



Connecticut Orchid Society

Newsletter Nov 2014

55 Years & Growing

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Nov 12, 2014, 7:30 pm

Cheshire Senior Center

240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT

(See last pg. for map & directions)

Japanese Orchids

Presented by Jason Fisher

of Orchids Limited

See pg. 3 for preorder info.

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

7:00 pm: Business meeting begins.

7:30 pm: Featured presentation begins.

Members with last names beginning with "A" through "M", please bring goodies for the refreshment table.



(For notice of last-minute or inclement weather cancellation, visit our website www.ctorchids.org.)



Join us on Facebook!

Another successful show Orchid Harvest 2014 !



COS show display

Many thanks to all of our volunteers, vendors, sister orchid societies and especially to Van Wilgen's Garden Center for another successful show and sale.

To view the list of ribbons and awards won during Friday's judging, please visit our website at www.ctorchids.org. A huge thank you to Dave Tognalli and Mary Rampone for all of their work behind the scenes coordinating, registering and recording of plants and awards.

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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.

2014 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>	(203) 264-6096
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Vacant</i>	—
TREASURER	<i>Judy Arth</i>	(860) 633-2876
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Ben Esselink</i>	(203) 222-1694
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>William Pendleton</i>	(203) 272-3498
RECORDING SECRETARY	<i>Carla Koch</i>	(203) 272-8121
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON	<i>Mary Rampone</i>	(203) 263-2831
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>	(203) 744-1849
EDITOR, LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>	
AOS REPRESENTATIVE	<i>Sam Hinckley</i>	(860) 688-0943
CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON	<i>Vacant</i>	—
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>	(203) 264-6096
REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE	<i>Vacant</i>	—

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 (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

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.

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



Nov. 12 COS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, Jason Fisher of Orchids Limited will present "Orchids of Japan". He will be bringing plants for sale. You may also preorder plants from his website at www.orchidweb.com. He is giving a 10% discount on preorders. Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT

Nov. 15 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

Dec. 10 COS Holiday Party, 7:00 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT. Pot luck supper. Please bring your favorite holiday food — enough to share with others.

Jan. 14 COS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, TBA, 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

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

Annual Dues are due —

Use the convenient PayPal service on our website www.ctorchids.org or send/bring cash or check to Membership Chair Mary Rampone. Membership information and dollar amounts can be found on pg. 2 of this newsletter.

Reminder!





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..

The deadline for submissions to the Dec. issue of the newsletter is Nov. 21st

Content Acknowledgement All information, opinions, reporting and recommendations that appear in this newsletter are those of the editor, unless otherwise noted.

Give a blooming orchid to your hostess for Thanksgiving

— Planning on going over to your relatives home for that turkey dinner this year? Instead of a bottle of wine or another pumpkin pie, why not bring a blooming orchid for your hostess? We will have lovely blooming plants at our sale table at this month's meeting in Cheshire. Plan on arriving early for the best selection.



Time for annual election of officers and committee chairmen. Be a hero and volunteer to help your society move forward into

the future. Every year there are openings for various positions that need dedicated members to fill. Dave Tognalli is our nominating chairman. Please contact Dave at dtog54@sbcglobal.net to find out which positions are available at this time and what are the responsibilities of each job. In many cases only a couple hours a month are needed to fill a position. Please consider getting involved

Preorder plants from Jason Fisher—



10% discount

Go to www.orchidweb.com

Don't forget to state "Order for COS" in the comments section on the order page.

November's Featured Event

Japanese Orchids

Presented by Jason Fisher
of Orchids Limited

The following bio was provided by Mr. Fisher:

Jason Fischer works and helps manage Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota USA with his father Jerry Fischer. Orchids Limited opened in 1978 in Minnetonka in a small retail greenhouse off of Highway 12. In 1983, Orchids Limited moved to Plymouth where they have grown into a mid-sized operation of 4 greenhouses with 15,000 square feet of growing space, a shade house, and laboratory.

Jason has had a life-long education in orchids mainly from the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. Jason's educational interests were strongly influenced by Japan. He studied the Japanese language and culture for 6 years in high school and at the University of Minnesota. Jason lived in Kyoto, Japan from 2001 to 2003, and upon return decided to import Japanese orchid species and add a new niche to the business.

Having worked for his father since the age of 5, Jason has learned the orchid world from the business and hobbyists perspective. He took interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with phalaenopsis, which later on led to paphs, phrags and miscellaneous hybrids.

Jason's first lecture on *Neofinetia falcata* at the Minnesota Orchid Society in 2004 was the kick-off for an amazing journey of lectures across America and Canada. He has a passion for orchids, and the communication skills he developed in Japan as an English teacher have helped him create interesting lectures that won't put the audience to sleep.

Jason enjoys photographing orchids in situ, and has photographed orchids in situ in Japan, North America, Singapore, Malaysia and Western Australia.

Experience: -Has lectured for over 30 different orchid societies in the US, Japan and Canada.
-Speaker for the 19th & 20th World Orchid Conferences
-Speaker at 19th Australian Orchid Council Conference 2012, Perth
-Speaker for the 7th New Zealand National Orchid Expo 2013
-Coordinated the Orchids Limited laboratory from 1998 to 2000
-Currently in management, breeding and marketing for Orchids Limited

President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Hello

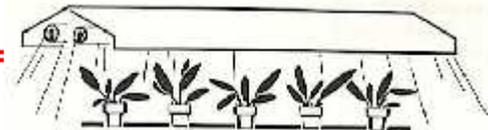
Welcome to all of the new members who joined COS at the Orchid Harvest show. We are looking forward to sharing orchid growing tips with you.

I have so much gratitude and many thanks to everyone who worked so hard the last few months on all phases of the show. From post card and set design to getting the word out, electronically & in print, putting signs, post cards, and flyers. Securing vendors and the all important food truck. Which I hope you had a chance to sample the great offerings. Many kudos to George and Dean who put together a fabulous display that won the Orchid Digest Award. They could not have done it without members lending their plants. Registration went smoothly with only a few late registrants. All the members who staffed the admissions, raffle and club tables. There was the ever popular club plant sale table. Your generous donations of divisions always make that table very popular shopping spot. We are bouncing around some ideas for next year and would love to hear from you.

November is the time of year when we accept nominations for the various offices. Dave heads up the talent search. Our AOS rep and hostess are retiring in Dec. If you are willing to bring the coffee pot to meetings and arrange the snacks the hostess position might be for you. The AOS rep is our contact relaying when on line lectures will be presented and keeping COS members up on current AOS events. Please talk to Dave if you think you would like to learn more about a position.

This month at the Cheshire Senior Center Jason Fisher from Orchids Limited will give a presentation on Japanese Orchids. Check out his web site. There is a 10% discount on all preorders. Make sure to put COS in the check out box.

Wondering what to bring to the Thanksgiving hostess? Why not bring a blooming orchid we will have several for sale to decorate your holiday table. Happy Thanksgiving!
—Cheryl



October Show Table

<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Brassocattleya</i> Mt. Hood 'Orchidglade' AM/AOS (<i>Bc. Deesse</i> x <i>C. Claris</i>)	G. McGeough	i,l
<i>Cattleya dowiana</i> 'Michael' AM/AOS	G. McGeough	i,l
<i>Cattleya lueddemanniana</i> 'Cerro Verde' AM/AOS	G. McGeough	i,g
<i>Cattleya maxima</i> var. <i>coerulea</i> 'Hector'	G. McGeough	i-w,l
<i>Cattleya rex</i>	G. McGeough	i,g
<i>Cattleya warscewiczii</i>	G. McGeough	i,l
<i>Ceratochilus biglandulosus</i>	T. Zamojski	i,w
<i>Cycnoches chlorochilon</i>	M. Rampone	w,g
<i>Cycnoches</i> Golden Shower (<i>herrenhusanum</i> x <i>chlorochilon</i>)	Monty	i,g
<i>Dendrobium phalaenopsis</i> hybrid	Monty	i,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> Angel Tang 'Select Q' (<i>veitchiana</i> x <i>tonduzi</i>)	P. Phillips	i,g
<i>Oncidium</i> Dr. Tom 'Snow Spots' AM/AOS (<i>Bogong</i> x <i>nobile</i> Syn. <i>Odontoglossum</i>)	G. McGeough	c,l
<i>Oncidium</i> Sharry Baby (Jamie Sutton x Honolulu)	Monty	i,g
<i>Potinara</i> Susan Fendler 'Cinnamon Stick' AM/AOS (<i>Pot. Caesar's Head</i> x <i>Lc. Mary Ellen Carter</i>)	G. McGeough	i,l
<i>Prosthechea radiata</i> syn. <i>Encyclia</i>	George	i,w
<i>Restrepia antennifera</i> 'Brick Red'	P. Phillips	i,g

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



— Carla



Oct. Meeting Minutes

Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

COS MEETING 10-08-2014

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids spoke on dendrobiums. These are, for many, the hardest orchids to grow well. Their culture depends on the habitat of the many Asian species, and is very varied. Different branches of this genus were detailed. Phalaenathe and Spatulata, which include the common dendrobium phalaenopsis and antelope types, are evergreen and do not need a dry period. Brief cool temperatures do help to promote flowering. They are very sensitive to excess salt in the water. Latouria, including such species as *atroviolaceum* and *spectabile*, are similar, but like a longer dry rest in the winter. Kingianum is similar and easily grown. Pendulous Dendrobium or Callista types, such as *loddigesii*, *fimbriatum* and *lindleyi* like a warm, wet summer and a cool dry winter (3 dry months, then rain.)

Nigrohirsute (meaning black-haired) dendrobiums, such as *bellatulum*, require low salt also, and need to be potted only when rooting. The little orange, apricot-scented *unicum* should be mounted to do its best. Meanwhile, the fabulous *cuthbertsonii* from New Guinea is unique in experiencing 300 inches of rain a year, and needing very pure water before it produces many months of flowers on a small plant. It is so long-lasting, because there are so few birds in its habitat to pollinate it.

Nobile dendrobiums really do like a big chill, and dry conditions to induce flowering. Yamamoto hybrids from Hawaii are the most famous. Easier to bloom and flowering more than once per year are the Ise and Super Ise types.

A few more notable plants mentioned were *wasellii*, which grows best horizontally on a pine branch, and the hybrid Proud Appeal, whose snow-white flowers appear up to four times a year. He mentioned that all happy plants have new leaves which are shiny, and suggested that you Google species for their habitat. Some orchids, such as *Cattleya intermedia*, he says, will grow almost anywhere.

News, Notes & Happenings



Above and to the left, views of our outstanding 2014 show display.
Photo credit: Cheryl Mizak



The 2014 show display was designed and built by Bill Pendleton, George Jones and Dean Delgiudice. A gargantuan task ! Thank you for all of your long hours and hard work, the result was spectacular.
Photo credit: Cheryl Mizak



On right, George Jones (on left) and Dean Delgiudice are presented with the *Orchid Digest* 2014 Show Trophy Award for their work on our 2014 show display.
Photo credit: Cheryl Mizak



Above, George Jones works on the set up of the show display backdrop.
Photo credit: Cheryl Mizak

William Wilson shows off his award winning orchid, which garnered two ribbons.



Above, COS ambassador Will Wilson (center) assists two young ladies (on left) with their choice of instant raffle plants from the COS sale table.

We are departing from our usual challenge, which asks you to figure out the orchid related word to solve the puzzle. This time our challenge word is related to the Thanksgiving holiday. And yes, your editor has checked and double checked that the clues are correct and the puzzle is solv-



		e						
				n				
	y							c
			c					a
	n							
r						b		
	r						e	
				r				
	b			a		y	r	

Letters: ryrnbacre

Wordoku is played just like *Sudoku* except that you are using nine letters instead of nine numbers.

Rules: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains the letters named under the board. The yellow diagonal will contain an orchid related word. There is only one solution for this puzzle.

The solution will be published next month.

(Assistance with creating this puzzle was obtained from the www.menneske.no/wordoku/eng/utskrift.html website.)



Formerly *Beallara* Pluto's Drummer, now *Aliceara* Pluto's Drummer. The genus *Beallara* (*Brassia* x *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum*) doesn't exist anymore.

What's In a Name, Part 4 Is *Odontoglossum* a Four-Letter Word?

By Larry Kuekes



Larry Kuekes

Last time we looked at the effect that the changes to orchid genus names has had for *Cattleya* alliance hybrids. But *Cattleyas* are not the only major group of orchids that have been affected by DNA analysis. Names in the *Oncidium* alliance have undergone an equally seismic shift.

In a paper published in 2008, Mark Chase et al. argued that DNA evidence showed that there was no clear way to separate *Odontoglossums* from *Oncidiums*. So all *Odontoglossums* were moved to the genus *Oncidium*. The genus *Cochlioda* was also moved into *Oncidium*. A few *Odontoglossums* that had been previously moved into other genera such as *Lemboglossum* got moved into *Rhynchostele*. So the genus *Odontoglossum* has ceased to exist.

The DNA also showed that the Brazilian *Oncidiums* were closely related to the genus *Gomesa* but not closely related to other *Oncidiums*, despite floral similarities. So these *Oncidiums* were moved into *Gomesa*. There were also changes to a bunch of other, less common genera, but the changes mentioned above were the big ones.

The AOS and Britain's Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) have approved these changes. In addition, the RHS, which is the international authority for registering orchid hybrids, decided to recognize *Miltoniopsis* for registration purposes. Scientists had split *Miltoniopsis* from *Miltonia* in 1976, but it has been treated as *Miltonia* for registration purposes until now.

As with *Cattleya* hybrids, this is going to play havoc with the names of *Oncidium* alliance hybrid genera. Any hybrid genus containing *Odontoglossum* or *Cochlioda* ceases to exist. For example, there is no more *Wilsonara*, *Vuylstekeara*, or *Degarmoara*.

Just as with *Cattleyas*, in order to figure out what the new genus name should be for a hybrid, you need to know what species were in the background, or look it up on the RHS official hybrid registration website <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>, which has the new names. For example:

- Vuylstekeara* Cambria (the first orchid I ever grew) is now an *Oncidopsis* = *Oncidium* x *Miltoniopsis*
- Colmanara* Wildcat is now an *Oncostele* = *Oncidium* x *Rhynchostele*.
- Oncidium* Sweet Sugar is now an *Oncidesa* = *Oncidium* x *Gomesa*
- Oncidium* Sharry Baby is still an *Oncidium*.

So what does all this mean? Is *Odontoglossum* a four-letter word now, or are you still allowed to use it? Relax. Nobody is going to force you to use the new names. Remember the geraniums which gardeners still call geraniums, even though the scientific name changed in 1789?

But history shows that orchid growers do accept change, although slowly. Consider *Paphiopedilums*. Originally, all slipper orchids were called *Cypripediums*. In 1903, the genus *Paphiopedilum* was split off from *Cypripedium*, but people kept calling their orchids Cyps, not Paphs, and the RHS still registered Paph hybrids as *Cypripediums*. Finally, in 1959, the RHS recognized the name *Paphiopedilum* for registration purposes, and orchid growers figured that, after 56 years, it was OK to start using the new name.



November:
The Tropic Month
 Tom's Monthly Checklist
 By Thomas Miranda

Even though bleak weather tends to rule in the northern hemisphere this month, it is still remarkable for the amount of changes taking place in our environment. As the days shorten and nights lengthen, with temperatures plummeting and the sun's angle in the sky shifting southward, many tropisms are starting to occur. Bird and butterfly populations are trooping southward and our phototropic houseplants are turning toward the strongest light rays they can access. Even humans tend to stay indoors where it is warmer or travel south to a more comfortable climate for part of the harsh winter season. All creatures do best when they have the environment that suits them, and we all strive to create those tropic environments in our growing areas. This is the essence of orchid horticulture.

ANTICIPATION While a few orchids like fall-blooming cattleyas and hard-cane dendrobiums are blooming with abandon this month, November is best known for being the month of spikes. Cooler weather tends to induce these spikes in many of the most widely cultivated orchid genera. So many types of orchids are preparing to bloom this time of year. For many of us, this month is the most exciting time with plenty to do in preparation for the glories to come during the winter months.

ELONGATION Spikes that initiated in September and October lengthen nicely this month. We need to guide and support them before they become too heavy or intertwined. This is the key to producing fine plants for exhibition. *Phalaenopsis* spikes may be a foot (30 cm) or more long by now. If allowed, their inflorescences will become decumbent or even pendent as they typically will when grown as mounted epiphytes. In pot culture, this can create a problem as a pendent spike will just flop onto your coffee table and may even break off in transport. Staking the inflorescence not only assures you of the most pleasing floral presentation, but also allows the plants to be grown without obstructions making for the lovely graceful arches we all admire so much in well-grown plants.

PREPARATION The same is true for cymbidiums, although they may not have progressed as far as many of the earliest *Phalaenopsis*. Staking is extremely important for these larger, heavier plants for many reasons. Certainly, there is nothing more visually stunning than a well-bloomed, staked and presented *Cymbidium*. If staking doesn't commence soon, spikes may grow in odd directions and may break if not caught in time. Mark all emerging spikes with a guiding stake and make sure they are supported as they become heavily laden with fat buds over the next couple of months. It is also important to provide cool growing conditions as these spikes develop. Nighttime temperatures in the mid-40s work well for us at the Smithsonian, but this might be a hardship for anyone trying to grow them as houseplants. Such plants are best cultivated in a protected but nominally heated sunroom or temperate greenhouse situation.

DECELERATION Despite all the spiking activity, most orchids are actually approaching or reaching dormancy this time of year. Certainly deciduous species including those in the genera *Cycnoches*, *Catasetum*, *Lycaste* and *Habenaria* should be kept dry now. Most other orchids, especially most with large succulent pseudobulbs like those of cattleyas, encyclias and dendrobiums, need much-reduced watering and feeding now as their growth has slowed significantly. Hold back on the water this time of year or risk rotting some of your best plants.

RECREATION We have these activities associated with our orchid addictions to keep us busy and occupied this month. I cannot think of a better place to be on some bleak and soggy November day than in my light room tending to my collection.

LIBATION Serving up drinks to your plants this month can be hazardous to their health. So many orchids need far less water now due to dormancy, slowed growth, reduced light levels and cooler temperatures. So it is most important to educate your self about your individual plants' needs during this transition period. While watering a dormant plant can be deadly, other plants, particularly Pleurothallids, are often growing really well in the cooler conditions and can be watered much more generously. There is no substitute for understanding your orchids growing needs and seasonality's.

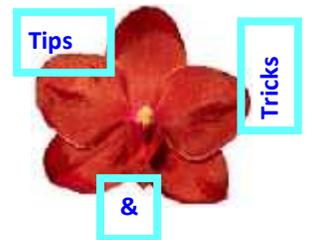
— Thomas Miranda is the orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution and an AOS Accredited Judge.

Treasurer's Report –



Judy Arth

Many clubs and societies publish a treasurer's report every month in their newsletter. This is a good way for members to see a quick snapshot of the financial status of their organization. COS also published its treasurer's report on a regular basis in years past. Currently, we ask interested members to contact treasurer Judy Arth directly at judar@cox.net to request a copy of this report. You must be a member in good standing, and will have to sign a nondisclosure form confirming that you will not share any financial information about COS with outsiders or non members.



Tie one on —

Mark orchids that are beginning to develop buds with a bright piece of ribbon as a reminder to take extra care during watering and spraying. Tie on two ribbons if the plant also needs other attention such as repotting or clean up. Every time you see those ribbons, you will be reminded that you need to pay closer attention to your plant or set aside some time to tackle a repotting project very soon. — This tip was submitted by Mrs. J.E. Kelseo of Avery, Tx. to the AOS Bulletin, May 1993

ORCHID SPEAK 101

Orchid Nutrition for Winter

By Susan Jones

Planning for the optimum health and blooms of your orchids through winter and into spring is as important as their day-to-day care. Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can boost their resistance to damage from pests, disease and winter temperatures in the coming months.

OVERALL HEALTH Orchids will fare better in encounters with pests, diseases and temperature extremes if they are in a good state of overall health. A plant suffering from under or over-fertilizing, or stressed from lack of water is much more likely to be injured by any additional strain. Orchids grown under less than ideal conditions are more likely to be a target for infection or infestation. Make an extra effort now to get plants and their greenhouse or growing area in good shape for the shorter, darker days ahead by removing old foliage, weeds and dying flowers. An autumn cleanup can minimize or prevent the pest and disease problems that can crop up in the darker and more crowded conditions that often characterize the winter growing area.

GENERAL NUTRITION Light levels and temperatures begin to fall at this time of year, and your orchids' nutritional needs change accordingly. Orchid growers can take the following steps now to help prepare their collection for optimal health throughout the months ahead.

- ◆ If your orchids will winter outdoors, fertilizing them properly can help them resist cold, insect and disease damage, as well as give them two to three additional degrees of cold resistance. This can mean the difference between a dead orchid and an unscathed plant



Winter nutritional practices differ from those of the active growing season

or one that just loses a few leaves.

- ◆ Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen (which should be nitrate nitrogen, not urea nitrogen) and high in potassium; the numbers on the label should read something like 10-5-20. Watering and fertilizing should be reduced in frequency for the cooler autumn season, and orchids that bloom during the winter and into spring should be given a couple doses of blossom booster in October and November; bloom boosters should have a higher middle number, such as 10-50-10. Ideally, this change in fertilizer should start by mid-November and continue through the end of January. This regime will sacrifice plant growth in December and January in favor of plant protection, but it can help keep the plant healthier overall.
- ◆ Some growers recommend using Dyna-GroPro-Tekt (0-0-3), a liquid nutritional potassium-silicon supplement for plants. The product is supposed to improve heat and drought tolerance in orchids, as well as boosting their resistance to pests, disease and environmental stress.

SPECIFIC GENERA Seasonal nutritional needs differ among various orchid genera, and many diverge still further depending on local climatic conditions in disparate geographic regions. The following guidelines may require modification to accommodate individual growing conditions.

Cattleya Watering and fertilizing frequency should be reduced, as the plants dry out more slowly in the cooler temperatures and shorter days. Bud sheaths may yellow at this time of year as temperatures fluctuations can cause water to condense inside the sheath. Should you notice condensation in the sheath, it should be opened or removed to allow the developing buds adequate air circulation and prevent bud blast caused by rots. Simply slit open the sheath and carefully peel it down toward the pseudobulb, exercising caution so as not to damage the delicate bud primordial within.

Dendrobium Autumn and winter needs vary according to the species and hybrid parentage in this diverse genera. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* hybrids will benefit from a fertilizer with a low nitrogen formula for optimal flowering.

The leaves of *Dendrobium nobile* types and their hybrids begin to yellow and drop at this time of year in preparation for their winter dormancy. Plants should be given plenty of light and good air circulation and kept dry from November through February. Mist occasionally if their canes become overly shriveled.

Paphiopedilum Generally, these do not require a great deal of fertilizer. This is especially important with the cooler-growing bulldog types to reduce nitrogen levels at this time of year for best flowering. (Bulldog Paphiopedilums have plain green leaves as opposed to the mottled-leaf types. One of the best-known bulldog-type hybrids is *Paphiopedilum* Winston Churchill.) Watch for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath or for late-season warm spells, as either can rot the sheath and destroy the developing inflorescence. While Paphiopedilums should not be allowed to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced in the cooler days. Overwatering can cause root rot or Erwinia problems.

Phalaenopsis Growth slows and inflorescences begin to appear. Reduce watering and fertilizing frequency, and apply a bloom-boosting fertilizer. Many growers also recommend applications of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to Phalaenopsis at this time of year to prevent yellowing and loss of lower leaves and to enhance blooming.

Once buds are evident on the inflorescences, keep temperatures and humidity consistent to prevent bud drop. Phalaenopsis grown in the greenhouse are especially prone to bud blast in February and early March, when the heat is still coming on at night and the greenhouse temperatures rise during the day.

Vanda Aside from *Neofinetia falcata*, vandaceous orchids generally do not tolerate autumn and winter's cooler temperatures (below 60 ° F [16 ° C]) well and need to be carefully protected from chills.

Vandaceous orchids still need as much light as possible as the days become shorter and (Con't next page)

light levels fall. Reduce the frequency of fertilizing and watering to accommodate the slower growth period they are entering.

Starting the first week of October, Julie Rosenberg at R. F. Orchids in Homestead, Florida, recommends feeding vandaceous genera a blossom booster fertilizer exclusively, once a week for four to six weeks, at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water (15 ml to 3.8l), with normal watering between. In November, begin fertilizing every other week, using a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer at 1 teaspoon per gallon (15 ml to 3.8l), substituting bloom booster every fourth feeding.

Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can mean happier, healthier and more productive plants year round.



By providing the right nutrients in the fall, a bounty of blooms will follow for late-winter species such as this *Rhynchostylis gigantea* 'Banjong' AM/AOS.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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Massachusetts Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale, Oct. 31 — Nov. 2, 2014

COS supported the Massachusetts Orchid Society Show and Sale with a display table. Many thanks to Cheryl Mizak and Judy Arth for the set-up and take-down of our display.

COS members' orchids won awards as follows:
3rd DTPS. Kenneth Schubert 'Taida Violet'

1s *Encyclia Radiata* George Jones

3rd *Vanda Ester* Gransky Roger Heigle

3rd *Burrageara* Mem..Nelly Isler 'Swill Beauty' Bill Pendleton

2nd C. (C. Chocolate Drop x Lc. Pokai Tangerine) Bill Pendleton

3rd C. Little Mermaid 'Janet' Bill Pendleton

3rd *Epide Noctuinum* Cheryl Mizak

3rd *Mtssa Estelita* 'Sweet Senorit' Cheryl Mizak

3rd *Onc.* Chaculatum Cheryl Mizak

1st *Onc.* Copper Scarob 'Brass Brethsen' and John Miller Best *Odontoglossum* Cheryl Mizak

Congratulations to the winners!



COS member Ben Esselink enjoys a display at the MOS Orchid Show, Oct. 31 — Nov. 2, 2014



Members enjoyed visiting with each other at the Oct. 8, 2014 monthly meeting at Farmington Senior Center.

Marketplace

Need some supplies for repotting? As a service to our members, COS now offers a wide range of supplies at the Sale Table. Supplies may be ordered in advance, but must be picked up at a monthly meeting. Prices are only slightly above wholesale, no taxes and no shipping fees—what a deal!

COS Potting Supplies Price List

Basket –4” square slat w/hanger	\$3.00/ea.
Charcoal chips (4 scoops/bag)	\$2.00/bag
Coconut Husk (medium size chips) ½ cu. Ft.	\$10.00/bag
Coco Tek Coir 150 g. bag	\$5.00/bag
Dyna-grow fertilizer Grow 8 oz.	\$7.00/ea
Dyna-grow fertilizer Bloom 8 oz.	\$7.00/ea.
Grow More Orchids Food 1.25 lb.	\$6.00/ea.
Hydro rocks (one gallon bag)	\$3.00/bag
Mesquite slabs for mounting orchids	\$1.00 /ea.
Orange Guard Insect Spray 32 fl. oz.	\$9.00/bottle
Orchid Bark mix (Cattleya/Dendrobium/Oncidium) 2 gal.	\$5.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix(Cymbidium/Phalaenopsis) 2 gal.	\$6.00/bag
Orchid Bark—small 2 cu. ft.	\$25.00/bag
Orchid Bark – medium 2 cu. ft.	\$25.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix (cattleya/Dendrobium/ Oncidium) 1 cu.ft.	\$20.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix (Cymbidium/Phalaenopsis) 1 cu. ft.	\$22.00/bag
Physan 20 plant insecticide 8 fl.oz.	\$10.00/ea.
Plant labels (set of 25 yellow or white)	\$ 3.00/set
Pots – round, green, plastic 4 ½ “ (set of 10)	\$ 4.00/ set
Pro-Teckt plant fertilizer 8 oz.	\$ 7.00/ea.
Rhizome clips—large	\$ 0.50/ea.
Rhizome clips – small	\$ 0.25/ea
Sphagnum moss – ¼ lb. block	\$ 8.00/ea.
Superthrive Vitamins-hormones ½ fl. oz.bottle	\$ 3.00/ea.
Thermometer – digital min/max.	\$22.00/ea.
Tree Fern (medium) ½ cu. ft.	\$ 3.00/bag
Water breakers	\$ 5.00/ ea.

How we measured quantities:

¼ cubic foot mix or bark will fill approximately:

- (15) 4” pots
- (8) 5” pots
- (5) 6” pots
- (3) 7” pots
- (2) 8” pots

Contact Cheryl Mizak at (203) 264-6096 to preorder.



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

From New Haven, CT:

- Take I-91 North to exit 10 (Route 40)
- Follow Rt. 40 to the end (last exit—for Mount Carmel/Cheshire)
- Turn right onto Route 10 North (Whitney Ave.)
At the traffic light for the intersection of Rt. 10 and Routes 68/70 West
Turn left onto Main St. –which runs into Maple Ave. at the next traffic light.
Proceed straight ahead on Maple Ave. Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the right after the Victorian House Restaurant.

From Waterbury:

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

From Hartford via I-91:

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

From Hartford via I-84:

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