

The Tampensis

March 2026



Cymbidium Royal Fare '#5' HCC/AOC

A note from our President

Hello members,

Lots of events this month. We have our repotting event at the bank March 21st. If you need help with identifying, dividing, or repotting bring it over. Bring your own pot and mix (what works best for you). We will have vendors too. Orchids in Bloom is having a 20% off sale March 20-22. Amazing Thailand bus trip is March 28th, there are 10 seats left. We leave the bank at 7am. OIB and Krull-Smith are having sales April 10-12. Lastly a no name plant sale at my house on April 18th 9-4pm. Also, get your plants ready for the shows: April 29th PCOS, May 7th VCOS and May 21st CFOS. March theme is St. Patrick's Day!

See you soon!

Teri Scott
President

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- President Corner
- Membership
- Winners
- Future Events
- AOS Corner
- CFOS information



CFOS General Meeting

Thursday

March 12th, 2026

6:30 pm - 9:00pm

St John Lutheran Church

1600 S. Orlando Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32789

Our Speaker: Eric Oyola

Eri Orchid Paradise

Topic: Selecting plants and preparing them for a show

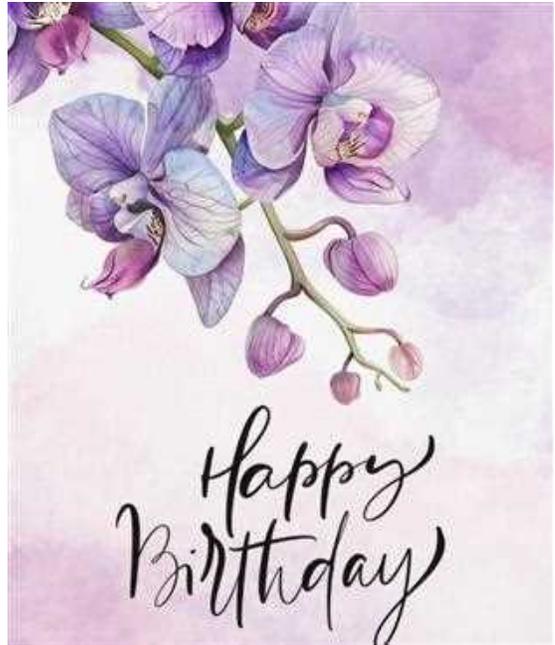
REMINDER: April General meeting will be the third Thursday, April 16.

Culture Group Meeting - Thursday, March 5, 7 pm, St. John Lutheran Church. The Culture Group has monthly topic discussions and/or workshops on orchid culture. Join anytime. \$10 annually, pay cash at the meeting.

Membership



*New Members:
Jim Harshbarger
Dorothy Jacobson*



*Ivy Alexandra
Adriana Backhaus
Jeanne Blankenship
Ronda Christiansen
Chris Davis
Evelyn Doyle
Terry Drayer
Jana Evans
Connie Fox
Jim Harshbarger
Mary Beth Krotky
Stephanie Loaiza
Stanley Meyer
Althea Montgomery
Shiree Nichols
Jane Poche'
Giselle Porto
Iran Porto
Samantha Starr
Romina Thorstenson
Helen Tomaszewski
Jeany Vasquez*

**HELLO
MY NAME IS**

*See Sheila at Membership to
sign up & purchase your
Central Florida Orchid
Society name tag.*

Membership



*Please join
us in
2026*

Membership Renewals!

Membership renewals for
2026 are now due.

See Sheila, CFOS Membership Chairman.

Pay your dues in many ways:

Cash, Check, Orchid Bucks,
Credit Card, Tap to Pay

Single: \$30

Joint: \$45

Student: \$20

Members

BRING A GUEST WITH YOU TO A MEETING,
GET AN ORCHID BUCK!

GUESTS ARE WELCOME AT ALL MEETINGS &
CAN PARTICIPATE IN:

- SILENT AUCTION
- SPEAKER PURCHASES
- RAFFLE ITEMS
- FOOD DONATIONS
- SOCIETY ITEMS FOR PURCHASE

Orchid Bucks



Ways to earn...

1 Orchid Buck

- Bring a dish or snack for a refreshment
- Bring a plant in for the bloom table
- Donate something to the silent auction
- Volunteer to run the silent auction table
- Volunteer to run the Zoom meeting
- Donate a plant to the raffle table
- Volunteer to be the door usher
- Volunteer to run the raffle table
- Volunteer to be on a judging team

5 Orchid Bucks

- Volunteer for a time slot at one of our events

10 Orchid Bucks

- Organize the annual holiday party
- Co-chair a committee

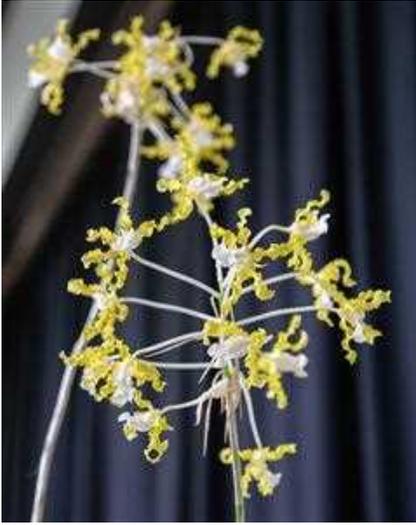
20 Orchid Bucks

- Chair the Annual Show Committee
- Chair the Annual Auction Committee



See Nancy when it's time to collect your
earned Orchid Bucks!

February Winners



Schombucka Laella Bryslana
owner Albert Brueck



Den. Nobile
owner John Cifor



Specklinia grobyi
owner Daniel Iskanyn



Rth. Fuches Orange Nugget
owner Romina Thorstenson



Ludisia discolor
owner Sheila Coburn



Phal. Yellow Galaren
owner Erin Kellow



Onc. Twinkle Oro
owner Chloe Mobley

February Winners



C. Brian Woods 'Grandpa'
owner Jerry Steele



Aerides flabellata
owner James Shepard



Blarra. Snowblind
'Sweet Spot' owner
Jana Evans

Den. nobile owner
Romina Thorstenson



Den. farmeri-2 owner
Maren Aleman



Mardi Gras Theme Fun



Upcoming Events

Come Join us

RePotting Clinic and Orchid Sale



Saturday
March 21st
10am - 4pm

Sponsored by and located at
Commerce Bank & Trust
1201 S. Orlando Ave, Winter Park 32789

Plan to bring an orchid
for repotting or watch and
learn as orchids are repotted.

Supplies will be available
for purchase or
you can bring your own.



Vendors

Eri's Orchid Paradise
Orchids in Bloom
Driftwood Art
Forever Blooms Jewelry
Studio Voxel 3D Pots



Join us for a Fun Filled Bus Trip to Homestead FL and the
Amazing Thailand Rainbow Orchid International Festival



WHEN: Saturday, March 28, 2026
7am - 9pm

CONTACT: Teri 407-463-0274

COST: \$40 includes:

Bus ride
Admission (\$10 value)
Lunch (\$15 value)
Driver's Tip (\$5 value)

MEET AT: Commerce National Bank
1201 Orlando Ave #100
Winter Park, FL 32789



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REPOTTING MISTAKES



QUESTION

What is the biggest mistake made when repotting orchids? After repotting, do I put the plant back on the shelf with all the others or keep it separate for a time?

ANSWER

There are two common mistakes. One of these is choosing the wrong pot size; and the other is the wrong potting depth. Monopodial orchids, including *Phalaenopsis*, should be put in a pot no bigger than just room enough to hold the root mass. Do not size the pot with the leaf span. When you repot, make sure the roots have filled in the open space. The reason you do this is to avoid empty spaces in the potting medium that remain wet with little air exchange and no root activity that do not dry fast enough, thus setting up the potential for root rot. You are always better off using a smaller pot and later shifting the plant up into a larger pot when the roots fill the space than overpotting, especially with plants that have lost much of their root system from root rot.

In sympodial orchids that produce new growth at intervals along a rhizome, such as cattleyas, oncidiums, paphiopedilums and many other popular orchids, the new pot size should be just big enough to hold two new growths. This two-growth distance almost forces you to repot every couple of years. Many sympodial orchids produce their new growths on very short rhizomes (caespitose) such as paphiopedilums and many oncidiums. For

these orchids, root mass often overrides the two-growth up-potting. The goal is the smallest pot that will accommodate the root mass.

Proper potting depth for sympodial orchids is usually having the rhizome sit directly on the surface of the potting medium (not buried in it). For paphiopedilums and phragmipediums, proper potting depth is with the base of the new growths about ½ inch (1¼ cm) below the mix surface so that the delicate new roots penetrate moist potting mix and do not dry out. For phalaenopsis, the proper depth is just at the base of the lowermost leaf (where the thumb is in the picture). Again, the reason for this is to provide potting medium for the next root collar. If the plant is potted too high, the emerging roots may not enter the potting medium, developing as aerial roots and potentially making the next repotting more difficult to manage.

Personally, I return newly potted plants to the bench on which they were growing. Some growers prefer to keep newly potted plants a bit more shaded, or drier, and I think the choice is really dictated by the other factors in your growing area. Remember, if you are repotting at the right time, you will get great new root growth. Fresh potting mix does not hold as much water, so the plant will be a little on the dry side but should reestablish quickly.

EPSOM SALTS



QUESTION

What does Epsom salt do for orchids? Is it good for my plants? When do I use it?

ANSWER

Epsom salt is the naturally occurring form of magnesium sulfate and the name

is in reference to the town of Epsom, not far from London, England, where the salt was supposedly discovered about 400 years ago. Plants use magnesium to make chlorophyll, critical to photosynthesis. Adding Epsom salt to your fertilizer regime may help provide your plants with enough magnesium to supply their chlorophyll needs. The higher the light level, the more magnesium is needed. If you are using municipal water, you will not likely be magnesium deficient unless your municipality's water source is very soft to start with. Magnesium and calcium deficiencies can be common with soft well water, and reverse osmosis-treated or deionized water will definitely require the addition of both minerals. If your plants are growing vigorously and do not have chlorotic (yellow) foliage, you are likely ok. If you want to experiment with calcium or magnesium additions, you can work them into your fertilizer regime, substituting one of your fertilizer applications once a month during the bright spring, summer and fall periods.

CINNAMON



QUESTION

I do not want to use chemicals on my orchids. When can I use cinnamon and for what? Can I use it on the roots?

ANSWER

Yes you can use it on the roots. It is a naturally occurring minor fungicide. The efficacy varies dramatically by the quality of the cinnamon. This is one of the reasons it is hard to get good data regarding how effective it might be. Some considerations are: how old is the cinnamon, and how much bark is in the product.

You can use it by applying it directly to the wound on the plant. It can be dusted directly on the affected area or you can use a cotton swab dipped in water, and make a little paste out of it. Then apply the paste right onto the infected area. Cinnamon powder is strongly dehydrating so it will act to dry out the infected area. This becomes step one in getting rid of the fungus. This process takes energy

These questions were part of one or more monthly webinar Q&As and compiled by Larry Sexton for inclusion here. Each month, a Q&A webinar is held during the first two weeks of the month. To view recorded Greenhouse Chats (Q&A webinars) or register for a future one, see <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars>. Send questions to greenhousechat@aos.org — Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Education and Science Officer, Editor, Orchids Magazine.

MCHATTON

away from the infection because fungi do not like dry conditions. Remember to also use it on the roots!

THRIPS?



QUESTION

This cattleya summered outside. All three flowers exhibit these white squiggly lines. Could this have been due to insects when the buds formed, or is it virused?

ANSWER

These are not typical virus symptoms. It looks like thrips to me. Thrips consume the flower (or leaf) tissue surface, allowing the underlying tissue to dry out and die. That forms these white squiggly lines.

Depending on how old the flower was when the picture was taken, the condition of the sepals could suggest a virus diagnosis. Note all three sepals (arrow) show some drying out. There are viruses in cattleyas that cause sepal wilt virus and there is no test for them so a diagnosis is a combination of process of elimination and expressed symptoms. Cattleya flowers inflected with sepal wilt virus open perfectly normally, then in three or four days the sepals start to wilt, looking like those in your picture. After the fourth or fifth day, all that is left are the petals and lip.

I would first assume this is thrip damage, especially since it was summered out doors. Watch next summer and see what damage you get when the plants are outside. I would not want to jump to the virus diagnosis unless I had a good growing season with no thrip involvement. Maybe next year, flower it indoors starting before the sheath opens and see if that flowering produces similar sepals. If it does, it would strongly suggest sepal wilt virus infection.

LOSING PSEUDOBULBS

QUESTION

My *Dendrobium chrysoxum* has been losing pseudobulbs. They start turning yellow from the base (red circles).



When it gets to the bulky part on the higher area, there is some browning. I have cut off one of them and the yellow part is dry. Is this old growth being shed? The newest growth is fine. I am concerned about the brown part if it could be bacterial rot.

ANSWER

If these pseudobulbs are left alone they would shrivel, harden, and become yellow all the way to the top. This could be normal loss of old backbulbs. These

pseudobulbs appear older and are on the back side of the plant. This would be consistent with the plant shutting them down. They brown, shrivel, and fall off. It is a good sign that the new growth is fine. That means whatever this is, it is not in the front of the plant.

You can also get this type of damage with fusarium root infection, where the pseudobulbs are not getting enough moisture because the roots have been ruined. This gives the yellowing and hardening. You see this in cattleyas infected with fusarium. Remove the pseudobulbs and treat the plant with fungicides such as Thiomyl, Pagent, or Heritage, the last two being more expensive. Be sure since this is a *Dendrobium*, not to use a copper based fungicide. If this is only going on in the back bulbs, I am not terribly concerned. I am more concerned about the pseudobulb with the black on it (arrow). Black lesions on pseudobulbs are not usually good. I can not tell from the picture if this pseudobulb is hard or mushy. In either case treat it with a fungicide.

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 recorded 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.

Use the
WEBINAR
Display
Filter



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 judgings, 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>



The Sunshine Girls

Chloe' and Jana have set up an email address, clossunshine@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.

2026 Leadership

Teri Scott - President
Jeanne Blankenship - Vice President
Jeanne Brenan - Corresponding Secretary
Chloe Mobley - Recording Secretary
Nancy Balderson - Treasurer
Sheila Coburn - Membership
Lori Erlacher - Past President

Board of Directors

Jane Poché, Denise Andreu, Maren Aleman, Jana Evans

Please send newsletter comments and suggestions to Dabra Huneycutt at cfoseditor1@gmail.com