



Connecticut Orchid Society

Newsletter Jan. 2016

57 Years & Growing

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 13, 2016, 7:00 pm

Cheshire Senior Center

240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT

(See last pg. 8 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 and/or presentation begins.

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.

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.

This Month's Featured Event

Potting/Repotting 101 Q & A and demonstrations

January kicks off the orchid repotting season. Join us for a refresher on all the fine points of repotting. Our orchid docs will give a couple demonstrations on repotting technique, and discuss some tips & tricks for success at this sometimes daunting task. Come prepared with your questions. If you have any problem plants, please feel free to bring them (in a sealed plastic bag, please) and the docs will try to diagnose it for you. Please note this NOT a repotting clinic.

Happy New Year!

Contact us:

Write: Connecticut Orchid Society, Inc.
Editorial Office
P.O. Box 198
Farmington, CT 06034-0198

E-mail: President Cheryl Mizak
president@ctorchids.org
Editor: Sharon SmithDelisle
editor@ctorchids.org

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The deadline for submissions to the Feb. issue of the newsletter is Jan. 23rd

Join us on Facebook



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.

2016 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

PRESIDENT	Cheryl Mizak	(203) 264-6096
VICE-PRESIDENT	George Sabolic	msabocik@cjryouth.org
TREASURER	Sherry Pendleton	(203) 272-3498
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	Ben Esselink	(203) 222-1694
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	Rebecca Schwartz	Rebecca.r.schwartz@gmail.com
RECORDING CO-SECRETARY	Carla Koch	(203) 272-8121
RECORDING CO-SECRETARY	Tom Russell	(203) 298-4574
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON	Mary Rampone	(203) 263-2831
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Sharon SmithDelisle	(203) 744-1849
EDITOR, LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN	Sharon SmithDelisle	
AOS REPRESENTATIVE	Judy Becker	(860) 435-2263
CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON	Vacant	—
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	Cheryl Mizak	(203) 264-6096
REFRESHMENT CO-CHAIR	Chris & Julie Santarsiero	(203) 879-0782
WEB MASTER	Mary Rampone	(203) 263-2831

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 (8:00--8:00 pm) 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

Glenn McGeough mcgeough7@gmail.com (203) 482-3973. Specializing in Cattleyas.

Jeffrey Richards jeffrey.richards@snet.net (Contact anytime). Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

Sharon SmithDelisle editor@ctorchids.org (203) 744-1849 (Contact anytime) Under lights & windowsill growing methods: Bulbophylums, 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.

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 electronic delivery of the newsletter.



Upcoming Events

Jan. 13 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Potting/Repotting 101, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, 7:30 pm

Jan. 16 AOS Judging, Northeast Judging Center, Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT, 12:00 pm. Send cut flowers to: John Sullivan, 299 Village Place, Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Jan. 23 & 24 Cape and Islands Annual Show & Sale Winter Wonderland of Orchids, The Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis. See pg. 8 in this newsletter for details.

Feb. 10 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, TBA, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, 7:30 pm.

Feb. 20 AOS Judging, Northeast Judging Center, Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT, 12:00 pm. Send cut flowers to: John Sullivan, 299 Village Place, Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Content Acknowledgement All information, opinions, reporting and recommendations that appear in this newsletter are those of the editor (unless otherwise noted) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Connecticut Orchid Society. The editor is deeply indebted to the American Orchid Society for the free reprinting of articles, photos, tips & tricks, advice, checklists, etc. from its monthly magazine *Orchids* without which the COS newsletter, and its membership would be the poorer.



Psychomorphis pusilla

Artist: Richard B. Gates, 1981

Permission to reprint this drawing has been received from J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, owners of this artwork.



Meeting Minutes

Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

Minutes of Dec. 9, 2015

We all enjoyed sharing delicious food at our December potluck, electing new officers (*Editors note: please see pg 2 for a list of the 2016 Connecticut Orchid Society's Officers and Posts*), chatting, and especially laughing!

Happy Holidays!

~ Carla Koch



Dave Tognalli discusses a plant's culture while reviewing the December 2015 Show Table.



Dave Tognalli works the crowd as he reviews the December 2015 Show Table. Thanks, Dave for a very enlightening discussion of each plant.

December Show Table



<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Brassavola cordata</i>	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Brassavola nodosa</i> (Mas Major AM/AOS x Susan Fuchs' FCC/AOS)	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Brassocattleya</i> Yellow Bird	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Catasetum</i> hybrid ig. (Louise Clarke 'Very Dark' x Frilly Doris 'SVO')	M. Sabolcik	w,g
<i>Cattleya</i> Circle of Life 'Mezmerize' Syn. <i>Sophrholaeliocattleya</i>	T. Zamojski	c,w
<i>Cattleya</i> Eximia var. <i>coerulea</i> 'Sea God' Syn. <i>Laeliocattleya</i>	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Cattleya</i> Lemon Drop	M. Sabolcik	i,g
<i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> v. <i>semi-alba</i>	M. Sabolcik	w,g
<i>Cattlianthe</i> Molly Tyler FCC/AOS Syn. <i>Laeliocattleya</i>	B. Esselink	i,g
<i>Colmanara</i> Wildcat 'Yellow Butterfly'	B. Esselink	i,g
<i>Cynoches</i> hybrid ig. (<i>warscewiczii</i> 'Giant Swan' x Kevin Clarke 'SVO')	M. Sabolcik	w,g
<i>Dendrobium unicum</i>	M. Sabolcik	i,g
<i>Encyclia radiata</i>	T. Zamojski	i,w
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid ig.	M. Sabolcik	w,g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid ig.	M. Sabolcik	w,g
<i>Phragmipedium</i> hybrid ig.	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Rhynchovanda</i> Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird' syn. <i>Neostylis</i>	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Wilsonara</i> Eye Candy 'Pinkie'	D. Tognalli	i,g

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

We would like to thank Dave Tognalli for volunteering to research and prepare the monthly Show Table while Judy Becker focuses on her health and getting better.

News, Notes & Happenings

Congratulations to the new 2016 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs —

The following slate of nominees was unanimously elected to the Board of Directors at the December meeting:

President	Cheryl Mizak
Vice president	George Sabolcik
Treasurer	Sherry Pendleton
Director at Large	Ben Esselink
Director at Large	Rebecca Schwartz



This year we decided to split the Recording Secretary's position into a dual position. **Carla Koch and Tom Russell will share the job.**

For the committee chairs, the following members were appointed:

Membership Chair	Mary Rampone
Editor	Sharon SmithDelisle
Corresponding Secretary	Sharon SmithDelisle
Librarian	Sharon SmithDelisle
Historian/Archives	Sharon SmithDelisle
Refreshment Co-Chair	Chris & Julie Santarsiero
AOS Representative	Judy Becker
Special Events/Speakers Coordinator	Cheryl Mizak
Conservation	Remains vacant



A huge thank you to these members who have stepped forward to assist in the operation and planning of our society. An extra special thank you to the new members who have volunteered to take on duties already.

COS can't do it without you! Thank you for being a hero!

Cape and Islands Annual Show & Sale —

Volunteers are needed to help Bill & Sherry Pendleton with the transporting of plants to this show in January, and help with set-up on Jan. 21 and take-down on Jan. 24. If you can help out, please contact Sherry at (203) 272-3498 or WHPendleton@cox.net

President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Happy New Year!

Seems strange to be thinking of Christmas in a few days with a prediction of 70 F temperatures. Who needs poinsettias when you can have blooming orchids and still be wearing your shorts?

Thank you to everyone who brought mounds of food to the December meeting holiday pot luck. The tables were bursting with everyone's favorite holiday dish.

It is time to plan for the repotting season. Yes, those new root tips are starting to show. A clear sign it will soon be time to see which plants need to be repotted. The January meeting at the Cheshire Senior Center in Cheshire will be **Potting/ Repotting 101**. Bring your questions. If you have a problem plant, it is ok to bring it along for our Orchid Docs to give a diagnosis and suggest proper treatment. Please transport your plant in a SEALED PLASTIC BAG. Librarian Sharon SmithDelisle will also have a selection of books on repotting at the meeting for members in good standing to borrow. There is nothing like a book with good photo step-by-steps to help with this task.

The Cape and Island Orchid Show is fast approaching. Bill & Sherry Pendleton will be taking lead on set-up. Please let them know what plants you have in bloom. Bring those plants to the January meeting, and Bill & Sherry will be happy to take them home with them after the meeting to save you a trip delivering them later. If any member would be available to help with transport either for set-up on Thursday, January 21 or take-down on Jan 24, please let them know. Blooming plants are the key to a successful display. (P.S. for those new members helping with show displays, this is a fun way to get to learn a lot; the nicest bonus is you also get to enter the show at no charge and pre- shop the vendors.)

Don't forget to check out the webinars on the AOS web site. (*Editor's note: See pgs. for the latest list of upcoming AOS webinars*) the open mike's are of special interest with lots of great tips.

Safe travels to all of you these next couple of weeks. May everyone have a good growing year in 2016.

See you in Cheshire in January.

— Cheryl





AOS corner

The January 2016 AOS Corner — *From the desk of Denise Lucero, Committee Member, Orchid Society Membership and Affiliated Societies Committee*
(gbrodieaosmembership@gmail.com)

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

- **American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton**

Join us for a webinar on January 07, 2016 at 8:30 pm EST. *Everyone is invited.*

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, for a Q & A session on how to grow and care for your orchids. If you a question, please submit your questions by January 6 to stillisch@cox.net

Register now! <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5877252858402932226>

- **Judging Seminar: Judging Cymbidiums**

Join us for a webinar on January 14, 2016 at 8:30 pm EST. *Everyone is invited.*

Please join George Hatfield, Accredited AOS Judge, who will discuss how to judge cymbidiums following the AOS judging criteria. This will be the first in a monthly series on AOS judging and will qualify to fulfill one hour of the requirement of 12 education hours required annually for AOS judges.

Register now! <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4165038377520489473>



Cymbidium Kousho Dream 'Irish Sky', FCC/AOS
Photographer: Nicholas Gomez

- **Brazilian Cattleya (Laelia): A Tour of the habitats**

Join us for a webinar on January 20, 2016 at 8:30 pm EST. *Members only.*

Please join Francisco Miranda, owner of Miranda Orchids, for a discussion and tour of the Brazilian Cattleyas and their habitat.

Register now! <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/884138774699307521> *After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.*



Cattleya pumila 'Pur Bliss', AM/AOS
Photographer: Larry Vierheilg

What are webinars? Webinars are an internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can either join on your computer or by phone. You can join anywhere, via your MAC, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

Want to learn , but can't make the date? The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

Don't miss the new orchid awards pictures on the AOS website: See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new "Recent Awards" page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. *Free to members & nonmembers.*

New Monthly Seminar — AOS Judging

The American Orchid Society's judging system is one of the most highly respected horticultural award systems in the world. At nationwide monthly judging and worldwide sanctioned shows, highly trained AOS judges evaluate and recognize new and superior forms of orchid species, improved forms of orchid hybrids and plants exhibiting superior culture. This month's webinar is the first of twelve qualifying Educational Seminars. *Join us!*

**Let's grow together,
Denise Lucero**

(Note from Gayle Brodie, Vice Chair AOS Membership and Affiliated Societies Committee: Many thanks to Denise Lucero for helping with the AOS Corner! We look forward to her ongoing contributions to the Corner!)

Gayle Brodie, Vice-Chair)

Nectar thieves are damaging rare orchids in North Dakota

Date: October 1, 2015 Robbers and thieves are flying in the fields of southeastern North Dakota, but these larcenists aren't your typical criminals, prowling around in masks and disguises. They are hawk moths and bumble bees, and according to charges made by researchers in a paper recently published in the *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, they've been stealing nectar from the federally-listed threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*).

"Nectar larceny" is the removal of nectar without providing pollination services. Insect larcenists have two methods of removing nectar. "Thieves" access it via the natural opening to the tube or spur by using their long tongues, and "robbers" simply cut through the wall of the tube or spur to feed on nectar.

Over the course of 11 years, the researchers deployed net traps and light traps over orchids to capture hawk moth pollinator species, and what they found surprised them. Among the specimens collected were two hawk moth species, *Manduca quinquemaculata* and *Agrius cingulata*, both of which are not common in North Dakota. Furthermore, both species had tongues that were more than twice the length of the spur of the orchids, and none of the collected specimens had pollen on them. Insect larcenists have two methods for removing nectar. The researchers suggest that this shows that the hawk moths are eating nectar from the orchids but are not providing pollination services. This is known as thievery.

In addition to the hawk moths, eight bumble bee species were captured. Some bumble bee species have mouthparts that cut through the side of a flower's spur, allowing them to steal nectar without being covered in pollen. The researchers also found holes and slits, most likely caused by the bees, in the spurs of many orchid flowers. This form of stealing nectar is known as robbery. The levels of nectar robbery in this case seemed to have the benefit of removing pollen, but the holes and slits ultimately led to the death of the flowers.



Platanthera praeclara
Common name: western prairie fringed orchid
Photo credit: Eugene Reimer 2010
Accessed on Dec. 30, 2015 at www.ereimer.net

Conservation & Preservation

tors for re-plant all you the plant's plants and bly pay less robbery or

Fortunately, of the

"It is not their breed-

However, "It is unclear whether 'wandering' hawk moths have been blown off course while migrating (Con't. next page)



Credit: Kirk Anderson

Long-tongued hawk moths such as these are capable of being 'nectar thieves' insects that remove nectar from flowers without offering pollination services.

The findings of this study are important because nectar larceny, which includes both robber and thievery, can be a threat to the conservation of rare plants.

"Plant conservation scientists spend most of their time thinking about factors that directly impact rare plants," Said Marion Harris, a professor at North Dakota State University and one of the authors. "Typically, this factor is habitat loss. But, for plants that require pollina- production, you can increase the habitat of the rare want but fail to save the plant if you ignore the needs of pollinator's. Hawk moth pollinators need larval host nectar for adult reproductive activities. They presuma- attention to plants that lack nectar because of nectar thievery and are harmed by failure to find nectar."

the two long-tongued hawk moth thieves are residents southern U.S., and are rarely seen in North Dakota.

uncommon for hawk moths to be captured far from ing range, including captures at sea," authors wrote.

(*Nectar Thieves* con't from prev. page) to more suitable places or if they are testing the boundaries of their distribution.”

If the hawk moth's migration pattern is indeed reaching further north, it could be trouble for the western prairie fringed orchid.

“We propose that nectar larceny will negatively impact the orchid if it occurs at higher levels each year (in the case of robbery) or starts occurring every year due to increased northward migration of long-tongued hawk moths that typically live in the south (in the case of thievery),” Harris wrote.

“It is interesting to note that places in the south where *P. praeclara* has disappeared or become rare over the past 20 years, e.g., Oklahoma and Missouri, are within the breeding range of two common long-tongued hawk moths, *M. quinguemaculata* and *M. sexta*,” the authors wrote.

However, these conclusions still require further research.

“Monitoring of nectar larceny in *P. praeclara* should continue,” according to researchers. “What is really needed is a field experiment to test the hypothesis that effects of nectar larceny on flowers comprising the *P. praeclara* inflorescence are density-dependent, i.e., tolerated or even beneficial when nectar is taken from a small proportion of flowers but harmful when most flowers lose their nectar.”

Source: Reprinted from materials provided by **Entomological Society of America**.

Entomological Society of America. “Nectar thieves are damaging rare orchids in North Dakota.”

Science Daily. Science Daily, 1 October 2015.

<www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/10/151001093727.htm>.



Editor's Note: After dedicating many decades of his life volunteering for COS, honorary life member Larry Kuekes finally realized one of his dreams when he retired and moved to Hilo, Hawaii. Larry is the author of the Beginner's Column which you may have seen in this newsletter in the past. Larry was also the previous newsletter editor for many years. With more time on his hands these days, Larry writes about his adventures with warm weather orchid growing in Hawaii.

Beginners Corner: Blowing In the Wind

They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. But if all the apple seedlings grew up underneath the parent, you'd end up with a thicket of apple trees in one spot, and no apple trees anywhere else in the world. In order to spread, the apple, like all plants, needs to disperse its seeds – to send them far away. How, since plants can't move?

Some plants, like apple trees, evolved edible fruits or berries that are tempting to animals. The animals carry the fruit away and discard or excrete the seeds. Some plants, like burrs, evolved seeds that stick to animals and get carried away. Some plants, like dandelions, evolved seeds with parachutes that are blown away by the wind.

Orchids evolved a different solution for wind-dispersal. Their seeds are tiny, like dust, so the wind can blow them a

long distance. But in order to be so small, the seeds must contain the bare minimum – a tiny plant embryo wrapped in a thin coat of cells. An orchid seed contains no food. This is unique in the plant kingdom. All other seeds contain food for the developing plant to grow its first roots and leaves. Then, using photosynthesis, the plant can make its own food.

So, without any food, how does the orchid seed grow its first leaves? The seed needs to land next to the right species of fungus (and different orchids' species have different fungi). The fungus penetrates the orchid seed, trying to extract food, but there's no food there. Instead, with amazing chutzpah, the orchid steals nutrients from the fungus and uses them to grow its first roots and leaves. After that, the orchid no longer needs the fungus.

The chances are very small of an orchid seed landing (1) in a tree, and (2) next to the right fungus. So the orchid produces vast numbers of seeds. One seedpod of *Cycnoches chlorichilon* contained 3.7 million seeds! Will one of them land in the right spot? The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind.

~ Larry Kuekes



Cycnoches chlorichilon
One of this orchid's seedpods contained 3,700,000 seeds.
(Photo credit: www.plantea.com/pencil.htm)



Cape and Islands Orchid Show and Sale
Saturday, January 23 & Sunday, January 24, 2016
9am-5pm
at The Resort & Conference Center of Hyannis
35 Scudder Ave., (Off the West End Rotary)
Admission \$10

Directions to Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410

From New Haven, CT:

- Take I-91 North to exit 10 (Route 40)
- Follow Rt. 40 to the end (last exit—for Mount Carmel/Cheshire)
- Turn right onto Route 10 North (Whitney Ave.)

At the traffic light for the intersection of Rt. 10 and Routes 68/70 West
 Turn left onto Main St. —which runs into Maple Ave. at the next traffic light.
 Proceed straight ahead on Maple Ave. Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the right after the Victorian House Restaurant.

From Waterbury:

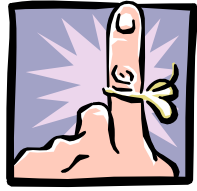
- Take I-84 East to Exit 26 (Cheshire/Route 70)
 - The Exit ramp automatically forces you to go right and follow Rt. 70.
 - At the end of Rt. 70 (facing the Cheshire Post Office) turn left at the light onto Maple Ave.
- The Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the right after The Victorian House Restaurant.

From Hartford via I-91:

- Take I-91 South to Exit 18 onto Route 691 (Meriden/Waterbury)
 - Take Exit 3 off Rt. 691 and turn left at the traffic light onto Rout 10 South.
 - Continue through seven traffic lights. At the 8th traffic light bear right onto Maple Avenue.
- The Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the left after the Cheshire Fire Department.

From Hartford via I-84:

- Take I-84 West to Exit 27 onto Route 691 (Meriden)
 - Take Exit 3 off Rt. 691 and turn right at the traffic light onto Route 10 South.
 - Proceed through six traffic lights.
 - At the 7th traffic light bear right onto Maple Ave.
- The Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the left after the Cheshire Fire Department.



Dues are past due! Did you forget?
Please send your check to Membership Chair Mary Rampone today.