



Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

October 2021 Issue

October 2021 President's Message

We had another memorable meeting last month. Associate Judge and third-generation orchid grower Beth Davis, from Waldor Orchids, gave an excellent presentation on the BIG 5 factors for successful orchid growing: water, lighting, temperature, humidity, and media. Everyone was very engaged and it was truly great to have everyone back to meet in person.

Seasonally, I have already brought inside most of my orchids from outdoors. It's the great migration before the dark, cold nights of winter set in, with just my cool/cold lovers still outside - - i.e. Cymbidiums, Sarccos, V. Falcata and my Australian Dendrobiums.

Regretfully, we had to cancel our scheduled CJOs Auction for November due to a number of unforeseen factors. However, we will still meet and instead will have a "Q&A with a Panel of Experts:" An Informal Conversation on Orchid Culture and Care. We also hope to do a live demo on dividing overgrown orchids - - a struggle many of us have dealt with, or will deal with the longer we grow. So, if you have an overgrown orchid and would like some "expert" help, please reach out to me and you may be able to get it done for free. It'll be a great program!

Looking ahead to the December meeting, the CJOs Board met through zoom earlier this week and we will be planning on a plant swap/ white elephant for our Holiday party and get together; of course, that is COVID dependent. So, please remember to pay your dues soon, otherwise you will miss out on the December Holiday party.

I look forward to seeing everybody on November 3rd. Again, it will be a hybrid meeting (both,

hosted in-person and virtual). And, because we are still dealing with Covid-19, masks will be required for all in-person participants. Don't forget to bring your plants for the show table.

Sincerely,
Jaymie



Newsletter Contents

Page 2 Meetings and Committees

Page 3 Member AOS Awarded Plants

Pages 4-6 Member plant virtual show table

Page 7 Beth Off and an Idea for Dec Meeting

Page 8 AOS webinars

Page 9-11 'What Orchids Taught Me'

Pages 11-12 AOS Facebook Pictures

Page 13 This Weekend with Dave Off

Meetings and Events 2021

Meetings, 7:00pm, In person and Zoom
Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month.

**Johnson Education Center,
1 Preservation Pl, Princeton, NJ 08540,
USA**

**Topic: CJOS Monthly Meeting / "Q&A:
Panel of Experts"**
**Time: Nov 3, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223974237?pwd=YUo3OXlZdDM3aGJWYm4xdUhSMHUrZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 2397 4237
Passcode: 984478

Sept: Bill Thoms. He will be speaking about the largest orchid genera, *Bulbophyllum*.

Oct: Beth Off (Easy-to-Grow Orchids)

We will list this year's speakers in the next newsletter

Nov: "Q&A: Panel of Experts"

Dec: TBA

Jan: TBA

Feb: TBA

March: TBA

April: TBA

May: TBA

June: TBA

Officers and Committees:

President - Jaymie Santiago
jaymie.santiago@ymail.com

Vice President – Chris Bevins
cmb00621@gmail.com

Treasurer - Rachel Lemcke:
rachel.lemcke@gmail.com

Membership Secretary -
Luanne Arico
larico@comcast.net

Corresponding/Recording Secretary -
Tobie Parnett
tparnett@gmail.com

Editor Newsletter - Ed Frankel
Edsharkf@yahoo.com

Members Virtual Show Table

**Congratulations David and Joan Rosenfeld.
Their 101st award from AOS**



**Lc. Eximia 'It Blue Us Away' HCC
(C.warneri x L. purpurata)**

Congradulations Jaymie Santaigo for your AOS awarded Plants



Cat. (lawrenceana x Good Friend) 'Stratford' HCC 79 points



**Cat. TNS Green Leopard 'Brunswick Camo'
AM 82 points**



**Paph. Nancy Depauw 'Jersey Jellyfish'
AM 83 points**

Jaymie Santiago Plants (Continued)



Blc. Copper Queen

Blc. George King 'Serendipity'



Cat. Isabelle Stone

Jaymie Santiago Plants (Continued)



Cat. Raspberry Smoke



Cat. Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah'

Ed and Pam Frankel



Hsinying Pink Doll 'Hsinying'

Rachel Lemcke



Catasetum Diane Drisch



Ctsm Bel Tramonto

Beth Off, from Waldor Orchids October Meeting. Showing us how to grow great orchids and a repotting demo. Thank you Beth



How Do You Grow?

Each month, I would like to show a members 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.

Here is an interesting idea for the Dec Meeting

A Plant swap

Hi all! The CJOs is planning a modified Christmas party to best accommodate our current hybrid meeting format. The festivities will likely be more modest than in the past (though wine and cookies might be given!). We're excited to announce part of the festivities will include a plant swap/White Elephant type party, so bring any plants you'd like to find a new address! We hope this will be a fun way to connect with other members and get the competitive juices flowing for our plant auction in the spring. Be on the lookout for more details about the holiday party once we get closer!



A Tour of the Huntington Orchid Collection

Brandon Tam

Tuesday, November 9th, 2021
8:30 pm EDT

Visit the Huntington

REGISTER NOW

LEARN MORE

Upcoming Webinar



Please support the AOS and join. [AOS.org](https://www.aos.org)

A few culture parts missing but a fun article

What orchids taught me — slowly

When we judge living things as disposable — of value to us only when in bloom — we lose more than we think when we throw them away.



The world's most popular flowering plant for sale in London.

By Joelle Renstrom

Sales of orchids have soared throughout the pandemic, making them the world's most popular blooming plant. Peering into an orchid flower is like putting a conch to one's ear — an epiphany of size, a lesson in how small things can open worlds. The blooms of *Dracula simia* resemble the faces of monkeys; the egret orchid blossoms into a spiky angel; the *Caladenia melanema* looks like a ballerina in fifth position. Who wouldn't want one in their home, especially during a long housebound stretch?

Orchids have a reputation for being high maintenance. So do humans. The latter want beautiful things, but only if they're easy to care for. This is where a common but misguided bit of orchid care advice comes in — not “Just add water” but “Just add an ice cube.” Because some people throw orchids away after the petals fall,

either because they think the plant is dead or because they no longer find it attractive, some flower sellers would have us believe that a single ice cube a month in an orchid's pot is the key to a long life, an approach designed to prevent both under- and overwatering.

Too bad it doesn't work. The result is that orchids end up in the trash.

Their dispensability embodies a notion that living things lose value and appeal when they're challenging or when they stop pleasing us. Adherents of this idea, though, miss out on the rewards. It's thrilling to notice a flower spike jutting from an orchid and knowing that you helped coax it to grow by understanding its needs. That's where orchids' real beauty comes from.

In a case of cross-species "Takes one to know one," only humans would describe orchids as temperamental. On an evolutionary scale, they're anything but: More than 25,000 orchid species exist, four times the number of mammal species. Orchids proliferate across the globe partly because they achieved what half of all ancient plant life could not: They survived the third extinction event by diversifying. A rapid evolutionary response prompted orchids to develop an additional set of genes and then split into five subfamilies. When properly maintained, orchids can live longer than humans — a tiger orchid in the Singapore Botanic Gardens is roughly 160 years old.

"There is something clever and un-plantlike about their determination to survive . . . and their genius for seducing human beings," Susan Orlean writes in "The Orchid Thief." Indeed, orchids have cast spells on people for centuries. In the 1800s, royalty sought them as symbols of wealth. The mania, which parallels the current pandemic houseplant craze, was dubbed "orchidelirium." Collecting orchids required money and patience, as specimens had to grow large enough to divide and propagate, a more challenging process than it is with most other flowers. (Orchids are also difficult to grow from seed.) Modern technology allows for much faster cultivation and hybridization of orchid species and has helped fuel their booming popularity.

I've observed in my orchids a kind of spooky suggestion of sentience — their long, fingerlike roots stretch in exploration, brush a shelf before moving toward the wall, feel out their surroundings. Orchids seem to be more alien creature than plant.

So why do people have trouble keeping them alive?

The ice cube hack sheds light on the answer: Instead of being about what the orchid needs, it's about convenience for the human tending it. Customers get a beautiful living thing that poses no inconvenience. Good deal, right? They are not unlike those who sought cute, furry relief during the pandemic but are returning or abandoning their new pets because they figured out that pets are work.

Acquiring an orchid means entering into a relationship. I feel that way every time I get a plant, but with orchids it's more serious — they don't date casually. Owning orchids means learning about their individual requirements and doing my best to provide what they need. That might include setting them on pebble trays, using a fan to increase air flow, or buying special fertilizer — all reasonably simple accommodations, no blood sacrifice required.

Plant care has one overarching rule: Try to replicate the plant's natural conditions. If a plant grows on the forest floor, it needs dappled sunlight, not intense direct light. If a plant grows in the desert, it doesn't need much water. This applies to orchids, though one has to identify a species in order to tend it properly. Lady Slipper orchids can grow in the soil of New England forests, while many tropical orchids grow on trees and absorb nutrients from the air. The most common orchid is the *Phalaenopsis*, or moth orchid. This species, native to Southeast Asia and northern Australia, naturally doesn't like the cold.

Orchids want a real shower and a thorough drying out. This mimics the natural cycle and encourages deeper root growth. Ice, which melts slowly and trickles water down through the plant, is the opposite of a good, soaking rain. It can also damage an orchid's roots and leaves.

And then there is the question of patience, which humans tend not to win prizes for, either. Once an orchid drops its flowers, it can be another six months before it blooms again — and only then with assiduous tending. Putting on a colorful show takes lots of energy. More often, orchids are given up for dead and wind up in in the bin.

Last year, my partner sent me three mini-orchids for Valentine's Day. They froze during shipping, arriving flowerless and frostbitten. The company said their orchids die in transit all the time and that they'd send replacements (I declined). "Breakage," or in this case dispensability, is baked into countless business models, but the breathtaking beauty of an orchid isn't something humans should feel comfortable throwing away.

One of the frozen orchids died. I cut back the leaves on the other two, revealing coils of struggling roots, and I tended them as best I could, even when I couldn't observe any improvements. This spring, 15 months after arriving half-dead in a box, one of them bloomed. Fuchsia flowers emerged in a triumph of beauty, as though the plants somehow knew how close they'd come to ending up in the trash.

Joelle Renstrom is a science writer who teaches at Boston University.

Here is what happens if you "friend" AOS on facebook. You get a lot of orchid pictures every day. Just a small sample.



More AOS Facebook Pictures



This Weekend

By Dave Off

Saturday 10/30

Announcing a BIG fall sale. In an effort to reduce the size of my personal collection I will be having an orchid yard sale. There will be 500+ plants available at very reasonable prices. Most of the plants will be Cattleya genera. Come see a great selection of seedlings, select divisions, species, hybrids and specimen plants. This is an in-person sale only. No list is published and no plants will be shipped.

Where:

174 School House Rd.

Egg Harbor Twp. NJ

***Please Note Address**

When:

Saturday 10/30

Time 10am—3pm



(Rain or Shine)

