



Connecticut Orchid Society

Newsletter Mar. 2016

57 Years & Growing

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2016,
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.

7:30 pm: Business meeting begins

8:00 pm: Featured speaker and/or presentation begins.

This Month's Featured Event

Ladyslipper Orchids: The Creation Explanation

COS member Dr. Jeffrey A. Richards, PhD will give a humorous and informative talk discussing why "special creation" is a sensible explanation for the origin of orchids. He will also tour the life cycle of paphiopedilums and explain how to register a cross. There will be cultural tips and a Q & A session.

Jeff has been growing paphs for over 35 yrs. and has created his own crosses. He worked for 30 yrs at Pfizer, Inc. Pharmaceutical and earned his PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Wisconsin University at Madison.

Join us for a fun and informative evening. (Info above provided by Jeff Richards)



Paph. Dark Water Secret. Jeff's own registered cross. Photo credit: J. Richard

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The deadline for submissions to the Apr. issue of the newsletter is Mar. 26th.

Join us on Facebook



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.

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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

PRESIDENT	Cheryl Mizak	(203) 264-6096
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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 (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



Mar. 9 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT 7:00 pm, COS member Jeff Richard will give a presentation on Lady Slippers.

Mar. 19 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

Apr. 9-10 Hollandia Nursery Annual Spring Garden Expo, Bethel, CT, 9-5 pm. COS will have a sale table, and conduct talks during this event.

Apr. 13 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT, 7:00 pm, TBA

Apr. 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

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.

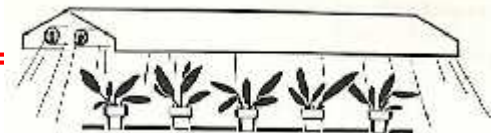


Paph. Tombola x Ravenstart
Photo credit: J. Richards

Meeting Minutes

Tom Russell
Co- Recording Secretary

February Show Table



Minutes of the February 10, 2016 Monthly Meeting

Bill Pendleton and Dave Tognalli started the potting demonstration by explaining that there are two basic reasons to repot: 1) Either the potting medium is starting to decompose 2) The orchid is outgrowing its pot.

Repotting should be done when the plant is in growth, just as new root tips are starting to emerge. If dividing a plant, be sure to leave at least 4 growths per division for most orchid types. Dave suggests soaking the plant for about an hour in its pot, then removing the plant from the old pot and discarding the old potting medium. To avoid spreading disease between plants, use a disposable single-edged razor to cut off old roots.

Add a small handful of small stones to the bottom of a plastic pot to assist stability and drainage. Cover the stones with a small amount of fresh potting medium, then place the orchid in the pot and fill with more fresh medium, tapping the pot down occasionally to settle the plant. If needed, a stake or rhizome clip can be used to stabilize the plant.

For sympodial orchids, repot into a pot just large enough to support two years of growth (generally, one growth will be produced per year). A pot that is too large will encourage rot from excess moisture. Place the oldest growths close to the edge of the pot (or back of the pot) The newest growths should be facing towards the opposite edge (or the front) with enough room to allow two years growth before reaching the opposite edge of the pot. Bill pointed out that for orchids that tend to climb upward in a "stair-step" fashion, the oldest growths can be planted lower (or

<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Brassavola cucullata</i>	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Tsutung Beauty Taiyoung	J. Arth	c,w
<i>Cattleya coccinea</i> syn. <i>Sophranitis</i>	T. Zamojski	c.w
<i>Dendrobium</i> Ise	C. Koch	i, g
<i>Dendrobium</i> Oriental Smile 'Fantasy' AM/AOS	J. Arth	i,w
<i>Epidendrum nocturnum</i>	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Oncidium</i> Twinkle	C. Koch	i, g
<i>Oncidium</i> Wildcat '#13' syn. <i>Odontocidium</i>	J. Santarsiero	i, w
<i>(Paphiopedilum godefroyae</i> v. <i>leuchochilum</i> 'KS Cross') x <i>(Paphiopedilum</i> (Doublebell x S.Gratix 'Big Puff))	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig.	T. Zamojski	i, w
<i>Sophrholaeliocattleya</i> California Apricot x <i>Sophrhrocattleya</i> Beaufort 'Luna Rousse'	J. Arth	i, w
<i>Sophrholaeliocattleya</i> Love Tapestry 'Popular Song' SM/JOGA	T. Zamojski	i, w

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.

deeper) in the pot. New potting medium can be added as the new growths climb up, thereby avoiding a situation where the newest growth will have climbed up and out of the pot.

A monopodial orchid should be planted in the center of a pot since it will grow straight up, rather than producing horizontal rhizome growth. The pot should be just large enough to accommodate the roots, with perhaps a little extra space. But as with sympodial orchids, a pot that is too large will induce rot.

Bill also laid out an extensive display of potting materials, all of which are available from Kelley's Korner Orchid Supply (www.kkorchid.com)

— Tom Russell

News, Notes & Happenings

Mary Rampone won her first blue ribbon at the Deep Cut Orchid Show & Sale in NJ



COS display at the Deep Cut Orchid Show & Sale February 11, 2016

Our display received an Honorable Mention award.



**COS display table at the NHOS
Many thanks to Dave Tognalli for setting up this display.**

President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Hi Everyone

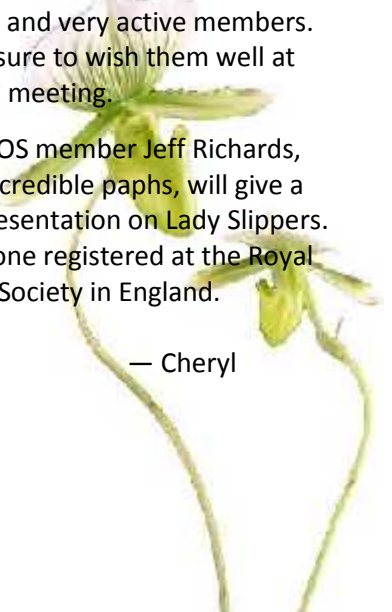
February was packed with Orchid shows. Hope you had an opportunity to enjoy some of them. COS had great award winning displays. Thank you to all who did the set-ups and take-downs. Congratulations to everyone who lent blooming plants and received awards at the shows. Mary Rampone received her first Rosette.

This year our spring orchid sale will be at Hollandia Nursery, in Bethel CT. Every spring they have a week-long event packed with gifts, annuals and perennials. COS will be there Saturday and Sunday, April 9 & 10 from 9 am – 5pm. We will have a wonderful selection of orchids for sale. The COS Orchid Docs will be available to answer questions from the public, and COS will give a lecture each day. We need members both days to help staff our table. There are morning shifts from 9 – 1 and afternoon shifts 1 – 5 available. Let me know what time works for you.

Members Bill & Sherry Pendleton will be moving to North Carolina in April. Bill and Sherry have been wonderful friends, orchid growers, and very active members. Please make sure to wish them well at the March 9th meeting.

This month COS member Jeff Richards, who grows incredible paphs, will give a humorous presentation on Lady Slippers. He even has one registered at the Royal Horticultural Society in England.

— Cheryl



AOS corner



American Orchid Society
Orchids in America since 1891



The March 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. Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 8:30—9:30 pm EST *Everyone is invited.* Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, for a Q & A session on to grow and care for your orchids. If you have a question, please submit by February 28th to stillisch@cox.net. **Register now!!** <http://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/467318102580751874>.

Growing Under Lights, Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 8:30—9:30 pm, EST *Everyone is invited.* Join author Steven Frowine to find out how to grow orchids with modest light requirements under artificial lights. He will focus on newer fluorescent lights. Phalaenopsis (Moth orchids), slipper orchids, and most miniature orchids grow well under lights. Steve has been growing lights for over 50 years. **Register now!!** <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/9099902750991947266>. (Editor's note—Steve is a former member of COS. He is also a past vice-president of COS)

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 join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your MAC, PC or even your mobile phone. 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 and non-members.*

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



Month-by-Month Checklist By Robert M. Scully, Jr. March

Sheaths will soon emerge on *Cattleya mossiae* hybrids. Monitor their development so that moisture does not accumulate in the sheath and cause bud blast.



Cattleya mossiae —semi-alba form

Photo credit: Orchid Forum
www.forum.theorchidsource.com

Phalaenopsis grown in New Zealand sphagnum moss rapidly increase in one season. Make sure the moss does not deteriorate before the flowering season, because a healthy root system is particularly important for the many flowers a plant may produce. Poor roots and lots of blooms may cause plants to become severely dehydrated, even to the point where reviving them is difficult.

Fragrant *Dendrobium anosmum* (syn. *Dendrobium superbum*) and *Dendrobium nobile* hybrids flower this month. Do not neglect watering because dryness can cause bud drop in all dendrobium species and hybrids. (*Con't next pg.*)



Dendrobium anosmum

Photo credit: www.en.wikipedia.org

Growth may be active in some pleurothallid species. Maintain a regular fertilizer program, perhaps once every two weeks with a quarter- or half-strength solution. Watch for emerging flower spikes; guide them through the leaves.

Cyrtopodium punctatum, the cow-horn orchid, blooms now. Its yellow flowers are spotted with mahogany brown and look most curious among the leafless, horn-like pseudobulbs.



Cyrtopodium punctatum
"Cow-horn orchid"

Photo credit: www.en. Wikipedia.org

The last of the ***Cycnoches chlorochilon*** may be blooming this month. Gorgeous chartreuse flowers emit a distinctive sweet fragrance.



Cycnoches chlorochilon
Male plant

Photo credit: www. Orchids.wikia.com



Cycnoches chlorochilon
Female Plant

Photo credit: www.orchidweb.com

Oncidium papilio, the butterfly orchid, may be pushing out the first in a series of many buds, and subsequently flowers, that will appear

Through the spring and early summer. It is a perpetual bloomer. Do not sever the inflorescence because it will continue to produce flowers year after year. Even though *Onc. papilio* has rather hard leaves, suggesting that it will tolerate a lot of light (like cattleyas), experience shows that it will grow well and flower even better in bright *Phalaenopsis*-like conditions.



Oncidium papilio

Photo credit:

www.forum.theorchidsource.com

Beginner's Corner

Editor's note: These columns were written by our previous editor Larry Kuekes and were run quite regularly over the past years. Larry's perspective is refreshing and some of our new members may welcome this introductory advice.



Larry Kuekes

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 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

(Con't on pg. 7)



**COS Tile on the floor of the
Vallarta Botanical Gardens**

On behalf of TJ Hartung, COS donated funds to the Vallarta Botanical Gardens. In recognition of our donation, a tile of the COS logo was installed on the floor of the gardens.

Vallarta Botanical Gardens is located in Cabo Corrientes, Jalisco, Mexico. The gardens display Mexican and South American orchids in an effort to stem the depletion of these plants from their native habitats.



22ND WOC
GUAYAQUIL 2017

22ND WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 8-12, 2017
GUAYAQUIL CONVENTION CENTER

GUAYAQUIL | ECUADOR

CONFERENCE PRICES

	2016	2017
Regular Registration Includes access to days of activities and exhibits.	USD 300	USD 320
Student Registration + Companion Includes 2 tickets (1/16). Child's cost is separate and subject to change.	USD 515	USD 550

Take advantage of early bird prices!

REGISTER NOW!
www.woc22.com



info@woc22.com

Hollandia Nursery Annual Spring Garden Expo

April 9-10, 2016

www.hollandianurseryct.com

(Blowing in the Wind, Con't from pg. 6)

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

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 Route 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.

