



October 2024

Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

October Guest Speaker: Luis Matienzo, Ph.D.

Discovering the World of Orchids

Most of us know only a few types of orchids, but this incredible plant family has many different forms around the world. Throughout history, people have used orchids for herbal medicine, artistic inspiration, and more recently, as a part of the horticultural industry.

This presentation will explore the biology and evolution of orchids, focusing on how they have spread and evolved across the globe. Just like orchids keep evolving, so does our way of classifying them scientifically to better understand and describe them.

We will also look at how explorers collected orchids from the wild, increasing our knowledge of different species and their hybrids. This talk will cover the history of how people have propagated and hybridized orchids, and how we use data to trace the origins of hybrids.

Another part of this presentation will include tips on materials needed for successful orchid growing, along with examples of successes and challenges when growing orchids indoors. To help you get started, we will also share a list of helpful websites for identifying orchid species and registered hybrids.

Luis J. Matienzo, Ph.D.

has been involved with orchids as a hobby for over 40 years. As an avid orchid grower, he has special interest in orchid species, miniatures and lady slipper orchids and he raises many plants under lights. Dr. Matienzo has visited and photographed orchids in their natural habitats in North and South America and has presented lectures to orchid societies and other organizations in the U.S. and overseas. Luis and two friends were responsible for the reactivation of the then dormant Southern Tier Orchid Society of New York in 1986. He has also served in many board positions of this organization.



Rlc. King George 'Serendipity'
Photo Courtesy of Jeff Hackett

Osmunda Fiber: Special Purchase Opportunity

October Guest Speaker: Luis Matienzo, Ph.D.

Osmunda Fiber For Sale

Osmund Fiber from *Osmunda regalis*
Courtesy of Dr. Luis Matienzo

Offer to STOS members: \$15 for a 1-gallon bag

Osmunda, fern genus of the family Osmundaceae, with divided fronds and often growing to a height of 1.5 meters (5 feet). The matted fibrous roots of these abundant ferns are called osmunda fiber, osmundine, or orchid peat; they are broken up and used as a rooting medium for epiphytic orchids (those that grow on other plants).

This potting medium is expensive and very difficult to find and it lasts at least three years. It provides air to the roots and also serves as an organic fertilizer as it ages. A comparable product is New Zealand tree fern which sells for \$18 for 1/2-gallon bag. (see for example Amazon.com).

One-gallon bags will be for sale at the October STOS meeting.



Osmunda Fiber
Photo Courtesy of Luis Matienzo



Osmunda regalis "flower"
Photo Credit: finegardening.com



Osmunda regalis
Photo Credit: finegardening.com



Member Info

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Show Chair Carol Bayles

Program Coordinator Jean Mint

Auction Committee Pete O'Connell,
Jane Trey

IT Specialist Melissa Bennett

Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

Email address:

STOSorchids@gmail.com

Google Group (Listserv)

STOSorchidgroup@googlegroups.com

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

STOS Calendar 2024

Meetings are 2-4 pm (1:30-2 is 'social time')
at the Vestal United Methodist Church,
328 Main St. Vestal, NY.

In 'The Belfry' on the 2nd floor. Elevator available.

Jan 21 General Meeting via Zoom.

Speaker: Bill Goldner "Next Generation of
Miniature Phragmipediums and other New
Lines of Breeding"

Feb 18 General Meeting In Person and via Zoom.
Speaker Ron McHatten

Mar 17 General Meeting, Show Planning
Spring Online Auction Kickoff, Speaker Carol
Klonowski on Tolumnias

Apr 20-21 Orchid Show at Roberson Museum

April 26-28 GROS Show (Rochester)

May 19 General Meeting, Repotting Workshop

June-Aug Summer Break, no meetings or newsletters

Aug. 11 Picnic at Tioga Gardens

Sep 15 General Meeting with nominations for
officers. **Fall auction** Live, in Person
Set up at 1:00.

Oct 20 General meeting, voting for officers.
Luis J. Matienzo, Ph.D.

Nov 17 General Meeting, Speaker TBA

Dec 22 Holiday Party

Neighboring Societies

CNYOS – Central NY Orchid Society (Syracuse)

GROS – Genesee Region OS (Rochester)

NFOS – Niagara Frontier OS (Buffalo)

CPOS – Central Pennsylvania OS (State College)

Albany Orchid Society (Albany, NY)

STOS Meeting Minutes

September 15th Meeting Notes

Location: Vestal United Methodist Church and Zoom

Call to order: President Carol Bayles 2:00 pm

Attendees: ~ 25 members (not all signed in)

New member Sarah Scocozza

Comments from the president: A sign-in sheet will be at the door, and badges will be available and kept at meetings for reuse at each meeting. Please let us know if a badge is needed or add a note with your name on the sign-in sheet.

No one is on Zoom at this time.

Reports

Secretary Linda Mittel, present

Per Carol, there was no report since there was no formal meeting because the repotting session occurred.

Treasurer: Angel Caoile, Absent

Carol did not have the actual amount, but we “have a lot of money.”

AOS rep: Bernice Magee, Absent

Carol discussed AOS membership and recommended it to members; STOS has paper copies of monthly magazines for anyone to see. Bernice has these copies.

Librarian: Laurel Shaefer, Present

Carol mentioned the library. Books are located here in a cabinet in another room. Trying to figure out a place for the books and for ease of access. No actual report

Old Business:

STOS picnic was held on August 11, 2024. The picnic was slated to be at Hickory Park (same as the previous year), but due to the Hurricane, it was canceled and moved to Tioga Gardens. They had a wedding venue and allowed the picnic there. About 25 people attended.

Gunsalus's family assisted with barbequing.

Had numerous dishes and drinks that members provided

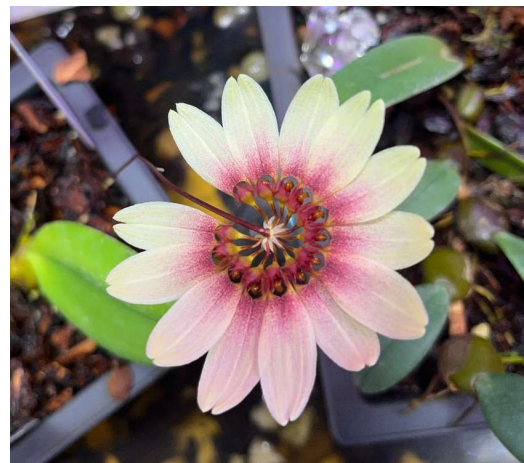
Show table

Members introduced themselves and shared information about themselves and the orchids they grow.

Unpaid dues for 2024

Names will be removed from the “active” list and archived

Will not receive emails and notices from the club



Bulb.Daisy Chain
Photo Courtesy of Linda Mittel

STOS Meeting Minutes

September 15th Meeting Notes, cont.

New Business

The nomination of new officers for this year will occur in September. Voting for nominees occurs in October. Paula and Luis Matienzo, Nomination Committee

Paula spoke. Nominations:

Carol Bayles: Stepping down as President

Linda Mittel, President nominee, Present

Ruth Allen: VP rerunning for VP, Present

Linda Mittel: Secretary, No volunteer for nomination, present

Angel Caoile: Treasurer (Rerunning for Treasurer), Absent

Member at Large for EB: Colin Dimon's term ended. Jeff Hacket volunteered, present.

Other members at large are Loi Tran and Gail Gunsalus

Carol discussed the secretary position and its requirements. The position includes taking notes at meetings, transcribing recordings of meetings, and assisting in meeting preparations.

Luis commended Carol Bayles for all her work, keeping the club active during COVID-19, and her work for the club.

Carol discussed the need for volunteers for other club positions and recommended getting involved to learn about orchids, meet other members, and enjoy many other benefits.

Committee and/or position for new volunteers for 2024-2025

Jeff Hackett: Newsletter Current

Carol Bayles: Webmaster Current

Sam Hance and Jeff Hackett Co Chairs for Show Current

Paula Matienzo: Membership Committee Current

Social Media Committee: Loi Tran, Jean Mint and Renee

Librarian: Laurel Schaeffer, Current

Program Chair: Jean Mint, Current

Auction Chairs: Jane Trey and Jeff Hacket, Current

IT Assistance: Melissa Bennett, Current

Marketing Committee: open

Carol closed the meeting.

Show table: Plants bought by members were shown and discussed

Jean Mint and others whose names were not available

Auction: ~ 40 plants were offered for auction. Some were donations from Geoff Gould's collection (from his wife, Libby Gould), purchased from Laurel Shaefer (member) Luis Matienzo (member donation), and Carol Bayles (member donation)

After the auction, the meeting was closed, and the hall was returned to arrival status. This occurred ~ 4:00 pm

Notes were from Recording by Carol Bayles and were transcribed by Linda Mittel and Carol Bayles.



Officer Elections and Voting Details

The Southern Tier Orchid Society is looking for enthusiastic and passionate members to help shape the future of our community by stepping in leadership roles. Elections are right around the corner this October, and this is your opportunity to take a more active role in the Society, make a difference, and help us grow together!

Why Get Involved? Becoming an officer of STOS is a rewarding experience that allows you to help direct the growth and development of our Society. Your skills and leadership can help bring engaging events, informative speakers, and existing new projects to fruition for all members to enjoy. It is also a wonderful opportunity to connect more deeply with fellow orchid enthusiasts and contribute to the community that supports our shared passion.

Each year the executive board is voted on by the general population, new officers/board members will assume their responsibility effective November 1st. See a list of the available positions and the current nominated members running to fill these roles:

- President
Linda Mittel - Current Secretary - Spokesperson for the Society
Unopposed - Presides over all meetings at which they are present
- Vice President
Ruth Allen – Incumbent - Performs presidential duties in the absence of the President
Unopposed - Serves as parliamentarian at all meetings
- Secretary
Chris Higgins - Record Keeping
Unopposed - Handles all official Society Correspondence
- Treasurer
(Open) - Collects and makes record of membership dues
- Financial Management of all Society funds.
- AOS Rep.
Polly Dillon - Serves as liaison between the AOS and the Society
Unopposed - Discusses AOS items of interest at each meeting
- Member at large
Jeff Hackett - Provides counsel and advice to the other officers
Unopposed - Representative of the general members

Eligible members are able to run and be nominated for any of the above positions. If you are interested in running for an officer position, contact Carol Bayles via email: STOSorchids@gmail.com. Some of you have expressed interest and should nominate yourselves via email.

Voting will be done in person at the October meeting and by email the following week. Email ballots can be submitted to the STOSorchids@gmail.com address till October 27th.

Refer to the Southern Tier Orchid Society's Bylaws Articles IV & V for a full list of officer responsibilities and general election process. <https://www.southerntierorchids.org/>

New officers assume their responsibility effective November 1st.

Committee Chair Openings

In addition to the officer nominations being made in September, several of the Society's various committee chairs are also open. These key committee chair positions listed below are appointed by the Executive Board and require approval from the General Membership:

- Show
Sam Hance
Jeff Hackett
 - Responsible for organizing AOS judged shows
 - Secures judges, venues, vendors, etc.
- Plant Auction
Jane Trey
Jeff Hackett
 - Orders, Prices, Labels, and otherwise prepares auction plants
- Meeting Program Coordinator
Jean Mint
 - Arranges & Secures speakers for society meetings as needed
- Newsletter Editor
Jeff Hackett
 - Writes the monthly newsletter from September to May
- Webmaster
Carol Bayles
 - Maintains and updates the Society's website
- Social Media
Loi Tran
Jean Mint
Renee DePrato
 - Manages the Society's social media presence
- Librarian
Laurel Shaefer
 - Manages the Society's library
- IT Assistant
Melissa Bennett
 - Assists with technical and software support for the society
- Marketing Committee
(Open)
 - Manages the overall publicity of the club
- Membership Committee
Anitra Murphy
 - Manages membership records for the society

Eligible members are able to volunteer for any of the above positions. If you are interested in volunteering for a chair position, contact Carol Bayles via email: STOSorchids@gmail.com.

Refer to the Southern Tier Orchid Society's Bylaws Article VI for a full list of chair responsibilities and general election process. <https://www.southerntierorchids.org/>

Committee Chairs assume their responsibility effective November 1st.



Meet Our New Volunteers

Jeff Hackett is a civil engineer specializing in water resources, with expertise in drainage and water/wastewater treatment. Beyond his professional life, he is also a cellist and passionate plant grower. He has been growing plants for over five years, with a particular interest in orchids over the past two years. His collection boasts more than 200 species and hybrids, with a special love for Coelogyne, Lycaste, and Anguloa. His diverse assortment includes genera such as Anguloa, Bulbophyllum, Coelogyne, Catasetum, Cattleya, Chysis, Dendrobium and many more.



Blc. Hawaiian Leopard 'Mei-Ling'
Photo Courtesy of Jean Mint



Papilionanda Motes Purple Majesty
Photo Courtesy of Jeff Hackett

Chris Higgins is a Chinese-American IT specialist with an AAS degree in Computer Security and Forensics from SUNY-Broome, where he also earned his CompTIA A+ Certification. His studies taught him not only technical skills but also the value of self-respect and perseverance. Outside of his academic and professional pursuits, Chris is a second-degree black belt in Haidong Gumbo, a Korean martial art focused on sword techniques. He finds relaxation in nature, regularly hiking with his mother regardless of the season. Chris is also an orchid enthusiast, primarily caring for several long-lived Phalaenopsis, and he hopes to expand his knowledge of orchids through his membership in STOS.

Anitra spends her time with her husband, 4 kids, 5 grandkids, 3 dogs, a small flock of hens, 2 horses, and her cat. She has a modest collection of phals, cattleyas, oncidiums, dendrobiums, and a few different species, but nothing large or difficult to care for. Her favorites are the fragrant ones. She also joined STOS with her sister because they like to spend time together now that they're retired from their technology careers. She enjoys being outdoors, meeting friends, kayaking, sailing, hiking, and she loves the wild birds at her feeders.



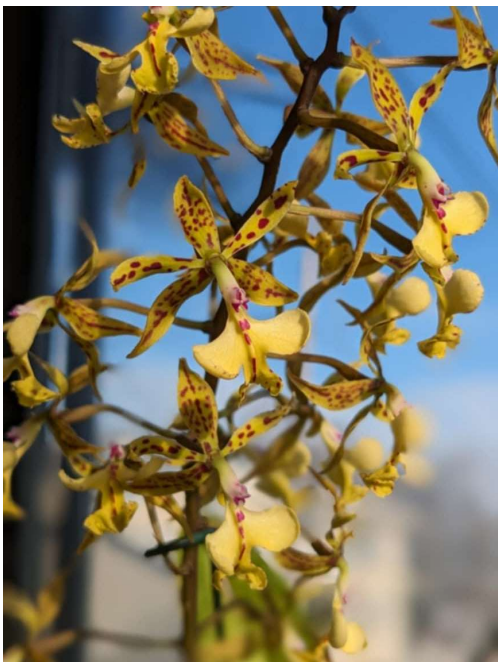
Blc. Memorida Vida Lee 'Limelight'
Photo Courtesy of Jean Mint

Meet Our Incumbent Volunteers

Linda Mittel is an orchidophile with a background in veterinary medicine. Although her passion for orchids began over thirty years ago at UNC-Chapel Hill, her busy career and family life limited her ability to indulge in this hobby. Now retired, Linda is expanding her orchid collection and enjoys all orchids, but Phals, Paphs, mini orchids, Bulbos, and all Laelia-like blossoms are her favorites.



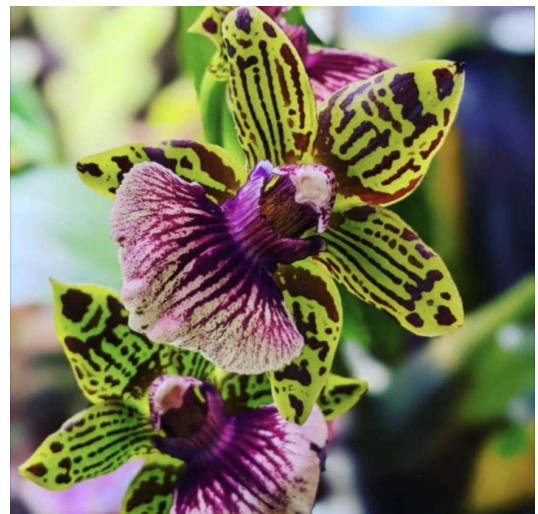
Coelogyne viscosa
Photo Courtesy of Jeff Hackett



Epidendrum stamfordianum
Photo Courtesy of Ben Turnbull

Polly Dillon is a retired Nurse Practitioner who developed a love of orchids from her Mom who always had a room full of blooming Phals. After she retired, she attended an orchid show at the New York Botanical gardens and was amazed at the variety of beautiful orchids. Her orchids have become her new patients similar but each with their own culture and needs. She enjoys caring for her large collection and watching them grow and flourish.

Ruth Allen has been captivated by the beauty of orchids since receiving her first Phalaenopsis as a gift in 2016. After retiring from careers as a bank teller and an appliance/electronics salesperson, Ruth found more time to nurture her orchid hobby. She joined the Southern Tier Orchid Society in 2022 and has since expanded her collection to 22 orchids. Eager to continue learning, she is also a member of the American Orchid Society.



Galeopetalum Starbust 'Parkside AM/AOS'
Photo Courtesy of Ben Turnbull

Auction Success: Thanks to Our Community

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support of our annual Autumn Auction, which took place on September 15th. Thanks to your participation, it was a great success, with 46 beautiful orchids auctioned and a profit of ±\$900 that will go directly towards supporting our society's future events, guest speakers, and activities.

We would like to especially thank those who donated plants to the auction: Libby Gould, Carol Bayles, John Zygmunt, and Luis Matienzo, along with Laurel Shaefer, who generously donated 50% of the auction plant prices. The auction wouldn't have been possible without their generosity.

Our gratitude also goes to those who contributed their time and efforts to make this event a success. Colin Dimon organized the plants and assisted the auctioneer, while Luis Matienzo led the auction as our auctioneer. Jane Trey and Jeff Hackett ensured smooth record-keeping and payment collection. Thank you to all who attended, bid, and supported this community event.

Another note of appreciation goes to our secretary, Linda Mittel, for sending a thank you letter to Libby Gould in recognition of her generous donation from Geoff's collection, helping make this auction so special.

With many plants sparking friendly competition, the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement and we hope everyone enjoyed the friendly competition and the opportunity to grow their orchid collections, all while supporting the Southern Tier Orchid Society. Let's keep this wonderful spirit alive as we continue to foster our shared love for orchids, and we look forward to our next auction in Spring 2025 .



Phalaeopsis Anthura Narbonne	Libby Gould
Phalaeopsis Snow Compass	Libby Gould
Phaphiopedilum New Era	Libby Gould
Phaphiopedilum Nitens	Libby Gould
Ons. Hilo Firecracker 'Lucky Strike'	Libby Gould
Brassidium.Nittany Gold 'Dr. John' AM/AOS	Libby Gould
Dendrobium Salaya white	Libby Gould
Dendrobium (Sunny vista x Dunkayla) x Den. Regal Gilleston	Libby Gould
Blc. Marcella Koss "pink Marvel" AM/AOS	Libby Gould
Blc. GoldDendrobiumzelle 'Lemon Chiffon'	Libby Gould
Rlc. Maikai 'Mayumi'	Libby Gould
Blc. Maikai 'Louise)	Libby Gould
Mps. Quintal Kenealli	Libby Gould
Blc Hawaiian Passion 'Carmela	Libby Gould
Rlc. Volcano Empress 'Volcano queen'	Libby Gould
Rlc. Siam Treasure #2	Libby Gould
Blc. Robert's Choice 'Dee'	Libby Gould
Blc. Dorothy Warne 'Favorite'	Libby Gould
Blc. Fritz Nickolau 'Spring dance'	Libby Gould
Blc. Fort Watson 'MenDendrobiumhall'	Libby Gould
Ludisia discolor	Libby Gould
Bratonia Shalob Tokan	Laurel Shaefer
Blc Mem. Vida Lee 'Limelight'	Laurel Shaefer
Blc Mem. Vida Lee 'Limelight'	Laurel Shaefer
Chz Hsinying Naranja	Laurel Shaefer
Blc Hawaiian Leopard 'Meiling'	Laurel Shaefer
Maxilaria tenuifolia 'Yamada'	Laurel Shaefer
Bl Petite Star x (Bl Richard Muller x L rubescens)	Laurel Shaefer
Catasetinae hybrid	Carol Bayles
Catasetinae hybrid	Carol Bayles
Catasetinae hybrid	Carol Bayles
Catasetinae hybrid	Carol Bayles
Gomesa radicans	John Zygmunt
Bulbophyllum frostii	John Zygmunt
Bulbophyllum makoyanum	John Zygmunt
Dendrobium chrysotropis	John Zygmunt
Dendrobium loddigesii	John Zygmunt
Meiracyllium trinastum	John Zygmunt
Bulbophyllum makoyanum	John Zygmunt
Bulbophyllum fascinator	John Zygmunt
Bulbophyllum frostii	John Zygmunt
Bulbophyllum ecornutum	John Zygmunt
Bulbophyllum Daisy Chain	John Zygmunt
Stelis pusilla	John Zygmunt
Meiracyllium trinastum	Luis Matienzo
Dendrobium Teretifolium	Luis Matienzo

What's New from the AOS

Fall Orchid Care

Like spring, fall is an important transitional season and orchid growers should be making preparations for the coming winter. As days get shorter and cooler, orchid growth will slow, and in some cases cease altogether. Unless a plant is in a crisis-situation, put off any repotting until the lengthening days of spring. For many orchids, it is this change of seasonal conditions that begins flower initiation. As we move into November, be on the lookout for developing inflorescences on *Phalaenopsis*, *Cymbidium* and certain hybrids and species in other genera, and begin staking when spikes reach 6-8 inches.

If you have been summering some, or all, of your orchids outside, now is a good time to get your indoor growing area cleaned up and ready to welcome the returning orchids. Even if you're an indoor grower, it's a good time to pull all the pots out and clean the area where the plants are. If you do, this is a game-changer in terms of pest management.

Whether it is windowsill carts, a basement light setup or greenhouse, use diluted chlorine bleach (1:10) or Physan to clean off any accumulated algae and sanitize the area from any potential pests or spores that may be hiding in the accumulated dust around the plants.

ALWAYS check plants thoroughly for pests before returning them to the close quarters of your indoor growing area or greenhouse. For bringing any plant indoors, always treat the plants preventatively with pesticides and quarantine them for a few days before assimilating them with the rest of your collection. This will ensure that you have fewer problems and headaches throughout the winter. - Article Courtesy of the American Orchid Society

Upcoming AOS Webinars

Documentation & Conservation of Chikanda Orchids in the Highlands of Southern Tanzania with Peter Zale

Thursday, October 10th, 2024 8:30 PM EST

Peter Zale of Longwood Gardens presents information on this important conservation effort.

Greenhouse Chat October 2024 with Ron McHatton

Thursday, October 15th, 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 October 13, 2024. Greenhouse Chats are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BUT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

AOS Culture Day "Know More November: Orchid Culture, Conservation And You!"

with John Romano, Jason Fischer, Lucy Matos-Lodato, Keith Clark, and Ben Oliveros

Sunday, November 10th, 10:00 AM EST

How to Grow Award-Worthy Species Orchids, Growing Vanilla, Installing and Maintaining Orchids with the Flamingo Orchidteers, Hawaiian Sunrise and Greenhouse Growing.

Citizen Scientists Meet Native Orchids with Bob Sprague

Tuesday, November 12th, 8:30 PM EST

Bob talks about the work of orchid enthusiasts studying and caring for native orchids and their habitat.

See AOS.org/orchids/webinars

Preface

Welcome back to our orchid journey! This month, we travel from the temperate regions of New York to the sunlit landscapes of Australia to explore *Dendrobium speciosum*, also known as the "Rock Orchid." This impressive species captivates with its showy clusters of creamy white to pale yellow flowers. Join us as we delve into the unique adaptations of this resilient orchid and its role in the diverse Australian flora.

Dendrobium speciosum

Native to the eastern coast of Australia, *Dendrobium speciosum*, or the "Rock Lily" as it is commonly referred to, is celebrated for its resilience and adaptability. This orchid is well-known for thriving in both extreme heat and near-freezing temperatures, making it one of the hardiest orchids to collect. It can comfortably handle conditions ranging from just above freezing to well over 100°F

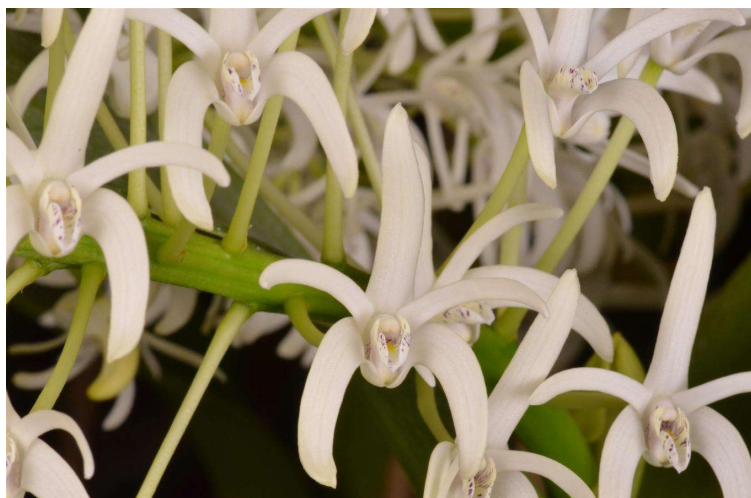
Dendrobium speciosum belongs to the *Dendrocoryne* section, which includes other species such as *Den. adae*, *aemulum*, *callitopophyllum*, *falcorostrum*, *finniganense*, *fleckeri*, *gracillcaoule*, *jonesii*, *moorei*, and most famously: *kingianum*. These orchids share many similarities, yet each species maintains its own unique charm.

In its natural habitat, *Dendrobium speciosum* can be found growing lithophytically on rocky hillsides, where it anchors itself to stones, or as an epiphyte in the nooks and branches of trees.



Dendrobium speciosum 'Gracias Gonzalo Perez' CCM/AOS (91 points)
Exhibitor: Paul and Phyllis Chim | | Date: Apr 15, 2023

Dendrobium speciosum cont.,



Dendrobium speciosum 'Gracias Gonzalo Perez' CCM/AOS (91 points)
Exhibitor: Paul and Phyllis Chim | | Date: Apr 15, 2023

One of the most remarkable features of *Dendrobium speciosum* is its impressive flowering display. Each inflorescence can carry around 100 fragrant waxy flowers, ranging in color from white, to cream, to yellow with mature specimens often producing multiple inflorescences during a blooming cycle. These plants are highly fragrant and can be described as having an intensely sweet odor reminiscent of hyacinth and honey.

To successfully encourage blooming in cultivation, *Dendrobium speciosum* requires full sunlight – similar to the light levels needed for Vandas – along with a dormancy period beginning in November and ending in the early spring when new growth begins emerging. A typical dormant period for these plants includes, no or significantly less water, no additional nutrients or fertilizers, and a drop in temperature. This dendrobium, like many others, relish temperatures in the mid 40s to encourage blooming.

For all my plants requiring a wintering dormancy, I try to provide transition periods in my own cultivation of the plants. In nature, plants don't experience a hard change in water, nutrients, and light. Rather, they experience seasonal fluctuations.

When it comes to cultivating *Dendrobium speciosum*, proper potting and watering practices in conjunction with strong fertilization are the key to success. These plants are typically grown in shallow saucers or azalea pots, which allow the plant to spread and readily dry out. The choice of potting media highly dependent on the grower's specific culture and watering habits. Though *Den. speciosum* can tolerate some neglect, it generally prefers to be allowed to dry to just barely damp between waterings.

Temperature:	Plants in this section grow normally down to 35° F, and will tolerate temperatures down to 29° F. Must have night temperatures below 50° F in fall and winter for flowering. I keep these in a cool house with a minimum night temperature of 48° F.
Light:	Require full sun for best flower production -grow on rocks in full sun on the Tropic of Capricorn. In the Boston area I put these plants outside sometime in April, in full sun, until they go back inside the first of November to protect against the fall rains as this is the time to start drying out.
Water-Humidity:	I start watering after the inflorescences are well developed, and keep the medium moist, and during the summer outdoors this may require watering every day. The plants go inside the first of November and do not receive any more water until the inflorescences are well formed. Humidity in the house during the winter runs 50-70 percent. I give all of these species a dry period, but through trial and error have learned that a few clones will bloom perfectly well with continuous watering.
Fertilizer:	These plants receive 100ppm N/gal/wk of a low N formula-9-30-25. These are vigorously growing plants and require a lot of nutrition, but should never receive a high N ratio fertilizer.
Potting:	See general remarks above
References:	1-Adams, P. and Lawson, S.: <i>Dendrobium kingianum-A Unique Australian Orchid</i> . Central Queensland University Press, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia, 1995. 2-Bechtal, H., Cribb, P., and Launert, E. : <i>The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species</i> . M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, MA, 1981. 3-Upton, W.T.: <i>Dendrobium Orchids of Australia</i> . Houghton Mifflin Australia Pty Ltd., Victoria, Australia, 1989.
Author:	Wilford B. Neptune, MD
E-mail:	

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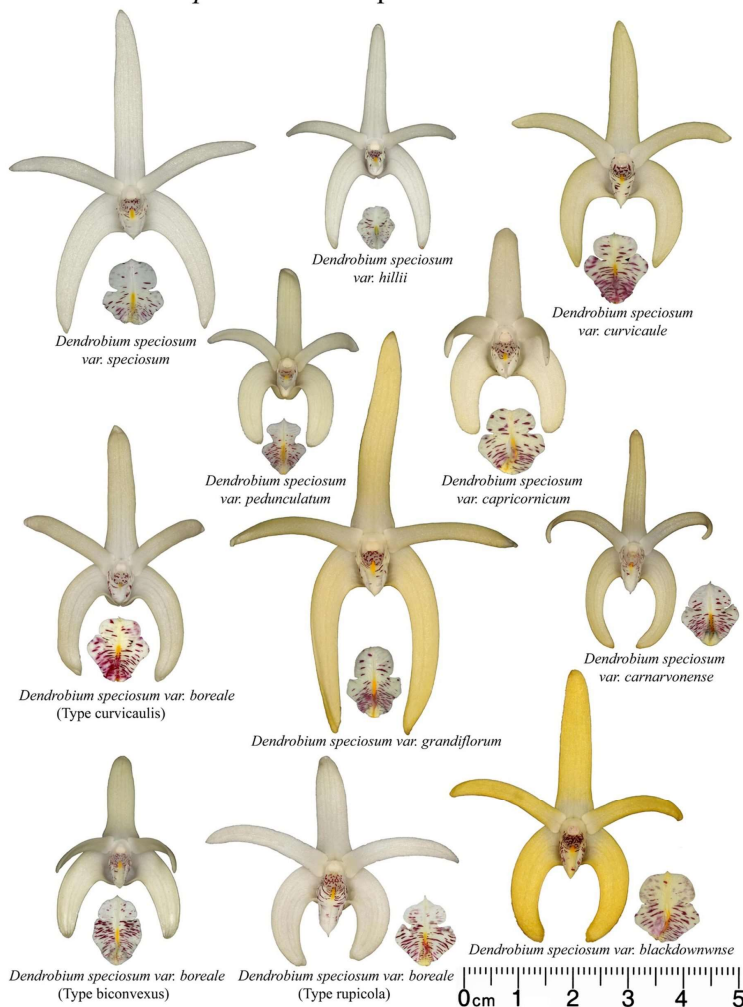
Dendrobium speciosum cont.,

In its native range, this orchid receives between 24-47 inches of rain annually, with most of precipitation occurring during the summer months. This means that during the growing season, *Den. Speciosum* should be kept well watered; typically, in a slightly water retentive media to maintain optimal conditions. Many growers use a mix of large and medium fir bark, sphagnum moss, and inorganic substrate that retain moisture but also allows for good aeration, to prevent the roots from rotting.

In my own culture, my *Dendrobium speciosum* is thriving in a mix of chunky lava rock and charcoal, with no other organic media mixed into the bulk of the substrate. However, I cap the pot with a thin layer of sphagnum moss to maintain higher humidity around the roots and promote new root growth. So far, this has worked well for me as it allows the plant to grow robustly while staying well-drained.

In terms of feeding this species – feeding it “meekly weekly” may not be enough for optimal growth. Some Australian growers have success fertilizing multiple times per week with a fertilizer high in phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) and lower in nitrogen (N). Personally, I have had good

Dendrobium speciosum Group: Flower & Labellum



results using Peters Excel Cal-Mag, which provides a balanced nutrition with added calcium and magnesium micronutrients to meet the plant's needs. I also use a slow-release granule pot which is a 14-14-14 fertilizer. Ensuring a consistent feeding regimen, particularly during the active growing season, can greatly enhance flowering and ensure the overall health of the plant.

There are nine recognized variants of *Den. speciosum*: *hillii*, *curvicaule*, *pedunculatum*, *capricornicum*, *grandiflorum*, *carnarvonense*, *blackdownense*, and *boreale*. Variant *boreale* also has three sub-types *curvicaulis*, *biconvexus*, and *rupicola*. All these variants produce an extremely impressive display of flowers, but vary slightly in growth habit and flower. The growth habit for the variants are all similar, typically being described as having cylindrical or tapered pseudobulbs 2-70" long and 0.4-2" wide. The foliage is long lasting, with each cane having up to seven thick leathery leaves.

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Dendrobium speciosum cont.,

Dendrobium speciosum is part of the *Dendrocoryne* section and is known for its ability to readily hybridize in nature. The most notable natural hybrid is *Dendrobium delicatum* (*speciosum* x *kingianum*). Other natural hybrids include Den. Andrew Persson (*speciosum* x *falcorostrum*) and Den. Hilda Poxon (*speciosum* x *tetragonum*). These hybrids are generally all smaller and more compact compared to *Dendrobium speciosum* but are equally as floriferous, making them wonderful specimen plants.

In hybrid breeding programs, *Den. Speciosum* has had a significant impact on expanding the diversity and quality of orchid hybrids and has been used in the creation of numerous hybrids beyond the naturally occurring ones. Typically, these selective breeding programs lead to hybrids having improved flower shapes, color intensity, and overall substance. An example, Den. Hilda Poxon, has been considered timeless and continues to be remade using superior parental varieties. Another example is Den. Warringah.



Dendrobium Hilda Poxon 'Diamon Orchids' AM/AOS (80 points)
Exhibitor: Peter T. Lin | | Date: Dec 09, 2017

Whether it is the sheer size, the fragrant flowers, or the striking presence in the landscape, *Dendrobium speciosum* is a true showcase of nature's resilience and beauty. Its adaptability and spectacular blooms make it a must-have for serious orchid enthusiast looking to add a piece of the Australian wilderness to their collection.

- By Jeff Hackett



Dendrobium Andrew Persson
OrchidRoots user Robyn Johnson



Dendrobium delicatum (x *speciokingianum*) 'Kayley Gunning' CCE/AOS (91 points)
Exhibitor: Bill Gunning | | Date: Mar 03, 2016