

# The Dampensis

AUGUST 2024



# *A note from our President*

Hello members,

There is a wonderful article in the July AOS magazine about Habenarias. Great reading for this month's speaker. Don't forget to keep fungicide on hand with all this rain. Also, don't forget to sign up for the holiday party (more detail in Upcoming Events).

Teri Scott  
CFOS President

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

- President Corner
- Membership
- Ribbon Winners
- Future Events
- AOS Corner / Orchid Culture

## *Upcoming meetings @ Leu Gardens 7 pm*



**September's General Meeting**  
Monday September 9th at 7:00 pm  
Leu Gardens  
Our Speakers are  
**Keith and Dena Emig**  
Winter Haven Orchids  
Topic: Habenaria orchids

**Culture Group Meeting - Thursday Sept. 5** - The Culture Group has monthly topic discussions or workshops on orchid culture and anything from repotting to seasonal care. Open plant discussions address problems and questions answered. If you're not a member yet & you'd like to join, \$10 annually per member. Pay cash at the Thursday night meeting.

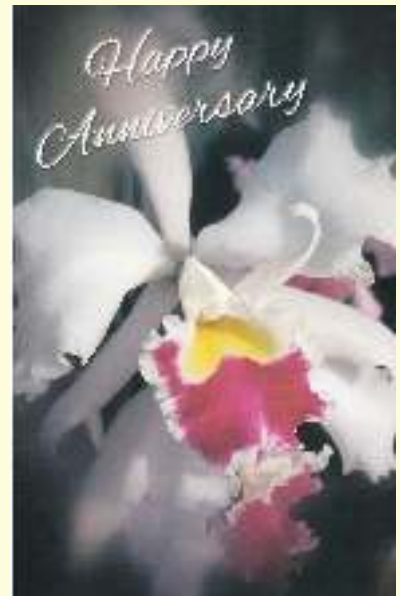
# Membership

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!**

Nancy Lizotte  
Lynn Mendez



Nancy Balderson  
Suzanne Burns  
Rick Culbertson  
Lori Erlacher  
Michael Johnson  
Grace Kahn  
Lynn Leathers  
Tsuruko Moenckmeier  
Joselito Tolentino



Nancy Balderson  
Nedis Bourns

## August Ribbon Winners

PHOTO CREDIT EDGAR PEREZ



LC Aussie Sunset  
"Cosmic Fire"  
Owner: Teri Scott



Cattleya Comet's Tail  
Owner: Dakota Hunter



Cattleya Dendrobium (No ID)  
Owner: Dakota Hunter



Dyakia Hendersoniana  
Owner: Dakota Hunter



Zygonisia Cynosure  
"Blue Bird"  
Owner: Sue Harper



Honorable Mention  
Dendrobium hekouense  
Owner: Chris Velez

# Upcoming Events

## Holiday Party



November 11th 7p - 9p

The Camilia room Leu Gardens

Your invited - please RSVP

Sign up and let us know your choice of orchid  
Oncidium, Dendrobium, Cattleya, Vanda or Phalaenopsis

## Tamiami International Orchid Festival



### ORCHID EXHIBITS

Local orchid societies and vendors create beautiful exhibits full of exotic and rare orchids in artistic arrangements.



### 90 VENDORS

Ninety national and international orchid growers and allied product vendors come together under one roof to offer an amazing assortment of exotic orchids and orchid-related products.



### FREE ORCHID LECTURES

Attend lectures on growing orchids, controlling pests and diseases, history and culture of orchids, and more! All free with your paid admission to the Orchid Festival.

**We are looking to see if there is enough interest to charter a bus**

The Tamiami bus trip price per individual would be \$62.00 if we can get 56 sign ups and \$84.00 if we can only get 40 sign ups. The entrance fee for the festival is \$15.00, but society members on the bus get free admission. We are looking at Saturday January 18th, the bus would leave a designated spot at 7am and return at 8pm.

**If interested please respond to Teri Scott @ [teriscottfla57@aol.com](mailto:teriscottfla57@aol.com)**

JOIN US IN APOPKA • NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

OPEN TO EVERYONE • FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING!

The Apopka International

# Fall Orchid Festival

In Conjunction with  
The International  
Phalaenopsis Alliance  
Symposium

Sponsored and Hosted by  
**Krull & Smith**

**Location: Krull-Smith Nursery**

2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712

Tel: (407) 886-4134 • [orchids@krullsmith.com](mailto:orchids@krullsmith.com) • [www.krullsmith.com](http://www.krullsmith.com)

Prepared for download exclusively for Central Florida Orchid Society

## Orlando International Orchid Show and Sale

September 28-29, 2024

Sponsored by: Orchidsinbloom

2001 Rock Springs Rd.  
Apopka, FL 32712

Contact#: (407) 242-0819

[Orchidsinbloom.net](http://Orchidsinbloom.net)



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### POTTING MIX SIZE



#### QUESTION

Are there guidelines for what size bark or other particles you should use when repotting?

#### ANSWER

The simple answer is yes. Proper potting mix size is a combination of how coarse the plant's roots are, and the size of the pot you are putting it in. In general pots 4 inches (10 cm) or less in diameter would use a fine-grade potting mix. This could be fine-grade fir bark alone or with additives such as fine-grade charcoal or Perlite, or a mix specified by the vendor as fine-grade. For pots 5–7 inches (12.5–17.5 cm) in diameter, medium-grade bark or mixes are typically recommended and for pots larger than 7 inches (17.5 cm), you want a coarse material, so you get extra drainage and air movement within the mix. Many growers mix and match to create potting mixes intermediate between these sizes for specific potting needs.

Plants with very coarse roots such

as barkerias and many vandas will need mixes that are somewhat coarser than those for finely rooted plants and plants with fine wiry roots such as members of the Oncidium Alliance need finer potting mixes. As a rule of thumb, you could go up or down one mix grade for these plants, i.e., use a medium-grade mix for barkerias in 4–5-inch (12.5–17.5 cm) pots or a fine-grade mix in a 6-inch (15 cm) pot for an oncidium. Phalaenopsis have big coarse roots, but they do not have pseudobulbs to store water, so you need to be careful. They need plenty of moisture around their roots but, at the same time, need good air exchange. This can be accomplished by using medium- or coarse-grade potting materials with the addition of something that holds water such as chopped sphagnum moss, perlite or vermiculite. In summary, for 4-inch pots or smaller, start with fine-grade media, for 5–7-inch pots start with a medium-grade and for larger than 7-inch pots, a coarse medium.

### BLIND SHEATHS



#### QUESTION

My Cattleya seems healthy, but it produces sheaths that never flower. What causes these empty sheaths? Any idea what is wrong with this plant? I grow in a greenhouse.

#### ANSWER

Depending on the specific background of your plant, several factors could be responsible; absolute night temperature, day-night temperature

differential and daylength. The fact your plant produces strong, upright growths and sheaths suggests that the plant is getting ample light and has sufficient food reserves to flower. In addition to ample food and light, many cattleyas are very strongly dependent on a day-night temperature change of at least 10 F (5.6 C). Without that, they may not flower reliably or even flower at all. This can be a problem for growers who live very close to the ocean in warm climates or are growing on windowsills or under lights in homes with little variation in the day-night temperatures, but it can still be a problem for greenhouse-grown plants in areas with little temperature variation.

Many cattleyas are dependent on a change in the daylength to induce flowering. Spring-blooming cattleyas flower in a sharply defined season because of the combination of the winter solstice and subsequent increasing daylength. Without that, these plants either do not flower or do so erratically. There is an old cattleya cross called *Cattleya Trimoss ( trianae × mossiae )*. One of the parents is a fall-bloomer and the other is a spring-bloomer. Because of this, the cross was used in the cut-flower trade because it could be brought into flower at any time by careful control of daylength much as poinsettias are forced into flowering. Similarly, some cattleyas flower sharply in other seasons, triggered by combinations of lengthening or shortening days.

Lastly, look at your absolute night temperature. Many orchids will not reliably flower if they are maintained with night temperatures that are too warm regardless of the difference between night and day temperatures.

### LEAF PITTING



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### QUESTION

What could be causing the pitting, spotting, whitening, and dying of the leaves?

### ANSWER

If you look very closely at the leaves, you will see numerous tiny little black pits. These are either a bacterial or fungal disease getting in through the leaf stoma. Because it can be difficult to tell the difference between bacterial and fungal problems, I would treat this with a copper-based fungicide (copper has both bactericidal as well as antifungal properties) such as Soluble Copper, and see if the problem improves.

Most of the leaf problems our plants struggle with occur because the plants are stressed; too hot, too cold, not enough water, not enough light, too much light, sour potting medium, etc. Review your plant culture with an eye toward these conditions. Paphiopedilums need light levels that are somewhat greater than that for phalaenopsis but less than what you would give a cattleya and they need constant moisture at their roots. I know many growers who grow them in a coarse medium such as this, but they water often and with water low in total dissolved solids. Are you possibly fertilizing too often or with a fertilizer that is too concentrated?

### PHALAENOPSIS PROBLEM



### QUESTION

What is wrong with my phalaenopsis? It has tested negative for Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (CyMV) and Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (ORSV). The oldest leaf has no spots.

### ANSWER

It is very difficult to say with any certainty what this is but there are several potential causes. The worst would be Phalaenopsis Chlorotic Spot Virus (PCSV). This virus is not detectable using the virus test you used and it is fairly common in the genus. As the name implies, the most visible symptoms of this virus are those yellow lesions on the plant leaves. We know that it can be spread by phalaenopsis mites and unlike CyMV and ORSV which spread like wildfire through a plant post-infection, PCSV does not appear to move rapidly through infected plants. Unfortunately, at present, no viral infections in orchids are curable, and infected plants should be disposed of or, at a minimum, isolated from the rest of the collection.

Although phalaenopsis mites can, themselves, cause lesions like this in the early stages, they tend to attack the oldest leaves first. The oldest leaf on this plant looks untouched which would argue

this is not mite damage.

Lastly, this may be a bacterial or fungal disease. It can be very hard to tell the difference and most fungicides are not effective against bacterial problems. Copper has both bactericidal as well as antifungal properties so treating with a soluble copper fungicide such as Soluble Copper would be a good first step. You will want to reapply every couple of weeks for a three- or four-month period. If you do not get clean, new leaves, the problem is most likely viral.



## 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 indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Summer School Recorded Webinars ICYMI—In Case You Missed It	Sept.05, 2024 Thursday 8:30 am EDT	Sept.10, 2024 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT
<b>Topic</b>	EDUCATION CULTURE JUDGING PESTS & DISEASES VIRTUAL EVENTS GREENHOUSE CHATS	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Send in your Photos and Questions by Sept. 03	Kurtis Gardens Series New & Novel Hybrids at Langwood Gardens and How to Grow Them
<b>Presenter</b>	Practical Knowledge from the World's Top Orchid Experts	Ron McHatten Chief Education and Science Officer	Greg Griffiths Horticulture Specialty Grower Langwood Gardens



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

Use the  
WEBINAR  
Display  
Flair



# *Orchid Culture*

## HOME REMEDIES

— Rather than expensive and potentially dangerous herbicides, spray full-strength vinegar to kill weeds between pavers and on greenhouse floors. (Do not spray on orchids.)

— Aspirin (just  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one 325 mg tablet per gallon of water) helps protect plants from fungal and viral pathogens when used as a spray. More is NOT better. Do not exceed this amount.

— Homemade insecticide (mix in a 1 gallon [3.8 L] jug): 1 pint (0.5 L) rubbing alcohol, 1 pint (0.5 L) 409 spray cleaner, and 3 quarts (2.8 L) water. Apply as a spray.

— Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol can be put into an empty spray bottle and used to treat scale, mealybugs, thrips, aphids, red spider mites and perhaps other pests. It works only while wet and must contact the insect.

— Neosporin has been reportedly used to treat orchid crown rot; remove rotted area of plant before treatment.



*You can visit The Central Florida Orchid Society on the web where you can get information about upcoming events, see who next month's speaker is, read about our society's history, find some great resource links for care of your orchids, and pay your dues.*

*Check us out at <https://cflorchidsociety.org>*



Like the "Central Florida Orchid Society group" on Facebook. We post details about all of our events, meetings and shows. There is an amazing collection of pictures of our orchids from previous events and judgments, as well as an open forum for questions and discussion.

Click on the link below and join in on the fun!!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cflorchidsociety>



Chick and Jana have set up an email address, [cflsunshine@gmail.com](mailto:cflsunshine@gmail.com) for members to send their card requests to. A card request can be for any reason, to express congratulations, sympathy or concern to members of the society in the event of illness, bereavement or milestone events.

## **Leadership**

Teri Scott - President

Jeanne Blankenship - Vice President

Jeanne Brenan - Corresponding Secretary

Juan Carlos Bianchi - Recording Secretary

Nancy Balderson - Treasurer

Sheila Coburn - Membership

Lori Erlacher - Past President

Dabra Huneycutt - Newsletter Editor

## **Board of Directors**

Samantha Starr, Althea Montgomery, Jane Poché, Denise Andreu