

<http://www.centrollouisianaorchidsociety.org>



President's Message

Welcome to Spring and the season of planting, repotting, evaluating, seed planting, and everything having to do with plants. It is a busy time for all growers, and it is time to get busy. Many are moving plants out of greenhouses to clean and get ready for the summer which will be here before you know it. Check your fans and watering systems for any problems and correct them now before the heat arrives. Plan to fertilize and water a little more. And best of luck with being able to keep up with all the chores of the season.

Hopefully you have plants that are sending out new bloom spikes while others are finishing up their blooming. Just be sure to pay attention to the weather which can change from day to day.

We thank Andrea for the wonderful potting party at her home and the tasty refreshments. A special thanks to those who brought plants that were broken apart to share with all attending. May you have great luck with the newly potted plants, and we hope to see them blooming at a future meeting!

Welcome to any new members and hope to see you at the meeting. If you have any plant questions or problems, please write them down and we can discuss them at the meeting.

Happy growing!

Russel Deroche, Jr.



Meeting Time and Place:
Sunday, May 18, 2025
Time: 2:30 pm

Show & Tell entry is 2:00-2:20
Program: Phalaenopsis: Soup to Nuts
By David Edgley live via Zoom

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

Refreshments: Jim Barnett

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

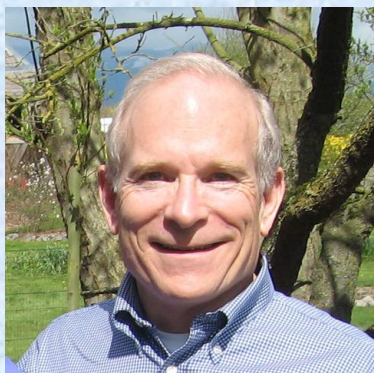
MAY MEETING

"Phalaenopsis: Soup to Nuts"

Presented by David Edgley LIVE via Zoom

Everything you always wanted to know about *Phalaenopsis* but didn't know who to ask. In this comprehensive program, David Edgley covers a wide variety of topics such as what is an orchid? Do I need to feed them? What about ice cubes? Can I trim wandering roots? Also, fertilizer, watering, potting, roots, pots, media, virus, magic elixirs, advanced topics like "where do baby orchids come from?" and much more.

David has been growing *Phalaenopsis* for decades, introduced them as a teenager living on a Navy base in the Philippines. A hobby grower, David has been active in local societies and shows, spreading the good news about *Phalaenopsis*. In his small and rather crowded (10'x12') greenhouse in the Pacific Northwest in the small tourist town of La Conner, Washington, David grows hundreds of orchids, primarily *Phalaenopsis*. In addition, David has made a few of his own crosses. Over the years, he has killed his fair share and hopefully learned most of what not to do. Having tried nearly every possible potting media (except shredded newspaper), and fertilizer fad, David has learned some hard but valuable lessons over the years. Some of David's favorite *Phalaenopsis* are Harlequins, multi-florals, reds, oranges, yellows and, of course, novelty hybrids. Favorite species include *Phal. schilleriana*, *equestris*, *tetraspis*, and *bellina*. He is an accredited American Orchid Society judge, former AOS trustee, and treasurer of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA), and chair of the AOS Judging Committee.



Tip of the Month

May's wide temperature swings and dry air suit our orchids to a tee. New growths on sympodial orchids are developing apace and by continuing the careful watering practices of April (i.e., drenching them thoroughly with repeated applications of water to saturate their roots and potting media, then allowing them to dry to nearly 'hard' dry) we can launch them into the summer in vigorous, disease-free growth. Remember, this saturation can only be achieved with two or more soakings to the point of runoff spaced a few minutes apart. Merely holding the water on the plant extra-long will not suffice. The water needs to slowly soak into the roots and media. Test the weight of a "benchmark" plant to be satisfied that it is sufficiently heavy to be totally soaked. The arid air of early May will quickly dry the foliage but the roots can draw on the deep reservoir of water that you have provided with this careful, complete watering.

May is still prime time for repotting. With cattleyas, dendrobiums and other sympodials, the virtuous among us have long since finished this labor of love, but the majority of us are faced with the moral dilemma of doing the potting now or waiting until next year with the pseudo bulbs of our plants overhanging their pots and proclaiming to the world our sloth. The one instance in which this dilemma must be resolved absolutely in favor of the plant, is when the media has broken down in the pot. This condition will encourage root rot to become stem rot which will pursue the rhizome even into those overarching bulbs. If in doubt, give the media the "nose test". A pinch of media taken from below the surface of the pot should smell "sweet". A sour smell or the odor of a pond bottom indicates media that is broken down and must be replaced as soon as possible.

- 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.



May Birthdays



Jim Barnett (May 19), Connie Guillory (May 29), Mary Kramer (May 29)

Central Louisiana Orchid Society
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2025

1.0 Call to Order

President Russel Deroche called the meeting to order at 1454.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

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

3.0 Officer Reports

3.1 President Report

3.1.1 Russel welcomed new members and announced the birthdays this month. We all wished a happy birthday to Judy and Rick.

3.2 Vice-President Report

3.2.1 Vice-President Richard had nothing to report.

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. With our growing numbers and plant sales at our orchid show, we are doing well.

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 had nothing to report.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Russel pointed out a couple of corrections needed for our new membership list. He will send out to all when he is done.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Al and other members discussed upcoming shows for other orchid societies.

5.2 Russel brought to our attention the need for more raffle plants for our meetings. We need a minimum of 5-6 new, in good condition plants for every meeting now that our membership has grown.

6.0 Program

Today was our annual repotting event at Andrea Mattison's home. We had a wonderful time outside in her beautiful yard repotting orchids. Thank you to Pat, Yvonne, Al Eron, and Rick for demonstrating the repotting.

7.0 Raffle and Show & Tell

Raffle Winners: Mary, Claire

Door Prize Winner: Yvonne and Rick

Andrea provided the refreshments this month.

Show and Tell voting and winners presented as follows:

Best Grown Plant:

Cattleya Alliance: 1st – *Pot.* Martha's Sunburst – Al

2nd – *Ctna.* Why not – Andrea

3rd – *Cattleya Unnamed* – Andrea

Phalaenopsis Alliance: 1st – *Phal.* I-Hsin Banqiao – Eron (and also Best Grown)

2nd – *Phal.* Unnamed – Richard

3rd – *Phal.* Unnamed – Richard

All Others group: 1st – *Hemipilia* Enomotoe – Al

2nd – *Mtps.* White Truffle 'Bright Eyes' – Eron

3rd (tie) – *Habenaria* (carnea X Roebelenii) – Eron

3rd (tie) – *Bllra.* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' – Russel

There was no other business.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1654.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Wilfert
Secretary

Show and Tell Winners - Cattleya Category



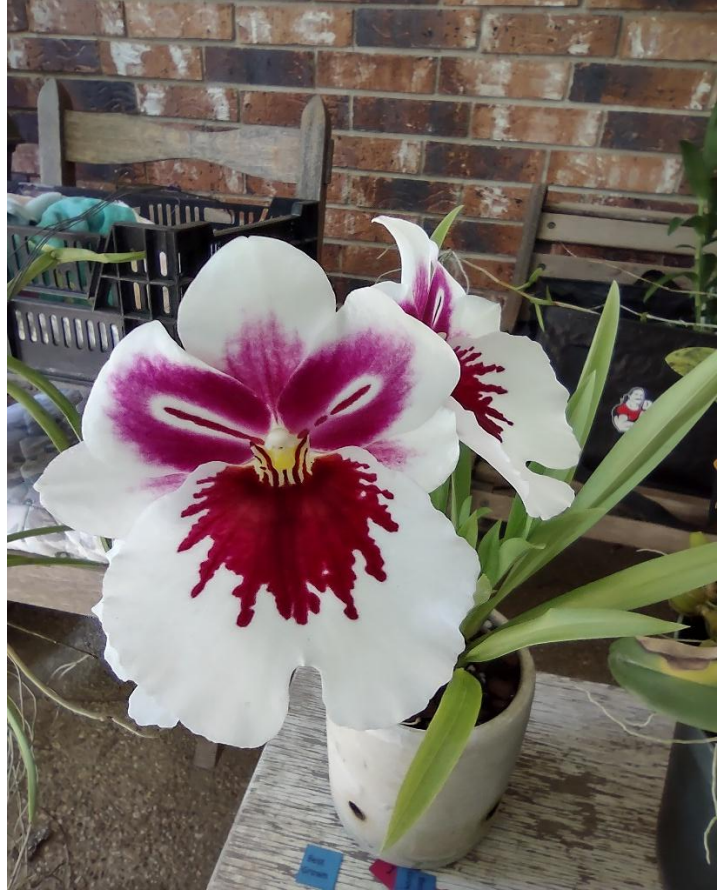
1st - *Pot. Martha's Sunburst* – Al, 2nd – *Ctna. Why Not* – Andrea, 3rd – NOID cattleya cross – Andrea

Phalaenopsis Category

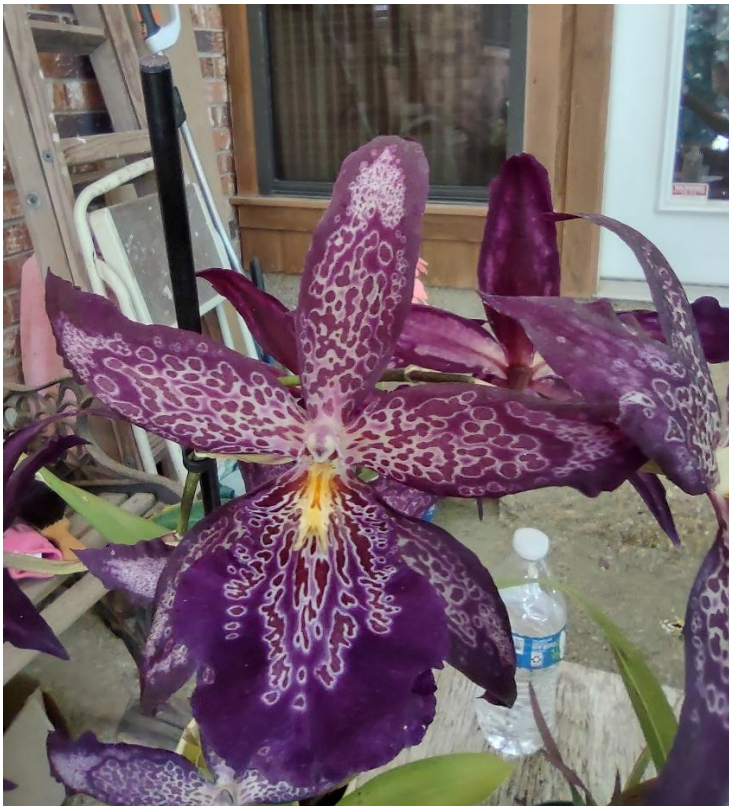


1st – *Phal. I-Hsin Banqiao* – Eron (and also best grown), 2nd – *Phal. NOID* – Richard,
3rd – *Phal. NOID* – Richard

Other Category



1st *Hemipilia Enomotoe* – Al, 2nd – *Mtps.* White Truffle 'Bright Eyes' – Eron, 3rd (tie)- *Bllra.* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' – Russel (below left), 3rd (tie) – *Habenaria* (*carnea* x *roebelenii*) – Eron (below right)



PHILOSOPHICAL WATERING

There are many different ways one may water orchids and grow them successfully. Some drench the medium with a water breaker from above, some submerge the pot of an extended soak, while others "spritz" the medium to wet it, as depicted above. Some wait for the medium to dry out before watering, while others (like me) stick to the opposite end of the "watering spectrum" by keeping the potting medium constantly wet.

They all can work and each technique has its own related requirements. Which is "the best" is where the philosophy comes in, and that is a decision each grower must make for him- or herself.

The first thing one must do is decide what you're looking for in your orchid-growing. Is your interest "keeping them alive" with the occasional blooming period, or is it "growing them to specimen size with lots of blossoms", or somewhere in between?

Let's pause to consider a bit of science on this subject. Water is the driving force for growth. For any plant to add one pound of mass, its chemical processes will consume only about 5 grams (a teaspoon) of fertilizer, but they require 200 pounds (25 gallons/95 liters) of water. Add to that the fact that a plant can lose up to 95% of its absorbed water to transpiration, and that means the plant must actually absorb as much as 4000 pounds (500 gallons, or about 1900 liters) of water.

Armed with that bit of data, you can see that, to get the most out of your plants, a copious and continuous water supply has distinct advantages over the "water when dry" strategy. However, keep in mind that you cannot simply start watering more to get better growth, as there are two things to consider - the potting medium and the roots themselves.

If you're going to water heavily and often, or use a potting medium that holds water for a long time, it is important that it have more, large, void spaces, so they'll stay open and airy even when saturated (see "[Water Does Not Cause Root Rot](#)"). That's easy enough to do, but is only half the "equation", as the existing roots will likely not be optimized to handle being constantly moist (see our [Transplant "Adaptation"](#) article) (on Firstrays.com).

If you have decided to be a "proactive" grower, rather than more of a "maintenance" type, you should lay out a conversion strategy:

- Consider the types of media components out there that are easily accessible, and their water-holding and aeration properties.
- Talk to other growers and get their assessments, keeping in mind their growing conditions and how they may differ from yours.
- Once you have decided upon a reasonable medium candidate, move a single plant over to it, being sure to time the move to coincide with the emergence of new root growth, so those will grow optimized for the new conditions.

- **Give it several months of evaluation before moving other plants over, possibly even "fine tuning" things to better suit the plants in your environment.**

Until next time... *Good Growing!*



2025 May 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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MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

I hope your summer is progressing nicely and your orchids are enjoying some summer sunshine and fresh air. We love to be outside and our orchids love it too, so if you can, it is advisable to put outdoors hanging in a tree or on a protected shelf away from harsh direct sun. A screen is nice to do that. There are many ways to do that. You can use some screening you buy in the store for windows or doors and just cut to size. I hold mine with clothespins on a rope and it works. The rain goes through as does the fresh breeze. But depending on how dark the screen is, the sun does not burn. *Catasetums* and *Cattleya* can stand the most but you need to protect them, and more so the other types. I would not put the little guys outdoors, unless you have a very protected area. I speak of the *Pleurothallid* types. They grow under leaf protection in the wild along banks of roads with plenty of protection. We saw them growing plentifully along the road but well protected.

I heard a very interesting story while flying to Taiwan. One of the folks was a vendor and told me about how they rescued their show from a lack of attendance. It is quite interesting... They invite the community organizations to set up booths at their show. The booths present lots of opportunities for the community to visit a whole bunch of vendors and ask questions. It is not just orchids, although the show is the featured event but a multitude of events under one roof. The community loves it. The town loves it. It gives these small shops and services a place to show off their wares as well as plug orchids!! What a neat concept. Apparently, this has been very successful in attracting lots of people from town. The vendors tell everyone in their sales market and then that is more people coming through the door. The show has been marked a success by them now. Every year is a chance for new businesses to display as well as be welcomed by all. The orchid show is the big deal, with lots of vendors and a nice show of orchids. Your society is seen as a positive element in the community, a leader in community friendships. It has aroused interest in the Society, in orchids and even membership. So you might think of something like this if your show attendance is waning. It might take some letter writing or some emails or some knocking on doors, but what a nice way to introduce your love of orchids at the same time. People get very creative. This I thought was worth talking about.

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer and that you can experience a little trip perhaps, maybe to the beach or the mountains or to one of our national parks, or even to an orchid garden. Your AOS member card can get you into most of our gardens. Enjoy the summer, see you next month.

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	April 03, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	April 16, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EDT	May 08, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	May 15, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 31</i>	<i>Master Orchidist Series</i> Growing Orchids Indoors and In Terrariums Light, media, pots! Successful steps to cultivate orchids indoors.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by May 05</i>	<i>Master Orchidist Series</i> Calming Your Fears About Repotting Orchids Learn about using the best media and techniques, growing orchids indoors.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Chris Satch Orchid Grower and Professor at NY Botanical Gardens	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Janeil Payne Long time orchid grower and AOS Orchid Judge



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



Use the WEBINAR Display Filter

*** Orchid Word of the Month ***

Phalaenopsis (fail-en-OP-sis)



“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?”

Open to everyone to register, not just AOS members! Since our meeting is the same day and the last presentation will conflict, everyone that registers for the Culture day will get a link to view the presentations at their own convenience.

<https://www.aos.org>

Under the Community & Events tab at the top, select “Orchid Culture Day”

Your Invitation!

Join us for this Outstanding Online Event
Mark Your Calendar—Set Your Device Reminder



American Orchid Society
7th CULTURE DAY

Sunday, May 18, 2025

11 a.m.—3:30 p.m. EST

This Event is Recorded for all Registrants to View at their Leisure

ORCHIDS—From Seed to Success

Door Prizes!
Must be online day
of event to be eligible
4 Guest Speakers
4 Great Topics

- **Orchid Pollination - In Nature and at Your Kitchen Table** Explained by **Adam Karremans**, Director of Lankester Botanical Garden
- **Can I Make My Own Hybrid?** Demonstration of flasking, deflasking and compots, by Hobby Growers and Hybridizers, **Keith and Dina Emig**
- **Brassavola-Cattleya Alliance Novelty Hybrids** Tune in to meet **Allen Black** and understand his dedication to this group of orchids
- **Easy to Grow and Bloom Hybrids** Presented by **Manny Aybar**, accomplished hobbyist, AOS Judge, and AOS award winning exhibitor

Online Registration Required—Only \$40

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
T H Y T J J L H U H U I L R D E H
J O O T E R R E S T R A I L W E C
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D E T S I N A T O B Y A V V M S U
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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—May

Calopogon tuberosus (tuberous grass-pink)

Calopogon comes from the Greek words meaning beautiful beard. The prominent hairs, the beard, on the lip identify the species *tuberosus*. This species is a plant of moist areas and is most abundant in pineland bogs. It is known as grass pink because of the long, narrow, grass-like leaves. It grows 2 to 4 feet tall, with 3 or more flowers arranged along the stem. The blossoms are rose-pink to pale orchid and are about 2 inches across.

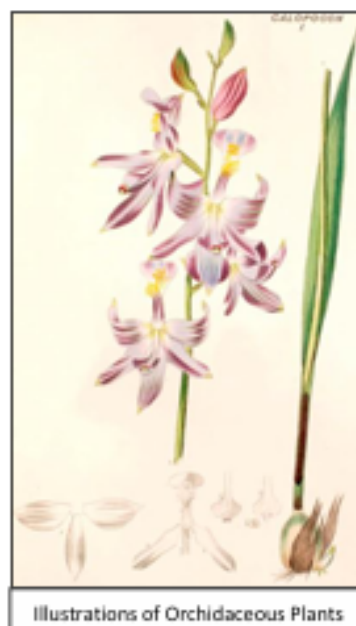


This delicate, sweet-smelling orchid is easily recognized by the bearded lip petal and solitary, grass-like leaf. The flower is



pink to purple, 6-parted, with yellow brushy hairs on the upper petal. The inflorescence a loose, short cluster of 3 to 10 stalked flowers blooming a few at a time. It blooms in June and July.

The plant consists of a small, whitish subterranean corm giving rise to a single, grass-like leaf which clasps basally the flowering stem.



The flowers use a unique mechanism to achieve pollination. Midway up the lip, they bear a tuft of orange-yellow hairs that resembles the pistils and stamens of typical bog-land flowers, while the base of the lip is jointed. The pollinators, deceived by this ruse, land on this tuft, their weight triggering the lip to flex downward along its joint and to drop them onto the column arching below.

Calopogon tuberosus is the most variable and widespread species in the genus. It occurs from Manitoba and Newfoundland south to Texas, Florida, the Bahamas, and Cuba.



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

<https://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org>

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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.