

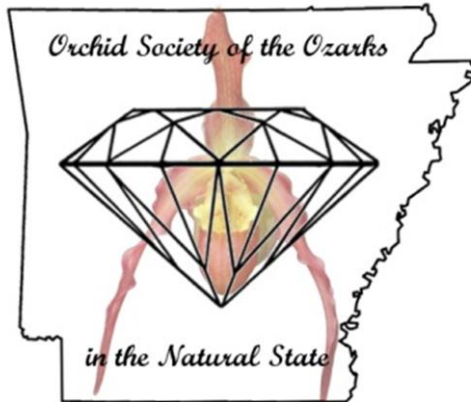
# Overtures

A Communications Instrument for Society Members and Other Interested Parties

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Volume XIX Issue 8  
August 2014



## August News

**It's Movie Month!** Although it's cooler than normal this August, for which we're all grateful, August is still a good month to avoid the afternoon heat in a movie theater. We'll screen "Wild Orchid Man in the Mountains of Amazonas" and our food theme will be movie food. (The film runs just under an hour so our meeting should be about the same length as usual.) We'll still have judging so bring your plants!

Our **annual auction** is next month, and plants are already arriving. Note that the auction **starts at 1 pm** rather than our usual start time. We'll be sending out information about plants as we get it sorted out.

*Stimulating interest in Orchids and their culture as a nonprofit, educational organization ...*

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for joint membership.

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## Survival Instinct



No, this is not a "test tube orchid". Cathy removed the flower spike from a *Phal. lindenii* after it had been in bloom a while to rest the plant. She put the cut spike in this graduated cylinder on our kitchen window to enjoy the last flower that was open (yes, we are the kind of people who own more graduated cylinders than vases). Not only did it go on to open several more flowers, some of which were very small buds when the stem was cut, but it also produced this keiki which now has a nice root. All with no fertilizer or care other than occasional fresh water. Such will to live must, of course, be respected and we'll be potting up this little plant very soon.

## A Weed by Any Other Name would ... be an orchid?

We're all used to the idea that orchids are hard to grow from seed, and that it requires great luck for that to happen without using laboratory techniques to grow them in flasks. But we have orchids grow from seed in our greenhouse frequently. You just have to pick the right orchid.

*Cynorkis* is a genus of generally ground-growing (terrestrial) orchids, found in Madagascar, southern Africa, and some other areas around the Indian Ocean. There are some very beautiful species that, deservedly, get lots of pictures and attention, such as *Cynorkis gibbosa* and *Cynorkis uncinata*. In addition to their beauty, they're not common and a little fussy, meaning they're pretty easy while in growth but will die in days if you don't respect their resting period and back off on the water (but not completely bone dry – just the right amount). They definitely have artistic temperaments and I haven't even managed to pollinate them successfully yet, much less grow any from seed.

*Cynorkis fastigiata*, by contrast, is the dandelion of the genus. I didn't buy it, I don't know where it came from, but one day I noticed an extra plant in a pot. I always leave volunteers that I can't identify – sometimes it's something interesting – and after some weeks I was rewarded with a flower spike. The flower wasn't all that spectacular, but interesting. I left it. After a few days, I noticed that it had formed a seed pod. After a few weeks, I noticed the seed pod was beginning to dry and turn brown at the top. And a

few weeks after that, I noticed extra plants in a few other nearby pots.



*Cynorkis uncinata*, another rock star



*Cynorkis gibbosa*, one of the rock stars of the genus



*Cynorkis gibbosa*, close-up

*Cynorkis fastigiata*, like the dandelion, has learned to produce viable seeds without pollinators, but what is really surprising is that these seeds, which are as fine and dust-like as any typical orchid, don't seem to require any specialized fungus or other environmental factor to germinate and grow. I've found seedlings growing on bark in pots with *Phalaenopsis* or other orchids, in soil with normal greenhouse plants, in the very sandy, fast draining soil I use for plants from arid climates, and even in very wet, water-logged soils where I grow marginal aquatic plants. They all seem perfectly happy, and the widely varying light levels don't seem to bother them either, though they do seem happier in *Phalaenopsis* light.

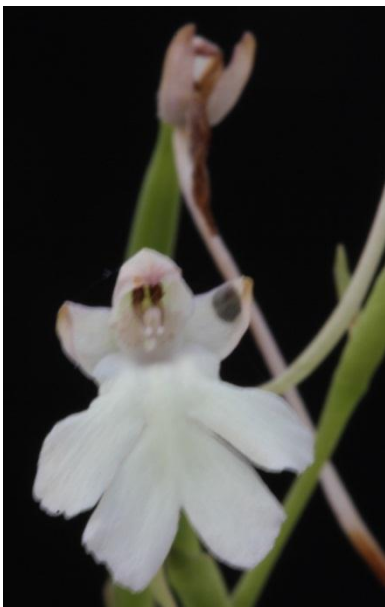


It arrives without invitation ... it spreads itself around surreptitiously ... fast to mature and flower .... every flower produces seeds ... so I guess it must be a weed? As with the dandelion, if it's a weed, I think it's a rather charming one, so I don't kill them. It may be the less glamorous sibling, but still it's an orchid and a rather cute one, and there's certainly a place in my greenhouse for an orchid that's easy to grow and propagate!

I do move them into community pots and let them compete with each other until I find them homes, which is surprisingly easy – there seem to be other people who think it's a charming weed too.

*Cynorkis uncinata*, overall

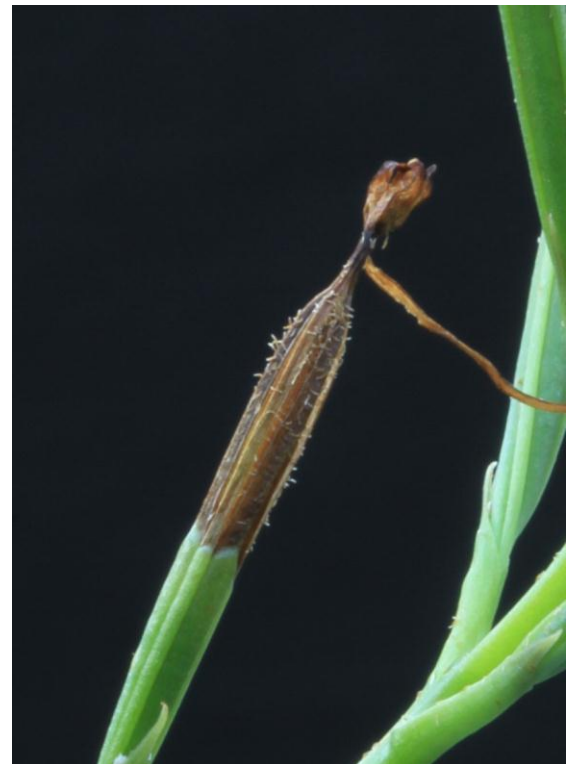
They flower when very young compared to most orchids, usually with just a few flowers, and I've usually given them away within their first year, so I was surprised this spring when something erupted from the soil in an unmarked pot with unusual vigor. It looked like *Cynorkis fastigiata* but was much larger, and eventually I had to accept that that's exactly what it was. I'd just never seen a mature plant. No real difference except that they produce a lot more flowers, and the inflorescence looks more like the other members of the genus. I moved the pot to take the pictures below and saw a shower of seed floating away, so if anyone would like a charming but weedy orchid, check with me in a few months. I should have plenty.



*Cynorkis fastigiata*, the weedy orchid



Inflorescence of an older *Cynorkis fastigiata* - every flower makes a seed pod, always.



Closeup of a *Cynorkis fastigiata* seed pod, ripening from the top down and shedding the dust-like seed which is visible on the surface.



# July meeting pictures from Shari Loftis ....





# More July meeting pictures from Shari ....



# Orchid notes from around the Web and around the world

This is a collection of miscellaneous items about orchids that have appeared in news feeds, newspapers, etc. Many of them came to my attention through the postings of Viateur Boutot to the OGD mailing list, so thanks to Viateur for passing them along.

**Crowdfunding for orchid conservation** – this article describes the excellent results of **cutting-edge work** in orchid propagation in **Victoria, Australia**, to rescue threatened orchid species there. Somewhere between 20% and 25% of Victoria's native orchids need help: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/crowdfunding-bid-to-save-victorian-orchids-20140808-1024d3.html>

This story recounts some incidents from the early “**wild west**” days of **orchid collecting** in the 1800s: <http://modernfarmer.com/2014/08/old-time-farm-crime-wild-wooly-cutthroat-world-victorian-orchid-hunters/>.

Read about the **re-discovery** of *Vanda thwaitesii* which had **not been seen in 150 years** – and but for this orchid lover's keen eye while driving would not have been seen this time: <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/140803/plus/vanda-thwaitesii-blooms-from-extinction-109139.html> .

We've all noticed the resemblance of some orchid flowers to animals or other things; this photographer saw something unusual in a *Phalaenopsis* flower: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2715874/Eagle-eyed-photographer-catches-incredible-pictures-orchid-looks-just-like-bird.html> .

## Notes from your Program Chairs

### August 24:

**Program:** Movie month! We suggested this idea a few months ago, those present liked it, so we'll watch an orchid-related video, and our food theme will be “movie theater food”: popcorn, nachos, hot dogs, etc. – all that healthy stuff.

### September 28:

**Program:** Our annual auction. Preview starts at 12 noon, auction starts at 1 pm and ends at 3:30 pm. Any items not sold will be held for future mini-auctions or other society events. Some really good things are already coming in!

### October 26:

**Program:** Blanche Webster from the Missouri Botanic Garden will talk to us about their orchid collection and its history.

# Upcoming Shows & Judgings Around Our Region

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**September 6-7, 2014**

**Galveston Orchid Society “Orchids by the Bay” (& fall SWROGA)**, South Shore Harbor Resort & Conference Center, League City, Texas

**September 13, 2014**

**Monthly Mid-America Judging Center meeting**, Room 175, Commerce Bank Education Building, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

**September 16, 2014**

**Monthly Great Plains Judging Center meeting**, Room 128, OSU Horticulture Center, 400 N. Portland, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**October 11, 2014**

**Monthly Mid-America Judging Center meeting**, Room 175, Commerce Bank Education Building, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

**October 18, 2014 (could change)**

**Monthly Mid-America Judging Center meeting**, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas

**November 8, 2014**

**Monthly Mid-America Judging Center meeting**, Room 175, Commerce Bank Education Building, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

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**Find OSO on**



Check out OSO’s Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Orchid-Society-of-the-Ozarks/166606350108921>

Like us, post your pictures or comments, join the community.

**We’re on the Web:** <http://www.oso-web.org/>

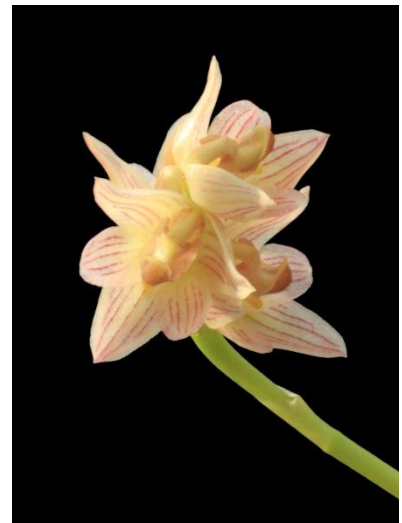
Webmaster: Bruce Brown ( [webmaster@oso-web.org](mailto:webmaster@oso-web.org) )

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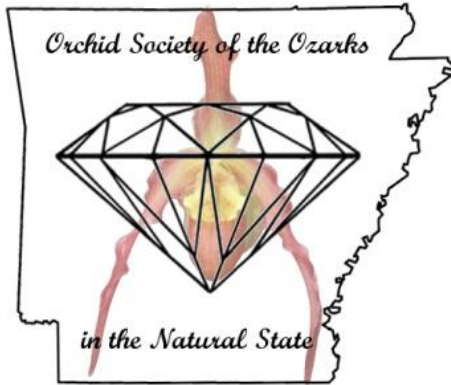
**Orchid Web Site of the Month:**

<http://www.orchidphotography.com/gallery.php>

Our web site of the month is Monroe Kokin’s “Orchid Photography by Kokin”. He’s another accomplished photographer of orchids who takes photos for judging centers and societies in the Florida areas. The link above goes right to the gallery area.







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***A non-profit, educational organization  
stimulating interest in orchids and  
their culture.***

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## Cathy's Musings!

We are excited this month to start (what we hope will be) a new tradition on the OSO program calendar—movie day! Bring your movie worthy food and prepare to be entertained, the reviews are great. I hope your orchids have enjoyed the mild summer and are looking good for the fall show season which is just around the corner.



*Cathy*

You can see I am all ready for our movie!

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## What's Ahead .....

### August 24, 2014

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd.,  
Springdale, AR  
Meeting: 1:30

Program: Movie month! See inside  
for details.

### September 28, 2014

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd.,  
Springdale, AR  
Annual auction!

Preview: 12 noon  
Auction starts: 1 pm  
Auction ends: 3:30 pm

### October 26, 2014

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR  
Meeting: 1:30

Program: Blanche Wagner from the Missouri Botanical Garden on their orchid collection

