

BUCKS COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

February 2025



BCOS Meeting and Program

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Regular Meeting 7:30 pm

Show Table Setup 7:00 pm

Churchville Nature Center
501 Churchville Lane
Churchville, PA 18966

Under Light Orchid Culture at the Swartz Brewery, Edition 2.0.

A 21st Century Adaptation of a 19th Center Structure.

Albert V. Tamashausky will give a presentation that describes how he grows

miniature orchid varieties, under lights, in the remnants of the historical Swartz Brewery located in Oxford, Warren County, New Jersey. The lecture will include a short course on building your own fluorescent or LED light fixtures. Details on the plants I grow (try to grow) will be weighted toward the miniature orchid species native to Papua New Guinea.

Oxford, NJ is a small town in the western corner of Warren County, and is the home of the "Oxford Furnace", established ca 1741. Oxford Furnace is one of the earliest blast furnaces in the Nation. Oxford location supplied iron for armaments and utilitarian items for the revolution and the town produced iron until the late 1950s. The Swartz Brewery was one of many small breweries that sprung up during the 19th century to provide beer to the local workers and inhabitants.

The Swartz brewery consisted of a main "utility building" and an attached subterranean "cave", 8 feet below the surface that served as a "lagering" chamber for the beer. Albert will describe in detail the layout of the cave, the renovations performed to allow orchid cultivation within the cave, and the unique "cloud forest" environment provided by this subterranean structure.

My Bio:

Albert Tamashausky began growing orchids ca. 1974. He dropped out of a biology program and Kean College (Union NJ) and went to work full time for Lager & Hurrell Orchids, Summit New Jersey. During the two years spent at Lager and Hurrell Albert learned the art and science of orchid potting, vegetative propagation, and general orchid culture. Albert moved to Oxford in 1977 where he grew orchids in a converted bedroom. In 1982 he moved just around the corner in Oxford and began growing orchids in the lagering cave at the Swartz Brewery.

Albert's formal training is in chemical engineering and material science. He is semi-retired from Asbury Carbons where he previously acted as Director of Technical Services and chief science officer.

Plants Albert will bring for sale: A general mix of miniature species including some from the genera Dendrobium, Bulbophyllum, Masdevallia, Porroglossom, Maxillaria, etc. All plants are 100% grown under light and are ideal for fluorescent light culture.



The Bucks County Orchid Society and Albert Tamashausky Present: Under Light Orchid Culture at the Swartz Brewery, Edition 2.0. A 21st Century Adaptation of a 19th Center Structure. Feb 20, 2025



Photographed and released unharmed.



*The Bucks County
Orchid Society*

OFFICERS

Sandy Kern	President
Jean Norton	Vice President
Chuck Keiser	Treasurer
Open	Secretary
Jennifer Leah-Rosa	Newsletter Editor
Carl Gustafson	Awards Coordinator

Meetings are held 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at :

Churchville Nature Center
501 Churchville Lane
Churchville, PA 18966

Visit our website:
www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org

Other Societies and Vendors

A list of other societies and vendors is now exclusively available on the BCOS website or click the links below.

[For Other Orchid Societies](#)

and

[For Local Orchid Vendors](#)

Are you Serious? Or'chid-ing?



Be careful not to pronounce "orchid" incorrectly. You could end up sounding like a pirate with a cold: "Aaargh, kid!"

Save
These unique orchids are called "little dragon monkey" which is also known as *Dracula simia*. The Monkey Orchid is found in the forests of Peru and southeastern Ecuador



EDITORS NOTE

Contributions to the newsletter will be greatly appreciated. Please submit relevant news, photos, awards or information relating to the Society, its members, the care and culture of orchids to the Editor at BCOrchidSocietyEditor@gmail.com. You can also submit orchids and orchid related items for sale.

Please submit your copy by the first day of the month.

The Importance of Aerial Roots in Orchids: Why You Shouldn't Cut Them

What to do with the aerial roots of an orchid?

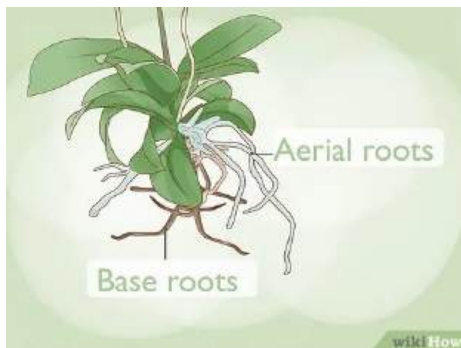


Orchids, particularly Phalaenopsis, are known for their unique growth habits, one of which is the development of aerial roots. These roots extend out from the potting medium into the air, sometimes making orchid enthusiasts question whether they should trim them off. The simple answer is: don't cut them. Aerial roots play a crucial role in the health and well-being of the orchid. In this article, we'll explore the importance of these roots, why they grow in the air, and how to care for them.

Understanding Aerial Roots

Aerial roots are thick, fleshy roots that grow above the surface of the potting medium, often extending out into the air. They are covered in a spongy, silver-gray layer called velamen, which acts as a protective barrier and helps the roots absorb moisture and nutrients from the air. These roots are a natural adaptation of epiphytic orchids, which grow on trees in their native environments. In nature, aerial roots help the orchid anchor itself to tree bark while absorbing rainwater, dew, and nutrients from the surrounding air.

Why Do Orchids Grow Aerial Roots?



Several reasons can explain the growth of aerial roots in orchids, especially Phalaenopsis varieties:

1. **Epiphytic Nature:** Most orchids, including Phalaenopsis, are epiphytes, meaning they naturally grow on trees in their native habitats. Aerial roots help them anchor securely to tree trunks and branches while absorbing moisture from the humid air.
2. **Seeking Moisture and Nutrients:** If the potting medium is dry or lacks sufficient moisture and nutrients, orchids may grow more aerial roots to seek out additional sources in the environment..
3. **Breathing and Gas Exchange:** Aerial roots are designed for respiration, which involves taking in oxygen from the air. This function is crucial for the orchid's overall health.
4. **Adapting to the Environment:** Orchids are highly adaptable plants. If they sense that the conditions in the potting medium are less than ideal, such as being too wet or too compact, they may grow more aerial roots to compensate.

Why You Shouldn't Cut Aerial Roots

1. **Essential for Plant Health:** Aerial roots are vital to the orchid's survival. They help the plant absorb moisture and nutrients from the air, particularly in environments where these resources may be limited in the potting medium. Cutting them can weaken the orchid, affecting its overall health and growth.
2. **Risk of Infection:** Trimming aerial roots can create open wounds, making the plant susceptible to infections. Pathogens can enter through these cuts and cause rot, which can be detrimental to the orchid.
3. **Sign of a Healthy Orchid:** The presence of aerial roots is often a sign that the orchid is thriving and adapting to its environment. Healthy aerial roots can indicate that the orchid is actively growing and well-nourished.

Continued on page 6



**JANUARY 2025
Windowsill Growers**

	Genus	Species	Clone	Grower
Cymbidium				
2nd	Cymbidium	No ID		Kern, Sandy
Dendrobium				
1st	Dendrobium	Blue Twinkle		Zaliska, Victoria
2nd	Dendrobium	Microchip		Zaliska, Victoria
Miniatures				
2nd	Phal Mini	No ID		Leah-Rosa, Jenn



Dendrobium
Blue Twinkle



Dendrobium
Microchip



Phal Mini
No ID



Cymbidium
No ID

Phalaenopsis

1st	Phalaenopsis	Caribbean Sunset	"Licorice Candy"	Paroly, Mitch
1st	Phalaenopsis	Ox Cheese	"OX1658"	Paroly, Mitch
2nd	Phalaenopsis	Fuller's Mask	"Smile" AM/AOS	Paroly, Mitch
3rd	Phalaenopsis	Charming Suree		Paroly, Mitch



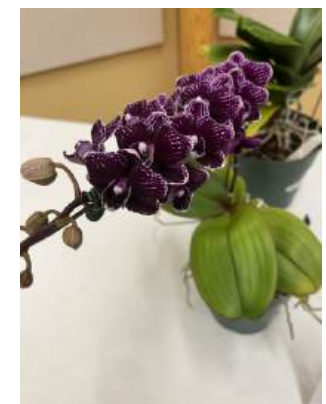
Phal Charming Suree



Phalaenopsis Fuller's
Mask "Smile" AM/



Phal Caribbean
Sunset "Licorice



Phalaenopsis
Ox Cheese "
OX1658"

JANUARY 2025 SHOW TABLE

Windowsill Growers continued



Open

1st	Mormodia	Jumbo Ruby	Kern, Sandy
2nd	Coelogyne	lactea	Kern, Sandy
3rd	Ludisia	discolor	Michelle NLM

Species

1st	Bulbophyllum	lassiochilum	Gustafson, Carl
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Mormodia Jumbo Ruby
(Top View)



Mormodia Jumbo Ruby
(Looking up from table)



Coelogyne lactea



Bulbophyllum
lassiochilum

Paphiopedilum

1st	Paphiopedilum	Virginia Creeper	Carrick, Dave
2nd	Paphiopedilum	henryanum	Gustafson, Carl

Pleurothallids

1st	Pleurothallis	crocodiliceps	Gustafson, Carl
2nd	Masdevallia	discoidea	Gustafson, Carl



Paph. henryanum



Pleurothallis crocodiliceps



Masdevallia discoidea

The Importance of Aerial Roots in Orchids: Why You Shouldn't

Continued from page 3

4. Natural Adaptation: As epiphytes, orchids naturally grow aerial roots. Trying to change or "tame" this growth pattern by cutting the roots disrupts the plant's natural processes and adaptation strategies.

How to Care for Aerial Roots



Rather than cutting aerial roots, it's important to care for them properly to ensure the health of your orchid:

1. Provide Humidity: Since aerial roots absorb moisture from the air, maintaining a higher level of humidity around your orchid can benefit the roots. Aim for a humidity level of 50-70% to support the orchid's natural growth habits.

2. Mist the Roots Occasionally: If the environment is particularly dry, lightly mist the aerial roots to help them absorb the moisture they need. Be cautious not to overdo it, as excess moisture can lead to rot.

3. Avoid Sinking Them Into the Potting Medium: It's tempting to try to bury aerial roots back into the pot, but this can damage them or cause them to rot, as they are not adapted to staying wet for prolonged periods. Let them grow freely outside the pot.

4. Use an Appropriate Potting Mix: Ensure your orchid's potting mix is suitable for epiphytic orchids. A mix of bark, sphagnum moss, and perlite can help provide the right balance of moisture and airflow.

5. Monitor for Signs of Stress: If aerial roots turn brown or shrivel, it could indicate that the orchid is not getting enough humidity or that the roots are too dry. Adjusting the humidity or watering routine can help.

When Is It Okay to Trim Aerial Roots?

In most cases, you should not cut aerial roots. However, there are exceptions:

- If the roots are completely dry and brittle: Dead roots that have dried up can be pruned with sterile scissors. Be sure to cut only the dead portion, leaving any healthy tissue intact.

- If the roots are damaged or diseased: In the case of rot or significant damage, carefully trim away the affected parts to prevent the problem from spreading. Always use sterile tools and apply an orchid-friendly fungicide to the cut areas.



Conclusion

Aerial roots are an essential part of an orchid's growth and should be left intact whenever possible. They serve important functions, from moisture absorption to anchoring the plant and providing extra nutrition. Cutting them can hinder the plant's growth and increase the risk of infection. Instead of trimming, embrace these roots as a natural and beneficial feature of your orchid. Proper care, including maintaining humidity and monitoring the plant's environment, will help keep the aerial roots healthy and support the overall vitality of your orchid.

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<https://www.facebook.com/Orchidsandplants/posts/pfbid02LqNix3BMZHNVPRtL9TCVrN1dzcySZMb1dTqeP7JResxn6pSZLeeF5JZhMA86sDHI>

The January BCOS meeting was a success despite the weather! It's great to see that the show table had more entries than expected – always a fun part of the event. The Open Forum included many helpful tips for all levels of orchid growers. We also viewed a video from Bucks Beautiful which highlighted Chuck Keiser and Sandy Kern showcasing many great tips on care of several beautiful orchids.

Click [here](#) to check out the video!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Deep Cut Orchid Society



Orchid Show and Sale
February 16th, 17th, 18th



SCAN ME

Don't miss the biggest ORCHID EVENT in the NY area!
deepcutorchidsociety.org/show

26th ANNUAL SHOW
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FREE ADMISSION - THANK YOU @

[Dearborn Market, Holmdel NJ](#)
[2170 NJ-35, Holmdel, NJ 07733](#)

Friday 12pm - 6pm,
Saturday - 9am-6pm,
Sunday 9am-4pm

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The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

2025 Spring Show "Orchid Obsession"

Saturday, 3/15/2025

Exhibits noon to 5pm,
Vendors 9am to 5pm.

Sunday, 3/16/2025

Exhibits 9am to 4pm,
Vendors 9am to 4pm.

Location

Crowne Plaza Suites
Pittsburgh South
164 Fort Couch Rd.
Pittsburgh PA 15241

Save The Date
March 15 & 16
2025

Orchid
SPRING SHOW
THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS
Orchid obsession

SATURDAY MARCH 15 EXHIBITS NOON TO 5 P.M. VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.	CROWNE PLAZA SUITES PITTSBURGH SOUTH EXHIBITS 164 FORT COUCH RD. PITTSBURGH PA 15241 (ACROSS FROM SOUTH HILLS VILLAGE)	ORCHID DISPLAYS EXPERT PRESENTATIONS ORCHID REPOTTING ORCHID VENDOR SALES OSWP SALES
SUNDAY MARCH 16 EXHIBITS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M. VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.		

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APRIL 6 FROM 10 AM - 4 PM | AT THE
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Southeastern
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April 4 – 6, 2025

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