



# Connecticut Orchid Society

## Newsletter Jan 2015

*56 Years & Growing*

*The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut*

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest*

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, Jan 14, 2015, 7:00 pm**

**Cheshire Senior Center**

**240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT**

(See last pg. 7 for map & directions)

### Orchid Mermaids

### The culture & care of Vandas

**Presented by Joanna Eckstrom**

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.

Joanna's talk at the January meeting will be about culture and care of Vanda ... "Orchid Mermaids" will feature a Powerpoint presentation and if you have a vanda in your collection, bring it along for a Q&A - be sure to protect the WHOLE plant from January in New England weather. My husband Bob bought our first orchid plant in 1988. Cymbidium Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' HCC/AOS flowers lasted nearly four months, convincing us that we could grow orchids. Twenty-seven years later, Peter Pan is still in the collection - it is

### Happy New Year!



**Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' HCC/AOS**  
(Photo— Oct. 9, 2014)

so vigorous that it breaks out of its pot every two-three years and never stops blooming, making it hard to find a good time to divide and repot. We've tried many genera and now have 50 Vandae and a few other genera for variety. Besides being an AOS member, we belong to six local societies whose meetings we try to attend as we are able. When we do get to a meeting, Bob is credited as 'grower' of plants we exhibit; Joanna is the 'Shower'. Joanna became an AOS Accredited Judge (Northeast Region) in 2012. She's chaired at least one show a year for various societies for twenty+ years and was honored with the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence for doing something that she loves. (This information provided by Joanna Eckstrom)

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Members with last names beginning with "N" through "Z", 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).

**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

PRESIDENT	Cheryl Mizak	(203) 264-6096
VICE-PRESIDENT	George Sabolic	msabocik@cjrjyouth.org
TREASURER	Sherry Pendleton	(203) 272-3498
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	Ben Esselink	(203) 222-1694
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	William Pendleton	(203) 272-3498
RECORDING SECRETARY	Carla Koch	(203) 272-8121
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 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



**Jan. 14 COS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, Orchid Mermaids, presented by Joanna Eckstrom, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT.**

**Jan. 17 AOS Judging, Northeast Judging Center, Barlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT, 12:00 pm. Chair John Sullivan 201-835-0113 or [johndsullivan@optonline.net](mailto:johndsullivan@optonline.net)**

**Jan. 24-25 Cape & Islands Orchid Society 26th Annual Show, "Orchid Bridges". Visit [www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org) for more details.**

**Jan. 31 AOS Judging, Northeast Judging Center, Barlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT, 12:00 pm. Chair John Sullivan 201-835-0113 or [johndsullivan@optonline.net](mailto:johndsullivan@optonline.net).**

**Feb. 5–8 Deep Cut Orchid Society 17th Annual Winter Sale, Dearborn Market, 2170 Rt. 35, Holmdel Twp., NJ. FREE AD-MISSION. Thurs., Fri., Sat. 9–6 pm, Sun. 9–4:30 pm**

**Feb. 11 COS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, TBA, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT**

**Feb. 13-15 New Hampshire Orchid Society *Orchid Fantasy Escape* 24th Annual Show and Sale, Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH. Fri. 1–7:00 pm, Sat. 9–5:00 pm, Sun. 9–4:00 pm. [www.nhorchids.org](http://www.nhorchids.org) for more details.**

**Feb.14 AOS Judging, Northeast Judging Center, Barlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT, 12:00 pm. Chair John Sullivan 201-835-0113 or [johndsullivan@optonline.net](mailto:johndsullivan@optonline.net).**

**Feb. 19–22 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, *The Spirit of Spring*, 34th Annual Show & Sale, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT. Thurs. 10–7pm, Fri. & Sat. 10–8pm, Sun. 10–5pm.**

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**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.

## December Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch  
Recording Secretary

COS MEETING 12-10-14

This month's meeting was a celebration of the coming holidays. Members contributed a groaning table-full of delicious snacks, finger foods and favorite seasonal desserts, which all enjoyed. Quite a few beautiful plants were also brought to the Show Table.

A brief business meeting was held to conduct our annual election of officers. Nominating Chairperson Dave Tognalli presented the proposed slate, which was unanimously approved by all in attendance.

The new Board of Directors and Chairpersons for 2015 are as follows:

President—Cheryl Mizak will continue for another term.

Vice-President — This position has been vacant for several years but George (Monty) Sabolcik has stepped forward this year to fill this post.

Treasurer — Judy Arth has filled this post for a number of years and we are all indebted to her for her time and effort. Sherry Pendelton, who is very well qualified has agreed to fill this position for 2015.

Director-at-Large — Ben Esselink will continue for another term .

Director-at-Large— William Pendelton will continue for another term.

Recording Secretary — Carla Koch will continue for another term.

Membership Chairperson — Mary Rampone will continue for another term.

Corresponding Secretary, Editor, Librarian, Historian — Sharon SmithDelisle will continue for another term.

AOS Representative — Many thanks to Sam Hinckley who has filled this position for a number of years. Judy Becker will fill this position for 2015.

(Con't next page.)

## December Show Table



<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Bifrenaria</i> Trish Rohrl ( <i>vitellina</i> x <i>atropurpurea</i> )	Monty	i,g
<i>Brassocattleya</i> Moon Miss 'Lunar Dawn' HCC/AOS D. Tognalli ( <i>C. Myron Hofer</i> x <i>Bc. Mount Hood</i> ) Syn. <i>Blc.</i>		i,w
<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Cycnoches</i> Golden Showers 'HOF#1' ( <i>herrenhausanum</i> x <i>chlorochilon</i> )	Monty	i,g
<i>Dendrobium victoriae reginae</i>	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Laelia anceps</i>	Monty	i,g
<i>Paphiopedilum malipoense</i>	Monty	i,g
<i>Potinara</i> Marlene Lindquist 'Orange Delight' AM/AOS D. Tognalli ( <i>Pot. Classy Lady</i> x <i>Blc. George King</i> )		i,g
<i>Rhyncattleyanthe</i> Burana Beauty Syn. <i>Potinara</i> Monty ( <i>Rth. Netrasiri Starbright</i> x <i>C. Netrasiri Beauty</i> )		i,g
<i>Vandacostylis</i> Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird' Syn. <i>Neostylis</i> Monty ( <i>Vanda falcata</i> x <i>Rhynchostylis coelestis</i> )		i,g

Please note: There were more plants brought to the December Show Table, but plant slip information was only provided for the plants listed above.

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

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.



Judy Becker

(Dec. Meeting Minutes con't from pg.3)

Special Events Coordinator — Cheryl Mizak will continue for another term.

Conservation Chairperson — Remains vacant.

Refreshment Committee Chairperson— Remains vacant.

After much good conversation and delicious partaking of great food, members headed home.

—Submitted by editor Sharon SmithDelisle for Carla Koch.

### Trivia Fun

Most orchids are also known by a common name. We all know that our beloved Phalaenopsis orchid is also called Moth orchid and it's pretty easy to see the shape of a moth in its flower. With some orchids it's not so easy to see how the common name applies. Here are a couple "monkey" orchids that are quite easy to see how they got their name and should make you smile.



*Dracula simia*

Photo credit: www.kuriositas.com



*Orchis simia*

Photo credit: www.hlasek.com

## President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Our December Christmas party was great fun. We hardy orchid growers did not let the threat of snow get in the way. The show table had a diverse selection of beautiful blooming orchids. Debbie Landry treated everyone to plugs she had grown from flask. Bill offered plants for sale at ½ price so there were bargains galore! Dean led everyone in a holiday game which Sherry won.

The CAIOS show is this month. Bill & Sherry will be setting up the COS display and would appreciate some help with either transporting for set up or take down. Remember if you are on the display team entry to the show is free. For your convenience if you are lending plants for the CAIOS display, you will be able to leave your blooming plants with Bill & Sherry at the January meeting.

Looking ahead to February, it will be a very busy orchid month. Starting with the New Hampshire show followed by Deep Cut show in New Jersey the very next weekend. So we thank you in advance for lending your blooming plants for the displays. I know after you have waited a year for them to bloom it is hard to part with them for a week, but they will be admired by all and who knows maybe even bring home a ribbon for you. We finish our month with the Hartford Flower show for which we will have booth- staffing sign- up sheets at the January meeting.

This Month Joanna Eckstrom will present 'Orchid Mermaids' successfully growing and blooming award winning Vandae in the home. We will meet at the Cheshire Senior Center.

See you soon  
Cheryl

## News, Notes & Happenings

### Annual Election of Officers —

The annual election of officers and selection of committee chairpersons was conducted at the Dec. monthly meeting on Dec. 10th. Chairperson Dave Tognalli presented the slate, which included a few new changes this year.

The position of vice president has finally been filled after being vacant for several years. George (Monty) Sabolcik has graciously come forward to fill this position.

Judy Arth has been our dedicated treasurer for many years. Sherry Pendelton has stepped forward and agreed to fill this position. Sherry is a certified public accountant and is very qualified for treasurer. A huge thank you to Judy for her support, hard work and excellent job all these years.

Judy Becker has agreed to take over the responsibilities of AOS representative. Sam Hinckley has done the job for years but other obligations often keep Sam away from meetings, and he thought it was time to turn the position over to someone new. Sam, we appreciate your efforts and many thanks for your continued support.

All other positions remained the same on the board of directors and committee chairs. See page 2 of this newsletter for a complete list of the 2015 positions. Welcome and thank you to everyone who has volunteered to assist in the daily operations of our organization for 2015— we couldn't do it without you.

### Cape and Islands Orchid Society (CAIOS) Annual Show & Sale, Jan. 24 –25

Bill and Sherry Pendelton have graciously agreed to handle the set-up of our display at the CIOS show again. They are looking for help with set-up and volunteers to do take-down on Sunday. They also need blooming plants for our display table—the more the better. (Con't next page)

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

There will be sign-up sheets at the Jan. meeting. If you are able to help out, please sign up! **For your convenience, if you have blooming plants you would like to lend for the display table at CAIOS, please bring them to the Jan. meeting on the 14th. They will be carefully looked after and arrangements will be made to return them to you after the show.**



### 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, Feb. 13–15, Radisson 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 Jan. meeting in Cheshire, 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.

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

To finish out the hectic month of February, we need helpers for set-up/ take-down and to man our information booth at this event. Again, sign-up sheets will be passed around at the Jan. meeting. Your help is desperately needed at any one of the events listed above. **Please support your society and donate a few hours of your time!!**

## AOS corner



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

### Happy New Year!

**I find the webinars to be one of the best benefits to AOS membership!**

Our webinars for the next two months:

**January 22, 2015, 8:30 PM EST**

**Ron McHatton** will present *The Orchids of Madagascar: The Land that Time Forgot*.

Madagascar is a world hot-spot for orchids. Orchids are the largest family of flowering plants on the island, almost 1000 species make up some 10% of Madagascar's flora; 90% of them are endemic.. They occur in almost every habitat, from coastal and montane forests to cold mountain tops and dry spiny forest. Join Ron McHatton, Director of Education, and learn about this amazing land and its orchids, including Darwin's orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale*.

**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!

In the **January 2015** issue of *Orchids*, there are plenty of wonderful articles chock-full of great information. Here are some of my favorites:

**Broughtonia** by Thomas Miranda explores the beauty of this Jamaican genus, with their bright colors and full form.

**Growing Phalaenopsis** by Sue Bottom, is an in-depth look at what can go wrong and how to fix things. It will answer a lot of the questions that I get asked about this genus.

**A New Form of Cattleya dowiana and the Taxonomy of its Color Variation**, is a fascinating look at this highly-treasured species. I personally am entranced by the *rosita* form.

**Great Ideas "Telephone wire loops to support Phalaenopsis spikes"** teaches us an easy and inexpensive way to help our *Phalaenopsis* look their best.

On the website ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)) under the All about Orchids tab you can find **Orchids A to Z**, which is your definitive source for concise information on orchid genera. Full descriptions and culture requirements, provided by experts, hand-picked for *(Con't next pg.)*

(AOS Corner, con't from pg. 5)

their knowledge of select genera. Photos of choice species in each genus are shown with large-size pop-ups for detailed view. Culture requirements are presented in an easy to understand "recipe-style" format. **Just one more reason to join the AOS.**

Let's grow together,  
Laura Newton

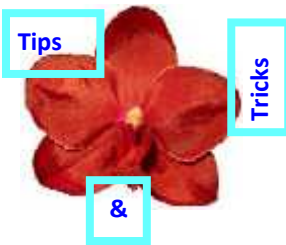
## Why I Grow Phalaenopsis

By Jack Grimes

When I first became "hooked" on orchids, I bought every different kind of orchid I saw: cattleyas, phalaenopsis, and dendrobiums; species and hybrids; dainty dancing oncidiums and not so sweetly odiferous stanhopeas; even cymbidiums and miltonias, difficult to grow and definitely difficult to flower in the hot, humid climate of Southaven, Mississippi.

After a few years of experimenting with various genera, the obvious advantages of growing phalaenopsis became very apparent to me:

1. Phalaenopsis flowers last much longer than those of most orchids. I have phalaenopsis plants that have remained in bloom for three or more years, flowering from new inflorescences, secondary inflorescences, and the ends of old inflorescences.
2. Phalaenopsis plants are more floriferous than most other orchids. One of my first, *Phalaenopsis* Malibu Frolic, flaunted more than a hundred 3 1/2 " dark pink flowers on two branching inflorescences and remained in bloom for more than seven months.
3. Phalaenopsis do not "walk out" of the pot. Due to their upright growth habit, repotting is necessary only when the medium breaks down or when they obviously have outgrown the pot.
4. Phalaenopsis are very easy to grow. They enjoy about the same climate as we humans. (Con't on pg. 9)



**Packing Tips:** Planning on taking your plants to an orchid show? The American Orchid Society suggests the following: "Exercise care when transporting orchids to flower shows to guarantee the plants arrive in pristine condition.

When Joe Henderson took his *Cattleya* Califlora to the Greater New York Orchid Society Show, he first wired the plant's container to a tray and added a few stakes for stability. Shredded wax paper was layered among the flowers to prevent bruises during the journey.

In winter, Remember to keep plants warm; move them quickly from growing area to (warm) car. Year round, but especially in the summer, never leave them in a car parked in the sun or excessive temperatures may cause damage."

— Reprinted from the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, Jan. 1994, pg. 36. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).

### Questions to ask an orchid vendor before buying that plant:

- I grow [under lights, in a window, outdoors, etc.] in [location]. Will this orchid flower reliably under my conditions?
- How long until I can expect flowers? (If the orchid is an unflowered seedling or mericlone.)
- How often will it flower? How long do the flowers last?
- Does the plant have any special requirements I should know about?

The better you are informed, the wiser your decision about whether to purchase that plant or not.

— Reprinted from the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, Jan. 1994, pg. 44. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).



## Cultural Calendar

Flavor of the Month:

### Complex-hybrid Paphiopedilums

By James Rose



Photo credit: Matt Pedersen.  
[www.slipperorchid.com](http://www.slipperorchid.com)

**Complex-hybrid paphiopedilums have historically been one of the most popular groups of orchids.**

The first one, *Paphiopedilum* *harrisianum* (*barbatum* x *villosum*), was registered by Veitch 125 years ago. No other genus can match this group in intensive hybridizing efforts that have resulted in spectacular flowers. While popularity dipped slightly during the 1980s while there was a flurry of interest in species may cause damage and primary-hybrid paphiopedilums, interest in complex-hybrid paphiopedilums is returning. It is easy to understand why with their long-lasting magnificent flowers and ease of culture. **Because January is the peak flowering season for complex paphiopedilums**, a brief exploration is appropriate.

**Light** The ancestors of complex paphiopedilums grow on the forest floor in their native habitat. This makes them quite adaptable to lower-light conditions and natural candidates for windowsill and under-light-culture conditions. When plants receive the proper amount of light, their strap-like leaves will be an even medium green. Too much light will tend to make them more yellow. If the leaves of the new growths are weak and bend limply, this indicates (con't. next page)

(Cultural Calendar — con't. from previous page)

that they must have more light. Plants can be moved outdoors in the summer, but care should be taken to prevent direct sun from burning the leaves.

**Temperature** The best guide toward providing the proper temperature is to remember that *Paphiopedilum insigne* is the dominant species in the background of most hybrids in the trade. It is a relatively cold-hardy species from the Himalayas. With this in mind, the best temperature range for successful growing is what I refer to as “the comfort zone”: days kept within 75 to 80 F, and nights dropping to within 50 to 60 F. In Southern California, growers have cultivated this group outside in protected patios for years. If night temperatures remain too high relative to the day temperatures, few flowers will result.

**Humidity and Air Movement** These orchids, like most others, do much better where there is constant air movement. This will eliminate the few cultural problems that a grower might encounter. Caution should be exercised to ensure that the humidity level be kept sufficiently high, approximately 50 to 60 percent. Otherwise, water will be lost faster through the leaves than can be replaced by the roots.

**“If your cymbidium is dry, water it tomorrow. If your cattleya is dry, water it today. If your paph is dry, you should have watered it yesterday.”**

**Water and Fertilizer** These factors, along with light, make up the most important building blocks for successful cultivation of complex paphiopedilums. One should remember that these plants have no pseudobulbs in which to store water for drier times, so they should never be allowed to dry out. Do not keep them soggy either. There is a long-standing saying among nurserymen that goes: If your cymbidium is dry, water it tomorrow. If your cattleya is dry, water it today. If your paph is

dry, you should have watered it yesterday.

Complex paphiopedilums seem to be constantly growing but have a slow metabolic rate. It is preferable to use a balanced formula such as 20-10-20 at a relatively mild dilution rate, such as one-third to one-half the recommended dose, at regular intervals (every other watering). Certainly the main growing spurt is late spring and summer, so the application can be decreased slightly when autumn and winter arrive. The plants will have made most of their growth in preparation for flowering, so less fertilizer is recommended.

**Potting** In regard to potting media, complex paphiopedilums are no different from most orchids in that every grower seems to favor a different mix. Experiment and find what works best for you. Most mixes incorporate a percentage of some of the following ingredients: bark, lava rock, rock wool, perlite, tree fern and sphagnum. It seems that each year a new “wonder mix” appears in the marketplace, but a blend of equal parts medium- and fine-grade fir bark with 10 percent perlite and 10 percent ground sphagnum works well.

When dividing plants, take special care to be sure that any piece to be separated will have ample roots when broken free of the main plant.

**Pests and Diseases** The only common pest of paphiopedilums seems to be mealybug, and this can cause all sorts of problems. They will hide in the leaf sheaths and severely debilitate plants. Use an appropriate insecticide and be sure to cover infected areas thoroughly. If necessary, unpot the plant, remove the medium and dunk the whole thing — roots and all — into a bucket of insecticide and repot. Discard the old mix.

A fairly common cultural problem growers encounter is a soft rot called *Erwinia*, usually found at the base of the leaves. It is best controlled through implementation of preventive cultural

practices. Carefully remove diseased parts of the leaf, and exercise caution when watering to be sure not to keep the plant too wet. Keep the air movement at maximum availability by not crowding plants.

For the beginner to the advanced grower, complex paphiopedilums are rewarding. Their 6- to 8- inch flowers can be found in a wide array of colors and patterns. Best of all, individual flowers last longer than almost any other orchid — six to eight weeks.

**January — the peak of the flowering season — is an ideal time to get out and discover the paphiopedilum experience.**

— This article reprinted from the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, Jan. 1994, pg. 45–47. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

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## January Checklist

Prepared by James Rose and Ned Nash

**Ingrazeoids** Most species will be quite dormant this time of year, which leaves them susceptible to root rot from over-watering. Keep fairly warm and a little on the dry side until new roots emerge.

**Calanthe** Divide and repot the tropical-deciduous types (Grouville, St. Aubin and Rubens). Remove healthy one- to two-bulb divisions as growths appear. Pot in a highly organic mix (1/2 part fine bark and 1/2 organic materials, such as peat, ground sphagnum, rotted manure).

**Cattleya** Long nights, short days and cool temperatures make this the low point of the growth year for cattleyas. Watering and feeding needs are at a minimum. Give maximum light and watch for emerging buds from those that flower from winter into spring. Stake spikes for best presentation.

**Cymbidium** Now is the peak flowering season for cymbidiums, during which time the plants require fertilizer with lower nitrogen (the first of three numbers of the ratio on a fertilizer-package label.) Stake inflorescences to promote attractive flower arrangement. (Con't. next page)

(January Checklist — con't. from previous page)

Bait for slugs and snails.

**Lycastr** Decrease the watering to slightly dry out the plants. The leaves will drop on the deciduous varieties. Watch for developing inflorescences on the lead (newest) pseudobulbs.

**Paphiopedilum** Standard hybrids are in about the middle of their blooming season, so enjoyment is the key word. They still require watering and light feeding, especially if they are in the drier home environment. Mottled-leaved *Maudae* types require less water and food than at other times. More light will help to set buds for the spring and summer bloom season. This a good time to rest mature strap-leaved types by reducing water and food, while keeping light levels higher.

**Phalaenopsis** Moth orchids show little, if any, active growth, owing to cool temperatures and low-light conditions. Watch watering carefully to preserve health of roots. This season's inflorescences are probably well developed by now, and should have already been staked for best support and presentation. Prevent cold drafts from reaching plants.

— This article reprinted from the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, Jan. 1994, pg. 46. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)



Please join New Hampshire Orchid Society for  
**Orchid Fantasy Escape**  
24th Annual Show & Sale  
**February 13 - 15, 2015**  
Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH

Fri. Feb. 13 - 1 pm to 7 pm  
Sat. Feb. 14 - 9 am to 5 pm  
Sun. Feb. 15 - 9 am to 4 pm

[www.nhorchids.org](http://www.nhorchids.org)

The poster features a photograph of a pink orchid with a white and red patterned lip, resting on a white candle holder with a lit candle. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.



**Deep Cut Orchid Society 17th Annual Winter Show**  
Feb. 5 — 8, Free admission  
Dearborn Market, 2170 Rt. 35, Holmdel Twp., NJ



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



5. Phalaenopsis grow fast! A small seedling, bought in a 3" or 4" pot, will likely bloom the following year. (I have waited up to seven years for a first bloom on a cattleya seedling.) This is a very important consideration for a serious hybridizer because several generations of breeding can fit into the same time frame as one generation of other popular orchid plants.
6. Phalaenopsis hybrids now are available in a rainbow of colors, including gorgeous pinks, whites, yellows, oranges, and shades of red. There are colors to suit every fancy.
7. Hybridizing goals are plentiful. Although great strides have been made in the past few years, especially in the breeding of large pinks, whites, and yellows, no one has yet succeeded in producing green or true red flowers of similar size and shape.
8. Good stud plants are available at a reasonable price. Many crosses are still being made with "tried-and-true" breeders, such as *Phalaenopsis Spica*, *Ella Freed*, and *Golden Buddha*, which can be bought as mericlones for less than \$25.00. *(Editor's note: this article was first printed in 1988)*
9. Last (but far from least), if you would like to recover some of the money invested in The Hobby or perhaps even turn a commercial dollar, then phalaenopsis are the easiest orchid plants to sell. Prospective buyers for such ideal house plants are everywhere!

There you have it — nine solid reasons why I choose to grow phalaenopsis orchids over all others. Given a little time, I could probably think up another 18. Is it possible that you could reach the same conclusion?

— Reprinted from the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, Jan. 1988, pg. 21.

## Directions to Cheshire Senior Center 240 Maple Avenue,

### 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 Route 10 South.
- Continue through seven traffic lights. At the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> traffic light bear right onto Maple Ave.

The Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the left after the Cheshire Fire Department.



Br-r-r-r-r , it's cold out there!!!