October 2026

The Lampensis

Rlc. Orange Diamond ‘Throat of Gold’ (not AI)

A note from our President

WHAT'S INSIDE...

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

The year is almost over. The holiday parties are coming up. With my knee surgery in November I am asking for volunteers to help. Will have a sign up sheet. Also you MUST Sign up for an orchid to receive one. If you don't show up to the party your orchid will be sold. Start your winter planting supplies etc. so you're not caught off guard at Thanksgiving. Lots of sales at the end of the month 👏👏. October meeting theme is Halloween!!

Teri Scott
CFOS President

<u>Culture Group Meeting</u> - First Thursday of the month at 7:00 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.

CFOS members
Call for 2027 Nominations

The CFOS Board of Trustees seeks 2 nominations for the 2027- 2029 term

Members may nominate any member in good standing, including themselves. The President Shall appoint a Chairman and two members of the Nominating Committee and this committee shall report the slate of candidates, naming one candidate for each office and directorship to be filled, at the October meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor following competencies have been determined by the Board and will be used in the evaluation. Officers will be elected from the floor by a majority vote.

Nominees shall:

- be a member of the CFOS and embrace the mission and priorities of the CFOS
- exhibit integrity and ethical behavior;
- possess strong interpersonal and communications skills

Expertise in some of the following is desirable and will weigh in the evaluation:

- finance, business and/or investment strategies,
- legal background,
- development/fund raising,
- strategic planning and implementation,
- marketing,
- conservation, research or education

Responsibilities:

- attend 9 of the 11 monthly member meeting and 5 of the 6 required Board meetings
- actively participate and contribute in Board activities and work
- advocate on behalf of the organization and be ambassadors to the orchid community

Membership

New Members:
Deborah Wendell
Leslie "Laurie" Sarauer

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO BROUGHT REFREshMENTS!

Lorraine Amos
Rodney Atkinson
Jeanne Brenan
Kathi Clifford
Karla Davis
Kimberly Den Beste
Sandy Doyle
Doris Fana
John Hicks
Marianne Hornsby
Brenda Johnson
Nancy Lizotte
Rosie McParland
Erik Melear
Danny Rogers
Marilyn Sandoz
Mario Sanguinetti

RePotting with Jordon

What a fun and informative morning,
we learned so much more than repotting.

September Winners

Den. Hawaii Spectacular owner Jana Evans

Phal. Bellini owner Oscar Lopez

Rhytonlea Suncoast Pixie Dust Sugita Spots x C. Motte Spot owner Nancy Balderson

Den. Thai Pearl owner Oscar Lopez

Aerides Lawrenceae x Ken owner Jeanne Brenan

September Winners

Cyc. Cooperi 'Green' x Cyc. Cooperi Mem. Pat Worthington
owner Karen Steinberg

Onc. Guann Shin Sakurai
owner Jana Evans

Dendrobium owner
Terry Drayer

Vanda Robert's Delight
owner Albert Brueck

Oncidium pusilla
owner Oscar Lopez

Upcoming Events

AOS Corner

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HARDWATER SPOTS

QUESTION

I have a greenhouse with sprinklers, because spring and summer here are quite hot and dry. Although my water quality is acceptable, after two to three years, calcium deposits form, giving some plants an unsightly appearance. I have tried to remove it using distilled water, but to no avail. What advice can you give me?

ANSWER

Water supplies, especially with a misting system, can build up calcium carbonate deposits on the leaves. Water by itself, even distilled water, will not remove them. Once calcium carbonate dries, it has a crystalline structure that is hard to rehydrate. If you have only a few plants, you can use a couple of tablespoons of whole milk in a gallon of water. Dip a paper towel or soft cloth in the milk solution gently wipe the foliage. The lactic acid in the milk will dissolve and lift the calcium carbonate deposits without plugging the stomata like petrochemically based leaf shines do. If you have a whole greenhouse or lots of plants, you may want to consider something you can safely feed into your misting system without damaging the plants. Options include dilute vinegar and dilute citric acid. Both are relatively harmless, supply a bit of fertilizer, help balance pH and dissolve calcium carbonate. They have an added benefit of cleaning your misting heads as well. You can also use a dilute solution of sodium EDTA (ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid sodium salt), followed by a water rinse.

ROOT LOSS?

QUESTION

This *Cattleya* Irene Finney bloomed well. Now that it has lost its flowers, I have been watering and fertilizing weakly, but the pseudobulbs look dry and shriveled. I have had issues with root rot in other types of orchids, and I am hesitant to assume this is an underwatering situation. What should I do?

ANSWER

You are correct that the pseudobulbs and foliage are heavily water-stressed. There are three causes to consider. It could be root rot that has destroyed the root system and the plant cannot take up enough moisture. The second option is that you are not watering enough due to your concern for past overwatering. The third option is a *Fusarium* infection in the root system. *Fusarium* is a common fungus that clogs the root system preventing water uptake and the damage looks like over or underwatering.

You need to remove the plant from the pot and examine the root system. The three causes present very differently. If you find lots of rotten, mushy roots, overwatering is the obvious cause and you will want to remove all the rotten roots and repot the plant in fresh potting mix. Plants with few to no active roots cannot take water up through the potting mix so you will want to keep them on the dry side, misting the potting mix surface and maintaining a high humidity and watch for new roots. This could take from a few weeks to several months.

If the roots are firm but dry and gray, it is an indication that you are not watering enough. You can simply put the plant back in the pot and increase your watering frequency and humidity. Keep in mind that severely shriveled pseudobulbs may not rehydrate so you will take your cues from the appearance of any newly developing growths.

If the roots are dark, shriveled, stiff and look like they are made of wire it suggests a *Fusarium* infection. *Fusarium* often starts in the older parts of the root system and slowly progresses to the front of the plant. As it spreads, the older pseudobulbs shrivel and eventually die and the shriveling progresses toward the front of the plant. *Fusarium* can be treated with fungicides such as Thiomyl (Clearys 3336 and thiophanate methyl are the same active ingredient). *Fusarium* is very common in Florida and other hot, wet locations and it is spread by splashing water.

Looking at the picture you sent, the dehydration appears to affect the entire plant which makes me think it is either over or underwatering and not a Fusarium infection. There appears to be moss growing on the bark surface which leans toward overwatering.

NO GROWTH

QUESTION

I purchased two bare root pseudobulbs of *Monnierara* Jumbo Delight. I let them rest until the end of April in a cool, dry corner. To wake them, I put them back in my plant room. They are firm and green but show no new growth. What do I do?

ANSWER

Look closely at the base of these pseudobulbs. They are both shriveled and dark brown from the base to well up the pseudobulb. This means that there are no live eyes left below the green part. At this point, any new growths have to come

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.*

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from one of the potential live eyes (green arrows) further up the pseudobulb at the base of each leaf scar (yellow arrows). One of these may eventually sprout on its own, but you might want to try laying the pseudobulb on its side on a bed of damp (not wet) potting medium or moss as is done with *Dendrobium* canes. Keep the humidity high and wait for an eye to sprout. Once the new growth has roots of its own, it can be removed and potted like you would with a *Dendrobium* or *Phalaenopsis* keiki. Laying the pseudobulb on damp potting medium often expedites the process.

PSEUDOBULB DIEBACK

QUESTION

I bought this cattleya a year ago, and it has only produced one normal growth since then. It has started, then aborted four new growths, and has grown two more that are stunted and hollow inside. I recently repotted it and the roots are very healthy. What could the problem be?

ANSWER

This looks like calcium deficiency in cattleyas. The plant starts a growth and then aborts the growth (see black leaf). This is classic calcium deficiency in cattleyas. It is summer time related. New growths at other times of the year start out in cooler temperatures. The warmer the temperature the more likely this is to happen. I would check the pH of your potting mix. Depending what type of bark you have it could be very acidic which affects the up take of calcium. This is not rotting but classic calcium deficiency. It goes only to the pseudobulb then stops (arrow). It also occurs only in the front new growth, never the back. They are also not wet, slimy, or stinky. It is not fungal or bacterial, only a nutritional problem in cattleyas during the summer.

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.)

— 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.

— Citrus peels can be used to prepare a "tea" that is toxic to most insects. Simply cover citrus peels with water, gently simmer for a few minutes and allow to stand overnight or place citrus peels in a "sun tea" jar and allow to steep in the sun. Filter off the peels and use the liquid 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.

Orchid Care & Culture Sheet

Looking for information on how to care for your orchid? These popular documents have been at the foundation of AOS orchid education for decades and provide orchid care and culture information in a convenient, concise format and are available to everyone.
https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/orchid-care-and-culture-sheets

Orchid Pests, Diseases, and Cultural Issues

If you suspect orchid pests, diseases, or cultural problems are at the heart of your growing troubles, see the list below for the common challenges and their specific solutions. If you aren't sure what ails your orchid, try our Orchid Problem Diagnostic Tool...
https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/orchid-pests-diseases-cultural-issues

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	**Sept. 01, 2026** **Tuesday** 8:30 pm EDT	**Oct. 07, 2026** **Wednesday** 8:30 pm EDT	**Nov. 10, 2026** **Tuesday** 8:30 pm EST
Topic	***FREE Live*** **Greenhouse Chat** **Orchid Q & A** Answers to your questions about all things orchid. *Send in your Photos and Questions by August 30*	***FREE Live*** **Greenhouse Chat** **Orchid Q & A** Answers to your questions about all things orchid. *Send in your Photos and Questions by October 05*	***FREE Live*** **Greenhouse Chat** **Orchid Q & A** Answers to your questions about all things orchid. *Send in your Photos and Questions by November 08*
Presenter	**Ron McHatton** AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	**Ron McHatton** AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	**Ron McHatton** AOS Chief Education and Science Officer

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

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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, cfossunshine@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