



## *The ORCHID CHAT*

**Treasure Valley Orchid Society**

**April 2021**

Hello TVOS members and friends!

April marks the 100th birthday of the [American Orchid Society](#). TVOS is one of more than 400 local, affiliated orchid societies worldwide! This powerhouse organization is responsible for collecting and disseminating the latest information about orchid culture, training judges, and sponsoring orchid research and conservation efforts around the globe. We are proud to be a small part of these efforts!

**In honor of AOS' 100 years, the program for our April 21 meeting will be our own, "virtual orchid seminar!"** We're asking YOU to pick a plant from your own collection, do a little research about it, and be prepared to share your findings with the group! Nothing fancy – no PowerPoint or prepared speech. Just tell us why you love it, interesting tidbits about your orchid and how you take care of it.

It's always GREAT to see everyone (and their orchids!), albeit on the laptop screen, at the Zoom meetings. Please make an effort to be there! The cool door prizes are second only to the camaraderie of your fellow orchid folk.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to these TVOS members, celebrating April birthdays:

4/21 Janet Crist  
4/21 Rocky Redford  
4/26 Tara Downes

If we've missed yours, please let Chris Thomas ([christomasco@gmail.com](mailto:christomasco@gmail.com)) or Terry McMorrow ([bacpker@gmail.com](mailto:bacpker@gmail.com)) know, so we can add you to the list.

Now, more about AOS. Did you know its first home was Harvard University?! AOS headquarters didn't move to Florida until 1984. Other fun facts:

- The first AOS orchid show was held in Boston, May 8-11, 1924.
- The AOS publication now known as [Orchids Magazine](#) was first published in June 1932.
- The first Affiliated Society, in Cleveland, came on board in 1946.
- Orchid judging services began in 1949, in New York City, with other, regional judging centers created through the 1950s and '60s.
- The first AOS Research Committee, formed in 1952, had raised \$100,000 by 1956 to fund orchid research projects!
- The first World Orchid Conference was in St. Louis, in 1954.
- The original AOS website launched in 1996.

You can [join AOS](#) as an individual member for as little as \$54/year. The perks include access to monthly, live webinars and Q-&-A chats (and over 100 that have been recorded), an email orchid course for beginners, discounted admission to almost 300 Botanical Gardens, and much more.

**Coming up:** It looks likely that we WILL be able to meet in person, outdoors, on Saturday, May 22! More about that to come. In the meantime, packing the Orchid Chat full of useful info helps everyone stay in touch and keep learning. If you find a cool class or book, orchid care videos, a good place to get plants or supplies (locally or online), please pass it along and we'll include it in this newsletter!

Also, if YOU have a favorite orchid or orchid-growing topic you'd like to present – or one you'd like to know more about – please let any board member know! Most presentations are about 15 minutes in length, and our Zoom meetings make it easy to share your screen for photos, videos or PowerPoint presentations.

Minutes of the March 17 General Meeting follow this newsletter.

As always, keep 'em blooming!

Newsletter orchid graphic courtesy of:  
<https://poweredtemplate.com/brochure-templates/nature/letterheads/03033/0/index.html>

**TREASURE VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY, INC.**

Boise, ID

General Meeting Minutes –3/17/2021

Vice President Pam Spencer called the online meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., with nine club members in attendance (on Zoom). A motion was made by Tammy Dana to approve minutes of the Feb. 17 general meeting; Pam Spencer seconded. It passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer Rocky Redford reported the club's current bank balance is unchanged, with one outstanding bill to be paid – the \$79 annual dues for the club's American Orchid Society membership. Tammy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Pam seconded and it passed on a voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Club members were reminded that there will not be a 2021 Orchid Show & Sale. However, Tammy has offered her yard for a potluck get-together on **Sat., May 22**. We're in the process of contacting some local orchid vendors to see if they'd be willing to bring plants and supplies for members and guests to purchase. More info to come!

**MONTHLY MEETING TOPIC:** Chris Thomas shared a short video about how to soak orchid roots in weak tea in order to boost their nitrogen intake and prompt rehydration and growth. (See it here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q5DQ\\_PwFdw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q5DQ_PwFdw)) Following the video, Chris had a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the ways tea can be used on orchid plants, the benefits and potential drawbacks. This month, Chris, Pam and Tammy all have experimented with this method, with mixed results! Each showed the orchids they've been "steeping" in tea.

The meeting ended with a look at everybody's blooming plants, and a lament that we won't be able to show them off to the public this year. We briefly discussed the idea of putting more of our plant photos online – a "virtual" orchid show – on the TVOS website, if we can figure out the technical how-to.

Door prize winners:

Tyler Lobdell – Cymbidium "Golden Elf"      Rocky Redford – CalMag fertilizer

Tara Downes – Orchiatea bark      Terry McMorrow – Trader Joe's gift certificate

Congrats to the winners, and thanks to the donors: Pam, Tammy and Tara!

Meeting adjourned around 7:45 p.m.

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Pam Spencer, Vice President

Respectfully submitted,  
*Chris Thomas*  
Club Secretary