



## SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. Back to School...Another year has flown by and we are now on the brink of the seasonal changes that Fall brings very soon! We wish you all good luck as you start thinking about the holidays and say goodbye to Summer. Happy Labor Day to All!

### MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Your support is critical and we appreciate and value your active participation in the American Orchid Society Family. During the next few months, an Affiliated Societies Committee Member will be working hard to reach out to the AOS reps across the country. We want to let you all know that we are here for you with suggestions and assistance and to help your society build AOS membership. Our committee members will be making phone calls to chat and gather information about your society and we look forward to “meeting” you or saying “Hello” again. Want to get Involved with the AOS? Please send me an email at [arod@aos.org](mailto:arod@aos.org) and you are also welcome to join us at our next virtual meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)  
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

| When      | Sept. 11, 2025<br>Thursday<br>8:30 pm EDT   | Sept. 23, 2025<br>Tuesday<br>8:30 pm EDT  | Oct. 09, 2025<br>Thursday<br>8:30 pm EDT  | Oct. 13, 2025<br>Monday<br>8:30 pm EDT  |
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| Topic     | <i>Master Orchidist Series</i><br><b>Best Methods for Indoor Pest Management</b><br>Explore pest problems of indoor orchid growing. | AOS Awards—<br>The Honor of Cultural Excellence<br>Review the plants that earned this award for their grower/owner. Get growing tips. | Greenhouse Chat<br>Orchid Q & A<br>Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Oct. 06</i> | The World of Phragmipediums,<br>What Nature Can Teach Us<br>The result of twenty-five years exploring phragmipedium habitats. |
| Presenter | Ron McHatton<br>AOS Chief Education and Science Officer   | Sandra Svoboda<br>AOS Judge and AOS Past President  | Ron McHatton<br>AOS Chief Education and Science Officer   | Frank Cervera<br>Biologist, well established in the Phrag community   |

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

Hello to all the orchid enthusiasts out there. I want to write this month's message to encourage AOS members and Affiliated Society members to consider joining for one of our benefits, to use our Orchid Marketplace. I draw your attention to this because it seems as a little used benefit. It truly is one of the most important benefits of belonging to the AOS!

I have heard many comments in my travels that "I did not know about it." Folks this benefit is our Orchid Marketplace and I personally want you to know about it and how to access it. First of all, it is on the main page of the website, on the right. When you log in, under your name, scroll down to Orchid Marketplace. When you are there you can click on any vendor and get taken to their website.

People who are not members tell me, I don't see a reason to join. Yikes we have so many reasons to join and it is so inexpensive!!! Did you know?? If you join with a two-year membership or renewal, you receive a \$30 coupon (voucher) one time use per membership period, per \$100 purchase, at each of the Elite vendors at the top of the vendor list. WOW!!!! That is such a great offer. Where else can you get this kind of discount for shopping for orchids or supplies? If you are a one year member, you still get a discount, of 5% for every purchase at all the vendors. Note: Some vendors have a minimum purchase to qualify. This is YOUR time to explore these fantastic vendors and see what they have to offer you. I was so surprised to hear that people do not take advantage of this membership offer. And we make it easy. You can print the vouchers and your name and expiration date shows up. You give this to the vendor or email them or present in person. If you click the three lines on the left while in Marketplace, it gives you all the information on how to redeem the vouchers. For those vendors who take the vouchers at a show, you can take the voucher to the show. Might be a good idea to check with them first to see. Otherwise you can email them in your on line purchase. If you click on the vendor partners in green, they offer a 5% member discount. They make it very easy to shop. Just fill in the blanks if you order online.

There are the Dealwires too! The Elite vendors in red have the ability to offer four Dealwires a year. Every member gets these emails, along with non members. This is another great way to shop and get good deals on orchids and orchid supplies and patronize our partners. These are not stackable, i.e. multiple coupons on top of one another. The Dealwires do not carry an additional 5% discount for AOS members. Always check with the vendor first!!

Affiliated Societies attention!!! How about publicizing the Marketplace in your meetings. Perhaps people don't know about this benefit to being an AOS member. Perhaps have

a member sign on to the website and take a tour of the marketplace at your meeting, and let your members know. This is encouragement to join the AOS! We also want to encourage you to go to vendors in your area and tell them about the program. We have thousands of emails that go out and where can they get such advertising as being a Partner with us and letting people know about their products.

Everyone likes bargains, and we orchid nuts are no different. Our partners offer many goods and services that you should learn to take advantage of. I am always surprised when I attend meetings around the country that so many do not belong to the AOS to take advantage of the wonderful benefits we have to support their orchid growing addiction. Yes it is an addiction, you just cannot stop at one! The price of a two year membership includes \$30 discount vouchers at the Elite partners and is worth more than the membership fee. The dealwires are special invitations to visit a vendor and shop!

We want to expand and enhance our vendor program. More vendors mean more shopping places. Right now this is the U.S. and Canada only as most vendors do not have international shipping capabilities. We want to encourage our members to shop at our partners and perhaps get more vendors to join us. If you have a vendor that is interested, they can call our office at 305-740-2010 to get more information. The office will send them the link to see how it is done. Until next month, happy shopping.....at the Orchid Marketplace. Send me an email. [cerins@aos.org](mailto:cerins@aos.org).

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## ANONYMOUS SOCIETY BLUNDER

The Internet is very useful for learning about orchids, but keep in mind that some information is misleading or downright wrong...

A few years ago, I bought a *Rossioglossum* Rawdon Jester... I searched for all the advice I could find. One gentleman in a chat site said he grew his in open sunlight. I understood this orchid to be a cool grower, but his photos showed a large, healthy blooming plant. He must know something I did not.

In full sun, my plant quickly sunburned, and leaves fell off. Did I misunderstand? I checked his post again, and I noticed that he lived in Glasgow, Scotland. Needless to say, open sunlight in Glasgow is very different than open sun in Southeastern USA.

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## 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](mailto:grahamramsey.aos@gmail.com)

## FROM THE EYES AND EARS OF A NEWCOMER

BY JILL BLAKE SMITH

For those of us who are members of AOS and have been involved with growing orchids for a while, there are certain things that “everyone” knows about, anticipates and expects. One of these is the fact that renowned orchid growers and owners of RF Orchids in Homestead, Bob Fuchs and Michael Coronado provide opportunities for group travel around the world. These extravagant trips typically involve attending a famous show or an excursion to orchid sanctuaries in far away lands. The reports of these travels are always glowing accounts of the amazing sights and of course, the orchids. Most of the folks who accompany Bob and Michael are seasoned orchid hobbyists and AOS judges that come from far and wide. It's just not often that a newcomer to a society or “Keiki” joins these journeys.

Enter Sandra! Sandra has been a Keiki with the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society for a bit over a year. Having resided in Key West for a number of years she is no stranger to orchids and she's avidly learning more with her FLOS experiences. She recently visited RF and saw that there was a trip being planned for a flower festival in Medellín, Colombia. This piqued her interest and with further inquiries she learned that the dates fit her schedule, the length of the trip was doable for her and the price was right as well. She signed up and excitedly departed for South America with the group of 11 orchid enthusiasts on August 2nd.

Although Sandra was restricted for a short while at the beginning of the trip so she could acclimatize to the 5,000-foot altitude of Medellín, she was ready and able to attend one of the the Feria de las Flores Events billed “Florece: Orquídeas, Naturaleza y Tradiciones.”

The first thing that she learned was that Medellín is known as the city of Perpetual Spring because the climate is perfect for a huge variety of flowering plants. She marveled at the displays which she said were like huge arrangements similar to the Rose Bowl Parade! There was an iguana as big as a train engine, huge butterflies and assorted sculptures all created from flowers. Although in the past, she had seen judges at local orchid shows working to carefully examine plants entered for awards, observing them trying to count hundreds of flowers on one orchid was mind boggling!

Sandra reported that the visit to the Medellín Botanical Garden was equally as fascinating. There was a huge structure in the heart of the orchid display with kites of all colors flying from stages which she described as “magical!” She was quite impressed with the overall cleanliness of the city and she was quite taken with the number of farmer's markets with all sorts of beautifully grown fruits and vegetables. The people were friendly, dining was outstanding and every detail of the trip was memorable! In a nutshell, it sounds like Sandra had a wonderful experience traveling to Medellin with the AOS Judges and I'm sure she'll be planning another journey to have more orchid viewing opportunities! Don't go without me!!

## 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](mailto:arod@aos.org). If you wish your story to remain anonymous, we will be more than happy to keep it so.

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## 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](mailto:arod@aos.org) if you are interested in joining us virtually at our September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting @ 8 P.M (Eastern Time).

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## THANK YOU FOR READING!

Please remember to include the Affiliated Societies Committee ([affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto: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.

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors. Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications. We encourage use of [the AOS website](#) by all members.

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