

October 2019

<http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org>

From the President

Finally cooler temperatures have arrived and it's actually starting to feel like fall!

Our meeting this month will be at Wilton and Connie's house where Wilton will show us how to make our very own homemade wire plant supports. Wilton has a special homemade accessory that helps easily bend wire into round plant supports of any size you wish to make. He will have some of these accessories available for a small donation to the society. Also, if you buy special orchid clay pots that have slits on the side, they are much more expensive than the same size clay pot without the slits. The depth of clay azalea pots are perfect for orchids but increased airflow is very much desired. Wilton will demonstrate how to cut clay pots so airflow can be increased to the root zone. Any clay pot can now be made in to a special "orchid" pot, for a fraction of the cost!

See you on Sunday, October 20th at 2:30 pm at Wilton and Connie's house!

Eron



Meeting Time & Place
Sunday, October 20, 2019
Plant Entry 2:00 pm
Meeting time 2:30 pm

Guillory home
1516 City Park Blvd.
Alexandria, LA
Alternate parking at 2713
Hill St. around the corner

Refreshments-Eron Borne

Central Louisiana Orchid Society Officers

President –Eron Borne
Vice President – Wilton
Guillory
Secretary –Janice Upton
Treasurer – Jim Barnett
Director-Linda Roberts
Director –Al Taylor
Director- Andrea Mattison
SWROGA Directors: Linda R
AOS Representative –Wilton
ODC Representative – Andrea
Mattison

Newsletter Editor – Connie
Guillory
Show& Tell –Rick Allardyce

October Program

Program: Making homemade wire plant supports and cutting clay pots for increased airflow.

By: Wilton Guillory

Location: Home of Wilton and Connie Guillory

1516 City Park Blvd., Alexandria, LA ph#318-445-8049 for directions

Btw. Hill St. and George's Lane on the bayou, cross bridge

Parking for those with limited mobility available around the corner at 2713 Hill St., which is where the demonstration/meeting will take place.

For directions to their home, see attached to this email.

This month Wilton will show us how to make our very own homemade wire plant supports. Wilton has a special homemade accessory that helps easily bend wire into round plant supports of any size you wish to make. He will have some of these accessories available for a \$5 small donation to the society. In addition, Wilton will demonstrate how to cut clay pots so that airflow can be increased to the root zone. Any clay pot can be made into a special orchid pot! Bring up to 6 clay pots/person to be cut.

Upcoming Orchid Shows and Events

Show and Tell September 2019

Cattleya Division

1. Rlc. Sedona's Surprise-Al Taylor
2. Rlc. Volcano Plum-Rick Allardyce
2. C. labiata fma. rubra 'Eron's Pride' AM/AOS-Eron Borne also Best Grown

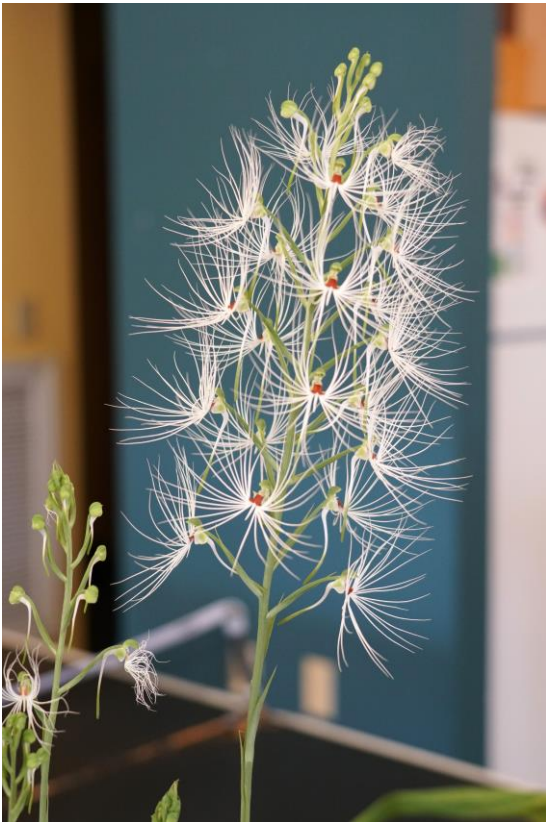
Other Division

1. Masdevalia Dean Haas 'Gina' –Jacob
2. Habenaria myriotrisha-Al Taylor
3. Aeranthes Hsinying Ramosa 'Elizabeth Grace' –Eron Borne

Date/Time	Event
11/02/2019 - 11/03/2019	Kansas Orchid Society Fall Show <i>Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, Wichita KS</i>
12/07/2019	The Louisiana Orchid Short Course <i>Hilton Garden Inn, Lafayette LA</i>
12/07/2019	59th Acadian Annual Short Course <i>Hilton Garden Inn, Lafayette Louisiana</i>
03/06/2020 - 03/07/2020	GNTOS 2020 Orchid Show and Sale <i>Richardson Civic Center, Richardson TX</i>
03/13/2020 - 03/15/2020	Calcasieu Orchid Society Show and Sale <i>Historic City Hall, Lake Charles LA /USA</i>
04/10/2020 - 04/11/2020	Fort Worth Orchid Society Show hosting SWROGA Spring 2020 <i>Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Fort Worth</i>
04/18/2020 - 04/19/2020	Tulsa Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale <i>The Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa OK</i>
05/02/2020 - 05/03/2020	Oklahoma Orchid Show and Sale <i>Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center, Oklahoma City OK</i>



Rlc. Volcano Plum-Rick Allardyce



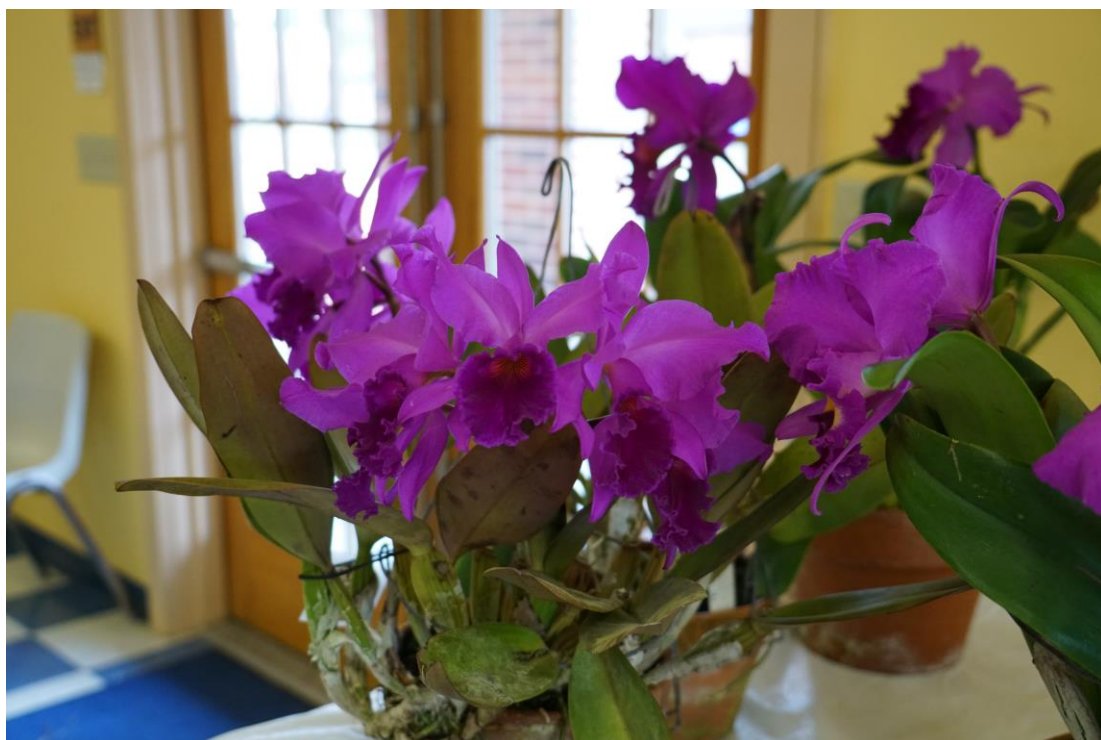
Habeneria myriotricha-Al Taylor



Masdevalia Dean Haas "Gina" –Jacob's plant



Rlc. Sedona's Surprise-Al Taylor



***C. labiata* fma. *rubra* "Eron's Pride" AM/AOS-Eron Borne
Best Grown**



Sept Program



Show and Tell Table



Aeranthus Hsinying Ramosa 'Elizabeth Grace' –Eron Borne



Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



THE OCTOBER 2019 AOS CORNER – From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee (Affiliated_Societies@AOS.org).

For newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner in whole or in part, in their society newsletters. We encourage promotion of AOS website use by your members.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

We are happy to welcome our newest affiliated society, Worcester County Orchid Society. They are located at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. You are not going to want to miss the exciting event planned for February and March in the Arboretum. We wish them great success. Also, if you're in the area on the 1st Saturday of any month at 1:00 pm, you can stop by for a visit to the AOS Northeast Judging Center to attend and participate in monthly AOS judging.

Last chance... Make sure that all members of your society know that they are welcome to join us at the AOS Fall Members Meeting. The Trustees of the AOS and its Standing Committees meet twice each year in the spring and fall. This fall's meeting, which is hosted by the East Everglades Orchid Society, is being held October 16th – 20th, 2019 in Homestead, Florida. The Affiliated Societies Committee will meet Thursday

morning, October 17th and we welcome you to join us. We always want to hear how we can better support your society. Registration is still open so get signed up for the meeting and make your hotel reservation while space is available. It's not too late to join us but rooms are going fast!

Selected events in addition to the East Everglades Orchid Society Show - 'Fall in Love with Orchids' include:

- Meet & Greet
- AOS & Ribbon Judging
- Bus Tour to Everglades National Park, Alligator Farm and Airboat Ride (Ticketed event)
- Annual fundraising auction
- Meeting of the Members, "State of the AOS," Judges elevations
- Lecture Series & Speakers discussion
- Tropical buffet dinner, cocktails & entertainment (Ticketed event)
- For additional details (including menu), visit: <http://www.orchidseeos.com/aos-bookings/>

You can click the link below to register online, or if you would prefer to register by mail, you can send a check payable to the East Everglades Orchid Society to the following address:

Donna Taylor
9975 SW 196 Street
Miami, FL 33157

Here's the link: <http://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings.aspx>

Make sure not to miss the President's message in the October issue of ORCHIDS magazine. Susan Wedegaertner discusses planning care for our orchid collections when we are unable to. Whether it's a greenhouse emergency at a time you can't get there, the simple inability to no longer properly care for your precious orchids, or the death of another society member who could have a collection that includes rare

plants, do you have a plan? Susan asks that you email your ideas or plans to save our precious collections to her email at Susan@aos.org. Hopefully, we can collect enough suggestions for an article in ORCHIDS to aid us all to conserve those orchids in greenhouse collections when situations arise.

We're always looking for ideas to bring kids into the world of orchids. While planning your next orchid show don't forget to check out the AOS Kids Corner for ideas. Here's the link to the main page: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/kids-corner.aspx>. See other articles for instructions on how to create activities we've tested out or make up your own great activities. Please share your ideas and experiences with the Education Committee at education_committee@aos.org.

Thanks again for all the pics that you are sending in for the Instagram feed. Our Instagram Administrator, Candace Hollinger, sends her appreciation to you all. It's wonderful to see such a variety of everything orchid that's enjoyed around the globe. Please remind your members that we would love pics of how they grow, what's blooming now or anything they love about orchids. Please continue to send your photos and short videos to: americanorchidsociety@gmail.com. Be sure to send a short caption explaining your photo. Also, if you are bilingual and can include your caption in English plus your other language(s)—it will help with our universal outreach.

Remember to check-in on our Facebook Group Page for Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society. The response has been great, many thanks to all of you who added pics of show banners. We can all learn from what has been successful for other societies. Let us know how your show went, and what was successful for you, or what didn't quite make the mark. Our administrator, Chad Brinkerhuff, monitors the feed and is a great resource for all that the AOS has to offer. Keep us up to date on what's going on at your local society and let us know how we can help you.

Don't forget to check out the List of Speakers to help you plan society meeting programs. You will now find the Affiliated Societies link on the home page under the "About Us" heading.

And... Here's a link to check it all out - <http://www.aos.org/>

CULTURE

Orchids on the Half-Shell by James Massay
originally published in ORCHIDS – November 2014

Oyster Shells as Orchid Mounts

“If only it were as easy to grow orchids as it is to raise oysters . . . !” How many times have I repeated this complaint over the years? Raising oysters has been a hobby of mine almost as long as I have been struggling with orchids. A possible intersection of the two endeavors struck me three years ago when a woman in my local orchid society, not knowing that I raise oysters, happened to tell me she was looking for some large oyster shells on which to mount orchids. I laughed and said, “I’m your man.” After that, of course, I became interested in raising orchids on oyster shells myself. I always like to make good use of everything available, so this seemed like a very good purpose for my numerous shells.

There are several advantages to using oyster shells for orchid mounts. The shells are very inexpensive (usually free) and readily available in areas where oysters flourish. In contrast to other mounting materials, they are durable and not subject to decay. Two elements needed by orchids, calcium and nitrogen, are present in the shells and provide slow-release nourishment for the plants. The orchid’s roots find a place on which to anchor themselves on the rough surface of the shell. When in bloom, an orchid presents a striking appearance on an oyster shell.

Like many other orchid growers, I mix crushed oyster shells with potting medium to provide nutrition for plants that are not mounted. Also, to ensure good drainage, I place whole oyster shells instead of packaging material in the bottoms of pots. This seems to me to be a more natural and beneficial method than using synthetic packing peanuts, as many growers do.

If you don't live on one of the coasts, you can obtain oyster shells inexpensively by simply buying some oysters still in the shells and having a feast before putting the shells to work. Another option would be to stop in a restaurant that serves oysters-on-the-half-shell and ask for some of the shells. I always clean my shells with a pressure washer to remove the salt. You could accomplish the same result by soaking the shells in fresh water to get rid of the salt and then scrubbing them with a stiff brush. Orchids are mounted on an oyster shell the same way as on any other mounting material. You can use either the smooth side or the rounded side of the shell, depending on your preference and the size of the plant.

In nature, oysters frequently make the defensive move of bonding to each other. In the past, I would divide oysters that were bound together. Now, I leave them alone and hope they will get bigger—together. Two conjoined oyster shells make a wonderful mount. People have accused me of gluing two shells together; however, conjoined twins are, in fact, just a lucky find in my oyster float. I have given several people in my local orchid society oyster shells to use, and some have had success with them. My own best results have been with hard-cane dendrobiums. I should add, though, that I always get my best results in any growing medium with these dendrobiums. Some cattleyas I have put on oyster shells look healthy and promising, but they are not yet big enough to bloom. I am continually experimenting with different orchids to see if they will thrive on oyster shells.

Old farmers used to say that when they butchered hogs, they used everything except the squeal. Oysters don't squeal, but they do squirt water. If you eat an oyster and mount an orchid on its shell, you can use everything except the squirt!



Mounting complete. A dendrobium plant with sphagnum moss around the roots. I tie the plants to the mount using strips of recycled pantyhose. It is easier to tie than monofilament fishing line and will not decompose for long periods in the sun.

— Jim Massay is an AOS member living in Yorktown, Virginia, and is a member of the Peninsula Orchid Society of Virginia. 111 Faulkner Road, Yorktown, VA 23692 (jimmassay@cox.net).

UPCOMING WEBINARS

It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the All About Orchids tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of this monthly Corner.

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton

Thursday, October 3rd, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT

Public

Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchid. He will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhouse@aos.org by Tuesday, October 1st. Please remember to include pictures as well.

Register now using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1567490565018905091>

Conservation & Ecology of Western North American Cypripediums with Tara Luna

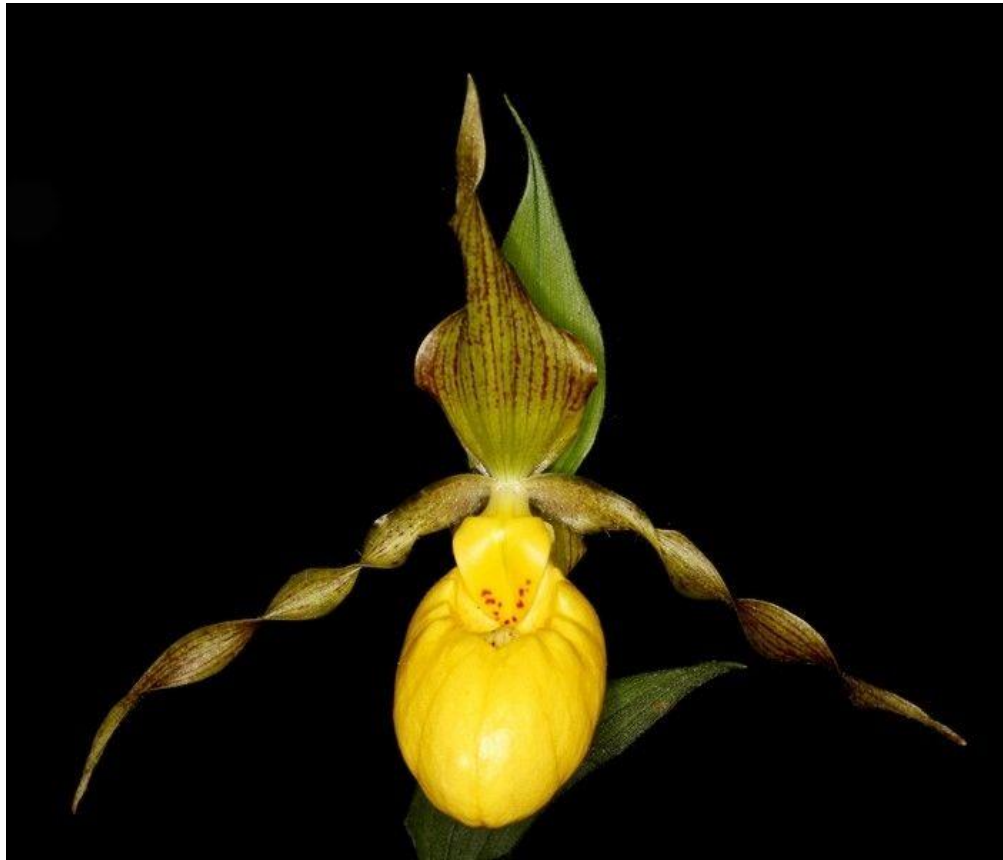
Monday, October 7th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT

Members only

Please join us for a webinar with Tara Luna, field botanist, ecologist and an AOS grant recipient, as she discusses the Yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) found in a range of mesic upland and groundwater fed wetlands in Western North America from Alaska to New Mexico and Arizona, including three botanical varieties: var. *pubescens*, var. *makasin* and var. *exiliens*. Throughout its western North American range, this species is rare and is often found in range restricted or groundwater dependent habitats.

Register now using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2321741246359376130>



Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens 'MoJo' AM/AOS; Photographer: Katie Payeur

Note: After registering you will receive a confirmation email information about joining the seminar.

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view the presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

WANT TO LEARN BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE? The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE This is the month in which our annual Supplement is included. This year's subject is the vast and beautiful **Oncidium Alliance**. The supplement and the issue itself are chock full.

- **Genus of the Month - The true miltonias by Tom Mirenda**
- **For the Novice - Those fall and winter preparations by Sue Bottom**
- **New Refugium Botanicum - TBD**
- **Orchids Illustrated - Catasetum by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins**
- **The Catasetinae, Part 3 - Breeding with Goblins (Mormodes) by Fred Clarke**
- **Vanilla in Puerto Rico by Paul Bayman**
- **Milioniopsis by David Rosenfeld**



Milioniopsis Maui Tropical Sunset 'WOW' AM/AOS; Photographer: Maurice Marietti

YOUR SOCIETY CAN EARN FREE AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS:

Upcoming shows are a good time to encourage new membership to AOS. Affiliated societies can now earn a one-month extension of their AOS society membership for

**each new AOS member that they refer (note: membership renewals don't count).
Make sure to note your Society Affiliation in the comments section of the application.**

With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a FULL YEAR OF FREE AOS membership! Be sure to have membership applications with your society's name already filled in and available at your club meetings!

Remember to let your members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources at their disposal making growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful.

**Digital Access to Over 350+
past issues of Orchids magazine extending back to 1932!**

ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!

16-page award gallery of breath-taking pictures of recently awarded orchids.



Phalaenopsis LD's Bear Queen 'Alma' AM/AOS; Photographer: Judith Higham

RECENT ORCHID AWARDS PICTURES ON THE AOS WEBSITE:

See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new “Latest Orchid Awards” page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. Free to members and non-members.



Cattleya pumila 'Mirtha Isabel' AM/AOS; Photographer: Glen Barfield

**Let's grow together,
Denise Lucero**

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

September CLOS Minutes

President, Eron Borne at 2:34 pm, September, called CLOS meeting to order 2019.

Previous month's minutes were approved.

Discussed nominations for 2020 officers. We need members to step up and hold offices for next year. Connie Guillory has agreed to continue putting together the newsletter for 2020. Nominations will be made in October-November then voted on in 2019.

Jim Barnett gave the treasurer's report.

Refreshments for upcoming months:

October-Eron Borne

November-Linda Roberts

December-Potluck Christmas Party

Al Taylor gave a report on the SWROGA show held outside of Galveston, TX.

Discussed next month's program to be held at Wilton and Connie Guillory's home at 1516 City Park Blvd., Alexandria. Parking also available at 2713 Hill St. entrance to workshop. Directions will be included in newsletter.

Raffle and door prizes were given out.

Submitted by Wilton Guillory, substitute Secretary

Epsom Salts

Question

I have recently learned that Epsom salts work well for getting phalaenopsis to bloom. My questions are:

Does this work for all orchids? If not, which ones should get it, which ones definitely should not get it? How often do I apply Epsom salts? I've read everything from monthly to twice a year. How much do I apply? What does the Epsom salts do? Is magnesium not sufficiently present in fertilizer? So why is the boost from salts particularly important? — **Tania Self**

Answer

You will not read much on this topic in regard to orchids for there has been little research done. As so often is the case, the myths and misinformation get spread widely, often by people selling something. However, this much is true: Magnesium is an essential element in orchid nutrition. In Europe, fertilizer formulas are often expressed as N-P-K-Mg, indicating that it is considered as a macroelement rather than a micronutrient. It can be made available to orchids in many forms. Potting mixes will often contain dolomitic lime for a slow-release source. Growers either top-dress with magnesium sulphate in the spring or they apply it dissolved in water in the autumn as a stand-alone application at 1tbs per gallon. Sophisticated growers will usually add magnesium in a chelated form to their liquid-fertilizer solutions. Plant need can be gauged by tissue analysis but this is probably more complex than most hobby growers can be bothered with.

Magnesium is critical to the flower-initiation process in orchids. Instances of disappointing flower production in Cymbidium, for example, have been linked to low levels of magnesium in plant tissue. The recent work with *Phalaenopsis* you have read supports previous studies on Cymbidium and it is reasonable to presume that magnesium is a macroelement for most orchid genera. — **Andy Easton**

Taken from <http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-question-answer/epsom-salts.aspx>

Night Length

Question

I have been growing orchids for about two years, and have rebloomed evergreen dendrobiums and oncidiums with no problem. My cattleyas are in the same growing area - a large south-facing window where the light is also supplemented by a Wonderlite, especially in winter. None of my cattleyas have rebloomed. I realize lack of light is the usual reason for failure to flower, but I'm puzzled by my success with the dendrobiums if light is the factor. Could it be light duration? I do reduce the duration in winter but perhaps not enough. The area gets warm temperatures, rarely below 62 F on winter nights. — ***Aline M. Kuntz***

Answer

Since you have pre-empted my first guess, which would be lack of light (it sounds like they receive plenty), I would then suspect that your plants are receiving insufficient day-night differential. Especially if you have selected plants that bloom in winter into spring, long nights are particularly necessary for blooming. Unless the plants receive at least 10 to 12 uninterrupted hours of night, they may not bloom. Lack of uninterrupted darkness may be the key. If the room in which they are grown has even so much as a reading light close to the plants, it will interrupt their night and provide a short-night treatment. The warmer winter nights may also be a contributory factor, but a minor one. — ***Ned Nash***

Taken from <http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-question-answer/night-length.aspx>

Native Orchid of the Month—October

Pteroglossaspis ecristata (giant orchid)



Pteroglossaspis ecristata orchid, also known as wild three to five feet high in well as in sandhills, pine and grasslands. It grows from 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 are at risk from habitat destruction and fire suppression. Like many species of coastal plain savannas, it responds positively to fire.



(giant coco) grows savannas, as flatwoods, Florida to

pseudobulbs. Inflorescences are erect, densely flowered Flowers are yellowish green with purplish brown markings lobed lip. They are twisted in stalk, with a stiff floral bract, 2.5 beneath each flower. Sepals and yellow-green, folded forward over



It flowers July through October developing September through It is rare throughout its most of its

The giant orchid is a perennial herb only every few years, usually only 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.



and heavily underground toward top. and a three-toward the inches long, petals are the lip.

with fruits November. range.

that blooms after a fire.

