

# Overtures

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

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**ORCHID  
SOCIETY OF  
THE OZARKS**  
OSO-WEB.ORG

*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.

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## February News!

### Upcoming Programs

All in-person OSO activities are still on hold due to the pandemic. We'll have another virtual meeting this coming Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> (our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday). The invitation will be sent in a separate email.

### 2021 dues ... aren't due?

We were unable to hold our usual meetings or auction or Christmas party in 2020, and it appears that we won't have regular meetings for several more months at a minimum. Because of these exceptional circumstances, the Society has voted to carry over everyone's 2020 dues – so if you were a member in 2020, you're already paid up for 2021! (But don't get used to this – in January 2022 we'll unleash the Treasurer again!)

### OSO Facebook Group

We've added an OSO Group on Facebook along with the OSO page we already had. We encourage you to join the group – it will be easier for you to post pictures of your plants, questions, etc. there. Search Groups for "Orchid Society of the Ozarks", or use this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2640406932837737>

We still encourage everyone to like the OSO Facebook page:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Orchid-Society-of-the-Ozarks/166606350108921>

Please send pictures of your plants, stories about your plants, tips you've learned about growing your plants, and so on, for the Newsletter!

# SOME OF MY FAVORITE ORCHIDS

Lois Geren

*Editor's note: in March of 2020 Paul Bowen had an idea for our growers to share how they grow their orchids. Something on the line of picking a plant you grow well and fill out a form that gives basics on care: mounted, in a pot, in a basket; windowsill, greenhouse; how much light, watering/fertilizing schedule, etc. Later in the year Lois Geren followed by requesting a list of favorite orchids for a presentation project (she said to "think of orchids that you would buy again if you lost them"). These articles are a result of Paul's and Lois's ideas.*

Cathy not so subtly reminded me about my suggestion for a favorites program. When I originally had the idea of an hour presentation, I was thinking of a list and pictures of some of my favorites, along with their best attributes. Shopping trips are easier when you have a list of species or hybrid parents to look for. I like to buy healthy hybrids using parents I do well with. Sorry, Cathy, although I love the *coccinea* hybrids, I tend to avoid them due to my very poor success rates. Maybe Cathy's tips will help with that. As to the list of my favorites, I started it 6 months ago, and after I hit 60 plus, I quit keeping the list. However, if I break it down to genera, it's not so crazy. My greenhouse is warm and bright and humid, so I gravitate away from the cool growers and look at cattleyas, vandas and dendrobiums. I've also found the lycastes to grow well for me. Right now the dendrobiums are doing very well, and I've grown very fond of the *Latouria* types. I'll settle on these today. They are just now becoming more popular and more hybrids are showing up. Also, as of last year, they now have a MAOC show class of their own, separate from the nobile classes. They are hardy, heavy bloomers and boast very long lasting flowers. The *Latouria* include about 50 species and are originally rain forest epiphytes from New Guinea. They have apex leaves and flowers and vary from the small *aberrans* (6 inches) to the tall (30 inches) *johnsoniae*. Two years ago I got two of the newer hybrids awarded with an AM of 84 for 'Viktor' and an AM of 82 for 'Tanya'. I got to name the grex Ozark Atro.



Den. Ozark Atro 'Viktor'

(Den. Little Atro x *atroviolaceum*)



Den. Memoria Carol Jean Clark 'Tanya'

(Cen. Peter Shen x Little Atro)

'Tanya' is a tall den. (30 inches) and blooming now with 36 blooms on five inflorescences and I expect it to hold for at least 3 months or longer. My current bloomers also include the medium height (12 inches) Den.

Andre'e Millar (*atroviolaceum* x *convolutum*), tall Den. Violet Yamaji 'Puanani' (Den. Midnight x Den.

*spectabile*), and tall Den. Royal Wings (Den. Roy Tokunaga x Den. Silver Wings). The Royal Wings plant is blooming with 56 blooms on 9 inflorescences.



Den. Andréé Millar



Den. Royal Wings



Den. Violet Yamaji

All of these are favorites of mine and have similar backgrounds, the most common being *aberrans*, *atroviolaceum*, *convolutum*, *johnsoniae* and *spectabile*. I expect all of these *Latouria* types to bloom 3-6 months. All are easy to grow in bright light, and are not picky about temperature. They prefer warm, and I keep them outside under a 50% shade cover and sometimes brighter, all summer. I don't leave them out quite as long as the *Nobile* dens. I keep them somewhat on the moist side but with good drainage. I try to keep the greenhouse above 50 in winter, but had a couple of oopsies in the forties in their part of the greenhouse this winter. They're still happy. I keep them in small pots, as they don't like to be repotted much. That makes them somewhat top heavy, but if that's the worst I can say, I'm happy with them!

*Nobile*, species and 'other' dendrobiums at a later date.

Lois

# Know Your Enemy!

## Common Greenhouse Weeds

“Nothing is certain but death, taxes, and weeds.” Next in the series is a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae). I’m fairly sure it’s in *Cardamine*, a diverse genus found almost worldwide whose plants are known as “bittercresses” and “toothworts”. The charming Arkansas spring ephemeral wildflower known as toothwort is in this genus, *Cardamine concatenata* (formerly *Dentaria laciniata*).

The villain of this article is probably *Cardamine hirsuta*, as it’s a common greenhouse weed, but there are other contenders such as *C. flexuosa*. You might care if you’re growing it as a culinary herb – a number of cresses are edible – but as a weed in orchid pots the distinction is purely academic.

This is another plant that practices ballochory – the explosive dispersal of seeds, which can fling them from the mother plant into an orchid pot several feet away. Be careful when weeding out plants with ripe seed pods. If you brush the pods – called “siliques”, which sounds far more elegant than the plant deserves – it will rain bittercress seeds.

As weeds go, it’s far less awful than many. No tap root down to the earth’s mantle, no tuber, fairly easy to pull without uprooting everything in the pot.



*Cardamine hirsuta*, probably.

# News from the AOS

We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these AOS Corner 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! Please visit the AOS web site at: <http://www.aos.org>

You can also find the AOS on Facebook! The [American Orchid Society Facebook group page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/) has exceeded 35,000 members. Group members post photos and videos of their blooming orchids, ask questions, add comments and share their passion for the flowers we all love. In real time too. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/>

## Webinars-Coming Attractions!






<b>When</b>	<b>February 09, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>February 16, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 02, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 09, 2021</b> 8:30 pm EST Tuesday
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Native Orchids of the Heartland	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Star Search: Judging Angraecoid Orchids
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Doug Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge, Member - Native Orchid Conference	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Beth Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge

**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** An Affiliated Society may use recorded webinars for presentations at their monthly meetings. With Wi-Fi access, it's easy! Webinars are an internet-connected audiovisual presentation. You can view from anywhere that you have an internet connection via Mac, PC or even your mobile device. It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

To view **REGISTRATION is REQUIRED:** <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>  
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](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)

# Pictures from the greenhouse ...





ORCHID SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS

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

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

## What's Ahead ...

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all "normal" in-person OSO events are cancelled until further notice. Our next virtual meeting is next Sunday (our normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday). See page 1 for more information. Please visit the OSO Facebook page, and join the OSO Facebook group.

## Just for Fun ...

Orchid-related things that are a bit different, fun, and suitable for social distancing. If you know of something like that, please send it along.

Australia has a lot of odd orchids and the genus *Rhizanthella* is one of the oddest – it even flowers underground!

<https://theconversation.com/like-finding-life-on-mars-why-the-underground-orchid-is-australias-strangest-most-mysterious-flower-144727>

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This article is from West Virginia, but *Tipularia discolor* is a native Arkansas species too – watch for that spotted leaf when you're in the woods:

<https://wvexplorer.com/2020/12/23/tipularia-discolor-strange-terrestrial-orchid/>

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And finally, a new species being billed as "the world's ugliest orchid". It does look like something out of a Ridley Scott movie ...

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/worlds-ugliest-orchid-according-botanists-180976595/>