



learn. share. grow.

DECEMBER 2025/ JANUARY 2026 COOS REPORTER



Plant of the Month — Cattleya Species

Sophranitis cernua grown by Nancy Shapiro

This miniature Sophranitis is grown about 1 foot under LED (Berrina) lights. It is grown in the basement of my house where the temperature is moderate (rarely above 80 in the summer) and lately cooling off in the winter with night time temperatures in the low 60's. It is watered at least 5 times per week (mostly daily if I can) and fertilized weekly during the growing season.

It has become a reliable bloomer with multiple new growths and spikes each year, blooming in late fall. It's an easy plant to grow if you don't mind watering your orchids frequently.

Happy New Year to All!

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President's Message December 2025

We are working on arranging some weekend daytime meetings for the first three months of 2026. We wanted to try this because driving to and from meetings in the dark is not as pleasant and with winter driving conditions, can be more dangerous than driving in the daytime. We'll provide more information when it becomes available.

Last month we had a very nice awards banquet/potluck at the Hilliard United Methodist Church. This was a lovely venue - thanks Tracy for arranging this. We had plenty of delicious food and it was a lot of fun visiting with everyone. The show table was amazing. It was so enjoyable to see all the beautiful orchids everyone brought in. Here are the Grower's Awards results:

New grower (growing less than 2 years)

2nd place - 7 points - Halie Miller

1st place - 68 points - Devin Spencer

Intermediate (growing more than 2, but less than 5 years)

2nd place - 73 points - Beth Makley

1st place - 150 points - Jan Miller

Non-greenhouse (growing for more than 5 years without a greenhouse)

2nd place - 257 points - Edna Markley

1st place - 360 points - Ken Mettler

Greenhouse (growing for more than 5 years with a greenhouse)

2nd place - 29 points - Naila Caruso

2nd place - 29 points - Tom Hart

1st place - 507 points - Tennis Maynard

Each 2nd place award winner received a \$20 coupon to be used at our next show and each 1st place award winner received a \$25 coupon.

Thank you all for being members of the Central Ohio Orchid Society

Dave Markley

**January – March 2026 meetings will be held at the
Franklin Park Conservatory Wells Barn on SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS in an attempt to improve winter driving
conditions. Information on dates and times are on page
6 of this newsletter**

President's Message January 2026

One year over, and a new one just begun! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We have so many changes in COOS! A new year, new officers and committee chairpeople. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped out in any of these positions over the past several years. I won't try to name them, for fear of leaving someone out, but I'd especially like to thank Dave Markley as our past President and Home Show Chair. Dave has committed a tremendous amount of time and effort in these two endeavors, and has always been willing to tackle other tasks that just needed to be done. Many thanks to Dave!

Hopefully everyone is aware that we have arranged for meetings on Sunday afternoons from January through March. These meetings will be held in the basement of the Wells Barn. This will reduce the need for people to drive after dark in the winter season. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

Tracy Strombotne has done a wonderful job as Program Coordinator for several years. She will be helping out transferring this task to Andi Yates, so we should have a seamless transition and many excellent programs this year and beyond.

If you haven't paid dues already, don't forget to get that taken care of. Tracy is our new Treasurer. Remember, your dues help pay for the excellent speakers at our meetings, and generally keep the society running. Also, consider tasks that you may be willing to help out with as they come up. By working together as a society, we can accomplish much more than any of us could do individually. Think of all the benefits of being in the society: speakers, shows, group purchases of supplies, and opportunities to see orchids, learn about orchids, talk about orchids, and acquire orchids, just to name a few.

And don't neglect your orchid collection at this time of year. Maintaining adequate light and humidity can be real challenges during the winter in our climate. But Spring is on the way. Daylight is increasing in duration and strength (although slowly at first), and the orchids in our homes can really help get us through the winter doldrums. Spring show season is only a couple months away, with opportunities to see (and buy!) many orchids. And don't forget to bring your blooming plants to the meetings and start racking up points in our grower's contest!

So, for everyone who has helped out as an officer, committee member, or just a helpful society member, I'd like to extend my heartfelt appreciation. I'm sure we'll have many more exciting and fun times this year and into the future!

Ken Mettler



November 2025 Show Table with 2026-27 President and AOS Judge Ken Mettler describing first, second and third place winners.

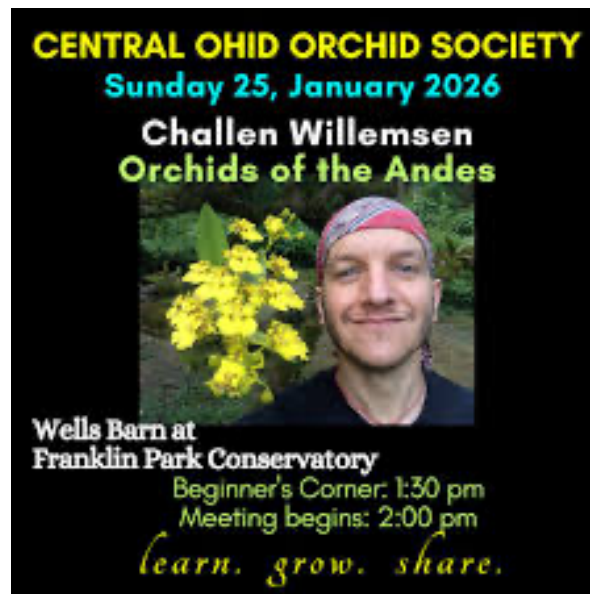
Photo by Bob Dudley

January 2026 Society Meeting

The next meeting of the Central Ohio Orchid Society will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026 at Franklin Park Conservatory at the Wells Barn Basement.** The beginners corner will start at 1:30 pm, followed by the meeting and presentation at 2 pm.

Don't forget to bring your plants for the monthly Show Table, results will be announced after the presentation.

Also, a members plant sale can occur so please bring any plants that you think require a new home



Challen Willemsen is a Guatemalan ecologist, nature tour guide, and orchid speaker. He is passionate about botany, particularly neotropical orchids and epiphytes in general. He puts together lists of flora for reserves, parks, hotels and the like. He leads ecological tours and occasionally teaches online courses on botany, as well as Guatemalan plants and ecosystems. He gives presentations on Guatemalan orchids to international orchid societies and associations. He is a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission - Orchid Specialist Group, and also works at El Tular Nature Reserve outside Guatemala City. He was recently awarded Conservation Grants by the American orchid Society, and the Hilo Orchid Society to deepen the scope of work at the nature reserve and at the Sierra de las Minas mountain range in central-eastern Guatemala.

Zoom Link for the Sunday, January 25th Central Ohio Orchid Society Meeting

Topic: COOS Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 2pm

Time: Jan 25, 2026 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85101534199?
pwd=vfl6LWMasjH8lhTyknGh6YFzb7rNeR.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85101534199?pwd=vfl6LWMasjH8lhTyknGh6YFzb7rNeR.1)

Meeting ID: 851 0153 4199

Passcode: 552449

Yes, It is Time to Pay Your Dues

Your dues support our speaker programs, our operational costs and community outreach efforts. Plus, membership provides you with access to our members-only opportunities such as select portions of our website and plant forums, participating in on-line plant auctions, various non-meeting educational opportunities, access to recorded ZOOM meeting lectures, and much more. Please note even if you chose not to join, you are welcome to attend COOS meetings or listen to our speakers via ZOOM.

Go to <https://www.centralohioorchidsociety.org/>, click on [Join Us](#), from which there are two options.

Yearly membership is only \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. We tried to make payment easy and painless.

1.) [Central Ohio Orchid Society Electronic Membership Application](#) Complete the application at the bottom of the page, follow the prompts and make payment via PayPal. (Preferred Method) **or** 2.) Click on [PDF Annual Membership Application](#), then print the form, fill it out by hand, and return it with a check. The mailing address is on the form. (To fill in the PDF on-line: open document, right click, rename PDF and "save as" to your desktop, close COOS screen, open the saved PDF in desktop, click on tools, click on "fill and sign", enter data, save and print document

November Show Table First Place Winners

Oncidium

Mtssa. Royal Robe grown by
Dave and Edna Markley



Cattleya Hybrid

Blc. Chia Lin 'New City' grown
by Tennis Maynard

All show table photos taken by Bob Dudley

November Show Table First Place Winners

Cattleya Hybrid

Rlc. Royogirl 'Firebird' grown
by Dave Heilman



Paphiopedilum

Paph. venustum grown by
Tennis Maynard

November Show Table First Place Winners

Other

Masd. Peach Daiquiri 'Anita'
grown by Tennis Maynard



Other

Thunia alba grown by Ken
Mettler

November Show Table First Place Winners

Oncidium

Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Pink Lady'
grown by Jan Miller



Vandaceous

Vanda Lucille Scully grown by
Dave Heilman

November Show Table Second and Third Place Winners

| ORCHID | GROWER | PLACE |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Dracula vespertillo | Tennis Maynard | 3rd |
| Cologne Unchained Melody | Ken Mettler | 3rd |
| Leptons pauloensis | Ken Mettler | 3rd |
| Paph low | Ken Mettler | 3rd |
| Bst. Tarantula 'Sweet Orange' | Tracy Stombotne | 3rd |
| Habenaria rhodocheila | Tracy Stombotne | 3rd |
| Wils. Lisa Devoe 'Burgandy' AM/AOS | Tracy Stombotne | 3rd |

I would like to thank the COOS Board for their understanding regarding the delay of December 2025 newsletter and the need to combine it with our January 2026 issue. As I have attempted to put the newsletter together, the medical condition that has affected me since early November, has been difficult to manage. Any errors found in this issue are due to my difficulty in using the computer, I appreciate everyone's understanding.

Nancy Shapiro

November Show Table Second and Third Place Winners

| ORCHID | GROWER | PLACE |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| Aerides Punchinello | Naila Caruso | 2nd |
| Bllra. Snowblind 'Sweet Spots' | Dave Heilman | 2nd |
| Paph. Venustum 'alba' | Tennis Maynard | 2nd |
| Miltassia Charles Fitch Izumi | Jan Miller | 2nd |
| Blc. Shirley Moore 'Newberry' | Tennis Maynard | 2nd |
| Bulbo. lasiochilum flavum | Tennis Maynard | 2nd |
| Onc. rostratum | Dave and Edna Markley | 2nd |
| C. Mark Jones x C. Chocolate Drop | Amy Stanley | 2nd |
| Onc. NoID | Dave Hellman | 3rd |
| Rth. Colden Ice Cream FCA | Jan Miller | 3rd |
| Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS | Beth Makley | 3rd |
| C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' | Tennis Maynard | 3rd |

Monthly Meeting Hospitality

This year Jan Miller has agreed to coordinate our monthly hospitality. She will need assistance to assure that we all have good snacks and drinks at our monthly meetings. Please follow the link below to sign up for volunteering to be on January's snack team!

[COOS Monthly Meeting Hospitality Sign Up](#)



Welcome New Members

We are always excited to have new members to welcome into our Orchid Society. **Please say “hello and what do you grow” to all our new member(s).**

Erica Brumbaugh

Upcoming 2026 Orchid Shows

| Location | Dates | Set Up |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Greater Akron | March 7 – 8 | Ken Mettler |
| Greater Cleveland | March 14 – 15 | Beth Makley |
| Greater Cincinnati | March 21 – 22 | |
| Western Pennsylvania | April 11 – 12 | |
| West Shore | TBD | |

Upcoming Events

MID AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS IS PRESENTING: RON PARSONS ON “MADAGASCAR, A LAND OF MANY CONTRASTS FREE FOR ALL MEMBERS

This presentation will be on Zoom on **February 1, 2026, at 7:30 EST**. This talk can be zoomed live and will be available for two weeks following the live presentation. **The Central Ohio Orchid Society is purchasing the link which will be shared with all of our members.** Individuals can also purchase the talk for \$25. You can pay online at <https://mid-america-orchid-congress.square.site/>

If you are not currently a member, and would like to see this presentation follow this link to join or renew today

[Central Ohio Orchid Society Electronic Membership Application](#)





**INVITES YOU TO JOIN ONE OF THEIR ORCHIDS IN THE
WILD ECOTOURS**



RHODES, GREECE

March 17-24



**THE GARGANO
PENINSULA, ITALY**

April 13-20



**NORTHERN
YUNNAN, CHINA**

June 14 -28

**For More Information on
these or other 2026 tours,
please click on the link
above**

Have You Considered Joining the American Orchid Society

BENEFITS OF AOS MEMBERSHIP

- Receive Orchids Magazine and have access to the Digital Archive
- Receive Exclusive Discounts and Savings on Orchids, Supplies and More
- OrchidPro Online Orchid Software
- Hundreds of Orchid Webinars

Go to [AOS.org](https://www.aos.org) for more information

AOS Events/Webinars

While some events are for members of the American Orchid Society, many are open to all. Greenhouse chats are usually held twice per month (less in the summer) and are open to all. Other webinars and informational offerings are also available. If you are a member of the AOS, don't forget their easy to use catalog of previous webinars are available to view at any time. Upcoming webinars:

- **AOS 8th Orchid Culture Day – Step into the World of Slippers beginning at 11 am on January 25th.**
- **Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton, Tuesday, February 10th at 8:30 pm**
- **Happy Roots Happy Orchids with Harvey Brenneise, Thursday, February 12th at 8:30 pm**

2026 Program Calendar

Andi Yates is becoming our new Program Chair and will be developing another wonderful group of speakers. Each month we will update the calendar as some changes are always expected as people's schedules change. Meetings are at the FPC Wells Barn Basement unless noted below.

| MEETING DATES 2026 | SPEAKER | TOPIC | VENDOR PLANT SALE |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| January 25 SUNDAY | Challen Willemssen | Orchids of the Andes | No, member plant sale |
| February 22 SUNDAY | Olga Shoshtachuk | Growing Orchids in Terrariums, and other -ariums | No, member plant sale |
| March 22 SUNDAY | TBD | | |
| April 16 THURSDAY | TBD | | |
| May 21 THURSDAY | TJ Hartung | Fragrant Orchids | |
| June 18 THURSDAY | TBD | Tolumnia | |
| July 16 THURSDAY | TBD | | |
| August 20 | TBD | | |
| September 17 or 19 | TBD | | |
| October 16 | TBD | | |
| November 20 | TBD | | |
| December | No meeting | | |

2026 Central Ohio Orchid Society Board and Committee Chairs

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Ken Mettler |
| Vice President | Troy Timbrook |
| Secretary | Beth Makley |
| Treasurer | Tracy Stombotne |
| Immediate Past President | Dave Markley |
| Trustee | Tsa Shelton |
| Trustee | Devin Spencer |
| Hospitality Chair | Jan Milla |
| Program Chair | Andi Yates |
| Away Show Chair | Ken Mettler |
| Home Show Chair | David Markley |
| Newsletter | Nancy Shapiro |
| Website and Social Media | Wendy Chrisman |
| AOS Representative | Tom Hart |
| MAOC Representative | Ken Mettler |