inches tall. Flowers are apricot to orange in color, heavily fringed on the lip and bearing a spur at the back of the lip filled with nectar at the very tip.

The split anther (an uncommon structure among orchids) spreads to either side of the orifice, which leads to a slender spur filled with nectar in the last centimeter or so. Butterflies are the chief pollinator

of this orchid, having to extend their tongues down the spur to drink the nectar.

Flowering occurs from June through September (peaking in August).

Seedlings will produce a single leaf, or perhaps a few leaves in a basal rosette. The leaves, light, almost bluish-green with several prominent veins, start out at the base of the plant and may be of good size (in some cases 12 inches long), and then rapidly decrease in size to mere floral bracts as they clasp higher up the fluted stem.



