March News!

Our 10th annual show is March 6-8!
Springfield annual show is March 21-22!
April meeting is April 5th!
Facebook – please like us if you haven’t, we’re over 1000!

2020 Dues are Due!

We’ll be updating the OSO member directory in April, so please be sure you’ve paid your 2020 dues! See Harriet (Membership) or Lois (Treasurer)!

Upcoming Programs

March 6-8 will be our 10th annual “Orchids in the Garden” show and sale. Our yearly show is usually our Society’s biggest event, and one of our two money-making events each year, which pays for our speakers, raffle plants, and other expenses.

Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to help out. If you haven’t but find you can be available, please let us know – we can use you, and it will be a big help!

Our usual April meeting date would be the same weekend as the Tulsa show, and since we don’t have a regular March meeting because of our show, we voted to move the April meeting to April 5th. This will be about halfway between the February and May meetings.

We want to know what programs you’d like to see in 2020! We’re asking our members to list their Top Ten favorite orchids and send that information to us. Our Treasurer Lois Geren has volunteered to do the data mining and come up with some popular themes for our programs next year.
Upcoming Shows & Judgings Around Our Region

March 6-8, 2020
Orchid Society of the Ozarks 10th Annual “Orchids in the Garden”, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Fayetteville, Arkansas

March 14, 2020
Mid-America Judging Center monthly judging, Room 175, Commerce Bank Education Building, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

March 21, 2020
Great Plains Judging Center business meeting and Seminar Saturday, Beech Science Center, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas

March 21-22, 2020
Springfield Orchid Society Show & Sale, “A Tropical Orchid Escape”, Springfield Greene County Botanical Center, Springfield, Missouri

March 28-29, 2020
Greater Omaha Orchid Society “33rd Annual Show and Sale”, Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha, Nebraska

April 11, 2020
Mid-America Judging Center monthly judging, Room 175, Commerce Bank Education Building, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

April 18-19, 2020
Tulsa Orchid Society Show & Sale, “Orchids: Jewels of the Jungle”, Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

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

As a member of the AOS, you receive FREE or discounted admission to nearly 300 Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. Show your AOS membership card at admissions and benefit from the Reciprocal Garden Admission program. Members enjoy free or reduced admission or discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide. https://www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap/find

Please reference the American Horticultural Society guidelines about how to take advantage of your Reciprocal Admissions Program benefits. It is recommended that you call all gardens prior to your visit. Each garden has its own unique admissions policy and some may have exclusions about special events, exhibits, etc. https://www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap#guidelines

You can also find the AOS on Facebook! The American Orchid Society Facebook group page 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/
**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** 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’ll find the link here: [http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx](http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx).

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<th><strong>When</strong></th>
<th><strong>March 19, 2020</strong></th>
<th><strong>March 31, 2020</strong></th>
<th><strong>April 23, 2020</strong></th>
<th><strong>RECORDED WEBINARS</strong> at your convenience</th>
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<td><strong>8:30pm EST</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure from the same webpage. Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to:</strong> <a href="mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org">greenhousechat@aos.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td><strong>ALL past webinars are recorded and indexed by topic, for future viewing.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&amp;A) Send in your Questions!</td>
<td>Junior Orchid Show A Success Story</td>
<td>Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&amp;A) Send in your Questions!</td>
<td><strong>Cultivation, Judging, Pests and Diseases, Greenhouse Chats indexed by topic.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Presenter</strong></td>
<td>Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer</td>
<td>Barb Schmidt AOS Education Committee member</td>
<td>Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer</td>
<td>AOS Members, Judges, Concerned Conservationists, Scientists &amp; More</td>
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**REGISTRATION is REQUIRED:** [http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx](http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx) Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure from the same webpage. Send your **Greenhouse Chat** questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

If you want to view independently from home, you can join live, either on your computer or by phone. ALL past webinars are recorded and indexed by topic, for future viewing.

**CULTURE CONNECTION**

transitive verb: CULTIVATE, to grow in a prepared medium

Visit the AOS website for a [Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care](http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx)
SLEET, SNOW, HAIL, FREEZING RAIN and wintry mixes dominate the weather reports this month, making for treacherous travel. We leave our abodes and workplaces each day at our peril, usually only to perform or acquire the bare necessities. Perhaps it was Freudian, or just wishful thinking on his part, but my local news weatherman, obviously tired of delivering bad news all month, floundered a bit while trying to describe today’s forecast. The teleprompter may have read “snow flurries and rain showers” but our man instead predicted “snow flowers.” I laughed and looked out the window, but the only flowers to be seen were inside on a phalaenopsis. Perhaps he’s an orchid grower too, because that is exactly what March brings us each year: A glorious array of orchid flowers. Coincidentally, even though February is the month where we humans reveal our affection for each other on Valentine’s Day with orchids and other flowers, we needn’t restrict ourselves and should continue such loving gestures through the year. The gift of an orchid is an unmistakable sign of passion and affirmation (unless you’re giving one of those stinky bulbophyllums). Even those orchids might be appropriate gifts for your boss, or someone you’ve divorced.

SOMETHING’S COMING The air is humming, and spring is dangling in the air as the weather starts to change. Crocus and daffodils are opening outside, harbingers of the wonders of spring about to burgeon forth. As the days elongate and the sun rises higher each successive date, the action begins inside. Plants such as catasetums and dendrobiums, left dry most of the winter, are starting to produce new roots, and while it’s a bit early still, repotting and renewed watering are imminent. This is true of many other orchids, including cattleyas, cymbidiums and phalaenopsis hybrids that you should prepare for the onslaught of spring repotting that is about to begin. Be ahead of the game and get fresh potting supplies — pots, potting mix, wire products and fertilizer — so you’ll be able to attend to plants as they need attention.

PRETTY AND PERKY Even though most orchids are at the starting gates ready to produce next year’s growths, many are still in glorious bloom. Luckily, there are orchid exhibits throughout the spring to show off these beauties. However, once exhibited, you may want to remove those old inflorescences (unless you’ve made seed capsules on them). Spike production and flowering is energetically hard on plants, and the removal of the inflorescences will divert energy toward the new growths, so important for future flowering and the orchids overall health and longevity. Always use a sterilized blade whenever excising spikes or leaves to prevent the spread of viruses from plant to plant.

SCOUT FOR INTRUDERS With the advent of new growths and senescence of flowers come some unwanted parasites. This is a prime month for aphids to appear on new growths of pleurothallids and old oncidium inflorescences. Mealybugs are sometimes found on the backs of phalaenopsis flowers and the undersides of their leaves, where these insects are less likely to be washed away by the watering hose. Safer Soap or Sunspray Oil applications are usually adequate to quell small infestations of these soft-bodied insects, but be vigilant. These innocuous creatures are insidious and, if allowed to travel from plant to plant, with their sucking mouthparts are also implicated in the spread of viruses.

TAKING STOCK As plants come out of dormancy, you may want to move them to more accessible spots in your growing area. In the autumn, dormant plants were rightly moved to areas where they’d be less likely to be struck by stray sweeps of the hose. Now, some of those plants, such as habenarias and galeandras, will need to be in the forefront of your collection so they are not forgotten or ignored as they come out of dormancy. This is also a good time to consider which plants performed well in the past year. With so many new species and hybrids available, culling your collection to make room for something new keeps your orchid growing fresh and exciting, plus the donation of plants to an auction table may encourage and inspire a new orchid grower to enter the astounding world of orchids. (As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 78, NO.3, MARCH 2009)

**LOOK** for your awarded orchids in the sixteen-page awards gallery in each issue of ORCHIDS! The magazine awards gallery features all of the awards granted month by month in the previous year.

**LOOK** on the AOS website to find the most recently awarded orchids! Exhibits are also included in the latest awards gallery. Check it out to get some great ideas for your next display.

**Worth the Read - ORCHIDS March Preview**

**Orchids Illustrated - Phaius** by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins

Each month in ORCHIDS the Orchids Illustrated column highlights a specific genus and occasionally a specific species. The article often includes a single stunning current photograph of the subject matter, historical references, dated antique plates, and botanical drawings. It is interesting to see the different naming conventions used throughout the years. It is no wonder that we will never learn all there is to know about orchids. Check out this group of terrestrial orchids and learn how they have been recognized through the years in the orchid world.

**Don’t miss out!** Membership offers something for everyone - Coming in ORCHIDS March 2020

- For the Novice - Nutrition by Ray Barkalow
- Collector’s Item - Zootrophion Hybrids by Leon Glicenstein
- Judges Corner - Being a judging team captain by Bill Thoms
- Caularthron and its Hybrids by Jean Allen-Ikeson
- The Joys of Small Phalaenopsis by Andy Coghil-Behrends
- Psychopsis limminghei by Rudolf Jenny

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**Award: 20204851 AOS Show Trophy 84 pts.**
**North Jersey Orchid Society Show (Wayne, NJ)**
**Exhibitor:** North Jersey Orchid Society
**Photographer:** Maurice Garvey

**Award: 20204852 Dendrobium roslii 'Carol' AM/AOS 80 points**
**North Jersey Orchid Society Show (Wayne, NJ)**
**Exhibitor:** Maurice Garvey
**Photographer:** Maurice Garvey

**Award: 20202800 Phragmipedium America 'George’s Delight' AM/AOS 83 pts.**
**Dallas Center Monthly Judging (Dallas, TX)**
**Exhibitor:** George A. Bogard
**Photographer:** David Gould
Pictures from the February meeting ...
What’s Ahead …

February 16, 2020

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR
Meeting: 1:30
Program: Final preparations for our show ...

March 6-8, 2020

10th Annual “Orchids in the Garden” show and sale at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks

March 21-22, 2020

Springfield Orchid Society Show & Sale,
Springfield Greene County Botanical Center, Springfield, Missouri

April 5, 2020

Moved to avoid the Tulsa show. Program TBA.

Paphiopedilum venustum
Photographer: Cathy Marak

Paphiopedilum Transdoll
(P. liemianum x P. rothschildianum)
Photographer: Cathy Marak