



FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to the 2026 AOS Corner, the monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. The New Year is fully underway, and the Affiliated Societies march onward with a flurry of shows and other wonderful activities. Orchid growers and hobbyists are enjoying the displays and savoring the opportunities to purchase new plants for their collections. The South Florida shows kicked off with Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society and the huge Tamiami show and soon there will be expos hosted by both Boca and Naples. Those dealing with the ice, snow and cold in Minnesota had the opportunity to enjoy glorious blooms at their show at the end of January. It's an exciting time of the year for us ALL! But let's not overlook the fact that many of us are busy protecting our orchids from winter weather. This too shall pass, the temps will rise and the sun will get those roots growing again! Hope springs eternal, especially with orchids!

MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

LOVE IS IN THE AIR... Promote your Local Orchid Vendors and the AOS by hosting a Society Show with AOS Judging or an Outreach Judging Event!! For more information, send me an email at arod@aos.org. Thank you again for your love of orchids and support of the AOS!!





AFFILIATED SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

A Magical Day for Miami Beach Orchid Society Keikis

By Leticia de la Torre Gunn & Jill Smith



On January 11th, members of the Miami Beach Orchid Society, in collaboration with the Miami Beach Garden Club, gathered under the huge banyan tree in Bayshore Park to take a group of 32 youngsters and their parents in hand and provide a magical day of orchid education. The perfect introduction to the event was that the children, dubbed as Keikis, learned the meaning of the actual word “keiki!” And of course, a nice *Phalaenopsis* with a substantial keiki was the ideal illustration for them.

Repotting began with a visit to the Orchid Garden Ladies where the Keikis examined the roots of their individual plants and saw how important roots are for a thriving *Phalaenopsis*. They removed existing medium and dead and desiccated roots and they were amazed that these orchids do not grow in soil because they’re epiphytes – a new word for them to add to their orchid vocabulary! They were given a fresh clay pot – with lots of holes – and a special orchid mix containing bark and a little moss. The ladies, with some assistance from the Moms and Dads, helped them to get their orchid situated and settled in its new home.

When each child had finished repotting the plant, they went to see the Orchid Fairy who gave them printed care instructions and a magic wand (made from spadix of a coconut inflorescence). She recited a sweet little poem or “spell” for them that she had written herself:

Planting the Spell

Hello, tiny orchid, today is the day!
We plant you gently with magic and say...
No dirt, no rush, just moss and bark,
With room to breathe and grow and spark.
I’ll give you light and show you care,
Shower you with love, your beauty I’ll share.
Grow, grow, grow...I will wait and I’ll be patient.
I’m sending you good vibrations, you beautiful creation.

What a wonderful experience for these children to learn the basics about orchids, their beauty and how to make them flourish! And kudos to both the members of the Miami Beach Orchid Society and the Miami Beach Garden Club, as well as the parents, for promoting this educational event and instilling a love of orchids in the hearts of these youngsters! It is apparent that everyone had a lovely and memorable day!

The Miami Beach Orchid Society will be hosting their Orchids and Art Festival on February 28th thru March 1st at the Miami Beach Woman’s Club .

Please let us know if your society has had any noteworthy activities or events so we can write about it! If there are any other ideas you would like to see addressed or featured we will be happy to do so. We want to put the spotlight on YOUR society!



Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY 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

Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	Feb. 10, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 12, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Mar. 03, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Special Selections
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 07</i>	Happy Roots Happy Orchids Get to the root of the matter to help you grow healthy orchids. How to create the ideal orchid root ecosystem.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 28</i>	All About Pests and Diseases Identify them and how to manage them. Filter Pests & Diseases from the <u>recorded</u> FULL INDEX category.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Orchid grower with success in various environments	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	AOS Chief Education and Science Officer, and Agdia Rep.



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

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WEBINAR
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SHARE YOUR IDEAS & STORIES

YOUR GREAT IDEAS

Has your Society created ways to keep members engaged 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. If you wish your story to remain anonymous, we will be more than happy to keep it so.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Affiliated Societies Committee is looking for team members. Help us continue to build relationships and resources for American Orchid Society Affiliates. Please send an email to arod@aos.org if you are interested in joining us virtually at our March Meeting.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Please remember to include the Affiliated Societies Committee (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 know!

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