



*learn. share. grow.*

# JUNE 2025 COOS REPORTER



## *Plant of the Month*

***Sobralia macrantha* grown by Ken Mettler**

Sobralias are generally large terrestrial plants with short-lived flowers—not usually a good economy for houseplants. But what plants they are! I remember seeing plants of *Sobralia virinalis* blooming on the mountain slopes below Machu Picchu in Peru.

Stunning! The flowers resemble Cattleyas, but are actually more closely related to *Maxillaria*. There are two general groups in this genus: smaller, warmer growers with flowers lasting less than a day; and larger, cooler growers with somewhat longer lasting flowers, some up to two weeks. (Although there are exceptions.) The tallest (non-vining) orchid in the world, *Sobralia altissima*, has been seen up to 44 feet tall!

This is too tall, even for me, and I like big plants.

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## *President's Message*

Fred Bess spoke to us last month about orchid pests and viruses. Fred is a really good speaker. He shared a lot of information about all the different pests that attack orchids and the best types of insecticides to deal with them. He also showed how orchid viruses appear as well as different types of fungus that target orchids. He kept us engaged in his talk with personal anecdotes which included some prizes for knowing the right answers to some of the questions he posed. He also shared a homemade bread recipe that I'd like to try. I think we all really enjoyed his presentation.

I was happy to see that despite the busy event going on at the Franklin Park Conservatory main building, most people arrived for the meeting early and parking didn't seem to be a problem.

Our society had a table at last month's Central Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society (COCSS) sale at the Franklin Country Fairgrounds. There were a lot of people in attendance and the people from the cactus society were very hospitable. We had purchased some orchids to sell as a fundraiser.

Unfortunately, that didn't yield the result we were hoping for. However, we did talk to a lot of people about growing orchids, shared information about our society, and invited them to visit our website and monthly meeting in person. Thanks to Nancy Shapiro who was kind enough to coordinate our volunteers as well as participate. Thanks also to the following people for their help with this: Troy Timbrook, Cheryl Early, Beth Makley, Jan Miller, Ken Mettler, and Dave Markley. Thanks especially to Mouse O'Linn from COCSS and a member of our society for inviting us.

The group Orchiata purchase has concluded. Thank you to everyone who ordered some of this orchid potting medium. We were able to provide this to our members at a good discount and still make some profit for the society. We sold a total of 51 bags and brought in almost \$400.

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

Dave Markley

## *May Show Table First Place Winners*

### *Cattleya*

Laelia purpurata grown by Tennis  
Maynard



### *Oncidium*

Miltonia phymatochila grown by  
Ken Mettler

All show table photos taken by Tom Hart



## *May Show Table First Place Winners*

### *Phalaenopsis*

Phal. NoID grown by Jan Miller



### *Dendrobium*

Dendrobium unicum grown by  
Chris Brown



## *May Show Table First Place Winners*

### *Trichopilia*

*Trichopilia crispera* 'Finca Dracula'  
grown by Tennis Maynard



### *Phragmipedium*

*Phrag. dalessandroi* grown by  
Nancy Shapiro

## *May Show Table First Place Winners*

### *Paphiopedilum*

Paph. St. Swithin grown by  
Tennis Maynard



### *Other*

Spathoglottis hybrid 'Mellow  
Yellow' grown by Ken Mettler



# *May Show Table First Place Winners*

## *Brassavola*

Brassavola perrina grown by  
Tennis Maynard





## *How I Grow My Orchid*

### **Continued from Page 1**

*Sobralia macrantha* is in the latter group. Canes on my potted plant are up to six feet long, and tend to sprawl out of the top of the tomato cage that I use for support. I try to keep new growths inside the cage, but sometimes they get too tall to move, and splay out to the sides, or need to be tied up. This species grows in the wild from southern Mexico to Costa Rica, in the middle elevation mountain slopes. Temperatures are highly variable, tending toward cool. Rainfall is abundant, and breezes are usually present. Plants can grow in full sun, but are usually in dappled shade. My plant is outside on my deck in the summer, lightly shaded by trees, but gets plenty of light. I water it daily if it doesn't rain in the summer, and feed regularly. Foliar feeding is an option, as the leaves are thin and not very waxy. My plants seem to enjoy the extra nutrition. In the winter, my plant lives in my basement cold room under LED lights and an oscillating fan for air movement. I only water every one to two weeks, but I leave it with a half inch of water in the tray, that soaks up into the potting mix in a day or so, maintaining more even moisture level. I do not fertilize in the winter. Temperatures can range from a low of 35F in the winter, to a high of 93F in the summer. The higher the temperature, the more water I give it.

Roots are critical for *Sobralia* success. A free-draining medium is a must. I use medium bark with large perlite and horticultural charcoal added. Repotting is different from many epiphytic orchids. *Sobralias* produce a lot of root, and inside the pot will be almost solid roots when well grown. They hate root disturbance, so I just hose off any of the mix that is really broken down, and plant it into a slightly larger pot. This is more like a non-orchid repotting. With *Sobralias*, it's all about keeping a healthy mass of roots. They seem to bloom better when pot-bound.

Flowers of my *Sobralia macrantha* are usually 5-6 inches across, and last three to four days each. It puts out a succession of blooms for six to eight weeks, somewhere in the May-July timeframe. Flowers are weak in substance, and easily damaged, but then are rapidly replaced by new blooms for the length of the flowering season.

## *April Show Table Second and Third Place Winners*

ORCHID	GROWER	PLACE
B. Nodosa x Rth. Young Sunlight	Dave and Edna Markley	2nd
Phrag. Schroederae	Tennis Maynard	2nd
Brassavola fragaus	Ken Mettler	2nd
Paph. Roebelenii	Tennis Maynard	2nd
Lyc. Lemon Twist x Kitty Crocker 'Newberry'	Dave and Edna Markley	2nd
Vanda Tubim Velvet x Muang Thong (FS)	Dave Heilman	2nd
Trichopilia Ellen Marie Drubka	Tennis Maynard	2nd
Phal. javarica	Nancy Shapiro	2nd
Onc. Sphacelatum	Dave and Edna Markley	2nd
Epilaeliocattleya Magic Wand	Nancy Shapiro	2nd

# *April Show Table Second and Third Place Winners*

ORCHID	GROWER	PLACE
Pth. What About Love	Jan Miller	3rd
Phrag Sedenii	Nancy Shapiro	3rd
Paph. Delenatii v. vinicolor	Tennis Maynard	3rd
Malaxis latifolia	Ken Mettler	3rd
Specklinia grobyi	Halie Miller	3rd
Den. Mellow Heart 'Yellow Mind'	Ken Mettler	3rd
Phal. Nold	Kat Vogel	3rd
Comparettia falcata	Tennis Maynard	3rd
Blc. My Orange	Nancy Shapiro	3rd





## *June 19, 2025 Society Meeting*

The next meeting of the Central Ohio Orchid Society will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at Franklin Park Conservatory in the Veridian Room, in the main Conservatory building. The beginner's corner will start at 6:30 pm, followed by the meeting and speaker at 7:00 pm. The meeting and speaker presentation will be available on Zoom at 7:00 pm.

### **TOLUMNIA ORCHIDS**

Our speaker this month will be Edgar Stehli, speaking on Tolumnia orchids, and bringing orchids for sale! Edgar is the owner of Windswept In Time Orchids, in Broadview Heights, Ohio. He has been interested in orchids since he was a child, and growing them since he was in high school. He has been selling orchids since 1999, and is expert at growing many genera, as well as hybridizing them. He specializes in species, miniatures, and hard to find orchids. He shows his orchids at shows throughout the Midwest, and has received many AOS awards for his plants. Edgar and his wife Kim host an open house at their greenhouse twice a year in May and November.



*Please bring plants for the show table!  
Edgar will be bringing plants to sell. So plan on  
coming early for the best selection.*

## *June 2025 Meeting Zoom Link*

Topic: Central Ohio Orchid Society Meeting, Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7 pm

Time: June 19, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: COOS June 19, 2025 @ 7 pm Meeting zoom

Time: Jun 19, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82440132756?pwd=auvOSlrLnjF2z7Pl0jFpHIMGq7auOa.1>

Meeting ID: 824 4013 2756

Passcode: 557404

## *Monthly Meeting Hospitality*

We are starting a new tradition in utilizing Sign-Up Genius to schedule our monthly meeting hospitality. This will make it easier to sign up to bring tasty snacks and you will also receive automated reminders that you did sign up!

Please volunteer by clicking the link below:

[COOS Monthly Meeting Hospitality Sign Up](#)

## *June Hospitality*

**Thanks to Tracy Stombotne and Sandra Stohr for signing up to bring snacks to our June Meeting!**

**We need more volunteers so follow the link above to assure we have enough snacks for everyone**



## *Special Feature* *Orchids in Japan*

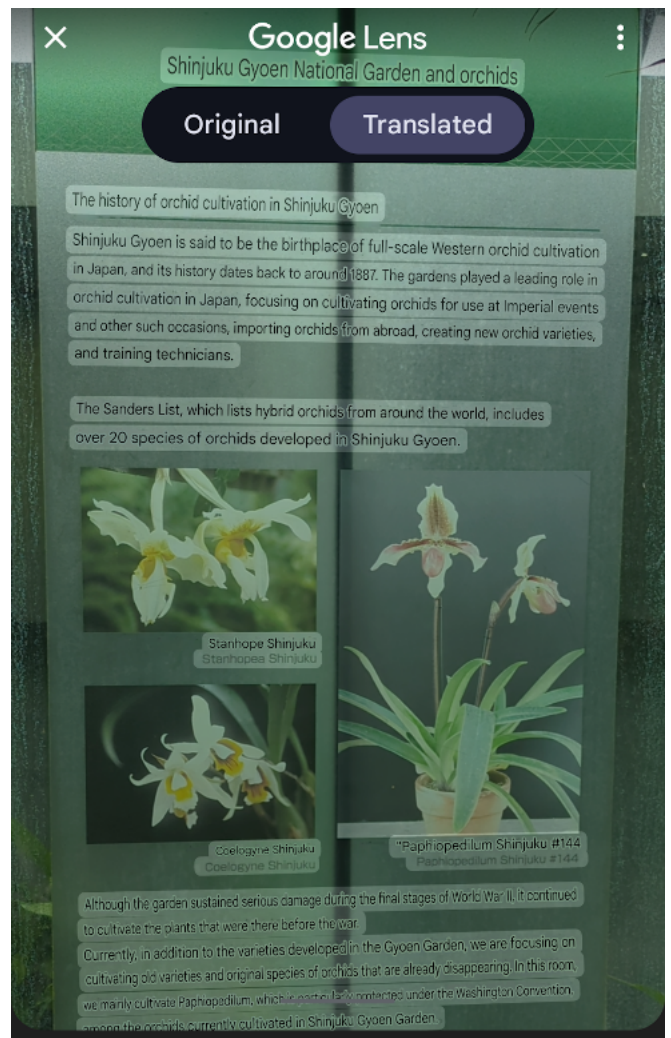
As reported by COOS Member Devin Spencer

This past April, I visited Japan for the first time with one of my friends. I had an amazing ten-day trip to Tokyo, especially as I was blessed to see so many orchids! I was pleasantly surprised to chance upon some amazing cymbidium orchids on the way to Gotokuji Temple (a Buddhist temple known for its cat statues). Large displays of white Phalaenopsis were also a common sight outside of stores - I heard these are commonly used to welcome customers into shops due to their cultural significance.



I knew I was blessed for sure when we visited Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden. This large park has several amazing outdoor areas, including a cherry blossom area and traditional Japanese Gardens. However, the greenhouse is what piqued my interest. We stepped inside and were immediately greeted with a large display of flowering orchids. However, these were just the orchids in bloom they put on display. Scattered throughout the greenhouse were many others - mounted on trees, in hanging baskets, or even mounted on a chain fence along a wall. There was also a section of flowering Cymbidiums, too large to be included with the first display of flowering plants. Before we left, I enjoyed reading about the history of the garden and orchid cultivation (with the help of Google Translate).





The next location we visited was the only one where I had expected to see orchids - Suwada Orchid Nursery. This was a bit of a trek - we had to take the train out to the suburbs, then board a bus; we were firmly out of metropolitan Tokyo. However, the trip was well worth it! The nursery was lovely, with a main showroom and a separate greenhouse full of gorgeous plants. I didn't buy anything (I wasn't sure about the import restrictions and didn't want to risk it), but the workers let me take some JOGA (Japan Orchid Growers Association) magazines. We also found out there was an orchid show happening that weekend - one train stop away from where we were staying!



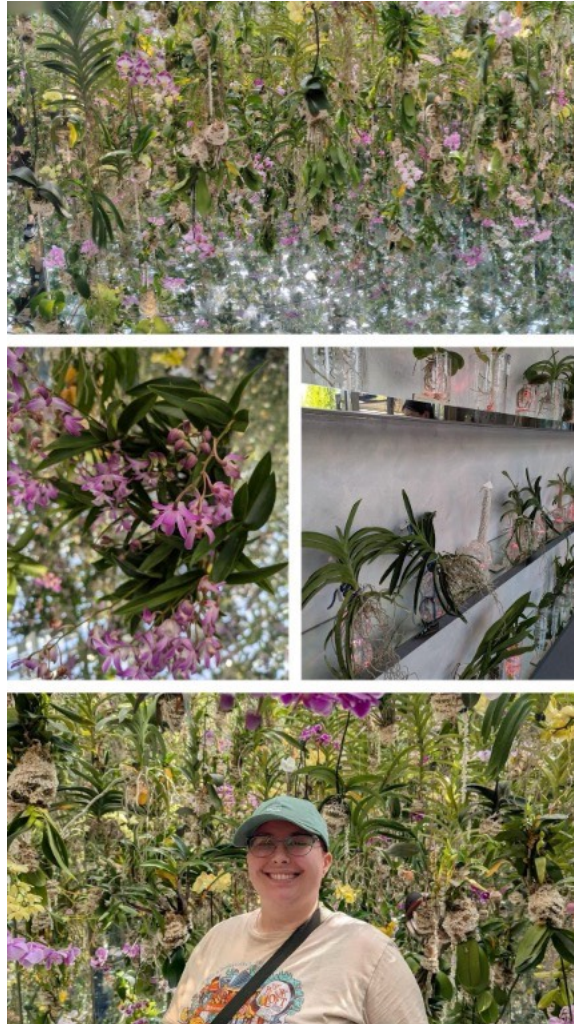
The Ikebukuro Spring Orchid Fair was held at Sunshine City, a huge mall that certainly deserves to be called a city in its own right. We arrived before the show opened and lined up with a large crowd of Japanese orchid lovers - I believe we may have been the only tourists in attendance that day. I had a great time browsing each booth, seeing many orchid varieties I had never or rarely seen in the US. I again refrained from buying any plants, but did purchase a tote bag, handmade *neofinetia falcata* pot, and some moss (which I found out needed to be declared at customs - oops. Fortunately, I had no issue coming back into the US with it).





The last major orchid-centric location we visited was inside of teamLab Planets. teamlab Planets is a large, multi-part, interactive art exhibit - somewhat similar to OtherWorld in Columbus. My favorite part of the experience was the large orchid room at the end. It features a glass-ceiling greenhouse full of blooming orchids suspended in the air. When you approach, they slowly raise to let you pass, then lower again behind you. This means you end up in a little pocket of plants, surrounded on all sides by gorgeous blooms. I could have spent all day there - it was so tranquil. They also had out-of-bloom plants for sale for quite a bargain - only ¥1000 (about \$7 USD). It was so hard to leave without buying any!





I had a great time visiting Japan, and would recommend anyone to visit, doubly so if you love orchids. I'm currently trying to learn more Japanese, as I plan on going back next year. I hope to visit the Japan International Flower and Orchid show some day - from the pictures I've seen, it looks amazing! Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about my trip, or want to chat about Japan and/or orchids.

#### Relevant Links

- [What a bunch of orchids in front of a Japanese shop mean](#)
- [Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden](#)
- [Suwada Orchid Nursery](#)
- [teamLab Planets](#)
- [Japan International Orchid and Flower Show 2026](#)

# *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 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:

- **Juzgamiento de Orquideas AOS con Manny Aybar Thursday, June 19th at 8:30 pm**
- **Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton , July 2nd at 8:30 pm**
- **Orchids Under Lights – Greenhouse Not Required with Sarah Hurdle, July 8 at 5:30 pm**
- **Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton, August 7th at 8:30 pm**

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## *Upcoming Orchid Show/Event*



# OHIO VALLEY ORCHID FEST

**AUGUST 21-24 2025**  
REGISTER & INFO: [www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com](http://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com)

**Miami Valley Orchid Society & Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
4865 WILMINGTON PIKE  
KETTERING, OHIO

**AOS MEMBER MINGLE**  
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AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY  
&  
**RON MCHATTON**  
CHIEF EDUCATION & SCIENCE OFFICER  
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IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY AND  
MID AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS



Phalaenopsis Summer Girl 'Plum Crazy' HCC/AOS



## *2025 Program Calendar*

Tracy Stombotne is continuing as our Program Chair and has developed another wonderful group of speakers. Each month we will update the calendar as some changes are always expected as people's schedules change. Below is the current slate of programs which may be modified:

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>VENDOR PLANT SALE</b>
<b>January 16</b>	<b>Nicholas Rust</b>	<b>Jewel Orchids</b>	<b>Possible, at a later date</b>
<b>February 20</b>	<b>Fred Clarke</b>	<b>Aussie Dendrobiums</b>	<b>Possible as a group order</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Jeanne Rhinehart</b>	<b>Native Orchids</b>	<b>Member Plant Sale</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Jim and Yvonne France</b>	<b>Phragmipediums</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Fred Bess</b>	<b>Pest and Disease Management</b>	<b>Member and Society Plant Sale</b>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>Edgar Stehli</b>	<b>Tolumnia</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>		
<b>August 21</b>	<b>TBD</b>		
<b>September</b>	<b>Picnic</b>		
<b>October 16</b>	<b>TBD</b>		
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Annual Banquet and Awards</b>		<b>Member Plant Sale</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>		

## *2024 Central Ohio Orchid Society Board and Committee Chairs*

President	Dave Markley
Vice President	Troy Timbrook
Secretary	Tom Hart
Treasurer	Cheryl Early
Immediate Past President	Nancy Shapiro
Trustee	Beth Makley
Trustee	Jan Miller
Hospitality Chair	Vacant
Program Chair	Tracy Stombotne
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