



## AUGUST 2025

Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. It is hard to believe we are stepping into the final six months of the year! The dog days of August are upon us—and no holidays to celebrate! We'll be winding up the summer months soon and it seems impossible that we are now fully entrenched in the last half of 2025. Hopefully our orchid collections are thriving despite the heat and natural disasters that have affected so many of us. A year ago, both Florida and the Carolinas were under siege and this year California has had its horrific fires. More recently, we have seen the destructive floods claiming lives in Texas and the northeast. Although the resilience of Americans is remarkable, the loss of loved ones is something altogether different. Let us extend our prayers to include those who have been in harm's way and devastated by these fires and floods.

### MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Have a question about our Committee? Want to get Involved with the AOS? Please send me an email at [arod@aos.org](mailto:arod@aos.org) and you are also welcome to join us at our next virtual meeting on August 13, 2025 @ 8 P.M. (Eastern Time) – Thank you for your time and support to the AOS!

### Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY [www.aos.org/webinars](http://www.aos.org/webinars)  
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.  
 Register now and view on your time schedule.  
 Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)  
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	Summer Refresher	Aug. 07, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 11, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 23, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Choose Your Topic From Our Library of RECORDED WEBINARS	<b>Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q &amp; A</b> Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by August 04	<b>Master Orchidist Series Best Methods for Indoor Pest Management</b> Explore pest problems of indoor orchid growing.	<b>AOS Awards—The Honor of Cultural Excellence</b> Review the plants that earned this award for their grower/owner. Get growing Tips.
Presenter	Expert Growers, Conservationists, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, and more	<b>Ron McHatton</b> AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Ron McHatton</b> AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Sandra Svoboda</b> AOS Judge and AOS Past President



Webinar announcements are posted on the AOS website, on Facebook and Instagram, and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Use the WEBINAR Display Filter

## MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Hello everyone! Hope your summer has been a good one. We send our prayers for recovery to Texas from the devastation near Kerrville. Our climate is definitely changing. We see it every day, especially in the summer. Excessive heat, heavy storms that park over an area for hours uprooting everything. We saw it with Ashville and now this year in multiple places. That brings me to discuss how orchids fare in this changing environment. Orchids are wonderful barometers of climate. If it is too hot, they don't bloom and languish even in their growing areas. If it is too wet, they show signs of fungus and rot. They are telling you something if you grow outside or even take them outside for the summer.

If you grow outside you know what I am talking about. I put my *Catasetum* out and they should love that right? Nope, too hot, too dry, even with shade cloth they were not happy. Here, in the southeastern suburbs of Chicago, we have had little rain and are considered in an acute drought. The northern suburbs had had some rain, but not enough rain to support our crops. Everywhere we face the problems of climate change. Europe as well has many issues with the weather that they have never had before. How did I react? I doubled the shade cloth on my little growing area outside and made sure at night that the plants had some moisture, a light spray of humidity. All my "outdoor plants" are relishing the double screening and the light evening spray. I am very careful not to get water settling in the leaf junctions. Just a light mist is perfect.

We will all need to make changes as we see our weather change for our areas. For some it may mean a total change of location due to heat and perhaps just increasing the percentage of shade cloth will be a remedy. We also may need to change our watering habits in some areas where rain is scant. For those who are suffering with too much water, you may need to go out in the mornings and tilt all the plants so water does not sit in the leaves. In the jungles, most orchids grow tilted so water does not collect. We need to do that too. It is also common to see some fungus affecting the leaves so make sure you treat appropriately. Wet and wild can generate disease. For you new members, take advantage of our webinars and culture sheets. The greenhouse chats every month are there for you to learn more about what people experience growing their orchids. They are also indexed so you can check what is discussed in each one. If you have questions, send them to [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org). We can discuss the weather and how you are affected by it. Send me an email. [cerins@aos.org](mailto:cerins@aos.org).

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### KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFO CURRENT ONLINE...

Please visit our webpage with your Society Member # and Login  
to Update Contacts, Meeting and Show Dates

If you have any issues accessing your Society Member page or need help accessing,  
please send an email to [grahamramsey.aos@gmail.com](mailto:grahamramsey.aos@gmail.com)

## ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WAY TO GROW OUR ORCHIDS

BY JILL BLAKE SMITH

Last month we included an article about growing orchids in cork coozies and if you've decided to try this growing method, we wish you good luck and humbly request that you give us a report on how it's working for you! Although we all grow our orchids in pots, baskets, or on mounts, there are alternative ways to grow and display our beauties. These unusual and sometimes experimental methods make it more interesting and yes, fun!

There are Wardian Cases, attributed to Nathaniel Ward back in the 1800's, which were decorative and often ornate glass enclosed containers used for both displays and transporting plants. These cases eventually morphed into what we generally refer to today as terrariums. Terrariums can be open at the top or completely closed. Flowering plants like succulents and orchids can grow surrounded by mosses and ferns to replicate a tropical environment.



One of our top orchid growers in the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society is Vicki Hallock and she loves “all things tiny!” She, herself, is small in stature and she loves to grow little bitty orchids. In the past few years as she looked into growing in terrariums and creating stunning designs with suitable plants, she discovered the concept of the biOrb. BiOrbs are a special type of pricey terrarium with all the bells and whistles—a 360 degree covered terrarium with automated humidity, a mister, LED lighting and adjustable air flow created by tiny fans. As her minute orchids bloom on a fence behind her home, she moves them into one of her several biOrbs, perfectly placed to complete the tropical design. Vicki also prefers to choose species orchids of the genera *Lepanthes*, *Grosourdia*, *Schoenorchis*, *Specklinia*, *Platystele*. With her extreme patience and good tweezers, she might also incorporate miniature ornamental figurines, a park bench, a bunny during the Easter season, a Santa at Christmas, a tiny sun dial—Vicki even has a diminutive dragon as well as an alligator! Pieces of bark or wood with ferns and moss also give an outdoorsy feel to the display. These small touches add an air of whimsy to the beautiful mini rain forest she has created in the biOrb. Vicki's work is most appreciated by our AOS judges! Her terrariums have won five Artistic Certificates as well as Best in Show at the Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Show.

BiOrbs are becoming more and more popular, especially with folks who prefer to grow indoors and with those who enjoy “minis.” But keep in mind, patience and creativity are musts. If you seem to be in a growing rut with the same old same old, maybe it's time to give your attention to something different! Try a biOrb!





## SHARE YOUR IDEAS & STORIES

### YOUR GREAT IDEAS

Has your Society created ways to keep your members engaged and having them coming back for more? Do you have a fun fact you would like us to share? We would like to hear from you.

### YOUR BLUNDERS

Do you have a recurring problem? Share your mishaps as well! Your lessons can help others avoid similar mistakes. Please email us your stories to [arod@aos.org](mailto:arod@aos.org). If you wish your story to remain anonymous, we will be more than happy to keep it so.

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## AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Affiliated Societies Committee is looking for team members. Help us continue to build relationships and resources for all the American Orchid Society Affiliates. Please send an email to [arod@aos.org](mailto:arod@aos.org) if you are interested in joining us virtually at our August 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting @ 8 P.M (Eastern Time).

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## THANK YOU FOR READING!

Please remember to include the Affiliated Societies Committee ([affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org)) to your newsletter distribution. We would like to know what you are doing. Help us help everyone by sending us your great ideas, recurring problems and your blunders; we all need that little inspiration in our orchid journey. If you have something to share, or there is something you would like to read about, please let us hear from you.

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors. Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications. We encourage use of [the AOS website](#) by all members.

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