

Overtures

A Communications Instrument for Society Members and Other Interested Parties

What's inside:

November News	p. 1
News from the AOS	p. 3
Shows & Judgings	p. 7
AOS Dillon-Peterson 2021	
Essay	p. 8

Volume XXVI Issue 9

November 2021



**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!

November meeting Sunday

Our November meeting will be this Sunday, the 21st, which is our usual meeting day, and at our usual meeting place, NTI in Springdale. This meeting will be in the Continuing Education building at the north end of the campus (map next page), as were our last couple of meetings. (If we should receive the OK from NTI to resume using the Student Center by then, we'll let everyone know with a special email.)

This is an important meeting with a lot of end-of-year business to conduct – our by-laws require that we nominate officers for 2022 at this meeting, and this is the time when we usually propose and vote on various donations. Please attend if you can!

Auction Report

We held our 2021 auction in October and it was a big success! Thanks to our Treasurer, Lois Geren, who worked through the necessary process, we were able to have an open-air venue at Agri Park in Fayetteville, which gave us comfortable facilities that still provided good Covid safety, and we had good turnout. Our Society made a bit over \$1500 (details will be in the Treasurer's report) which, given the pandemic, we think is fantastic! Thanks to everyone who helped, and who attended and bought plants.

Upcoming Activities

It looks like things will be more normal in 2022. We are planning to have our annual Show & Sale at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks at our usual time (first weekend in March, March 4-6, 2022). The Board has also approved two sales events in April and May of 2022 which will help us get OSO and orchids in front of more people in our region. More about those when we get past the show.

Springfield Show

The Springfield Orchid Society held a quick fall show the weekend of October 1. Thanks to Lois Geren who headed up the OSO team and set up the exhibit, and to everyone who contributed plants for it. Congratulations to Kathy Judy, whose Paphiopedilum Wossner Ministar 'Windy's Star' was awarded an HCC of 77 points!

OSO Facebook Group

We have an OSO Group as well as a Page on Facebook. If you join you can post pictures of your plants, ask questions, etc. 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 too:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Orchid-Society-of-the-Ozarks/166606350108921>

Please send pictures of your plants, stories about your plants, growing tips, etc. for the Newsletter!



This (**RED**) is our NEW meeting location at NTI. Note the parking is on the north side of the building.

This (**YELLOW**) is our OLD meeting location, the Student Center! Don't go here! It's only marked so you can see where the new location is relative to the old.

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 nearly 65,000 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 09, 2021 8:30pm EST Tuesday	November 17, 2021 8:30pm EST Wednesday	WEBINARS ON DEMAND Watch Recorded Webinars Any Time
Topic	Orchid Collection Tour The Huntington Botanical Gardens	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Species and Hybrids, Pests and Diseases, Culture, Judging, Greenhouse Chats
Presenter	Brandon Tam Orchid Collection Specialist, AOS Judge	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	www.aos.org/orchids/webinars

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

November: The Month of Maturity, by Thomas Mirenda

When orchids grow into mature specimens, they can be mind-blowingly beautiful. One of the great joys of cultivating orchids is watching them progress and attain dimensions and flowerings seldom witnessed in the wild. Coddled and pampered in our greenhouses and orchid gardens, with the benefit of excellent fertilizers, superior media and our well-informed growing prowess, orchids can perform miraculous feats. The AOS rewards such plants with cultural awards such as the Certificate of Cultural Merit or Certificate of Cultural Excellence.

While human beings are obsessed with youthful good looks and we tend not to win any beauty contests as we age, I like to think we become more beautiful in other ways. If we cultivate ourselves and develop our intelligence, culture and wisdom through experience, travel and socialization, we develop into something truly beautiful — creatures that can make the world a better place for those we care about.

While my expanding midsection and philosopher's furrows in my brow may not win me any beauty contests, I've found that when I strive to do good works, am kind to myself and others, learn as much as I can each day and share that knowledge, however incomplete, I might still be worthy of a cultural award one day.

SLOW THE SPIGOT Along with days being shorter with the winter solstice approaching, temperatures are cooler, skies are grayer and the nights are longer. Most orchids (except Southern Hemisphere terrestrials, such as *Pterostylis* or *Disa*) are requiring far less water than they did in spring and summer. *Cattleyas* should now have mature growths with sheaths, and cymbidiums should show large fat pseudobulbs and the cone-shaped beginnings of inflorescences, while *phalaenopsis* should be elongating the spikes they initiated last month. Water and humidity are still necessary for these orchids to progress toward flowering, but less is definitely more this month. Certain orchids from seasonally dry habitats, such as *dendrobiums*, *habenarias* and *catasetums*, should be left extremely dry starting now, to the point where the plants drop some leaves. This, though disconcerting, is part of their culture and often necessary for blooming. It should be noted here that many of the pseudobulbous species orchids from Mexico and Central America (*Lycaste*, *Encyclia* and many others) are experiencing the beginning of their dry season now and should be watered and fertilized accordingly for the next few months.

PESTER THE PESTS If your plants summered in the yard, by now any pests that may have come inside with your orchids for the winter will have made themselves known. Make sure to treat any infestations promptly. Most outside insects do not fare well in the greenhouse, and can be eradicated with ease, but it is the sucking parasites that one must start watching for. Without the benefit of rain and beneficial insects, mite populations often explode, particularly on soft leaved orchids such as *lycastes* or *phaius*. If undetected, these can do significant damage. Look for small webbing on the undersides of leaves and a "silvering" effect on the upper surface. This is due to the dying of cells from the sucking arachnids. Mites are inhibited by high humidity and can be controlled (in a small collection) by regularly wiping the undersides of the leaves with a wet sponge or rag with insecticidal soap. Larger collections need spraying with a miticide.

WHAT'S AT STAKE With many orchids, particularly *phalaenopsis* and cymbidiums, sending out spikes, it is advantageous to start guiding the inflorescences with stakes. Even if the spike is too short to tie at this juncture, setting a stake in the pot near the newly emergent inflorescence is a good reminder that a spike is coming and the plant should be treated with the utmost delicacy. Longer spikes can be tied and guided upward to avoid crossing and tangling with other inflorescences. Once inside, many orchids begin to slough off old leaves and growths from previous years, no longer needed by the plant in the diminishing light. Such leaves and tissues should be removed to avoid rotting in winter.

TEMPERATURES Cooler-growing plants — *masdevallias*, *draculas* and cooler growing *oncidiums* — are thriving now. Take advantage of the natural drop in temperatures to encourage new growth and blooming in these sensitive species. Any hardy orchids such as *bletillas*, *cypripediums* and *cremastras* that you may have planted outside will benefit greatly from

an insulating mulch of pine needles spread deep enough to hold some heat yet fine enough to allow sprouts to develop in the early spring. In the greenhouse, search out any broken windows or other sources of drafts that can really hurt your orchids in midwinter. A little attention to this now will prevent heartache in December when the damage has been done.

— Tom Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com)

Below are a few pictures of awarded exhibits that AOS members can see in OrchidPro:



American Orchid Society Silver Certificate 'Avant-Garde 2015' SC/AOS (89 points)
Award No: 20152713, Exhibitor: Hilo Orchid Society, Photographer: Glen Barfield





American Orchid Society Gold Certificate GC/AOS (94 points)
Award No: 20174632, Exhibitor: Cal-Orchid, Inc., Photographer: Arthur Pinkers





American Orchid Society Artistic Certificate 'Hab Haven' AC/AOS [93 points]
Award No: 20191636, Exhibitor: Joel R. Edwards, Photographer: Katie Payeur

Upcoming Shows & Judgings Around Our Region

December 4, 2021

Baton Rouge Orchid Society's Louisiana December Short Course, Burden Museum and Gardens, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA

January 22, 2022

Tri-Center Judging of the Dallas, Houston, and Louisiana Judging Centers, Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Pl, Alexandria, LA 71303 August 17, 2019

January 29, 2022

2nd AOS Orchid Culture Speakers Day, featuring the Vanda Alliance, 10 am EST, virtual/online event, cost \$30, register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4834617917122351119>

March 4-6, 2022

OSO 11th Annual "Orchids in the Garden" Show & Sale, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, 4703 N. Crossover Rd, Fayetteville, AR



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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!

American Orchid Society's Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest – Commemorating our Society's 100th Anniversary in 2021

The [Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest](#) is asking for in-depth articles relating to significant people, events, programs, technology changes, or even plants that have helped shape the direction of the AOS or are likely to in the future. IDEAS - Was there someone special in the AOS who mentored and inspired you and others? Did an AOS award that you received plant the seed resulting in you becoming involved in judging? Could you tie that into how the judging program has helped shape the AOS and Affiliated Societies? Perhaps there are technological advancements that have evolved, or the AOS has adopted, that will change the AOS and your enjoyment of orchids. Share why the AOS has had, and will have, an enormous influence over the lifetime of orchid enthusiasts.

CONTEST RULES

- The essay must be an original, unpublished article.
- The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
- Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in English and should be submitted electronically as MS Word or compatible file.
- Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
- Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.

The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate suitable for framing.

Deadline for submission is November 30, 2021

<https://www.aos.org/about-us/article-submissions/essay-contest-winners.aspx>

Submit all entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize:

Ron McHatton - American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

PO Box 565477, Miami, FL 33256

Email: rmchatton@aos.org

Nonwinning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications with the written permission of the author.

OSO Editor's note: Our Society has had two Dillon-Peterson Essay winners – we want you to be the next one!