



JULY 2025



Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. It is hard to believe we are stepping into the final six months of the year! The past few months have been busy for our Affiliated Societies with shows and a myriad of other orchid related activities. By now repotting has been completed as well as preparations for the heat of the summer. As climates vary all over the country, our procedures are tailored to what's best for our plants and their environments. Let us also prepare to celebrate one of the most important holidays of the year—get those fireworks and sparklers ready, get the grills lit up and gather with family and friends to pay homage to our amazing country on her birthday, July 4th!



MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Have a question about our Committee? Want to get Involved with the AOS? Please send me an email at arod@aos.org and you are also welcome to join us at our next virtual meeting on August 13, 2025 @ 8 P.M. (Eastern Time) – Thank you for your time and support to the AOS!



Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY www.aos.org/webinars
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.
 Register now and view on your time schedule.
 Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	July 02, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EDT	July 08, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT	Aug. 07, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sep. 11, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by June 30	Master Orchidist Series Orchids Under Lights, Greenhouse Not Required You can grow a variety of quality orchids indoors.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by August 04	Master Orchidist Series Best Methods for Indoor Pest Management Explore pest problems of indoor orchid growing.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Sarah Hurdell AOS Judge and indoor orchid grower	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer

Webinar announcements are posted on the AOS website, on Facebook and Instagram, and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

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MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT



Last Month I talked about how people learn and I gave some suggestions. This month I would like to go a bit further and talk about what our society did last week and it is perfectly fitting for this whole subject. We are very lucky right now to have a lot of new members who are novices at growing but who are very interested in what we do and how we do it. The idea was thrown out a few months ago to see what they wanted to hear about. Growing genera!

The first one turned out to be Cattleya. Our speaker brought in a box of well grown, mature plants, both bifoliate and unifoliate.... And did I say define each? People did not know what the differences were. We are fortunate to have Larry Sexton, retired Dentist, Judge and Trustee in our society. He talked about culture, culture and more culture! The more he talked the more questions members asked.



He showed root bound plants and talked about re-potting and how and when it should be done. He referenced the AOS webinar by Bill Rogerson on repotting Cattleya. Is it root before potting or pot before rooting? What does a new lead look like? No one had seen the nubbies nor could describe them. What about plant dividing? Can you cut it half? How do you do that? He had a plant with seven new growths and said that he personally would not divide it because he wants more specimen plants. He received an AOS award last year on the plant with 6 leads, so he is not dividing it. It is BC. Hsinying Catherine "Dogashima" AM/AOS Everyone is different and everyone has to decide what the value is of dividing a plant. Do you want many small plants or would you prefer a large specimen plant? Do you like seeing lots of flowers?



People are craving information and yet, even after they downloaded the culture sheets, seeing actual plants is believing. Seeing the plants in person. Seeing "nubbies" in person. Nubbies are new growths and he showed what they look like. Seeing rootbound plants in person made such a difference.

But that's not all—we then fielded questions about where to get good plants. Here is where our longstanding vendor partners were mentioned. Larry showed their websites and discussed how he would buy plants. What he is looking for as an older ("") collector, "not seedlings" he said, but mature well grown plants. "I want to see flowers in my lifetime." "You younger folks can wait. Not me!"

What does all this boil down to? Education! In the boldest sense of the word! Learning by seeing; learning by doing. We did not have a power point lecture, but a focused discussion on a topic that they wanted. You can all do the same thing. What genera do your members want to know more about? Who in your society grows them? Bring in the plants-- don't show pictures of them. Pass them around. Show them roots, pots, leaves, and what makes a good plant. Don't be afraid of them, embrace showing off! Get people encouraged and excited. I can tell you that after the meeting we had so many people asking about this Cattleya and that one.... What a neat program! Choose topics that one or two in your group can talk about. Bring in the plants. Even if they are not in flower, touching and feeling is still a good thing. Got a topic that you want me to discuss? Happy to! Send me an email. cerins@aos.org .

KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFO CURRENT ONLINE...

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



CLEVER, CRAFTY AND CONVENIENT – CORK COOZIES ARE JUST PLAIN COOL!

BY JILL BLAKE SMITH



Most orchid hobbyists who have been bitten by the bug have developed many innovative methods of potting, hanging and mounting their plants, following the tips and hints of more experienced growers and emulating the real creativity they observe in the exhibits at shows. And it is true that enthusiasts are always looking for new ideas to grow their orchids to maximize blooming, as well as displaying them to elicit oohs and aahs from friends and other society members.

Scott Peplin is an orchid grower from South Florida who also builds structures for housing orchids which he calls “orchid environments.” He cares for and services collections of local clients and conducts classes at his “Orchid Bar and Grill,” the centerpiece for his stunning orchid collection. A whirlwind of a guy who is always “on,” Scott has a knack for devising new ways to grow his glorious plants. His latest and greatest pet project is the “cork coozie” and it is proving to be a wildly successful and easy means to get orchids going and growing!

Those cork slabs for mounting that are fairly easy to come by are also available at many orchid supply companies in tubes of various lengths and diameters, sold by the pound. The very small size with diameters of three or four inches are better for air plants. The medium or large diameter tubes are more suitable for growing orchids. Scott takes one of these tubes, typically about five to eight inches in diameter for a medium coozie, and saws it into sections about six to eight inches long, depending on what kind of a plant he’ll be working with. That’s about right for a mini to medium Cattleya or Brassavola nodosa.

Then he drills four holes a few inches apart and bends the prongs of a wire hanger into each hole about an inch. If the coozie has a vertical split, he uses a snap tie to secure it. He might loosely encase the bare roots of the plant in coconut coir or he just plops it right into the cork container, making sure it doesn’t slip through. He secures the plant tag onto the wire and then he is ready to hang it in a spot with conditions conducive to growing that type of orchid. Voila! Orchids grown in cork coozies tend to do better hanging rather than on a bench because the roots seem to thrive with more air movement.



The coconut husk is entirely optional—bare root is fine too. If you create a coozie while your orchid is in active growth, in a matter of days, the roots will grow and graft onto the interior of the coozie and continue to happily spread all around it. Even though the orchids growing in this type of environment are essentially bare root, they may not necessarily require more frequent watering than plants growing in medium since the cork does retain some moisture. They should be fertilized like other potted or mounted plants. Sometimes Scott will be able to get some rather large tubes and he fondly refers to these as “pony kegs” or “keggers,” depending on the size. These are ideal for larger orchids or plants that have simply outgrown their current habitat and they’re constructed using the same method as the smaller coozies. The size of the coozie will all depend on the size of the root system of your plant.



Orchids that seem to thrive in cork coozies are *Cattleyas*, *Brassavola nodosa* and their crosses, *Laelia*, *Oncidium*, and *Catasetum*. Small *Dendrobium* will do well in little coozies because they like being tightly packed. The larger ones tend to be too top heavy for the coozie environment.

Cork bark has many features that appeal to orchid growers because it is a natural product, stripped from cork trees at optimal times so as not to damage the trees and allowing new bark to grow in its place. No trees are destroyed and there is no disturbance to flora or fauna. When used as a planter for orchids, there is resistance to mold and fungal growth, coozies last for many years, they withstand all weather and are a 100% sustainable material. Cork coozies are easy to maintain, no re-potting required and they're quite attractive, especially when festooned with moss or viny foliage. What a concept!

Scott has been studying and growing orchids for more than 30 years in Fort Lauderdale. His knowledge of orchids is vast, his collection is massive and he thrives on discovering and creating new and innovative ways to grow his beauties. He is a noted speaker at all of the South Florida orchid societies and he is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society.

Scott's website is: www.Orchidenvironments.com



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 August 13th Meeting @ 8 P.M (Eastern Time).

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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