



# Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

May 2021

## NCOS Calendar of events:

- **Monthly Meetings**
  - May 17<sup>th</sup>: *Orchids from flask, An Economical Launchpad for a Stellar Collection*- Clark Riley
  - September 20<sup>th</sup>: TBD
  - October 18<sup>th</sup>: Bill Goldner, Woodstream Orchids
  - November 15<sup>th</sup>: Francisco Miranda
  - December: Holiday Party (fingers crossed)
- **Mini Workshop save the date:** July 17<sup>th</sup> Growing Semi-Hydro presented by Linus Chen
- **Board Meetings:**
  - May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021
  - September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## 2020 Throwback



One of the best from the 2020 season, Jeff Morris's *Cattleya schroederiae*. Awarded a Certificate of Cultural Merritt at the Maryland Orchid Society Show last year.

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## Spring Plant Sale!

Thank you all for making the spring plant sale a success! The Society was able to raise \$419.50 dollars during the event along with reconnecting with many members.

We will continue to plan small events like this as the year progresses.



Photo: Jay Tullos



## Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

### May Meeting: Orchids from Flask. An Economical Launchpad for a Stellar Collection, Dr. Clark Riley



Clark Riley will present thoughts on deflasking orchids, based on 50 years' experience. Clark has been an active orchid grower since 1957. At the age of six, he got his first

plant, a probably wild-collected yellow ladyslipper (*Cypripedium pubescens*) from a perennial nursery. The plant died a miserable death in a short time, but not before blooming and cementing a love of orchids that has lasted over half a century. He has labored ever since to make amends by promoting the sound cultivation of ladyslippers. He grows a wide range of orchids, including several thousand terrestrials, hardy species, and ladyslippers, Brazilian laelias, and specialty phalaenopsis, often from seed. He was the producer for the book and CD of Proceedings of the North American Native Terrestrial Orchid Conference. He is a member of the Maryland Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society. He can be reached at [driley@aol.com](mailto:driley@aol.com).

Join the Meeting May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

[Join meeting](#)

Or copy and paste link into your web browser:

<https://ncosvirtual.my.webex.com/ncosvirtual.my/j.php?MTID=m0a40759e062df09957472a816f23b55e>

Join by Phone:

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-415-655-0001](tel:+14156550001), [1823552236](tel:+1823552236) #92483769# US Toll

Some mobile devices may ask attendees to enter a numeric password.

Join by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Meeting number (access code): 182 355 2236

Meeting password: YahvdQmY539 (92483769 from phones and video systems)







# Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

## Message from the President: Roddy Gabel



With more and more talk about “getting back to normal,” we can hopefully consider a time not too far off when we can once again gather in-person for our monthly meetings and special

events—and maybe even talk about having our annual show and sale! However, with the resumption of such activities, as well as just basic operations of the society, we need members who are willing to give some of their time and either lead or support these functions.

Like many small organizations, our society is dependent on volunteerism. This comes in different forms. First, willing hands are needed for our various events, from monthly meetings to the annual show, away shows, auction, Paph Forum, picnic, and other special events—like our just-concluded plant sale. As someone who has served as past chairperson of some of these events, I can tell you that having a cadre of volunteers is essential to the success of these events, and there are roles to fill for every skill set. Generally, I have been impressed by the number of our members who have stepped up to assist when needed. Thank you! —and please keep it up!

But in addition to our “volunteer army,” we also need individuals who are willing to contribute their time and talents to leading and organizing these activities. We need members who are willing to serve on the board, to guide, direct, and manage the

affairs of the society. We also need members who can lend their organizational skills to pulling together a team and necessary resources to plan and execute things like the annual show and other events. Please consider taking on one of these positions, as an officer of the society or committee chair. Your input and ideas are welcome, and your efforts are essential!

And keep in mind that, if you are daunted by being new to the society or the size and complexity of one of these roles, you won't be alone. You will have plenty of support in those who have done it before and fellow members who stand by ready to provide guidance and support. You won't be thrown into the deep end without a life preserver!



*Renanthera phillipinense*  
Grown by Dan Gillespie



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## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Picnic Chair-** Plan the annual NCOS Member picnic. We are hoping for an in-person event this fall.
- **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.
- **Articles:** 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 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>: Growing Semi-hydro, presented by NCOS's own Linus Chen.
- We need your help. In order to keep the newsletter packed with pictures, we need more photos your wonderful plants.
- If you missed April's meeting, *Tom's Orchid Adventures*, you can access a recording using the link on page #8.
- The Programs Chair role will be open at the end of 2021. Interested in taking a role with NCOS? See more on page 10.



NCOS exhibit at the Maryland Orchid Society Show 2020

## Welcome New Members!

Kathy Curtis, Virginia

Christine Keys, Maryland



## Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

### NCOS Member Brag Board



*Coryanthes alborosea:*

Grown by Bill Elbert

This plant has 9/10" leaves and 2+" flowers. The fragrant flowers secrete drops of fluid (visible in the photo) that drip into the "bucket" where the liquid is collected by male euglossine bees. Purchased as a selfing of a normally colored plant (lots of small purple rings on the flower), either it was mislabeled or I was lucky to get a "ghostly" alba. It does not want to dry out and prefers the warmer side of intermediate. It is spiking freely now that it is mature.

*Phragmipedium Fritz Schomberg*  
Grown by Ernesto Gagarin

I grow my Phrag Fritz Schomberg in Power-sized Orchidata bark, with large sponge rock and charcoal. A little bit of sphagnum moss on top to help new roots come in. I kept the pot in about an inch of fertilizer water under some cheap LED grow lights, about 10-12 inches. I fertilize weekly with K-Lite at about 50 ppm N, and dose Epsom salts 1-2 times a month at a rate of 1 tbsp/gallon. I also do monthly pot flushes with tap water and dose KelpMax and Quantum Total probiotics after these flushes.



#### 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) and we will include it in an up-coming newsletter.





## NCOS Member Brag Board



*Cypripedium formosanum*  
Grown by Linus Chen

I grow this in part sun early morning light (east facing) in a moist but well drained growing media. I dig an extra deep hole and put turface (an expanded clay product often used in sports field maintenance) at the bottom 6 inches and then garden soil. I think plants do better when planted in the fall.

*Phragmipedium Leslie Garay*  
Grown by: Suzette Agans

This plant is grown in a mixture of large perlite and bark, therefore I am watering it more frequently, as Phrags love water. When done blooming, I will likely switch to semi-hydro with the clay pellets, as it works well for me.



*Eplc. Yokosuka Story*  
*"Wilson"*  
Grown by:  
Jason Gebbia

Charming plant that has proven both hardy and floriferous. Grown under lights in the winter and outside in the summer. I let it dry out in between waterings under medium intensity light.





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Photo: Roddy Gabel

## Monthly Culture Checklist

- ❑ Outdoor plant check, if you are growing hardy orchids now is the time to be on the look-out for the emergence of new growths and set up any protection necessary to keep animals from the new growths.
- ❑ If you are moving plants outside, make sure your growing area is clean and ready. Check for areas where unwelcome insects have overwintered or made homes and clear them out before your orchids make the move.
- ❑ As winter blooming plants wrap up their bloom cycle, check their potting media and repot if necessary, to ensure strong healthy growths.
- ❑ Start increasing watering if you have scaled back. Warming temps and longer days will increase your plants' needs.

For more resources check out the culture page at [AOS](https://www.ncos.us).

## Culture Column: Slipper Orchid Series- Bulldog Paphs

Complex or Bulldog Paphiopedilums first show up in orchid cultivation the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Breeders and growers continue to develop new and different colors and patterns, but this group is unmistakable with their large (generally round), waxy, long lasting flowers. This group is less common in the commercial trade and in the U.S. rarely shows up in garden center offerings but a quick trip online or a run to a specialty nursey will open up a number of opportunities to add these plants to your collection.

**Light:** Like the Maudiae Paphs, these plants can grow with lower light levels, but have proven to be adaptable, tolerating a range of light conditions. Ideally, you would want them growing in low to moderate light (diffuse edges on your hand's shadow). If growing in brighter light, it is important to keep an eye on the leaves of any plants in your collection. If you see that they are fading from green towards yellow or if you see red on the leaves, they are in light that is too bright. East or North facing windows will provide plenty of light for these plants to pack on size. These plants do well in the temperature ranges we enjoy (60-80 degrees Fahrenheit) but are able to tolerate slightly cooler temps (down to 50).

**Potting Media:** Medium-sized bark mixed with charcoal and perlite will provide the roots of these plants with the air and space they need to develop strong healthy systems. They like moisture in the root zone, but if grown wet, will succumb to root rots and ultimately fail. Staying on top of your repotting (typically once a year) will keep the mix from decaying and damaging the roots of your plant.

**Water:** Humidity in the root zone is important for these plants and they appear to be less forgiving than the Maudiae paphs if grown too dry. Watering 1-2 times a week will allow the plants to pick up the moisture they need. Growing these plants on a shallow dish filled with pebbles will allow you to maintain higher humidity levels around the roots without adding another watering to the rotation.

**Fertilizer:** A balanced fertilizer applied at half strength regularly will keep these plants healthy. Fertilizing too often will increase salts in the root zone and damage the roots of your plant. Skipping every fourth fertilization and replacing it with an extra watering will help wash salts out of your medium.

**Reblooming:** These plants typically bloom in the late fall or winter. The change in photo-period (the day-length) and a drop in temperatures in the fall will help these plants initiate flowers on mature grows. Giving the several weeks of cooler temps, either by moving to sheltered area outdoors in the fall or moving closer to you windows indoors, will give you strong show blooms through the winter.





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## Member Meetings Archives

Links to past presentations:

### February 2021:

- Chilean Orchids
- Fred Bess
- Password:HuPYku6j

### April 2021:

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

### April Mini Workshop

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

## Paph Forum: Recap of a successful virtual event.

Thanks to the efforts of Roddy Gabel and Jay Tullos, the NCOS was able to successfully co-host the Paph Forum this year along with the Orchid Digest's annual Paph Guild Meeting.

The online event gave participants access to international speakers that normally, U.S. audiences may not have ready access to.

The event kicked off with an interesting, if not somewhat controversial, talk from Frank Cervera outlining a proposal to consolidate a number of *Phragmipedium* species in the *Micropetalum* subgenus (*fischeri*, *andreettae*, *anguloi*) as varieties of *schlimii*.

Michael Tibbs spoke to the group on *Paphiopedilums* in Europe. It was interesting to see the differences

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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.

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.

Registration link to follow.







## American Orchid Society News and Events



### SEEKING AOS JUDGES

The American Orchid Society Judging Program is seeking highly motivated orchid enthusiasts to join the judging ranks.

Work with other such people and help maintain our awards programs and educational efforts.

For more information contact us at [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!



When	May 4th, 2021 8:30 PM EDT	May 13, 2021 8:30 PM EDT	Check AOS's website for on-demand content
Topic	Green house Chat (Orchid Q&A)	<i>Prosthechea karwinskii</i> in Mexico A study in Reintroduction	Greenhouse chats  Culture discussions (mounting orchids, potting, and more)
Presenter	Ron McHatton	Julia Douglas	Webinars about your favorite kinds of orchids.

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between the U.S. and European markets where species and hybrids have been introduced as mass market plants with breeders focusing on plants that mature quickly, many going from flask to flower within a year.

The next speaker, Wenqing Perner, touched on the impact of eco-tourism for increasing awareness of critically endangered habitats and species and on ways orchid nurseries can reduce pressure on natural populations through sustainable production and distribution of artificially propagated plants.

Ross Hella rounded out the day's presenters and delivered a talk on trends in miniature *Paphiopedilum* breeding. These plants are bred to have large flowers on plants that reach maturity in pots as small as 2 inches.

The program attracted 177 participants from around the globe and provided an interesting and insightful look at that trends in research, conservation, and breeding of this diverse group of orchids.



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## 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.orchiddigest.com](http://www.orchiddigest.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)

### Roles That Support the Society: Program Chair:

*Suzette Agans Shares Her Experience as she looks to transition out of the role at the end of 2021.*

#### What does the role entail?

The Program Chair contacts and arranges for speakers for our monthly meetings. There are about 7 meetings a year where a speaker is needed. We try to secure speakers from both inside and outside of our region. This allows our membership to have access to local resources and to hear from and engage with resources that they typically wouldn't have access to. Speakers are very accommodating and want to speak to us and much of the communication and coordination is conducted through Email. For in-person meetings the Program Chair works with speakers to ensure they have lodging if coming from out of market and for virtual meetings, run a practice session with them to work through any potential issues before the meeting.

#### How do we pick the topics?

Many of the topics come directly from the suggestions of the membership. We want to make sure that the content is relevant and engaging.

#### What does the future of the role look like?

As an organization we are working to ensure we are able to offer both in-person and remote options for members to be a part of our meetings. Additionally, the Programs Chair role has begun working with members on supplemental culture events to help provide information beyond the meetings, engage members and non-members in the orchid community, and create a resource for growers to learn from each other.

The Programs Chair role helps create a rich member experience and provides an opportunity to make a number of contacts within the orchid community. Sound like something that interests you?

Contact [membership.ncos@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ncos@gmail.com)