



NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. Now that the ghosts and goblins have moved along, we hope your orchids have provided you with blooming treats rather than sad tricks! Let us look forward to November with ample opportunities to extend our gratitude. First, we will salute our Veterans, thanking them for the sacrifices that they have made to keep our country and citizens safe. What a treasure they are! And then we have the most “American” of holidays to offer Thanksgiving for our many gifts, including friends and families. We pray for those less fortunate and humbly and graciously accept our blessings. As orchid lovers, let us have a thankful heart for our amazing hobby and for each and every flower that appears in our gardens.

MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Have a favorite orchid? Mine is the Slipper Orchid (*Paphiopedilum* & *Phragmipedium*)... Want to learn more about these delicate, yet hardy, majestic and BEAUTIFUL Genera, SAVE THE DATE (Sunday – January 25th, 2026) for AOS Orchid Culture Day!! Four (4) Guest Speakers with Great Topics and Door Prizes from 11AM to 4PM!! Your support is vital and we appreciate your attendance!! Thank you and Happy November!

The poster for 'Orchid Culture Day' features a dark background with a large, detailed illustration of a slipper orchid in the center. The text 'Save The Date' is at the top in a white, sans-serif font, followed by 'Join Us for this Online Event' in a smaller, italicized, white, sans-serif font. Below this, 'Orchid Culture Day' is written in a large, bold, yellow, sans-serif font, and 'Sunday, January 25, 2026' is in a slightly smaller, bold, yellow, sans-serif font. A small line of text below the date reads 'This Event is Recorded for all Registrants to View at their Leisure'. The phrase 'step Into the World of Slippers' is written in a large, stylized, yellow, cursive font across the middle. At the bottom left, '4 Guest Speakers' and '4 Great Topics' are listed in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, 'Door Prizes!' is listed in a white, sans-serif font, followed by 'Must be online day of event to be eligible' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The bottom center features the American Orchid Society logo and the text 'Only \$40 USD' on the left and '11 a.m.—4 p.m. EST' on the right, both in a white, sans-serif font.

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Sitting on the deck of a cruise ship in Alaska, it is 46 degrees, it is rather difficult to think about orchids. What I have learned over the years is that territory we may consider barren or desolate can be rich with orchids. Here unexpectedly, while visiting the Mendenhall Glacier Park, on the side of this obscure little trail, lay some “naked corral root orchid”, (*Corallorhiza*), and some “twayblades”, (*Neottia*) said well I am an orchid freak! Growing under some tall trees in a bit of boggy soil, it points out that these plants are resilient and can survive even Alaskan winters. They get 170 inches of snow and I guess that is a good insulator when it is that thick. The temperatures can get pretty cold but under all that snow maybe not so much. It underscores Mother Nature’s ability to create and maintain beautiful orchids no matter where you go.

In that spirit, I recommend, if you are able, to take a trip to see orchids in their natural habitats. Not only is it refreshingly beautiful, but usually good exercise as well. Best, however, is meeting new orchid friends and then you find out you are not alone in your passion for orchids! My husband and I have traveled to Brazil’s many cultural ranges with Francisco Miranda, noted ecotour guide. Not only was it a hoot, but we learned and saw so much and in so many places. Whoda thunk it? We found orchids in rocks, in sand out on the beach, and even high up in the mountains where we were so cold. We saw *Cattleya coccinea* in trees covered with ice. We found *Laelia* plants growing in crevasses in 110 degree sun.

There are hundreds of tours with fun, knowledgeable leaders who will assure you a wonderful experience. As a piece of additional advice, read about the location first. Get familiar with the flora and fauna. If you don’t like heat, then go colder. If you don’t like cold, go warmer. Look at the season where you will travel. Is it when orchids are blooming? Take a trip to the Amazon when it is flood season? Sound crazy? Nope, you can see orchids, *Cattleya* and *Oncidinae* by the thousands in the trees because you are higher up due to the water level. Sounded nuts to me and several friends have done it and it was so worth it! And many orchids bloom under all that water. Incredible!! Take a trip to Nova Scotia or Michigan to see many North American wild orchids. I was always amazed that we had so many at a Girl Scout camp near our home in Michigan. There are tons of groups that offer tours. Check out Oregon and Washington. Lots of orchids there too. What is important is the fun you can have with other orchid nuts. Meet new friends and future travel buddies. All this and learning about orchids and how to protect them is just so rewarding. It may be cold now but now is the time to research trips, places and what you might want to see and how you would get there. It is so worth it to do the research, then get excited about the trip.

Oh last thing. Very important! Our annual online fundraiser auction will be held Oct 28 starting at noon and ending at 9 pm, Nov. 7th. This is your opportunity to get wonderful plants and we have like 30 of them up for auction. We thank our donors for these wonderful items. Fred, Bob, Frank and Allen, thank you so much for your kind donations. PLEASE EVERY SOCIETY MEMBER SHOULD SUPPORT OUR AOS TO PROMOTE OUR MISSION AND ALL OUR ACTIVITIES!!! And if you can, when donating support Better World for a bit of change as they provide our site free of charge. Till next month! . cerins@aos.org .

AFFILIATED SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

by Part 1 by Kayleigh Bull & Jill Smith

This month and next we are going to put our Corner Spotlight on the Orchid Society of Minnesota! This super active society boasts over 250 enthusiasts who devote incredible blocks of time to all sorts of orchid activities, committees, shows and meetings – in addition to tending to their precious plants. And properly caring for orchids in Minnesota is quite an undertaking! Minnesotans are proud to be the only state in the country whose state flower is an orchid – the *Cypripedium reginae*!



The society meets once a month in Richfield, MN – late morning on a Saturday. Much like typical orchid societies, their meetings have different segments – an “Ask the Experts” Q and A forum so that members can feel free to address orchid culture questions. There’s a Show and Tell table for



ribbon judging plants, a social hour for visiting and shopping if there are orchids for sale, a raffle and of course the speaker. The Society prides itself that presenters come from all over the Country and often from abroad. They are also fortunate enough to have many local growers, such as but not limited too, Orchids Limited (Jason Fischer) and Deerwood Orchids (Ross & Julie Hella).



Their main show of the year takes place at the end of January at the Conservatory in St. Paul. Minnesotans love escaping the cold temps to enjoy the lush, tropical greenhouses filled with blooming orchids in beautiful displays. Recently the Orchid Society of Minnesota had their first AOS Outreach Judging in partnership with the Chicago Judging Center. And on Labor Day weekend the society participates in the Minnesota State Fair. There's ribbon judging but the main focus is to educate the public. Society members also participate in the Chicagoland Orchid Festival in September.

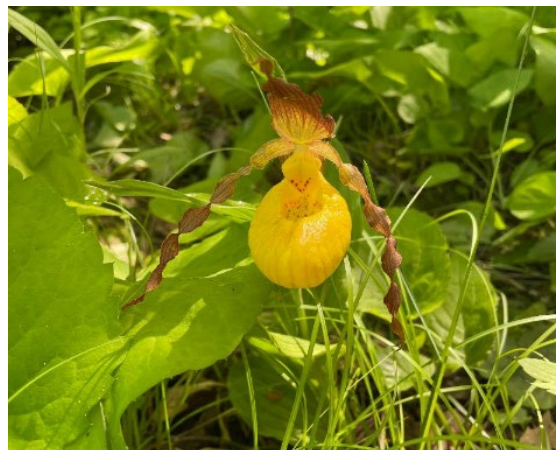
In addition to the many fairs and festivals, society members are very involved in their orchid conservation program. Folks help plant native orchids around the Twin Cities, similar to South Florida's "Million Orchid Project." They have also sponsored bus trips to parks where native lady slippers bloom.



Members also provide a youth engagement program to foster interest among younger members. They have a designated "Fireside Chat" at each meeting to encourage discussion with more experienced growers and they also offer sponsorship toward their AOS membership!

To learn more about how the Minnesotans grow their orchids, both indoors and out, and what types they grow, look for us next month in the AOS Corner!

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



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	Nov. 04, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Nov. 12, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	Winter Break	Jan. 08, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Nov. 01</i>	Greenhouse Culture and Technology Tips for growing in a greenhouse. Learn about technology to help you grow better.	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>
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Manny Aybar Accredited AOS Judge, Orchid Grower, Frequent Guest Speaker	Expert Growers, Conservationists, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, and more!	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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WEBINAR
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SHARE YOUR IDEAS & STORIES

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. 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 American Orchid Society Affiliates. Please send an email to arod@aos.org if you are interested in joining us virtually at our 2026 Meetings.

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 know!

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