

# Overtures

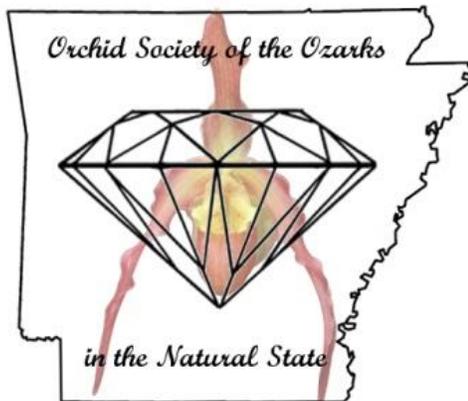
*A Communications Instrument for Society Members and Other Interested Parties*

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Volume XXIII Issue 12

December 2018



*Stimulating interest in Orchids and their culture as a nonprofit, educational organization ...*

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for joint membership.

**President: Russ Greene**

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**Vice-president: Art Evans**

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**Treasurer: Lois Geren**

[lgeren@uark.edu](mailto:lgeren@uark.edu)

**Editor: Steve Marak**

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## December News!

**January meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup>**

**February meeting is February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Orchids in the Garden" is March 1-3, 2019**

**Facebook – please like us if you haven't, we're over 1000!**

### *January – Round Table & Chili Fest*

By tradition we have a Round Table each January, so bring your questions about orchids, orchid culture, your problem plants, and ask away! Also by tradition, the hospitality them in January is chili, chili fixings, and chili side dishes.

### *Countdown to the OSO Show*

Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual "Orchids in the Garden" show and sale, as always, is the first weekend in March, so it's just about 60 days away. That means things will move into high gear quickly and stay there, and of course it means we need your help. The show is one of the two major fund-raisers for our Society, and it takes a lot of work to make it happen. The more of us who help, the less any one of us has to do, so if you are available to help for even a few hours please let us know!

### *Welcome OSO 2019 Officers & Board*

Our 2019 officers & elected Board members were approved by the membership at the December meeting:

President – Russ Greene

Vice-president – Art Evans

Treasurer – Lois Geren

Secretary – Suzanne Miller

Board member – Paul Bowen

Board member – Bradley Martin

# Judging notes ...

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## Judging notes from November 18, 2018

Nine members entered a total of 40 plants for our November judging. Art Evans' thirteen plants took **Plant of the Month** (Lc. SummiView 'Primero') first in Cattleya, Cymbidium, Small Cattleya and First Bloom, and second in Cymbidium and Small Cattleya and third in Dendrobium and Paphs for a total of 69 points. Jack Heflin's eight plants took first place in Oncidium, Miniature, and Phalaenopsis, Second place in Cattleya, Paphs and Oncidium and third in Vanda for a total of 47 points. Lois Geren's 7 plants took first, second, and third in Dendrobium and first and second in Vanda for a total of 32 points. The Marak's three plants took first in Miscellaneous and Miniature and second in Miniature for a total of 25 points. Kathy Judy's three plants took first in Paphs, second in Miniature and third in Cattleya for a total of 17 points. Paul Bowen's two plants took first in species and second in Phalaenopsis for a total of 15 points. Russ Greene and Jim Enns' two plants took second in Species for a total of 5 points. Annie Osterhout's one plant did not receive a ribbon.

### 2018 Year End Total Points are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Total Pts. - Kathy Judy at 259 – **1 POM** - 1<sup>st</sup> in Paphs 66 Pts. and Angraecium 10 Pts. 45 Plants
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Total Pts. - Lois Geren at 223 – **1 POM** - 1<sup>st</sup> in Large Cattleya 44 Pts. and Dendrobium 42 Pts. 31 Plants
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Total Pts. - Jack Heflin at 219 – **1 POM** - 1<sup>st</sup> in Oncidium 45 Pts. and Vanda 36 Pts. 42 Plants
- 4<sup>th</sup> Total Pts - Steve & Cathy Marak at 204 – **2 POM** - 1<sup>st</sup> in Misc. 34 Pts. and Miniature 69 Pts. 35 Plants
- 5<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Art Evans at 192 – **1 POM** - 1<sup>st</sup> in Small Cattleya 52 Pts. and Cymbidium 40 Pts. 41 Plants
- 6<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Paul Bowen at 176 – **2 POM** - 1<sup>st</sup> in Phalaenopsis 78 Pts. 42 Plants
- 7<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Russ Greene/Jim Enns at 160 – 1<sup>st</sup> in Species 35 Pts. 52 Plants
- 8<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Susie Miller at 71 - 23 Plants
- 9<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Bob Pettibone at 25 – 1 Plant - **1 POM**
- 10<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Bradley Martin at 22 – 8 Plants
- 11<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Barb Sweet at 14 – 6 Plants
- 12<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Trudy Pickett at 10 – 2 Plants
- 13<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Lisa Lames at 7 – 4 Plants
- 14<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Annie Osterhout at 5 – 4 Plants
- 15<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Immy Graves at 5 – 1 Plant
- 16<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Liz Hillbrand at 2 – 2 Plants
- 17<sup>th</sup> Total Pts. - Erlene Ivy at 2 – 1 Plant

**Thank you to the 17 members who took the extra effort to bring a total of 336 blooming plants for our nine monthly judging events and for sharing their beauty. And special thanks to those who volunteer to participate in the judging each month.**

– Paul Bowen

# Upcoming Shows & Judgings Around Our Region

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## **December 8, 2018**

**Mid-America Judging Center** monthly judging, Room 175, Commerce Bank Education Building, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

## **December 15, 2018**

**Great Plains Judging Center** monthly judging, Beech Science Center, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas

## **January 12, 2019**

**Mid-America Judging Center** monthly judging, Room 175, Commerce Bank Education Building, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

## **January 19, 2019**

**Great Plains Judging Center** monthly judging, Beech Science Center, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas

## **February 2-3, 2019**

**“Orchids in Paradise”**, Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

## **February 16, 2019**

**Great Plains Judging Center** monthly judging, Beech Science Center, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas

## **March 1-3, 2019**

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual “Orchids in the Garden”** show and sale, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Fayetteville, Arkansas

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## **Steve’s Musings!**

This is my last Musings – as of our December meeting, our 2019 officers have been installed, and Russ Greene is now OSO’s President. I’m grateful to him for agreeing to serve in that position, and to Art Evans who agreed to the Vice-president’s slot, and of course to Lois Geren and Suzanne Miller who agreed to continue as our Treasurer and Secretary respectively. That doesn’t mean you’ve heard the last from me, especially with our 9<sup>th</sup> annual show coming up in just two months, but at least you won’t have to endure me presiding over the business meetings.

Ironically, now that we have just passed the winter solstice and are literally (and I try to be very careful how I use that much-misused word these days) in the darkest days of the year, a number of things are coming into flower, including some things we’ve never flowered before, such as *Pelatantheria insectifera*. Cathy has been carefully moving things that weren’t happy from one spot to another and as a result we are also seeing some plants, such as *Comporettia macroplecton*, flower better than they ever have for us. Flowers to brighten the gray days are great, but I wish a few of them would wait until our show!

Steve

# News from the AOS

We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these items in our newsletter! Even if you're not an AOS member, there are lots of free resources available to everyone ... and of course we encourage you to join. AOS membership includes digital access to "Orchids" magazine, including digital archives of more than 350 issues dating back to 1932!

## TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST - November: The Month of Murmurings

### **Watchful Eyes Notice Details Necessary to Grow the Best Orchids**

**By Thomas Miranda, originally published in ORCHIDS, November 2011**

Communication can take many forms; talking, writing, singing, tweeting (and not just for birds). Then there are the nonverbal ways we connect with each other: body language, facial expressions, pheromones, even possibly psychic phenomena. Sometimes I think writing — sitting alone at a keyboard trying to compose a salient and engaging communique to persons unknown — is a strange and solitary, even a lonely, endeavor. One might ask, "Are these just murmurings in the dark?" Of late, I've come to realize that writing for Orchids is a powerful thing. I've learned that the earnest industry of writing for my readers each month has earned me friends around the world that I would never have met in a thousand lifetimes without this platform and opportunity. Recently, a dear friend of mine going through a difficult time said that she felt like a plant in the wrong environment: a vanda in the masdevallia house, or an epiphyte in terrestrial medium essentially denied the basic things necessary for her to thrive. We, as humans, have the tools to communicate our problems to each other and reach out for help. But the murmurings of orchids are much harder to discern. Subtleties abound in orchid culture and as their stewards we must endeavor to interpret what they are telling us in their own language. The best growers are sensitive and develop an ineffable connection to their plants. I've seen it and it is a beautiful thing I hope to develop someday.

TURN, TURN, TURN: For most of us in the Northern Hemisphere, the outside world has morphed considerably since June. The days are shorter, the temperatures cooler and our moods are settling into indoor mode.

Perhaps we don't realize how much more time we spend outside when it's warmer, but it is a simple truth. Orchid plants are also sensitive to these seasonal turns. Even if you supply them with the same heat, moisture, fertilizer and humidity year-round, they are still likely to slow down in winter. This is not only a natural but often a necessary part of an orchid's life cycle. The cooler



temperatures and shorter photoperiod in November are often the triggers for plant metabolism to slow and spike initiation to begin. Many Cattleya species, such as this *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Teresa' HCC/AOS bloom reliably at specific times of the year. Their dependence on seasonal temperature and photoperiod must be

understood to bloom them successfully, especially in the house. Grower Carlos Cahiz; Photographer Greg Allikas.

**WINDOWSILL WOES:** One mistake many growers, particularly those who grow indoors, often make is to provide their plants with constant temperatures and watering year-round. Even in tropical orchid habitats there are seasonal changes. Granted, these are not as radical as the changes we see as we approach the poles, but those subtle fluctuations in temperature, rainfall and light levels are the factors that allow plants to thrive and bloom in season. Allow cattleyas and standard dendrobiums to get much drier than you would in summer when they are in active growth. Catasetums and other orchids from seasonally dry habitats are deciduous (losing their leaves during the dry season) and serious damage can occur if they are drenched with water at this time. Your plants will murmur their needs to you by dropping some leaves or sprouting some new roots or growths. You must learn what those murmurings mean for the individuals in your collection.

**EVER SO LIGHTLY:** Another pitfall of the winter for indoor growers is our propensity to stay up late. Orchids that bloom in season are sometimes triggered by photoperiod. In other words, they are genetically programmed to bloom when the day length shortens in midwinter. Think of poinsettias and Christmas cactus, for example. If your lights are on until midnight where your plants are growing, they might sense they are experiencing a long summer day rather than the long cool winter night that would trigger blooming. Many cattleyas are like this, producing blooming sheaths by the autumn, but not developing buds until the nighttime temperatures and daylengths are right. Greenhouse growers rarely experience these kinds of problems because they don't cohabit with their orchids day and night. Greenhouses tend to provide more naturalistic seasonal and daily temperature and photoperiodic fluctuations than we can provide for our houseplants. But just being aware of this potential drawback is often the cure. While not always possible, keeping your orchids in a room you rarely use at night can help them bloom in season.

**MITE MAKES RIGHT? :** I think not. Mites are probably the most insidious pest you may come across on orchids during the winter. Encouraged by the lower humidity situations of most winter growing spaces, less frequent watering and less likelihood of getting washed away by a strong spray of the garden hose, mites can proliferate quickly in such conditions and cause serious damage. While softer-leaved orchids, such as miltonias or lycastes, seem especially susceptible, I believe mites can damage the new tender growths of more succulent orchids too and may be responsible for many abnormalities we see later on when these damaged growths mature. Look especially on the undersides of leaves for what appears to be dust or even tiny cobwebs. These tiny arachnids can suck the life out of individual cells from underneath and damage will eventually appear on the upper surface of leaves as an almost silvery effect. Mites are ubiquitous and can't really be completely avoided, but a gentle washing of the underside of affected leaves with a solution such as Safer Insect Killing Soap will seriously slow them down. Larger collections infected with mites may require the use of a commercial miticide for adequate control.

— Tom Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades. He is an AOS accredited judge and is the chairman of the American Orchid Society's Conservation Committee. He recently coauthored *The Book of Orchids: A life-size guide to 600 species from around the world.* (email: [biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)).

### **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 December 2018 *Overtures – The Newsletter of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks*

About Orchids tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of the monthly Corner.

**Cattleya Species Culture with Bill Rogerson**

**Thursday, January 10th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST    *Open to all***

Please join Bill Rogerson, Accredited AOS Judge and renowned Cattleya species expert as he discusses the foundation plants for cattleya breeding and how to grow them successfully.

**Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6267544326951329539>**

**American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton**

**Tuesday, January 29th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST    *Open to all***

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 [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by Tuesday, January 22nd. Remember to include pictures.

**Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8715770793699735042>**

**Note:** After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the seminar.

**WHAT ARE**

**WEBINARS?** Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his 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.



*Vanda Amy Mitchell 'Crownfox Pink Lady' FCC/AOS; Photographer: Greg Allikas*

**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 DECEMBER ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE** will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- The New Refugium Botanicum - TBD
- Form Meets Function - *White Fringed Orchids* by Thomas Mirenda
- For the Novice - *Leaf-Spotting Fungi in Cattleyas, Part 2 - Cercosporoid Fungi* by Sue Bottom
- Orchids Illustrated - *The Genus Renanthera* by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- *Exploring Central and Eastern Madagascar* by Johan and Clare Hermans
- *Beauties of the Beast: Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop and its hybrids* by Jean Allen-Ikeson
- *Orchid Photograph of the Week* - a collection of some of the best submissions for 2018



Photograph of the week 11/21/2018. *Masdevallia pleurothalloides* Photographer: Wiel Driessen

### ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!

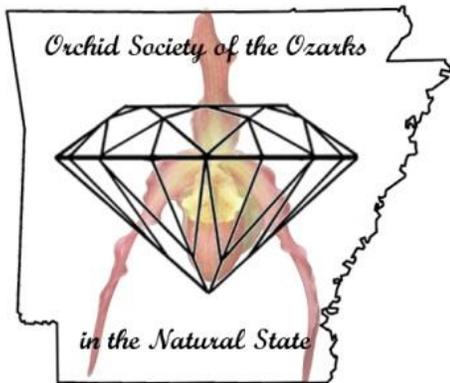
16-page award gallery of breath taking pictures of recently awarded orchids.

### 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.



*Paphiopedilum* Shadow Walker 'Blood Moon' AM/AOS; Photographer: Bryan Ramsay



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*A non-profit, educational organization stimulating interest in orchids and their culture.*

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@

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Like us, post your pictures or comments, join the community!



Photographer:  
Cathy Marak

***Tubecentron Hsinying Girl***, a cross of *Ceratocentron fessellii* and *Tubecentron Niu Girl*, which is a cross of *Tuberolabium kotoense* and *Ceratocentron fessellii*

## What's Ahead ...

### January 20, 2019

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR  
Meeting: 1:30

Program: January by tradition is the OSO  
Chili Fest and round table

### February 17, 2019

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR  
Meeting: 1:30

Program: Planning for our show & sale the  
1<sup>st</sup> weekend in March

### March 1-3, 2019

Botanical Garden of the Ozarks  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Orchids in the Garden" show &  
sale

(No regular March meeting)



***Barkeria melanocaulon***  
Photographer: Cathy Marak