

New Orleans Orchid Society's Newsletter



May 2024

<http://neworleansorchidsociety.org/>
https://www.facebook.com/groups/600143828277322/?ref=share_group_link

Officers:

President: Denise Emmer
Vice-President: Susan Goss
Secretary: Ann Ebert
Treasurer: Gayle Dellinger
Past President: Molly Prokop
Newsletter Editor: Larry Hennessey
Website Editor: Debbie Dinwiddie
Board of Trustees: Carol Stauder
Pat Herbert
Ann Roth

Meeting Notice:

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 6:30pm
Lakeview Presbyterian Church
5914 Canal Blvd, New Orleans, LA

Program:

Cattleyas
Courtney Hackney

Orchid Basics: None this month



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.
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President's Message

It's SHOWTIME! Hopefully everyone will have something to contribute to our fabulous show coming up in a few weeks! The largest in the area—lots of exhibits, beautiful plants and many vendors! Whether you have plants in bloom or can volunteer your time, everyone can participate in this fun, educational event!! In our case, it does take a village to get the exhibit up and down, corral our great judges, run the raffle table and clerk....no experience necessary!! There's still time to volunteer—See Molly or Marian at our monthly meeting! It's a great time to get to know your fellow orchid society members! If you clerk, you're also treated to a beignet breakfast and a tasty lunch! In your free time, you can also check out my other favorite weekend event..the Symphony Book Fair. Great books and art with proceeds going to fund the Symphony! Mark your calendars--May 31, June 1 and 2! I'll be out of town during May's meeting, but VP Susan Goss will be wrangling the meeting. Molly, Marian and Nancy will provide show

updates and guidance! We've got more outreach opportunities and events planned, but we need YOU!

Denise Emmer

Upcoming Orchid Shows & Events

NOOS Show

"Orchidelerium... highly contagious and impossible to cure"

May 31 – June 2, 2024

Lakeside Mall

Metairie La

Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show

July 12 – 14, 2024

LSU Botanic Garden

Burden Conference Center

4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA

SHOWTIME!!!

The New Orleans Orchid Society Show is just two weeks away. It's time to start pampering the plants you are planning on showing (See the next page for tips on getting your plants to show off their best).

Remember there are plenty of volunteer opportunities to join in and build new relationships with other members. The more familiar you become with others in the society, the more chances you have to learn and share what is going on with your plants. Learning from each other is always the best way to learn and believe it or not you may have already learned something on your own that no one else has thought of. So please consider helping out with the raffle table, set up, tear down and/or clerking. You can't imagine how much it

can help someone out by just having someone there to cover for a few minutes or act as a gopher a couple of times.

And don't forget about clerking. It is the best educational opportunity the society provides. You will be matched up with a couple of accredited AOS judges who will point out all of the good plants from a certain group of orchids and explain why. And as a bonus for clerking, you get free breakfast at Cafe DuMonde plus a delicious lunch at Mr. Ed's after ribbon judging.

Preparing Plants for the Show

Send Carol Stauder your list of plants no later than Wednesday. If you can email your list a couple of days before the show, it makes Carol's job easier. Her email address is seestauder@hotmail.com. Make sure your list includes the plant's name and for hybrids the parentage. If don't know the parents and you don't have a copy of OrchidWiz or access to OrchidPro, you can use the free online International Orchid Register search tool at: <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>. Plant registration is a very important aspect of putting on the show. We must follow SWROGA's rules for registering plants with all of the necessary information that the judges need to have while doing the judging on Saturday.

All plants need to be dropped off Thursday morning at the exhibit area in the Mall's center atrium.

Groom your plants. Most judging is flower quality but there are culture awards and the condition of the plants affect the exhibit score.

- Remove dry pseudobulb encasings. Peel the dry papery stuff off the pseudobulbs. Use a couple of drops of dish detergent in a spray bottle with water, a cotton ball or a **very** soft toothbrush to finish removing it.

- Cut off any dead pseudobulbs, dried flower sheaths and other dead plant material. Cut out any **small** leaves (like seedling leaves) and small pseudobulbs.
- Clean leaves. Dip a cotton ball in some milk, vinegar, lemon juice, or ultra-fine oil spray and **gently** rub leaves to clean off hard water and chemical spots. Then rinse with clear water.
- Stake to improve presentation. There are two types of staking: one is to stake pseudobulbs or inflorescences for transport and the other is for display. Phals' flower spikes typically require staking for show display.
- Use shredded waxed paper (it looks similar to the stuff used in Easter baskets, but it's not plastic, it's waxed paper), to cushion flowers during transport. The waxed paper is placed around the flowers, then a sheet of tissue paper is wrapped around the plant in the shape of a funnel. This keeps the flowers from bouncing around and bruising during transport.
- Owner's name and phone number should be on each pot or mount. Use one of those address labels you get in mail solicitations on each pot.
- Label your plants with their registered names and parentage.
- Plants without names will not be accepted for display.
- Each plant should be in a stable pot, very small pots should be placed in a bigger clay pot. Bottom-weight top-heavy plants.
- Plants **must** be disease and insect free. They will be removed from the display area if any insects are found. Check your plants before bringing them to a show.
- A clearly-printed or typed plant list (names of plants and parentage) should accompany the plants.

• **Tips on LEAF SHINE from firstrays.com:** If you live in an area where the water has a fair amount of dissolved minerals, or if you mist

with a fertilizer solution, the leaves of your plants can become dull in appearance. Folks may warn you that these treatments can clog the pores (stomata) on the leaves, but I've never seen a problem.

- Pineapple juice, or any citrus juice (lemon, lime, orange), when rubbed onto the leaves with a soft cloth or paper towel will also remove such deposits so your leaves will be nice and shiny. I suppose the acidity reacts with the mostly alkaline deposits. (Thanks to CJ Maciejewski)
- Reka Hikari reports that stale beer may also be used for shining up leaves, although we're both at a loss for how to get stale beer, as it never gets that way around our houses!
- Mix about a 50% dispersion of whole milk in a quart of water. Using a soft cloth or paper towel, wipe the leaf surfaces with the dispersion.
- Similar to the milk above, dilute mayonnaise with water to form a thin paste. Again, apply using a soft cloth or paper towel, being sure that you wipe off as much of the paste as you can.
- Please be aware that while using the above listed methods, they may leave behind food that bacteria love so please keep an eye on your plants for any bacteria infections that may ensue.
- Larry Hennessey uses a ready to use product to put a shine on his leaves and it also acts as a prophylactic to keep any bugs from getting on your plants while they are at the show. It's made by Bayer Advanced and it's labeled as Rose and Flower Insect Killer, Neem products are good. You can find it at Home Depot, Lowes and most nursery. Please be aware this is an insecticide so take proper precautions while using it. Neem oil products will serve the same purpose and are less toxic if you would prefer to avoid insecticidal chemical products.

Minutes of April 16, 2024 Meeting

President Denise Emmer welcomed everyone at 6:35 pm and asked them to use the next half hour to have refreshments, participate in table judging, buy raffle tickets and buy plants. The regular business meeting is to follow at approximately 7:00 pm.

Refreshments and table judging

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and introduced guests.

Reports

- Vice President Susan Goss reported that we have a new Social Media Committee consisting of Shea Trahan, Barry Box, Alyssa Landry and Owen Landry. We still need more volunteers to help on other committees.
- Treasurer Gayle Dellinger gave a brief report.
- Secretary Ann Ebert requested donations for the trophy fund for our upcoming show. Persons who donate may specify the plant category they wish to sponsor. She also announced that at the May meeting we will have a silent auction of a few orchid books from the collection of the late Alice Barrios.

Old Business:

- Denise read Thank You notes received from the Atlanta Judging Center and the Houston Judging Center for the donations NOOS made to them.
- Denise stated that today is National Orchid Day. We are happy to celebrate with a great plant sale and excellent speaker tonight, several successful spring shows and the upcoming NOOS show.
- Marian Prigmore gave a brief report on the Houma Show and expressed thanks to all who assisted with set up and take down: Randy Johnson, Molly and Paul Prokop and Pat Herbert.
- Susan thanked the volunteers who staffed the "Ask an Orchid Expert" table at the City Park Spring Garden Show: Sue Daube, Bettye Speyrer, Meade Phelps, John Pickles and Denise Emmer. She also thanked the volunteers who work with the orchids in the City Park greenhouse weekly.
- Denise gave a special shout-out to Randy Johnson, who is a member of NOOS and the Baton Rouge Orchid Society. He helps facilitate our participation in shows and drives out of his way to help our members.

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Minutes of April 16, 2024 Meeting continued

Committee Chair Reports:

- Programs: Susan discussed upcoming programs. The May program will be about show prep. Nance Dempsey agreed to do a presentation on how to choose plants for purchase at the show. June's program will include a NOOS Show recap and a presentation on how to take care of plants newly purchased at the NOOS Show. NOOS's 73rd birthday will be this July. Instead of the usual Tuesday evening meeting, we are planning a lunch meeting/party for July. Further details will be announced later.
- NOOS Show Chair Marian reminded everyone of the upcoming NOOS Show and the volunteer opportunities for clerking and staffing the raffle table. Sign-up lists were passed around.

New Business:

- Susan proposed adding an "Ask an Orchid Expert" table at the NOOS Show. This is still up for discussion.

Program: "My Personal Experience Making Cattleya Hybrids," presented by guest speaker Courtney Hackney.

Plant judging results were presented by Larry Hennessey.
Plant raffle, birthday raffle and door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.