



Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

May 2021

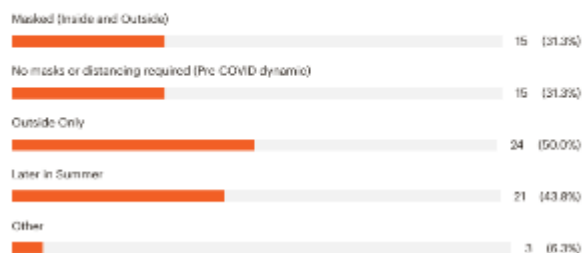
NCOS Calendar of Events:

- **Monthly Meetings**
 - September 20th: Arthur E. Chadwick, Cattleyas
 - October 18th: Bill Goldner, Woodstream Orchids
 - November 15th: Francisco Miranda
 - December: Holiday Party (fingers crossed)
- **Mini Workshop save the date:** July 17th at 10:30 AM
Growing Semi-Hydro presented by Linus Chen
- **Board Meetings:**
 - May 2nd, 2021
 - September 5th, 2021
 - November 7th, 2021

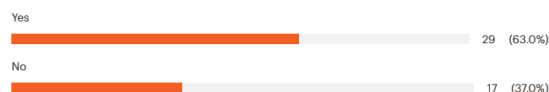
Picnic Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback. Based on your responses, we will be planning the picnic as an in-person event in late September or early October. Stay tuned for more details.

"Under what conditions would you attend the Annual Picnic? (check all that apply)"



"Would you be comfortable if both vaccinated and non-vaccinated members attend the Annual Picnic? (select one answer)"



"How would you like the food to be served? (select one answer)"



In this issue

- Page 2:
 - Message from the President
- Page 3:
 - NCOS News and Notes
 - New Member Welcome
- Pages 4 & 5: Brag Board
 - Members' plant pictures
- Page 6
 - Culture Column: Bulbophyllum
 - Monthly Culture Checklist
- Page 7:
 - Recorded meeting links
- Page 8
 - American Orchid Society News and Notes
- Page 9
 - Neighboring Societies and Orchid Resources



Sievekingia reichenbachiana Grown by Bill Elbert



Message from the President: Roddy Gabel



What a spring! I'm going to wear out my thermostat switching between heat and air conditioning! For many of you, if you're like me, it's been on again, off again when it comes to moving

plants outside. I find they really perk up when exposed to natural sunlight (not too much or too fast!), rain, and fresh air, hopefully to reward me with some nice blooms later in the year.

As we enter our summer hiatus, I hope your orchids continue to be a source of enjoyment and pleasant diversion from the stressors around us. As much as I enjoy the blooms, which are sparse among many of our orchids during the warmer months, I also derive satisfaction from seeing new growths develop, roots emerging and winding down into the potting medium and, ultimately, the appearance of sheaths and initiation of inflorescences. If we only appreciated the end result, keeping a vase full of cut flowers might satisfy us, but being an orchid hobbyist is more than that! Now is the time to foster that growth by providing optimal conditions, applying fertilizer with essential nutrients, and getting rid of any "hitchhikers" that sap energy and nutrients from your plants. Hopefully, assuming we will be able to resume in-person meetings this fall, we will be able to share the fruits of our labors on the show table! Not unlike our orchids awakening from dormancy, broader society is cautiously returning to pre-COVID conditions. Arrangements for a picnic are underway for

the fall (thanks for your survey responses!), and we are also working toward resumption of our auction, the annual show and sale, and other activities. Note that the National Capital Judging Center will resume monthly judging sessions in July. Hopefully, we will be back to a semblance of normality soon! Stay safe and well!



Aerangis articulata
Grown by Bill Elbert



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Volunteer Opportunities to Help the Organization Thrive

- **Picnic Chair:** Filled! **Thank you, Dan Gillespie!** Dan has agreed to take on this role. He and Jerry Rice are working on an event in early Fall of this year.
- **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 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 17th 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.
- If you missed May's meeting, *Orchids from flask and economical way to grow your collection*, you can access a recording using the link on page #8.
- The National Capital Judging Center will be reopening in July. Judging will take place on July 10th 10:30-4:30 at the North Chevy Chase Christian Church. 8814 Kensington Parkway, North Chevy Chase, MD 20815



Welcome New Members!

Amirah Polite, Washington, DC

Scott Nichols, Maryland

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

(Picture to the left) 24" bowl planter with a mix of ferns, philodendron and Epidendrum 'Wedding Bells' and Serena O'Neill, Phragmipedium Haley Decker and Glen Decker, and Paphiopedilum Vanda M. Pearman, liemianum, and Ho Chi Minh.



NCOS Member Brag Board



Grown by Martha Knight
Martha is growing in an antique Lord & Brunham greenhouse.

1. *Paphiopedilum* Lady Isabel
2. *Paphiopedilum* Price Edward of York 'Eureka'
3. *Phragmipedium* Eric Young x carcinus
4. *Phragmipedium* Grande
5. *Ascda* Yip Sum Wah 'Flame' FCC/AOS/FOS



Grown by Al Pickrel
Bulbophyllum beccarii

I think this plant has three flower spikes and that it is still on the rare side in the United States. If I had to describe the fragrance, I would say ozone and dog poop.

Have something blooming you want to share?

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



NCOS Member Brag Board



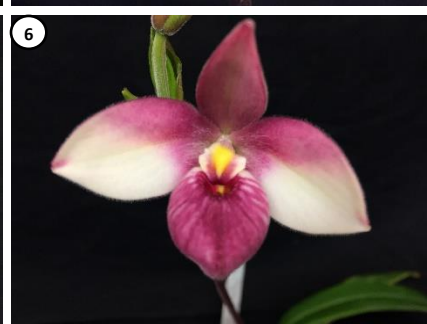
Laeliocattleya canhamiana
coerulea 'Azure Skies' and
Amitostigma enomotoe
Grown by Linus Chen

The *Laeliocattleya* is grown semi-hydro (see page 7 for more information on the culture workshop Linus will be hosting in July on this technique). Linus is growing the *Amitostigma* in a shallow tub with other bog plants in a mix of kanuma and akadama, bringing the whole planting into an unheated garage any time the temps are below 20.

Grown by: David Meadows

I grow mostly Phrags. under fluorescent lights in a basement room. I grow them semi-hydro. using LECA as growing media. I hand water twice a week and have fans for circulation and a large humidifier for adding humidity. I usually purchase flasks and grow the plants to blooming stage. I usually keep plants for a second blooming but sell some at orchid events to make room. Phrag. kovachii is my passion but I have yet to bloom one. I've bloomed many of the kovachii hybrids with *Peruflora Spirit* being the first. My favorite vendors are Chuck Acker Orchids and Woodstream Orchids. My mentor, Susan Kulhavi has helped me become a 'good' orchid grower with her vast knowledge of orchids.

- 1) *Phragmipedium* (*Peruflora Spirit* x *kovachii*)
- 2) *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg
- 3) *Phragmipedium* Saint Owen flavum
- 4) *Paphiopedilum druryi*
- 5) *Phragmipedium* Eumelia Arias
- 6) *Phragmipedium* (Inca Rose 'White Hot' x Fall River 'Purple Passion')





Monthly Culture Checklist

- ☐ With light intensity starting to increase, check your plants for signs that they are receiving light that is too intense. Reddening, yellowing, or wilting leaves are signs that your plant may be getting too much sun. If you see these signs, you may need shade cloth or to move them to an area where the sun is less intense (dappled shade, etc.).
- ☐ Time to fertilize. With increases in growth, your plants will be hungry and can use the increase in nutrients to pack on strong healthy growths that will carry them through the winter and produce blooms.
- ☐ Though it hasn't felt like it recently, summer heat is on its way, be sure to keep up regular watering and, as heat and dryness set in later in the month, check your plants for increased water needs.
- ☐ Stay focused on air movement, especially if growing in a contained space. Increases in heat and humidity without good circulation can lead to an increase in diseases on your plants.

For more resources check out the culture page at [AOS](http://www.aos.org).

Culture Column: Taming Unruly Bulbophyllums

Sarah Hurdel

Bulbophyllum blumei is still resisting my attempts to keep it in a pot. This is how I grow rambling *Bulbophyllums*.



I am pretty stubborn though, too - the pile of pins were used several months ago to turn the new growths back into the pot. I thought I had done a good job, but it just carried on and made new growths heading straight for the edge of the pot. One thing I forgot to do - is turn the new growths away from the light, sometimes

they will change direction on their own. Bulbo Reverse Psychology - let them think it is their idea to stay in the pot.

I used to grow a similar species which had even longer rhizomes between each growth, *Bulbophyllum masdevalliae*. That was impossible, and I had to give in and find a new home for it.



There is a short window of time to pin them down, before the new growths put out roots, but after the rhizome hardens up a little bit. You can wait, but this seems to be the best time to pin them down without snapping them

off. Still, I always break at least one. This only seems to only encourage the plant to grow more. If I turn my back, I'm afraid I might find it rooted to the wall next time I look.



Not sure who will ultimately win this battle, but smart money is on the plant. Maybe we could agree on a truce if I gave it a larger bowl, but that would be a sign of weakness...



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Member Meetings Archives

Links to past presentations:

April 2021:

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

April Mini Workshop

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

May 2021:

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



Vuylstekeara 'Aztec Sun'



Zygopetalum Bluebird

Grown by Robin Collins

x Vuylstekeara is an intergeneric hybrid between Cochlioda, Miltonia, and Odontoglossum and typically abbreviated Vuyl.

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

Saturday July 17 at 10:30 am.

Mark your calendar! Something extra this year, considering the pandemic and not meeting in-person, a summer workshop! In this 45-minute workshop, Linus Chen will demonstrate another 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>





American Orchid Society News and Events

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



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 for more information about how to become an AOS Judge.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	June 08, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	June 17, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday	July 06, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	July 15, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday
Topic	Show Trophy Subjective or Objective	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Cyrtorchilus: Dancing Ladies of the High Andes
Presenter	Marc Burchette Head of Biltmore Estate Orchid Collection	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Dr. Leslie Ee, ND Associate Judge President of COC



Vandaceous Orchids

Supplement to volume 90, Orchids magazine

ROBERT FUCHS *Large-flowered Vandas*
ROBERT FUCHS *Smaller Flowers, Dazzling Color: Breeding with the Former Ascocentrum*
MARTIN MOTES *The Other Vandas: New Directions in Breeding*
JIM COOTES *Philippine Renanthera Species*
PATRICK VUURMAN *Rhynchostylis and its Hybrids*
GARY YONG GEE *Aerides*
STIG DALSTOM *Cool growing Vandaceous Orchids of Bhutan*
KEN JACOBSEN *Growing Award-winning Sarcocylus*
JASON FISCHER *Influenced by the Wind Orchids: Hybrids of the Former Neofinetia*
SYNEA TAN *Growing Award Winning Vandas in My Basement*

Looking for Orchids?

Find vendors of orchid plants, seedlings, supplies, greenhouses, fertilizers, watering equipment, potting mixes, lighting setups and other orchid-related products in our online [Orchid Source Directory!](#)

Looking to visit a garden?

AOS Members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide. See a list of [participating gardens near you!](#)



Other Orchid Resources

Neighboring Societies

- Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society
www.sepos.org
- Susquehanna Orchid Society
www.susquehannaorchid.org
- Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society
www.facebook.com/CentralPAOrchidSociety
- Maryland Orchid Society
www.marylandorchids.org
- Catoctin Orchid Society
<https://catoctinorchidsociety.weebly.com>
- Lord Fairfax Orchid Society
 - Zita Winzer zitawinzer@me.com
- Virginia Orchid Society
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

Other Orchid Resources

- Orchid Digest
www.orchiddigest.com
- Slipper Orchid Alliance
www.slipperorchid.org
- International Phalaenopsis Alliance
www.phal.org
- American Orchid Society
www.aos.org
- Orchid Conservation Alliance
www.orchidconservationalliance.org
- Smithsonian Gardens
www.gardens.si.edu
- Missouri Botanical Garden
www.missouribotanicalgarden.org



Dendrobium anosmum Grown by Robin Collins, Photograph by Zita Winzer