

Overtures

A Communications Instrument for Society Members and Other Interested Parties

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November 2020



**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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November News!

Upcoming Programs

All usual OSO activities are still on hold due to the pandemic. We'll have another virtual meeting this coming Sunday, November 15 (our usual 3rd Sunday). The invitation will be sent in a separate email. We have several items of business to conduct this month – our usual year-end donations, a proposed by-law amendment, and our Nominating Committee will share their proposed slate of officers for 2021. More details about all of that will go out with the Newsletter Supplement, with the business meeting minutes and treasurer's reports.

New OSO Facebook Group

We've added an OSO Group on Facebook along with the OSO page we already had. If you liked the page, we encourage you to join the group – it will be easier for you to post pictures of your plant, 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!

Wait, it's Not Dead, it's Dormant!

Cathy Marak

In the last month Facebook memes and conversations with our society members have been dominated by the problem of fitting all the plants back into their winter growing area. While we now have a greenhouse and very few plants go out for the summer, we still must move plants around to allow those that need a dormant period a safe spot away from the watering hose during their winter dormancy. I read one guy puts his dormant plants near the electrical box-- just to make sure.

These plants can be good for growers with a limited growing area as they don't need light during the winter when all the plants must be inside. They can be "stored" on limited height shelves (you do have to keep a watch as dormancy ends so the leaves and spikes don't end up bent or go through grids on a shelf). They also can easily be shipped during dormancy without concern for damage to leaves or spikes.

Some of our favorite orchids with true dormancy are: *Catasetinae*, *Cynorkis*, *Habenaria*, and *Eulophia*.

Catasetinae—The *catasetinae* begin dormancy now and most will have already dropped their leaves by now. We still have a plant that has not dropped all leaves yet but they are not looking good. I am moving them up high so that they only get stray bits of water from time to time. While most of these plants that growers kill are rotted by overwatering, we know a few growers that report their pseudobulbs have dried up to dust. That will never be a problem when I am wielding the watering hose but if you are storing your plants in a dry place you may have to give them water sometime during their dormancy. The advice is that if the pseudobulb starts to shrivel you should give the plant a drink. When the plants start to grow in the spring wait until the plant has well developed roots and you see leaf growth of around 3-5 inches before watering regularly. This is

a good time to repot if needed. Also, because we have a lot of species orchids and fertilize at a weakish strength, we add a time release fertilizer.

Habenaria—These orchids have the coolest blooms. After they bloom (ours started blooming last month and are still blooming) plants drop their leaves as a signal they are going dormant. In their native habitat they go from a very wet season to a very dry season. When they go dormant, we move them to the top of a shelf to reduce the chance they will get watered. Make sure you have a label in the pot because there will be no sign of life until the spring. Actually, this is true for

Cynorkis also



**Ctsm. Penang x Chuck Taylor
in bloom**



**Ctsm. in
dormancy**



**Habenaria carnea x
Pecteilis susanna**



**Habenaria
medusa**

Cynorkis—We treat these about the same way as *Habenarias*, very dry over the winter, on a high shelf to protect against absentminded watering, then when shoots start up in the spring, water a lot.

Eulophia—While *Eulophia* are not as sensitive as any of the above species, they do need reduced watering and/or a dry period in winter. We've included a photo of some new plants that arrived and pretty much look like sticks in newspaper.

These are great orchids to grow if you have a winter space crunch. Just put them out of the way and put a reminder on your calendar to check them in the spring!



Cynorkis gibbosa



Habenaria and *Cynorkis* pots in dormancy.



Cynorkis angustipetala in flower



Another advantage is easy shipping. These look like a bunch of dead sticks but are quite healthy - just dormant.

Know Your Enemy!

Common Greenhouse Weeds

“Nothing is certain but death, taxes, and weeds.” The fourth in this series is *Phlebodium aureum*. It’s a fern with many common names, including hare’s-foot fern, blue star fern, cabbage palm fern, and others. Don’t be fooled – ferns may date back to the age of the dinosaurs, but there is nothing primitive about this weed. It’s sneaky and ruthless. This is the velociraptor of ferns! The baby raptor in “Jurassic Park” looked so cute when it hatched out of the egg. Not nearly so cute when a fully-grown one was staring at them with a mouthful of slavering teeth!

The natural range of this fern is tropical and subtropical areas of the western hemisphere. It grows as far north as extreme southeastern Georgia. It’s a rhizomatous fern, and the rhizome is hairy, hence the “hare’s-foot” name. There are several selected forms which are actually grown intentionally, I suspect by those people who see how long they can sit unprotected in a room full of venomous snakes for fun.



Many ferns are attractive plants, either in their own right or as orchid companions. I grow some myself. Why is this one so awful? The spores float everywhere, and although it’s usually epiphytic in nature, they will germinate on orchid mounts, in sphagnum, in pots of bark, in pots of dirt, in pots of cactus mix – like many successful weeds, it’s highly adaptable and will tolerate a wide range of light, moisture, and temperature, especially once established. The cute fuzzy rhizome of the baby fern that looks like a hare’s foot quickly becomes a large structure the size, and almost the hardness, of a brick and it will quickly fill a pot, or overrun a mount, crushing to death whatever poor plant you were trying to grow.

The reason it's called "hare's-foot fern".



They look cute when small. Don't be fooled.

Note the picture of the big frond. I found that fern in a pot back in March. I threw it outside the greenhouse to die. Not only did it not die, that frond is over 4 feet long, and our recent light frosts didn’t even singe it. I know it can’t possibly

survive a NW Arkansas winter, but it’s got me worried. If I see green there next spring, I’m renting a flame thrower.



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!






When	November 05, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday	November 10, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	December 02, 2020 8:30pm EST Wednesday	December 16, 2020 8:30pm EST Wednesday
Topic	A Columbian Orchid Adventure	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Orchid Conservation Projects in Florida and Cuba
Presenter	Ron Parsons Renowned photographer and author	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Lawrence Zettler Biology Professor, Illinois College

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

A few pictures from our October socially-distanced, outdoor event, plus a few of Lois's currently blooming orchids (left to right, *Cattleya* G. C. Roebling 'Sentinel', *Lc.* Good Fairy '#1' X *Lc.* Melody Fair 'Mishima', and *Coryanthes macrantha* x self:



Pictures from the greenhouse ...





ORCHID SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS

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and click the "Join" link
Dues \$10 individual, \$15 joint

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

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Ozarks/166606350108921](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Orchid-Society-of-the-Ozarks/166606350108921)

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 3rd 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.

Alan Koch, the proprietor of Gold Country Orchids, has spoken to OSO several times, so you guys all know how knowledgeable he is. Plant physiology and nutrition are among his areas of expertise, and he sent along the following comments regarding Cattleya nutrition: "Ohio State showed that by adjusting the amount of fertilizer to the day-length maximized plant growth. When the day length is longest we are using fertilizer at up to double strength and in the winter when day length is the shortest we are at 1/4 strength. We do leach every 5th watering to avoid salt build up."

Following up on the vanilla thread, here's an interesting link that discusses how the distinctive flavor is developed:

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2020/10/fungi-add-flavour-to-vanilla>

Here's an interesting short article on Dendrobium crumenatum. We know and grow it as the "thunderstorm orchid", but in its native Singapore it's the "pigeon orchid" and there are so many flowering it looks like someone has strung lights on the trees:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/pigeon-orchids-in-bloom-for-just-one-day>