



OCTOBER 2025

Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. Summer is behind us, “spook season” lies before us and soon there will be a chill in the air – a signal that it’s time to get new seasonal preparations for our beloved orchids underway! It seems that during every time of the year there is something to do to keep them protected, thriving and, yes, ALIVE! Of course, it’s true that we all enjoy fiddling around with them no matter what the weather – it’s part of being an orchid adorer! Many societies have their shows early in the new year and they are entrenched in the planning of these extravaganzas. This also gives us other orchid-related opportunities to enjoy our wonderful hobby. May we all savor this exciting time of the year working with our plants, cultivating new orchid friendships and planning for the months ahead.

MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Fall is upon us and the last quarter of the year is here along with many important Holidays to prepare for. Remember ORCHIDS are GREAT gifts!! You can bring them to a dinner party, ship them to your loved ones and buy them in lieu of flowers for your own Holiday events! Your support is critical and we appreciate and value your active participation in the American Orchid Society Family. Want to get Involved with the AOS? Please send me an email at arod@aos.org and you are welcome to join us at our next virtual meeting on October 15th, 2025 @ 8 P.M. (Eastern Time) – Thank you for your time and support to the AOS!

KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFO CURRENT ONLINE...



Please Login into our webpage with your Society Member # 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

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Brrrr baby, it is getting cold outside! Well here in the Midwest Great Lakes region it is anyway. I know you southerners and westerners likely don't face what we face growing orchids. While I know that Mother Nature can be rough sometimes in the south and west, cold is usually not one of the issues. So what do you do to prep your plants for winter? Where we live, it is mandatory to inspect every plant for our not so favorite hitch hikers, often very hard to see. They love to hide in the bracts, under the leaves, in the base of a flower, in the pot, just about anywhere. Caterpillars can hide in the bottom of the pots and start chomping on the roots as soon as they get in there. Some kinds are very destructive. Thrips can destroy plants almost overnight. Not so much a problem around here, unless you accidentally get them from a plant, they are devastating in warmer climate conditions. Greenhouses can be thriving places for them. You certainly do not want them in your house. So what do I do? I inspect each of my plants periodically while they are sunbathing in the summer. I inspect the leaves, potting media, pots, and the leaves of the trees they hang under. I also make sure that we don't have any uninvited guests in the flowers. My hummingbirds love to inspect the flowers but unfortunately, they don't seem to be good at it. Mosquitos yes, caterpillars not so much. Must not be on their diet. I have a little micro magnifying glass that I sometimes have to use to be sure those little black dots are not aphids or worse.

I give my plants a bath when they are ready to come in. I use a mild soap like castile soap, fill up a bucket, add about a half pint of rubbing alcohol and the soap. It is great as a drench. I am really careful to try and pour the mixture over the pots, so that the potting media does not all come out. I do it twice. Let it drain for a bit before the second try. I do this a week or so before the plants come in. I got caught a couple weeks ago as we had some really cool weather so only got to do one rinse and let them sit. Then of course, it came off warm again. But they were already in. I take the really heavy pots, put them in a big tray and fill it with the mixture of soapy water, and pour it over. It is amazing what comes out of the bottom, some caterpillars, earwigs, ooh hate those things. I let the plants really sit in the water for a while and pour a couple of times, so I know the mixture got all through the plants. I use a tiny strainer to get rid of the bugs. I hear my Cattleya saying thank you when I am all done. You can use other methods, Orthene mixed according to directions, but it is toxic to butterflies and some good bugs, so use it sparingly...and besides it does smell, so you can only use outdoors. Just be sure the neighbors are not out on their deck when you use it. I have also used an old standby 1 part alcohol, 1 part 409, and 1 part water, with a drop of Dawn. Does not smell and you can use in your house. You can use the newer IGRs (Insect Growth Regulators) and they don't smell much either. You can use a regimen of rotation in your house. A three pronged approach is good, but we are talking about prepping for coming back from their plant vacation, not winter.

Check your roots by sticking a finger down in the pot. Does it feel slimy? If so, might be a good time to repot. Are the roots taking over the deck? Have they grown into their neighbors? Might be a good time to repot. It is pretty amazing to see the root growth after a summer outdoors. So you may need to repot or find a larger table spot to put all those roots. The AOS has several webinars on the subjects of pests and pesticides. Our Greenhouse chats are indexed now so that you can research what is best for your plants. There are lots of discussions in these webinars about different products and different types of plants. Share this information with your friends at your orchid society who perhaps are not members....yet. Share with them all the resources that we have to offer to help them bed their orchids down for winter. So much to learn, so little time! Isn't that a great reason to get them to join us? Till next month! . cerins@aos.org .

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	Oct. 09, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 13, 2025 Monday 8:30 pm EDT	Nov. 04, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Winter Break
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Oct. 06</i>	The World of Phragmipediums, What Nature Can Teach Us The result of twenty-five years exploring phragmipedium habitats.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Nov. 01</i>	Choose Your Topic From Our Library of RECORDED WEBINARS
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Frank Cervera Biologist, well established in the Phrag community	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Expert Growers, Conservationists, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, 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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AFFILIATED SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT



by Jill Smith

For the next few issues of the AOS Corner, we will be featuring a few of our Affiliated Societies and sharing information about them that makes them special. Hopefully, this will also be an opportunity to provide new ideas or take notes on how your society can be more interesting, informative and fun. Best practices are meant to be shared! This month we are pleased to introduce you to the Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society. The Flamingo Gardens Wildlife Refuge and Botanical Garden is home to the Society as well as the site of the West Palm Beach AOS Judging Center and a group called the Orchidteers who tend to the thousands of orchids throughout the nature center. There's a lot going on in this lovely, secluded corner of southwestern Broward County, Florida! The southeastern area of the state boasts several societies in both the Miami Dade and Fort Lauderdale areas and Flamingo Gardens is one that is super active, has about 180 dedicated members and appears to be growing each year since its inception in 1989.

At their monthly meetings they have a speaker, a raffle, a "show and tell" plant table where members get to vote on their favorite orchid and the winners get a ribbon. There is also a silent auction and members can do a little "house cleaning" and bring in a plant or two for the auction table. When the bidding ends, each highest bidder walks away with a plant. 20% of the proceeds from the sale of each plant are donated to the society – a great way to generate revenue and everyone wins! The program chair also occasionally includes workshop meetings for mounting, repotting and other necessities for savvy orchid cultivation.

To offer a warm welcome to their newcomers, Flamingo Gardens offers a "Newbies" meeting prior to their general members meeting. They gather to ask questions and to receive instruction and tips on how to successfully grow their plants, how to shop for orchids, how to read tags and address all the basic needs of orchids. Their current president, Lucy Matos Lodato, says that the only problem is that after being in the program for the allotted two years, the Newbies don't want to leave! Maybe they could have a little graduation ceremony to send them on their way to the general membership!

Their many other activities include an auction, a holiday party, field trips and workshops. The FGOS annual show is held over Easter weekend, no matter when the date falls. Their website is beautiful, easy to navigate and includes on-line orchid resources and tons of pictures of their enthusiastic members. Check it out! This super-friendly Society also has several AOS judges as well as student judges – a great incentive to become acquainted with the very experienced folks to learn how orchids are presented, shown and awarded. I have heard tell that the Flamingo Gardens Society is a gem – if you're in South Florida on the second Monday of the month, stop in for a visit. I'm sure the red carpet will be out!

The AOS Rep for Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society is Mike Vaupel.

If you would like to have your Society featured in The Corner, please let us know!

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 October 15th 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.

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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