

<http://www.centrollouisianaorchidsociety.org>



President's Message

Ah, June again! Are you ready to get out into the heat and deal with the outdoor chores? Of course, those chores are mostly keeping things watered. Yes, summer has arrived, and the warm loving orchids are either putting on their show or preparing to put on their show. How they tolerate this heat is a mystery.

This year my grass was not cut as early as usual. Usually, the grass is cut early before any actual flowering, but to my amazement there were spiral stalks sticking up everywhere. I looked closely and remembered Andrea M. mentioning the native orchids blooming in Pineville. Well, I have a yard full of *Spiranthes vernalis* in bloom. I marked them with yellow marking paint and asked my friendly mower to please avoid cutting them down when he mowed the yard. I have collected several of them and will bring a few for the raffle. The roots are water storage organs, and this is how they survive during the heat of the summer. I will try to get seeds if possible and see if they can be easily grown.

Stay cool and hope to see you at the coming meeting!

Good growing, *Russel Deroche, Jr.*



Meeting Time and Place:
Sunday, June 15, 2025
Time: 2:30 pm

Show & Tell entry is 2:00-2:20

Program: "Charles Darwin, his Little Book on Orchids, and his Theory of Evolution"

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

Refreshments: Linda Roberts

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

JUNE MEETING

*"Charles Darwin, his Little Book on Orchids, and his
Theory of Evolution"*

*Presented by Eron Borne with Excerpts from the book
"Orchid Muse"*

Charles Darwin was an English naturalist, geologist, & biologist, widely known for his contributions to evolutionary biology.

Darwin has been described as one of the most influential figures in human history and was honored by burial in Westminster Abbey.

Charles Darwin is best known for his first major book in 1859, *On the Origin of Species*. His proposition that all species of life have descended from a common ancestor is now generally accepted and considered a fundamental scientific concept. - Humans through a common primate ancestor.

Enquiries about insect pollination led in 1861 to novel studies of wild orchids, showing adaptation of their flowers to attract specific moths to each species and ensure cross fertilization. In 1862, *Fertilization of Orchids* gave his first detailed demonstration of the power of natural selection to explain complex ecological relationships, making testable predictions.

Ericka Hannickel in her book *ORCHID MUSE*, dives into how Charles Darwin used orchids to reinforce his Theory of Evolution, though the proof would not happen until well after Charles' death.

Tip of the Month

With an eye to efficient drying which the season demands, June is an excellent time to review the spacing of our plants. Always give your plants sufficient space to allow for good air circulation to permit rapid drying. Crowded plants stay wetter longer encouraging fungus and bacteria. Scale and mealy bugs also thrive on the soft lush growth generated by overcrowded, overshadowed plants. Mites too love the extra protection from dislodging rain that overgrown plants provide. When looking at the spacing of your plants also allow some extra space for the new growth that will be rapidly developing in the new growing season. Remember your well grown plants will be much larger at the end of the rainy season when the fungi are savagely on the prowl. Plants and trees in your yard also will have grown in the past year and will be growing more in the rains of summer. June is a good time to think of pruning vegetation that is blocking light and air from our orchids. Come the true heart of hurricane season in September you will be glad that you did! Tree pruning alas, slips to a low priority in the face of an approaching storm. Your orchids will be glad right away that you pruned, rewarding you with harder, healthier growth sure to produce yet more lavish blooms in season.

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.



June Birthdays



None this month

Central Louisiana Orchid Society
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2025

1.0 Call to Order

Russel Deroche, Jr. called the meeting to order at 1442.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes were approved from our April meeting.

3.0 Officer Reports

3.1 President Report

3.1 Russel wished a Happy Birthday to Jim, Mary and Connie for the month of May.

3.2 Vice President Report

3.2.1 Richard had nothing to report at this time but happy to see new members.

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.

3.4 Secretary Report – Nothing to report at this time and also happy to see new members.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Russel mentioned the New Orleans and Acadia orchid society shows scheduled in the coming months; where and when. The Baton Rouge show is July 11-13 at the Burden Museum. Heather volunteered to help set up our exhibit and Al will be contacting her to get his plants. Pat may help with set-up.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Members discussed future program ideas and Eron shared what he would like to present in the next few months.

5.2 Eron pointed out the new “Orchid word of the month” in our monthly newsletter.

5.3 Andrea shared how Lady Tresses (*Spiranthes vernalis*) are in bloom currently and are something to look for locally. Al will be passing on the responsibility of ordering, labeling and caring for raffle orchid plants for our club; members discussed splitting this responsibility. We will have a minimum of four raffle plants each meeting and possibly more after October. Members also talked about bringing raffle plants other than orchids for the raffle

6.0 Program

We enjoyed a live presentation via Zoom! “Phalaenopsis: Soup to Nuts,” by David Edgley

This was an informative and enjoyable presentation as he is a long time grower and now expert on Phalaenopsis. Mr. Edgley was humble in sharing not only what has worked but what has not. He spoke of waiting to water, temperatures, quarantine, viruses, and the importance of sterile tools and gloves. He also went over pot size and bleaching used pots, when/how to cut roots, fertilizer and controlling insects. In addition, Mr. Edgley shared several beautiful photos of his orchids and answered questions.

7.0 Raffle and Show & Tell

Raffle Winners: Russel, Claire, Mary, Richard and Heather

Door Prize Winner: Al

Jim provided the refreshments this month.

Show and Tell voting and winners:

Best Grown Plant: *C. purpurata* – Al

Cattleya Alliance: 1st – *C. purpurata* – Al
2nd – *Lc. Tropical Aurora X Slc.* was next – Al
2nd – *Epc. Cerina ‘Nadia’* – Rick

Dendrobium Alliance: 1st — *Den. wassellii* – Pat
2nd – *Den. Sherry Abe* – Andrea
3rd – *Den. Biliانا glow* – Andrea

All Others Group: 1st – *Mtps. Tome Yokoyana* – Eron
2nd – *Vanda Pures Wax* – Eron
3rd – *Bulbo. Hybrid* – Al

There was no other business.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1645.

Respectfully submitted,

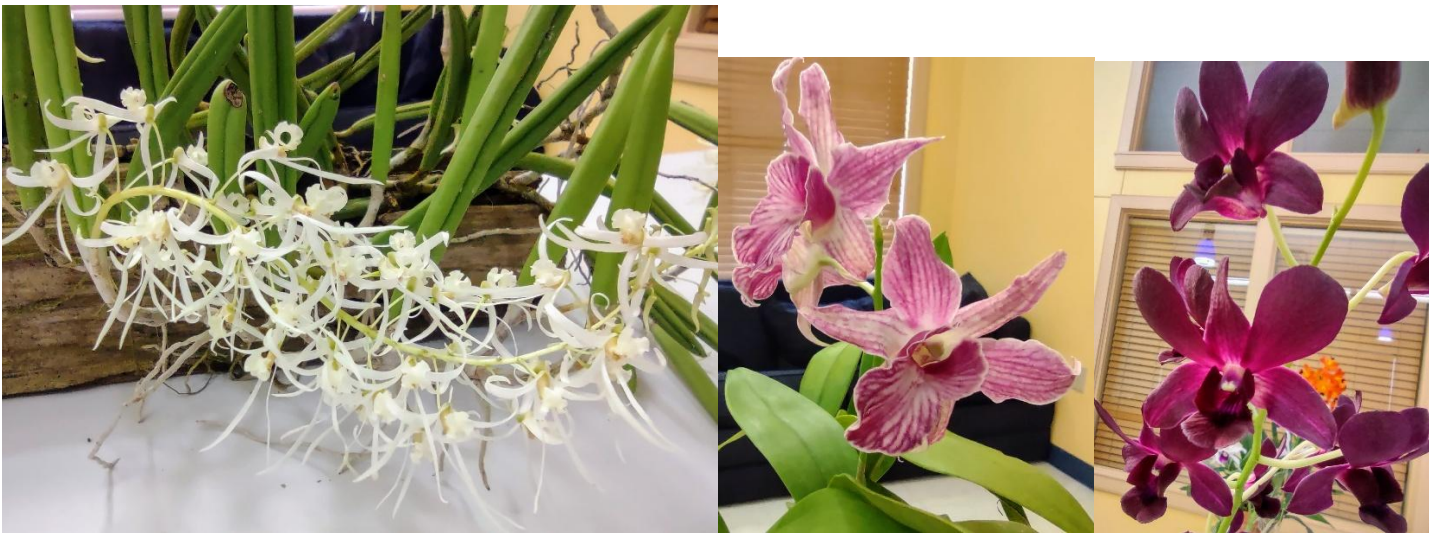
Heather A. Wilfert
Secretary

Show and Tell Winners - Cattleya Category



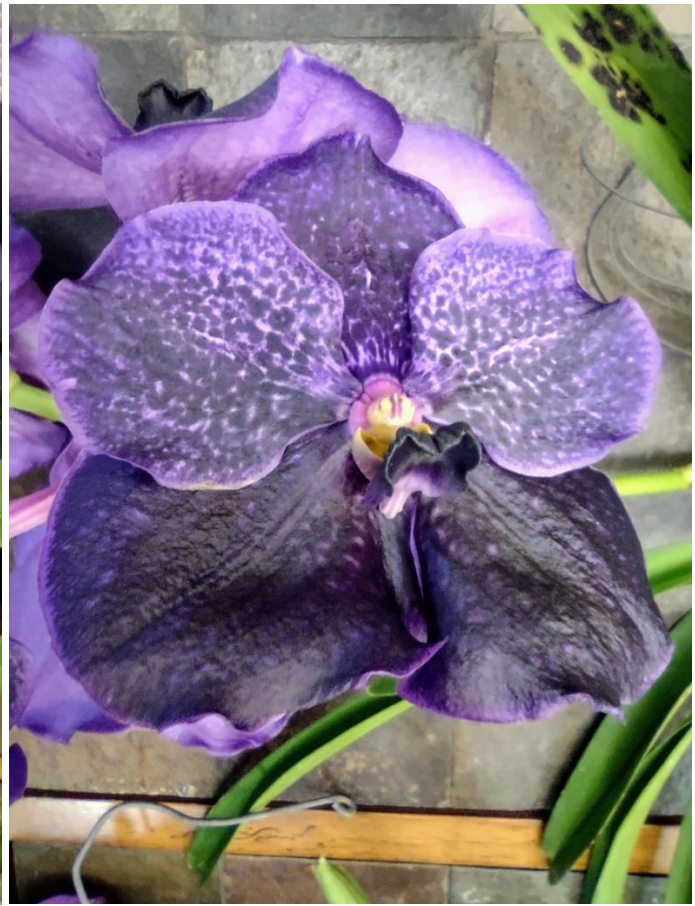
1st – *C. purpurata* – Al (also best grown), 2nd – *Slc. New hybrid* - Al, 3rd – *Epc. Cerina 'Nadia'* AM/AOS – Rick

Dendrobium Category



1st – *Den. wassellii* – Pat, 2nd – *Den. Sherry Abe* – Andrea, 3rd – *Den. Burana Glow* – Andrea

Other Category



1st *Mtps.* Tome Yokoyama – Eron, 2nd – *Vanda Pure's Wax* – Eron, 3rd (tie)- *Bulb. Hybrid* – Al (below left), Al's best grown plant, *C. purpurata* (below right)



Mineral Buildup in Potting Media

We often hear the recommendation to “flush the pot” periodically in order to remove mineral buildup in potting media that occurs as your fertilizer solution evaporates. We are told to irrigate with fresh water only to accomplish that, so we merely suspend our feeding regimen once a month, every other watering, or however we feel comfortable.

Unfortunately, that may not be particularly effective. In the September 2006 Orchids magazine, Dr. Yin-Tung Wang of Texas A&M University published an article about the retention of mineral salts, and the difficulty in flushing them from diatomite. Let’s look at the mechanics of why that might be:

Start with a “virgin” particle that is saturated with a fertilizer solution – the mineral ion distribution is uniform throughout. As the water evaporates from the surface, in order to stay in solution – the natural drive to stay less concentrated, as becoming a solid is as concentrated as it gets – those ions migrate toward the center of the particle, increasing their concentration in the remaining liquid. Eventually the driving force to stay in solution loses out, and those ions will precipitate as the mineral salts in a highly concentrated “core”.

Now you flush the dry pot, watering with clear water only. The particle absorbs from the outside, in, and once the water reaches that “core”, it starts to dissolve that outermost part of the concentrated minerals. Some of those minerals will be moved to the surface for extraction, but unless you continue

to flush heavily, evaporation will “push” it right back to the middle. To truly “flush” the medium, long-term soaking is needed, which allows the minerals to migrate into a large volume of liquid.

That scenario is true for both organic- and inorganic media particles, but with organics, if you repot appropriately, you throw the problem away! With inorganic media, because of their long (essentially unlimited) life spans, the tendency is to go longer periods of time without repotting, which exacerbates the problem.

So how do we avoid, or at least minimize the problem, as in traditional culture, it is inevitable?

We know that we must feed our plants adequately in order to get them to grow and bloom well. Infrequent watering and the use of concentrated fertilizer solutions favor buildup, and as we can see, clear-water flushing is not particularly effective in reversing it. If, on the other hand, we tend to water more frequently and use lower levels of fertilizer additions when we do, we reduce the evaporative “driving force” and keep the mineral concentration low to begin with.

None of that applies to semi-hydro culture, by the way, as you’re essentially keeping the medium mass at a constant level of moisture and mineral content, slowing the rate of buildup. Note that I did not say “preventing” buildup, as all media components will accumulate minerals and plant wastes over time. There is a sister article on this subject as it relates to inorganic media components.

Until next time... *Good Growing!*

Baton Rouge Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale

Posted on July 11, 2025 by Show Submitter

Date/Time

Date(s) - 07/11/2025 - 07/13/2025

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Judging July 11 6:30 pm

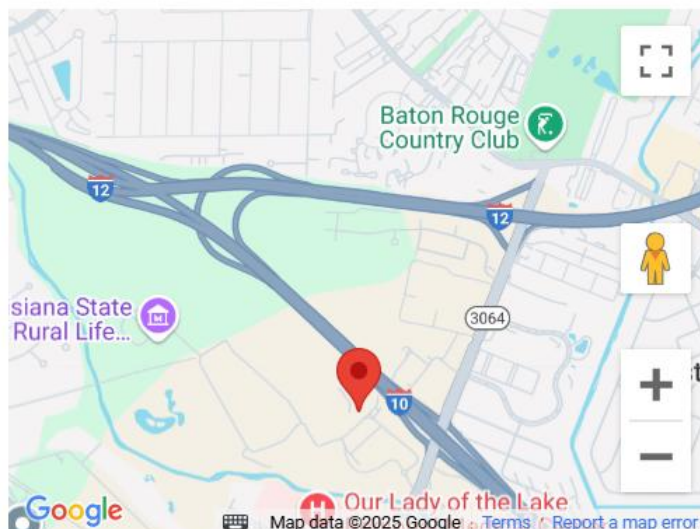
Set Up: July 11 8 am

Host Society: Rouge Rouge Orchid Society

Show Theme:

Location

Rural Life Museum



Show Contact Information: David Coco

Show Contact Telephone: 225-931-0183

Show Contact Email: david.coco@att.net

Acadian Orchid Society Show, Lafayette, LA

Contact

Eddie Dupuy

337-445-9252

eddiedupuy@cox.net

Location

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

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

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

Show Times:

Sat: 9am-5pm

Sun: 9am-3pm



2025 June 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 4-minute video of orchids. Surrounding the central text are six purple hexagonal callouts with icons and text:

- Orchids magazine & digital archive (book icon)
- Orchidpro - search 100K+ photos (magnifying glass icon)
- Over 100+ ready-to-watch webinars (play button icon)
- Exclusive savings from top 50 orchid vendors (piggy bank icon)
- \$700+ vouchers for 2 year members (percentage sign icon)
- Join the AOS today! Under \$5 per month (orchid logo icon)

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

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 8:30 PM EDT



The Best Orchids to Grow Indoors with David Vandebroek Join David Vandebroek to find out which orchids grow best indoors. *Member exclusive webinar.*

Thursday, June 19, 2025 8:30 PM EDT



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

Juzgamiento Orquídeas AOS con Manny Aybar

Únete a Manny Aybar, juez certificado por la AOS en una sesión especial para nuestros amigos de habla hispana donde compartirá sus más de 20 años de experiencia en la evaluación y juzgamiento de orquídeas. Join AOS-certified orchid judge Manny Aybar as he leads a special session for our Spanish-speaking friends, drawing on over 20 years of judging experience. *Member exclusive webinar.*



*** Orchid Word of the Month ***

Angraecum (an-GREY-kum)

“A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET”

by Jill Blake Smith

We are all familiar with this quotation from “Romeo and Juliet” and we know that it is a metaphor for the fact that many everyday items can be called different things in ways that define them. This is certainly true of orchids—we know all about the dancing lady, the pansy orchid, the slipper, the spider, the butterfly and of course, that elusive ghost orchid! There are countless names for the many species of these plants and it all boils down to what they resemble. There’s the monkey, the duck, the naked man, the flying egret, and the dragon. On the other hand, many are named after their particular fragrance—the coconut orchid, the chocolate orchid and that intoxicating lady of the night. And don’t forget the stinky *Bulbophyllums*! Are they the roadkill orchids?

An interesting observation I discovered recently was that the moth orchid, or *Phalaenopsis* was referred to as the swan orchid. I mentioned this to a few die-hard orchid growers all of whom said, “huh?” And then I said, “duh!” Think about the lovely white phals that growers arch the inflorescences over a wire made to look like the graceful neck of the swan. I had never thought of this before but it does make sense. I had always heard this particular way of presenting the large white phals referred to as “waterfall orchids.”

I began to notice license plates with the many unusual state nicknames from crops, birds or animals native to particular areas. There’s the Nutmeg State, the Beehive, the Buckeye, the Pelican, Badger, Beaver, Wolverine and let’s not forget the Peach State. Certainly, these places derive their pet names from nature. Although no state in the US is named after an orchid or called “the orchid state,” the state flower of Minnesota is the *Cypripedium Reginae*, the Queen’s Slipper.” And there is actually a state in India called “The Orchid State” – Arunachal Pradesh, which boasts 612 different types of native orchids.

When I first started writing for the AOS Corner, I saw that many of the previous introductory paragraphs contained a reference to the different monikers of the full moons. Indeed, the nicknames of the moons were translated into English by early settlers from the Native American people who related their appearances to the seasons, flora and fauna. Corn crops, strawberries and the fall harvests have full moons as well as the wolf, beaver, buck, worm and even the sturgeon, a large fish that swims in the Great Lakes. Besides the references to nature, we are all aware of the phases of the moon and their shape names like full, half, crescent etc. Yet again I muse, what kind of orchid could reflect a full moon and in what month?

It is true that so many aspects of nature infiltrate how we refer to things that seem mundane as we proceed through our daily lives. These names do make sense and help us to get a better understanding of natural things and events. And so, as I draw this little piece to a close, I’m just wondering if any of you have ever seen a “Gnu Moon?”

For your entertainment!

Name: _____ Date: _____

ORCHID

T P B U F T E E P I P H Y T E S D
R P A E F C H P O L L E N A P S I
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V Z T A R T T C B Q T Y O A O E Y
D E T S I N A T O B Y A V V M S U
D D A N A E N A R R E T B U S S C

PHOTOSYNTHESIZED
TERRESTRIL
SYMBIOTIC
DELICATE
ORCHID
SEPALS
ROOT

SUBTERRANEAN
PHEROMONES
BLOSSOMS
FLOWERS
PETALS
FUNGI
WAXY

CODEPENDENT
EPIPHYTES
BOTANIST
VANILLA
POLLEN
SEEDS
BEE

Native Orchid of the Month—June

Epidendrum magnoliae (green fly orchid)

Epidendrum magnoliae, the green fly orchid, is encountered in swamps and hammocks, most often on live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) trees among resurrection ferns (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*). Other common host trees include bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). It is an epiphyte and the leaves remain green all winter.

Since the plants are often the same height as the ferns, spotting these orchids (even when in bloom) is often quite challenging. It is perhaps easiest to see them when it has not rained for a brief period of time. The resurrection fern



leaves wilt and appear brownish in color, making it easier to spot the shiny, green grass-like leaves of the orchids growing on the branches.

It is the most northern-growing *Epidendrum* in nature, being found wild as far north as North Carolina. They flower from June to January, sporadically in fall, and produce fruiting capsules from October to January.

Plants will often form large matted colonies of many dozens, perhaps hundreds, of growths, their fleshy roots buried in the layer of humus formed from decomposed remains of mosses, bromeliad roots, and fern rhizomes that cover branches of the trees.

The small, green flowers range from 1/2 to 3/4 inch in diameter, are usually green on the lip and petals and range from greenish to reddish brown on the sepals depending on light levels. The opening beneath the column is usually ringed with purple. The flowers become intensely fragrant at night suggesting a night-flying moth as its pollinator.



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.centrollouisianaorchidsociety.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.