



Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

November 2018

President's Message November 2018

As your president I have been long anticipating the visit of our November speaker Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in Lincoln California. This is the first time CJOS has been involved with other societies to bring a speaker from so far away. Much credit and thanks goes to Chris Bevins who spent many hours and sent innumerable emails arranging Alan's visit. Alan did not disappoint. He was as knowledgeable as any orchid person that I have ever met. Alan was engaging, informative and just a pleasure to listen to and learn from. What was also wonderful was his willingness to interact with our members on an individual basis. He was worth the extra expense to bring him to New Jersey.

All paid up members should have received Tamara's Punchbowl Invitation to our Holiday Party. The event will be at the time of regularly scheduled December meeting. Please respond promptly so Tam and Mary Ann can get an idea of what you will be bringing and

how many people we will attending. Remember each member can bring a guest. There will be orchid gifts for everyone. I know it will be a little difficult but we plan to have a show table. There will also be a raffle.



Paph Spicerianum- Terry Stimpfel

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Augustine Orchid Society

Meetings and Events

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at the at the Johnson Education Center (D&R Greenway Land Trust) One Preservation Place Princeton, NJ 08540

Sept: Mary Jo Gilsdorf :“Adaptive Potting Techniques and Other Cultural Tips”. **Will have Plant for sale**

Oct: Greg Griffis:
Jewel orchids and other Terrestrials

Nov: Allan Koch: Gold Coast Orchids

Dec: Holiday Party

Jan: Paul Sheetz: Unifoliate Cattleya, How to Identify and distinguish them

Feb: Beth Davis: What is a Beth Orchid?

March: 2019 Bob Sprague: Orchid Trivia.

Apr: TBA

May: Annual Question and Answer Session

June: Annual CJOS Picnic

Officers and Committee's:

President -David Rosenfeld
orchidoc@comcast.net

Vice President -Chris Bevins
njinsptr28@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Secretary -Anne Skalka
anne@skalkacpa.com

Refresments – Joy Gabriel
joy.a.gabriel76@gmail.com

Editor Newsletter- Ed Frankel
Edsharkf@yahoo.com

JUDGING November2018

Cattleya

1. BLC Mem Victoria Kam 'Fascination' HCCAOS
Elaine and Charlie Westhofer



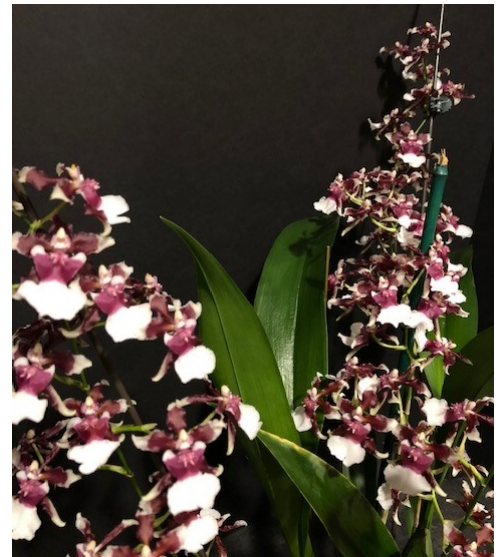
2. BLC George King 'Serendipity'
AM AOS (Buttercup x C Bob Betts)-
Elaine and Charlie Westhofer

3. Cat Valentine V. Coerulen 'Billy B'-
Alex Matthews



Den/Onc

1. **Oncidium Heaven Scent 'Redolence'**
Larry Steele



2. **Odontoglossum Mystic Maze-**
Karen Kennedy



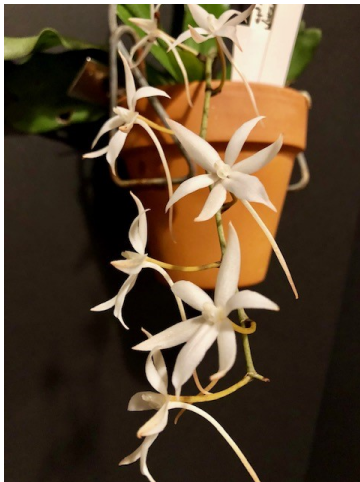
3. **Brassidium Eternal Wind-**
Elaine and Charlie Westhofer

Phal/Vanda

1. Asconda No ID- Joe thomas



Species



1. *Aerangis biloba* 'Senegal Spectacle' CCM AOS- Pam Frankel

2. *Pteroceras semitertifolium*
Chris Bevins



Paph/Phrag

1. **Paph Hilo Raspberry x B525 – George Wallace**



2. **Paph Prime Child- Anne Skalka**



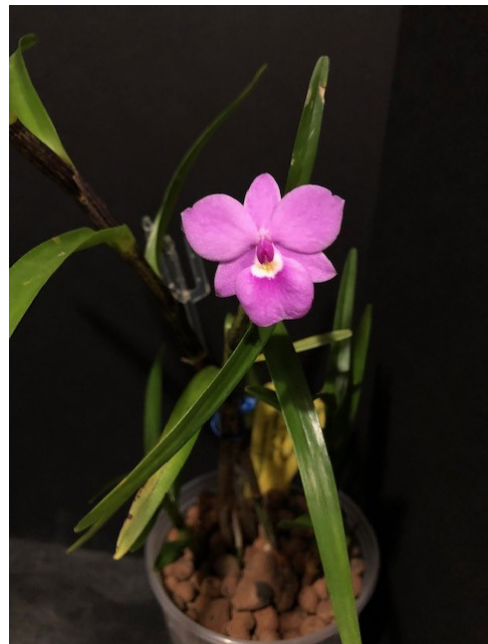
3. **Paph spicerianum- Terry Stimpfel (Also orchid of the month!)**

Other

1. *Masdevallia Coccinea* hybrid- Joe Thomas



2. *Masdevallia* No ID- Joe Thomas



3. *Dimeranda stenopetala*- Luanne Arico

Orchid of the Month



Paph spicerianum- Terry Stimpfel

We haven't had a volunteer for a while please consider taking some pictures.

How Do You Grow?

Each month, I would like to show a member's growing methods/conditions. We started with ours. Please send me pictures of your growing conditions (summer/winter)

edsharkf@yahoo.com No submission this month. Let's get some pictures of your growing space

Orchid Events

Upcoming AOS Webinars



Our next webinar...

Wednesday, December 12th, 2018
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Judging Vandas with Robert Fuchs

What makes a great Vanda?

[REGISTER NOW](#) [LEARN MORE](#) [Sign](#)

[In to Register/ Watch Now](#)

Please Support AOS and Join as a member

AOS.org

**American Orchid Society
Northeast Judging Center
Orchid Auction
Save the Date!
*December 15, 2018***

Plant preview

9:30am

Bidding

starts

10:30am

**Please bring your checkbook
or cash as we cannot accept
credit cards.**



**The Frelinghuysen
Arboretum
353 East Hanover Ave,
Morris Township, NJ
07960**

**Over 100 Plants
Many rare or hard-to-
find orchids from
private collections**

Free admission, parking and complimentary lunch buffet

The following is reprinted from the St Augustine Orchid Society

Summary of Fred Clark's Sunset Orchids talk at SAOS November meeting

SAOS Program. Courtney introduced our evenings speaker, Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids who spoke on "Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower." The two met when Fred came to talk to the North Carolina Orchid Societies. Courtney said he has always been fascinated by Fred's hybrids, including his black flowered Fredclarkeara After Dark. Fred thanked Courtney and then passed around a sign up sheet for those that want to be on his mailing list to receive special announcements and random newsletters.

Fred then proceeded to explain to us the top four things he believes are essential in growing orchids: watering (most important), light, temperature and proper repotting. These four items together are responsible for 80% of your orchid growing success. He proceeded to tell us that the things he was going to tell us we probably already know but perhaps have not focused on. First truth about orchids: they live on sides of trees which means the orchid is well drained, the roots are well drained and dry out fast, leaves and roots are accustomed to lots of air movement, the plants don't receive a lot of nutrients from the side of a tree, and therefore the roots are quite good at capturing moisture and nutrients quickly.

Fred stated that watering and fertilizing are the same thing to the orchid plant. The first watering practice is irrigation frequency which one determines by water holding capacity of potting media, size of the pot and the plants requirements. It's best to pot in similar media throughout your growing area so your watering occurs for most of your plants at the same time. The quantity one uses to water depends upon how fast the pot drains. You want to flush 30-35% of the container's volume through the pot rapidly or at a rate that is faster than the water drains out. This pushes the air around your media out and then when drained allows air to come back in. He also fertilizes every time he waters using a weak solution of 1/2 tsp/gal. The first water an orchid receives in nature is loaded with nutrients so your first water should have fertilizer. Once a month, irrigate your plants heavily, wait an hour, then water heavily again with no fertilizer. Another obvious truth: plants in active growth get more watering and those in a rest period get less (water and fertilizer).

15 Cal Mag fertilizer.

Orchids grow in filtered, and direct sunlight with seasonal changes. In the summer, the light is usually 10,000 foot candles where in the winter it drops to 7,000 fc. Fred uses 75% shade cloth in the summer and changes to 55% in winter. He makes his shade cloth changes in May and October. If you are growing indoors, it is best to use growing lights and to change duration they are turned on to simulate the day length outside. Someone in the audience suggested downloading an application for your phone that is a light meter.

Fred uses orchid bark and perlite as his media. The bark provides organic matter, and also pH buffering. It improves cation exchange and supports microbial activity. Orchid bark and perlite are relatively inexpensive and don't decay rapidly (in California). He matches the bark size to the pot size, e.g. smaller pot, smaller bark. Fred normally mixes bark to perlite in a ratio of 3:1 but if the plant requires more water he increases the ratio to 4:1.

Repotting occurs when new roots are showing (not two weeks later). He showed a photo where the roots were barely 1/2" long as an example of when to repot. Select a pot size to allow for 3 years growth. Do not damage the new roots with rough removal of old media either by using hands, forceful flushing, or poking with chop sticks. Green root tips damage easily and need to be gently placed in pot and filled with media using a gentle tapping to get the media to settle around the roots. Don't push down. Last thing to do is date the new plant tag with the date the roots first appeared so you will know about when you will need to repot again.

Fred closed by reminding us all that we are curators of our orchid collections. As curators we have the multi-tasking job of being responsible for the care, selection, organizing and display of our art (orchids). It also means we have the responsibility of discarding plants we no longer enjoy. Once we do this, we will have more space to rearrange, showcase our favorites and find new orchids to grow.



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. I bought this orchid on eBay. Is this anthracnose on the leaf, and if so, what should I use. I don't want to spend a fortune on chemicals.



A1. Yes, that's anthracnose, you can tell by the little dark dots between the darker bands, they are the fungal spores. Cut the discoloration off the leaves about an inch below the discoloration with a single edged razor blade. If the eBay seller sent this plant with obvious anthracnose, don't buy from them again.

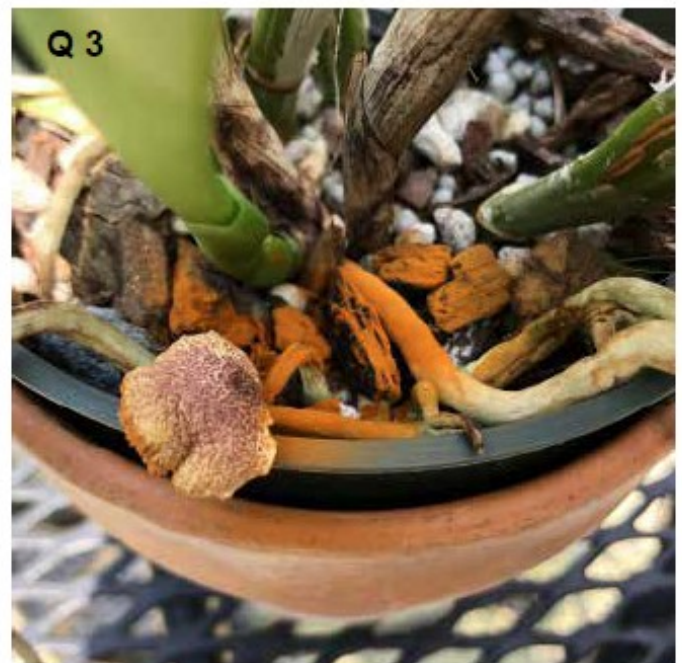
Q2. I got a dendrobium last week from the local farmers market. It has lovely blooms! But the root/pot is packed tight with sphagnum moss, and I worry it will lead to root rot if it's not repotted soon. Water is definitely not draining easily from the pot, it just gets sucked into the medium like a sponge.

However, I understand that dendrobiums are sensitive to repotting and it should only be done when new shoots are sprouting. The plant is currently in full bloom. What would you suggest in this situation?



A2. The roots look fine, and I'm guessing you can pick up the plant by the cane with no wobble in the pot, so the roots are nicely established. If water doesn't drain easily from the pot, the sphagnum is probably packed tight and perhaps is getting older, so just be careful with watering until it is time to repot. I would let it bloom out and then wait til you see the beginnings of new roots, and then put it into your mix of choice. You could pull it out of the plastic pot now and just drop it into a slightly larger clay pot too, until it is time to do the real repotting.

Q3. I can't identify this strange growth at the growing medium level. I have been growing orchids for several years, but this has stumped me. Can I still properly mount it and regrow the roots?



A3. That looks like a mushroom growing on some decaying bark, and the orange spores are sitting on top of the media. I suspect it is time to put that cattleya in some fresh mix!

CULTIVATION



Natural Pest Control Courtney's Growing Tips

Have you ever considered growing your orchids using natural controls for disease and pests? There are a number of articles in orchid growing magazines suggesting various ways to use natural mechanisms in managing an orchid collection, but they are difficult to use and certainly not 100% effective.

Commercial greenhouses typically go the other direction, trying to maintain as sterile a growing area as possible, no pests, weeds or disease. Their goal is to produce perfect looking plants that can pass any inspection when shipped. Most do a great job, but use many different control measures that are not always the best for the environment or people. They succeed largely because they only grow the orchids for a relatively short period of time and then they start over with new seedlings.

Those of us who maintain collections and plants, some of which may be a 100+ years old, do not have the luxury of starting out with pest or disease-free plants every season. We get whatever comes with the plant when we acquire these old clones and divisions. On the other hand, we are not in business to grow plants quickly or to produce perfect looking plants for sale to the public.

A few decades ago, farmers in the U.S. adopted a strategy of not using pesticides or herbicides until the problem reached the point where not treating cost more than letting the problem continue. As a result, pesticide and herbicide use declined and farmers made more money; a perfect win-win for farmers and the environment.

This has been my approach for many years. My greenhouse is home to several dozen anole lizards (brown and green), Mediterranean geckos (nothing like the GEICO one), hundreds of cricket frogs that are just a 1/2" in size, a few green tree frogs, 3 or 4 toads that frequent the damp areas under the benches, and a snake or two (which may explain where one of the toads went).

The fact that these predators seem to maintain a healthy population suggests that they have plenty to eat. When I visit my greenhouse at night, I find a few insects on the surface of the media, but not many. My predators feed on



Pest chewed on orchid bloom

any small insect they find during the day and night. None of these predators impact cattleya scale at all, so I use a hormonal pesticide (Distance) for control. This spray doesn't seem to impact any of my predators.

An orchid-growing friend asked me if I ever had problems with thrips. In the past, there have been one or two incidents, but the thrips just disappear fairly quickly. I found some on a Camellia flower bud last week and decided to try an experiment I hope I do not regret. I placed the flower bud, thrips and all, in my greenhouse in a flower tube. When I came back in 15 minutes or so one of the Carolina anoles (green ones) was on the bud and not a thrip was to be found. The lizard looked happy too.

The only other pest problems my natural predators seem unable to handle are roaches (huge roaches, called palmetto bugs here in Florida) and slugs. While toads will eat slugs, toads tend to stay on the ground, while slugs love to get in the bottoms of pots. Both of these beasts love to eat new roots and flowers. Looks like I need to find just one more predator to add to my menagerie; one that is not afraid of palmetto bugs and slugs that feeds at night. Any ideas?

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from November 2010.

CULTIVATION

Beginners Start Here

by Ken Slump, reprinted with permission
courtesy of the American Orchid Society

If you are new to the orchid hobby and perhaps feel you are not enjoying the success with your plants that you had hoped for, read through these suggestions and see if you can find an idea or two that will help you turn your hobby in the right direction.

1. Start accumulating an orchid library. If you do not already own some, find books on growing orchids. Purchase them and read them. You can shop for new titles at a local bookstore or on line at www.aos.org, the Society's site that offers links to Amazon.com and OrchidsBooks.com.

The best book choices for beginners are often the comparatively inexpensive paperback volumes that are frequently part of a series produced by garden supply manufacturers. You are looking for books that will introduce you to the major groups of orchids, and briefly explain the general growing conditions that they need to be successfully cultivated in a home environment or hobby greenhouse. Such books usually include chapters explaining how different types of orchid plants grow, how and when to repot them, and some basic information about watering, fertilization and pest control.

Do not overlook a visit to your nearest local used book store as well. Or visit used-book shops on line and travel afar from the comfort of your own home. Many useful books written on orchid growing in recent decades are now out of print. The techniques for growing orchids have not changed much of late. Nomenclature, however, has changed. There may be some unfamiliar and outdated plant names encountered in some of the older titles, particularly if you are enough of an orchid newcomer to be familiar only with the orchid nomenclature of the last couple of years. Still, many of these books contain much valuable information, and some of them are, to me, irreplaceable.

It is possible that books have become obsolete for some who may prefer to gather their information via the information super highway known as the Internet. I am sure that can work just as well, but I wonder if hopping between Web sites and jumping in and out of various chat rooms and forums provides the clarity and focused point of view that a good author or editor can lend to a well-written book, especially if you are a beginner.

2. Establish a good and sensible basic cultural regime for your orchids. By reading and gathering information, you should gain an appreciation for the environment necessary to grow orchids and should determine how you will supply those conditions for your plants.



Orchid shows provide good opportunities to view flowering plants and meet others with a passion for orchids.

I would recommend that you make a decision about the growing medium you intend to use for your plants. Most growers favor some type of mix. The best growing medium for you will depend to a large extent on your environment for growing orchids. The type of pot you use, how you care for your plants, and even the area of the country in which you live also affect which type of growing mix, and what ratio of ingredients is best for you.

Start with a basic or standard medium that can often be purchased premixed. Vary it only as you add orchids with special growing requirements or determine a problem with your plants that you feel certain is related to the conditions in the root zone.

When getting started, it is a good idea to make a schedule for routine tasks such as watering and fertilizing. Good growers eventually come to appreciate when it is time to give their plants an extra watering or skip a day or two, but in the early stages, you will probably avoid the disasters associated with overwatering if you stick to the calendar. At the risk of overgeneralization, I would suggest that watering twice a week is sufficient.

3. Check your plants frequently. If you are like most who are bitten by the orchid bug, you will find yourself spending time with your plants daily. This is a good habit to develop. Resist the temptation to water your plants on your daily inspections or you will soon be looking forward to buying new plants. Instead, take time to carefully look over the plants and you will learn much from them. You will begin to appreciate when the plants are in active growth and when they are resting. You will learn to marvel at the development of orchid roots and the formation of new leads, leaves and flowers.

Keep a vigilant eye out for signs of pests and disease. Be sure to periodically examine the underside of foliage and

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Spending time with your orchid collection allows you to go over the plants to make sure they are receiving the proper care needed for growth and flowering.

turn plants to examine the parts that are turned from your view — that is where the pests always seem to hide. Learn to recognize the signs of a plant under stress and try to determine how to modify the environment to alleviate that stress. At the same time, appreciate which of your plants are thriving, and consider why they are doing well.

4. Do not overcrowd your collection of orchid plants. Crowded plants suffer for sufficient light and the good air movement that produces healthy orchid plants. They are more prone to diseases, and pest problems spread more quickly among them. I am not saying that your plants should never touch, but you should be able to recognize each of your orchid plants as an individual when you look upon them. Plants with sufficient space around them are not only healthier, but are also easier to examine and maintain.

5. Avoid acquiring too many different types of orchids too quickly. The orchid family is a huge one, unquestionably with something for everyone. When starting out, stick with some of the more popular and basic types. These are the ones you will find discussed in your beginner orchid books. After you gain success with those you can branch out into some of the more unusual and esoteric types. For the first year or two, it is a good idea to learn to grow the popular sorts and thus gain an appreciation for what might be called “basic orchid culture”

6. Let your orchid success lead you to new orchid acquisitions. As your experience with orchids accumulates, you will likely observe that some plants in your collection are out-performing others. Each grower seems to have a knack for cultivating certain kinds of orchids. When you discover yours, go with it. Seek additional orchid species or hybrids of the same or similar type. You may want to research a hybrid orchid’s lineage and look to its parents or descendants for compatible plants. Although this approach to building a successful collection may seem simple and

obvious, far too many doggedly insist on attempting to grow orchids that do not succeed for them and eventually reach the point of being sufficiently discouraged to give up the hobby entirely.

7. Purchase blooming-sized orchid plants whenever possible. Small, young orchid plants may take several years to reach flowering size, and it is likely that flowering will occur only if growing conditions are ideal. In most cases, it is easier to sustain a mature plant than it is to nurture a young one and you will not have to wonder if your plant is failing to bloom because it is immature or whether growing conditions are unfavorable.

The best way to know a plant is flowering size is to purchase it in flower, although a mature plant that has bloomed will often bear evidence of that. Buying a plant in bloom also guarantees that the flower you get is the one you are expecting, as some orchid species and hybrids exhibit considerable variability.

Blooming-size orchid plants are unquestionably more expensive than their juvenile counterparts, but I think they are worth it. This is particularly true for beginners who may not have the patience to wait for a few years for their orchids to start producing flowers.

8. Keep some records on your orchid collection. It is the best way to help monitor your progress and assist you in keeping up with routine tasks.

Record keeping does not have to be extensive or involve a lot of technology to be useful. A few basic bits of information kept on a pot label often suffices. Most importantly, you need to have the name of the plant written legibly and indelibly. Other useful data might include the date the plant was acquired, where it was purchased, when it was in flower, the number of flowers it produced and the date the plant was last repotted. Some growers also like to keep track of the fertilizer schedule for their plants as well as any treatments the plant may have received for pests and diseases.

This may seem like a lot of information for a plastic pot label, so some growers maintain card files or small databases on the plants in their collections. The amount of information you record is a personal decision, but at the very least, in addition to the plant’s name, you should keep track of its repotting date to help prioritize your efforts at repotting time.



Buying plants in flower lets you see the quality of the flower.

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9. Admit your failures. Cull your collection regularly of those plants that are struggling and slowly dying. Many declining orchids seem to be able to cling to life for months or years, yet I do not think I have ever seen anyone bring one back from the brink of death to become a thriving, healthy specimen. Do not try to pass off such plants to a friend or unsuspecting novice, or worse yet, donate them to the divisions table at your orchid society to resell or give away.

These plants need to go to the trash or compost heap, but try to learn from your mistakes. Attempt to determine why the plant declined. Perhaps it was a cultural problem that you have now solved so that you might succeed in the future with the same or a similar orchid plant. If, on the other hand, you suspect that the orchid failed due to limitations of your growing environment or some inability on your part to understand how to grow it, you would perhaps be well advised to avoid adding that sort of orchid to your collection in the future, at least until you are able to learn more and modify your cultural practices.

10. Join your nearest orchid society, one of the best places to learn about growing orchids. There you should find all levels of orchid growing expertise and experts who can advise you on how to grow orchids well in the particular area in which you live. You can find a list of affiliated societies online at the AOS Web site (www.aos.org) under "Affiliates."

Do not be discouraged if your first visit to an orchid society meeting feels a bit like a visit abroad. Orchid growers speak their own language and it takes a bit of time to understand and appreciate some of the terminology and nomenclature.

Orchid societies vary in their operation and organization, but most are welcoming of new members. Be sure to arrive a bit early when you make your first appearance at an orchid society meeting. Make sure you introduce yourself and let some of the members know you are new and interested in learning more about how to grow orchids successfully and are interested in how their organization might enhance that effort.

Thriving societies usually have a variety of activities that occur during the course of their meetings. Many have special events and sessions for novice members, too. As you become better acquainted and involved in the organization, you will likely make lasting friendships and find opportunities to participate in activities such as orchid shows and visits to orchid growers, both commercial and private.

While it seems harder and harder in today's world to find time to join and participate in a special interest club such as a local orchid society, most who join and get involved will tell you it is a thoroughly rewarding experience. If you are not already a member, you should also join the American Orchid Society (www.aos.org).

11. Seek answers to your questions and solutions to your problems. People can and do successfully grow orchids in residential environments in an amazing variety of ways. If you are not enjoying success, there are individuals and groups out there that should be able to help. Look to orchid societies, libraries, greenhouses and garden centers, botanic gardens and the Internet for help. Gather information and try to sort out the best of it, being aware that too much information can be more confusing than too little. Perhaps the best advice for a struggling orchidist might be to simplify things as much as possible, both in the number and kinds of plants being cultivated, as well as to simplify their cultural practices. Many orchids, indeed, thrive on neglect.

12. Visit an orchid show. You can locate one near you by checking the calendar in *Orchids* magazine or looking on the AOS Web site. A bit of a drive will be worth it. At the show you will have opportunities to meet and learn from orchid enthusiasts, to see and acquire beautiful orchids and to be inspired. It is virtually guaranteed to renew your enthusiasm for your orchid hobby.



Inspecting plants enables growers to watch for signs of pests and disease as well as other ailments, such as desiccation.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine, in March 2007 (Vol.76-3, pp. 178-180).