



MAY 2025

Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. 2025 marches on moving into May... one of the prettiest and most promising months of the year! We have probably been examining our orchids for evidence of new growth and tender roots and getting into the repotting or mounting mode. It's surely a labor of love and very satisfying to refresh our plants, clean them up, protect them from harmful pests and fungi and give them new homes. Also, important on our list of to-dos is getting our growing areas, materials and tools organized and prepared so that our orchids are thriving and ready to show off!

There are still lots of shows coming up and we hope that across the country we will be supporting our local growers and vendors who travel distances to provide us with orchid shopping opportunities. And why not buy orchids for Mother's Day gifts – a perfect occasion to share our hobby. At the end of the month, we will spend time honoring our deceased veterans on Memorial Day. Raise a flag, take a knee and thank them for having given their lives to make us safe. YAY MAY!

MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Has your Society ever put on an Orchid Auction? Hosting an Auction is a great way to boost the Society's Membership, Attendance and Raise Funds for initiatives that align with its Mission. Since I've been asked to Chair our Judging Center's Auction, I have learned a lot that I would like to share! If you would like to learn more about hosting an Orchid Auction for your Society, please send me an email at arod@aos.org. I've also included the information for our auction below. Please join us if you are able or help us spread the word!

**WEST PALM BEACH JUDGING
CENTER ORCHID AUCTION**
Saturday, May 10th @ 1 PM

Flamingo Gardens
3750 S Flamingo Rd,
Davie, FL 33330
In the Mary N. Porter
Learning Center

Support your orchid judging
center while having fun and
growing your collection!

cash, credit cards and checks accepted

The selection of orchids available has been curated by Accredited Orchid Judges and
donated from the collections of Judges, awarded orchid exhibitors, orchid
influencers as well as some of your favorite commercial growers.

For more information or to support with a donation, please email Judge Lou at llodyga@comcast.net
or Judge Alex at arod@aos.org

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

I hope your summer is progressing nicely and your orchids are enjoying some summer sunshine and fresh air. We love to be outside and our orchids love it too, so if you can, it is advisable to put outdoors hanging in a tree or on a protected shelf away from harsh direct sun. A screen is nice to do that. There are many ways to do that. You can use some screening you buy in the store for windows or doors and just cut to size. I hold mine with clothespins on a rope and it works. The rain goes through as does the fresh breeze. But depending on how dark the screen is, the sun does not burn. *Catasetums* and *Cattleya* can stand the most but you need to protect them, and more so the other types. I would not put the little guys outdoors, unless you have a very protected area. I speak of the *Pleurothallid* types. They grow under leaf protection in the wild along banks of roads with plenty of protection. We saw them growing plentifully along the road but well protected.

I heard a very interesting story while flying to Taiwan. One of the folks was a vendor and told me about how they rescued their show from a lack of attendance. It is quite interesting... They invite the community organizations to set up booths at their show. The booths present lots of opportunities for the community to visit a whole bunch of vendors and ask questions. It is not just orchids, although the show is the featured event but a multitude of events under one roof. The community loves it. The town loves it. It gives these small shops and services a place to show off their wares as well as plug orchids!! What a neat concept. Apparently, this has been very successful in attracting lots of people from town. The vendors tell everyone in their sales market and then that is more people coming through the door. The show has been marked a success by them now. Every year is a chance for new businesses to display as well as be welcomed by all. The orchid show is the big deal, with lots of vendors and a nice show of orchids. Your society is seen as a positive element in the community, a leader in community friendships. It has aroused interest in the Society, in orchids and even membership. So you might think of something like this if your show attendance is waning. It might take some letter writing or some emails or some knocking on doors, but what a nice way to introduce your love of orchids at the same time. People get very creative. This I thought was worth talking about.

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer and that you can experience a little trip perhaps, maybe to the beach or the mountains or to one of our national parks, or even to an orchid garden. Your AOS member card can get you into most of our gardens. Enjoy the summer, see you next month.



KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFO CURRENT...

Please visit our webpage with your Society Member # and Login to Update Contacts, Meeting and Show Dates

If you have any issues accessing your Society Member page or need help accessing, please send an email to grahamramsey.aos@gmail.com

Your Invitation!

Join us for this Outstanding Online Event
Mark Your Calendar—Set Your Device Reminder

To Register
Scan QR



American Orchid Society
7th CULTURE DAY

Sunday, May 18, 2025
11 a.m.—3:30 p.m. EDT

This Event is Recorded for all Registrants to View at their Leisure

ORCHIDS—From Seed to Success

- **Orchid Pollination - In Nature and at Your Kitchen Table**
Explained by Adam Karremans, Director of Lankester Botanical Garden
- **Can I Make My Own Hybrid?** *Demonstration of flasking, deflasking and compots, by Hobby Growers and Hybridizers, Keith and Dina Emig*
- **Brassavola-Cattleya Alliance Novelty Hybrids** *Tune in to meet Allen Black and understand his dedication to this group of orchids*
- **Easy to Grow and Bloom Hybrids** *Presented by Manny Aybar, accomplished hobbyist, AOS Judge, and AOS award winning exhibitor*

Online Registration Required—Only \$40

Door Prizes!

Must be online day
of event to be eligible

4 Guest Speakers
4 Great Topics

“A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET”**by Jill Blake Smith**

We are all familiar with this quotation from “Romeo and Juliet” and we know that it is a metaphor for the fact that many everyday items can be called different things in ways that define them. This is certainly true of orchids—we know all about the dancing lady, the pansy orchid, the slipper, the spider, the butterfly and of course, that elusive ghost orchid! There are countless names for the many species of these plants and it all boils down to what they resemble. There’s the monkey, the duck, the naked man, the flying egret, and the dragon. On the other hand, many are named after their particular fragrance—the coconut orchid, the chocolate orchid and that intoxicating lady of the night. And don’t forget the stinky *Bulbophyllums*! Are they the roadkill orchids?

An interesting observation I discovered recently was that the moth orchid, or *Phalaenopsis* was referred to as the swan orchid. I mentioned this to a few die-hard orchid growers all of whom said, “huh?” And then I said, “duh!” Think about the lovely white phals that growers arch the inflorescences over a wire made to look like the graceful neck of the swan. I had never thought of this before but it does make sense. I had always heard this particular way of presenting the large white phals referred to as “waterfall orchids.”

I began to notice license plates with the many unusual state nicknames from crops, birds or animals native to particular areas. There’s the Nutmeg State, the Beehive, the Buckeye, the Pelican, Badger, Beaver, Wolverine and let’s not forget the Peach State. Certainly, these places derive their pet names from nature. Although no state in the US is named after an orchid or called “the orchid state,” the state flower of Minnesota is the *Cypripedium Reginae*, the Queen’s Slipper.” And there is actually a state in India called “The Orchid State” – Arunachal Pradesh, which boasts 612 different types of native orchids.

When I first started writing for the AOS Corner, I saw that many of the previous introductory paragraphs contained a reference to the different monikers of the full moons. Indeed, the nicknames of the moons were translated into English by early settlers from the Native American people who related their appearances to the seasons, flora and fauna. Corn crops, strawberries and the fall harvests have full moons as well as the wolf, beaver, buck, worm and even the sturgeon, a large fish that swims in the Great Lakes. Besides the references to nature, we are all aware of the phases of the moon and their shape names like full, half, crescent etc. Yet again I muse, what kind of orchid could reflect a full moon and in what month?

It is true that so many aspects of nature infiltrate how we refer to things that seem mundane as we proceed through our daily lives. These names do make sense and help us to get a better understanding of natural things and events. And so, as I draw this little piece to a close, I’m just wondering if any of you have ever seen a “Gnu Moon?”

SHARE YOUR IDEAS & STORIES

YOUR GREAT IDEAS

Has your Society created ways to keep your members engaged and having them coming back for more? Do you have a fun fact you would like us to share? We would like to hear from you.

YOUR BLUNDERS

Do you have a recurring problem? Share your mishaps as well! Your lessons can help others avoid similar mistakes. Please email us your stories to arod@aos.org. If you wish your story to remain anonymous, we will be more than happy to keep it so.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Affiliated Societies Committee is looking for team members. Help us continue to build relationships and resources for all the American Orchid Society Affiliates. Please send an email to arod@aos.org if you are interested in joining us virtually at our May 14th Meeting.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Please remember to include the Affiliated Societies Committee (affiliated_societies@aos.org) to your newsletter distribution. We would like to know what you are doing. Help us help everyone by sending us your great ideas, recurring problems and your blunders; we all need that little inspiration in our orchid journey. If you have something to share, or there is something you would like to read about, please let us hear from you.

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