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September, 2017

Volume 71, Issue 2

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About the September Meeting

September 11, 2017 7:00 p.m.

University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street
Seattle, WA 98105



Alexey Tretyakov: "Orchid Nutritional Requirements"

Alexey Tretyakov will be our featured speaker for the month of September, where he will share his insight and expertise in mineral nutrition and nutrient needs of orchids. If you want to grow better orchids, this is not a presentation to miss!

Alexey Tretyakov moved to Canada with his wife Mila twelve years ago. He acquired his first orchid in 2006 and received his first AOS award four years later. Alexey has a diverse collection of orchid hybrids and species. Species and the Dendrobium genus are dominant in his collection. As many amateur orchid growers, Alexey began his hobby from growing on windowsill and under lights. Today his diverse collection (from warm to cool growing plants) is accommodated in a single greenhouse. A few years ago Alexey began to experiment with creating new hybrids. His first hybrid was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (England) in 2013.



Alexey has a lifelong interest in photography. Images of orchids, taken by Alexey, were published in Orchid Societies Newsletters, the AOS *Orchids* magazine and were posted online at Orchids Forum.

Note: We will be hosting Alexey to dinner at the Marlai Thai restaurant on Monday, at 4:30pm, and if anyone would like to join us, please RSVP to pnwOrchids@orchid-society.net by noon, Sunday the 10th.

Display Table:

Bring your blooming Orchids so everyone can enjoy them.

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:

The raffle will be held as usual. Win a new orchid for your collection while supporting the Scholarship Fund.

NWOS Library:

If you'd like to check out a book or tape from our Library, please contact our Librarian [Joe Grienauer](#) a minimum of 2 weeks before the next meeting. For a list of library items Click on the Library link at the top left of this page or click [HERE](#).

Display your Orchids in the Washington State Fair - Win Cash Prizes!

Did you know that you could enter your blooming orchids in the Washington State Fair in Puyallup? While it is too late to get them in for the 1st Orchid Show, there is time to make arrangements to participate in the 2nd Orchid Show, which runs from Saturday, September 16 through Sunday, September 24th.

There are Cash Prizes as well as ribbons for all 1st Place (\$8.00) and 2nd Place (\$6.00) entries, as well as larger prizes (\$10.00 and a Rosette) for Best Orchid - Bloom and Best Orchid - Culture.

There was a very small number of plants in the 1st Show, so the chances of winning a prize in any given class are really very good! Some classes had only one entry, a couple had 2, and several had no entries at all. For full information about entries, classes, and the like, see: https://wfaprod-1290.kxcdn.com/assets/2ce215ad4475622869ce7f683c83be10/StateFair_2017_Floral_Premium_Book.pdf

This is a great opportunity to display your plants. It is not AOS judged, but it is a much more informal type of judging. Just make sure that your plants are well-labeled and free of pests (one plant had to be removed from the 1st Show due to some 'livestock' on the flowers).

If you are not able to bring them to the Fair yourself, George Grantham has graciously offered to bring plants down for the second show. He will accept plants at his home in Lake Forest Park on Thursday 9/14. Please contact him to make arrangements for both the drop-off and pick up of your plants on Tuesday 9/26.

I hope to see a lot of people getting their plants out there on display!

Mike Pearson

Start Pre-ordering from Sam Tsui Now

Our October 9th speaker will be **Sam Tsui** of Orchid Inn, Bloomington Illinois. He is a premiere grower of Paphs, Phrags and other orchids.

Sam will offer a 10% discount for any pre-orders received by the deadline of September 30th. There is No discount for any NET price item or divisions. Members can order from the lists on the website and email their order directly to Sam.

The great news is if we order at least \$500 of plants Sam will waive his speaker fee. Check out his website at www.orchidinnusa.com

Proposed Change in the NWOS Bylaws

At the September meeting, we will vote on several amendments to the NWOS bylaws, as recommended by the Board of Trustees. The existing bylaws, with proposed amendments, were distributed in May 2017, and presented at the May meeting. To review the revised document, click on the bylaws book image.



Further amendments may be made, in writing, by sending them to the Secretary prior to the September meeting, or presenting them to the Secretary in writing at the meeting, and in the following format:

NAME OF THE MAKER OF THE MOTION _____

I move to amend Article _____, Section _____, By:

A. Striking out _____

and inserting _____

B. Inserting _____

C. Striking out _____

D. Adding at the end _____

Copies of this form will be available at the meeting.

After final review of all amendments, a vote will be taken of the members present. Note; you must be a member in good standing for the membership year 2017-2018 in order to vote. (See next article)

Abigail Chang, President

Proposed Dues Change, Membership Year Change and Membership Renewal Reminder

The Board of Trustees has proposed a change to the dues structure for the Northwest Orchid Society. It is proposed that the cost of the annual membership be increased from \$25 to \$30, and the cost of a joint membership be increased from \$30 to \$40. This change will take effect on October 11, 2017.

The Board of Trustees has proposed a change to the membership year to run from January 1 through December 31. This change will take effect immediately, and the first membership year under this policy will run from July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 (18 months). Terms for all elected or annually appointed positions will start and end with the membership year.

Unless you joined very recently, it's time to renew your membership. You can still join at the old rate until Oct. 10th and have the benefit of it going until 12/31/18. Click [HERE](#) to pay by PayPal on our Membership page. You can also pay at most meetings by cash, check, or debit/credit card. You can mail (payable to NWOS) to PO Box 51021, Seattle, WA 98115-1021. New members should complete the [Membership Form](#).

Please contact [Mike Cory](#) for questions about the status of your membership.

NWOS Fall Show and Sale

Planning is in full swing for our Fall Show which will again be held at Swansons Nursery. The date has been set, for November 4th and 5th, with setup on the 3rd. However, there's still a lot to be done, and we need all the help we can get. If you're interested, please contact one of the board members at a meeting, or send an email to ShowCommittee@nwos.org.

NWOS Displays at Fall Shows

The Tri-Cities Orchid Show and sale will be held in Kennewick WA at the Tri Tech Skills Center Sat. Sun. Oct. 7-8. We plan to be assembling plants for the show on Thursday, Oct. 5. Tri-Cities has regularly brought quality displays to our show in recent years and we hope to reciprocate in a manner worthy of our society, so please mark your calendar and see if you can find a few nice plants to lend for this display. In addition, why not plan a day trip or weekend trip to one of the premier wine-growing regions in the country and take in the orchid show and visit a couple of your favorite wineries.

Our own NWOS show will be held again this year at Swanson's

Nursery. The dates are Nov. 4th and 5th. We will need plants, plants and more plants for our display. We will be setting up our society's display on Friday afternoon Nov. 3, so bring your plants at that time or send your plants with me or another member if you cannot make it to Swanson's on Friday afternoon. In addition, if you are interested in helping with our display please contact me, and also sign up at one of the next two meetings for this as well as other duties at the show. We need to select a theme and plan the format for our exhibit. Please contact me if you would like to be involved in this creative process.

George Grantham, 2nd Vice President



AOS Monthly Judging - We want your Blooms!

Monthly judging is on the 3rd Saturday of every month, starting at 1:00 (we can get into the room at 12:30) at the Phinney Neighborhood Center Blue Building at 6532 Phinney Ave N. A few may be moved through the year (for example, monthly judging will be held at the Mount Baker show in February, and there has been discussion of having a few in Eastern Washington to be able to get more exposure there).

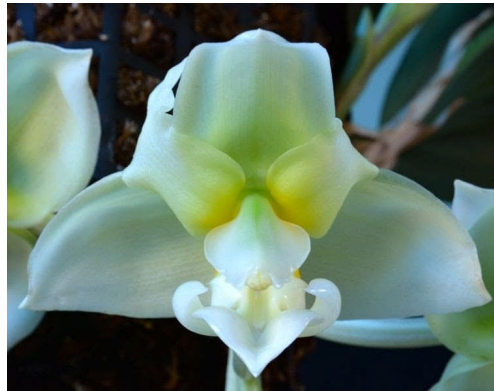
All are welcome!

It is right at the curve in the road where Phinney becomes Greenwood. There is a Starbucks and Red Mill Burgers at the intersection. There is plenty of parking. Bring any blooming orchids that you want looked at (that aren't already at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup).

News from the American Orchid Society

THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- Orchids Illustrated - *Platanthera bifolia*
- For the Novice - Applying Fertilizers and Chemicals
- Aerangis Name Game
- Barkeria
- First Ladies and Their Cattleyas - C. Edith Bolling Wilson
- *Pescatoria wallisii* and *Gustava Willis*
- Top Ten From the Stanhopea Alliance



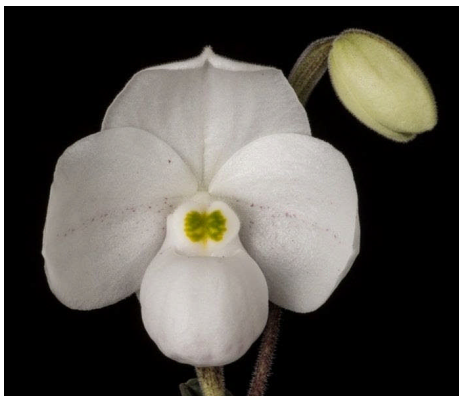
Stanhopea ruckeri 'Windy Hill' AM/AOS; Photographer: Melissa Garner

ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!

16-page award gallery of breathtaking pictures of recently awarded orchids.

RECENT ORCHID AWARDS PICTURES ON THE AOS WEBSITE:

See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new "Latest Orchid Awards" page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. Free to members and nonmembers.



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Fagen's Orchids' HCC/AOS; Photographer: Jim Tear

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Exhibit Judging with David Janvrin, AOS Accredited Judge Thursday, September 7, 2017 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EDT Public Webinar

Please join David Janvrin, AOS Accredited Judge from the Atlanta Judging Center, as he takes us through the steps of AOS exhibit judging. Register now using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4152830511639542785>



Show Trophy awarded to the Mobile Are Orchid Society; Photographer: Larry Hennessey

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 @ 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT Open to All

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on question submitted by attendees. Please send your questions to stillisch@cox.net by Sunday, September 10th.

Register now using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7700167286262289923>

Judging Pleurothallids with Esteban (Steven) Gonzales

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 @ 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT Judging - Members only

Join Esteban (Steve) Gonzalez and review how to judge those beautiful and diminutive pleurothallids. Register now using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9119068349037565443>



Pleurothallis modesta 'Free Spirit' CBR/AOS; Photographer: Max Thompson

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Tuesday, October 12, 2017@ 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT Open to All

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on question submitted by attendees. Please send your questions tostillisch@cox.net by Sunday, October 10th. Register now using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4527748585663490051>

Future Webinars - more details next month:

Greenhouse Chat,

Ron McHatton, Thursday, October 12, 2017

Join Ron McHatton who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on question submitted by attendees. Please send your questions to stillisch@cox.net by October 10th.

Town Hall Meeting from Ecuador

George Hatfield, Wednesday, November 08, 2017

AOS Town Hall Meeting and Board Meeting from the WOC22, Guayaquil Ecuador.



Greenhouse Chat December 2017

Ron McHatton, Thursday, December 14, 2017

Join Ron McHatton who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on question submitted by attendees. Please send your questions to stillisch@cox.net by December 10th.

Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his 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.

Let's grow together,
Denise Lucero, Vice-Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Orchid Basics: The How and Why of Watering

Dr. Ron McHatton, PhD

American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer

More orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. There are two separate components to proper watering; when and how. The vast majority of orchids grown by hobby growers are epiphytes, growing on trees above the ground where the light is more plentiful. These plants are adapted to having their roots exposed to light and air so in addition to water, orchid roots need air. The central core of an epiphytic orchid root is covered with a spongy material called velamen designed to store water. When this spongy material remains wet too long, the central core suffocates and begins to rot. Once the roots begin to rot, the plant can no longer take up water properly and a whole host of problems begin. At worst, root rot will eventually spread causing the death of the plant. In other cases, the loss of roots prevents the plant from absorbing sufficient water to maintain the plant in good condition and the leaves will take on a wrinkled appearance. Unfortunately, the symptoms of over-watering and under-watering are superficially similar and the tendency is to increase watering rather than inspect the roots. Over-watered roots

will be brown and mushy while those on under-watered plants will be white or gray and obviously dry. Let's look first at when to water.

When do I water?

Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. This rule applies to all orchids with slight variations depending on whether your plant has pseudobulbs (thickened stems that are designed to store water) or not. Orchids such as cattleyas and oncidiums should be allowed to just dry completely between waterings while orchids such as Phalaenopsis and vandas that have no water storage organs should be watered just before dryness occurs. For vandas, this may mean daily watering during the warm summer months. Vandas and ascocendas that are properly watered will have actively growing root tips at all times. If the root tips on your plants dry up and seal over, you are not watering often enough. There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6" pot every 7 days and you'll be trouble free. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) dry pots will feel lighter when lifted; 2) clay pots feel dry; 3) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry. If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant. And remember, fresh potting mix will always dry out faster than the old medium.

How do I water?

How to water is just as important to proper culture as when to water. When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Place the plant in the sink and allow the water to run freely from the drainage holes. Do not use salt-softened water. This is your opportunity to examine how the potting mix behaves. If you cannot pour water rapidly through the pot, the potting mix is too dense and you run the risk of starving the roots for air. If you see finely divided material that looks like coffee grounds in the water coming from the drainage holes, your potting mix is breaking down. Both of these are signs it's time to repot into fresh medium. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water your plants at least once a month.

Finally, a couple of notes about mounted plants and those like vandas that are grown in baskets without additional potting medium. First, avoid dunking these plants in buckets of water. This practice very easily spreads diseases. If one plant has a disease, all those dunked in the same bucket of water will have been exposed as well. Also, two short waterings a few minutes apart are much more effective than one long watering. Once water runs off the plant, the roots will have absorbed essentially all they can at that time and excess water simply runs off to the ground. The proper technique is to water your plants, and then a few minutes later water them again, always beginning with the first plant you watered. This allows time for the roots of the last plant watered to finish absorbing water before you wet them again. Roots that are completely saturated will be a solid color while those that are not will appear mottled.

Report from the August Picnic

We had a great sunny day for the picnic, but not as many members showed up as in years past. But for those of us that were there, we had a great time and a wonderful feast.

Peter grilled chicken and corn and we all contributed with other dishes. Mike and Abigail brought a mini keg of home brew for all to enjoy.

Mike Cory brought some plants, from the U.W. Botany greenhouse, for us to take and give new homes.

We can again thank our generous hosts Peter and Kelly for their wonderful hospitality and support of the NWOS.

Mike Foster, Past President



Donna makes a bulbophyllum fashion statment

Photos courtesy Mike Foster, Donna Pierce, Steve Dorsey, George and Cylvia Grantham.



Schedule of Upcoming Events

Sept. 11, 2017 - NWOS meeting - Speaker: Alexey Tretyakov, "Orchid Nutritional Requirements"

September 16, 2017 - AOS Judging Center, monthly judging, 1:00 pm

October 9, 2017 - NWOS meeting - Speaker: Sam Tsui, "Growing the group Brachypetalum"

October 21, 2017 - AOS Judging Center, monthly judging, 1:00 pm

November 13, 2017 - NWOS meeting - Speaker: Eve Rickenbaker, "UW Hyde Herbarium"

November 18, 2017 - AOS Judging Center, monthly judging, 1:00 pm

December 11, 2017 - NWOS meeting - Potluck dinner, Christmas Plant giveaway, Schoenfeld and Northen Trophy contests

December 16, 2017 - AOS Judging Center, monthly judging, 1:00 pm

Reminder for Officers & Board Members

The schedule of Board Meetings for this fiscal year is: 9/5/17, 11/7/17, 1/2/18, 3/6/18, 5/8/18. Meet at 7 p.m. at Mike & Sheila Cory's house unless notified that it's been moved elsewhere.

Shopping on Amazon? Use this link to Earn \$\$ for NWOS

If you go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and sign in to your account, you'll be given information about supporting various non-profits. You can type in "Northwest Orchid Society" and it will then send .5% of your purchase price to the organization.

It's really easy, but you have to remember to go in through the 'smile' subdomain when you place the order, otherwise it will go through as a regular order.

Special Announcements

Friends of the Conservatory (FOC) Fall Plant Sale!

Mark Your Calendars! September 9th, 2017 – 10am – 3pm. FOC Members-Only Preview Sale Starts at 9 am! The Friends of the Conservatory Fall Plant Sale offers mainly tropical, succulents and cacti for sale; similar to those in the Conservatory! There will also be orchids for sale. Volunteer Park, Seattle.

Orchid Estate Sale Sept. 20-23

Private collection for sale in Bellevue, WA. The collection is made up of species and hybrids, some of historical importance, coming from Beall Orchid Company, Sunset Valley Orchids, Logees, Carter and Holmes, Hatfield Orchids, Casa de Las Orquides and other vendors. Besides plants, there's some fine fir bark, 2# sponge rock and a few books.

Sale dates will be September 20 - September 22 from 3:00pm - 8:00 pm and September 23 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Cash or Checks only. Questions can be addressed to Arthur Pinkers (661) 607-8220 or arthur.pinkers@gmail.com. Click [HERE](#) for the price list.

Arthur is a past President, Board member and Treasurer of the NWOS. We are sorry to hear of the loss of his father, Lothar, who passed away recently and who also served the NWOS as a member of the Board. It's his collection that is for sale.

An email will be sent to the membership mailing list closer to the date with the physical address. Pre orders can be done if you send him the list by noon, Friday September 15th clearly indicating what is desired. It will be first come first receive. Preorders must be paid for and picked up by Friday night or they will be set out for sale on Saturday.

Tri-Cities Orchid Society Orchid Show & Sale

Tri-Cities Orchid Society
Orchid Show & Sale



October 7th & 8th
Sat. 11 am - 5 pm
Sun. 10 am - 3pm

Tri Tech Skills Center
Kellogg & West Metaline
Kennewick, Washington

\$3 Admission