



Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

November 2021

NCOS Calendar of Events:

Monthly Meetings

- November 15th: Francisco Miranda
- December 13th: Holiday Party and Business Meeting
- January 24th Dave Roberts

Board Meetings:

- January 16th, 2022

Society Events:

- 42nd Paph Forum, January 22nd, 2022
- NCOS Annual Show, February 19th – 22nd,



October 2021 People's Choice award winner:
Coelogyne ovalis grown by Robin Collins.

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Grown by Barbara Fennelly

"I obtained this lovely cattleya (no ID) from the free table at the NCOS summer picnic in 2016 or 2017. I took two canes home, potted them up and waited. In 2020 I was rewarded when both plants bloomed! Now this year 2021, it bloomed even better and fuller. This is a classic cattleya that holds its bloom for two months and has an amazing scent. But what's its name! Members please help!"



Brazilian Orchid Habitats: The Amazon Presented by Francisco Miranda



Francisco Miranda was born in Rio de Janeiro and achieved his degree in Biology and began his taxonomic studies in the orchid family in 1981. During the next 4 years, he lived most of

the time in Manaus where he studied Amazon orchids and began his Master's degree. Shortly after returning to Rio de Janeiro, Francisco completed his Master's on "section *Cattleyodes* of the genus *Laelia*". Since then, his main interest has been on the Brazilian laelias and cattleyas. He is the author of several papers ranging from species descriptions to subjects of growers' interest in Brazilian, German and U.S. publications. He is also the author of two books. Starting in 2000, he has lived in Haines City, Florida, where he has Miranda Orchids, an orchid nursery specializing in Brazilian species and the *Cattleya* alliance. And in 2001, he became a qualified Taxonomic Authority for the American Orchid Society, specializing in the determination of Brazilian orchids, mainly of the *Cattleya* alliance. And since moving to the United States, he concentrated even more in giving lectures throughout the country, neighboring Canada and also in Brazil. More recently he resumed his taxonomic work and is guiding tours to Brazil on a more regular basis with the main objectives of orchid observation, photography, and conservation awareness.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87827260276?pwd=L0VE MTRrSnovMnpVNVdkMHlyMnJiQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 2726 0276

Passcode: 758012

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87827260276#,,,,*758012# US
(Washington DC)

+13126266799,,87827260276#,,,,*758012# US
(Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 878 2726 0276

Passcode: 758012

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87827260276?pwd=L0VE MTRrSnovMnpVNVdkMHlyMnJiQT09>

Details on the November 15th Member Meeting.
The meeting will be held both in-person and virtually.

In-Person: The North Chevy Chase Christian Church requires that:

- All visitors be fully vaccinated,
- People inside the building will be required to wear masks, and
- We will not have shared food or refreshments at this meeting.

Virtual: Zoom

- The Meeting will open with the opportunity for members to share what they have blooming and socialize virtually with each other.
- Once the speaker starts, all virtual members will be muted.
- Questions should be logged in the chat function during this time and will be relayed via the virtual facilitator.



Message from the President: Roddy Gabel



By now, no doubt everyone who had orchids outside for the summer has moved them back inside for the winter. Make sure you check for "hitchhikers" and eliminate them before they spread to your

other plants. Snails and slugs will go after new growth and unopened buds, potentially destroying a whole season's efforts by preempting those rewarding blooms!

We are about one month away from the date of our holiday party, if we have one. As I write this, the board is preparing for its November meeting at which this and other future events will be discussed. Stay tuned! Meanwhile, the December business meeting that precedes the holiday party will consist in part of the election of two new officers, President and Director-at-Large. Anyone who has been thinking about either being a candidate themselves or nominating someone for either of these positions needs to submit those nominations now (to me at former_zygote@hotmail.com). Also, we are still seeking nominations for the NCOS Huntington Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant, sustained contributions to NCOS.

Happy Growing!



Phragmipedium Bel Royal 'Charles'
Grown by Jason Gebbia
This is a 4N plant that Jason grows under lights. For reference it is sitting in front of a standard doorway. The spike currently is almost 5 feet tall and still going.



Clay Pots Available to Members

We were contacted by Tim Flynn, son of Dr and Mrs. Peter Flynn, former NCOS members, to see, if we could help them recycle about 200 clay pots we thought it would be a great idea to keep them out of the local landfill and make them available to our members. Barbara made the trip out to Reston to pick up the pots, prior to the sale of the Flynn's home.

Did you know that the high-quality terracotta pots from Italy are predominately made in the 2 towns of Impruneta and Siena, in Tuscany near Florence? The cost of importing these pots has gotten very high and the shipping costs more than the pot. There are terracotta pots made in other countries such as China, but many would argue the Italian ones are better.

Currently the pots are in Barbara Fennelly's garage in Rockville, MD and they are offered on a First come, First served basis. Cost based on size:

- Small (2"-4") \$1 each
- Med (5"-7") \$2 each
- Large (8"-12") \$3 each
- There is also a large assortment of hanging hardware, very reasonable price to be determined.

Contact information for Barbara:
973-769-6396



A Successful Member Picnic



Thanks to everyone who supported the NCOS Picnic in late September! The event was a success as well as a fun time to meet new members and catch up with long-time friends. In particular, we would like to thank the people who helped with set up and with clean up, and everyone who donated plants. A special thank you to Ken Meier who graciously volunteered to be our auctioneer. In total, the society raised over \$1500 at the auction.

We look forward to having the NCOS picnic in 2022, and we're hopeful that we will be able to return to the traditional time in late June.

If you would like to see more social events for our group, please contact Dan Gillespie at KtownPiper@protonmail.com.

Thanks again to one and all!

Dan Gillespie and Jerry Rice



Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

The NCOS Fall Membership Campaign is in full swing, with our goal to renew all existing memberships before January 1, 2022. Any new NCOS members who joined in September or October 2021, are automatically renewed for 2022.

The Board has decided to create two different membership tiers to better serve our membership. Existing Household members are grandfathered in at the old rate of \$30. The new rate only applies to new members (unless you opt-in to pay the higher rate).

- Individual Membership- \$30 (one member per household, 1 email address)
- Household Membership- \$45 (2 or more members per household, multiple email addresses)

There are several ways to pay the membership renewal fee, either by PayPal or by check.

- [Click Here](#) for instructions for renewing by PayPal
- [Click Here](#) for instructions for renewing by Check

We are offering several Promotions that will run throughout the Fall Membership Campaign here are the highlights:

1. **Early Bird Renewal:** Each member renewal payment received by November 23, 2021, will be entered for a chance to win a \$50 visa gift card
2. **New Member: Referral & Gift Membership:** Each existing member who *refers a new member* whose payment is received by December 31, 2021, will be entered for a chance to win a \$40 visa gift card and each existing member who *purchases a gift membership for a new member* by December 31, 2021, will be entered for a chance to win \$40 visa gift card
3. **Member Renewal:** For each member renewal payment received between November 24 and December 31, 2021, will be entered for a chance to win a \$30 visa gift card.

The Board is looking forward to an exciting year ahead and we hope you will continue to support the NCOS Community.



Newsletter of the National Capital Orchid Society

NCOS Announcements and News

- **Thank you to Pete Ma, Zita Winzer, and Ariel Zelaya** for agreeing to take on the Programing Committee. This group will be identifying and securing speakers for our society meetings. Suzette Agans will be stepping down from the Programs Chair Role at the end of this year and we thank her for her dedication and effort.
- *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.
- 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.
- We are beginning to plan for the 2022 Annual Show. This is one of the Society's biggest undertakings. Please consider carving out time during the show weekend (February 19th-22nd, 2022) to help. We will need our members to assist setting up (Wednesday February 16th, 2022), greeting guests (during the show), and closing down the show (Monday February 21st, 2022).



Welcome New Members!

Melissa Brizer, DC

Brandon Conklin, DC

Sylvie Kostrzewski, VA

Robert Lightburn, VA

Kevin Martinson, DC

Amy Oberhelman, DC

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.

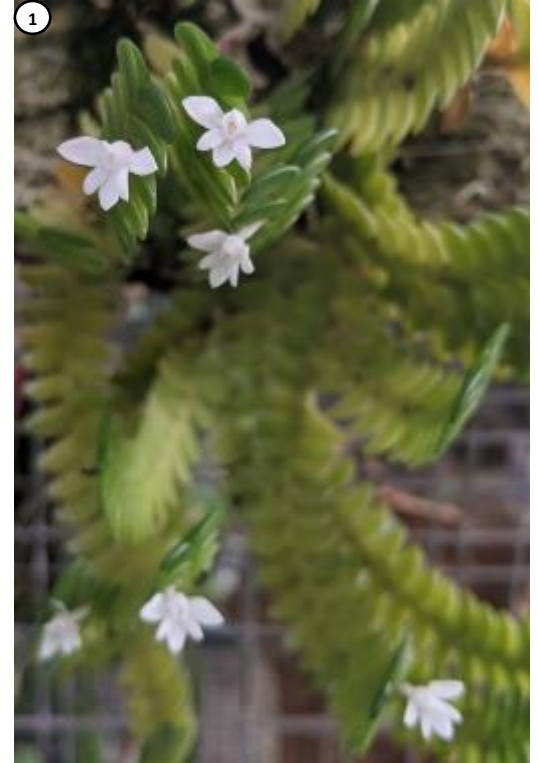


NCOS Member Brag Board



Grown Marc Levenson.

1. *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Susan Fender 'Cinnamon Sticks'
2. *Dendrobium* Trudy Brandt x Udom Blue Angel
3. *Cattleya* Angel Bells 'Suzie'
4. *Prosavola* Ethyle
5. *Guaricattonia* Morse Code



Grown by Al Pickrel.

1. *Angraecum* distichum
2. *Blc.* Mari's Glory 'H&R'
3. *Guarianthe* bowringiana var coerulea

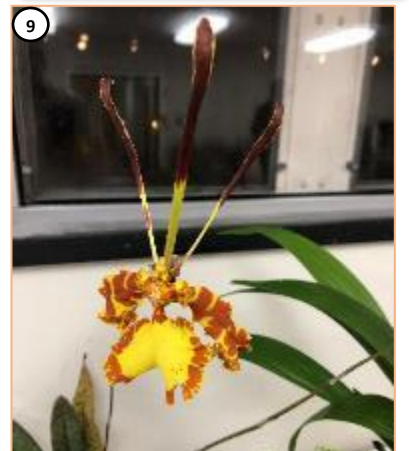


Grown by Piret Lai-Neubacher.
Phalaenopsis mirabilis



NCOS October Show Table

Unfortunately, we misplaced our records for the show table. Please enjoy these pictures and we will list the winners once we track down our records.



1. Oncidium Wild Cat 'Green Valley'

2. Dendrobium cuthbertsonii

3. Cattelya pumila 'Dark Star'

4. Paphiopedilum (helenae x villosum)

5. Coelogyne ovalis (Abbot and People's Choice)

6. Rossioglossum grande

7. Paphiopedilum liemianum

8. Maxillaria schunkeana

9. Psychopsis 'Mendenhall'



Monthly Culture Checklist

- If you were growing plants outside this summer and recently moved them back into your growing area, look for the emergence of any pests that didn't get picked up by your late season clean. Insects like Aphids and Mites can rapidly multiply once back in warmer conditions.
- Now is the time to start managing the development of flower spikes. Be on the look out for the newly emerging inflorescences and clear the way for them and begin staking them as they elongate to ensure a pleasing presentation and that they don't break with weight. Phalaenopsis, Bulldog Paphs, and Cymbidium are a few varieties that are beginning their bloom cycle.
- Hardy orchids should be dormant or almost there. Clean up debris around plants or leaves that have piled up over them and prepare them for the winter. Many Cypripedium will be susceptible to winter rots if material is left mounded on the crown of the plant.

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

Culture Column: Choosing Potting Media

For many growers, especially those just beginning to develop a collection, choosing the right potting media can be a challenge, there are a number of choices readily available on the market and no shortage of opinions about which is best for a collection. Whenever you are making a change in media, do it slowly. Test how your plant responds to the new mix in your growing area before moving them all over. This is a lesson many growers learn the hard way coming back from a conference or meeting where the virtues of a particular mix are extolled, disappointed only to discover that their growing area is too wet, dry, warm, etc. and their plants begin to fail.

When working to identify the right mix, you first must consider the plants you are growing. Look at the characteristics of your plants' roots. Plants with thicker roots have generally evolved in habitats where they aren't sitting with ready access to water. They are likely harvesting it either from passing showers or through atmospheric humidity. Phalaenopsis and Cattleya roots are good examples of this structure. Both plants are primarily epiphytes (growing on trees) and have thick roots designed to hold water in between water events. Thinner roots generally indicate that plant is used to accessing water in a more conventional way and more readily. The thinner roots are not designed to hold water as long for the plant. Both Phragmipedium and Masdevallia have thinner roots. Phragmipedium naturally grow in seepages and along stream banks. The roots have constant access to water making it so that they don't need to store as much for the plant. Masdevillia also have constant access to moisture. Naturally growing in the cloud forests of Central and South America, these plants grow in clumps of organic matter that are continually whetted by the clouds and fog lessening the plants need to store water for longer periods of time.

The next factor to consider is the conditions of your growing area. If you are growing with high humidity and a lot of water, mixes that allow for better drainage and air flow will help your plants thrive if it has low humidity, you will want to have a mix that retains water.

The chart on page 11 outlines some of the common materials available and the pros and cons of using each. You can use it as a guide as you work to match up a mix for your plants.



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Member Meetings Archives

Links to past presentations:

April 2021:

- Tom's African Adventures
- Tom Mirenda

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

July 2021

- Growing Semi-Hydro
- Linus Chen

September 2021

- Big Flowered Cattleyas
- Art Chadwick

October 2021

- Epidendrums: Amazingly Diverse...Wonderfully Worthwhile
- Dr. Bill Goldner

National Capital Judging Center



The National Capital Judging Center has reopened!

American Orchid Society Judges will be meeting each month to evaluate, and award outstanding flowers grown by our local enthusiasts.

Temporary Location:

North Chevy Chase Christian Church
8814 Kensington Parkway Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Dates:

- December 11th 8:30 AM to 4:30

Common Potting Media Choices

Type	Pros	Cons	General Notes
Bark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Versatile and can be adapted to several growing conditions. • Comes in various sizes allowing for air gaps as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once it begins to break down, conditions can become unfavorable for plant growth. • Selecting the wrong size can lead to conditions that are too wet or too dry. • Can influence mix pH negatively. 	Bark has been a mainstay in orchid culture for decades. Advances in harvesting techniques and resources have made it readily available commercially.
Tree Fern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for good air flow • Harvested both loose and in slabs allowing it to be a mount or incorporated in to mixes for pots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant roots can grow into the slabs making it very difficult to separate roots from decomposing material when it is time to repot. 	Slabs of tree fern will dry quickly with adequate air movement. This can be good if you need a material that allows for drying due to your conditions but, can cut the other way if you need it to retain moisture between watering.
Sphagnum Moss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light weight • Absorbs and holds moisture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If kept wet will decompose quickly and become a toxic growing environment. • Wide variance in quality, making it difficult to ensure high-quality material. 	Great for retaining water in mixes that need to be a little wetter but needs to be monitored for breakdown.
Expanded Clay Pellets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will not decay • Allows for good air movement in the pot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will hold salts over time making the mix toxic to plant roots 	There are a number of growers that use these exclusively and the fact that they don't decay can be very enticing. Using these, the plants will need consistent and regular watering to avoid drying out.
ProMix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good as an additive to improve moisture retention in a dry mix. • Easy to find 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds water and can become "soupy" if kept wet. • Will require a light hand when watering if using it as a primary potting media 	ProMix is very similar to standard potting mix. It works well as an additive to a loose mix and is frequently referenced as being too wet for most orchids (especially epiphytes), but some terrestrials will do well in it.



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

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 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.



Although [The Orchid Marketplace™](https://marketplace.aos.org/) is a curated collection of the world's top orchid, and related product vendors that offer a **minimum 5% discount** to ALL active AOS members, it is accessible to all orchid fanciers whether or not they are members. You will want to encourage everyone to browse this program often to look for Orchids, Jewelry, Books, Potting Media and more!

When members sign up for a two-year AOS membership they get **\$30 off a minimum \$100 purchase** from each Elite Partner (terms and conditions may apply). If you aren't a member, become an AOS members now to take advantage of this new member benefit.

This new, improved program will replace the Orchid Source Directory. It is designed to be mobile friendly, and fully searchable by keyword/genus, location, or featured products. <https://marketplace.aos.org/>



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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

Other Orchid Resources

- Orchid Digest
www.orciddigest.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
- Mather's Foundation
<https://orchid.foundation>

NCOS 2022 Board of Directors and Committee Chair Openings

<u>Board Roles</u> <i>(Elected)</i>	<u>Committee Roles</u> <i>(Appointed)</i>
President: Provide overall direction and leadership for the society by managing the general operations of the society and working with the board to ensure the functions of the society are maintained.	Finance Chair: Lead the finance committee and work collaboratively with the Treasurer manage the finances of the society.
Vice President: Support the President and the Director at Large in execution of the society's operations. Take on the duties of the President in their absence.	Away Shows Chair: Coordinate the society's efforts in attending, installing, and breaking down orchid displays at other societies' shows.
Director at Large: Support the President and the Vice President in execution of the society's operations.	Show Table Chair: Organize the monthly show table including, maintaining supplies, selecting Judges, and presenting results.

If you have any questions about or are interested in or know of someone who would be great in one of the roles above, please email membership.ncos@gmail.com