

Northwest Orchid News

March 2023

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About the March Meeting

March 13, 2023, 7 PM

University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture

3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98105

Hybrid Meeting, In person and via Zoom [Zoom Registration](#)

Meeting: March Culture Clinic



March is our culture clinic month. Ben Johnson and Steve Dorsey will be providing us with a short guide on orchid culture. There will be short segments on growing indoors, growing in a greenhouse, and how to raise a seedling into a blooming size plant.

Be sure to come prepared with your orchid questions, especially ones for your 'trouble' plants.

In conjunction with our culture clinic, we will be reintroducing our Legion of Bloom. Everyone that wants to participate will be able to purchase two different plants for \$7 and as a club, we will raise them together. We will periodically bring them back for a 'show and tell' as part of a friendly competition.

These plants will be ready to be potted up, so you will need to ensure you have pots and potting media ready at home to pot them. We recommend 2" pots and either sphagnum moss or seedling mix.

Looking forward to a fun meeting.

Plant Table

We will be having an in-person plant table this month. For your convenience, you can print out a Plant Table Information Form ahead of time. Click for your version of choice: [PDF](#) [WORD](#)

For those who aren't able to attend, please do keep sending your pictures, we will be including them in our online gallery and in next month's newsletter. Please send them to photos@nwos.org.

Sales Table

Members may bring up to 10 plants to sell. Include an extra tag with your name and the price in the plant.

Raffle Table

The raffle will be held as usual. Win a new orchid for your collection while supporting the Scholarship Fund. If you have any extra Orchids, please consider donating them to the raffle.

NWOS Library

If you'd like to check out a book or tape from our Library, please contact our Librarian [Joe Grienaue](#)r a minimum of 2 weeks before the next meeting. Besides email, you can give Joe your request at any meeting. For a list of library items please click here [NWOS Library](#).

Membership Renewal Reminder

It's time to renew your NWOS membership for 2023. Our membership period now goes by calendar year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31). You can pay at most meetings by cash, check, or debit/credit card. Click [HERE](#) to pay online using Paypal on our Membership page.

You may also mail a check (payable to NWOS) to PO Box 51021, Seattle, WA 98115-1021.

New members may wish to complete the [Membership Form](#) and send it to the address above.

Dues are \$30 for one person or \$40 for two people at the same address. We also have a Youth membership of \$15 for one person aged 22 or under. Dues are kept

Upcoming Potting Clinics

The NWOS will be holding two potting clinics this spring. We will be promoting these on social media and we will need volunteers to help staff these events.

Emerald City Orchids

Saturday 04/08/2023 11 am - 3 pm

[Complete Details](#)

Molbak's

Saturday 05/13/2023

Details Coming



Volunteer Opportunities

There are lots of choices for participating and helping our society utilizing different skills, interests, and available time.

- **Social Media Guru** - We need someone to help manage our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds. If you have lots of experience with these platforms and love talking about orchids, maybe you can be the next orchid influencer.

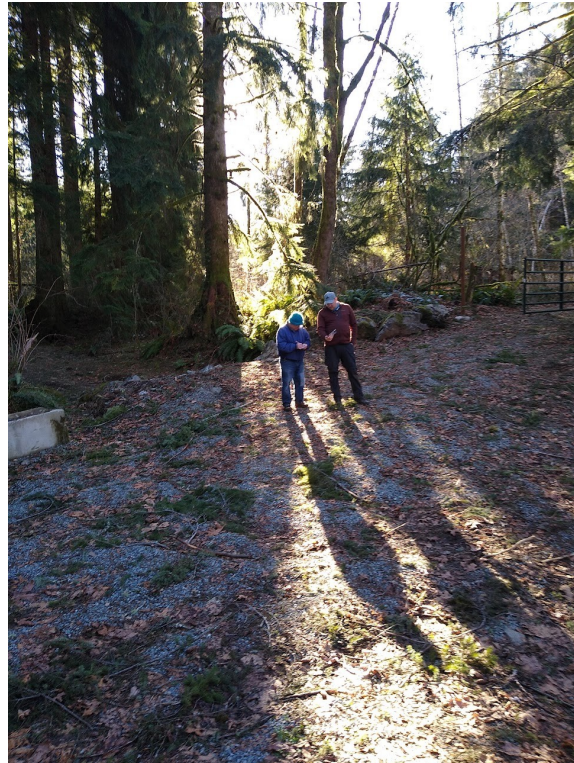
A Huge "Thank You" to all Flower & Garden Festival Helpers

Our 875 square foot orchid garden "Me Encanta Orquideas" was awarded a GOLD MEDAL at the 2023 NW Flower & Garden Festival. Well done to all who helped design, coordinate, build, staff, and dismantle the garden. We couldn't have done it without you!

Thanks to our garden's designer, Joe Griener, who had the vision and drive to see this garden become a reality. As with any project this size, there were many people behind the scenes who helped make this orchid garden take shape and

bloom. Andy Wright spent numerous hours translating and building Joe's 2-D design into a multi-piece modular wood structure that would become the mountain of stone. Then both loaded the structure into a rental truck and drove it up from Emerald City Orchids in Tacoma on setup Saturday morning.

A few days earlier, on Thursday 2/9, a small group of adventurers drove to the Grantham's property near Sultan to collect sheets of "live" moss from fallen tree trunks, tree limbs, and even just laying on the ground. The moss was collected by George & Cylvia Grantham, Lillian Otani, Sean Hoyt, and myself. We spent the better part of a day there and filled my van with tubs of moss along with a few tree limbs. The tall jagged rock wall we used to navigate in previous collecting expeditions to reach the muddy road leading into the property had been replaced with a nice sloping gravel driveway and a sturdy metal gate. Someone had purchased the front portion of this property, the 10 acres fronting the roadway, with plans to begin development.





Unloading The Andes or Is It Star Wars?



Building Mountains or a Rebel Base.

On Saturday 2/11, a bunch of volunteers arrived early at the Convention Center to begin turning the bare floor into the foundation of our garden. Granite bricks defined the garden's perimeter while two heavy stone benches were installed along two sides. Chona Horton, Sophia and Brian Allen, Nora and Troy Hightower, Joff Morgan, and Deb White were the initial workers. Soon we were joined by Joe and Andy, along with a group of students from Lake Washington Technical College Horticulture program. Pallets used by the stone bricks were "buried" under a mound of sawdust in front of the mountain and three boulders were set by forklift in front of that. Pieces of blue slate were installed onto the side of the mountain using 3.5-inch wood screws and 1.5-inch metal fender washers to hold the slate in place.



A Man and His Mountain



A Car Full of Happiness



The Garden Makers





On Sunday 2/12, foliage from the Woodland Park Zoo greenhouses arrived (courtesy of Joe and Andy) and the moss was unloaded from my van. Then I drove to Robert Culver's home to pick up the bulldog Paphiopedilums the NWOS had bought in from Hillsvie Gardens along with Robert's Odontoglossums. Fun times! Worker bees Deb White, Joff Morgan, Robert Culver, Andy Wright, Joe Griener, Yoshi Nagamatsu, Maria Gerace, Monique Heineman, and the Granthams, along with more Horticulture students helped us place the foliage and install moss into the gaps on the mountain sides. Orchids began arriving in the afternoon.

More orchids arrived on Monday 2/13 from Volunteer Park Conservatory (courtesy of Mike Cory and Lillian Otani). George & Cylvia Grantham erected tables to help stage the orchids and label each grouping of plants. More Horticulture students helped members Carolyn Terry, Lynne Shandley, Rohm Gustafson, Nora Hightower, Deb White, Joff Morgan, Robert Culver, and Katie

Philips with placing foliage, orchids, moss, dark mulch, and sod within the garden.

In all, there were ten members who contributed orchids and plants for our award-winning garden: Robert Culver, Cylvia Grantham, George Grantham, Joe Grienuer, George Krasle, Yoshi Nagamatsu, NWOS (via Hillsvie Gardens), Volunteer Park Conservatory, Woodland Park Zoo Horticulture, and Andy Wright.

















Tuesday 2/14 was just a few hours for "finishing touches". We had to be done and off the floor by noon so the Judging could take place. Members who helped on this day were George & Cylvia Grantham, Joe Grienuer, Joff Morgan, and Deb White.

The Festival opened on Wednesday 2/15 and ran through Sunday 2/19. Every day of the show was busy with many wonderful comments, loads of questions, and lots of picture-taking. We handed out close to 2000 postcards advertising NWOS upcoming events.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped staff our garden during the show. Many of you worked multiple shifts to help fill in where the shifts were sparse of people. Thank you all!

- Brian Allen
- Sophia Allen
- Minh Au
- Abigail Chang
- Kaya Cisneros
- Mike Cory
- Gordon Cromwell
- Robert Culver
- Tom Donnelly
- Steve Dorsey
- Lisa Ellis
- Maria Gerace
- John Gleisner
- Dennis Gossler
- Pat Gossler
- Cylvia Grantham
- George Grantham
- Joe Grienuer
- Rohm Gustafson
- Heather Harrington
- Monique Heineman
- Troy Hightower
- Nora Hightower
- Sean Hoyt
- Nathan Hurst
- Ben Johnson
- Alan LaMont
- Lori Lederman
- Bill Leicht
- Christian Martin
- Steve Mongovin
- Joff Morgan
- Kathy Murray
- Yoshi Nagamatsu
- PhuongThi Nguyen
- Lillian Otani
- Mike Pearson
- Katie Philips
- Sierra Radnick
- Pego Rice
- Lynne Shandley
- Michael Sheeran
- Carolyn Terry
- Bruce Ulness
- Christiane Ulness
- Lake Washington Horticulture Students
- Ron Webb

- Deb White

- Andy Wright

After the Festival ended on Sunday 2/19, a small crew of us removed and bagged the moss, removed and grouped the orchids, and unearthed the pallets to begin dismantling the perimeter wall and mountain of slate.

That crew comprised

- Lisa Ellis
- Deb White
- Ben Johnson
- Robert Culver
- George & Cylvia Grantham
- Joff Morgan

On Monday 2/20, Pat & Dennis Gossler, Nora & Troy Hightower, Steve Dorsey, Tom Donnelly, Joe Grienaus, Deb White, and I put away the rest of the stone bricks and laid the slate pieces on their respective pallets. Joe took the foliage back to the Zoo, and then he returned to the garden and we helped him break down the mountain "flat" into 2x4s and Strand Board. We finished at 1 pm.

Thanks again to everyone involved this year. A most successful orchid garden!

Joe is planning what to do for next year's show. The dates for the 2024 NW Flower & Garden Festival are Feb 14-18, with setup being Feb 9-13, and dismantling on Feb 18-19. If you'd like to join us in the planning stages, please contact Joe or me. I'd love to find someone to help coordinate the volunteers and Joe could use the help in planning the garden and navigating all of the forms that need to be filled out for the show.

~ Joff Morgan

[Photo Gallery & Video](#)

Where Do Orchids Come From

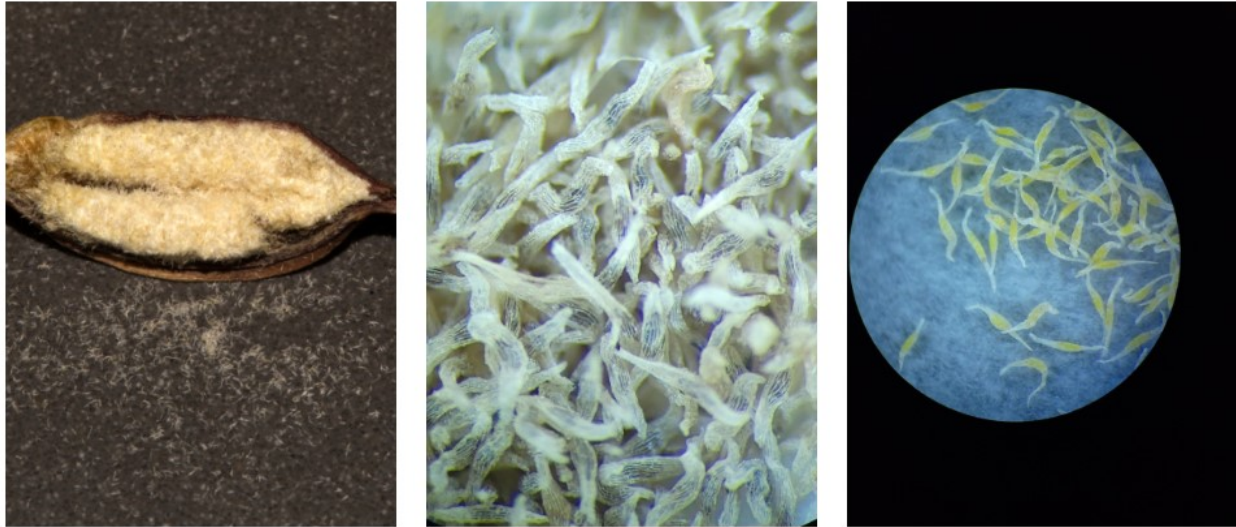
By [Steve Dorsey](#)

Where do orchids come from?

Seeds of course! As silly as it seems, that wasn't known until around 1800. As they are very dust-like, it was speculated that they came from birds, goats, and even cadavers somehow in a magical way. Even after they were able to conclude that seeds were produced, it was well into the 1800s that it was known that orchids could be grown from seeds as they couldn't understand that the dust from orchid seed pods were the seeds.

It wasn't until around 1900 that orchid seeds were used to grow orchids once it was discovered that the seeds were provided nutrients from a fungus. That process was called symbiotic germination of orchid seeds as it relied on fungus providing nutrients for the seeds to germinate.

Unlike many seeds such as corn kernels, there are no nutrients stored around the embryos of the seed. Corn has a large packet of starch to help the process start, but orchids are just a little sack around a clump of cells.



In 1922, Lewis Knudson learned how to germinate orchid seeds in an artificial environment with nutrients he provided. Because there was no fungus involved, this process was named asymbiotic germination of orchid seeds. And it was done in a sterile container or flask as it is done today. While there are some fungi that provide nutrients, there are many more that also consume orchid seeds along with bacteria.

So it is important to maintain sterility of the working space when sowing and growing orchid seeds.

Since I was a kid, I have enjoyed growing plants from seeds. I don't know if you had a teacher in school when you were a kid that had you grow green bean plants in a cup of dirt, but that fascinated me to create a living plant from a dried hard bean. To see such an amazing transformation from a seed to a full-sized plant is fun.

I was reluctant to try growing orchids from seeds, but after having done so, it is very rewarding and easier than I had imagined. You can create your own hybrids or reproduce more of an important species with your own bare hands. Like baking a cake for the first time, it seems like a lot of steps, but each one is simple and you will quickly learn the process. Just like how you eat an elephant – one bite at a time.

While commercial orchid labs have very nice and expensive equipment, it is quite easily achievable in a home setting with some basic equipment. There are companies that make the media for you to grow the plants in and it is just a matter of boiling water and mixing it in. Once you get the basic process down and see your plants growing, you will want to do more of it.

The process begins with the pollination of the flower. I would recommend something larger like a Phalaenopsis or Cattleya as they are easier to handle and see the pollen. Then it will take some months for the seeds to mature as the seed pod grows. The two basic methods of sowing the seeds are when the pod is nearly mature or what is called green seed pod method or when the pod fully splits and starts spreading seeds or dry seed method.

The seeds are sanitized and in a clean area, transferred to a sterilized jar or flask with the media in it. Then it is a waiting game for germination. The first things you will see are tiny little green blobs on the media where the dust of the seeds was dropped. Over a few months, green leaves start to emerge from the blobs and you might see some white fuzzy roots starting.



At this point, the nutritional needs of the young plants will increase. The plantlets will be transferred to another container with higher nutrient media in it. Depending on the plant, several months will pass and you may need to transfer for some fresh media along the way.



When the plants have developed enough roots and leaves, you can remove the plants from the flasks and plant them together in a small pot. This is called a compot because it is a common pot for more than one plant to grow in. Seedlings do better closer together early on in their growth. After they adapt to the outside world, usually in about a year, you can transfer them to individual pots.

There are more details of course, but I hope this has piqued your curiosity. I will be offering classes in the technique for those interested in trying it themselves.

Upcoming Orchid Shows



Mount Baker Orchid Society

March 4-5

Christians Nursery, 15806 Best Rd, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

This will be a bench show, that is AOS judged. A “bench show[†]” is a show where individual plants are displayed, and there isn’t a “display” for the society. You are encouraged to submit your plants.

For further details see the [NWOS posting](#).

Pictures from The NWOS Setup at The MBOS Show















Spokane Orchid Society

April 1-2

Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene St., Spokane, WA 99207

This will be a bench show, that is AOS judged. A “bench show[†]” is a show where individual plants are displayed, and there isn’t a “display” for the society. You are encouraged to submit your plants.

For further details see the [NWOS posting](#).

Oregon Orchid Society

April 22-23

Oaks Amusement Park, Dance Pavilion, 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland, OR, 97202

The NWOS will be sending a display to the show, your plants will be greatly appreciated.

For further details see the [NWOS posting](#).

‡**Exhibition Format** (From the AOS Guide to a Successful Show)

Simplest to stage and conduct are "tabletop" or "bench" shows, where all plants are arranged on tables or benches. Plants may be grouped by the classes provided in the show schedule or by exhibitor. Occasionally, a combination of these two formats may be used.

Societies whose members own small orchid collections may find it desirable to undertake a "mini-show," utilizing card tables for each exhibit. One or more flowering plants are placed in an appropriately designed setting not exceeding a card table top in size. This can be a real challenge, calling for skill in scale and arrangement. Where space, experience, and sponsor permit, landscaped exhibits ranging from 25 to 200 or more square feet can be particularly attractive features, stimulating attendance. These exhibits may simulate gardens, natural settings, or other imaginative surroundings, often in keeping with a show theme. This type of display will, however, require far more work both by the staging committee and the individual exhibitor.

Many shows include both tabletop and landscaped displays. Such a combination requires careful attention to the overall show design and a detailed floor plan.

Local Judging

Many of you expressed interest in judging at our shows. Since our next show isn't until our own fall show, we thought we'd share with you the various judging opportunities in our region. We will also be providing the results of the local awards. Hopefully, this will encourage those of you who are interested, to go and participate in these judged events.

- March 4-5, 2023 Mount Baker Orchid Society Show, Christianson's Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon, WA. AOS Judging 9 AM March 4.
- March 5, 2023 Monthly AOS Judging 1 PM at Keizer Community Center.
- April 1-2, 2023 Spokane Orchid Society Show, Spokane Community College Student Lair. AOS Judging 8 AM April 1.
- April 1-2, 2023 Cherry City Orchid Society Show, Keizer OR. AOS Judging 8 AM April 1.
- April 2, 2023 Monthly AOS Judging 1 PM at Keizer Community Center.
- April 15-16, 2023 Treasure Valley Orchid Society Show, Hilton Boise Idaho. AOS Judging 8 AM April 15.
- April 22-23, 2023 Oregon Orchid Society Show, Oaks Park dance Pavilion, Portland OR. AOS Judging April 22.
- May 7, 2023 Monthly AOS Judging 1 PM at Keizer Community Center.



Epidendrum Thomas Ott 'Swarm of Beeds' AM/AOS 80 points, exhibited by William Jasen ©Tim Morton



Epidendrum Thomas Ott 'Swarm of Beeds' AM/AOS 80 points, exhibited by William Jasen ©Tim Morton

Report From February Meeting - Annual Auction

President Robert Culver welcomed everyone to the meeting, which met on a Saturday at The Shoreline Community College. He welcomed all the new members and thanked all the first-time attendees for coming to the auction.

Robert then congratulated everyone for the very successful garden this year at the Flower and Garden Festival. Joe, Andy, and Joff really worked hard to ensure that we had a great garden and it was recognized by the show with a gold medal.

We then went into the auction. Joe Grienauer and Ben Johnson were our two auctioneers. We had the most successful auction in years.



Ben Johnson Auctioning Plants



Joe Griener Asking, Is that Bid Really For \$200!?



And We Have a WINNER!



Tom Bell-Games Enjoying the Bidding



The Crowd Looks on Intently

Thank you, everyone.

Schedule of Upcoming Events

03/13/23 – NWOS meeting – Annual Culture Clinic: This is our annual clinic where you can bring your questions, your problem plants, and whatever is ailing something in your collection and the members that have experience with that plant or problem will answer your questions.

04/10/23 – NWOS meeting – Speaker: Jurahame Leyva, “Current Trends in Paphiopedilum Maudiae Breeding” Jurahame will be talking to us about the new

trends in this easy-to-grow plant with its showy leaves and long-lasting flowers. It's a rewarding plant for both novices and experts alike

05/08/23 – NWOS meeting – Speaker: Ron Parsons, “The Genus Dendrobium”

06/12/23 – NWOS meeting – June Food Truck Social: This is our annual social just before we take our summer break. We have a food truck outside and plants inside. We also announce the Gary Baker Service Award at this meeting.

09/11/23 – NWOS meeting – Speaker: Kelly McCracken, “Fragrant Miniatures”
The most common question we get asked about plants is “is it fragrant?”; Many orchid growers select their plants based on whether the plant is fragrant. For those of you who grow in limited space, but still love a nose full of floral fragrance, this is the talk for you.

10/09/23 – NWOS meeting – Speaker: Andrew McGinnis, Growing Orchids in Grow Tents, Advanced Indoor Growing.

11/13/23 – NWOS meeting – Speaker: Alan Koch, “A New Look at Intergeneric Phalaenopsis” Phalaenopsis have been enjoyed by novice growers for the ease of growth and long-lasting flowers. Intergeneric Phalaenopsis hybrids are easier to grow, maintain long-lasting flowers, and often bloom more often than a normal Phalaenopsis. Another benefit from this line of breeding has been the creation of many fragrant hybrids. The bright colors, fragrant flowers, and smaller hardier plants make this an interesting direction in orchids.

12/11/23 – NWOS meeting – Holiday Food Truck Social, the introduction of new Officers, NWOS Annual Meeting report, Schoenfeld and Northen Orchid Awards, and Holiday Plant gifts.

Reminder for Officers & Board Members

The next board meeting is Tuesday, March 7th which will be at 7 p.m. and hosted over ZOOM. Check your email for the Zoom registration link and agenda. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for May 2, September 5, and November 7th

NWOS Website Links

- Main website: [Http://www.nwos.org](http://www.nwos.org)
 - Events Calendar: <http://www.nwos.org/events>
 - Membership (including renewals): <https://nwos.org/Membership/>
 - Newsletter - Current Issues: <https://nwos.org/newsletters/>
 - Newsletter - Archived Issues: <http://newsletter.nwos.org>
 - Show Information: <https://nwos.org/nwos-fall-show/>
 - Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/nworchidsociety>
 - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nworchidsociety/>
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nworchidsociety>
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Special Announcements

Orchid Digest Corporation May 2023 Orchid Tour - France

The Orchid Digest Corporation is conducting a May 2023 Orchid Tour to Provence and Rhône-Alpes, France.

This is an opportunity for a unique, eleven-day orchid and cultural safari through two of France's iconic regions during the peak blooming period.

[Trip Details](#)

[Registration](#)

Orchid Seed Sowing Workshop - March 25, 2023

Steve Dorsey is hosting an orchid seed sowing workshop.

Date: Sat Mar 25, 2023 from 1 pm – 4 pm

Location: 12323 206th Pl SE Issaquah, WA 98027

If you would like to learn about how to grow orchids from seed at home, please join me for an afternoon of how to sow and grow orchids from seed. This course will focus on how to do the entire process at home with readily available supplies. While commercial labs have extensive equipment, good results can be had with

minimal gear, and is an enjoyable addition to growing your mature orchids. Plus you can create your own hybrids and experiment as you please.

[Class Details](#)

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