Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2019

September 2019 President's Message

On September 4 CJOS will have the first meeting of our 53rd year. We have been in existence for more than half a century and have more members than ever. We are approaching 60 members. I hope this membership goal can be achieved during the upcoming year, which will be my 6th and last as your president. If we reach this number our membership will have almost doubled during my tenure.

Chris Bevins has gathered an excellent list of speakers for the upcoming season starting with orchid judge Ed Weber in September and Wade Hollenbach in October. As in previous years Tamara Lee and Mary Ann Kolov will organize our wonderful December Holiday Party and our June picnic. We will continue to have our monthly raffle with orchids provided by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. Our monthly show/judging table has had an ever increasing number of wonderful plants each year and I am sure this will continue.

Ed Frankel will continue to send out his monthly newsletters and don't forget to check our web site and Facebook pages for information posted by George Wallace.

Just a reminder **OUR MEETING TIME HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 7 PM.**

Joan and I look forward to welcoming everybody at our September meeting.

CJOS at Duke Garden Orchid House

Newsletter Contents

Meetings and Events 2019-2020

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 **At new Time 7:00PM**

Sept: **Ed Weber**: Names in the Orchid World

Oct Richard Ho

Nov: Wade Hollenbach

Dec: Holiday Party

Jan: David Off of Waldor Orchids

Feb: Bayard Saraduke

March: Webinar

Apr: Potting Party.

May: Panel Discussion

June: Annual CJOS Picnic

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2020 September: Webinar
2020 October : Joe Silva of Silva's Orchids

September Speaker

Ed Weber BIO:

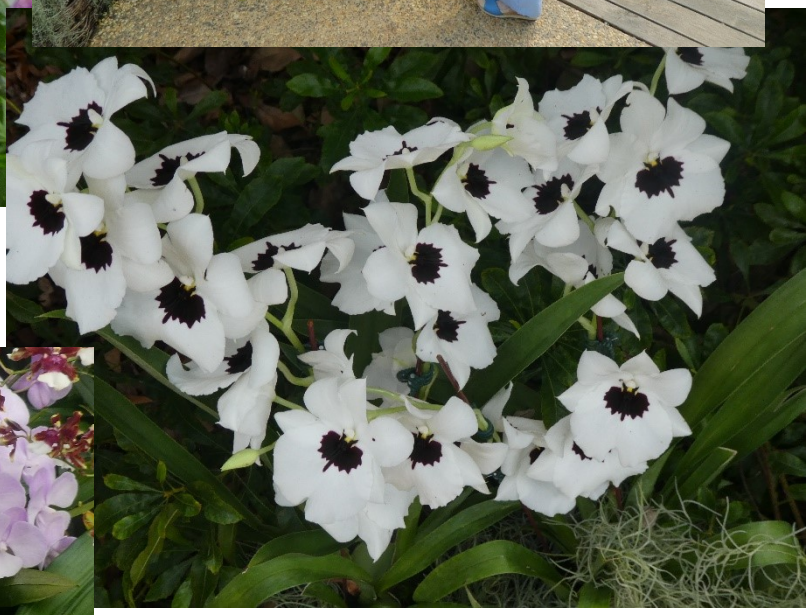
Ed Weber is an accredited American Orchid Society judge based in the Mid-Atlantic judging center in Philadelphia. He has been growing orchids since 1999 and has concentrated on many different genera at different times since then. Most recently he has returned to his original joy, mini-cattleya and other small species and hybrids. He has had the pleasure of travelling to Ecuador twice to see orchids in their native habitat. He is a past president of the Greater Philadelphia Orchid Society. **Remember new Society starting time 7:00 PM**

CJOS at Duke Garden Saturday August 17, 2019

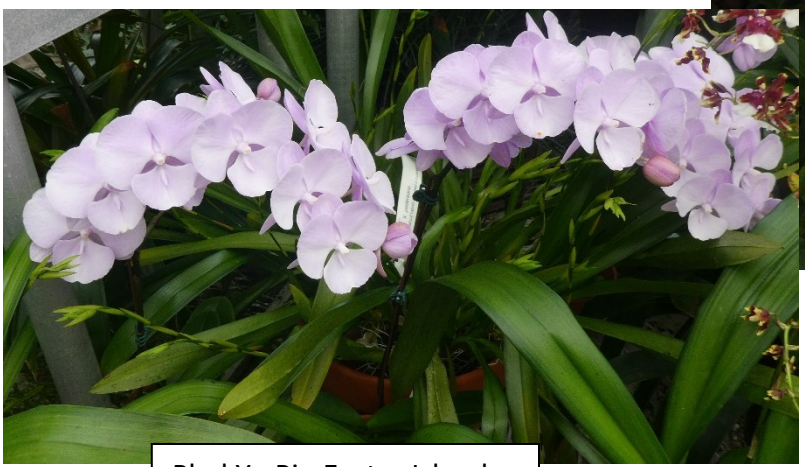
Vanilla pod

Ctsm

Dtps Charm Sun Big Red Robe
(Peloric)



Miltoniopssi Lillian Nakamoto



Phal Yu Pin Easter Island

No Judging over the summer

An Unusual Orchid

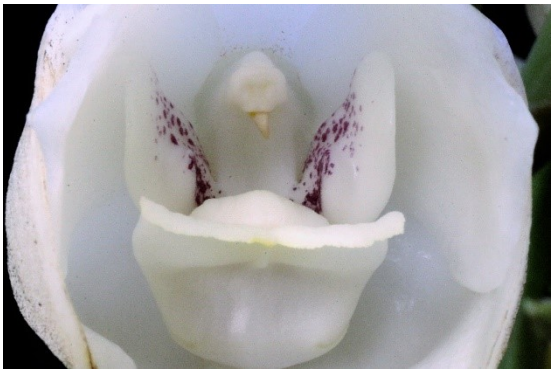
Peristeria elata

(David and Joan Rosenfeld's Collection)

Jun18th Spike just starting Bulb size of a hand

Bulb size of cantaloupe August

Spike 5 foot long



Close up of flower

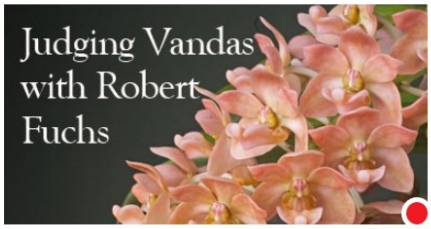
From AOS:

The Holy Ghost or Dove Orchid (***Peristeria elata***) is the most widely known member of this small genus. The first plants of ***Peristeria*** were sent to England in 1826 and were flowered in 1831. William J. Hooker, when describing the genus, named it ***Peristeria*** after the Greek word meaning dove, due to the likeness of a dove that appears in the flowers. ***Peristeria*** elata is the national flower of Panama.

This group of sympodial, terrestrial or epiphytic orchids has large, almost-teardrop-shaped pseudobulbs. Four or five massive pleated leaves arise from the apex of each pseudobulb. The inflorescence arising from the base of the pseudobulb may be pendulous or erect and from 6 inches (15 cm) to 4 feet (120 cm) long, bearing 4 to 20 flowers. The base color of the flowers is white or yellowish with some pink or red spots.Other species in this genus include ***Peristeria rossiana*** (synonym ***P. aspersa***), ***P. cerina*** and ***P. pend***

American Orchid Society

Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members



Judging Vandas with Robert Fuchs

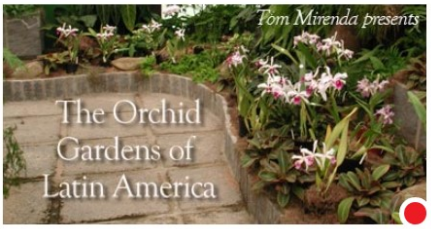
Robert Fuchs

Tuesday, August 27th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Greenhouse Chat September 2019

Ron McHatton

Thursday, September 5th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT



Orchid Gardens of Latin American

Tom Mirenda

Wednesday, September 18th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Monthly AOS Checklist for September and October

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from Cattleya labiata breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Remember new Society starting time 7:00 PM

Cycnoches chlorochilon, the green swan orchid.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

Dendrobium Burana Stripe is a popular and easy phalaenopsis-type hybrid.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium* canaliculatum types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. Dendrobium phalaenopsis can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Rhynchostele bictoniensis

Both *Rhynchostele bictoniensis* and its *hybrids* bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum, Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in Odcdm. Bittersweet and Odm. bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilumt

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande shows off its large, dramatic flowers.

Rossioglossum grande

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Remember new Society starting time 7:00 PM

The following is reprinted from the St Augustine Orchid Society

June 2019

CULTIVATION

Orchid Potting Media

by Sue Bottom

There are no orchid pots dangling from trees in the wild. They naturally grow mounted to some surface where they get the amount of light, air, and water they need to thrive. Some people can mimic these situations and grow beautiful plants on orchid mounts. I have better results growing orchids in pots rather than mounts, so a lot of time is spent creating the 'perfect' potting mix. In addition to supporting the orchid in its pot, your potting mix has to do several things well:

- The mix should hold some moisture while being well drained and providing ample air around the roots

- The mix should hold and supply some nutrients, usually accomplished by having some organic material

- It should maintain its physical structure for two or more years

Orchid growers are always creating and recreating the potting mixes they use for their orchids. Some people use a purely inorganic mix while others use a purely organic mix. We use a blend of organic and inert substances in our mixes. These are the basic components used and why.

Inert Materials used in orchid potting mixes include substances like charcoal, clay pebbles (Hydroton, Aliflor, LECA), lava rock, perlite/sponge rok and styrofoam. They are sold in various grades and sizes. The coarser the material, the more pockets of air there will be around the roots. The basic purpose of the inert materials is to improve drainage in the pot. These materials are not particularly water retentive so more frequently irrigations are required, although lava rock holds more water than the other materials. These inert materials tend to be stable over time. They don't contain biodegradable constituents so they will not decompose, compact and suffocate the roots. They often have large surface areas on which salts can be adsorbed so it is important to flush the excess salts from the pots once or twice a month, or by routinely watering and then watering a second time an hour later.

There are many ways to use these inert materials, either alone or as a component in your potting mixes. Charcoal can be used as a potting mix. Fine grades are often used in very small pots for Tolumnias, while large chunks can be used in pots or baskets for vandaceous orchids. Lava rock can be used for many types of orchids, usually alone in the pot with a top dressing of cypress mulch or sphagnum moss for more moisture retention. You have to grade the lava rock as it is removed from the bag and use smaller pieces with seedlings and young plants and the larger chunks for larger plants. Clay pebbles are often used in semihydroponic culture for a wide variety of orchids. Outdoor growers often elect to use clay pebbles with no organic matter to prevent the mix from breaking down during extended rainy periods. Sponge rok is most commonly used as additive to potting mixes to open the mix and promote drainage. Styrofoam in the form of Styrofoam packing peanuts is often used for drainage in the bottom of the pot. The softer Styrofoam from packing materials can also be used this way, or it can be broken into smaller pieces and used as a component in your potting mix to promote drainage, as is often done in Australia.

Organic Components. While the inert components tend to have similar properties, the organic components often used in mixes are highly variable. The primary purpose of the organic material is to increase moisture and nutrient holding capacity. You have to balance the water holding ability of a mix with its aeration capacity to ensure the roots can breathe.

Bark. Bark, a waste product from the timber industry, became a popular orchid media when Osmunda fiber became rare. There are a variety of barks made from Monterrey pine (Orchiata, Kiwi Bark), Douglas fir (Rexius), Sequoia, etc. that undergo various levels of heat treatment, chemical addition and sorting. The current darling is Orchiata bark made from Monterrey Pine (*Pinus radiata)*, which is supplemented with dolomite to stabilize the pH and provide calcium and magnesium. Bark tends to be difficult to wet at first, and you may see recommendations to presoak the bark. However, a newly repotted orchid requires less water while the root system recovers from the transplant shock. This initial period of dryness actually encourages the growth of new roots that are seeking out moisture. Keeping the root mass drier until the repotting wounds seal over also prevents water borne pathogens from entering the plant. After a few weeks, the bark will hold a little moisture around the roots. As the bark starts to slowly break down, it will begin to retain more and more

moisture until it ultimately becomes spongy at which point the roots are at risk of becoming sodden. Most barks will resist degradation for at least 18 to 24 months. Fred Clarke says his Kiwi bark lasts for 3 to 4 years under his growing conditions.

Some orchid growers have had success growing in a pure bark mixture, but I am not among their ranks. Bark is usually about 30% of the SAOS coarse mix used to grow cattleyas, dendrobiums, etc. The other 70% is clay pebbles, sponge rok and charcoal. This mix is very open and freely draining so the environment around the roots is airy. The bark helps retain some moisture, and being a serial overwaterer, the plants get plenty of water and nutrients. For those that water less frequently, more bark or perhaps some shredded sphagnum moss would increase the mix's water holding capacity.

Sphagnum Moss. There is only one kind of sphagnum moss you should ever consider buying or using for your orchids, and that is long fibered New Zealand sphagnum moss. If it does not say those magic words, do not buy it. Besgrow is the largest purveyor of this high-grade sphagnum moss. Unless you are doing Japanese Fukuran, search for the Premier Besgrow moss (AAA grade), rather than the more widely available and minimally acceptable Classic Besgrow moss (AA grade). Fluff the compressed moss and wet it before repotting. Sphagnum moss has good moisture and nutrient availability encouraging good plant growth. Watering does not have to be as frequent because the moss does not dry out quickly. If packed loosely, it will hold more water than when it is tightly packed. Lower fertilization rates may be used because the moss retains nutrients. The higher the quality of the moss and the purer the water, the longer the life of the moss, typically 2 to 4 years for AAA moss. Long fibered New Zealand Sphagnum Moss is an ideal potting material in certain situations and for certain types of orchids. It is great for deflasking seedlings, compromised root systems, winter dormant orchids like catasetums, phalaenopsis, in smaller pots and as a top dressing.

Pro-Mix. Peat based soilless mixtures like Pro-Mix are a blend of chunky peat moss and perlite. Pro-Mix HP is a high porosity peat-based growing medium that has high air capacity and extra drainage. Some blends contain beneficial mycorrhizal inoculum (*Glomus intraradices*) and/or biofungicide (*Bacillus pumilus* - strain GHA-180). When dry, Pro-Mix is difficult to wet properly, but with several waterings, it can hold large amounts of water. For those looking for an alternative to growing phals in sphagnum moss, Pro-Mix is a good choice. It is water retentive, but not as water retentive as sphagnum moss so the potential danger of overwatering is lessened. Roots adapted to sphagnum moss can transition easily to a Pro-Mix blend. We create a custom blend of half Pro-Mix and half coarse sponge rok to improve aeration and drainage. Water as the Pro-Mix approaches dryness. Top dressing with sphagnum moss or cypress mulch will help prevent its tendency to wash out of the pot.

In "At the Root of Growing Healthy Orchids." Xavier Garreau de Loubresse compares the roots of phalaenopsis grown in different media, comparing one in coarse charcoal to one in Sphagnum moss:

As an example, charcoal does not retain water well, therefore irrigation will need to be more frequent to provide both water and nutrients to the roots. The plant may end up producing more roots to provide a higher amount of surface area on which to absorb water and nutrients required. Both the leaves and the roots will become tougher which helps prevent water loss. Phalaenopsis will also grow tougher aerial roots in other potting types too, these roots allow the plant to survive well and cope with extremely dry conditions. However, under stress the plant will not grow to its optimum. Many growers also believe that charcoal can 'freshen' the medium but it has been shown that over time charcoal may absorb salts and water impurities. This may have a detrimental effect on plant growth after six months.

For plants grown in Sphagnum moss and rockwool where there is good moisture and nutrient availability, the roots do not have to go far in search of water. The roots will be softer and able to take up nutrients and water more easily as it becomes available. The roots will not require fat 'skin layers', technically known as 'velamen' as the water is constantly available. Overall growth will be fast and the plant is likely to produce fewer roots in a 'lazy' manner. Irrigation will not need to be as frequent as the medium does not dry out as quickly. However these roots are not protected from dry conditions as they are soft so the plant must never dry out or the roots will shrivel. Plants such as this are not able to withstand small amounts of stress e.g. in the orchid growing industry these plants may not transport well and not last as well if not looked after properly by the consumer.

Root health is the ultimate test of how well your mix performs. Media that is fresh in the pot may encourage glorious root growth initially, but its characteristics can change over time depending on salt accumulation, organic material degradation, pathogen growth, etc. If your orchid looks like it is taking a turn for the worse, knock it out of the pot and inspect the roots. Then you can make an informed decision on whether it needs to be repotted, put into a different kind of mix or some other aspect of your orchid culture modified.

Remember new Society starting time 7:00 PM

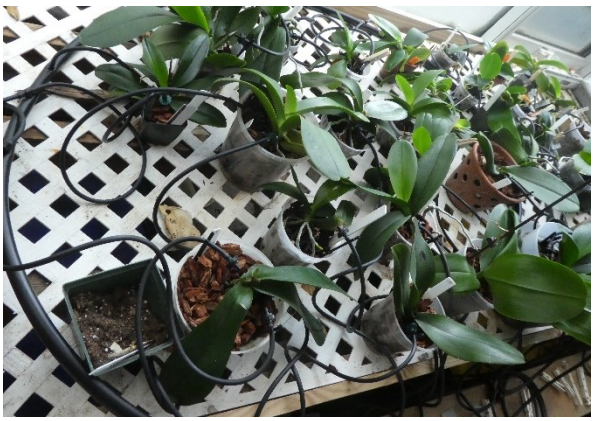
***How Do You Grow*?**

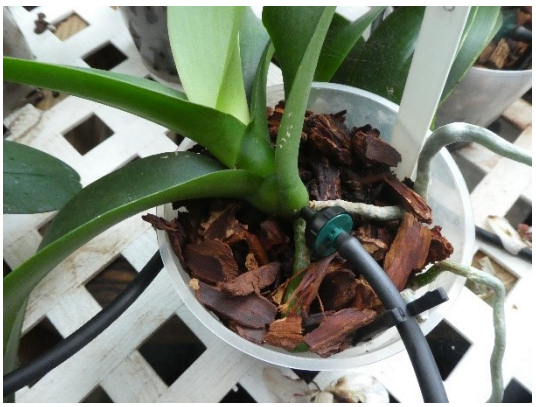
Each month, I would like to show a member's growing methods/conditions. We started with ours. Please send me pictures of your growing conditions (summer/winter) edsharkf@yahoo.com No submission this month. Let's get some pictures of your growing space

Ed and Pam Frankel Vacation Water System

Indoors

Drip irrigation system on timer, one line to each plant (larger plants have 2 lines). One main tube and smaller tubes to the plants





Outdoors

Plant on hanger's and sprayer on timer

Battery Water timer
Drip system black hose - left
Regular water hose - right