

# *Orchid Newsletter*

## *Lincoln Orchid Society*

Lincoln Orchid Society LOS; 933 S. 9th St.; Lincoln, NE 68508; 476-3877

### **Orchid Culture and Conservation, Sowing the Seeds of Knowledge.**

#### **Meeting:**

**April 27, 2005** - "Putting Plants Outside" Learn what varieties and when to move your orchids outside for the Summer months. How to select locations, shading, and fertilizing plants. Second program: Plant Sale - see article below.

- **New Growers' Group** - New Members & Guests are encouraged to bring in their plant/s for identification to assist with determining culture requirements or answering questions regarding their plant/s.
- **Refreshments:**
- **Monthly Plant Raffle** - Ticket \$1 each, buy one or several, for opportunity to win plants donated by members. **Raffle postponed until next month due to special auction and plant sales.** Plants donated last month by: Elizabeth DaSilva, Marty Haferman, Chuck Hanson, and Tim Janssen.
- **Plant Talk** - Members display orchids in flower and explain how they grow them.
- **Program:**
- **Potting Media** - Standard or Seedling Mix, one gallon bag for \$3.00 contact Tim Janssen; Chilean Sphagnum also available for \$5.00 (compressed block 2.5"x4"x5", expands when moistened).

**Current Yearly Membership: \$5** (Includes monthly newsletter)

- New Members receive a free orchid plant.
- LOS offers free membership to anyone 18 years of age or younger.

**Location:** Meetings held at Madonna; 5401 South St.; Lincoln, NE the last Wednesday of each month at 7:15 p.m.,

New room location, **Agee Room** located on the lower level. Lower Entrance located South of the Main Entrance to Madonna on the East side of building. Access under Blue Green awning labeled "Rehabilitation Science and Engineering". Use stairs or ramp to enter lower level and proceed to Agee Room adjacent to Lower Entrance. Park at the South end of Vistors Parking Area.

**Lincoln Map and Building Floor Plan** [http://www.madonna.org/about\\_findus.htm](http://www.madonna.org/about_findus.htm)

#### **LOS Calendar of Events, 2005:**

##### **Programs:**

**January 26** - "Preparations for the Orchid Show"

**February 23** - "Plant Names and Buying Plants"

**March 30** - "Repotting Orchids and Home Made Hangers"

**April 27** - "Putting Plants Outside" plus Plant Sale

**May 25** - "Native Orchids" by Tim Janssen

**June 29** - "Orchids of Madagascar and Thailand" by Chuck Hanson, owner <http://aridlands.com>; LOS Member

**July 27** - "Picnic and Auction" at home of Dwight and Beth Languis

**August 31** - "The Internet - Orchid Information" by Richard Sukovaty; "Costa Rica" pictures by Gregg Arp

**September 28** - "Growing Orchids Under Lights" AOS Video

**October 26** - "Indoor Lighting" discussion by members

**November 30** - "Pot Luck Dinner and Gift Exchange"

**December 28** - No meeting

**Refreshments provided by:**

**January 26** - Rich Sukovaty and Tim Elario  
**February 23** - Tami Weissert and Tom McDonald  
**March 30** - Anne Pamperl and Dwight Languis  
**April 27** - Bobby Welch and LaFern Zentz  
**May 25** - Allen Bean and Pat Pickenpaugh  
**June 29** - Helen Kubicek and **OPEN**  
**August 31** - Lorna Kissling and **OPEN**  
**September 28** - Miranda Harkrader and Marty Haferman  
**October 26** - Diane Tharnish and Cerella Hawley

**Officers/ Contact Information:**

**Meeting Co-ordinators:** Tim Janssen and Allen Bean

**Secretary, Treasurer:** Miranda Harkrader **Current Account Balance:** \$1,908.04

**Past Presidents:** Don Steinegger, Beth Languis, Dave Taylor, Tim Janssen

**AOS Representative:** Tim Janssen

**Web Master:** Sam Fifer

**Newsletter Editors:** Dwight and Beth Languis

**Librarian:** Rich Sukovaty

**Programs:** Tim Janssen and Dwight Languis

**Publicity:** Dwight Languis

**By-Laws Committee:** Dwight Languis, Rich Sukovaty, OPEN, and OPEN

**Refreshments Committee, Co-ordinator:** Beth Languis

**LOS Web-site Updates:** <http://www.psfdev.com/los> Sam Fifer has added new links to our interactive web-site.

**LOS Displays:** <http://www.psfdev.com/los/shows/05/> A complete listing of member participation, plants entered, plant parentage, and awards received; plus photographs of the displays by Gloria Arroyo, Allen Bean, and Dwight Languis.

- Greater Omaha Orchid Society, 18th Annual Spring Orchid Show; February 26-27, 2005
- Husker Lawn & Leisure Show; March 18-20, 2005

**Culture Sheets from AOS:** how to care and rebloom your variety of orchid.

**Links:** information to Orchid Societies, Sources for Plants, Home Orchid Flasking, Orchid Supplies and Potting Materials.

**Newsletter:** our monthly *Orchid Newsletter* web posting as a PDF file, requires Adobe Acrobat (free software) to read.

**Bamboo in Nebraska:**

<http://www.psfdev.com/05bamboo/> Our web master, Sam Fifer has added pages to his web-site with pictures of growing hardy bamboo in Nebraska, *Phyllostachys aureosulcata aureocaulis*. This web site is updated daily as the plant doubles in size each day! Note: dial-up users, some of the images load slowly due to the photographs needed to the show detail and scale of the plant.

**Newsletter:**

Our monthly *Orchid Newsletter* is published to keep members and orchid hobbyists updated about the meetings and programing of our orchid society. We include information about: regional Orchid Shows, related orchid topics, and horticultural events within the Lincoln/ Omaha areas.

The newsletter is offered in a variety of options or you can be notified when a new issue is published. Contact information for our membership or newsletter subscribers will not disclosed to others!

**Print Edition:** Paper copies mailed to your address, one per household, and includes copies of articles referenced in the newsletter. Membership is required to cover printing and postage costs. Please provide your extended zip code to speed delivery. You can visit your local Library for free access to the Internet and our web page to view newsletter posted. The library staff will be happy to assist in getting started, just call ahead to reserve an appointment time. You will be given

access for a one or two hours depending on patron demand and location, some branches have more computers. If you have Internet access we prefer you choose one of the paperless editions. **Paperless Editions:** Membership is NOT required. Click on the links within the Newsletter to visit additional web pages.

**A ) E-mail:** we need a valid e-mail address and you can unsubscribe at any time. Note: you need to add **dblanguis@juno.com** to your e-mail address book to prevent messages from being rejected as SPAM or moved your JUNK MAIL folder by your Internet Service Provider without your knowledge of this action taken. The newsletter is written in HTML format which allows various text fonts, size, and colors; while Plain Text format does not. The advantage of the e-mail newsletter is that the format is easier to read plus it allows you to copy and paste articles of interest to a document for later use by saving it to the hard disc on your computer. You may also forward an e-mail copy to your friends. If you have difficulty reading or are missing red and bold text, your system administrator may allow you to view HTML mail and will be converted to Plain Text format; especially if your e-mail is provided by your employer. You may want to set up an Internet E-mail account (pop mail): hotmail, yahoo, (many others); plus these also work better for people who frequently change their Internet Service Provider ISP but still want to keep the same e-mail address. We will also send e-mail announcements of orchid sales by local vendors and horticultural events.

**B ) Web Posting:** as a PDF file, requires Adobe Acrobat (free software) to read. You can not copy a portion of the document and must save the entire file. You will be able to click on the Internet links listed in the newsletter and the new pages will automatically be displayed.

**C ) Notification:** if you prefer we can e-mail when a new issue has been posted on our web page.

**New Suscribers:** complete our on-line form, Contact Us, and include your newsletter preference. <http://www.psfdev.com/los/contact/losmail.html>

**Change Your Preference:** reply to the e-mail address or call and include your newsletter and announcement preference.

Contact: Dwight E. Languis; 14510 Ivanhoe; Waverly, NE 68462-1367-02;  
TEL: 402-786-2015; CELL: 416-6802 or 310-7177; DBLANGUIS@juno.com

#### **Name Tag and Attendance, Reminder:**

Members and Guests attending meetings please fill in a Name Tag and register your attendance prior to the meeting. Guests attending for the first time will need to register. If you have attended a meeting in the past please verify that all contact information is correct and then mark your attendance. Pick up your copy of Program Handouts and past Catalog issues of: Charley's Greenhouse and Garden; 17979 Sate Route 536; Mount Vernon, WA 98273-3269; 1-800-322-4707 (Good source of orchid and garden supplies, product information, and 'How To' tips) <http://www.charleysgreenhouse.com>

#### **Specimen Plant to be Auctioned:**

Elizabeth DaSilva has donated a specimen sized plant to the society, a specie; Ludisa discolor or Jewel Orchid. The plant is in a 10 inch azalea pot but measures 17 inches by 21 inches with 40 plus growths. The plant has been a reliable bloomer and better leaf marking than most, the leaves are almost dark brown with bright pink metallic veining. This variety is typically only offered for sale in 4 inch pots with 3-4 growths for \$12.00. Beginning bid will be \$30.00, if the plant is not sold it will be divided and used for future raffles. The specie is native to tropical China and Southeast Asia. It is grown primarily for its gem like leaves on fleshy stems. The fragrant small white flowers are borne on one foot high stems during late Winter. It is a WARM grower (65-75 degree Winter night temperature). Culture same as Phalaenopsis. Medium to low filtered light or under florescent lights; too high light levels will fade leaves and if too low growth will be leggy. Keep the potting media evenly moist. Shorter day length and cooler night temperature will initiate flowering.

**Flowers** <http://www.orchidspecies.com/ludiscolor.htm>

**Leaves** <http://home.cfl.rr.com/siegristville/orchids/Ludisa%20discolor.jpg>

#### **Special Plant Sale:**

LOS Members donate those extra plants: orchids, tropicals, or perennials! Mark the plant with variety name, describe characteristics (flower color, height, etc.), culture requirements (moisture needs, sun or shade), and selling price. Proceeds to society treasury.

**Volunteer Requests:**

**By-Laws Committee:** We need two additional volunteers to update and finalize By-Laws for our society; which are needed to acquire not for profit organization 501c3 status with the state of Nebraska. Contact: Tim Janssen and Allen Bean.

**Refreshments Committee:** We still have some openings to provide refreshments at the meetings. Sign up list will be circulated.

**Orchids for Sale, Local:**

**Hardy Orchids:**

**1 )** Mel Bates, a member of LOS, has *Bletilla striata* (Chinese Ground Orchid) for sale. This specie of orchid is native to China, Taiwan, and Japan. Hardy to US zone 5 and zone 4 in a protected area. Flowers look like a small (1.5 inch) lavender *Cattleya* blossoms on spike with 6-10 flowers. The plants flower in May for about 3 weeks on 15-24 inch plants with prominently pleated medium green leaves. Mel grows them near the front door of his home, which is a protected Southern exposure. These are currently in 3 1/2 inch square plastic standard pots and should be moved to 5 inch pot or planted outside. Many have already flowered this year and all will flower next Spring. Purchase for \$10.00 each. Contact: Mel Bates; 5500 'X' St.; Lincoln, NE 68504; (402)466-4458. He will also have these available at the LOS meeting.

*Bletilla striata* Photo: <http://www.bluebirdnursery.com/productimage.asp?partno=BLETST3> %

**2 )** Earl May Nursery and Garden Center, 5555 S. 48th St., Lincoln, 423-5354 (call to verify delivery) will begin receiving shipments on April 27 (weather permitting) of *Bletilla* and *Spiranthes* from Blue Bird Nurseries. (Plants are not available at other Lincoln Earl May stores.)

**3 )** Blue Bird Nurseries, 519 Bryan St.; Clarkson, NE 68629, 1-800-356-9164. Gardenland Store Hours, M-F 8 AM - 5 PM, Sat. 8 AM - 5 PM, Su. 1-5 PM (April - June), July 15 - March (please call for Saturday hours) <http://www.bluebirdnursery.com>

*Bletilla alba* Photo: <http://www.bluebirdnursery.com/productimage.asp?partno=BLETIN4> %

*Bletilla striata* Photo: <http://www.bluebirdnursery.com/productimage.asp?partno=BLETST3> %

*Spiranthes cernua* var. *odorata* Photo:

<http://www.bluebirdnursery.com/productimage.asp?partno=SPIROD3> %

**Orchid Potting Media for Sale, Local:**

Roger Coe, a member of LOS, has the following items for sale: medium grade size of Fir Bark, Charcoal, and Sponge Rock (Perlite). He also has various mixes plus Coconut Husk Chips. Contact: Roger Coe; 814 New Hampshire; 310-7980; rcorchid@neb.rr.com He will also have these available at the LOS meeting. He will sell quart bags of the mixes for \$3.00.

**Orchid Collection Reduction Sale, Non-local:**

Members of the Denver Orchid Society, Rick and Gail are reducing their orchid collection to a more manageable size. Selling 300+ orchids, all are species. 303-642-7936 or rick@mric.net <http://magnoliaroad.net/~gail/orchids.htm>

**PBS NOVA Special, Orchid Hunter:**

Take time to visit the PBS interactive web-site featuring the NOVA series documentary. One obsessed man (Tom Hart Dyke ) battles vicious kidnappers, brutal killers, and uncharted jungles to find an undiscovered flower. What is the science behind the orchid's seductive powers? To uncover their secrets, NOVA travels along with Tom to the jungles of New Guinea, visits the largest orchid "factory" in the world, traces orchids back to the extinction of the dinosaurs, and

interviews with Susan Orlean, author of the best-selling book, *The Orchid Thief*. VHS \$19.95  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/orchid/>

**PBS Nature Special, Obsession With Orchids:**

This NATURE series documentary of orchids explores why many creatures - humans included - seem to be obsessed with orchids and examines the many varieties of the beloved flower. The web-site includes many features, videos, pictures, wallpapers, and resource links. You can also purchase a copy of the video program for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/orchids/>

**LOS Supports Sunken Gardens Project:**

The membership approved the purchase of a brick to be marked with LOS, at our last meeting. The brick cost \$250.00 and helps with the cost of renovation project. The Sunken Gardens of Lincoln will see its first major renovation since its completion in 1931. The only Nebraska garden listed in the "300 Best Gardens to Visit in the United States and Canada" in the National Geographic Guide to Public Gardens! Visit the web site for the History, many Photographs, and how you can help support the renovation project and ongoing maintenance of the gardens.  
<http://www.lincolnsunkengardens.com/> Sunken Gardens of Lincoln  
<http://www.lincolnsunkengardens.com/pic/rw1.gif> Panorama photo of Garden

**Questions & Answers:** (Send your questions to [mailto:DBLANGUIS@juno.com?subject=LOS\\_Questions](mailto:DBLANGUIS@juno.com?subject=LOS_Questions) we will send an answer to your message and publish it in the Orchid Newsletter )

**Q:** Recieved many questions about newsletter, Monthly Do List, and repotting information. **A:** Information included this issue.

**Articles of Interest:**

**Monthly Calendar of Requirements for Orchids:** great resource for new growers to learn culture and seasonal requirements for maintaince of their orchid collection. Information for many types of commonly cultivated orchids.

**American Orchid Society AOS, Monthly Do List**

<http://aos.org/aos/orchids/monthly.aspx?sec=18>

Not Printer friendly, to print: place cursor at beginning of text, hold Shift key down on keyboard, use mouse to scroll to end document and place cursor there, then release Shift key - text will highlight; right click mouse and click Copy; click on Windows Start tab, navigate programs, highlight 'WordPad' or any word processor program and click; after program opens, right click mouse and click Paste; click on the Printer icon to print page.

**Mid-America Orchid Congress** - Newsletter is posted at <http://midamericanorchids.org>

**Greater Omaha Orchid Society GOOS:** Mailing address: GOOS; P.O. Box 241871; Omaha, NE 68124

Meets the second Wednesday of each month at Douglas/ Sarpy County Extension Office; 8015 West Center Rd.; Omaha. Beginners' Group meets at 7:00 PM, Monthly Mettings start at 7:30 PM. Membership: \$15 Single, \$20 Family.

<http://omaha-orchid-society.org>

**May 11** "Growing Orchids in Soil Culture" by Chuck Hanson

**June 12** 1:00 PM Annual Picnic at Arid Lands Greenhouses

**July 13** To be announced

**August 10** "Native Orchids" by Tim Janssen

**September 14** "Pests & Diseases" and "Preparing Your Plants for a Winter Indoors"

**October 12** "Companion Plants" by Dave Taylor

**November 9** "Growing Under Lights"

**December 14** "Holiday Party"

**Area Events, Orchid Related:** <http://aos.org/aos/events/shows.aspx> (Complete List)

**Mar. 12 - May 8** Powell Gardens; Kingsville, Missouri. "Gardening Without a Garden", Conservatory Display. Fabulous orchid collection will be joined by other Bromeliads and succulents in dish gardens, troughs, hypertufa containers and hanging flower gardens on colorful arches. Classes and activities on select weekends.

<http://www.powellgardens.org/default.asp?page=WhatsHappening>

**April 30-May 1** Three Rivers Orchid Society Show; Franke Park Pavillion#1; Franke Park Zoo; Ft. Wayne, IN. Contact: Rose Poehler, 6322 S. 800 E-92, Fort Wayne, IN 46814; (260)625-4780; ronandrose@intergate.com

**May 5-7** Big Sky Orchid Society Show; Mc Cormick Cafe; 2419 Montana Ave.; Billings, MT. Contact: Fred Whitmore; 818 Rim Rock Rd.; Billings, MT 59102; 406-354-1471; whitmorefandm@msn.com

**May 20-22** Great Divide Orchid Society Show; Capital Hill Mall; 1600 11th Ave.; Helena, MT. Contact: Nancy Horn; 706 5th Ave.; Helena, MT 59601; 405-443-2069; nhorn@mt.net

**May 21-22** Kentucky Orchid Society Show. Contact: Jo Boudinot; 1576 Beech St.; Radcliff, KY 40160

**June 4-5** Central Ohio Society Show; Franklin Park Conservatory; 1777 East Broad St.; Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Thomas Lucher; 1395 Grandview Ave., Ste. #10; Columbus, OH 43212; 800-633-7397; tomloc@aol.com

**July 31** Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day; Camp Dodge, 7700 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, IA. Contact: David Brightwell, 5726 NE 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50213; (515) 289-2853. Preregistration Fee: \$25.00, \$30.00 at door.

<http://www.centraliowaorchidsociety.org/speakers.html>

**Sept. 23-24** 13th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival, 8 AM to 5 PM daily

<http://www.chicagolandorchidfestival.com/>

**Oct. 21-23** Mid-America Orchid Congress, Kings Island Resort & Conference Center; Kings Mills, Ohio

**March 24-26, 2006** Greater Omaha Orchid Society; Mid-America Orchid Congress Show; Marriot Hotel Regency Court; 10220 Regency Circle; Omaha, NE; Roberta Ginavan (712)487-3085 ginavan@gte.net

**Area Events:** Additional Lists <http://www.visitnebraska.org>

[http://www.kfor1240.com/lincoln\\_events/](http://www.kfor1240.com/lincoln_events/)

New <http://www.kolnkgin.com/community> <http://www.lincolnkidsinc.com/>

**Lauritzen Gardens**, Omaha Botanical Center, 100 Bancroft St., Omaha NE 68108, 402-346-4002 <http://www.omahabotanicalgardens.org/>

**May 3** Ron Morgan, Internationally recognized floral designer, demonstration and tips held from 10 AM to Noon followed by a luncheon. Fee <http://www.omahabotanicalgardens.org/RonMorgan/> <http://www.ronmorgandesigns.com>

**May 14-15** 'Spring Into Spring', Plants for sale, lectures, demonstrations and displays. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### **OCGC BUS TOUR TO KC**

The Omaha Council of Garden Clubs Bus Tour to Kansas City is scheduled for June 11, 2005. Sites included: The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Country Club Plaza (lunch on your own), Kaufman Gardens (a must see for gardeners), Loose Park (roses, roses, roses!), Moffet Nursery & Garden Center (St. Joseph, MO), an evening meal is included in the trip price of \$50.00 The bus departs at 6:45 a.m. from Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft St., Omaha NE. Payment is due no later than June 1, send to: Bob Langabee, Treasurer; 507 N. 3rd Street; Bellevue, NE 68005; 402-734-4218

**Sam Hill Gardens**, 9405 NW 112th St.; Malcolm, NE 68402; 402-796-2191; Located 1 1/8 mi. North of US Highway 34 on NW 112th Street, (Southwest of Malcolm). <http://www.samhillgardens.com>

'Daylily Daze', More than 6000 daylilies representing hundreds of cultivars in flower, free workshops, plant sales. Free Admission, Free Parking, No Pets Please.  
<http://www.samhillgardens.com/daylilydaze.html>

**July 6-9** 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

**July 10** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**May 13-14** Omaha Men's Plant Sale at the Douglas County Extension Office; 8015 West Center Rd.; Omaha; sale continues at Lauritzen Gardens May 14-15

**May 22** Shady Choice Hosta Society, Annual plant sale at Jensen Specialized Printing, 1446 S. 13 St, Omaha, 1-4 PM. <http://www.shadychoice.org/>

**Aug. 3-7** Lancaster County Fair, Lancaster Event Ctr., 4100 N. 84, Lincoln; 441-6545  
<http://www.lancastereventcenter.com/fair.html>

#### **Horticultural Societies:**

**Flower Arrangers Club** - Anderson Library, 3635 Toulzalin Ave., Lincoln; 1st Tuesday at 1:00 PM, 488-3081

**Friends of Maxwell Arboretum** - 484-8032

**Friends of Wilderness Park** - 477-8282

**Hemerocallis (Daylily) Society** - 796-2191

**Lincoln African Violet Society** - Christ United Methodist Church, 46th & A St.; 2nd Tuesday at 7:15 PM, 770-2925

**Lincoln Garden Club** - Culler Middle School Cafeteria, 52nd and Vine St., Lincoln; 2nd Monday at 7:30 PM.

Plant Sales May at 6:30 PM

**May 9** - "Plant Propagation"

**June 13** - Annual Garden Tour

**Lincoln Gladiola Society** - 489-5264

**Lincoln Iris Society** - Antelope Park Church of the Brethren, 3645 Sumner St.; Last Monday at 6:30 PM; 423-7172

Both Shows: Southeast Community College; 8800 'O' St.; Lincoln; Cafeteria at 1:00 - 4:30 PM

**May 7** - Early Bloom Iris Show

**May 28** - Annual Iris Show

**Lincoln Rose Society** - Antelope Park Shelter House, North of Auld Recreation Center; 3rd Monday of February, March, May, September, and October at 7:00 PM, 488-0174

**Nebraska Herbal Society** - 5901 'O' St., Lincoln; East door, room E11; 4th Saturday at 10:00 AM, 435-0640 or 477-6787

**April 30** 'Celebration of Herbs'; Herb Society Plant Sale, 5903 Walker (Whitehall) 9:00 AM to Noon; Sale Items: Herb plants, perennials, vegetables, house plants, herbal baked goods and more.

**Nebraska Nutgrowers Association** - 472-3674

**Nebraska Statewide Arboretum** - 472-2971

**River City Cactus and Succulent Society** - Papillion Public Library; 320 N Washington St.; Papillion, NE 68046; 402- 597-1584 or [cactus@river-city-cactus.org](mailto:cactus@river-city-cactus.org) Meets at 1:30 PM on the first Sunday of each month. Dues: Individual \$15, Family \$20; <http://www.river-city-cactus.org>

**July 16-17** Annual Show & Sale at Crossroads Mall; 72 & Dodge; Omaha, Nebraska. No admission fee. Sat, 10am-9pm; Sun, Noon-6pm; Vendors are Crumps, Shoal Creek Succulents, and Arid Lands.

**UNL Garden Friends**; P.O. Box 81501; Lincoln, NE 68501; 472-2679 meets annually, next 2006  
<http://bga.unl.edu/Friends/GFindex.cfm>

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# Steps to Repotting Orchids

Written by: Dwight Languis, 10/97; Revised 4/05  
14510 Ivanhoe; Waverly, NE 68462-1367-02

## STEPS:

1.0 Review list of 'Potting Supplies' required, mark items needed.

2.0 Inventory your Orchid Collection: note: number of plants, size of pot, condition of plant and potting media used on each, determine type that has provided the best results for your growing area. Check for new growth and/ or root development as this condition is an indicator of the ideal time to repot that variety of orchid.

3.0 Purchase items from list, 'Potting Supplies'.

4.0 Preparing Items for Use:

4.1 Pots, Used Plastic - use Plastic Scouring Pad to remove old mix and mineral deposits, then soak in a solution of 1 part Laundry Bleach to 9 parts tap water for 2 hours, rinse, and let dry; do not use for pots for 12 hours or until Bleach is not detectable.

4.2 Potting Mix, Bark and Soiless - moisten 1 to 2 days prior to using, mix to evenly distribute components. Optional methods to decrease time before using: a) microwave mix in unsealed plastic bag until it begins to steam or expand and allow to cool (this method also sterilizes mix), or b) moisten with several drops of detergent added to water.

4.3 Plant - water one day prior to repotting; this will ease removal from the pot and decrease trauma to plant.

4.4 Fir Bark - condition prior to use by soaking in water for 12 hours; mix well, let stand to allow bark separate. Bark suitable for use will float, while the other material will sink and should be discarded. Pour waste water through screen to prevent clogging drain. Place bark on screen and rinse until water runs clear, bark is ready to use, allow unused bark to dry before storing.

4.5 Clay Pots, new - soak in water prior to use, 12 hours ( 15 minutes minimum), fills pours in pot to prevent desiccation of mix.

5.0 Prioritize plants to be repotted: Critical - sick plants, Intensive Care - mix deteriorated, and Ideal - new growth and/ or root development, life of mix not exceeded; see 'Potting Materials, Life Expectency'. Phalaenopsis can be repotted at any time.

6.0 Repot, mark label with repot date and media used, reduce light level slightly, increase humidity, water lightly (include SUPERthrive and high Phosphorus fertilizer for several times).

**POTTING MATERIALS, LIFE EXPECTENCY:** (Time will vary depending upon amount of fertilizer used, watering schedule and quality, if tap water used repot sooner.)

Fir Bark - Phalaenopsis: 6-12 months, Dendrobium and Vanda: 1-2 years, Cattleya: 2-3 years.  
Orchid Potting Mix, Fine Grade, Seedling Mix - Paphiopedilum: 6-12 months, Cymbidium: 1-2 years, others 12 months.

Orchid Potting Mix, Medium Grade, Standard Mix - Cattleya: 2-3 years, others 1-2 years.

Soiless Mix - Phalaenopsis and Zygopetalum: 6-12 months.

Sphagnum Moss, Long Fibred (New Zealand or Chilean): Phalaenopsis: 1-2 years, Masdevallia 2-3 years.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1) 'Taylor's Guide to Orchids', Judy White, Houghton Mifflin Co, 1996

2) 'Your First Orchid', Stephen R. Batchelor, American Orchid Society 1996

**POTTING SUPPLIES, CHECKLIST:** (Listed Alphabetically) Buy new tools for your orchids, DO NOT use tools from the Garden; especially those that may have come into contact with tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, or petunias (Solanaceae family) as they become easily infected with viruses that could be transferred to your orchids.

\_\_\_ Bags, Clear Plastic (with edge seal) - use: reroot and rehydrate plant, place moistened sphagnum in bottom.

\_\_\_ Drop Cloth - use: ease clean up, protect table and floor.

- Knife - use: divide plants.
- Labels, Plastic - use: record repotting date and media used.
- Newspaper - use: to funnel potting mix around heavily rooted plants; Cymbidium, Dendrobium, and Oncidium.
- Packing Peanuts, Polystyrene - use: all orchids, bottom of pot for improved aeration, drainage, and increase life of media.
- Pliers, with wire cutters - use: Modify Hangers, Plant Supports, and Pot Clips.
- Pot Clips, Wire - use: stabilize orchids, Cattleya and Dendrobium.
- Pots, New - Plastic, Azalea (3/4 height) use: majority of orchids to 4 inch diameter.
- Pots, New - Plastic, Bulb Pan (1/2 height) use: majority of orchids, 6 diameter or larger.
- Pots, New - Plastic, Nursery Pots use: Cymbidium.
- Pots, New - Clay, Orchid Pot (slots or holes in sides) use: Dendrobium, any tall growing orchids.
- Pots, Used - Plastic - plastic souring pad, large plastic pail, Laundry Bleach (dilute 1:10).
- Ring Stakes, Wire - use: hold foliage upright to provide more growing area.
- Scissors, Small - use: remove dead roots and foliage.
- Screen, Window (Aluminum) - use: filter waste water when conditioning bark and to sift amendments to remove dust.
- Shears, Garden Type - use: remove dead foliage and divide plants.
- Skewers or Chop Sticks, Bamboo - use; ease removal and installation of potting media.
- Stakes, Wire or Bamboo - use: stabilize orchids, Dendrobium, any tall growing orchids.
- Sulfur or Captan - use: treat cuts on stems or rhizomes to prevent infection of orchid.
- SUPERthrive (Vitamins and Hormones) - use: enhances root development.
- Towels, Paper - use: wipe off tools to extend use of TSP.
- Trisodium Phosphate TSP - use: sterilize tools to kill virus, one pound to one quart glass container then fill with water. Label container and follow caution notices. Phosphate free products are not effective.
- Tubs, Plastic (two) - use: repotting and preparing mixes.
- Wire Ties - use: reposition foliage to improve appearance, especially Cattleya.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT, CHECKLIST:**

- Eye Protection - required when using TSP, bleach solution, or other chemicals.
- Face Mask - use when handling perlite or charcoal and if allergic to dust, molds, or have respiratory impairments.
- Rubber Gloves - required when using TSP, bleach solution, or other chemicals. Provides protection infection when handling Sphagnum moss and if you smoke, from possibly transferring a virus to your orchid.

**POTTING MATERIALS, CHECKLIST:**

- Fir Bark, Medium Grade - General purpose for all orchids with large roots and varieties that prefer more air to roots and plants in 8 inch pots or larger and add to vanda baskets.
- Orchid Potting Mix, Fine Grade, Seedling Mix - General purpose for all orchids with fine roots, varieties that prefer more moisture at roots, and seedling plants to 4 inch pot size; examples: Oncidiums, Paphiopedilum, and Cymbidium.
- Orchid Potting Mix, Medium Grade, Standard Mix - General purpose for all orchids 4-8 inch pot size.
- Soiless Mix - use: Phalaenopsis and Zygopetalum
- Sphagnum Moss, Long Fibered (New Zealand or Chilean) - use: varieties that prefer high moisture levels at roots; examples: Phalaenopsis, Masdevallia, and Zygopetalum.
- Sphagnum Moss, Long Fibered (Canadian or Wisconsin) - use: Cattasetum and Lycaste when used with perlite 1:1 ratio; not suitable as a potting media for most varieties as it breaks down quickly. Use in plastic bag to revive orchids or top gravel trays to increase humidity.

Recent introduction by pot plant industry: **Coconut Husk** products to replace bark, sphagnum, and peat as the Coconut lasts longer and requires less frequent watering; while still producing good results. Prior to using, soak and rinse several times to remove salt content.

\_\_\_ Coconut Husk Chips - use: to replace Fir Bark as media for potting Oncidium Intergenerics and Zygopetalums or as an amendment to Cattleya mixes.

\_\_\_ Coconut Husk Fiber - use: as a replacement for Rock Wool or Sphagnum, which are used to amend Phragmipedium mixes or used alone for Cymbidiums.

\_\_\_ Ground Coconut Husk (Coir) - use: to replace Peat. I have not seen this used much, except to amend bark mixes or used alone for tropical plants and some Masdevalia.

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## **American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist, May - June**

The AOS thanks Ned Nash for this essay ...

### **Cattleya**

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

### **Paphiopedilum**

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieianum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

### **Phalaenopsis**

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source

of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

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