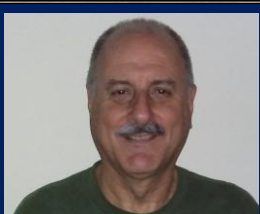


<http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org>



President's Message

Another year is quickly passing by, and Fall is fully on its way. Cooler temperatures are blessing the nights and mornings and your seasonal orchids should be enjoying the cooler nights and getting ready to start spiking. Remember to give them what they need to do their best: water, fertilizer, and proper lighting. They will reward you with flowers.

Check the tips on the AOS website to find suggestions on what your plants need and supply what you can. The website is a good place to visit monthly to get suggestions on how others care for their plants monthly. Just remember that we are not all in the exact same environmental situation and adjust suggestions to our climate and conditions.

I won't get my new hip until mid-December, so I will be attending the October and November meetings if I am able. It will just depend on whether I feel like I can drive without too much pain.

Welcome to Fall and Happy Growing,

Russel Deroche, Jr.



Meeting Time and Place:
Sunday, October 19, 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

OCTOBER 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

Cooler weather calls our attention to our plants' needs for trace elements. Chief among these is magnesium, often described as the 'major' minor element. Magnesium deficiency shows up in orchids as a reddening of the foliage particularly when the plant is stressed. This color change is frequently attributed to cold as it occurs following spells of cooler weather. This observation is the fallacy of post hoc, ergo propter hoc; cold is merely the efficient cause: the material cause is lack of magnesium. Epsom salts ($MgSO_4$) is the best and most readily available source of magnesium. This can be applied with Potassium Nitrate (KNO_3) at the rate of one tablespoon each per gallon. Potassium Nitrate has the formula 13-0-46. The missing number in the middle is Phosphorus. Never apply magnesium and the other trace elements in combination with fertilizers containing phosphorus. A general purpose trace element mixture can be added to the mix of magnesium sulfate and potassium nitrate at the rate recommended on the label. (Concentrations vary). Goodbye red, Hello green!

Tasks for October

Space plants to increase air circulation. Water as early as possible in the day. Move Himalayan dendrobiums, catasetums, calanthes and other seasonally dormant plants to dry bright locations. Reduce general fertilizer. Apply extra magnesium and potassium.

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.



October Birthdays



Eron Borne (Oct 5)

Central Louisiana Orchid Society
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2025

1.0 Call to Order

President Russel called the meeting to order at 1440.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes were approved from our September meeting by all members.

3.0 Officer Reports

3.1 President Report

Birthdays for September are: Sharyon on the 2nd and Stephenie the 14th.

Russel asked members about refreshment volunteers for October and November, since he may not be here. Heather will take October and Linda may take November.

Eron introduced our guest speakers Mark Mese and Charlie Birdsong and welcomed them to share their experience and history with orchid societies, orchid plants and companion plants.

3.2 Vice-President Report

Richard was not present.

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 – Heather had nothing to report.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 No old business to discuss.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Members discussed upcoming Acadian Orchid Society show in Baton Rouge this October and our orchid display. Pat, Myrna, and Al will set up and take down.

5.2 Annual Christmas Bingo Party will be held on Sunday December 14th. All approved!

5.3 Al discussed our next show and when it will be. Members concluded it would be in the fall of 2026.

6.0 Program

Mark and Charlie gave an insightful presentation on Orchid Companion Plants. They shared several photographs, demonstrated mounting plants, and passed around various plant media they have developed and used with success. Companion plants are mainly Bromeliads, Staghorn Ferns, Nepenthes and Hybrid Begonias. Also mentioned was the use of pine straw instead of sphagnum moss since it is cheaper and really holds up.

7.0 Raffle and Show & Tell

Raffle Winners: Several plants were donated for the drawing today and nearly every member won one or more plants!

Door Prize Winner: Andrea

Pat, Myrna and Yvonne provided the refreshments this month. Eron brought some home-grown watermelon from his garden.

Show and Tell voting and winners presented as follows:

Best Grown Plant: C. Bob Bett's 'White Lightning' – Myrna

Cattleya Alliance: 1st – C. Bob Bett's 'White Lightning' – Myrna
2nd – C. C.G. Roebing 'Blue Indigo' – Eron
3rd – C. Cosmic Future 'Louisiana' AM/AOS – Andrea

All Others Group: 1st – *Odbrs.* Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara' – Myrna
2nd – *Hab.* L'Avenir – Eron
3rd – *Pe.* Western Tanger – Al

There was no other business.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1640.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Wilfert
Secretary

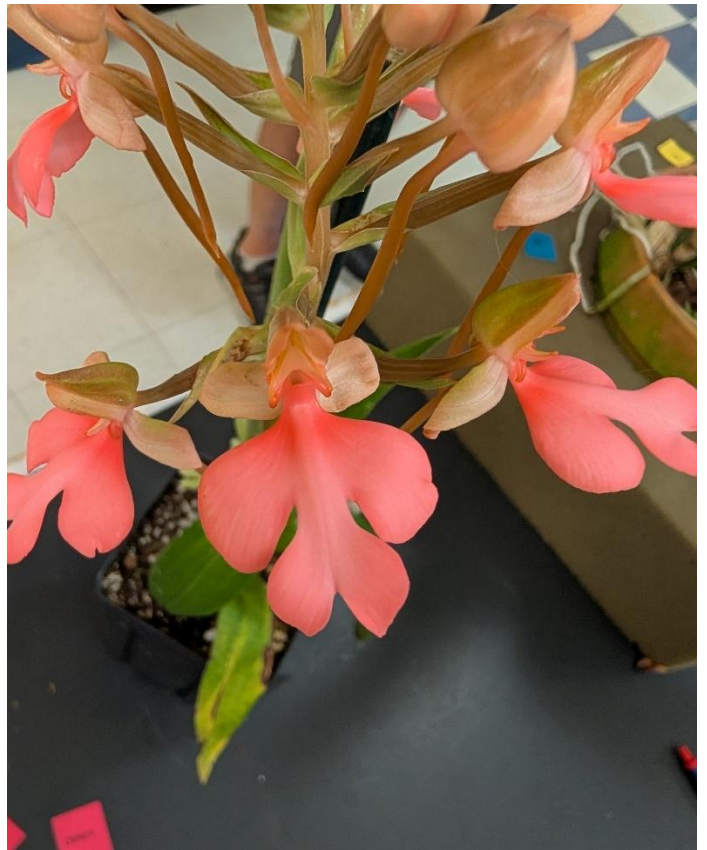
Show and Tell Winners - Cattleya Category



1st – C. Bob Betts 'White Lightning – Myrna (also best grown), 2nd – C. C.G. Roebling 'Blue Indigo' - Eron, 3rd – C. Cosmic Future 'Louisiana' AM/AOS – AI (below left), Myrna with her best grown cattleya (below)



Other Category



1st *Odbrs.* Kenneth Biven 'Santa Barbara' HCC/AOS – Myrna, 2nd – *Habenaria* L'Avenir – Eron,
3rd - *Pe.* Western Tanager – AI (below left), Show & Tell Table (below right)



Roots & Culture (Yes, they're connected)

If you've hung around the orchid growing community long enough, you've probably heard the statement "good roots means a good plant." While accepting that at face value, little do folks look into the details of that statement and think about what it means to their culture of orchids. Let's start with some root "basics":

- 1. Root cells serve to regulate the flow of water and nutrients (as water-soluble ions) into the plant, and to regulate gas exchange (mostly carbon dioxide out and oxygen in, but any green roots will carry on photosynthesis, so the opposite flows are also present).**
- 2. The rates at which those occur are determined by physical characteristics of the root cells and by the relative concentrations and electrical charges of the components on either side of the cell wall.**
- 3. A root cell, once grown, is apparently "locked into" the configuration that was appropriate at the time it grew, and cannot change to accommodate a new environment. When repotting, new cells must grow that are attuned to the new environment. That is why one may see the decomposition of the old root system if the plant is moved into a significantly different culture, such as a bark-based medium to Semi-Hydroponics.**
- 4. The functionality of cells in a particular environment is not "all-or-nothing," but is a matter of degree.**

Based upon those tenets, it becomes clear that some of the long-established "rules" are quite well-founded:

- 1. When repotting, for example, always make sure that new growths (hence new roots) are emerging. Doing so gives the plant the opportunity to grow cells that are appropriate for the environment created by the new medium, and to develop a new root system that will fully support the plant as the old roots start to fail.**

2. Likewise, it is important to keep the plant in a low-stress environment for four to six weeks after repotting so the plant can get established. If the new roots have not yet grown enough to fully support the plant, and the old roots are not able to function at 100%, this makes a lot of sense. This is an especially important issue when making a drastic change in media, such as bark-based to mounted, into inert media, or into water culture. It also pays to do whatever you can to encourage root growth, like setting the pot on a seedling heating pad to warm the root zone or the use of root-growth stimulants like Kelpak. Interestingly enough, aerial roots do quite well when submerged in water, as they can apparently regulate water flow better than those that were submerged in the medium.

One further thing that relates to media choice is decomposition and gas exchange. We know that decomposing medium can take down a plant quite quickly, but an aspect of that which is not often considered is its effect on gas exchange: as organic media decompose, they tend to become compact and stay quite wet, and it is quite plausible that it's the compacting of the medium – and not the wetness or decomposition themselves – that is the culprit in the rapid loss of the plant.

As plant respiration occurs, carbon dioxide exits the roots so it can be swept away into the air. If the medium is compacted and wet, the carbon dioxide will not dissipate, but can react with the water to form carbonic acid, which really kills plant tissue quickly. The localized high concentration of carbon dioxide near the roots also limits the plant's ability to release more, essentially “choking” the gas exchange process.

It seems likely that the open, airy structure of the lightweight expanded clay aggregate (LECA) medium – permitting lots of gas exchange – is why constantly-wet roots don't rot in semi-hydroponic culture. Some experts feel that a lot of flushing with fresh water (carrying lots of oxygen) is beneficial to the plant, so the watering regimen used in semi-hydroponics – heavy flushing from the top – may also play a role in plant health.

Further, the fact that there is no potential of medium decomposition means that we have eliminated another potential source of stress on the root system, and

one response to stress is the generation of phenolic compounds. Designed to be released into the root environment in order to fend off external diseases and competition from other plants, the compounds are also toxic to the orchid's own roots. Reducing the need for self defense reduces the possibility of self-destruction.

One last comment: the vast majority of the orchids we grow are epiphytes or semi-terrestrials such as paphiopedilums. Accordingly, their roots are designed to function in open air, attached to tree branches, or just under the surface of the leaf litter on a forest floor (could those "hairs" on paph roots be there in order to provide air space between the roots and the litter?). Potting a plant in any medium is for our benefit, not the plant's, so we had better make sure that the conditions within the medium are not detrimental to the functioning of the roots.

Until next time... *Good Growing!*



The CLOS Exhibit at the Acadian Orchid Society Show October 3-5 in Lafayette. The exhibit was set up and taken down by Pat and Myrna. Plants contributed were from Pat, Myrna, and Al. Many ribbons and a trophy were won! Thank you Pat and Myrna on a beautiful display!!

Upcoming Orchid Shows



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

Announces it's 46th Annual Show

Jan 30 – 31 and Feb 1, 2026

*Gautier Convention Center,
2012 Library Lane, Gautier, MS 39553*

**Special Plant Auction Sunday, Feb. 1,
Featuring hard to find, and specimen sized plants
preview at 10:30 followed by the auction.**

Free Admission to all events

Sales Open

Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday exhibits and sales 10:00am – 3:30pm

Exhibits Open

Friday 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Saturday noon - 6:00pm

**Exhibit and sales set up starts 2:30pm Thursday Jan 29.
Set up continues Friday, Jan 30 from 8:00am until 3:00pm
Registration closes at 3:00pm Friday**

***No public access anytime Thurs, Jan 29 or Sun, Feb 1 after 3:30pm
Visitors, please give exhibit workers space to work.***

Ribbon Judging starts 8:00 am Sat., Jan 31*

Followed by AOS and Orchid Digest judging.

For more information call 601-530-8778. Like us on Facebook

** Plants and flowers entered for ribbon judging, must have the name,
the cross (if a hybrid), the names of the parents, the variety if a species.*

NOID plants may be exhibited only.

Vendors:

**Florida Star Orchids
Sheila's Orchids
So Orchids**

**Spring Orchids
Anita's Tropicals and More
Hicks Orchids and Supplies**



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



2025 October 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.

EXCITING REASONS TO JOIN THE AOS TODAY...


Become a better grower with exclusive resources, benefits & savings enjoyed by thousands of people like you from around the world.




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Orchidpro - search 100K+ photos




Over 100+ ready-to-watch webinars






Exclusive savings from top 50 orchid vendors



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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	Oct. 09, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 13, 2025 Monday 8:30 pm EDT	Nov. 04, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Winter Break
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Oct. 06</i>	The World of Phragmipediums, What Nature Can Teach Us The result of twenty-five years exploring phragmipedium habitats.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Nov. 01</i>	Choose Your Topic From Our Library of RECORDED WEBINARS
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Frank Cervera Biologist, well established in the Phrag community	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Expert Growers, Conservationists, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, and more



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 ***

Paphiopedilum (paff-ee-oh-PED-i-lum)

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Brrrr baby, it is getting cold outside! Well here in the Midwest Great Lakes region it is anyway. I know you southerners and westerners likely don't face what we face growing orchids. While I know that Mother Nature can be rough sometimes in the south and west, cold is usually not one of the issues. So what do you do to prep your plants for winter? Where we live, it is mandatory to inspect every plant for our not so favorite hitch hikers, often very hard to see. They love to hide in the bracts, under the leaves, in the base of a flower, in the pot, just about anywhere. Caterpillars can hide in the bottom of the pots and start chomping on the roots as soon as they get in there. Some kinds are very destructive. Thrips can destroy plants almost overnight. Not so much a problem around here, unless you accidentally get them from a plant, they are devastating in warmer climate conditions. Greenhouses can be thriving places for them. You certainly do not want them in your house. So what do I do? I inspect each of my plants periodically while they are sunbathing in the summer. I inspect the leaves, potting media, pots, and the leaves of the trees they hang under. I also make sure that we don't have any uninvited guests in the flowers. My hummingbirds love to inspect the flowers but unfortunately, they don't seem to be good at it. Mosquitos yes, caterpillars not so much. Must not be on their diet. I have a little micro magnifying glass that I sometimes have to use to be sure those little black dots are not aphids or worse.

I give my plants a bath when they are ready to come in. I use a mild soap like castile soap, fill up a bucket, add about a half pint of rubbing alcohol and the soap. It is great as a drench. I am really careful to try and pour the mixture over the pots, so that the potting media does not all come out. I do it twice. Let it drain for a bit before the second try. I do this a week or so before the plants come in. I got caught a couple weeks ago as we had some really cool weather so only got to do one rinse and let them sit. Then of course, it came off warm again. But they were already in. I take the really heavy pots, put them in a big tray and fill it with the mixture of soapy water, and pour it over. It is amazing what comes out of the bottom, some caterpillars, earwigs, ooh hate those things. I let the plants really sit in the water for a while and pour a couple of times, so I know the mixture got all through the plants. I use a tiny strainer to get rid of the bugs. I hear my Cattleya saying thank you when I am all done. You can use other methods, Orthene mixed according to directions, but it is toxic to butterflies and some good bugs, so use it sparingly...and besides it does smell, so you can only use outdoors. Just be sure the neighbors are not out on their deck when you use it. I have also used an old standby 1 part alcohol, 1 part 409, and 1 part water, with a drop of Dawn. Does not smell and you can use in your house. You can use the newer IGRs (Insect Growth Regulators) and they don't smell much either. You can use a regimen of rotation in your house. A three pronged approach is good, but we are talking about prepping for coming back from their plant vacation, not winter.

(AOS President's Message continued)

Check your roots by sticking a finger down in the pot. Does it feel slimy? If so, might be a good time to repot. Are the roots taking over the deck? Have they grown into their neighbors? Might be a good time to repot. It is pretty amazing to see the root growth after a summer outdoors. So you may need to repot or find a larger table spot to put all those roots. The AOS has several webinars on the subjects of pests and pesticides. Our Greenhouse chats are indexed now so that you can research what is best for your plants. There are lots of discussions in these webinars about different products and different types of plants. Share this information with your friends at your orchid society who perhaps are not members....yet. Share with them all the resources that we have to offer to help them bed their orchids down for winter. So much to learn, so little time! Isn't that a great reason to get them to join us? Till next month!

cerins@aos.org





AFFILIATED SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT



by Jill Smith

For the next few issues of the AOS Corner, we will be featuring a few of our Affiliated Societies and sharing information about them that makes them special. Hopefully, this will also be an opportunity to provide new ideas or take notes on how your society can be more interesting, informative and fun. Best practices are meant to be shared! This month we are pleased to introduce you to the Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society. The Flamingo Gardens Wildlife Refuge and Botanical Garden is home to the Society as well as the site of the West Palm Beach AOS Judging Center and a group called the Orchidteers who tend to the thousands of orchids throughout the nature center. There's a lot going on in this lovely, secluded corner of southwestern Broward County, Florida! The southeastern area of the state boasts several societies in both the Miami Dade and Fort Lauderdale areas and Flamingo Gardens is one that is super active, has about 180 dedicated members and appears to be growing each year since its inception in 1989.

At their monthly meetings they have a speaker, a raffle, a "show and tell" plant table where members get to vote on their favorite orchid and the winners get a ribbon. There is also a silent auction and members can do a little "house cleaning" and bring in a plant or two for the auction table. When the bidding ends, each highest bidder walks away with a plant. 20% of the proceeds from the sale of each plant are donated to the society – a great way to generate revenue and everyone wins! The program chair also occasionally includes workshop meetings for mounting, repotting and other necessities for savvy orchid cultivation.

To offer a warm welcome to their newcomers, Flamingo Gardens offers a "Newbies" meeting prior to their general members meeting. They gather to ask questions and to receive instruction and tips on how to successfully grow their plants, how to shop for orchids, how to read tags and address all the basic needs of orchids. Their current president, Lucy Matos Lodato, says that the only problem is that after being in the program for the allotted two years, the Newbies don't want to leave! Maybe they could have a little graduation ceremony to send them on their way to the general membership!

Their many other activities include an auction, a holiday party, field trips and workshops. The FGOS annual show is held over Easter weekend, no matter when the date falls. Their website is beautiful, easy to navigate and includes on-line orchid resources and tons of pictures of their enthusiastic members. Check it out! This super-friendly Society also has several AOS judges as well as student judges – a great incentive to become acquainted with the very experienced folks to learn how orchids are presented, shown and awarded. I have heard tell that the Flamingo Gardens Society is a gem – if you're in South Florida on the second Monday of the month, stop in for a visit. I'm sure the red carpet will be out!

The AOS Rep for Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society is Mike Vaupel.

Native Orchid of the Month—October

Pteroglossaspis ecristata (giant orchid)

Pteroglossaspis ecristata (giant orchid, also known as wild coco) grows three to five feet high in savannas, as well as in sandhills, pine flatwoods, and grasslands. It grows from Florida to Louisiana along the coastal plain. In Louisiana it grows both east of the Mississippi River in flatwoods, and west of the Mississippi River in coastal prairies. Both of these habitats



Pteroglossaspis ecristata fruits (seeds appear as dust blowing away)
Sandy Hollow WMA, Tangipahoa Parish
Louisiana Natural Heritage Program

are at risk from habitat destruction and fire suppression. Like many species of coastal plain savannas, it responds positively to fire.



Two to four, large, paper thin and heavily veined leaves arise from underground pseudobulbs. Inflorescences are erect, densely flowered toward top. Flowers are yellowish green with purplish brown markings and a three-lobed lip. They are twisted in toward the stalk, with a stiff floral bract, 2.5 inches long, beneath each flower. Sepals and petals are yellow-green,

folded forward over the lip.



It flowers July through October with fruits developing September through November. It is rare throughout its most of its range.

The giant orchid is a perennial herb that blooms only every few years, usually only after a fire. Often many flowers will bloom at once and remain open for about a week; they are probably pollinated by bees. Little else is known about the reproductive biology of this species; closely related species in the genus are known to be both self- and cross-fertile. The greatest natural threat to the loss of the species is the lack of fire needed to maintain a favorable habitat.



Data compiled from various sources and provided courtesy of the Central Louisiana Orchid Society.

*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.