



# Connecticut Orchid Society

## Newsletter April 2015

*56 Years & Growing*

*The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut*

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest*

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, April 8, 2015**  
**Farmington Senior Center**

**321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT**  
(See last page 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.

*Guests are always  
welcome!!!*

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).

### This Month's Featured Event

***What Makes Japanese Orchids Stand Out in a Crowd?***

***Neofinetia falcata is the perfect houseplant***

**Presented by Dr. Kristen Uthus**

Dr. Kristen Uthus is the owner of **New World Orchids** which specializes in orchids from Japan including *Neofinetia falcata*, *Dendrobium moniliforme*, *Sedaria japonica*, and Asian Cymbidiums. In addition, she is a plant evolutionary ecologist who has taught ecology at the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University.

Japanese orchids are not typical in the orchid world. Dr. Kristen Uthus will speak about what makes Japanese orchids stand out in a crowd and what may make *Neofinetia falcata* the perfect houseplant.



*Neofinetia falcata*

Photo credit: [www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com)

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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.

## 2015 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

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CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON	Vacant	—
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	Cheryl Mizak	(203) 264-6096
REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE	Vacant	—
WEB MASTER	Vacant	—

**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](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

**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.

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

## Upcoming Events



**Apr. 4 AOS Judging, Northeast Judging Center, Town Hill Botanic Gardens of Worcester, 11 French Dr., Classroom C, Boylston, MA, 12:00 pm. Send cut flowers to: Robert Winkley, 80 Florida St., Unit 9, Dorchester, MA 02124.**

**Apr. 8 COS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, What Makes Japanese Orchids Stand Out in a Crowd? presented by Dr. Kristen Uthus, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT.**

**Apr. 11–12 Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society 32nd Annual Show & Show, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Exit 18 off I-84, April 11, 10-5:00pm, April 12, 10–4:00 pm**

**Apr. 11 & 12 and Apr. 18 & 19 Hollandia Nurseries Spring Garden Expo, Bethel, CT, Basic Orchid Growing on 4/11 presented by Monty Sabolcik and Repotting Demonstration on 4/18**

**Apr. 18 Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Outdoor Recreation/State Parks Public Outreach, Kellogg Environmental Center Environmental Educator, 500 Hawthorn Ave., Derby, CT, Basic Orchid Growing Lecture, presented by Dave Tognalli, 10:30 am**

**Apr. 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**



**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.



## Around the Greenhouse -- Editor's keikis

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Your feedback about any issue that is on your mind will help us improve our Society, as well as the newsletter. Please write to me at [editor@ctorchids.org](mailto:editor@ctorchids.org) or 38 Robinhood Rd., Danbury, CT 06811.

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*The deadline for submissions to the May issue of the newsletter is April 24th*

**Letter to the Editor** Board of Director Ben Esselink recently received the following e-mail, which he forwarded to president Cheryl Mizak along with the suggestion that it be published in the newsletter. It is ambassadors like Ben who help spread the word about our society.

to attend, I'll do so.

Thanks Ben,  
Michio"

### Trivia Fun

Solution to the **Early Spring Word Search**.  
Did you find all the words? There were 31!  
Congratulations!

Ben was visiting the New York Botanical Garden orchid show recently, and happened to strike up a conversation with an orchid enthusiast while in the gift shop. Ben suggested joining an orchid society and promised to send him our newsletter.

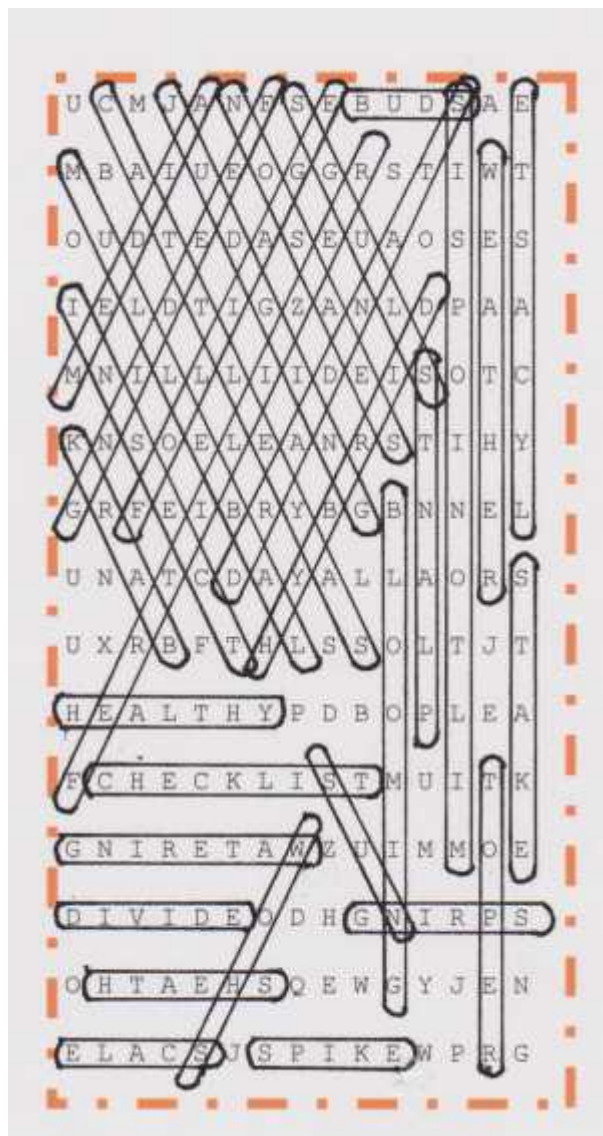
Here is the thank you e-mail Ben received:  
"Hi Ben:

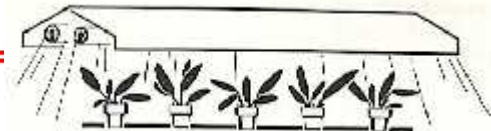
My name is Michio, we had met at the NY Botanical Garden's orchid show last month.

I read both months of your newsletters with avid interest, thank you for sending them! The local New York City orchid societies do not put out anything like this, it speaks well of yours that there is a thriving community of enthusiasts who can put out such a publication monthly. It is interesting to see that there seem to be so many shows going on in the region.

As I may have told you, I'm relatively new to orchid growing and am in the midst of building a small vivarium for my assortment of plants in my apartment. Eventually, I want to scale up to a greenhouse in larger quarters. My fellow New Yorkers seem to be mostly be windowsill growers, and there is nothing wrong with this but I assume that people outside the city grow plants in larger facilities.

I'd love to drop in on one of your meetings. I travel semi-regularly to Boston, and spend time upstate during the summer across the state border from Sharon, CT; not so far from you. So keep me posted on future meetings and if it is okay for me to RSVP





## March Show Table



## March Meeting Minutes

Carla Koch  
Recording Secretary

### COS MEETING 3-10-15

Our speaker was Dr. Mustafa of A and P Orchids, and the topic was his method of Hydroponic growing. He has developed a mixture of perlite, horticultural rockwool, and polystyrene which he calls "Infinimix." It promotes rooting and healthy roots.

Mastering watering is basically the key to growing orchids. Once a week often works, although "when in doubt, don't water." His mix should be moistened before repotting. He suggests watering 2 or 3 days before transplanting—removing the original medium—then not watering for 2 or 3 weeks, only misting. Warmth and shading also promote rooting. He usually feeds once a week, and feeds lightly until the plant is established.

He grows many diverse general in this mix, even vandaceous plants. Infinimix can be reused, since it is inert. He gets cymbidiums to bloom in 2 years; and instead of 3 years, his sarcochilus bloom in 14 month from flask.

— Carla Koch



<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Mahina Yahero 'Mishima'	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Young Meng Orange 'Golden Satisfaction'	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Dream Weaver Syn. <i>Slc.</i> (Fire Fantasy X Beaufort)	P. Phillips	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lennette' HCC/AOS (James Hausermann x Irene Finney)	B. Pendleton	i, w
<i>Cattleya</i> (Lew Sykora x Richard Degenhard)	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Purple Cascade Syn. <i>Lc.</i> (Interglossa x Tokyo Magic)	T. Zamojski	i, w

*Cattleya maxima* 'Stewart's'  
G. McGeough i, l



*Cattleya schroederae* 'Guava Dream', G. McGeough i, g

*Cattleya trianaei* 'La Moriaquita'

G. McGeough i, g  
(Show Table con't next pg.)

<i>Coelogyne mitida</i>	M. Rampone	i, g
<i>Cymbidium</i> Dorothy Stockstill 'Forbidden Fruits' (Phar Lap x Miss Muffet)	M. Rampone	i, g
<i>Cymbidium</i> Mad Irishman (Mary Pinchess x <i>madidum</i> )	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Cymbidium</i> hybridum ign.	S. Smith Delisle	c, w
<i>Cymbidium</i> hybridum ign.	Sister Lioba	c, g
<i>Cymbidium</i> hybridum ign.	C. Koch	c, g
<i>Cymbidium</i> hybridum ign.	C. Koch	c, g
<i>Dendrobium</i> Fire Wings (Big Alex x Silver Wings)	J. Becker	i, g
<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Dendrobium</i> Super Ise 'Split Personality' (Super Star x Ise)	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Dendrobium</i> Wave King 'Akebono' AM/AOS	B. Pendleton	i, w
<i>Epidendrum polybulbon</i>	M. Rampone	i, g
<i>Lepanthes caprimulgus</i>	S. Smith-Delisle	c, w
<i>Oncidium</i> Pacific Panache 'Keenan' (Sphacetante x Lisa Devos)	Syn. <i>Wils.</i> S. Smith Delisle	i, w
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> St. Swithin HCC/AOS ( <i>rothschildianum</i> x <i>philippinense</i> )	D, Landrey	i, l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> (Wend Valley x Pete's Fire)	C, Mizak	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybridum ign.	George	i, w
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Mt. Fallu (FGrande x <i>longiflorum</i> )	J. Becker	i, g
<i>Pleurothallis picta</i>	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Rhybcattleanthe</i> (Hunabu Delight x Orange Nugget)	T. Zamojski	i, w



*Cymbidium* 'Chinese Maiden'  
Brought to Show Table by George Mc Geough  
Photo Credit: Sharon SmithDelisle



*Cattleya* Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lennette' HCC/AOS  
(James Hausermann x Irene Finney)  
Brought to Show Table by B. Pendleton  
Photo Credit: Sharon SmithDelisle

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



Judy Becker

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.



## President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Hi

I want to thank everyone for bringing so many plants to the March show table. It was wonderful to see such a large variety of blooming plants in the middle of very cold winter. Special Congratulations to Debbie Landrey for being awarded her first AOS award. I hope you had a chance to see her Paph. St. Swithin' HCC 79 points with 10 perfect flowers— way to go Debbie!

Van Wilgen's annual Escape to Spring event was well received. Thank you to everyone who staffed our booth.

April is shaping up to be a very busy month starting with the Cactus & Succulent Society show in Waterbury April 11 & 12. COS will have an information table at this event. We need some help talking COS & Orchids.

Please check the April event calendar to see where several members will be giving talks. Please feel free to attend any of the talks; it is always nice to see a familiar face in the crowd.

- Southbury Garden Club
  - Hollandia Nursery, Bethel
  - DEP Derby
- are all on the schedule.

This month we welcome Dr. Kristen Uthus. She will speak about what makes Japanese orchids stand out in a crowd and what may make *Neofinetia falcata* the perfect houseplant.

— Cheryl Mizak



## News, Notes & Happenings

### Debra Landrey earns her first AOS award —



Debra Landrey with her AOS award winning plant *Paph. St. Swithin'* HCC/AOS

Photo Credit: Sharon SmithDelisle

For many orchid growers, attaining an AOS award is the highest achievement and greatest recognition possible for all the hard work put into growing and blooming a special plant well. These awards are recognized worldwide and highly coveted by growers because such awards lend value to the individual plant; and creditability for the quality of its parentage in breeding. Debra Landrey recently earned her first AOS award for her plant *Paphiopedilum St. Swithin'*. This plant received an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) award for scoring 75 to 79 points inclusive on a 100-point scale. (Debbie's plant scored 79 points). This plant has 10 perfect flowers on three inflorescences. Debbie reports that she obtained the plant in 1996 as a seedling. Congratulations to Debbie!!

### Winner of the raffle plant at Van Wilgen's *Escape to Spring* event —

Rita from Cheshire was the proud winner of the raffle plant featured on our display table.





**April 10th , Basic Orchid Growing Lecture at 1:00 pm, Out Reach Program at Southbury Garden Club, Southbury Library—** Cheryl Mizak will conduct a lecture at the Southbury Garden Club about orchid growing basics.

**Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society 32nd Annual Show and Sale April 11, 10:00—5:00 & April 12, 10:00—4:00, Naugatuck Valley Community College, exit 18 off I-84—** Volunteers are needed to help spread the word at our information booth at this event. Please contact Cheryl Mizak if you can help out.

**April 11—19th, Hollandia Nurseries, Spring Garden Expo, Bethel, CT Out Reach Program —** April 11th Monty Sabolcik will give a lecture about orchid growing basics. April 18th, COS will conduct a repotting demonstration at 9:00 am.



**April 11th, Earth Day at North Haven High School, North Haven —**

Martha Shea has volunteered to help out at the COS information booth at North Haven's Earth Day event.

**April 18th, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Outdoor Recreation/State Parks Public Outreach Program, Kellogg Environmental Center, 500 Hawthorn Ave., Derby, CT —** Dave Tognalli will conduct a basic orchid growing lecture at 10:30 am.



AOS Annual Members Meeting  
The Doubletree Hotel Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon.  
Register at :  
[www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calendar/2015AOS.php](http://www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calendar/2015AOS.php)



SEPOS International Orchid Show & Sale, April 24 — 26  
Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA  
Visit [www.sepos.org](http://www.sepos.org) for more details.

# Scientists completed the first orchid whole genome sequencing

Date: November 25, 2014  
Source: ResearchSEA

As one of the most diverse plant families, orchid now has its genome sequenced and the result is published at Nature Genetics as a cover article.

This study is an accomplishment of the **Orchid Genome Project**, an international collaboration led by Lai-Qiang Huang and Zhong-Jian Liu at Tsinghua University and National Orchid Conservation Center in Shenzhen China, with colleagues from different institutions, including Chengkong University in Taiwan, Ghent University in Belgium, and Institute of Botany of CAS in Beijing.

The team carried out whole genome sequencing on *Phalaenopsis equestris*, which is an important parental species from breeding of commercial phalaenopsis strains. *P. equestris* is also the first plant with Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM) for which the genome has been sequenced. **The assembled genome contains 29,431 predicted protein-coding genes. The average intron length is 2,922 base pairs, which is much longer than in any sequenced plant genomes.** Further analysis indicate that transposable elements in introns are the major reason why orchid genes have so big introns.

As heterozygosity post great challenge for whole genome sequencing and assembly, the orchid genome is by no means an exception. In the orchid genome, they found that contigs likely to be under-assembled owing to heterozygosity, are enriched for genes that might be involved in self-compatibility pathways. Those genes could be candidates for further research on the mechanism of self-compatibility in orchids.



*Phalaenopsis equestris*  
Photo credit: en. Wikipedia.org

**CONSERVATION & PROPAGATION**

As in many plant genomes, they also found evidence for an orchid-specific paleopolyploidy event that preceded the radiation of most orchid clades. This is possibly an important clue to why orchids developed into one of the largest plant families on earth.

By comparing with homolog genes in other plant genomes, they found gene duplication and loss in CAM genes along the lineage to orchids. This result suggests that gene duplication might have contributed to the evolution of CAM photosynthesis in *P. equestris*.

Finally, they found expanded and diversified families of MAD-box C/D-class, B-class AP3 and AGL6-class genes, which might contribute to the highly specialized morphology of orchid flowers.

All around the world, orchids are highly endangered species because of illegal collection and habitat loss. The complete genome sequence of *P. equestris* will provide (Con't. on pg. 10)



## Monthly Checklist for March and April

By Ned Nash and James Rose

### Cattleya



**C. Cornelis' Love 'SVO' AM**  
Photo: A. Pinkers  
Photo accessed from www.Sunset Valley Orchids.com on 2/08/15.

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. **Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot.** Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. (Con't top of next page)



(Monthly Checklist con't from prev. page)

Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the **time to be on the lookout for plants that will need repotting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas.** In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root into fresh mix with little or no setback.

## Cymbidium



**Cymbidium Magic Mountain**  
Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. Photo credit: G. Allikas  
Obtained from AOS website, [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. **The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.**

## Dendrobium (Australian)



**Dendrobium Australian** Robbie McInnes  
Photo credit: [orchidsonline.com.au](http://orchidsonline.com.au)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. **The secret with this group — bred primarily from *Dendrobium kinglyanym* and *Dendrobium speciosum* — is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.**

## Lycaste



**Lycaste skinneri**  
Photo credit: [www.wikipedia.Org](http://www.wikipedia.Org)

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. **A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.**

## Miltoniopsis

**Miltoniopsis** Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. Photo credit: G. Allikas  
Obtained from AOS website, [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).



This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. **Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage.** Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

## Paphiopedilum



**Paphiopedilum charlesworthii**  
Photo credit: [www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com)

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting of lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plants. Better to get them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. (con't. pg. 9)

**Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a “nodding” stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright.** If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with *fairrieanum* background.

### Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging — even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they



*Phalaenopsis stuartiana*

Photo credit: Flickr003.jpg, en. Wikipedia.org

gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. **Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.**

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering

season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Bo on the lookout for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudates of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

### Pleurothallids

Members of this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now.

**If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to**

**divide if needed or repot into fresh mix.** Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

*The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this*



*Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit' AM/AOS*  
Photographed at Parkside Orchids, Ottsville, PA. Photo credit: G. Allikas, www.aos.org

*Scientists completed the first orchid genome sequencing, con't from pg. 8)*

an important resource to explore orchid diversity and evolution at the genome level. The genome sequence will also be a key resource for the development of new concepts and techniques in genetic engineering, such as molecular-assisted breeding and aid orchid horticulture research.

This article cited from: ResearchSEA. “Scientists completed the first orchid whole genome sequencing.” ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 25, November 2014. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141125095444.htm>.



The COS display at the Deep Cut Orchid Society's Annual Show & Sale, Feb. 5 — 8, 2015

Tips

Tricks

&

The following suggestions were obtained from the Marlow Orchid website [www.marloworchids.com](http://www.marloworchids.com):

**Water “Top Down”** — gravity will pull the water all the way through the pot. Be sure to water well enough that the plant’s pot is flushed thoroughly as you don’t want any dry spots in the center of the pot where mold and fungus can grow.

**Fertilize after initial watering** — fertilizers contain “salts” (ionic compounds resulting from neutralization of an acid and a base — wikipedia definition), which will burn your orchid’s roots if the mix is dry. Water with plain water first, then follow on with water containing fertilizer.





**The Webinar for this month:**

**This month we have a double-header!**

- **Greg Allikas** will present — *Cattleya luddemanniana* on April 14, 2015 at 8:30 EDT/5:30 PDT. This webinar is for members only.  
and a week later
- **Ron McHatton** will conduct an AOS Greenhouse Chat on April 21, 2015 at 8:30 pm EDT . This webinar is open to everyone.

The April issue of *Orchids* typically concentrates on judging and the 2015 issue is a must read:

- **Judging *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* — The New Standard**, by James Fang, this article outlines what makes this species awardable.
- **Judging *Masdevallias*** by Mario Ferrusi, an indepth look at this genus that has many shapes and colors.
- **The Best of the Best**, by Lois Posey describes the AOS Special Judging awards for 2013, with wonderful insights about the award winning plants and their owners.
- **Paragons — The 2014 First Class Certificate**, by Kathy Barrett, is a photo essay of the fabulous flowers that scored over 90 points in 2014.
- For those of you who are not into judging, there are other great articles: on **Repotting, *Bletia*, *Ornithidium*** and ***Camariidum***, and an article on the **Redland International Orchid Festival** which is coming up this year May 15 — 17th.

It is not too late to plan to attend the **AOS Spring Members Meeting** at the end of this month that 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. You don't want to miss out on this great opportunity! Check out all the details at the website below:

<http://www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calender/2015AOS.php>

The Members Meeting in conjunction with the Slipper Orchid Alliance, The Phalaenopsis Alliance, and the Pleurothallid Alliance have an awesome array of fabulous speakers, which include:

**Frank Smith — Keynote Speaker, Graham Wood, George Hatfield — Cymbidiums, Alan Koch, Wally Orchard — Disas, Carlos Fighetti — Phalaenopsis, Norman Fang, Kristen Uthus— Neofinetia Culture, and Alfonso Doucette — Coolers for Cold Growers.**

Something that I found recently in the conservation area of the website that I think is great — an Orchid Emergency Card that can be found at this link: [http://aos.org/images/img\\_content/carecard.gif](http://aos.org/images/img_content/carecard.gif).

Let's grow together,

Laura Newton



New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show: Chandeliers, Feb. 28 — April 19,  
2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY, 10 — 6, Tues.—Sun, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) for more details.

*The Long Island Orchid Society  
in conjunction with Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park  
presents the third annual*

**LONG ISLAND**  
*Orchid Festival* 2015

*Orchid Vendors from Around the World*

**May 29 - 31, 2015  
9 AM to 5 PM**

**Planting Fields Arboretum  
State Historic Park  
Conference Center**  
1395 Planting Fields Road  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

**Admission is Free**  
*(Planting Fields Arboretum Parking \$8 per car)*

For more information email  
[festival@longislandorchidsociety.org](mailto:festival@longislandorchidsociety.org)  
or visit  
[longislandorchidsociety.org](http://longislandorchidsociety.org)  
or [plantingfields.org](http://plantingfields.org)

  
The Place Where Members Grow  
**LONG ISLAND  
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Photo: Nancy Jay Rubin, Inc. 2015-04-09

## 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.

