

<http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org>



### President's Message

The short cool spell was awesome, but we are now back to the hot and dry weather for now. Be sure to keep up your watering and placement of plants as the sun changes its position in the sky for Fall, especially if your plants are outdoors or your windows face south.

Hopefully the fall weather will arrive soon and stay for a good while. But it is time to also start looking into the coming winter and plan on how you will winterize their environments. It looks like I will be depending on plastic again this winter because I am not able to finish the greenhouse rebuild.

Unfortunately, no one has agreed to handle plants for the raffle so we will need to bring plants if we have any spares to continue the raffle. Remember companion plants are also accepted for the raffle.

As reported by Eron, the program for this meeting will be devoted to companion plants which grow well with orchids. Our speakers will also be bringing companion plants to sell, so if you are interested add a few dollars to your wallets.

Just so you are aware, I will be dealing with my right hip replacement next month but do not have any actual date yet or how long I will be in New Orleans.

Happy growing and blooming,

*Russel Deroche, Jr.*



**Meeting Time and Place:**  
**Sunday, September 21, 2025**  
**Time: 2:30 pm**

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

**Program: Companion Plants for Orchids**

**Presented by: Mark Mese & Charie Birdsong**

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

**Refreshments: Pat & Yvonne**

#### 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

# SEPTEMBER MEETING

## *Companion Plants for Orchids*

**Our September meeting program will feature a presentation by Mark Mese and Charlie Birdsong on Orchid Companion Plants. Mark and Charlie will discuss growing a wide assortment of tropical plants in Louisiana, including bromeliads, begonias, ferns, carnivorous plants, orchids, aroids, and succulents. They will be bringing some of their plants to seel. Let Eron know if there is something in particular you are interested in and I bet they'll have it!**

Charlie Birdsong has been growing bromeliads since the late 1960s. He is a founder of the Bromeliad Society of Baton Rouge. He is an International Bromeliad Judge, regularly judging national shows in the US and Australia.

Mark Mese has been growing tropical since the early 1970s. He has a BS in Horticulture from LSU, a Masters degree from UC Davis in Plant Genetics, and a Law Degree from LSU.



## Tip of the Month

The welcome transition to fall is upon us. Once the temperature and humidity mediate, you'll notice many of your plants putting on a second growth spurt. Reward them by watering a little more frequently with dilute fertilizer. You can expect the emergence of buds on many orchids from the cattleyas, evergreen dendrobiums and vandas to cycnoches, catasetums and miltonias. Select the ideal spot for the plant and place pendulous bloomers atop an inverted pot. Support the inflorescence as it emerges and open the sheath to prevent the accumulation of moisture around the developing buds.

Cattleya - Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, you will see a flush of new root tips. Keep water and fertilizer in balance with heat and light. Check plants for potting needs for the last time. Any in dire need should be repotted as there is just enough of the growing season left for plants to establish before the days get short and cold. The spectacular, multiflowered *C. bowringiana* should be in sheath. Observe the puffy sheath structures often, they may need to be opened at the tip to encourage evaporation of condensation that forms around the buds. *C. labiata* and its hybrids will begin to flower this month.

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.



## September Birthdays



Sharyon Thompson (Sep 2), Stephenie Witzman (Sep14)

**Central Louisiana Orchid Society**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 17, 2025**

**1.0 Call to Order**

President Russel Deroche called the meeting to order at 1431.

**2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

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

**3.0 Officer Reports**

**3.1 President Report**

3.1.1 Russel welcomed guest Natalie and announced the birthdays this month. We all wished a happy birthday to Pauline and Lillian.

3.1.2 Russel voiced need for volunteers for October and November refreshments. Linda and Andrea volunteered.

**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 Members discussed the need for more raffle plants for meetings.

**5.0 New Business**

5.1 No new business.

**6.0 Program**

Today was our annual Ice-Cream Social. There were several flavors of ice-cream and toppings to choose from. Everyone enjoyed their ice-cream and we all had a nice time together socializing.

## 7.0 Raffle and Show & Tell

Raffle Winners: Natalie, Avon, Andrea, and Al

Door Prize Winner: Heather

Most members contributed to our annual Ice Cream Social.

Show and Tell voting and winners presented as follows:

Best Grown Plant: *C. bowringiana* – Andrea

Cattleya Alliance: 1<sup>st</sup> – *Lc. Old Faithful 'La'* HCC/AOS – Al

2<sup>nd</sup> – *Lc. Mote Spot* – Andrea

All Others Group: 1<sup>st</sup> – Paper Red – Andrea

1<sup>st</sup> (tie) – *Den. Aridang Green X Barama Jade 'yellow'* – Myrna

1<sup>st</sup> (tie) – *lelra. Yellow Star 'Stellar'* – Myrna

There was no other business.

## 8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1532.

Respectfully submitted,

Russel Deroche, Jr.  
President

**Show and Tell Winners** – Unfortunately, we didn't get any pictures of the beautiful show and tell plants from our August meeting.

## How Much Do I Feed My Orchids?



In the plant world, orchids are slow growers, so are quite undemanding of fertilizer. Despite that fact, one question I hear a lot is “How much do I feed my orchids?”

There are a lot of things that go into an answer, such as fertilizer formula, the frequency of feeding, and the concentration of the solution. Let’s start by taking a glance at the science of plant growth.

The “building blocks” that make up about 90% of a plant are carbon (C), oxygen (O), hydrogen (H), and nitrogen (N). The first three come from water and air. For cultivated plants, the nitrogen comes from the fertilizer solutions we apply.

If we do the calculations for the chemical processes that result in “growth”, we find that for a plant to add a pound of living tissue, it must take up and process about 200 pounds (~91 kg) of water and only about 5 grams of nitrogen from fertilizer. So what does that mean in more practical terms?

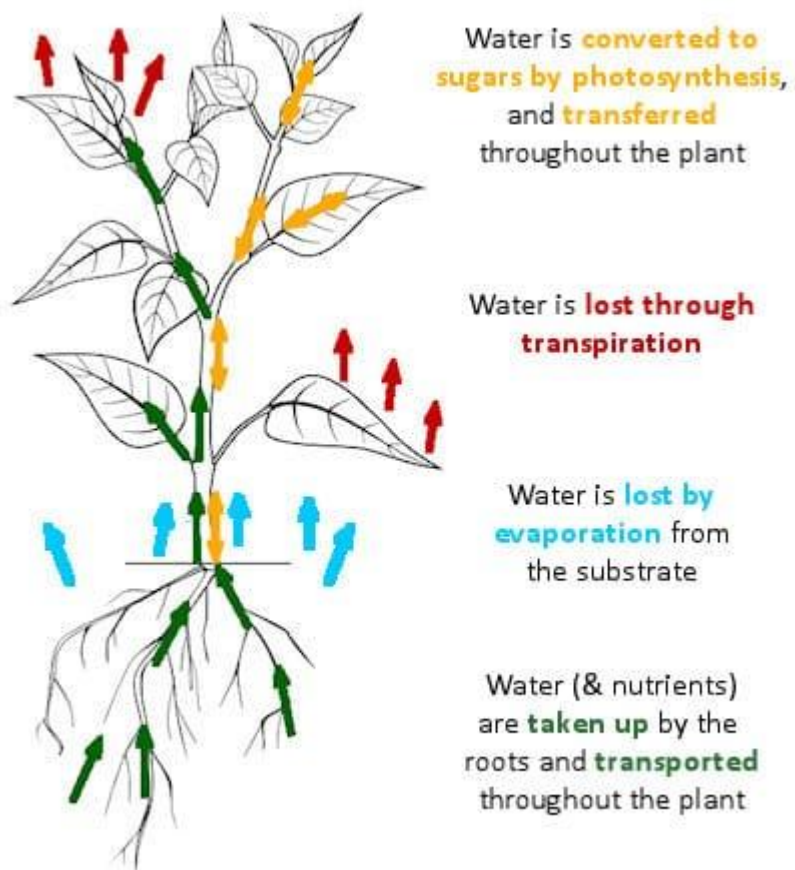
Let’s say we expect a plant to add a pound of weight in a 10-year period – probably not a bad guess for a paphiopedilum that adds a new growth every nine to twelve months. That would mean the plant – on average – must absorb about  $5 \text{ g} \div 520 \text{ weeks} = 0.0096 \text{ g}$  (9.6 mg) of nitrogen and about 0.175 kg of water per week. If 100% of what we deliver is

absorbed, that suggests the “ideal solution” for weekly feeding would be  $9.6 \text{ mg} \div 0.175 \text{ kg} = 55 \text{ mg/kg} = 55 \text{ ppm N}$ .

But wait! That does not mean that we should water with a 55 ppm N solution!

If the plant truly absorbed everything we apply to the pot and lost none of it through evaporation, that would be appropriate, but we really don't know 1) how much of that applied solution is retained by the potting medium, or 2) how much of it is absorbed by the plant!

Potting media retention varies all over the map, from “sponges” like sphagnum and rock wool, to “ducks' backs” like coarse Orchid bark. Plus, as “retention” is the net of absorption and evaporation, there is even more variability, depending upon the local environment.



All in all, it is an extremely complex combination of events, so short of just giving up, what can we do? I think that the answer is to adjust your

potting media and culture so that there is always a plentiful supply of water containing a tiny amount of fertilizer for the plant.

Using my preferred 25 ppm N solution as an example, that means that each gallon applied contains about 95 mg of nitrogen. If we pour a quart of that solution into a pot an average of twice a week, over our theoretical 10-year growth period, we will have delivered about 25 grams of nitrogen and 980 kg of water to the pot! That suggests that if the plant is able to take up roughly 20% of that, it's right on target.

That might be a reasonable uptake efficiency in culture that maintains constant moisture at the root system, but it is probably a gross overestimate for most growers. For all of us, I think the best bet is to use a very open mix and irrigate with such a dilute solution more often – sort of like what happens in nature. I know from my own experimentation with plants in semi-hydronic culture, that plants watered daily gained about 25% more weight than those watered every two- or three days.

Until next time... *Good Growing!*

## Upcoming Shows

Acadian Orchid Society Show, Lafayette, LA

### **Contact**

Eddie Dupuy  
337-445-9252  
[eddiedupuy@cox.net](mailto: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 September 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.


  
Orchids magazine & digital archive


  
Orchidpro - search 100K+ photos


  
Over 100+ ready-to-watch webinars



3:55

  
Exclusive savings from top 50 orchid vendors

  
\$700+ vouchers for 2 year members

  
Join the AOS today!  
Under \$5 per month

Watch the 4-minute video above to see what AOS membership offers you.  
Join today using the secure form below or by calling **(305) 740-2010**

# Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members

**Webinars - Coming Attractions!**

REGISTRATION IS EASY [www.aos.org/webinars](http://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](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)  
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	Sept. 11, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 23, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 09, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 13, 2025 Monday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	<i>Master Orchidist Series</i> <b>Best Methods for Indoor Pest Management</b> Explore pest problems of indoor orchid growing.	<b>AOS Awards—The Honor of Cultural Excellence</b> Review the plants that earned this award for their grower/owner. Get growing tips.	<b>Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q &amp; A</b> Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Oct. 06</i>	<b>The World of Phragmipediums, What Nature Can Teach Us</b> The result of twenty-five years exploring phragmipedium habitats.
Presenter	<b>Ron McHatton</b> AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Sandra Svoboda</b> AOS Judge and AOS Past President	<b>Ron McHatton</b> AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Frank Cervera</b> Biologist, well established in the Phrag community


 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

Remember, AOS members can always go back and watch any webinars at any time!

**\* Orchid Word of the Month \***

**Cattleya (KAT-lee-ah)**



## MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Hello to all the orchid enthusiasts out there. I want to write this month's message to encourage AOS members and Affiliated Society members to consider joining for one of our benefits, to use our Orchid Marketplace. I draw your attention to this because it seems as a little used benefit. It truly is one of the most important benefits of belonging to the AOS!

I have heard many comments in my travels that "I did not know about it." Folks this benefit is our Orchid Marketplace and I personally want you to know about it and how to access it. First of all, it is on the main page of the website, on the right. When you log in, under your name, scroll down to Orchid Marketplace. When you are there you can click on any vendor and get taken to their website.

People who are not members tell me, I don't see a reason to join. Yikes we have so many reasons to join and it is so inexpensive!!! Did you know?? If you join with a two year membership or renewal, you receive a \$30 coupon (voucher) one time use per membership period, per \$100 purchase, at each of the Elite vendors at the top of the vendor list. WOW!!!! That is such a great offer. Where else can you get this kind of discount for shopping for orchids or supplies? If you are a one year member, you still get a discount, of 5% for every purchase at all the vendors. Note: Some vendors have a minimum purchase to qualify. This is YOUR time to explore these fantastic vendors and see what they have to offer you. I was so surprised to hear that people do not take advantage of this membership offer. And we make it easy. You can print the vouchers and your name and expiration date shows up. You give this to the vendor or email them or present in person. If you click the three lines on the left while in Marketplace, it gives you all the information on how to redeem the vouchers. For those vendors who take the vouchers at a show, you can take the voucher to the show. Might be a good idea to check with them first to see. Otherwise you can email them in your on line purchase. If you click on the vendor partners in green, they offer a 5% member discount. They make it very easy to shop. Just fill in the blanks if you order online.

There are the Dealwires too! The Elite vendors in red have the ability to offer four Dealwires a year. Every member gets these emails, along with non members. This is another great way to shop and get good deals on orchids and orchid supplies and patronize our partners. These are not stackable, i.e. multiple coupons on top of one another. The Dealwires do not carry an additional 5% discount for AOS members.

Always check with the vendor first!!

Affiliated Societies attention!!! How about publicizing the Marketplace in your meetings. Perhaps people don't know about this benefit to being an AOS member. Perhaps have AOS Affiliated Societies Newsletter AOS Corner September 2025 a

member sign on to the website and take a tour of the marketplace at your meeting, and let your members know. This is encouragement to join the AOS! We also want to encourage you to go to vendors in your area and tell them about the program. We have thousands of emails that go out and where can they get such advertising as being a Partner with us and letting people know about their products.

Everyone likes bargains, and we orchid nuts are no different. Our partners offer many goods and services that you should learn to take advantage of. I am always surprised when I attend meetings around the country that so many do not belong to the AOS to take advantage of the wonderful benefits we have to support their orchid growing addiction. Yes it is an addiction, you just cannot stop at one! The price of a two year membership includes \$30 discount vouchers at the Elite partners and is worth more than the membership fee. The dealwires are special invitations to visit a vendor and shop!

We want to expand and enhance our vendor program. More vendors mean more shopping places. Right now this is the U.S. and Canada only as most vendors do not have international shipping capabilities. We want to encourage our members to shop at our partners and perhaps get more vendors to join us. If you have a vendor that is interested, they can call our office at 305-740-2010 to get more information. The office will send them the link to see how it is done. Until next month, happy shopping.....at the Orchid Marketplace. Send me an email. [cerins@aos.org](mailto:cerins@aos.org) .



## FROM THE EYES AND EARS OF A NEWCOMER

BY JILL BLAKE SMITH

For those of us who are members of AOS and have been involved with growing orchids for a while, there are certain things that “everyone” knows about, anticipates and expects. One of these is the fact that renowned orchid growers and owners of RF Orchids in Homestead, Bob Fuchs and Michael Coronado provide opportunities for group travel around the world. These extravagant trips typically involve attending a famous show or an excursion to orchid sanctuaries in far away lands. The reports of these travels are always glowing accounts of the amazing sights and of course, the orchids. Most of the folks who accompany Bob and Michael are seasoned orchid hobbyists and AOS judges that come from far and wide. It's just not often that a newcomer to a society or “Keiki” joins these journeys.

Enter Sandra! Sandra has been a Keiki with the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society for a bit over a year. Having resided in Key West for a number of years she is no stranger to orchids and she's avidly learning more with her FLOS experiences. She recently visited RF and saw that there was a trip being planned for a flower festival in Medellín, Colombia. This piqued her interest and with further inquiries she learned that the dates fit her schedule, the length of the trip was doable for her and the price was right as well. She signed up and excitedly departed for South America with the group of 11 orchid enthusiasts on August 2nd.

Although Sandra was restricted for a short while at the beginning of the trip so she could acclimatize to the 5,000-foot altitude of Medellín, she was ready and able to attend one of the the Feria de las Flores Events billed “Florecer: Orquídeas, Naturaleza y Tradiciones.”

The first thing that she learned was that Medellín is known as the city of Perpetual Spring because the climate is perfect for a huge variety of flowering plants. She marveled at the displays which she said were like huge arrangements similar to the Rose Bowl Parade! There was an iguana as big as a train engine, huge butterflies and assorted sculptures all created from flowers. Although in the past, she had seen judges at local orchid shows working to carefully examine plants entered for awards, observing them trying to count hundreds of flowers on one orchid was mind boggling!

Sandra reported that the visit to the Medellín Botanical Garden was equally as fascinating. There was a huge structure in the heart of the orchid display with kites of all colors flying from stages which she described as “magical!” She was quite impressed with the overall cleanliness of the city and she was quite taken with the number of farmer's markets with all sorts of beautifully grown fruits and vegetables. The people were friendly, dining was outstanding and every detail of the trip was memorable! In a nutshell, it sounds like Sandra had a wonderful experience traveling to Medellin with the AOS Judges and I'm sure she'll be planning another journey to have more orchid viewing opportunities! Don't go without me!!

## Native Orchid of the Month—September

### *Habenaria repens* (waterspider bog orchid)

Water-spider orchids (*Habenaria repens*) appear as one- to two-foot high stalks protruding from the surface of plant vegetation. On close examination, the stalks are covered with greenish white flowers that have the sepals and petals together, but divided into small elongated lobes that are reminiscent of spiders—thus the name.

Water-spider orchids occur in marshes, wet meadows, and bogs, margins of streams, ditches, and ponds; commonly an emergent aquatic in shallow water and in floating mats alone or with other vegetation.



They spread by runners as well as seeds. They are erect, growing to one or two feet tall. The leaves are thick and succulent, two to nine inches long and up to one inch wide. They are narrowly lance-shaped, tapering to a narrow point. The most conspicuous part is its stalk is the flowers that occur at the top of the plant.

The small flowers are pale green, up to 3/4 inch across.

Flowering is primarily summer

through fall, sporadically between April and December.

Reproducing both sexually and vegetatively via stolons, this orchid will often form dense colonies. During the evening and nighttime hours, these orchids' flowers emit a very powerful fragrance, apparently to attract night-flying moths.



# 24<sup>th</sup> WOC



## Germany 2026

24<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference  
26-29 March 2026 Dresden

*Save the Date!*  
*April 8-11, 2026*



## **2026 AOS Spring Conference**

**To be held in conjunction with  
the Apopka International  
Spring Orchid Festival**

*Make Plans to Join Us!*

Apopka, Florida

\*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](mailto: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.