



June



2026

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- * President: Jim Pearce
- * Vice President: Erin Nelson
- * Secretary : Edwin Weber & Savannah Brommer
- * Treasurer: Jo E. Cook
- * Show Chairperson: Linda Drummond
- * AOS Representative: Harvey Singleton
- * Newsletter Editor: Suzanne Sawyer
- * Member at Large: Donna Foreman
- * Member at Large: Ernie Smith

Committee Chairs:

- * Librarian: Scott Rettenmund
- * Refreshments: Jeanne McKinnie

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President's Thoughts

At our last Board meeting, we discussed a really busy summer for orchid events. There will be tours, repotting, classes for beginners, and places to show off what we have in bloom. So, please read the newsletters and check in on our website regularly to keep abreast of what is coming up.

I apologize to those who did not get to talk about your orchids during the Show 'n Tell at our last meeting. I need to handle the time a little better, and I need your help also. At each meeting we have about 20 minutes allotted for Show 'n Tell. So if there are 10 members presenting, each of you have 2 minutes to present; that's not much time! For those of you who have questions to ask the presenter, wait until the break to ask them to the individual. I must "GONG" those who go too long. Sorry! If I can find more time, I'll use it for Show 'n Tell. DO NOT stop bringing your beautiful orchids.

Jim

SOS 2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time/Location
Wednesday, June 10, 2026	Orchid Society General Meeting Refreshments: Jeanne McKinnie & Alyssa Hopkins	5:30 PM: Social Time 6:00 PM: Meeting starts Manito Park Meeting Room * Need to leave Bldg. by 8 PM
Saturday, June 13, 2026	*Orchid Re-potting Day	10 AM to 1:00 PM Home of Jean Kelley @ 21409 N. Hazard Rd. Spokane 99208

Up-coming Summer Events & Dates

*Information about Re-potting Day

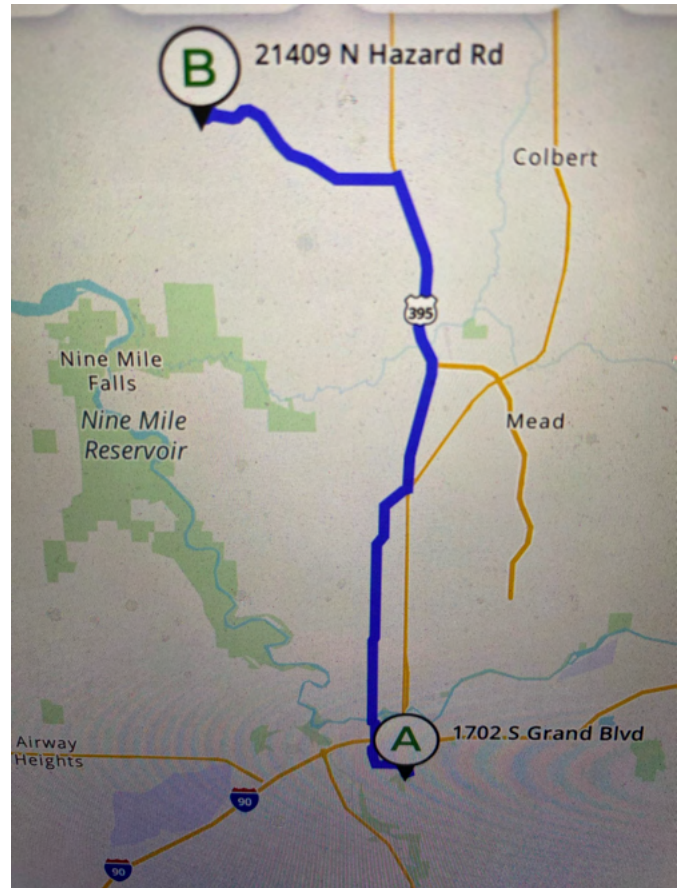
Re-potting day is coming up on **Saturday, June 13th** at the home of Jean Kelley, who lives near Deer Park, WA. Bring orchids that need to be re-potted and/or divided. The Society will provide bark and other potting media and also provide pots in a variety of sizes. Great opportunity to trade a division of one of your orchids for a division of something else. Also bring some drinking water and a snack. We will start at 10 am. Jean lives at 21409 N. Hazard Rd. Spokane.

From 1-90, take ramp onto US 395 North for 4.1 miles.

Turn Left on Monroe road 3.3 miles

Turn left onto Woolard Rd for .1 mile

Turn sharp left onto N. Hazard Rd for .2 miles.



Saturday, July 4th: 2nd Garden tour and greenhouse open house at the home of Scott Rettenmund, who lives in the South Hill area at 1028 E. 33rd St. starting at 10:00 am.

Saturday, July 12, 2026: Annual SOS Picnic will be held at the home of Sharon Chatterton, who lives at 5524 N. Fleming, Spokane, WA 99205, with an 11 am start time.

Saturday, August 15, 2026: Opportunity to visit the Botanica Orchid Nursery in Missoula, Montana. Carpooling will be arranged at the August SOS meeting.

AOS CORNER with Harvey

AOS is offering to members and non-members alike an "Introduction to Orchids Bundle" free of charge. It includes:

Fragrant Orchids PDF: Discover the secrets to cultivating orchids that smell as beautiful as they look.

Introduction to Orchids Webinar: A sneak peek into our Masterclass series, packed with expert tips for orchid beginners.

Phalaenopsis: Basic Survival Guide: Everything you need to keep your Phalaenopsis orchids healthy and thriving.

To get it, go to AOS.org and click on the "FREE" boxes at the top of the web page.

AOS is also currently offering an ****Exclusive Free Offer**** about Phalaenopsis. They have unlocked a members only Orchids magazine supplement devoted entirely to Phalaenopsis - expert tips, breathtaking photos, and deep-dive features you won't find anywhere else. To get it you need to enter your name and email in a box that pops up for it to be downloaded. The material is actually the **"PHALAENOPSIS Species and Hybrids"** supplement to "Orchids" dated October 2017. It is spectacular!

The above items are really a big deal. They are marvelous presentations and documents with a lot of full four color pictures.

Happy Summer. Grow Well.

Harvey

Our Orchid Society Newsletter Has a Name!

After being nameless for many years, our Orchid Society Newsletter has a name! We asked members to come up with ideas for a newsletter name and there were several excellent suggestions at the May meeting. Candace suggested the ***Orchid Oracle*** and that name ended up being our winner through a democratic vote.

According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, an **oracle** is a person, medium, or shrine believed to be a channel for divine communication. Historically, it refers to ancient Greek priestesses (like the famous Oracle at Delphi) who delivered cryptic prophecies. Today, the term broadly describes any infallible source of wisdom.

Orchid Tips and Information for New Growers

Native Orchids of Washington State

Sources: I-Naturalist, AOS and US Forest Service

Edwin, Ken and Andy went on an orchid hike on May 15th and found some lovely native orchids. Ken sent a photo of some *Cypripedium montanum* orchids in full bloom (see photo below). They were on the eastern end of the South Hill area.



Cypripedium montanum

Here is some information about native orchids in Washington State:

Washington State is home to roughly 33 species of native orchids, primarily found in forests, boggy areas, and mountains, with popular varieties including the Fairy Slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*), various Coralroots, and Lady's Slippers. These orchids bloom from early spring through late summer, with key spots for viewing including the Olympic Peninsula, Cascades, and state parks like Deception Pass.

Common and Notable Native Washington Orchids

- **Fairy-Slipper** (*Calypso bulbosa*): A small, distinct purple and white orchid found in shady forests blooming April–May. (Pictured below)

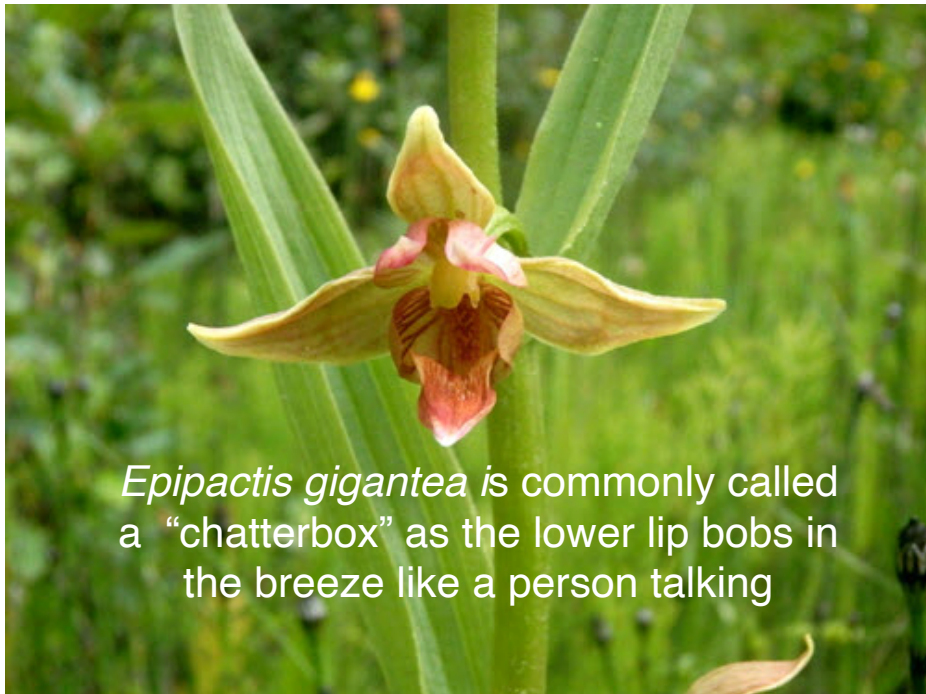


- **Spotted Coralroot** (*Corallorhiza maculata*): Common red/brown parasitic orchid that lacks green chlorophyll, blooming in spring and summer.
- **Phantom Orchid** (*Cephalanthera austini*): A rare, striking all-white, parasitic orchid found in forests.
- **Mountain Lady's Slipper** (*Cypripedium montanum*): A rare, elegant white and maroon slipper orchid found in mountain forests.
- **Giant Rattlesnake Orchid** (*Goodyera oblongifolia*): Known for its rosettes of dark green leaves with white netting, often seen in late summer.



The Giant Rattlesnake Orchid (pictured left) is easy to spot by looking for the whorl of dark green leaves with white stripes radiating from the center of the leaf whorl.

- **Stream Orchid/Chatterbox** (*Epipactis gigantea*): Found near water sources, featuring brownish-purple flowers.



- **Heart-leaved Twayblade** (*Neottia cordata*): Tiny, delicate forest orchids.

When and Where to Find Them:

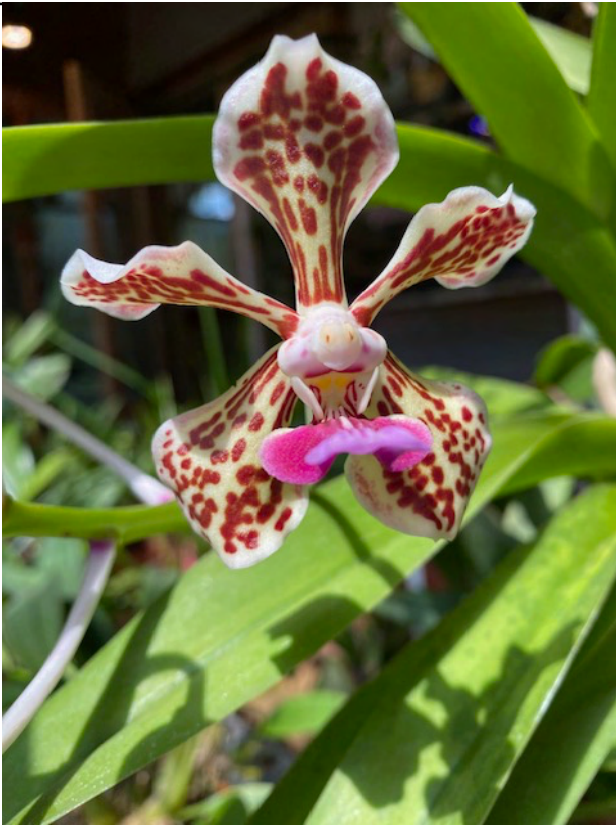
- **Early Spring (April–May):** Calypso orchids are prevalent in the Olympic Peninsula and North Cascades.
- **Late Spring (May–June):** Coralroots (Striped, Spotted, Early) emerge in forest habitats.
- **Summer (June–August):** Bog orchids (*Platanthera*), Rattlesnake Plantain, and Phantom Orchids appear, particularly near Mount Rainier and alpine lakes.

Important Conservation Note

Many native orchids are delicate and illegal to pick or transplant.

According to the [USDA Forest Service](#), removing Lady's Slippers from federal lands is strictly prohibited.

Orchid Show & Tell



Vanda tricolor suavis
Grower: Suzanne Sawyer



Calypso bulbosa, a Washington native as seen on the
MAY 24 SOS Native Orchid Hike
Photo credit: Ken Scott



Photo submitted by Harvey Singleton



Coral root seed pods from last year, as seen on the
MAY 24 SOS Native Orchid Hike
Photo credit: Ken Scott

Orchid of the Month

Coryanthes Alex Portilla



I brought this *Coryanthes* hybrid to the May meeting for Show & Tell and people seemed interested in the ecology and culture of this orchid, so I chose it for "Orchid of the Month". The flowers had not opened yet when I brought it to the meeting, so the top photo shows the buds prior to opening. Three days later it began to open as shown in the middle photo. The next day the flower was fully open and was dripping a fragrant liquid into the bucket, which is a highly modified lip. The last photo shows a droplet of oily fragrance about to drop into the bucket.



Coryanthes orchids are commonly referred to as bucket orchids, as they have a bucket shaped lip that collects a fragrant liquid to attract euglossine bees as pollinators.

How the Scent Mechanism Works

- **Production:** The osmophores continually emit volatile compounds that form a powerful, perfume-like scent to draw in bees from long distances.
- **The Trap:** While the bees frantically scrape and collect these aromatic compounds, they often lose their footing on the waxy lip and slip into a pouch (the "bucket") filled with a slick, watery fluid secreted by the plant's faucet glands.
- **Pollination:** Because their wings are wet and they cannot fly out, the bees are forced to climb through a narrow tunnel at the back of the flower. As they squeeze through, the orchid attaches a pollen packet (pollinarium) to the bee's back.



Coryanthes orchids are endemic throughout the Amazon basin of South America. They produce very fragrant, but short-lived flowers that tend to hang down below the plant. The fragrance is similar to almond oil with hints of mint. The flowers only last 3-4 days, but are very large and very unusual. They need intermediate light and temperatures and need to be moist at all times. Best grown in baskets so the flowers can push through the bottom of the pot, although they will and can grow out the sides of a pot. Very fun to grow.

Orchid Trivia & Fun Facts

Phantom Orchid of the Pacific Northwest



The Pacific Northwest has its own native “ghost” orchid. While rare, it is possible to see these unusual orchids in forested areas throughout the Western states - California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. during the summer months. Here is more information about this leafless orchid.

Cephalanthera austiniae is a species of orchid known as the **phantom orchid** because the entire plant is white, including the stem, except for a few yellow markings on the flowers. It is white because it lacks chlorophyll and does *not* use sunlight for photosynthesis. It relies on a symbiotic relationship with a fungus in the soil to derive its energy. It only pushes up through the forest floor to bloom when the conditions are perfect.

Here is more information from Wikipedia:

This is the only *Cephalanthera* species entirely dependent on [symbiotic mycorrhizae](#) for its nutrition. This [mycoheterotrophic](#) orchid has no [chlorophyll](#), so it makes no energy for itself.

Cephalanthera austiniae is a distinctive plant, rising from the dark, moist forest floor on waxy white stems and bearing orchid blossoms which are white or yellowish with yellow centers. Its leaves, ***if present***, are rudimentary since such structures are not needed for collecting sunlight. Instead, this [mycoheterotroph](#) derives both its energy and nutrients from [ectomycorrhizal](#) fungi. The plant is becoming more scarce as its habitat of dense, isolated forest becomes more threatened.