



***What is even rarer than a blue moon?
A CAIOS meeting after June!***

July 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Visits & Growing Assistance

A virtual look at members growing areas, and their blooming orchids.
Plus discussion and assistance to your pre-submitted questions.

From Brian Leib – Hi folks!!

I can't entirely believe it, but we may be having a (virtual) meeting in July! I only say that we may be as we'll need a few people to volunteer to show off their growing areas as YOU will be the speakers (for at least part of) the meeting on our topic, "How I grow my orchids." For this meeting, we ask people to give a brief video tour of your growing area or areas. Each tour should only be a few minutes, but you are certainly welcome to show off any of your favorites and/or unusual and interesting things. If you're willing to show your growing area(s) off, please send me an email at brian.leib@gmail.com. I'll ask you to give me a brief tour ahead of time so we can work out anything that may present an issue or otherwise. If everyone wants to show their grow areas off, well, we'll probably have to flip coins or use some sort of funky random number generator or something. Fun, right? Anyways, if you're up for showing things off, please let me know no later than July 6.

We also ask that if you have plants for the virtual Show Table, please send photos to webmaster@caios.org. It is important that photos are in focus. Please remember that if you are trying to take a photograph of something with your phone with the camera open, tap the screen where you want the picture to be focused. If that doesn't work (as it can be particularly difficult to focus sharply on white flowers, at least with my phone), try putting something on the same visual plane as the object you want to photograph and focus (tap) on that. Make sense? Please let me know if you have any questions! brian.leib@gmail.com

Also, we will have a question and answers section! Please submit questions in writing by July 10, if possible. Questions will be posted on the CAIOS Facebook page and hopefully you will check it out and post answers! If you're not on Facebook and want to have a whack at the questions, whack at it, email me at the above address and I'll send a list of questions to those who respond. If no questions are asked, well, none shall be answered.

Hope you are having a healthy yet enjoyable start to your summer.

Brian

Sad News as provided by Tina: Cathy Femore, long time member and past Secretary for CAIOS recently passed away due to respiratory complications at Falmouth Hospital. We will miss her upbeat happy demeanor as well as her wonderful potato salad. Dr. Tom has kindly been watering her greenhouse. Her family has kindly indicated that CAIOS will be working to find new homes for her plant collection in the future.

Annual Election: Are you interested in offering your expertise to CAIOS? Our annual election of officers will be in October. It's not too early to start thinking about nominees or letting us know you are interested. A slate of nominees will be listed in our September newsletter, so please contact a Board member by August 1, 2020 to let them know your area of interest. They can also provide you with specific information regarding the positions.

September 2020 – International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) 9th Annual Focusing on Phalaenopsis Day.
We have been advised that as of now this event has been cancelled.

Member Virtual Show Table during Coronavirus Members are encouraged to send pictures of any plant they wish to share with the membership; if you wish add culture information; share what you are doing; have you supported our orchid vendors and added to your collection? Send your contribution to webmaster@caios.org or OakH35@yahoo.com . They will be posted in the newsletter and with your permission posted on our website and on Facebook. Due to space restrictions not all of your wonderful plants are in this newsletter. See our website for the complete list. Thank you to everyone that has submitted your photos!

Member Virtual Show Table:

Dick Phillips – Den. densiflorum



**Lynn S. - Vuyl. Celtic Sun
'Blushed'.** The yellow fades to white the longer the bloom is open



Larry Barry - Dendrobium 'Aridang Green'

The plant stays inside the house but photos without the flash were too dark and with the flash turned the flowers too yellow. The outdoors natural light lets the true pistachio green show.

This particular Phal-type Dendrobium first interested me when I saw a sales picture of it mislabeled as "ARI DUNG GREEN.' I thought that was a horrible name for an orchid but it stuck in my mind. So when I went to the Lyman Estate for its April 2019 sale and saw 'ARIDANG GREEN' for sale and in spike I bought it. I'm glad I did because the flowers last several months and I have not seen it being sold anywhere this year.



I've owned it for 14 months now and its first re-blossoming started this Spring with the first flower opening on May 31. I wondered about its health last winter because the new growth produced last year after blossoming was over gradually lost all its leaves. I thought maybe the potting medium was not allowing the roots to dry out so I repotted it in clay pellets and in a few short weeks the old growths started to produce two spikes. This might just be coincidence but I did the same thing with a different and disappointing Dendrobium and in two weeks it started producing new growth.

The plant was developed in Thailand and, unlike many Phal-type Dendrobiums, it was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society. The Thai people have had a great interest in Korean popular culture for a long time and the plant was named after a popular and unofficial North and South Korean patriotic song 'Arirang.' 'Arirang' was too difficult to say in Thai so it was changed to 'Aridang.' 'Aridang' is also the name of a classic Thai film about a Thai man who fights in the Korean War, falls in love with a Korean girl and then is separated from her.



Thank you for your Virtual Show Table pictures! Keep them coming!!!

Orchids Questions – Answers – Helpful Hints

Do you have an orchid plant from orchidPhile?

Carri Raven-Riemann, of orchidPhile advised “CORRECTIONS TO THE “American Orchid Society CULTURE SHEET”:

SPECIAL TIPS ON CARING FOR YOUR NEW ORCHID

WATERING: If needed, water the orchid when you get it home or the next morning. When watering, don't soak the pot in water – instead water it from the top with either a rose watering can or the spray arm in your sink – water just until the excess begins to drain out the bottom. Soaking the pot in water – especially if the plant is growing in New Zealand Moss – can over-saturate the mix and lead to root rot. **If your orchid is growing in New Zealand Moss, see our watering notes below*****.

LIGHT: Ignore what the culture sheets say about “*bright indirect light*”. The orchid needs a little direct sun in order to build up a sufficient quantity of sugars to produce flowering; give bright light (normal windowsill daylight) the rest of the day.

Try to give your plant about 1-2 hours of direct sun – that sun must be either early morning or late afternoon sun from March through early October since direct southern sun will burn the leaves. However, in the winter (mid-October through February), when the sun is weaker, you can give it full southern (mid-day) sun without risk of leaf burn.

FERTILIZER: We recommend using a balanced fertilizer year round (N, P & K amounts are about the same) and water with the fertilizer solution at every watering. In winter, use it at ¼ the recommended strength, in spring and summer use at ½ strength. The best balanced fertilizers contain **NO urea form of Nitrogen**. Blossom Booster and High Nitrogen (Orchid) formulas are not necessary for flowering or vegetative vigor, so keep it simple. Once in a while, water with a plain water flush to remove built-up mineral salts.

HUMIDITY: Although the AOS culture sheet recommends 50-80% humidity, it is way too excessive. Phalaenopsis need humidity around their leaves of only 35-45%, easily achieved by growing your plants on a pebble tray or by using a small room humidifier in your growing area. This more reasonable humidity level assures that the plant will develop a stronger root system rather than living on the excessive humidity in the air. And if your plant is potted in New Zealand Moss, the evaporation of moisture from the moss provides sufficient humidity around the leaf canopy, where it's needed the most, for your plant to thrive.

AFTER FLOWERING: When all the flowers have faded, we recommend cutting the flowering stem (or spike) all the way back to its base. If someone has suggested that you can cut it back to a node – and that it will branch and produce more flowers – you'll find that the number of flowers is fewer, they are smaller in size, and most importantly, it will deplete the energy available to the plant itself. When flowering naturally ends, the orchid is ready to start its vegetative phase of growth, making new roots and a new leaf or two; with multiple growth plants, it will use this vegetative phase to initiate new growths which will flower when mature. By cutting the flower spike totally off, the orchid can then build up excess sugars, beyond what it needs for its vegetative growth, which it will then put into an even more spectacular flowering the following season.

REPOTTING: Do not repot the orchid into a new pot or fresh mix while it is in flower. This places additional stress on the plant since flowering alone is stress enough. Your leaves will begin to go limp and you'll shorten the life of the flowers in addition to losing buds. The perfect time to repot your orchids is right after flowering and at the onset of active root growth, evidenced by new roots with bright apple green (actively growing) tips. When repotting the orchid from New Zealand Moss into a fir bark mix, it's helpful to add a little (about 10-15%) moisture-retentive material to your bark mix. Chopped up fresh New Zealand Moss, chunky peat, coconut chips or adding 50% Orchiata bark are four good moisture-retentive materials to consider using. Or you can just repot it into fresh New Zealand Moss which has been moistened first.

***** DETAILED WATERING NOTES FOR WATERING ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND MOSS *****

Phalaenopsis orchids like to be kept evenly moist, not sopping wet, and will not tolerate over-saturated growing mixes. Many plants sold today are coming in directly from Taiwan and are potted in New Zealand Moss, the moss being packed into the pot like a brick. In order to water your plant properly, without over-saturating the mix, the following suggestions might be helpful:

* When the surface of the moss is dry, a good way to determine when the plant needs watering is to put your pinky finger about 1” deep into the top of the moss. If the moss is dry to the tip of your finger (at 1” down), it is time to water, but only lightly. (However, if it's dry all the way down to the bottom, go ahead and water the pot until it drains out the bottom. Do not soak the pot in water from the bottom and do not drench the pot with a heavy stream of water from the top.)

* If you just need to re-wet the top inch or so, follow this suggestion. An easy approach is to lightly water the surface of the mix until the upper 1” is re-wetted or until the water backs up to the rim of the pot. The moss at the lower portion of the pot is most likely still very moist, and a heavy watering will not allow any aeration to the roots in the bottom of the pot. Over-saturation of the moss can lead to root rot and eventual plant loss. When in doubt, it's always better to put off watering for a day or two rather than keeping the plant too wet by over-watering.

* If you find that your plant is not drying out evenly enough under your growing conditions, you can remove the moss ball from the liner by gently pushing from the bottom drainage hole with your thumb or finger. It will come out of the liner intact, at which point you can place the entire ball into the same-size clay pot which will allow the plant to dry more evenly. At this point you might adjust your watering to re-wet the entire pot, not just the upper 1”, since it most likely will dry more evenly right down to the bottom. Or you can place a bamboo skewer all the way down to the bottom of the pot – when pulled out, it will remain wet at the level where moisture remains in the mix – a good indicator of the need to add water and approximately how much. Always check the moisture retention at the bottom of the pot first through its drainage hole and water accordingly.

Everyone's growing conditions are different – watering frequency and amount can vary according to the time of year. Within the first month, you'll be able to predict your particular plant's watering needs according to your growing environment.

Hints to Reduce Heat Stress: Many temperate orchids do not do well with the stress of high temperatures we normally have in July and August. Here are a few suggestions you can try and do not require the purchase of any expensive equipment. 1. On the hottest days, make sure your orchids are sheltered from direct sun light; 2. Gentle air movement helps to alleviate heat stress, so using a small oscillating fan in your grow area may be helpful; 3. Occasional light misting can be helpful. Don't overdo the misting or you risk problems with bacterial or fungal rot if they are not dry by dust. It may also be advisable to bring very heat sensitive plants like masdevallias into an air-conditioned room, at least until we do not have extreme heat.

What do you do to alleviate heat stress to your orchids? We would love to know what you do so we may share your suggestion (s) with the membership.

American Orchid Society Webinars: (some require AOS membership)

American Orchid Society Greenhouse Chats – There is now a listing of topics discussed during each previous Greenhouse Chat. ALL GREENHOUSE CHAT webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future reference.

July 14, 2020. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AOS Webinar Greenhouse Chat.** Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, presents a Q&A session on how to grow and care for your orchids. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is open to AOS members and non-members. You may submit your questions in advance to greenhousechat@aos.org. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org.



July 22, 2020. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AOS Webinar Digital Resources Orchid Culture Insights from the Internet.** Presenter Bill Bodei, Committee Chair AOS Membership, Technology Chair Deep Cut Orchid Society. The internet is an amazing resource full of information about orchids! Bill Bodei's timely talk will provide insights on how to leverage the web as an orchid hobbyist. Whether identifying and solving for a pest or disease issue, sharing culture experiences, or becoming a more discerning buyer, there is something in this talk for everyone from the novice to the advanced. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is open to AOS members and non-members. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org

August 13, 2020. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AOS Webinar Greenhouse Chat.** Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, presents a Q&A session on how to grow and care for your orchids. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is open to AOS members and non-members. You may submit your questions in advance to greenhousechat@aos.org. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org.

August 26, 2020. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AOS Webinar The Genus Maxillaria,** . Presenter Eric Sauer, Awarded Maxillariaologist & Greenhouse Grower. Learn about the fascinating genus Maxillaria. It is not just tenuifolia anymore. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is open to AOS members and non-members. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org

Upcoming Events: **Due to Coronavirus most events still cancelled**

Please e-mail webmaster@caios.org with your Virtual Show Table Orchids, any additions or corrections.

What topic(s) are you interested in for upcoming programs? Let us know so we can possibly arrange something for the Fall. Thank you.

Reminder: The list of plants from Ed Bonacci's was recently sent to our membership. If you are interested in any of the plants please contact Tom 508-540-2054; email: vandtgregg@comcast.net as soon as possible. He plans to share the list with other Societies in the near future, so if you want something please let Tom know!

Announcements: **Please check the caios.org website for last minute CAIOS news.** Unexpected meeting cancellation or location change will be posted if necessary. www.caios.org, in addition to culture sheets; last minute orchid sales and helpful hints to assist your growing. We also post information on our Facebook page, stop by and "like" us and become our "friend", then post pictures of your amazing plants! [#caiosbloomers](https://www.facebook.com/caiosbloomers). Please note. It has recently come to my attention that some members are only seeing an old CAIOS Facebook page from 2011. I am currently in the process of trying to rectify the problem (at least hoping to. It is not easy to get assistance from Facebook).

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Motto: Orchids grow *Wild* where CAIOS reigns

