



Sept.



2026

President's Thoughts

Board Members:

- * President: Jim Pearce
- * Vice President: Erin Nelson
- * Secretary : Edwin Weber
- * 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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Now that the heat has abated, both my orchids and I have breathed a sigh of relief. Still many orchids to repot and bugs to kill, but what's new?

Well, the NWOS (Seattle) has scheduled its fall show on October 10-11 at Volunteer Park. We are planning on sending orchids to support their show, So if you might have orchids in bloom at that time, consider letting us borrow them for that weekend. I will put out a call for orchids around October 1st. At that time we will make arrangements for pickup and return. Begin preparing your plants as early as possible (cleaning, staking, placing in attractive pots, placing your names on the bottom of the pots etc).

I encourage you new members who are just beginning this hobby, to come to my Beginner's Workshop on September 20th from 1-3 pm. It will be held in my greenhouse, 7105 S. Craig Rd. in Cheney. Actually, I am closer to Medical Lake than Cheney. Bring your orchid questions and problems.

We will be ordering Kiwi Bark (pinus radiata) this month and will be selling it to members at near cost. If you still want Rexius fir bark, let me know.

Erin will discuss the culture of orchids in the cypripedium alliance (phrags, paphs, mexipediums, and cypripediums) at this month's mtg.

See you on the 9th.

Jim

SOS 2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time/Location
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026	* SOS Meeting Refreshments: Kathy O'Neil, Mem & Heather	5:30 PM Social time 6:00 PM Meeting start Manito Park Mtg. Room
Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026	Open House at Erinaldo's orchid growing area with donuts and coffee	10:00 am to 12 Noon 12007 E. Coyote Rock Dr. # D204, Spokane, WA
Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026	New Grower Workshop at Jim's Greenhouse	1:00 - 3:00 pm 7105 S. Craig Rd. Cheney, WA 99004

More Info and Up-coming Events

* Erin Nelson will talk about slipper orchid culture at the September SOS meeting. We will also discuss the October SOS Orchid Auction.

Other things to ponder for the future:

The Spokane Orchid Society is still in need of a new Treasurer as Jo needs to retire in November, but she will be willing to train a new person and work with a new treasurer for a few months. We also need a new President as Jim would like to retire in November. Also needed is another "Member at Large" to fill Ernie's board position. Elections take place in November at our regularly scheduled meeting. Please consider joining the Spokane Orchid Society board or elect someone to fill one of these important positions.



We will need a volunteer to host the 2026 SOS Christmas Party in December. Please let Jim know if you are interested in hosting.

AOS CORNER with Harvey

The American Orchid Society is having the 9th Orchid Culture Day on Sunday, November 15, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm PDT. This is an online event. Registration will open soon on the AOS website.

The September Greenhouse Chat has passed, but the October Chat will soon be scheduled in the first week of the month. Check the AOS website for the time and specific date.

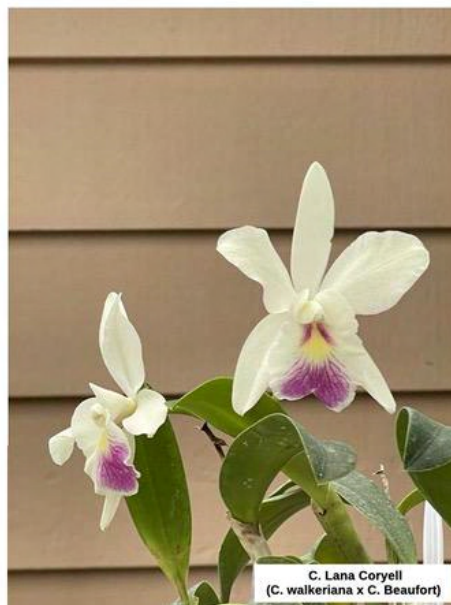
On Tuesday September 22, 2026, there will be a webinar about "The Fascinating Flora of the greek Island of Kythira - Including Many Orchids". Go to the AOS website for specifics.

Tidbits: A short list of orchid grower essential tools: 1. Propane torch for sterilizing; 2. Disposable single-edge razor blades; 3. Prying tool; 4. Ties & clips; 5. Fasteners like plastic ribbon ties, twist ties, telephone wire, plastic clips, twine; 6. Stakes; 7. Toothbrush; 8. Alcohol - 70% (for the plants); 9. Tweezers and reverse tweezers; 10. Pliers; 11. Shears; 12. Name tags; 13. Graphite pencil; 14. Stakes of various lengths and types. Note that wood stakes will rot, thin plastic stakes will become brittle, ink will fade and disappear, and mealy bugs are not your friend, no matter how cute they are.

Happy Autumn. Grow Well.

Harvey

Here are a few of Harvey's fall blooming orchids:



Orchid Tips and Information for New Growers

How are New Orchid Hybrids Named?

Sources: Royal Horticultural Society & Orchid Roots

We discussed *Cymbidium* culture at the August SOS meeting and someone asked the following question: If you created a new *Cymbidium* hybrid cross, how would you name and register that new hybrid? Jim briefly discussed the process for naming and registering new orchid hybrids, but here is more information:

Orchid hybrid registration

The Royal Horticultural Society or RHS, is the International Registration Authority for orchid hybrids. If you've created a new hybrid, you can register it with the RHS. This helps to maintain stability in cultivated plant naming, something that benefits plant breeders and buyers alike. Additionally, your hybrid will be eligible for entry into shows and to receive awards.

Registering your hybrid

Registering your hybrid online is incredibly easy and takes less than 10 minutes. Alternatively, you can also **register your hybrid by post**.

The orchid registrar will get back to you to let you know if your registration has been successful. If you have any queries, please email the registrar: **orcreg@rhs.org.uk**

Please note: Registration applications are accepted on the understanding that live plants of the named hybrid really exist. Applications shown to be based on anticipated hybrids may be cancelled.

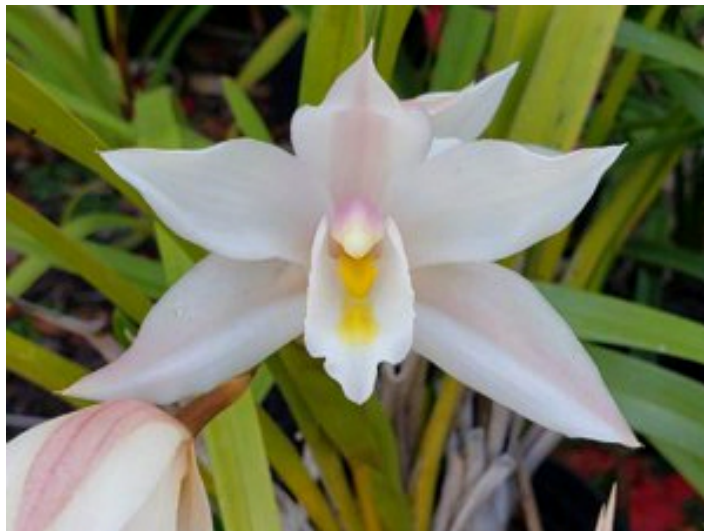
Registration fees

The cost of registering a new orchid name is £12 (about \$16 US dollars) per name. The fees paid by orchid registrants go towards the administration of the orchid registration scheme and are essential to registering more than 4,000 new orchids every year.

Official RHS Rules & Guidelines for Registering New Orchid Hybrids

- **The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP):** The RHS serves as the International Cultivated Plant Registration Authority for orchids and follows the ICNCP rules.
- **Existence vs. Flowering:** The official nomenclature rules state only that a physical plant representing the hybrid must exist. There is no formal, enforceable mandate requiring the specimen to have flowered before registration. (Although waiting for a flower is the norm)
- **RHS Stance:** While the RHS strongly encourages breeders to wait until a cross blooms to verify traits and provide accurate descriptions or photos, it is not a mandatory prerequisite. Applications based on purely anticipated or theoretical crosses (where no physical plant exists yet) are rejected or cancelled, but an unflowered live plant technically qualifies.

Now that we know how orchid hybridizers name and register their new orchid hybrids, how do we as orchid growers learn the parentage of new orchids that we add to our collections? The best online source available to everyone for genetic information of orchid hybrids is “Orchid Roots”.



If you bought this *Cymbidium* Ballianum (pictured above) and wanted to know how this hybrid cross was made, you could go to Orchid Roots (orchidroots.com) and type *Cymbidium* Ballianum into the search tool.

Orchid Roots will provide the following information: This orchid is a [Cymbidium](#) primary hybrid. The key influencing species of this hybrid are *Cymbidium eburneum* (50.00% section: [Cyperorchis](#)) *Cymbidium mastersii* (50.00% section: [Cyperorchis](#)). Orchid Roots will also provide photos of the seed parents and pod parents of your new *Cymbidium* hybrid.

Orchid Show & Tell



Catasetum Susan Fuchs
Grower: Joan Durkoop



Mokara Moonlight
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Perreira Tong Tan Keng Yam & Asdda.
Ladda Gold (top)
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Vanda Aaronsrii Beauty
Grower: Mem Weisbeck

Orchid Show & Tell



Vanda tricolor suavis
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Dendrobium thrysiflorum
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Asoda Banjong Fantasy (top)
Vanda Robert's Delight 'Klaipat' (bottom)
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Vanda Robert's Delight 'Klaipat'
Grower: Mem Weisbeck

Orchid of the Month

Renanthera bella

My *Renanthera bella* (top photo) went into spike a few weeks ago and is about to produce a spray of lovely red flowers. This epiphytic species is endemic to montane forests in Northern Borneo, where it is considered to be a threatened species due to over-collecting and habitat loss.

It is a small to medium sized orchid that is fairly easy to grow and bloom. I have had this orchid for about 3 years and this is the third time it has bloomed - so it is a reliable bloomer.

The flowers are not fragrant, but are slightly waxy and tend to be long-lasting. The flowers are actually the color of an apricot - pale orange to creamy orange, but the red splotches are so large, that the flowers appear to be all red. There is some natural color variation with some flowers being a deep red and others being a reddish-orange.

I have mine potted in a mesh basket that is nested inside a ceramic pot. The media is a mix of chunky bark, charcoal and some pumice and perlite. This species can also be mounted if you have good humidity levels.

Renanthera orchids are members of the Vanda alliance (subtribe Aeridinae) and have a monopodial growth habit like other members of the Vanda alliance. They need bright, but filtered light and intermediate to warm temperatures. This species is very sensitive to cold and will often drop leaves or die if exposed to cold temperatures.

Provide ample water during active growth in the spring and summer along with a weekly/weakly fertilizer routine. Let the media dry between waterings. Slightly reduce water and fertilizer during the fall and winter months, but do not withhold water.

Very rewarding species that is not too finicky. They tend to flower late spring to mid-summer.



Orchid Trivia & Fun Facts

Gastrodia agnicellus, the World's Ugliest Orchid

Source: Chicago Botanic Garden



The media has called it grotesque and compared it to an eyeless worm. And our friends at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London described it as “the ugliest orchid in the world.”

The not-so-pretty *Gastrodia agnicellus* orchid is just one of the new discoveries and developments I’ve tracked recently, as curator of the Chicago Botanic Garden’s [Mildred Plant Orchidarium](#). As a long-time aficionado and collector of orchids, I still geek out when researchers stumble on a species unknown to science.

In a humid rainforest in Madagascar, Kew researchers discovered *Gastrodia agnicellus*, a brown orchid that spends much of its life underground (cue the wallflower jokes). The media loved that [Kew called it the world’s ugliest orchid](#). Researcher Johan Hermans, who discovered the species, told *New Scientist*: “I’m sure it’s mother thinks it’s very lovely.” All joking aside, we have a lot to learn about the life cycle of this leafless orchid and the fungi it needs to survive.