



# Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

July 2021

## NCOS Calendar of Events:

### Monthly Meetings

- September 20<sup>th</sup>: Arthur E. Chadwick, Cattleyas
- October 18<sup>th</sup>: Bill Goldner, Woodstream Orchids
- November 15<sup>th</sup>: Francisco Miranda
- December: Holiday Party (fingers crossed)

**Mini Workshop:** July 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM

Growing Semi-Hydro presented by Linus Chen

**Members Picnic-** September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Board Meetings:

- September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021



*Phragmipedium Waunakee Sunset 'Saylor'*  
AM/AOS- Winner of the People's Choice award  
at the joint 2021 Paph Forum and Paph Guild.  
Grown by Jason Gebbia

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## Culture Workshop: Learn the benefits and how-to's of semi-hydro growing for orchids.

Saturday July 17 at 10:30 am.

Join us for this 45-minute workshop, where Linus Chen will demonstrate this potting method and how it can simplify the watering and care of your orchids. Also known as "semi-hydroponics," this potting technique uses plastic containers and clay pellets as a medium and works well for many varieties of orchids.

Linus Chen has been growing orchids for over 25 years, on windowsills indoors and with temperate terrestrial orchids in his yard. Linus was the former Treasurer of NCOS and has been active with NCOS for almost 20 years. No registration needed, link to event, below.

<https://ncosvirtual.my.webex.com/ncosvirtual.my/j.php?MTID=m18caa3116a52ffad92a2d05ad20295ed>



## Message from the President: Roddy Gabel



The summer doldrums are upon us, a time when few orchids are blooming, although a handful are managing to put on a show. Make sure to water any plants outside frequently, especially when days are

exceptionally hot. Repotting for most things should have been done by now so the plants can take advantage of the long days and put on the growth they need to support strong inflorescences full of flowers.

While many orchid activities are suspended during the hot summer months, many nurseries and societies are adapting to virtually connecting with their customers and members, respectively, and to others whom they wish to engage. Among these, the *Orchid Digest* (of which NCOS is an affiliate) is hosting a Virtual Speakers Day on July 31<sup>st</sup>, with presentations on orchids of Papua New Guinea, *Cattleya eldorado*, Angraecoids, and Dendrobiums—all by speakers who are recognized experts in the orchids on which they are speaking. You don't have to be a member of *Orchid Digest* to sign up, and if you're not available on July 31<sup>st</sup>, the program will be recorded so registrants can watch it later. For details, go to <https://www.orchiddigest.org/events/>.

Orchids Limited, operated by the Fischer Family, including Jason Fischer who spoke to us last September about *Neofinetia falcata* (or *Vanda falcata*, if you insist), is continuing to offer recorded workshops on-line (for a fee), some focused on particular orchids, but some that are more general (e.g., general

culture and repotting; see <https://www.orchidweb.com/orchid-classes>).

There may be others out there! If you come across orchid workshops, webinars, etc., or plant sales or other events, be sure to pass details along to NCOS Secretary Sarah Hedean ([membership.ncos@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ncos@gmail.com)) to put in her weekly spotlight to the membership. The biggest value of membership in NCOS is the sharing of information so we all become better growers!



*Phalaenopsis Liu's Cute Angel* Grown by Roddy Gabel



## Volunteer Opportunities to Help the Organization Thrive

- **Programs Chair:** Plan and organize speakers at monthly meetings, workshops, and provide input on society events.
- **Finance Committee Chair:** Work with the Treasurer and lead the Finance Committee to manage the finances of the society.
- **Website:** As we update the website, we need help reviewing and updating the content that we will be using. Please email [membership.ncos@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ncos@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping refresh our content.

## NCOS Announcements and News

- Don't forget to support NCOS on Amazon Smile. We are now a registered charitable organization. Once you select NCOS as your giving partner, Amazon donates a portion of what you spend to the NCOS.
- Mini-workshop July 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30: Growing Semi-hydro, presented by NCOS's own Linus Chen.
- **Thank you for your help!** So many great pictures have come in, but **we need more** to keep the newsletter and the website packed with pictures. You can use this [form](#) to send pictures or send them to [membership.ncos@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ncos@gmail.com).
- It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of longtime member Linda Browne of Brookville, MD. Linda is survived by her two children, Elise and Hali and her grandchildren, Noah, Ethan, Madison, Ellis, and Natalie. A memorial service was held in May.



*Phragmipedium Barbara Leann*

## Welcome New Members!

Evan Jones, Washington, DC

F. Scott Nichols, Maryland

If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter, let Jason Gebbia know ([jasong1799@gmail.com](mailto:jasong1799@gmail.com)) and we can include your piece in an upcoming newsletter.



## NCOS Member Brag Board



1



2



3



4



5



6

Grown by Barbara Fennelly  
Barbara grows in a  
greenhouse in Maryland.

1. *Masdevallia Elven Magic 'Cub Hill'*
2. *Brassolaeliocattleya Merlin*
3. *Epidendrum Serena O'Neil*
4. *Eria hyacinthoides*
5. *No ID Brassica*
6. *Paphiopedilum philippinse var. roebelinii*

**Have something blooming you want to share?**

Send pictures and brief description of how you grow it to [membership.ncos@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ncos@gmail.com) or use this [form](#) and we will include it in an up-coming newsletter.



## NCOS Member Brag Board



1



2



3

Grown by: Jason Gebbia  
Most of my plants are grown under lights or in my garden.  
My phrags stay indoors year-round but the rest make a trip  
outside for the summer.

- 1) *Dractylorhiza fuchsii*
- 2) *Phragmipedium Noirmont*
- 3) *Phragmipedium Flamingo*



1



2



3



Grown by: David Meadows

- 1) *Phragmipedium* (Peruflora's Cirila Alca X Sorcerer's Apprentice)
- 2) *Phragmipedium* (Acker's Lovely X besseae flavum)
- 3) *Phragmipedium Eumelia Arias*
- 4) *Phragmipedium Pittston Farm*



Photo: Barbara Fennelly  
*Potinara 'Dendi's Gem'*

## Monthly Culture Checklist

- High temps and long days will require you to pay close attention to your plants, especially if growing outside or in a greenhouse. Making sure the plants have adequate cooling is a must, especially for any moderate or cool growers.
- Be on the lookout for slug and snail damage. These slimy intruders will make a quick meal of your plants' leaves or any developing inflorescences.
- Oncidium growers need to be on the lookout for flower spikes. Many of the intergeneric crosses will be spiking or actively blooming. Making sure these plants are staked and supported will help ensure a long display.
- Keep up your fertilization routine. Remember the growth that plants are packing on now will help them bloom this fall and winter.

For more resources check out the culture page at [AOS](#).

## Culture Column: Miniature Cattleyas

There is perhaps no group of orchids more recognized by the public as orchids than Cattleyas. Starting with that first bloom found on a plant used as shipping material in the 1800's, this group's large showy flowers have captured the eye of collectors the world over. Indigenous to Central and South America, this group presents a wide variety of shapes and colors. If you are interested in growing these beautiful plants but intimidated by the large standard Cattleyas, starting with the miniature varieties can give you the foundation to start to build a collection. The miniatures have a number of genera in their background making them adaptable and forgiving. Their diminutive size allows them to be grown under lights or in windowsills making them an ideal plant for those just starting with this family.

### Light:

Perhaps the single most challenging part of growing cattleyas for a new grower (especially if you are growing under lights) is ensuring your plants are receiving enough light at a strong enough intensity to thrive and produce blooms. If you have leafy plants that either don't bloom or tease you with empty sheaths, then you likely need more light. When using the shadow test, you should have crisp clearly defined edges on the shadow of your hand. Sometimes moving the plant another four inches closer to the light source is all it needs to trigger a bloom.

### Potting Media:

As natural epiphytes, these plants need a loose airy mix that will allow good air flow around the roots and allow the media to dry. They don't like wet feet or a wet mix. A medium to large bark mix works well, but they also can be grown quite successfully in mixes that contain or replace the bark with coconut husks.

### Water:

Generally, one watering per week will be all these plants need. If your plant's pseudobulbs (the bulbous portion below the leaf that runs to the roots) begins to shrivel then the plants aren't getting enough water. They should be plump and firm throughout the season. If you aren't sure if they need to be watered, you are better skipping the watering. Overwatering will create cultural issues, ultimately killing them.

### Fertilizer

Overfeeding will lead to root damage and death, so a less concentrated but consistent regimen is best. Using a ¼ to ½ strength mix of a low nitrogen (the first number of the three shown on your fertilizer label) is recommended.



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## Member Meetings Archives

Links to past presentations:

### April 2021:

- Tom's African Adventures
- Tom Miranda
- Password: 2vMDpua

### April Mini Workshop

- Help! Bugs are Eating my Orchids.
- Sarah Hurdel
- Password: %+&R=9Sr

### May 2021:

- Orchids from flask, an economical way of growing your collection.
- Clark Riley
- Password: gREDi52d

## Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest – Commemorating The American Orchid Society's 100th Anniversary in 2021.

The [Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest](#) is asking for in-depth articles relating to significant people, events, programs, technology changes, or even plants that have helped shape the direction of the AOS or are likely to in the future. IDEAS - Was there someone special in the AOS who mentored and inspired you and others? Did an AOS award that you received plant the seed resulting in you becoming involved in judging? Could you tie that into how the judging program has helped shape the AOS and Affiliated Societies? Perhaps there are technological advancements that have evolved, or the AOS has adopted, that will change the AOS and your enjoyment of orchids. Share why the AOS has had, and will have, an enormous influence over the lifetime of orchid enthusiasts.

## CONTEST RULES

- The essay must be an original, unpublished article.
- The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
- Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in English and should be submitted electronically as MS Word or compatible file.
- Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
- Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.

The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate suitable for framing.

**Deadline for submission is November 30, 2021**

<https://www.aos.org/about-us/article-submissions/essay-contest-winners.aspx>

## **Submit all entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize:**

Ron McHatton - American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

PO Box 565477, Miami, FL 33256

Email: [rmchatton@aos.org](mailto:rmchatton@aos.org)

*Nonwinning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications with the written permission of the author.*





## American Orchid Society News and Events

Do you love Orchids?  
Have you ever thought about becoming an  
American Orchid Society Judge?



Come learn with us  
[judges@aos.org](mailto:judges@aos.org)

Have you ever thought about  
becoming an AOS Judge?

The American Orchid Society Judging Program is willing to teach you to become an AOS Judge and is actively seeking orchid enthusiasts.

### If You

- Have a love of orchids
- Want to learn more about orchids
- Are willing to contribute to the long-term health of AOS and its Affiliated Societies
- Desire to teach the public about orchids

Then Contact the AOS Judging Program at [judges@aos.org](mailto:judges@aos.org) for more information about how to become an AOS Judge.

## Webinars-Coming Attractions!



<b>When</b>	July 06, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	July 12, 2021 8:30pm EDT Monday	July 15, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday	August 05, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Judges Forum: Botanical Awards, CBM, CBR, CHM, What's the Difference?	Cyrtorchilums: Dancing Ladies of The High Andes	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
<b>Presenter</b>	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Jean Allen-Ikeson National Education Coordinator for Judging <small>(presented w/ Peter Post)</small>	Dr. Leslie Ee, ND Associate Judge President of COC	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer



The AOS is seeking nominations for members of the Board of Trustees of the American Orchid Society, for all six officers (for 2022-2024) and four trustees (for 2022-2025). Members may nominate any AOS member in good standing, including themselves, and shall provide a rationale as to why they should be considered. All nominations will be evaluated by the Nominating Committee and a slate will be mailed, in accordance with the by-laws, prior to the election at the Members Meeting in the spring of 2022. The following competencies have been determined by the Board and will be used in the evaluation.

For more information, see the AOS [website](http://www.aos.org).





## Other Orchid Resources

### Neighboring Societies

- Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society  
[www.sepos.org](http://www.sepos.org)
- Susquehanna Orchid Society  
[www.susquehannaorchid.org](http://www.susquehannaorchid.org)
- Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society  
[www.facebook.com/CentralPAOrchidSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CentralPAOrchidSociety)
- Maryland Orchid Society  
[www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)
- Catoctin Orchid Society  
<https://catoctinorchidsociety.weebly.com>
- Lord Fairfax Orchid Society
  - Zita Winzer [zitawinzer@me.com](mailto:zitawinzer@me.com)
- Virginia Orchid Society  
[www.vaorchidsociety.org](http://www.vaorchidsociety.org)
- Orchid Hobbyists of Delmarva:
  - DE- Mary Sherwood (302-628-3416)
  - MD- Lois (410-228-3804)
  - VA- Bill (757-665-4108))
  - [www.easternshoreorchidlovers.org](http://www.easternshoreorchidlovers.org)

### Other Orchid Resources

- Orchid Digest  
[www.orciddigest.com](http://www.orciddigest.com)
- Slipper Orchid Alliance  
[www.slipperorchid.org](http://www.slipperorchid.org)
- International Phalaenopsis Alliance  
[www.phal.org](http://www.phal.org)
- American Orchid Society  
[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- Orchid Conservation Alliance  
[www.orchidconservationalliance.org](http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org)
- Smithsonian Gardens  
[www.gardens.si.edu](http://www.gardens.si.edu)
- Missouri Botanical Garden  
[www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)
- Mather's Foundation  
<https://orchid.foundation>



Paphiopedilum armeniacum, Paphiopedilum Harbur 'Golden Gateway' HCC/AOS, Phal. Taida King's Caroline 'Little Zebra' AM/AOS Grown by Roddy Gabel