Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, 7:00 pm
Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT
(See last pg. 10 for map & directions)

6:30 pm.: Doors open. Socializing begins. Come early and help set-up for the meeting.

7:00 pm: Business meeting begins

7:30 pm: Featured speaker/presentation begins.

Next Meeting

Members with last names beginning with “A” through “M”, please bring goodies for this month’s refreshment table.

For notice of last-minute or inclement weather cancellation, visit our website www.ctorchids.org.

This Month’s Featured Event

Round Robin Growing Discussion

Find out how other members grow their orchids.

Learn about alternative growing media, see some mounting techniques.

Join in with your questions & ideas.

Questions about your own plant? Bring it to the meeting.

Presented by several of our more experienced member growers including Carla Koch, Bill Pendleton, George (Monty) Sabolcik & Dave Tognalli.

Connecticut Orchid Society Mission Statement

The Connecticut Orchid Society is an incorporated, non-profit association for the preservation and extension of knowledge concerning the conservation, ecology, science, cultivation, hybridization, appreciation and uses of orchids; and to carry on such activities as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate such purposes.
Membership Policy

Membership is open to anyone interested in orchids. Members join the Society by payment of annual dues. Memberships may be individual, student, family, life or honorary. Honorary membership is for life and is made by nomination of the Board of Directors and majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting. The newsletter is published each month except July and August. Annual membership includes subscription to the newsletter — electronic or paper copy as determined by member preference.

Mentor List

The following COS members are available to answer your culture questions and help you with any orchid growing problems you may have:

- **Judy Becker**  
  judybecker40@att.net  
  (860) 435-2263  
  Greenhouse growing methods: Wide variety of species & hybrids

- **Sam Hinckley**  
  samuelhinckley@comcast.net  
  (860) 688-0943  
  (After 7:30 pm) Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

- **Jeffrey Richards**  
  Jeffrey.richards@snet.net  
  Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

- **Sharon SmithDelisle**  
  editor@ctorchids.org  
  (203) 744-1849  
  (Contact anytime) Under lights & windowsill growing methods: Bulbophyllums, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera.

- **David Tognalli**  
  dtog54@sbcglobal.net  
  (860) 521-7249  
  (Contact evenings & weekends) Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums & mixed genera.

COS Membership Information: $20/yr. Individual $25/yr. Family $200 Individual or $250 Family Lifetime Membership (never pay dues again!)

Visit www.ctorchids.org to apply for/renew membership. We accept Paypal. Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at www.COSMembership@earthlink.net for more details.

Connecticut Orchid Society (COS) is an incorporated non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1959. Please consider making a charitable contribution to COS. Most donations made to COS are tax deductible.
Joanna Eckstrom spoke on Orchid Mermaids, aka Vandas, which prefer “the sun on their faces, wind in their hair, and lapping waves at their feet.” These southeastern Asian plants prefer 10-12 hours of daylight and temps from 65-80 F. In practice, though, she keeps them at 55 F overnight in New Hampshire. Warm water is preferred, and 60 to 80 percent humidity.

Sir William Jones named them in 1795: monopodial plants having a central stalk, with inflorescences in their leaf axils. Some examples of this group, now technically including such other species as Neofinetia, Ascocentrum and Rhynchostylis, are the tiny Ascocentrum pumilum, the blue (ish), cool-growing Vanda coerulea, and the spectacular Vanda sanderiana.

Joanna loves V. tesselata hybrids for their sunny yellows. She showed hybrids such as Ascda. (now Vanda) Blue Tahourdin ‘Bronze Grape,’ and Chiangmai ‘Thailand.’

Some grow these plants under a high-light lamp, giving them 11 hour days. However, they can burn if not adapted slowly to sun in the spring. Joanna drenches them and then lets them dry out. Balanced fertilizers, with nitrates for the nitrogen component rather than urea, are preferred. Calcium, cal-mag, and calplus help with root development.

- Carla Koch
Dendrobium Yellow Chinsai 'Little Joe'  
(Chinsai x heterocarpum)  
D. Tognalli  i,w

Dendrobium hybridum ign.  
B. Esselink  i,g

Dendrobium phal. hybridum ign.  
G. Sabolcik  w, w&g

Gastrochilus bellinus  
R. Schwartz  i,w

Mormodes skinneri  
R. Schwartz  i,w

Oncidium hybridum ign. 'Rhadamaker'  
G. Sabolcik  w, w&g

Oncostele Wildcat 'Yellow Butterfly'  
B. Esselink  i,g

Paphiopedilum malipoense  
G. Sabolcik  i, w&g

Paphiopedilum Pink Fred  
(Fair Fred x primulinum)  
R. Schwartz  i,w

Phalaenopsis Taida Pearl '0771'  
W. Wilson  i,w&l  
(Ching Hua Spring x Sogo Davis)

Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite (mislabeled Phaius tankervilleae)  
(Cal. Rozel x Phaius tankervilleae)  
G. Sabolcik  w,g

Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite  
(Gcal. Rozel x Phaius tankervilleae)  
G. Sabolcik  w,g

Phalaenopsis hybridum ign.  
C. Sabolcik  i,w

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Gene Crocker  
D. Tognalli  i,w  
(C. Newberry Promise x Rlc. Newberry Delight)

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Goldenzelle 'Promised Land' AM/AOS  
(Rlc. Fortune x C. Horace)  
D. Tognalli  i.w

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Marlene Lindquist 'Orange Delight' AM/AOS  
(Classy Lady x George King) Syn. Pot.  
D. Tognalli  i,w

The monthly Show Table list is researched and prepared by AOS Accredited Judge, and COS Honorary Life Member Judy Becker. Any photos included with the Show Table plants were taken by the editor Sharon SmithDelisle.

Culture is as noted:  
c – cool  i – intermediate  w – warm  g – greenhouse  
ws – windowsill  l — lights

Judy Becker
Errata & Corrections

- In the Jan. 2015 edition of the newsletter, our new Treasurer’s last name was misspelled. Please note that Sherry’s last name is spelled Pendleton. The editor apologizes for this error.
- In the Coming Events section of the Jan. 2015 newsletter the AOS Judging Northeast Judging Center was listed as meeting twice in the month of January at the Bartlett Arboratum and Gardens, Stamford, CT. Please note that the AOS Judging Northeast Judging Center meets only once a month at the Bartlett Arboratum and Gardens on the third Saturday of the month. However, the Judging Center also meets on the first Saturday of each month at the Town Hill Botanic Gardens of Worcester, Boylston, MA. Your editor apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

News, Notes & Happenings

President’s Message

Hello

Brrr — it’s cold outside; winter has finally arrived but the days are already getting longer. The good news is spring is only 2 months away!

February is one of the busiest months for COS. We thank everyone for pitching in. Bill & Sherry brought back a nice group of ribbons from the CAIOS show. Congrats to everyone who had winning plants.

We are still in need of some help setting up for the New Hampshire show, Thurs., February 12. Please let one of us know if you can help out. The following week is the Amherst show, which Dave & Monty will be setting up. We will need to borrow members blooming plants for both shows. Plants can be left at the February meeting as the Amherst show set up is the following day.

Don’t forget to sign up for a shift at the Connecticut Flower Show. There are still a couple of openings. You will have a badge for complimentary entry to the flower show and parking across the street is only $5.00 for the day.

By-the-way, it’s time to renew your annual dues. If you forgot to pay your dues this is a gentle reminder: NO dues NO news.

This month in Farmington we will be having a round robin growing discussion session. Dave, Monty, Bill & Carla will take lead talking about the growing media they have success with, different mounting techniques and their conditions.

Have questions? Bring a plant for discussion. This meeting is sure to be a great learning tool.

Don’t Forget…. Dues are Due!! Last chance! Renew now or lose out on all the latest news!!

Cape and Islands 26th Annual Orchid Show & Sale, Orchid Bridges Jan. 24–25

Our display at the CAIOS show, which was set-up and taken down by Bill and Sherry Pendleton

The following is an excerpt from an article by Mary Ann Bragg, which appeared in the Cape Cod Times on Jan. 25th:

HYANNIS — Bill Pendleton of Cheshire, Connecticut, was once a cable and wiring factory manager. In retirement, though, he’s all about orchids.

"Knowing when to water is probably the single most difficult aspect of learning to grow orchids.”

—Duane McDowell
"at home with PHALAENOPSIS" AOS Bulletin, Feb. 1992

"I was desperate when I retired,” Pendleton said Saturday at the Cape & Islands Orchid Society’s 26th annual show at the Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis. “I was kind of interested. I took a couple classes. Then it went crazy. I have 200 plants now.”

Pendleton, a member of the 120-person Connecticut Orchid Society, and his wife Sherry, were among the 1,000 to 1,500 people expected Saturday at the show, which continues today.

In the double conference rooms on Saturday, admirers of the roughly 10,000 orchids on display paused to take close-up photographs at one display, then another and another. Pendleton’s blossoming Dendrobium Hibiki “Pink Elephants” was drawing some attention, given its reputation for rarely... (con’t. on pg. 6)
Members who received ribbon awards at the show:

- Paph Hybrid primary/near primary – green yellow Cheryl Mizak, 2nd place ribbon

  *Paph Oberhausen’s Diamant primulinum x sandierianum*

- Paph Hybrid primary/near primary – vinicolor Cheryl Mizak, 3rd place ribbon

  *Paph Hsinying Web x Hampshire Raven*

- Dendrobium Hybrid Nobile type Ben Esselink 2nd place ribbon

  *Dendrobium ign.*

- Dendrobium Hybrid Phaleanopsis C. Sabolcik (Monty), 2nd place ribbon

  *Dendrobium ign.*

- Dendrobium Hybrids – other Bill Pendleton, 3rd place ribbon

  *Dendrobium Hibiki ‘Pink Elephants’ (bracteosum x laevifolium)*

- Above: Misc. Bletia etc. Charles Sabolcik(Monty) 1st place ribbon

  *Phaius tankervillae*

- Misc. Terrestrials Cheryl Mizak, 1st place ribbon

  *Stenorrhynchos speciosa*

**Congratulations to all the winners!!!**

(Con’t pg. 9)

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**The February 2015 AOS Corner** - From the desk of Laura Newton, Membership and Affiliated Societies Chair

**The Webinar** for this month:

**February 25, 2015, 8:30 PM EST**

Harry Gallis, Accredited AOS Judge and Board of Trustees Vice President will present, **Demystifying AOS Judging: What are those Judges Looking For?**

Dr. Harry Gallis has been growing orchids since 1980, and currently has about 380 plants. The largest groups are Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, and Dendrobiums, the latter being his current passion. His plants have received 41 AOS awards and, says Harry, “I very much enjoy growing plants for shows and awards.” He entered the AOS judging program in 1991, and is an Accredited Judge and Past Chair of the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro, NC. In 1999, he was asked to take on the position of national training coordinator for AOS judges. He served as Chair of the Judging Committee for two years. Harry knows lots about judging; getting plants awarded, and will help us all understand what the judges want and how we might get one of those awards.

If you are already an AOS member, sign up for the webinars today on our website [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). If you are not yet a member, now is the time to become one and start enjoying all the many benefits of membership!

**The webinar lineup** for the next four months:

**March**- Ron McHatton, *Those Pesky Diseases*

**April**- Greg Allikas, *Cattleya lueddemaniana*

**May**- John Salventi, *The How and Why of Fertilizer*

**June**- Peter Lin, *Novelty Phalaenopsis Breeding*

In the **February 2015** issue of *Orchids*, there are articles about so many diverse genera:

- **Cattleyas**:  
  - *C. lueddemaniana*, by Michael Sinn  
  - *C. maxima*, by Clare and Johan Hermans  
  - *C. Betty Ford*, by Arthur and A.A. Chadwick

- **Rhynchostylis** by Peggy Alrich and Wes Higgins, describes this small genus and their powerfully scented flowers.

- **Orchids of Mexico**, by T.J Hartung is a fascinating look at Epidendrums, Oncidiums, Trichocentrum, Rhynchostele, Prostheceas, Lycastes, Isochilus and Mormodes. It is jam-packed with great cultural information. I’ve never seen anything like Prostheceaguttata, with the unusual spines on the backs of the flowers!

- **Bletilla**, by Hideka Kobayashi and Tony Avent, introduces us to this genus and the breeding trends of these interestingly keeled lips.

- **Great Ideas**, by Ed Wright and Bill Tippit, shows us how to increase our growing space by using vinyl guttering.

The **AOS Spring Members Meeting** will be held in Portland, Oregon and hosted by the Portland and Cherry City Orchid Societies, April 29th thru May 3rd at the Lloyd Center Doubletree. Check out all the details at the website [http://www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calendar/2015AOS.php](http://www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calendar/2015AOS.php)

**Show Season** is coming into full swing; check out all the great shows coming up, under the events and news tab on the website, or by this link [http://aos.org/Default.aspx?id=512](http://aos.org/Default.aspx?id=512). Shows are a great place to see new and interesting orchids and also a great place to get information from the vendors about plants that you already have in your collection.

Let’s grow together,

Laura Newton
What Is a Species?

You may have heard that the orchid family has more species than any other family of plants (most sources cite over 20,000). Even more impressive, over 150,000 orchid hybrids have been made to date, with more on the way. But what exactly is the difference between a species and a hybrid?

A species is a variety of plant or animal that originally lived in the wild and was not produced artificially by man. A hybrid is a variety that was produced by crossing different species, and is almost always man-made (out of the 150,000 orchid hybrids, only a handful occurred naturally). That is, a hybrid has two or more different species in its ancestry. A species only has the same single species in its ancestry.

Another definition of species is one that I remember learning in school: a group of organisms that are capable of interbreeding. For example, a horse and a dog can’t produce offspring, but a pit bull and a poodle can, which proves they’re the same species.

That definition works fine for animals, but not so well for plants, and definitely not for orchids. Different orchid species are routinely crossed — that’s what hybridizing is all about. For example, all the hundreds of orchids in the Cattleya alliance, containing all the Cattleyas, Laelias, Encyclias, Epidendrums, Brassavolas, etc., can interbreed with each other.

A better definition of species is not a group of organisms that can’t interbreed, but that don’t interbreed in nature. Why not? For orchids, perhaps they live in different geographical areas, or they bloom at different times of the year, or they attract different insects as pollinators, so the pollen of one species never finds its way to the other species.

Of course, in the greenhouse these barriers don’t exist. So, for example, a hybridizer can cross Brassavola nodosa (from the Caribbean) with Laelia purpurata (from Brazil) and produce the lovely hybrid Bl. Morning Glory. And aren’t we lucky that they can?

—By Larry Kuekes

(Editor’s note: This is a new Beginner’s Column article, which first appeared in the Hilo Orchid Society’s Newsletter, Jan. 2015)

Proper Staking Of Phalaenopsis

Late winter is the prime season for standard, or “traditional” phalaenopsis. Their best and largest spikes come at this season for peak display beginning in late March through April into May. Proper staking of the spikes will ensure that the flowers are displayed at their best, as well as guaranteeing that the spike has the support it needs to prevent kinking under the weight of the flowers.

Many growers insert a wire or bamboo stake into the container as soon as the spike is seen. This makes it easier to remember to tie up the spike as it elongates, and it gives the promise of the many spikes to come in your growing area. The spikes should be supported along their length about every 12 inches, until the first bud is seen, where the last tie should be.

(Con’t. on pg. 8)
Phalaenopsis  Add a weak fertilizer solution to the watering schedule this month; be careful not to spatter the flowers or they will stain. As with any orchid, do not fertilize a dry pot; water today and fertilize tomorrow. Grade the blooms from your “phals” since you may want to eliminate those which are least desirable while making room for some more-promising hybrids. Remember that the way in which you have staked (groomed) your racemes influences the appearance of the matured flowers.

Phalaenopsis exude a honey-like Substance on the developing inflorescence; it seems to attract scale insects. Watch for signs of any problem that could be spot-treated before it becomes a major situation. You want to avoid having to spray insecticides on your blossoms if at all possible.

Dendrobium  Watch for flower buds on Den. lindleyi (formerly aggregatum), Den. nobile hybrids, Den. superbum (now Den. anosmum), and other deciduous Dendrobium species and hybrids. These all seem to have longer lasting flowers when exposed to cooler night temperatures as the blooms open and mature. For example, the modern Dendrobium nobile hybrids form Japan tolerate nighttime temperatures in the low 60s with the result that the flowers remain in perfect condition for a month or more. And if you happen to miss seeing the first flowers of Den. superbum as they open, you will soon smell the sweet fragrance. Avoid heavily dowsing open flowers when watering; give slightly more water to these plants (which you have been keeping reasonably dry prior to flowering) once they begin to bloom. Continue to protect evergreen-type dendrobiums from low temperatures that may cause leaf loss.

Cymbidium  Stake or carefully tie the showy inflorescences that have emerged from the mass of foliage on these winter-spring bloomers. Maintain temperatures at 50 to 60 F to keep the flower opening slowly, and to prevent the plant from “rushing” into the growth cycle that follows this flowering. Dramatically higher temperatures and hot drafts cause bud drop.

Odontoglossum and Miltonia  Do not permit these plants to dry out, because this is a critical time when flower spikes develop. Stake the spikes to achieve the ideal presentation of the developing flowers. Apply a weak liquid fertilizer treatment just before the flowers begin to appear. Be wary of insects and eliminate any before the buds are well defined on the inflorescence.

Botanicals  With so many large-flowered types blooming now, it is easy to overlook small plants tucked away in your growing space. Notice whether any inflorescences are merging on the spring bloomers. Bring those that are about to bloom to the foreground, and groom them for good flower presentation. Water carefully to avoid dehydration; the flowering process does require a constant supply of moisture.

(Proper Staking of Phalaenopsis, con’t from pg.7)

Raffia is decorative, but most people make do with green paper twist-ties. The last tying of the spike should be just below the first flower to allow the spike to arch naturally. Longer spikes may occasionally need to be tied again after the first few flowers to support the entire weight. If the plant is to be transported any distance, a second stake may be added to support the end of the spike as well as to prevent it breaking in the car.

— By Ned Nash

(Proper Staking of Phalaenopsis, con’t from pg.7)
Deep Cut Orchid Society Winter Show & Sale, Feb. 5 – 8, Dearborn Market, 2170 Rt. 35, Holmdel Twp., NJ — Free admission

We are also looking for help with set-up and take-down at the Deep Cut show. Please contact Cheryl Mizak if you would like to help out with this event (203) 264-6096.

Orchid Fantasy Escape, New Hampshire Orchid Society 24th Annual Show & Sale, Fob. 13—15, Radison Hotel, Nashua, NH

We are looking for volunteers willing to drive up to New Hampshire and set-up and/or take-down our display. If you are going to attend our Feb. meeting in Farmington there will be a sign-up sheet passed around. Your help and your blooming plants would be greatly appreciated! You may also contact Cheryl Mizak for more details at 203-264-6096.

34th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, Feb. 19 — 22nd, The Spirit of Spring, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT

The Gherkin Pickle Orchid — Last month we met a couple of “monkey orchids”. Those orchids got their common name, Monkey Orchid, from the shape of their flower. Sometimes an orchid gets its common name from the shape of the plant itself. This month, meet the cucumber orchid, although to me it looks more like a gherkin pickle!

Dendrobium cucumerinum
[W. Mcleay Ex Lindley]
Brieger 1981 SECTION

Photo credit: www.orchidspecies.com

The Oz Native Plants website (www.oznativeplants.com) says that Dendrobium cucumerinum or the cucumber orchid is a creeping epiphyte or lithophyte from eastern Australia. The distinguishing feature about this orchid is not its flower but its leaves, which are bright green, and cylindrical or cucumber shaped (hence the orchid’s com-
From the North or East: Take I-84 west from Hartford to exit 38 (Rt. 6). Proceed west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Avenue next to the police station.

From the South: Take Rt. 9 north to I-84 west. Proceed as above.

From the West: Take I-84 east to exit 37 (Fienemann Rd.). Turn left on Fienemann Rd., go over the highway, then turn left onto Rt. 6. Follow Rt. 6 west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Ave. next to the police station.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Don’t forget to buy your special someone an orchid to show your love, and support the industry!

The Amherst Orchid Society
2015 Show
Saturday, Feb 21st
9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday, Feb 22nd
10 AM to 4 PM
Smith Vocational High School Northampton, MA