



MARCH 2026

Welcome to the 2026 AOS Corner, the monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. It's March and let us happily March into the third month of 2026 and welcome better weather, springlike temperatures and say goodbye to the harshness of the winter! It's been a rough one in so many parts of the country with the heavy snow, crazy rains and storms out west and iguanas hitting the sidewalks in Florida! Let us celebrate with the Irish on the 17th, dance a jig and look forward with anticipation to sweet green roots, new growth and finally thriving orchids! Happy repotting and prep for a season of beautiful plants!

MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

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!!



FANTASTIC FUN IN NYC WITH ORCHIDS

By Jill Blake Smith

It was recently brought to my attention that there is a big orchid event in New York City that is worthy of mention in our humble newsletter. The New York Botanical Garden's 2026 Orchid Show, running until April 26th, has featured an unusual guest designer who has created incredible vignettes of mundane cityscapes festooned with glorious orchid plants! The familiar has become softly unfamiliar with such beauty surrounding and being a part of it. This guest "flower magician" is an anonymous gentleman, a floral artist, who has adopted the title Mr. Flower Fantastic, and to preserve his anonymity and to protect himself from allergies, he wears a full mask with a respirator attachment. He is a local New Yorker, ironically from the Jamaica area of Queens and whose mother is a native Jamaican! The event has been dubbed "The Orchid Show: Mr. Flower Fantastic's Concrete Jungle."

MFF, as he is often referred to, has taken such lackluster urban structures and transformed them into lush displays with tropical touches. He has a dumpster filled with garbage bags and decorated with phalaenopsis, a free-standing trash can sprouts a variety of orchid species, a fire hydrant drips with lavender dendrobiums and orchids gracefully flow down the front of a brownstone. A faux subway entrance includes cascading yellow *Oncidium* and a laundromat has front loading washing machines filled with orchids visible in the round glass doors like terrariums. There's a pizza place, a car wash, a simple park bench, a fire escape and a newsstand where visitors are offered handouts on orchid culture.

In addition to all the magnificent orchid exhibits, there are a number of other activities that complement the visual beauty of the show. Culture and conservation classes are offered, and there is an evening event featuring a DJ, cocktails and snacks.

We have all attended fabulous orchid shows and conferences worldwide and experienced displays that defy description. Many of us have even designed and built them! The photographs in our monthly publication ORCHIDS are breathtaking and for many of us, our individual greenhouses are a source of inspiration and visual wonder. Mr. Flower Fantastic's floral designs and artistry, however, are so differently captivating, beautifully reflecting the city style and culture of New York. It is a certainty that many local residents of the city as well as the surrounding areas will attend the show, but for the rest of us not traveling to the northeast, it is, indeed, a visual treat to visit the many websites and YouTubes featuring the marvelous creative genius of Mr. Flower Fantastic. So take a few minutes, head to Google and check it out. It's well worth it! Enjoy!

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	Mar. 03, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Mar. 18, 2026 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	April 02, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Orchid Culture Days <i>Pay Per View at Your Leisure</i>
Topic	<i>FREE Live</i> Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 28</i>	<i>Members Only Live</i> Vanda Cultivation Make Caring for Your Vanda Orchids Easier. Tips from a Passionate Orchid Grower.	<i>FREE Live</i> Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 31</i>	Recorded Webinars Choose from Eight Popular Full Day Presentations. Gain Insight Into the Culture of Orchids. Select <i>Virtual</i> from the Full Index to Sign up for the Culture Day Presentations.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Serena Roman Orchid Grower Known as Lady Vanda	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Expert Growers, AOS Judges, Scientists, Biologists and More



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**

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 April 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!

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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