

Deep South Orchid Society Newsletter

www.deepsouthorchidsociety.com

December 2023

December Meeting

Date: Sunday 10 December 2023

Place: Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens,
The Annex, 2 Canebrake Rd. Savannah, GA

Time: 1:00 pm

Activity: Christmas Party - Low Country
Boil and Plant Auction

Cost: \$5.00/person

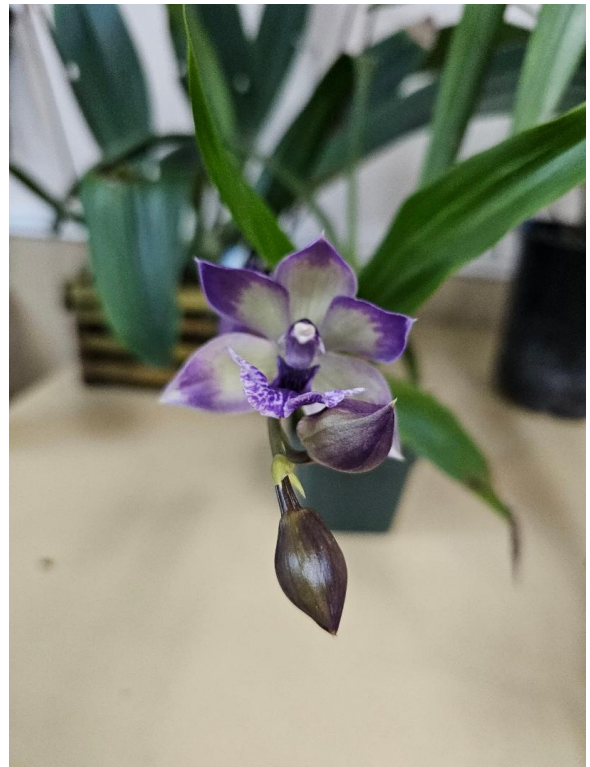
Need to Bring: Those members attending
need to bring one of the following: a side
dish, dessert or something to drink.

Plants and Plant Related Items for Auction -
Please look around and see if there are any
plants or plant related items you would like
to donate to the plant auction.

Show and Tell

DSOS Meetings At A Glance

14 Jan 2024	Bingo Hosting: Potluck
11 Feb 2024	AOS Judging Hosting: TBD
10 Mar 2024	TBD Hosting: TBD



Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue Birds' AM/AOS, Owner: Kim
Owens

Plants/Orchids Needed for Christmas Party and Bingo in January

We are having a plant auction at our Christmas party. Look around your collection of plants and plant related items to see what you would like to donate to the auction.

January is a fun meeting playing Bingo. We need donations of plants and plant related items for the Bingo prizes.

Our Show (20-24 March 2024) is Just Around the Corner - Sponsorship

Last month we brought up the topic of sponsoring one of the awards for our show.

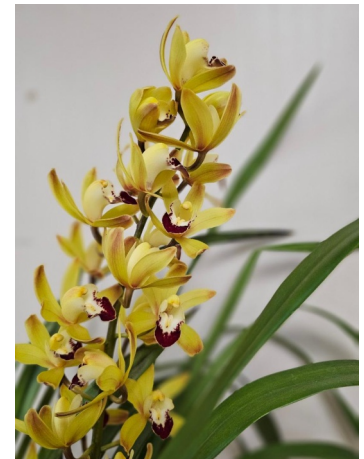
Sponsorship is \$50.00. Sponsors are needed for the following:

Best Booth/Exhibit

Orchid Society Exhibit
Open Competition Exhibit
Amateur Exhibit
Small Table Top Exhibit
People's Choice Awards

Best Orchid

Cattleya Alliance
Vanda Alliance
Oncidium Alliance
Phalaenopsis Alliance
Cypripedium Alliance
Cymbidium Alliance
Dendrobium Alliance
Miscellaneous Genera
Orchid Art
Orchid Species



Cym. Ming 'Emperor, Owner: Steve Tacopina

You can pick the award you want to sponsor. Members can join together and sponsor an award.

Volunteers Needed For Greenhouse

Do you have an hour or maybe 20 minutes to spare? We need volunteers to help in the greenhouse to pick up dead leaves and flowers on the benches and weeding of the pots. See Steve Tacopina at the meeting if you would like to help out.

Let's Welcome Our Newest Member

We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest member, Betsy Raben, who joined at our November meeting. Thank you for joining the Deep South Orchid Society.

Greenhouse



Have a Wonderful and
Safe Holiday Season

Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukah

A Joyous Kwanzaa



Clockwise from top:

Phals NOID

Paph NOID

Cattilanthe Portia 'Coerulea'

Vanda NOID

Orchid News from Around the World

Think Twice Before Using Coffee Grounds To Fertilize Your Orchids

By Alexandra Rodriguez

Read More: <https://www.housedigest.com/1422569/coffee-grounds-help-orchid-plants-fertilize/>



Orchids (family Orchidaceae) are gorgeous flowers that bloom with variously-colored petals including shades of white, pink, purple, blue, and yellow. However, they are one of the most difficult flowers to grow at home, and many aspiring gardeners have trouble keeping them alive. Orchids need a strict watering schedule, sufficient sunlight, and enough nutrients to survive many weeks. Though these

flowers come with an instruction label that tells you how to care for them, keeping them alive can still be challenging. You might have researched tips and tricks that will help make it easier to care for your orchid. One typical search result is using leftover coffee grounds as fertilizer and adding them to your orchid's pot. These grounds are supposed to boost the plant's growth and provide plentiful nutrients to maintain its health. However, coffee grounds don't benefit some types of orchids, as this material can't be broken down properly in potting mixes.

There are two categories of orchids, namely terrestrial and epiphytes. Terrestrial orchids grow in soil, while epiphytes grow in the air or on trees and plants. Epiphytes are the most commonly grown orchid you can purchase at grocery stores or flower shops. When purchased, they're grown in a medium mix, which is a blend of materials like fir bark, peat moss, sphagnum moss, perlite, rock wool, and dried fern roots. These materials are lightweight and allow air to circulate throughout the pot. However, they also can't break down coffee grounds, making this fertilizer useless to epiphyte orchids.

Coffee grounds can work well as a fertilizer for plants that grow in soil and that enjoy an acidic pH level. When the grounds are added around the plant, they are blended in with the rest of the soil. Over time, the coffee grounds are broken down and release nutrients like nitrogen that can benefit the plant. However, they don't work the same when added to epiphyte orchids, since these flowers grow in a medium mix. Therefore, when coffee grounds are added, they sit at the surface instead of blending with the materials like they would with soil. Further, they can also clog the orchid's mix, which can restrict airflow and prevent water from adequately draining, causing the roots to soak and eventually rot. Coffee grounds can also break down the mix, which may harm the flower's roots.



On the other hand, coffee is highly acidic, especially fresh coffee. Orchids enjoy a slightly-acidic to neutral pH in their medium to help them survive. If coffee grounds are added to a terrestrial orchid's pot, they could make the soil too acidic and harm the plant's roots. Plus, the

Orchid News from Around the World (cont.)

Think Twice Before Using Coffee Grounds To Fertilize Your Orchids

coffee grounds by themselves cannot produce the nutrients that an orchid needs to survive. Instead, an earthworm needs to turn them into fertilizer, which isn't possible for indoor or epiphyte orchids.

The combination of acidity and lack of nutrients can stunt the flower's growth and be detrimental to its health.

When coffee beans and grounds may be beneficial



While you shouldn't use coffee grounds as your go-to fertilizer to help your orchids thrive, using a small amount of coffee beans occasionally doesn't hurt, as they have benefits other than providing nutrients. For example, coffee beans are phenomenal for repelling pests. Slugs and snails are enemies to orchids because they enjoy eating the leaves and stems of this plant. Other pests you might notice invading your orchids are mealybugs, aphids, and soft scales, which remove sap from these flowers, causing their leaves to turn yellow and stunting their growth. Placing a few coffee beans along the orchid's surface will repel pests with their intense smell.

However, even though the beans will deter pests, they can attract other insects, so always keep an eye on your plant. The only insects you want around your orchid are earthworms because they can break down the coffee grounds into nutrients that could actually benefit the flower. If your terrestrial orchids grow outside, using coffee grounds as mulch can benefit them by attracting earthworms. The earthworms and bacteria in the soil will ensure the nutrients are broken down from the coffee grounds. However, you can't use coffee grounds as mulch for your indoor or outdoor epiphytic orchids because there won't be earthworms to help break down the grounds, and they also contain different types of bacteria than outdoor terrestrial types.

Taken from Waldor Orchids email dated 27 Oct 2023.

Events Calendar

9 December 2023 - AOS Judging, 1:00 pm Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA

13 January 2024 - AOS Judging, 1:00 pm Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA

12-14 January 2024 - Tamiami International Orchid Festival, Miami Dade County Fair Expo Center, Miami, FL

10 February 2024 - AOS Judging, 1:00 pm Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA

The Final Word - Thank You

This is my last newsletter. I just want to thank everyone who has answered all my questions and helped with photos over the years. I would like to thank the membership as a whole who gave me encouragement and many kind compliments.

Thank you everyone.



Pot. Heather's Gold 'Motherload' , Owner: Cheryl
and David Holesovsky

Board of Directors

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Vice President	Steve Tacopina
Secretary	Margaret Govelitz
Treasurer	Joeth Scott
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