Peninsula Orchid Society 2019 Officers

President: Vacant
Vice-President: Kathryn Bresnan – kbresnan@cox.net
Secretary: Sherry McDonald – sherryshell55@gmail.com
Treasurer: Ronda Williams – onlaketime@charter.net

Newsletter editor: Becky Tupper – ntupper@cox.net
(Please send photos, articles, information, tips, etc. for the newsletter to the Editor)

Next Meeting
Saturday, June 8
Hampton Public Library, 4207 Victoria Blvd.

12:30 – Doors open for refreshments and social hour.
(Please bring an appetizer, dessert, snack or luncheon dish to share.)

1:30 - Business Meeting and Program

This month we are excited to welcome Art Chadwick of Chadwick & Son Orchids in Richmond. His presentation will be Large Flowered Cattleya Species. Chadwick is renowned for First Lady Orchids. These two articles describe how he is involved and show some photos of orchids named for our U.S. Presidents’ wives: (Press Control Click to follow all links.) https://www.scmp.com/magazines/style/people-events/article/2147412/orchid-named-after-us-first-lady-melania-trump-wins and https://www.southernliving.com/culture/celebrities/first-lady-orchids. Art has recently received national attention for his orchid boarding services. This clip aired Friday, April 19, on the CBS Evening News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=61&v=LVBTYDFKsk&fbclid=IwAR3Js1VQW87eUt1cDVD5R5VM2g6OkpUW46JwwZWowR9_DjMlx73LhAnSw, and this article appeared in the Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/this-florist-started-babysitting-ailling-orchids-on-the-side-hes-now-boarding-13000/2019/04/03/20190403e5bc550e-3ba1-11e9-a2cd-307b06d0257b_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.0a5ad2bc6ef4. Art will bring plants for sale.

2019 POS Meeting Schedule

Jan. 12 – Garland Hanson - Stanhopeas
Feb. 9 – Darrin Duling – Brazilian Orchids
March 9 – Linda Thorne, Seagrove Orchids, Miniature Orchids
April 13 – Dr. Martin Motes
March 9 – Linda Thorne, Seagrove Orchids, Miniature Orchids
May 18 – Purchased Plant Auction
June 8 – Art Chadwick, Large Flowered Cattleya Species
July 13 – TBD
August 10 – Annual Picnic – Location TBD
Sept. 7 – Go Green Expo – No meeting at the library this month.
Oct. 19 – Donated Plant Auction
Nov. 16 – Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, Australian Dendrobiums
Dec. 7 – Holiday Party
May 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Ruina Senkovich filled in for our president in leading the monthly meeting. There was no new business to discuss. Becky Tupper introduced one visitor.

Roseann Wade read a card from Linda Thorne of Seagrove Orchids who was the speaker at our March meeting. Linda thanked us for having her.

Show table orchids were shared by Ellen Whiting and Becky Tupper.

Ruina announced that Sibyle Kerastas is moving to Kentucky, and this was her last meeting. Sibyle has been a member for many years, and we will miss her.

Our auctioneer, Vance Mason, began the auction at approximately 1:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sherry McDonald, Secretary

American Orchid Society News
Highlights from the June Newsletter

Don’t forget to check out the NEW List of Speakers to help you plan society meeting programs. You will now find the Affiliated Societies link on the home page under the “About Us” heading.

CULTURAL

Repot Your Plants By Ray Barkalow
originally published in ORCHIDS June 2014
Like my earlier Water Your Orchids article (January 2014), this topic may seem to be awfully basic and pretty obvious, but I believe that if we understand some of the “why” behind the “what” or “how to” information we learn, it puts us way ahead in our efforts to become reliable caregivers to our orchids. The question of “when” to repot is another that arises frequently, and we’ll address that, too. First, a little bit about our favorite plants.

Many of you may have heard that “healthy roots means a healthy orchid” — again pretty obvious, but do you know why that is? Terrestrial plants, with their roots buried in the soil, do the vast majority of their gas exchange processes through openings (stomata) in their leaves. Orchids, on the other hand, have adapted to having far fewer leaf stomata as an apparent evolutionary strategy to minimize water loss. Those that remain are concentrated on the bottom of the leaves, and in some cases, the plants have developed a thick, waxy “cuticle” layer, all of which shifts much of the gas exchange burden to the root system. If we stifle that, we cause stress and even death to the root cells.

Let me add a bit more about those root cells. As roots grow, they “tailor” themselves to the environment into which they are growing so that they can function optimally to support the plant, and once those cells have grown, they cannot change. We can see the implications of that with the following scenario:

A plant is potted up in nice, fresh medium, and gets great care, so it grows big and strong, sending its roots deep into the moist, airy medium. Those roots have “tailored” themselves on a cellular level to function optimally in that particular environment. Time marches on, and that potting medium starts to decompose, breaking down into smaller particles and becoming more and more compact, holding lots of water and starting to restrict air flow to the roots. Plus, minerals from your water and fertilizers, as well as plant waste products have been accumulating in the medium as well. The environment has definitely changed, but the roots have not and cannot.

The black, vertical arrow in the image mark the nice depth to which the roots grew originally, but judging by their color and condition, they are failing in that changed environment. You will note, though, that there are new roots that look entirely different (see the yellow circle) that have grown from the ends of those old roots. Those nice, plump roots have grown with their cells optimized for that environment, even if it is an environment that is bad for the original root system.

One might speculate that the plant will therefore be okay, as it now has well-functioning roots, but unfortunately, while those newly grown root segments may be fine for that environment, the older root...
system is not, so will continue to deteriorate, ultimately completely separating those new roots from the plant, leading to its demise.

That is why, when considering repotting a plant, it is best to do so just as new roots are emerging from the base of the plant, and not when the plant is dormant. Otherwise, root growth will resume only on existing roots. Those new, emergent roots will grow optimized for the environment and support the plant, while the old ones are expected to eventually fade away.

Keep in mind that the greater the difference between the “old” and “new” root zone conditions, the less optimal the old roots will be, so the more critical is the timing. One can avoid such setbacks by using good quality potting media components and repotting frequently, before the medium can significantly decompose and become compressed.

— Ray Barkalow is an engineer and scientist, and has been a hobby orchid grower for over 40 years. He has owned and operated First Rays Orchids since 1994, He can be reached at raybark@firstrays.com.

**UPCOMING WEBINARS**

It’s easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You’ll find the link under the All About Orchids tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of this monthly Corner.

**The Care and Feeding of Stanhopea with Inge Poot**

**Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT Members only**

Join Inge Poot, AOS Judge Emeritus, from the Toronto Judging Center as she discusses how to grow Stanhopea.

Register now using this link: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3836839681157547778](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3836839681157547778)

![Stanhopea Aiden 'Arya' HCC/AOS; Photographer: Tim Morton](image)

**American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton**

**Thursday, June 13th, 2019l @ 8:30-9:30 EDT Public**

Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchid. He will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send
your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboba at greenhouse@aos.org by Tuesday, June 11th. Please include pictures as well.

Register now using this link: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4925859770072372995

Note: After registering you will receive a confirmation e-mail information about joining the seminar.

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view the presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

WANT TO LEARN BUT CAN’T MAKE THE DATE? The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.