



## DECEMBER 2025

Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. It's hard to believe that 2025 is almost behind us! Where has the year gone? We'll be filing it in the "completed folder" shortly and moving on to a new year to grow our collections, learn more about our all-consuming hobby, savor our successes and figure out how to correct our mistakes. As the holiday season takes on a life of its own, let us enjoy it to the fullest while reflecting on 2025 with its ups and downs. While we wish each other Happy Holidays, let us also look joyfully to a new year filled with glorious orchid blooms, great shows and camaraderie within the orchid community.

### MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Take a Moment to Hug Your Loved Ones, Cherish Time & Memories Together and Live Life in the Present for Tomorrow is Promise to No One...  
Happy Holidays and Blessed New Year!!



## MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Hello Friends,

It is cold up here!! Thinking of things to do while we don't do much outside! Ten inches last night! Yikes, and more expected tonight. Most I have seen in a while. I was just looking at my orchid collections. Have you ever just sat down and wondered why you could not grow certain orchids? I moved from a greenhouse to in the "house under lights" situation 3 years ago now. I did lose a lot of my plants due to the fact that I could not get to them fast enough and onto a table in my home. We had to rebuild it to fit in a bedroom. So I lost a whole bunch of plants. Have you? I realized that I could not grow some genera anymore and took up a new trial, that of novelty *Phalaenopsis*. I have been so enamored with these beautiful orchids. I have realized that I no longer can provide the growing conditions necessary for *Vanda*, *Oncidium* and *Dendrobium* and have lost way too many to count because of it. I have reasonable luck with *Cattleya* as I have really high intensity LED lighting in one room. But I have limited space now and had to consider losing more or getting used to something that I could grow.

I have this huge kitchen. So what do you do with leftover space if you are an orchid addict? You find some orchids to grow in it. Done. I bought a couple novelty *Phalaenopsis* orchids at an AOS meeting in Apopka. I then ordered some online from a fellow I know. I have been experimenting with light, water and media to make sure that they grow for me. And so far so good. The colors of these little guys is amazing and many of them are fragrant. The *violacea*, *bellina* and their hybrids fill the air with such a sweet smell. I have shelving in this area of my kitchen with led fixtures above the shelves. We keep the light lower, with lower ranges of light. So instead of 5000K, they are 4000f.c, and 4500K. We run them from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm. In the summer we cut back on the artificial light and use the sunlight coming in the back doors.

I have many there now and have enjoyed watching the babies thrive and some are even blooming. You too can find alternative orchid options if you find you are not successful at growing what you have in the past or have failed at before. Some cannot grow in some environments. We need to realize that and a warning before you spend more, think about it. What am I doing wrong? What am I doing right? Can I more appropriately grow something else? Try it. Don't go out and spend a fortune. Buy a few. See how they grow. Do some reading up on them. What kind of light? Water? Media? No sense buying something that you have no idea about. It saves heartache later. Happy Growing! . [cerins@aos.org](mailto:cerins@aos.org) .



## AFFILIATED SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

Part 2 by Kayleigh Bull & Jill Smith

Last month we put the Corner spotlight on The Orchid Society of Minnesota, their many events, shows and judging, features of their meetings, conservation programs and fun activities like bus trips to state parks to see the native slipper orchids growing in the wild. The members are a busy bunch and ever so passionate about growing their beloved orchids. Sounds like all the affiliated societies across the country, right? Don't be so quick to judge—these folks must deal with wild fluctuations in climate and moving their entire collections twice a year! Not for the faint of heart!

What grows in Minnesota besides slippers? These Society members are allowed to brag about the many different kinds of orchids they can grow successfully because of the extreme temperature differences.

In addition to the most popular warm growing orchids like *Cattleya*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobium*, *Oncidium* and *Vanda*, many growers can expand their collections with the cooler growers like *Masdevallia*, *Miltonia*, *Cymbidium*, *Neofinetia* ( now

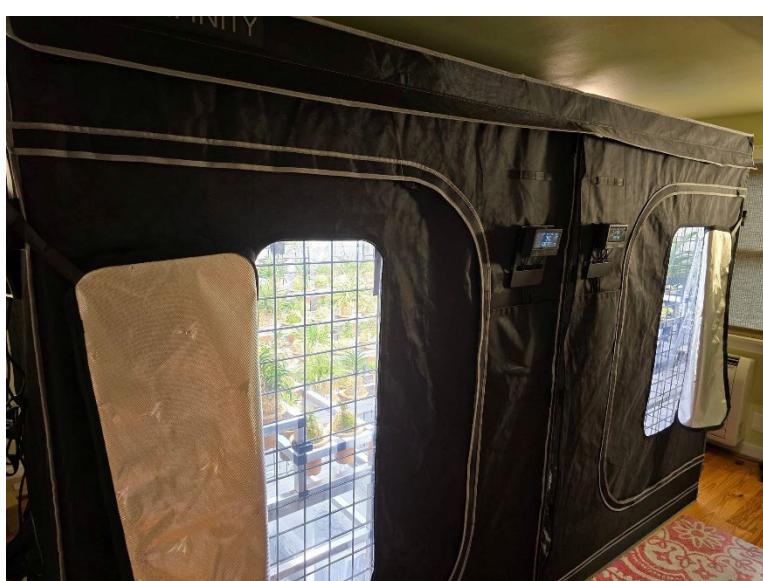


*Vanda*), *Bulbophyllum*, *Habenaria*, and *Lycaste*. And even the occasional *Dracula* will make an appearance on the plant table at their meetings. Some of the folks also prefer to grow micro-minis in orchidariums or BiOrbs. These work well for hobbyists who live in harsher climates. The society also works closely with another type of orchid society – the Minnesota Fukiran Club, which focuses on *Neofinetia* (now *Vanda*) *falcata* in traditional moss mounds.



These dedicated folks must pay very close attention to weather! In the summer it gets very hot during the day but chilly at night. These temperature swings and high humidity are often conducive to set spikes to bloom profusely and the growers move their collections outdoors. There the plants are happy to show off and folks appreciate the beauty of the myriad of flowers adorning pergolas or

on shelves under shade trees. However, when the extreme temps arrive in the fall, everyone gets busy preparing an indoor area for their orchids to survive the bitter cold, low humidity and snow outside. Many society members use “grow tents” in their basements which are programmed for proper humidity and temperatures; others prefer



to use humidity trays and LED lighting for shelving throughout their homes. They will leave the *Cymbidium*, *Neofinetia* and some

*Dendrobium* out until the temps dip below 40 degrees. It is a lot of work to move large numbers of plants in or out twice a year but we



all know that being hooked on orchids requires commitment and dedication to their cause. For some growers it is simply much easier to keep their plants indoors all year round and many enjoy having their orchids thrive in their living spaces on trays on bright window sills or under lighting on shelves. It is obvious that the Minnesotans know how to grow their orchids well, be it inside or out!

Many thanks to Kayleigh Bull, the AOS Rep for the Orchid Society of

Minnesota for providing such fascinating information about growing orchids in colder climates. She is very proud of her Society and we can see why!

If you would like to have the Corner spotlight YOUR society, please let us know and we will be glad to feature it in a future publication.



# 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	Winter Break	Jan. 08, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 10, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Special Selections
Topic	Choose Your Topic From Our Library of RECORDED WEBINARS	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Jan. 05</i>	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 07</i>	All About Orchid Judging Understand more about what goes on at the judging table. Select from the recorded FULL INDEX category.
Presenter	Expert Growers, Conservationists, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, and more	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	National Education Coordinator, Expert Growers, AOS Judges, and more



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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### YOUR GREAT IDEAS

Has your Society created ways to keep members engaged 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 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 2026 Meetings.

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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 know!

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