

CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY



Reporter
February 2022

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learn. share. grow.

CentralOhioOrchidSociety.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | February 2022

We are plowing through February. I for one am looking forward to warmer weather and more opportunities to bask in the fresh air and sun.

At our January 11th board meeting we continued to discuss our home show. It was decided that it would be beneficial to postpone the show from spring to fall. This will provide more time to prepare, find a venue, invite vendors, and it won't conflict with other area shows.

AmazonSmile and Kroger rewards are both up and running so that a part of your purchase can support the society. Let Dave (Amazon) or Troy (Kroger) know if you need help setting your preferences to support the Central Ohio Orchid Society when you use these merchants.

There are still some members who haven't paid dues for 2022. It's a great deal \$20 per person or \$25 for a family. For this you get all the knowledge gained every month plus getting to hang out with other orchid people. You can pay via PayPal on the COOS site or send a check. Tom and Cheryl are your go-to folks for any questions related to dues.

In March, we plan to meet in person at Franklin Park Conservatory with a live show table. We will also have a member sale. This is a great opportunity to let go of some of those plants you just can't seem to bloom or get to thrive and see if someone else wants to give it a go. Twenty percent of your sales will benefit COOS.

This will be the last month for virtual submissions. Photos are due by 02/28. Send those to centralohioorchidsociety@gmail.com. Make sure your photos are taken with a solid background. Your email subject should list – your name, your orchid's name, and if you are a beginner (society member less than 2 years), non-greenhouse, or greenhouse grower.

Some interesting things of note I have found happening:

- The Smithsonian has a very interesting online and live exhibition on Orchids: Hidden Stories of Groundbreaking Women as well as other orchid postings <https://gardens.si.edu/exhibitions/orchids-hidden-stories-of-groundbreaking-women/>
- Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh is holding their Orchid & Tropical Bonsai Show: An Ocean of Color through March 6th. I am planning on heading there on February 19th! <https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/calendar/detail/orchid-and-tropical-bonsai-show>

**See you on Zoom,
Amy Stanley
President**

CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY

learn. grow. share.

BARRY JONES



ORCHID JUDGING PRESENTATION

Virtual Society Meeting
February 17, 2022

6:30pm Beginner's Corner
7:00pm Meeting Begins

BIOGRAPHY

Our speaker will be **Barry Jones** of the **Cincinnati Judging Center**, and he will speak on **Orchid Judging**.

Barry and his wife Jane have been growing orchids for more than 40 years. Barry has been a judge for 25 years. Barry is a member of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society.

TOPIC: CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82045633235?pwd=YjNwVWxUTDFWWhFkcW9rSVFoRnFLdz09>

MEETING ID: 820 4563 3235

PASSCODE: 960793

ONE TAP MOBILE: +13126266799,,82045633235#,,,,*960793# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,,82045633235#,,,,*960793# US (New York)

DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82045633235?pwd=YjNwVWxUTDFWWhFkcW9rSVFoRnFLdz09>

JANUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH



Masdevallia huebschii red form

Grown by Tennis Maynard

Tips for growing Masdevallia huebschii:

Tennis grows this plant in a mix of medium fir bark and chopped sphagnum moss in a 5" basket. Tennis keeps the plant wet with strong light, and it is grown cool.

JANUARY 2022 VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE

CATTLEYA

- 1st Barkeria shoemakeri
1st Catt. Molly Tyler x amethystoglossa
2nd Cattleya Mariner

2nd Pot. Dick Smith 'Paradise'
3rd Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Orange Fire'

3rd Pot. Burana Beauty 'Burana' x Lc. Tokyo

GROWN BY

Ken Mettler
Wayne Roberts
Edna & David
Markley
Amy Stanley
Edna & David
Markley
Cortney White

PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES

- 1st Paph. armeniacum
2nd Paph. lowii Mem Agnes Hebling AM/AOS x sib
3rd Paph. lowii 'Albino Beauty' x 'Gigantic'

GROWN BY

Tennis Maynard
Justin Pepperney
Justin Pepperney

PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

- 1st Paph. Jenna Marie 'Sparkle' x Red Dominion 'Perfection'
2nd Paph. Ella Singing (Kindly Jack 'Green Glow' x Ella Dancing 'Rampant Spots')
3rd Paph. Salty 'Val' HCC/AOS
3rd Paph. Windrush

GROWN BY

Dennis Eifel
Troy Timbrook

Justin Pepperney
Edna & David
Markley

PHALAENOPSIS

- 1st Phal. bellina v. coerulea
2nd Phal. No ID
3rd Phal. Magic Art

GROWN BY

Nancy Shapiro
Cortney White
Cortney White

DENDROBIUM

- 1st Den. nobile Var. Alba 'Hood'

2nd Den. glomeratum (sulaweisiense)
3rd Den. Sofia Boyer

GROWN BY

Edna & David
Markley
Nancy Shapiro
Nancy Shapiro

ONCIDIUM

- 1st Comparettia macrolepton
- 2nd Oncidium Gold Dust
- 3rd Brassidium Kenneth Biven

GROWN BY

Tennis Maynard
Cortney White
Ken Mettler

OTHER

- 1st Phaius Dan Rosenberg
- 1st Maxillaria huebschii red form
- 2nd Cym. Ming 'Emperor'
- 2nd Cynodes Wine Delight
- 3rd Bulbophyllum lasiochilum flavum
- 3rd Cole. mageriana x self

GROWN BY

Ken Mettler
Tennis Maynard
Ken Mettler
Amy Stanley
Tennis Maynard

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Maxillaria huebschii red form

GROWN BY

Tennis Maynard

CATTLEYA



Barkeria shoemaker
Grown by Ken Mettler



Catt. Molly Tyler x amethystoglossa
Grown by Wayne Roberts

PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES



Paph. armeniacum
Grown by Tennis Maynard

PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS



**Paph. Jenna Marie 'Sparkle' x Red Dominion
'Perfection'**

Grown by Dennis Eifel

PHALAENOPSIS



Phal. bellina var. coerulea
Grown by Nancy Shapiro

DENDROBIUM



Den. nobile Var. Alba 'Hood'
Grown by Edna and David Markley

ONCIDIUM



Comparettia macroplectron
Grown by Tennis Maynard

OTHER



Phaius Dan Rosenberg
Grown by Ken Mettler



Maxillaria huebschii red form

Grown by Tennis Maynard

Into the Wild

The Curious Case of Jim Daulton and the Kentucky Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium kentuckiense*

By Ken Mettler

All photo credits: Ken Mettler

"You never know what's coming for you."

—Eric Roth, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* Screenplay



Cyp. kentuckiense grown by Jim Daulton.

The year was 1951. World War II was over, the US economy was booming: unemployment was low, family incomes were high, and automobiles were large, powerful, and readily available—even if luxuries like turn signals were still considered optional. And James Daulton lived in Portsmouth, Ohio.

Mr. Daulton, who told me he preferred to be called Jim, had finished his military service, and was quite an amateur naturalist. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing and painting wildlife. As cameras became more readily available, he spent a great deal of time photographing the world around him. He was very familiar with the plant and animal species of the area.



Cyp. kentuckiense in habitat in northern Kentucky.

In May of 1951, Jim went fishing in northern Kentucky. Not far away, about ten miles south of the Ohio River. On that trip, he observed a Lady's Slipper growing near the water in the steep ravines. He was familiar with the Large Yellow Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*, that grew in the area, but this looked different: it was larger, paler in color, and was blooming about two weeks later than the others he had seen. He dug two plants, and planted them in his yard in Ohio.

He showed photos, and the plants themselves, to any people knowledgeable about the flora of the area. Some thought it was an aberrant form of the Large Yellow Lady's Slipper. Others thought it might be *Cypripedium x Andesitic*, the naturally occurring hybrid of the Large Yellow Lady's Slipper and the White Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium candidum*. The size of the plant and flowers was larger than any description of *Cyp. x Andrewsii*, and it didn't quite match the few available photographs. Jim still thought his plants were different from any reference he could find, and continued to search for an expert who could identify them. He even sent an entire plant to Dr. Donovan Correll, who had published and subsequently revised his book, *Native Orchids of North America*. Jim never heard back from Dr. Correll. The usual response he got from botanists was, "There's nothing new to discover in the eastern United States."

Around 1975, Jim contacted Dr. Victor Soukup, the (volunteer!) assistant curator of the University of Cincinnati herbarium. In 1977, Dr. Soukup traveled with Jim to northern Kentucky to observe the plants in flower. He was impressed by the plants, and wrote a description as a possible new species, published in the pamphlet of the Mid-American Orchid Conference. He named this possible new species *Cypripedium daultonii*, in honor

of Jim Daulton. Unfortunately, this description did not meet the rigorous rules for documenting and naming a new species, and the plants were still not formally recognized as such.

In 1981 Dr. Clyde F. Reed of Maryland wrote a full scientific description of the species. He named it *Cypripedium kentuckiense*. I don't think Dr. Reed had ever met Jim Daulton.

It took 30 years for the species that Jim Daulton discovered to be scientifically recognized, but what a species it is! The largest lady slipper in North America, it grows about 20 inches (50 cm) tall, with one or two flowers per stem. The flower is large and showy. The pouch, which can reach the size of a medium chicken egg, varies from ivory to a creamy pale yellow. The sepals and petals are pale chartreuse, veined and overlaid with a rich aubergine. Plants in the wild usually consist of only one or two stems, rarely more, and seldom have more than four flowers. When I met Jim, he still had two plants near his house. His house was old and in need of repair, and the gutter on the porch roof had broken, allowing most of the rainwater to pour near one of the plants. I was able to observe this plant for three successive years. In those three years, it had 31, 41 and 31 flowers, respectively. Spectacular!



Cyp. kentuckiense grown by Jim Daulton. The hand visible in the upper left corner is James Daulton, sitting on his porch.

The species has been found in ten states in the southeast US, ranging from eastern Texas and Oklahoma east to Georgia and Virginia, and north to the Ohio River. Populations tend to be spotty, local, and non-contiguous. They prefer to grow in alluvial sand and silt along fast-moving waterways, usually near the bottoms of steep ravines, frequently in limestone areas. There are accounts of wild plants being completely submerged during the blooming season, in which case no seeds are set, but the plants seem to tolerate several days of inundation.



Cyp. kentuckiense in habitat in northern Kentucky.

The plants love water! The ones I've seen in the wild were always growing within a short distance of a stream or river. Jim Daulton told me that one time, all his plants died during a particularly hot and dry summer. He said the temperatures were above ninety degrees with no rain for six weeks. Seeing that his largest plant was heavily irrigated by the broken gutter, this made sense to me.

If you are entranced by the beauty of this species, you are in luck. There is no need to poach them from the wild. Fortunately, they are among the easier *Cypripedium* species to germinate and grow, and are readily available as artificially propagated plants, even though they are still on the expensive side. Still not the easiest of garden plants, I would give them partial sun. An east or northeast exposure would likely work, with fine, silty, or sandy soil, good drainage, and lots and lots and lots of water. They don't like hot and dry conditions.



Cyp. kentuckiense grown by Jim Daulton.

Whenever I see *Cypripedium kentuckiense* (I still like to think of it as *Cypripedium daultonii*), I have to smile, thinking about the hours I was lucky enough to spend visiting with Jim Daulton. He had a wonderful garden of heirloom tomatoes, and showed me how he would save overripe tomatoes to collect seeds for the next year. Tomatoes usually self-pollinate, so heirloom varieties can be propagated this way. He showed me stacks of photographs and some of his paintings, and we would talk about wildflowers, fishing, or just talk. He was kind, friendly and interesting. I treasure the time I was able to spend with him.

COOS BOARD MEMBERS 2022

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TRUSTEE | Megan Osika
TRUSTEE | Troy Timbrook
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COOS APPOINTED CHAIRS 2022

AOS REPRESENTATIVE |
MAOC REPRESENTATIVE | Ken Mettler
PROGRAMMING | Tracy Strombotne
HOME SHOW | Dave Markley
AWAY SHOW | Ken Mettler
MEMBERSHIP | Megan Osika
NEWSLETTER | Wendy Chrisman
WEB DESIGNER + SOCIAL MEDIA | Wendy Chrisman
HOSPITALITY | Sandra & Terry Stohr
PUBLIC RELATIONS - Ad Hoc | TBD

COOS CALENDAR 2022

January 20 - 2022

Kelly McCracken of High Desert Orchids
Artificial Lighting

February 17 - 2022

Barry Jones of Cincinnati Judging Society
Orchid Judging

March 17 - 2022

COOS Members
How I Grow My Orchids

April 21 - 2022

Dick Wells
Phalaenopsis

May 19 - 2022

Wade Hollenbach

TBA

June 16 - 2022

TBA
TBA

July - 2022

COOS Picnic

August 18 - 2022

TBA
TBA

September 15 - 2022

TBA
TBA

October 20 - 2022

TBA
TBA

November 17 - 2022

Awards Banquet

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY CORNER



Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



2022 FEBRUARY AOS Corner – for [Affiliated Societies](#)

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications.

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.

OrchidPro helps you prepare to exhibit your orchids in a competitive field. Compare your blooms to those of similar previously awarded orchids. Consult the [Handbook on Judging](#) for insight into what the judges are looking for when your plant comes to the table.

Whether you are new to the hobby or an established successful grower, there is always more to learn. This issue will give insight on the **Butterworth Prize, a Special Annual Award** that any orchid exhibitor is eligible to win. Unlike flower quality awards where you pay for processing, the Special Annual awards (all but one) come with a cash prize.

There are a variety of different genera that are eligible for Special Annual Awards. Review them on the AOS website. Bring your orchids to the nearest [Judging Center](#) or set up an Outreach Judging for your society. You now have orchid growing goals! You're welcome.

Each year the Special Annual Awards are published in the April edition of [ORCHIDS](#)

Benjamin C. Berliner Award Butterworth Prize	The Frank Sr. and Elizabeth Jasen Award Ann and Phil Jesup Botanical Trophy
Milton Carpenter Intergeneric Oncidiinae Award	Benjamin Kodama Award
Robert B. Dugger Odontoglossum Award	Carlyle A. Luer Pleurothallid Award
The Mario and Conni Ferrusi Award	Masatoshi Miyamoto Cattleya Alliance Award
The Fuchs Family Award	The Martin Motes Orchid Breeder's Award
Roy T. Fukumura Vandaceous Award	The Walter Off Exhibit Award
Renee and Marvin Gerber Brassavola Hybrid Award	James and Marie Riopelle Miltonia Award
Herbert Hager Phalaenopsis Award	The Paul and Mary Storm Award
The Ernest Hetherington Cymbidium Award	Bill Thoms Award
Fred Hillerman Award	W.W. Wilson Cypripedioideae Award
Merritt W. Huntington Award	

[Excerpts from Judging Handbook](#)

6.2.11 [Special Annual Awards](#) *(from this link, scroll down the page to view)*

These are monetary awards, except for the Ann and Phil Jesup Trophy, given annually by the Board of Trustees to exceptional plants awarded in the preceding calendar year. Nominations for these awards may be made by each center committee and forwarded to the chair of the JC and the presenter of the nominations at least 60 days prior to the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees. Each winner shall receive an appropriate, signed award certificate. All awards must have been cleared (paid for) before they can be eligible for these Special Annual Awards.

6.2.7 Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) Awarded to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least 12 months immediately prior to the award. The plant must score at least 90 points on the point scale in paragraph 7.3.1.

6.2.8 Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) Awarded to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least 12 months immediately prior to the award. The plant must score between 80 and 89 points inclusive on the point scale in paragraph 7.3.1

WOWZA! OrchidPro: Total Cultural Awards in the AOS system; 9010 CCMs and 1241 CCEs (at the time of composition of this newsletter)

Once you have signed on to OrchidPro, after selecting the Awards tab, you can search awards by using the search ribbon at the top of the page. It scrolls horizontally. I used the Full Search method and requested AOS awards, Award Type CCM, from the drop-down menus. I repeated the search for CCE. Keep in mind that OrchidPro does contain awards from other judging programs. If you are interested in only looking at AOS awards, be sure to select that from the drop-down menu.

Butterworth Prize

This prestigious honor, the **first** of the AOS’s permanently endowed awards, was established in 1966. It is granted annually by the trustees of the Society to the grower of the plant exhibiting the finest orchid culture and awarded a **Certificate of Cultural Merit or a Certificate of Cultural Excellence** the preceding calendar year. The endowment for this award was established by Mrs. Rachel Butterworth Dietz in memory of her parents (John and Nancy Butterworth) and of George Butterworth Sr., president of the AOS from 1953 to 1956.



Sarcophyton pachyphyllum 'Auntie Jenny'
CCM/AOS (87 points)
Apr 17, 2021



Paphiopedilum armeniacum 'Sunshine'
CCM/AOS (85 points)
Apr 11, 2021



Dendrobium jenkinsii 'Windy Hill's Sunball'
CCM/AOS (82 points)
Apr 10, 2021

Sarcophyton pachyphyllum
'Auntie Jenny'
CCM/AOS (87 points)
Award No: 20212860
Exhibitor: Cynthia White
Photographer: Carmen Johnston

Paphiopedilum armeniacum
'Sunshine'
CCM/AOS (85 points)
Award No: 20212700
Exhibitor: New Vision Orchids
Photographer: Richard Noel

Dendrobium jenkinsii
'Windy Hill's Sunball'
CCM/AOS (82 points)
Award No: 20214252
Exhibitor: Marilyn LeDoux
Photographer: Matthew Nutt



Coelogyne nitida 'Penny'

CCE/AOS (92 points)
May 08, 2021



Cypripedium Gisela 'Island View'

CCE/AOS (92 points)
May 08, 2021



Dendrobium chrysotoxum 'Julie Wert'

CCE/AOS (94 points)
Apr 28, 2021

Coelogyne nitida 'Penny'
CCE/AOS (92 points)
Award No: 20212585
Exhibitor: University of MN
College of Biological Sciences
Conservatory
Photographer: Nile Dusdieker

Cypripedium Gisela
'Island View'
CCE/AOS (92 points)
(*Cypripedium parviflorum*
x *Cypripedium macranthos*)
Award No: 20212579
Exhibitor:
Andrew Coghill-Behrends
Photographer: Nile Dusdieker

Dendrobium chrysotoxum
'Julie Wert'
CCE/AOS (94 points)
Award No: 20211372
Exhibitor: Cheryl Finke
Photographer: Kay Clark

All of the awarded entries shown may be contenders for winning the next **Butterworth Prize** for culture. Each Judging Center chooses the best of the best from their center's previous year awards to nominate for each **Special Annual Award**. Each final selection is then submitted to an award pool with all of the 26 AOS judging center's entries. Final votes are cast on the whittled down entries by the member representing each of the 26 centers of the Judging Committee (JC). The entry with the most votes wins the **Special Annual Award** and the grower/exhibitor receives a certificate, a check, and a commemorative plaque with the award name and award winning photograph.



***Cymbidium* Geno's Gem**
'Emerald Fire' CCE/AOS (97 points)
won the 2021 Butterworth Prize
(Cymbidium Mad Hatter x Cymbidium Kalimpong)

Award No: 20201331


Exhibitor: Krull-Smith


Photographer: Kay Clark


In recent years the photographer has also been recognized with an identical plaque.


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<https://go.aos.org/freeissue201904>

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	February 15, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 23, 2022 8:30pm EST Wednesday	March 16, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	March 22, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday
Topic	A Guide to Modern LED Lighting How to set up an indoor grow area	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	The Story of Jewel Orchids Glistening Gems of the Forest Floor	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Kelly McCracken Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Nicholas Rust Orchid hybridizer with a passion for terrestrials	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

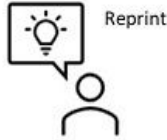
GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

Interested in becoming an American Orchid Society Judge? Interested in the Judging Process?

There are judging specific webinars that will introduce you to the principles of orchid judging.

Where does the American Orchid Society get judges? People with passion and time to invest in the program are encouraged to apply through their nearest judging center. It is an experience of continuous learning with a minimum of six years of planned education. Think of it like obtaining a PhD in Orchidology. Visit orchid shows, participate in scheduled study groups, symposiums, webinars, and grower's visits. Seek out orchids anywhere they grow in cultivation or in the wild. You will learn more than you ever thought possible about orchids. It is a fascinating journey.



PARTING SHOT

How to Kill Your Orchids

By Milton O. Carpenter – An Acknowledged Expert on the Subject

I have been growing, and killing, orchids for 35 years now and it occurred to me that I should pass on to others some of the more basic, as well as advanced methods I have discovered, and in some cases “stumbled upon” to accomplish this task!

BASIC RULES Never seek information on how to keep them alive. For example, do not try to distinguish what KIND of orchid you have, do not ask for help from other orchid growers, do not read *Orchids*, do not go to local orchid society meetings, and do not purchase the AOS handbook on orchid pests and diseases.

RATHER OBVIOUS FUNDAMENTAL METHODS Aside from pouring on gasoline and striking a match, consider the following: Give your orchids far too little or too much light. As most orchids like fairly good air movement, either give them none at all or a veritable hurricane. Do not worry about what particular temperature your orchids like – a good “rule of thumb” is to treat them all alike. Forget that most orchids like rather high humidity and let the humidity drop as low as it will. Never “damp down” the benches and floors on really hot days. Remember to water every orchid every day (drench thoroughly) regardless of what kind of medium or pots they are in - or very seldom water them at all, allowing the pseudobulbs (those things between the top of the pot and the base of the leaves) to become very shriveled and wrinkled. Never be concerned about the quality of the water you are using - whether it is loaded with chlorides, sulfides, or what have you. Repot your orchids only when you have to and only “when you have spare time.” Use just about anything handy as a potting medium, it really does not matter and there is no truth to the thinking that certain types like different potting medium (that is the stuff you put in the pot). Potting in plain old dirt from your garden is a good idea. Fertilize only once or twice a year, but when you do – really pour it on, perhaps triple or quadruple the recommended strength. Try to never be concerned about insects or diseases – just let nature take its course.

ADVANCED RULES Because orchids prefer the full light spectrum, put them under badly discolored fiberglass or perhaps brightly colored plastic. Arrange your greenhouse or growing area near a bright city streetlamp so they will not know the difference between night and day. Try to locate your orchids as near as possible to heavily traveled roads – the carbon monoxide (and other goodies) will help with your job. Keep turning each pot around about one quarter turn each day so they will become thoroughly disoriented. If it gets cold, put an unvented kerosene heater in your greenhouse – the fumes will work wonders. If it gets really cold, do not do anything – perhaps they will just go into hibernation. When you water, always try to

water late in the afternoon or, preferably, at night – the water standing in the new leads creates unusual effects. When potting your plants, always use a pot about four times as large as the plant's roots, remembering that that is the way they grow in nature. If your plant starts to look sick, **NEVER** take it out of the pot to see what is happening with the roots, after all, what you cannot see cannot hurt you, can it? Should you notice some sort of insect on a plant, just put it under the faucet and wash the critters off – do not bother to check the other plants in its vicinity and do not worry about some kind of pesticide, that stuff is hard to handle properly and besides, it leaves the greenhouse smelling poorly for days. Keep your leaves clean – never spray a preventive fungicide as it leaves an ugly residue. Always use the same knife or plant shears when cutting from one plant to another and do not bother to sterilize – if one has some sort of malady, soon they will all share!

I am sure there are those of you who have discovered more unusual ways to kill your orchids, but I have only been growing these plants for 35 years and I am still a' learnin'!

milton@evergladesorchids.com

EDITOR'S NOTE *The suggestions above are, obviously, all tongue-in-cheek but, unfortunately, we all do one or more of these at some point in our growing experience. Local societies are invaluable as sources of information relative to your specific issues. Who best to understand your local problems than others who are dealing with them. The AOS is invaluable for vetted orchid knowledge. It is true that "it is all available on the web" but that also includes the obviously incorrect as well as that which masquerades as correct. Invest in books, they are another source of invaluable growing knowledge. Ask! No question is dumb. We all, deep down inside know that, but how many of us remember it when it is important?*

If you would like to spotlight an issue or share news with other affiliated societies, we welcome your input. Let us know what you would like to see in this newsletter! If there is something within your society that is working extremely well – let's share it here. If there is something you could use help with – let us know. By chance, another affiliate may be able to offer a solution, or want to try something you have achieved. Your contributions are critical to bringing fresh, timely content to this publication each month. Please send your questions, solutions, and submissions for the AOS Corner to eileenh@aos.org or askmasc@verizon.net

Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner!

Eileen Hector

AOS Corner - Affiliated Societies Newsletter Editor

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