



# New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter September 2017

Our next regular meeting will be:

## September 10th at 1:30pm

Growers forum begins at 1:00pm  
Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas  
Blvd NE  
*(Just West of Eubank on the South Side of  
Lomas in Los Altos Park)*

As usual, please bring something to share.  
Healthy snacks are appreciated!

Members are encouraged to wear their  
membership badges



## Main Program: Hands-on Repotting.

Bring your orchids that need a new pot, are overgrown, or you're unsure what to do with. Seasoned growers will be available to help you. NMOG will provide the media, you can BYO pots or purchase them from us.

**Growers Forum: Repotting for beginners.**

Growers Forum begins at 1:00

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From the President's Desk:

September 2017

Thanks to Dorothy Duff for her presentation on Cattleyas at the August Grower's Forum. Our program chair, Jane Cole, is always looking for members to step up and share their knowledge during our pre meeting gathering and we appreciate it.

Guest speaker and NMOG member Ron Midgett spoke on Green with Envy, the Story of Green Cattleyas. Nature is amazing and one never is sure of the outcome of these crosses. The flowers can be totally different even within the same cross and can even vary by the part of the country where they bloom.

The September 10th meeting will be hands on repotting. Here are the guidelines: for a fee of \$5 you may repot two of your orchids and you will receive a FREE orchid seedling of your choice. Additional seedlings will be available to purchase for \$5 each but supplies may be limited. NMOG will supply the media (orchiatia and sphagnum moss) but NOT the pots. Bring your own pots or we will have them available to purchase. Knowledgeable growers will be on hand to assist you if you need it. As always we will have a great raffle, supply sales and some plants too! The Grower's Forum will be on the basics of repotting.

Our October 8th meeting will be about orchid pests and diseases.

On November 12th we welcome Gary Meyer, President of the Pleurothallid Alliance, as our guest. Thanks to Joanne Bodin for arranging Gary's visit. More details to follow.

And then it is December! Our annual holiday party will again be held at Season's Restaurant in Old Town on Sunday, December 10th. As soon as the menu choices are finalized we will share them with you but save the date.

See you on September 10th for repotting

Keith

NMOG Website: <http://www.nmorchidguild.org/>

American Orchid Society Website: <http://aos.org>

## Show and Tell Winners

July 2017

Photos by Barb Beil



Advanced 1st Place  
Vanda NOID  
Pamela McKenzie



Advanced 2nd Place  
*Masdevallia floribunda*  
Kelly McCracken



Intermediate 1st place  
Bc. Hawaiian Passion  
Dorothy Duff



Novice 1st place  
Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'  
Jeff Dobush

## Does my orchid need repotting?

By Kelly McCracken

With the upcoming repotting seminar in our September meeting, I thought our members might enjoy a handy guide for what to look for when you are unsure if your orchid needs to be repotted or not. If you are still unsure, bring your questionable plants to our meeting and NMOG's seasoned growers will help you decide.

What to look for

### 1. **Do you see roots poking out of the pot?**

Typically, Phalaenopsis plants do tend to produce some roots that grow above the level of the growing media. These are called "aerial" roots. One or two aerial roots will not harm the health of the plant. However, if the entire plant is "crawling" out of the pot, and it appears that there are more roots out of the media than *in* then it

may be time to repot.



A Couple aerial roots. They are silvery white

**2. How does the media look?**

If the plant is potted in moss, then poke your finger and squish it down a few times. If the moss is springy, light, and not too moist, your plant is probably fine. If your media feels overly damp, is a dark dingy color, or is not springy perhaps it needs rejuvenating.

If you are growing in bark, poke your finger down in there and see if you can

check on the bark pieces below the top layer. If you can see clearly defined pieces of bark and roots, then you are probably ok. If there are mushy, rotten looking pieces of bark, or the pot takes a long time to dry out between waterings, this means your bark has decayed and you need some new media.



Left: Springy, light colored, fresh media. Right: Dark, dense, old media

### 3. **How do the roots look?**

This can be a tough question to answer without taking the orchid out of the pot. You may see lots of rotten looking roots on top of the media, and this usually means there are more rotten ones underneath too. Clear pots are great in this situation. If your plant is looking wrinkly, wilted, or has “pleated” leaves, this can be a sign that the plant has poor roots and could use a repotting.



Left: Healthy, turgid, green-tipped roots Right: thin, wiry, brown dead roots.

4. **When was the last time you repotted?**

Not all plants need to be repotted every year, but some do. Paphiopedilums prefer an annual repotting. If you have recently purchased the plant, especially from a grocery store or bog-box store, it likely has been sitting in the media it arrived in for around 2 years.

5. **What growth stage is the plant in?**

This is the trickiest part of knowing when to repot your orchids. Some are very seasonal in when they grow new roots, so if you repot just *after* the plant grows its new roots, it will not grow new roots and establish in its new pot for a whole year. For Phalaenopsis, this is less important. They are not so seasonal. Spring is an ideal time to plant these guys, because they are just coming out of their flowering cycle and into the vigorous growth stage. Fall is also a good time, because there is still time to grow before the cold gets here. In general, Spring and Fall are the best times to repot any orchids.





This Phalaenopsis is just putting out a new flush of roots. Excellent time to repot, even though it has a spike!

You want to catch the plant just *before* it starts to grow new roots. You can learn this by observing your plants and when they grow what. Cattleyas are particularly tricky. Some grow new roots just after flowering, some grow them just before flowering, some seem to do whatever they please. Dendrobiums, Bulbophyllums, and Oncidiums tend to produce their roots just after a new growth matures. You simply have to watch your plants to learn when they will produce that flush of

roots.



This Cattleya roots after the new growth has matured

Don't stress out about catching your plant at the right time if it is truly having issues in its current pot. If your media is too old, its aerial roots offend you, or your having rot problems, repotting is probably the best option and most commercially available hybrids are not too sensitive to repotting.

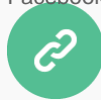
## Classifieds

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Email [Kelly@dunn-nm.com](mailto:Kelly@dunn-nm.com) to list orchids for sale or trade, orchid related items, or "In Search Of" posts



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