



February 2025

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

February Speaker: Tim Culbertson of Oceanside Orchids

One of my passions has always been plants. I began growing orchids as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which my collection numbers nearly 3000. I currently manage the paphs at Sunset Valley Orchids, and do hybridizing in a wide range of genera. I am an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and have served in various capacities with various orchid societies in California and on the East Coast. I love meeting other people who like orchids too, and doing so often finds me traveling to shows, vendors, and peoples' greenhouses to see the latest and greatest in new hybrids and to get the best orchid gossip. I like to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, I've worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids, and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium. In short, I really like plants.

For your meeting, I'll be sharing a presentation on *Holocoglossums*: The Next Great Thing in Vandas. *Holocoglossums* are a relatively new genus to Vandaceous breeding, and they are already making a big splash: they are miniature, adaptable, and make great compact plants for windowsills or outdoors in Southern California. By combining *Holocoglossums* with basically every Vandaceous genus under the sun, we have been able to come up with some spectacular new combinations; in many cases, these are so new that they haven't even been named yet! This is truly cutting-edge breeding, and you will be amongst the first to see and appreciate these new directions in miniature Vandaceous plants for outdoor or windowsill growing here. By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of the range of plant habits, floral forms, and colors of *Holocoglossum* species and hybrids, as well as an appreciation of their lovely flowers and ease-of-growth.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Executive Board Meeting on February 16th,
All general members welcome to attend.**

**Topics may include:
Updates to club bylaws and more!**



Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Linda Mittel

Vice President

Ruth Allen

Treasurer

Joe Sniezek

Secretary

Chris Higgins

AOS Representative

Polly Dillon

Members-At-Large

Jeff Hackett

Loi X Tran

Gail Gunsalus

Auction Committee Jane Trey, Jean Mint, Jeff Hackett

IT Specialist Melissa Bennett

Librarian Laurel Shaefer

Marketing TBD

Membership Melissa Bennett, Anitra Murphy

Newsletter Editor Jeff Hackett

Program Coordinator Jean Mint

Social Event Ruth Allen, Jane Trey

Social Media Loi Tran, Renee DePrato, Jean Mint

Show Chair Sam Hance, Jeff Hackett

Web Master Carol Bayles

Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

Email addresses:

STOSorchids@gmail.com

STOSorchids.auction@gmail.com

STOSorchids.marketing@gmail.com

STOSorchids.membership@gmail.com

STOSorchids.newsletter@gmail.com

STOSorchids.shows@gmail.com

Google Group (Listserv)

STOSorchidgroup@googlegroups.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTierOrchidSocietyNY>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/SouthernTierOrchidSociety/>

STOS Calendar 2025

Meetings are 2-4 pm (1:30-2 is 'social time')
at the Johnson City Senior Center,
30 Brocton St, Johnson City, NY 13790.

- Jan 19** General Meeting in Person
Speaker Ray Barkalow on Orchid Nutrition
- Feb 16** General Meeting
Speaker Tim Culbertson on Holcoglossums
- Mar 16** General Meeting
Spring Auction
1pm Speaker Clark Riley on Greenhouse Talk
- Apr 11** STOS Orchid Show;
Setup 2pm-7pm
- Apr 12** STOS Orchid Show;
STOS 7:30a, Judging 8a-11a, Public 11a-6p
- Apr 13** STOS Orchid Show
Public 10a-4:30p, Takedown 4:30p-6p
- May 18** General Meeting
Repotting Workshop
- June** Summer Recess
- July** Summer Recess
- Aug 17** Summer Picnic
- Sep 21** General Meeting
Fall Auction – In Person
- Oct 19** General Meeting
Officer Election
Speaker TBA
- Nov 16** General Meeting
Speaker TBA
- Dec 21** Holiday Party

Neighboring Societies

CNYOS – Central NY Orchid Society (Syracuse)

GROS – Genesee Region OS (Rochester)

NFOS – Niagara Frontier OS (Buffalo) (Nov 7-9 Show)

CPOS – Central Pennsylvania OS (State College)

Albany Orchid Society (Albany, NY)

STOS Meeting Minutes

January 19th Meeting Notes

Location: Johnson City Senior Citizens Center, Johnson City, New York.

Time: 2:04 P.M - 4:40 P.M.

Attendees: About 30 members were present and there were at least 5 members on zoom

Call to Order:

President Linda called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

Announcements: The president started off the STOS meeting by going over basic “housekeeping”, at the Johnson City Senior Citizens Center by informing members where the exits were located, explaining some of the security features, going over the basics of the Automated External Device (AED) that is used to treat cardiac arrest restoring the heart's function, and also informing the STOS about the location of the fire alarms. At this time, President Linda introduced Joe Sniezek who will be our new STOS treasurer from now on. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Angel Caoile, our former treasurer, who has done a fabulous job managing the club's finances.

Treasurer Report:

Joe Sniezek stated Linda's desire to grow the orchid society club and expand its membership. Joe did mention that this year we will be spending a little more money on the show than in previous years. He would like to see an increase in membership. Joe also wanted to remind members to pay their membership dues if they have not yet already. If you have not paid your membership dues yet, please make sure to see Joe Sniezek at the next STOS meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

After Joe Sniezek's Treasury report, Linda asked the STOS members present if the minutes from the December 19th meeting were acceptable in its current form. Jeff Hackett made a motion to accept the meeting notes as they were. The motion was then seconded and therefore the meeting notes were accepted as noted.

Old business:

As of 1/31/25, Jeff Has not yet contacted the Ithaca Bonsai Group yet. He has been waiting for responses from vendors and other orchid societies.

Executive Board:

President Linda informed the STOS members present that for the April 2025 show there will be an admission of \$5 dollars that was unanimously voted on and was approved by the EB Members present at the EB meeting. Children under 12 years old will not be charged admission. Any STOS member whether it is a family, individual or lifelong members can have free admission along with 1 other person.

Members who are part of the Johnson City Senior Center will be given a special discount. Once the orchid show budget is final and agreed to by the majority of the EB members and committees, it will be presented to the rest of the club members. President Linda's goal is to have the show budget finalized sometime in February.

Vendors:

On the topic of Vendors, Jeff Hackett, stated that one vendor has already committed to being present at our April 2025 Orchid show. Another vendor is a possible yes and we are still waiting for possible responses from vendors that Jeff and Sam Hance have reached out to. With this in mind, no formal payments or signed contracts have been received from any of the vendors yet so, nothing is set in stone as 1/30/25. President Linda stated that she discussed vendor insurance with the other orchid societies and was told that they don't require vendor insurance. With this in mind, President Linda and the show committee made the decision that the club will not be requiring vendors to show proof of insurance. Luis Matienzo wanted to add that vendors should donate at least two orchids in bloom for the raffle table. If the orchids are not in bloom, then vendors should provide a photograph of the non-flowered plant.

Orchid Show:

The show is scheduled for April 12 - 13 at the Johnson City Senior Center in New York. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated on setup day April 11. If any member(s) wishes to help in any way on setup day, please email any of the STOS club officers to see how you can help. President Linda also wanted to remind STOS members that help will also be needed April 12 - 13.

January 19th Meeting Notes cont.,

Communication:

Jeff Hackett wanted to take the time to let club members know that if anyone has any questions regarding the STOS 2025 show, that they should contact the show committee instead of emailing President Linda directly. The president doesn't always have time to answer everyone's emails so

it would be greatly appreciated if members could direct future inquiries to the show committee. All STOS emails can be found on the newsletter. Just be mindful of the first letter of the email address so you are contacting the right person(s). Carol Bayles, our webmaster also wanted to let STOS members know that email addresses can also be found online on the website.

Show Table and Raffle:

There were 6 members who presented their orchids. The raffle occurred after the several members presented their orchids.

Presentation:

After taking a short break, the meeting began with Ray Barkalow eagerly sharing his in depth knowledge of orchid roots and root systems through Zoom. Throughout the powerpoint presentation, Ray promoted a number of beneficial products from his site. Some of the items customers can purchase include Kalpak Superior Biostimulant, K-Lite Orchid and Epiphyte Fertilizer, the K-Lite Plus addition and much more. Feel free to head over to Ray Barlow's website to view all of the merchandise available for purchase. The website of Ray's business is <https://firstrays.com> If members are interested in purchasing any of the products from Ray, they can go to the website Ray Barlow did offer a discount code STOS for a limited time on his site that STOS members could use.

The notes were compiled by Christopher Higgins and Johanna Higgins



Paph. NOID
Photo Courtesy of Melissa Hance



Paph. Spicerianum
Photo Courtesy of Melissa Hance

Executive Updates

Notes from the President, Linda Mittel

Happy February, everyone! Despite the Upstate New York winter, we eagerly anticipate spring and our orchid show on April 12th and 13th, with set up on April 11th. We encourage everyone to participate by entering their orchids and volunteering for various roles, from setting up to staffing tables to providing show tours to welcoming attendees.

We are developing a volunteer program for the show and other roles that need to be done for STOS. To ensure success and keep the club healthy, we will have sign-up sheets and descriptions of the jobs that need to be done. As the saying goes, it "takes a village " to have an Orchid Show. Be on the lookout for emails about this. Our dedicated show team has been working behind the scenes, tackling a long to-do list to make this year's show successful. So many things go into an event like this, and we appreciate everyone's efforts to organize and prepare things.

Now's the time to start preparing your orchids for the show. For example, staking Phalaenopsis spikes while flexible allows for a more artistic presentation. Check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrl4Shp-Gbw>, or ask our experienced growers for tips and tricks.

On March 16th, we have an in-person meeting with Dr. Clarke Riley, who has been an STOS speaker and will speak about greenhouses this time, something most of us dream of.

Also, do not forget that our annual Spring Auction will be on March 16th. We will have some exciting blooming plants available from Bergen's Water Gardens and donations from club members. Our auctions are critically important for our club's financial needs. Be ready to buy some gorgeous plants to help support STOS.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Linda Mittel

Notes from the Vice President, Ruth Allen

Efforts are still being made to relocate the STOS Library Cabinet from our previous general meeting venue, the Vestal Urban Methodist Church, to the Johnson City Senior Center due to closures at one facility or the other. A new date has been made to relocate the library, barring any poor weather, prior to our February meeting. Once at the JCSC, books and periodicals will be once again available to the general body for review.

I have emailed a few radio stations in the Scranton area in regard to publicizing our show and have received positive response from one and a tentative response from another. As soon as I receive the official press release for the show, I will proceed further with additional radio and TV.

Notes from the Treasurer, Joseph Sniezek

A third revision was made to the 2025 proposed budget and approved by Linda Mittel for review and further approval by the executive board on February 16th at 11:30a.



Executive Updates cont.,

Committee Updates

- Auction :** We are currently looking for donated plants for the upcoming Spring Auction in March. Please make donations to stosorchids.auction@gmail.com. Bergen Water Garden is confirmed for being our purchased-orchid supplier for this auction. If you would like to make species specific requests please feel free to reach out at the above email.
-
- IT :** *No Updates At This Time.*
-
- Library:** *No Updates At This Time.*
-
- Marketing:** *If anyone has interest in assisting with this committee, please contact stosorchids.marketing@gmail.com or Linda at the next meeting for more details.*
-
- Membership:** Melissa Bennett and Anitra Murphy have been working on preparing a membership packet and brochure for new members. In addition to this, a new email service is being tested to potentially replace the current google groups service that STOS is using. We also have two new members to the society: Chris King & Frank Koehler. Welcome!
-
- Newsletter:** Few images were sent submitted since last month – please feel free to share orchid pictures or any potential articles you would like featured in the newsletter to: stosorchids.newsletter@gmail.com.
-
- Edu. Coord.:** To resolve potential conflicts with the March Auction, Jean Mint has asked Dr Clark Riley (March speaker) if he can speak at 1:00pm. Dr. Clark Riley will bring some of his own books for sale and potentially some Cypripedium – an extremely rare offering. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, please make them to stosorchids@gmail.com.
-
- Social Event:** The Johnson City Senior Center has provided us with cupboard space to store paper and other miscellaneous goods. Jane Trey & Ruth Allen will be meeting shortly to finalize meal plans for the orchid show.
-
- Show:** Significant efforts have been made over this last month, thanks in large to Linda Mittel and Sam Hance! We have received our first signed contract and payment from Taida Orchids, a repeat vendor from last year. Sam Hance reached out to the local Bonsai society who has expressed great interest in participating as an exhibitor for the upcoming show. Jeff Hackett has invited several new and old orchid societies to the show as exhibitors. Ribbons have been counted and will be ordered soon. Sam Hance has been reaching out to several local garden clubs. **If you would like to see any particular vendor at this show, send suggestions to stosorchids.show@gmail.com .**
-
- Web Master:** *No Updates At This Time.*



Orchid Show Preparations

How Can You Prepare Your Blooming Orchids?

If you have a really nice plant that will be in full bloom during the show weekend, you may want to consider entering it into the STOS exhibit or exhibiting the plant individually for a potential award. To prepare your plant, follow these steps:

Groom Your Plant. You should remove dead or brown leaves and pseudobulbs from the plant. Trim dead areas from leaves with a fresh or otherwise sharp single edged razor blade, but not too early or edges will brown. When cutting tips of leaves, be sure your cut follows the basic shape of the natural leaf ending. Make sure it is insect and disease free. Clean the leaves with a mildly acidic solution like white vinegar, lemon juice, Sprite, 7 Up, etc. to remove calcium build up or other spotting. Remove trash, debris, dead leaves or stems and weeds from the pot. Stake the inflorescence to show the flower to its best advantage.

Identify Your Plant. To make sure your plant is properly labeled and to make sure you get your plant back after the show, some preparatory steps are necessary. Complete the interactive form and email it to Plant List Coordinator who will send you a number to identify your plant. You should mark your pot with this number and your name, e.g., with masking tape and a Sharpie pen. Remove or bury the plant tag in the pot so it is not visible above the potting medium, but is there for your future use.

Getting Your Plant to the Show. If you are not going to participate in setting up the exhibit, arrangements will be made to transport your plant to the show. Work with Exhibit Chair to either arrange for an individual to pick up the plant or bring the plant to a central collection location for transportation to the show. In either case, secure your plant in a carry box with newspapers to hold the plant stationary. The plants must be ready no later than the day before set up.

Checklist. Here's a handy checklist to follow for preparing your plants:

- Clean the pseudobulbs and leaves (water helps to soften the dry papery covering (cataphyll) around mature pseudobulbs so that you can gently rub it off).
- Make sure the media in the container is clean and free of weeds.
- Wipe the top of the leaves (vinegar, lemon juice, sprite, 7 up, diluted milk, etc.) to remove residue. Do not use commercial spray to shine the leaves, it is not good for the plant.
- Carefully inspect plant for pests and if any are found remove them with alcohol and a Q tip. If there is a bad infestation, do not bring the plant to the show. ***The Show Committee reserves the right to reject infested plants.***
- Inspect the flowers for thrips and other damage. If a flower is marred by the spots of Botrytis fungus it is better to leave the plant at home – there is always next year.
- Carefully stake the inflorescence if this will help present the flowers to their best advantage. If you can plan ahead of time it is best to train the inflorescence as it emerges and is soft, a mature inflorescence is hardened off and can break easily. Black or other dark stakes are best. ***NEVER FORCE AN INFLORESCENCE; it is better to bring a blooming plant than have a perfectly staked plant!***
- Check the plant in with the show registration volunteers for you to receive a premade label for the plant.
- Remove or bury the nursery label in the pot so it is not visible.
- Remove any wire hangers, hoops, or other distracting items from the pot.
- Water each plant thoroughly before bringing to the show. Bring provisions to water and humidify overnight sensitive species like Dracula, Stellis, Pleurothallis, etc.
- If the plant is in plastic, or is otherwise unstable, drop it into a clay pot for stability. Place each plant carefully in a large box or container for transport. To keep the plants from moving around and sustaining damage you can put crumpled newspaper around the pots. Some people use cotton batting or other material to protect the flowers and inflorescences from damage.

Upcoming AOS Webinars

Inorganic Potting Media: Never Repot Again with Harvey Breneisse (Part 2)

Wednesday, February 12th, 8:30 PM EST

Harvey reviews the various inorganic media with a focus on semi-hydroponic orchid growing. Second of a two-part series.

(AOS Member Only, Registration Required)

Why Won't It Bloom with Ron McHatton

Wednesday, March 5th, 8:30 PM EST

Orchid Q&A. Get answers to questions you did not even know you had.

(Open to the Public but Registration Required)

Greenhouse Chat April 2025 with Ron McHatton

Thursday, April 3rd, 8:30 PM EST

Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhousechat@aos.org by March 31st, 2025.

(Open to the Public but Registration Required)

Greenhouse Chat May 2025 with Ron McHatton

Thursday, May 8th, 8:30 PM EST

Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhousechat@aos.org by May 5th, 2025.

(Open to the Public but Registration Required)

See AOS.org/orchids/webinars



Phrag. NOID
Photo Courtesy of Josh Demaree

Preface

Welcome back to our orchid journey! This month, we leave behind familiar terrains to venture into the mystic highlands of the Andes. Here, amid rugged slopes and dappled sunlight, we encounter *Anguloa clowesii* – a species as enigmatic as it is elegant. Fondly known as the Cradle Orchid, Swaddled Baby Orchid, and Tulip Orchid, this orchid enchants with its rich, aromatic notes ranging from chocolate to mint to citrus and wintergreen. Join us as we delve into the captivating details of *Anguloa clowesii*, exploring its natural habitat, its exquisite floral display, and the artful balance of care required to nurture its cultivation.

Anguloa clowesii

Anguloa clowesii is a striking golden emblem native to the eastern slopes of Columbia and Venezuela in the Andes. Typically found in elevations ranging from 1800 and 2500 ,meters, this orchid thrives in bright, scattered light and cool, refreshing breezes. In its natural niche, amidst dwarf vegetation and filtered sunlight, *Anguloa clowesii* exhibits an exquisite strength and delicacy.

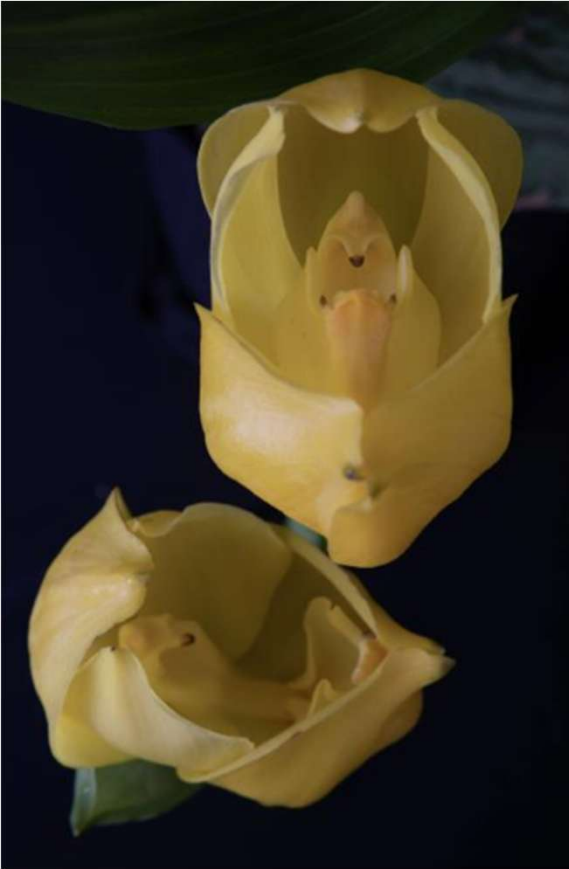
The orchid's remarkable features begin with its pseudobulbs and foliage. The large, clustered pseudobulbs are conical-pyriform in form and slightly compressed yet deeply sulcate – designed to store precious water and nutrients. Each mature pseudobulb proudly bears three to four apical leaves that are plicate and gracefully obovate or elliptical. As autumn approaches,, these lush leaves yield to a seasonal dormancy, providing a natural cue to adjust the plant's watering and nutrient regimen. The true magic of *Anguloa clowesii* emerges in its bloom: a solitary, extremely waxy flower approximately 3 ¼ inches in length that arises from an erect, sheathes inflorescence reaching about 12 inches tall. With its tulip-like form, both sculpted and enticingly fragrant, the flower captivates the senses with a pungent but delightful aroma ranging from chocolate to mint to citrus and wintergreen. The scent is strong enough to fill a room.



Anguloa clowesii 'Alex Didio' CCE/AOS (90 points)
Exhibitor: Orchids of Olinda, Inc. | Photographer: Fred Rindlishbacher
Date: Jul 16, 2007

Continues next page...

Anguloa clowesii cont.,



Anguloa clowesii Best of House Grown
Exhibitor: Jeff Hackett || Photographer: Christine Chin
Date: Apr 20, 2024



Anguloa clowesii 'Alex Didio' AM/AOS (83 points)
Exhibitor: Orchids of Olinda, Inc. | Photographer: Fred Rindlishbacher
Date: Jul 16, 2007

Cultivating *Anguloa clowesii* is a journey that mirrors its natural rhythm – like any other orchid. Maintaining temperature, watering, humidity, and bright light demands a precise but gentle hand. In its native highlands, the orchid basks in bright but intermittent light, courteous of a canopy that offers both direct but filtered sun. To replicate these conditions, provide bright light while ensuring protection from the most intense rays of the day. Daytime temperatures should be maintained between 70-80°F with cooler night conditions around 50-60°F. Maintaining this thermal balance is key in maintaining a vigorous metabolism. High humidity is also essential during its active growth phase; ideally ambient moisture levels should be around 70% to support its expansive, wrinkled leaves. This is true for most orchids having delicate, palmy foliage. During the spring and summer months, the plants substrate should remain consistently moist – but never waterlogged – to ensure the delicate roots do not dry out completely. As the plant enters its autumnal dormancy and sheds its leaves, watering should be scaled back to better guard against fungal issues and other root damage.

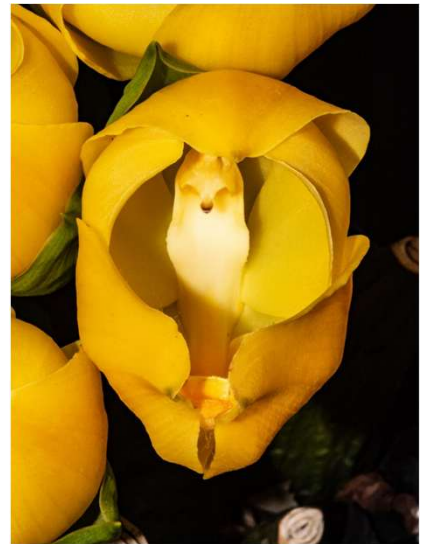
Embracing its epiphytic tendencies, a medium-grade epiphyte mix enriched with moisture-retentive components is ideal, as it mimics the airy yet moist conditions of its natural environment. Given the sensitivity of its roots, repotting should be done sparingly and only when fresh root growth is evident, to minimize disturbance and potential damage. A high-nitrogen fertilizer, such as a 20-10-20 blend, is recommended during the active growth phase, applied regularly in a diluted form to avoid nutrient buildup and overfeeding, which can lead to blackened leaf tips. Again, as autumn approaches, gradually ease off fertilization to allow the plant to better settle into its period of rest.

Anguloa clowesii cont.,

Beyond cultivation, *Anguloa clowesii* plays an intriguing role in natural hybridization. In its native habitat, it occasionally crosses with *Anguloa hohenlohii* to yield the hybrid *Anguloa x Ruckerii*, reflecting a fascinating interplay of genetics mediated by a host of pollinators – typically small birds and bees but occasionally by butterflies, moths, and other creatures. Moreover, as a member of the Lycaste group, *Anguloa* hybridizes easily with other Lycaste and related species to produce intricate Angulocaste hybrids. While *Anguloa* has never held a major place in American collections, Lycaste once enjoyed widespread popularity and hybridization. However, in recent years, enthusiasm for these species has waned, largely due to the plants' large size and their susceptibility to virus that can spread readily in crowded collections.

Whether you're a seasoned orchid aficionado or a curious newcomer, *Anguloa clowesii* invited you to experience the magic of a true natural marvel. Embrace the challenges it presents, and let its elegant blooms and captivating fragrance remind you that the art of orchid cultivation is, ultimately, a journey of perpetual discovery and wonder.

- By Jeff Hackett



Anguloa clowesii 'Amsterdam' AM/AOS (81 points)
Exhibitor: Douglas Needham || Photographer: Bryon K Rinke
Date: Jul 17, 2021



Anguloa x ruckerii 'Orquifollajes' AM/AOS (85 points)
Exhibitor: Francisco Villegas || Photographer: Nicolas Gomez
Date: Sep 13, 2023