



# Connecticut Orchid Society

## Newsletter June 2016

*57 Years & Growing*

*The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut*

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest*

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, June 8, 2016,**

(See last pg. 8 for map & directions)

**Farmington Senior Center**

**321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT**

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

7:30 pm: Business meeting begins

8:00 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](http://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.

*Happy Summer Vacation!  
This is the last newsletter  
until September.*

### This Month's Featured Event

#### **"Flowers of the Fairest Cape"**

Matt Opel, PhD will present the diversity of flowering plants from the cape region of South Africa, including proteas, pelargoniums, crassulas, lithops and other succulents, bulbs, and of course, orchids.

"Matthew Opel grew up in Westchester County, NY, where he developed an early love of plants, gardening and the natural world; one of his first words was "pachysandra." He became interested in *Lithops*—the "living stones"—and other desert plants after visits to the New York Botanical Garden, and eventually went on to study biology and botany at Cornell University. Matt received a doctorate from the University of Connecticut after completing studies of the anatomy, morphology and evolution of the genus *Conophytum*. In the course of his research he spent three winters in western South Africa. *Tylecodon opellii*, a dwarf succulent plant that he found on the quartz fields of the northern Knersvlakte was named in his honor in 2011.

Matt is currently employed as a horticulturist at the University of Connecticut, at the Biodiversity Education and Research Greenhouses. He has written about

*(Con't. on pg. 2)*

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*The deadline for submissions to the Sept. issue of the newsletter is Aug. 20th.*

Join us on Facebook



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### 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

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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](mailto:judybecker40@att.net) (860) 435-2263 (8:00--8:00 pm) Greenhouse growing methods: Wide variety of species & hybrids

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

**Glenn McGeough** [mcgeough7@gmail.com](mailto:mcgeough7@gmail.com) (203) 482-3973. Specializing in Cattleyas.

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

**Sharon SmithDelisle** [editor@ctorchids.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.ctorchids.org) to apply for/renew membership. We accept Paypal. Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at [www.COSMembership@earthlink.net](mailto: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



**June 4 Connecticut Orchid Society Repotting Clinic, Larson's Nursery, 26 Covey Rd., Burlington, CT, 10:00 – 2:00 pm. See pg. 5 for more details.**

**June 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT, 7:00 pm, Matt Opel, PhD will be giving a talk about flowering plants of the Cape, South Africa.**

**June 18 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**

**July 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**

**Sept. 14 Connecticut Orchid Society next scheduled monthly meeting, Meeting location TBA, topic TBA.**

*(Matt Opel bio con't from pg. 1)*

South African desert plants for the Cactus and Succulent Journal, Haseltonia, Bradleya, Veld & Flora and the Mesemb Study Group Bulletin, and given lectures on botanical topics to plant societies throughout the Northeast and in California.

Matt enjoys gardening, exploring the local woods and bogs, and beekeeping. Lately, he has taken an interest in the history of early glass works in Connecticut's Quiet Corner. He occasionally posts musings about plants and horticulture on his blog, Burger's Onion."

(Bio was provided by Matt Opel).

**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.

## May Show Table —



This month we are attempting something new and novel with the Show Table listing. Many thanks to Jan Lesnikoski for doing such a fantastic job photographing the Show Table plants; and coming up with an innovative way to show case these beautiful plants. Please give me feedback about whether or not you like this new format. —editor



*Trichopilia hennesiana*

Brought to the May Show Table by Tom Russell. Tom says he grows this beauty under lights in cool conditions.



*Coelogyne usitata x Coelogyne lawrensoniana*

Brought to the May Show Table by Mary Rampone. Mary says she grows this elegant plant in her greenhouse.



*Leptotes poliolepis*

Brought to the May Show Table by Cheryl & Al Mizak. The Mizak's say they grow this pink beauty in their greenhouse under intermediate conditions.



*Laelia millerii*

Brought to the May Show Table by Dave Tognalli. Dave just purchased this plant from Santa Barbara Orchid Estates where it was grown in a greenhouse under intermediate conditions.



*Physosiphon tubatus*

Brought to the May Show Table by Dave Tognalli. He says this is a nicely fragrant plant that he grows under intermediate conditions on his windowsill.



*Dendrobium aggregatum*

Brought to the May Show Table by Mary Rampone. This can be a tricky plant to bloom but Mary says she thinks she's found the secret in her greenhouse.

(Show Table con't. next page.)





Brought to the May Show Table by Tom Russell. Tom grows under lights in intermediate conditions.



Brought to the May Show Table by Tom Russell. Tom grows under lights in intermediate conditions.



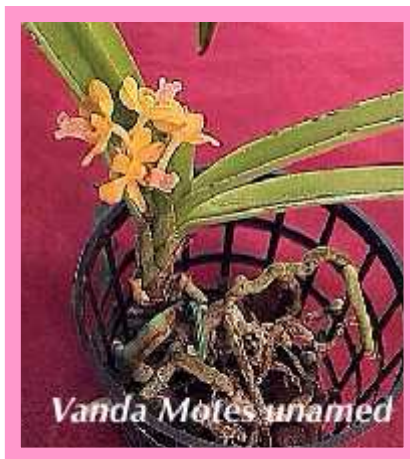
Brought to the May Show Table by Cheryl & Alan Mizak. The Mizak's grow in a greenhouse in intermediate conditions..



Brought to the May Show Table by Cheryl & Alan Mizak. The Mizak's grow in a greenhouse in intermediate conditions..



Brought to the May Show Table by Tom Russell. Toms bloomed his plant under lights in a cool setting.



Brought to the May Show Table by Cheryl & Alan Mizak. The Mizak's grow in a greenhouse in intermediate conditions..

(Show Table con't. next pg.)

## President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

Next weekend, Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>, COS will be holding a repotting workshop. At Larson's Garden Center from 11 to 2:00, Burlington CT. It is open to everyone, so if you have an orchid that you are not quite sure how to repot, bring it, and a clean pot, for \$5 the *Orchid Doc's* will be on hand to help you and your orchids out. This is a community service that we do to educate the public, and also a little fund raiser.

For the members who have an interest in native orchids, Sat June 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a bog hike into the Black Creek Bog. We will be on the look out for *Cypripedium reginae* plus other natives. We will assemble at Sprakers, NY at 9:30 am. For those who do not want to drive up in the early a.m., there are several motels in the area, plus camping (if one would like to spend the night in a field of thyme). The bog is changing, and being choked out by cattails. So put on your boots, long sleeves, bring bug-spray, and join us on this expedition to the Adirondacks.

This month's meeting at the Farmington Senior Center, Matt Opel, PhD will give a presentation on Native African plants. Matt is a horticulturist at UConn in the Biodiversity Education and research Green houses. Some of you may remember that to celebrate COS' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we constructed an epiphyte tree in the main entrance room to the greenhouses in this department.

Have a wonderful summer.  
Good Growing

—Cheryl

News, Notes & Happenings

Orchid Potting Workshop

Reminder!

June 4, 2016



Need some help with repotting?

What pot size should I use?

What is the correct medium for my plant?

Help! I'm just too scared to tackle the job.

No worries!

The COS Repotting Doctors will be at Larson's Nursery, 26 Covey Road, Burlington, CT.

10 am until 2pm.

\$5.00/plant (don't forget to bring a clean pot).

We'll do the rest!

Everyone who owns an orchid is invited.



Brought to the May Show Table by Dave Tognalli. He grows under intermediate conditions on his window-sill.

Brought to the May Show Table by Dave Tognalli. He grows under intermediate conditions on his window-sill.



This magnificent plant was brought to the May Show Table by Will Wilson.



This outstanding collection of well-grouped Paph's was arranged by grower Jeff Richards. Terry Kennedy, an orchid judge from Canada commented very positively about this collection. She thanked Jeff for bringing such a diverse example of the same plant species to the meeting. She said there is great variety between species even when they are from the same genus, and Jeff's arrangement showcases this diversity very well.



Shout out from John Hampton....

John Hampton writes; " Well, just thought I would say 'Hi'. Looks like things up north are still going well with COS. I am involved with the SWFOS (Southwest Florida Orchid Society) here in Fort Myers. My orchid collection has grown by a lot. It is a tropical paradise here and I grow outside in my backyard. Just went to the Redlands Orchid Show in Homestead, FL. It is really amazing what will grow here just attached to a tree. I have had to adjust my mixes to less bark and more inert because of the rainy season here but no 'biggie'. Well, just wanted to say hi to all of my COS friends, let everyone know I am doing fine and 'growing away'. "

— John Hampton

(News, Notes & Happenings, con't next pg.)





## Meeting Minutes

### Native Orchid Hunt, June 18th, Black Creek Bog, Adirondacks, NY

We will hike the bog in search for *Cypripedium reginae* plus other natives. We will assemble at Sprakers, NY at 9:30 am.

For those who do not want to drive up in the early a.m., there are several motels in the area, plus camping (if one would like to spend the night in a field of thyme).

The bog is changing, and being choked out by cattails. So put on your boots, long sleeves, bring bug-spray, and join us on this expedition in the Adirondacks. Please call Cheryl at 203-264-6096 to confirm attendance. Cheryl will provide you with directions to the meeting location.



*Cypripedium acaule*  
Commonly known as the pink lady's slipper.  
Photographed by Deidra Crewe while recently hiking the Appalachian Trail in Hewitt, NJ.

Due to a miscommunication, there were no minutes taken for the May meeting.

This month we met at a new location in Cheshire. The Cheshire Senior Center was unable to accommodate COS for our regular monthly meeting. Instead, we met just down the road from the senior center at the Waverly Inn. The inn was very accommodating, providing COS with a separate meeting/conference room. COS arranged for the inn to provide several platters of finger foods, and members visited the inn's bar for their favorite libation. The inn's wait staff was also very helpful and gracious.

Doug and Terry Kennedy from the Montreal area of Canada were our speakers this month. This is the first time this husband & wife team spoke at COS. Terry is a very experienced AOS judge with an international credential. She very graciously agreed to review our Show Table. Terry carefully examined each plant and had very complimentary, and encouraging things to say to each grower. Jeff Richards brought a wonderful arrangement of Paphiopedilums, which Terry was quite interested in. Because all of the Paphs in Jeff's arrangement were of the same species, Terry was able to point out the individual differences in the plants. She thanked Jeff for bringing such an educational display to the show table.

Unfortunately for Doug, technology wasn't cooperating this evening. No matter what was attempted, Doug's presentation would not project onto the viewing screen. In the end, we all gathered around Doug's laptop as best we could, and he proceeded with his talk.

Doug's talk was on the genus *Lycaste* and other cool growers. He is a very informed grower with many years of experience growing in the cold, wet environment of Canada. One very clever tip that I picked up on was how to keep *Miltonia's* cool. He wraps the clay pot of *Miltonia* in sphagnum moss and then places the whole thing into a bigger clay pot. This acts like a mini-refrigerator for the plant.

We definitely hope that Doug and Terry will return to speak again, soon. And we will make sure that the Powerpoint projector is working properly, this time. Many thanks for a great, informative evening.

(This brief summary of the May meeting was provided by your editor.)

# New England Summer Orchid Fest



The Amherst Orchid Society is happy to host the  
First Annual  
New England Summer Orchid Fest !  
Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 12-5pm & Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 9-5pm

The festival will be held at Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School located at:  
80 Locust St (Rt. 9), Northampton, MA 01060.

This venue can be easily reached off of Interstate 90 by connecting to Interstate 91  
Centrally & conveniently located for most of New England !

The New England Summer Orchid Fest will feature

- AOS sanctioned Judging on Saturday, June 25, starting at 12 Noon
- Any vendor or Fest attendee may bring their own plants for AOS judging (plants should arrive by 11am to be registered for AOS award consideration)
- The Comfort Zone Food Truck which serves a variety of fresh gourmet pretzels!

Free parking will be available at the school and entrance to the Festival is FREE !

### Orchid Vendors will include:

- **orchidPhile:** Specializing in miniature and novelty Phalaenopsis orchids
- **Piping Rock Orchids:** Specializing in Paphiopedilums & Phragmipediums
- **Marlow Orchids:** Unusual species including Angraecoid, Bulbo., other genera.
- **Fair Orchids:** Specializing in Paphiopedilum & smaller Vandaceous plants
- **New Earth Orchids:** Specializing in Cattleya hybrids
- **flora-peculia:** Specializing in Neofinetia, Japanese orchids & orchid species
- **Ecuagenera:** Specializing in South American species
- Non-plant vendors, including **Grace Emporium:** orchid embroidered apparel
- **Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies:** Specializing in media and material for orchid growing

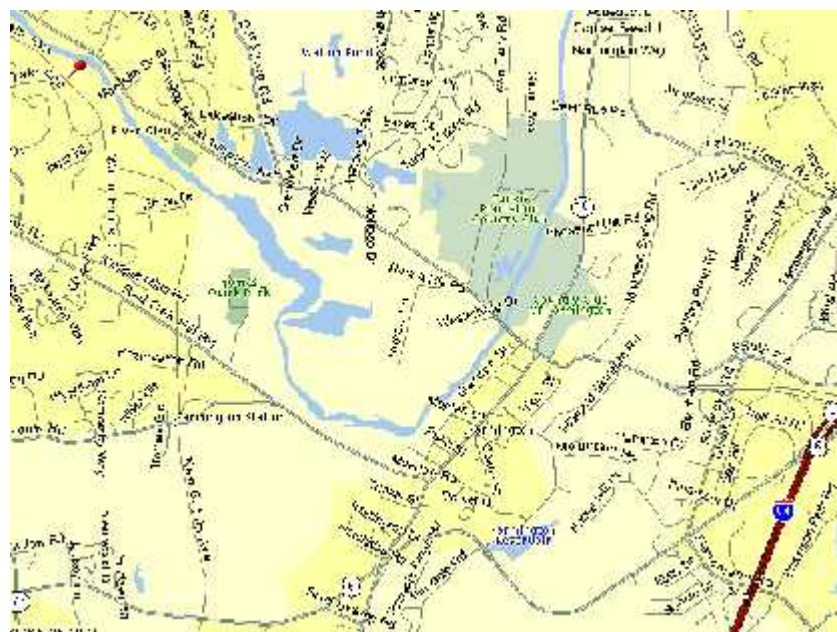
Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with listings of vendors and society members who will be presenting about a variety of topics! Search for New England Summer Orchid Fest for More details.

## Directions to Farmington Senior Center 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, CT

**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.



Have a  
great  
Summer!