



# Connecticut Orchid Society

## Newsletter Oct. 2016

*57 Years & Growing*

*The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut*

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest*

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016,**

(See last pg. 7 for map & directions)

**Farmington Senior Center**

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

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

7:30 pm: Business meeting begins

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

Members with last names beginning with "A" through "M", please bring goodies for this month's refreshment table.



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

Connecticut Orchid Society (COS) is an incorporated non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1959. Please consider making a charitable contribution to COS. Most donations made to COS are tax deductible.

### This Month's Featured Event

#### Angraecums and their Relatives for the Home Grower

Presented by Alan Koch



*Laelia purpurata x werkhauseii*

Photo Credit: Gold Country Orchids website home page [www.gcorchids.com](http://www.gcorchids.com)

This program looks at the many miniature and compact African species; and their hybrids that do well in the home. Lots of great cultural tips on them also.

This month we welcome Alan Koch, owner of Gold Country Orchids, Lincoln, California, back to speak about *Angraecums*. Alan has been in business for over 30 years providing orchid growers with outstanding miniature and compact *Cattleyas*.

Please join us for another of Alan's excellent presentations. He will be bringing some of his plants for sale.

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

Join us on Facebook



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### Connecticut Orchid Society Mission Statement

The Connecticut Orchid Society is an incorporated, non-profit association for the preservation and extension of knowledge concerning the conservation, ecology, science, cultivation, hybridization, appreciation and uses of orchids; and to carry on such activities as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate such purposes.

## 2016 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

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REFRESHMENT CO-CHAIR	Chris & Julie Santarsiero	(203) 879-0782
WEB MASTER	Mary Rampone	(203) 263-2831

### Mentor List



The following COS members are available to answer your culture questions and help you with any orchid growing problems you may have:

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

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

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

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

**Sharon SmithDelisle** [editor@ctorchids.org](mailto:editor@ctorchids.org) (203) 744-1849 (Contact anytime) Under lights & windowsill growing methods: Bulbophylums, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera.

**David Tognalli** [dtog54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtog54@sbcglobal.net) (860) 521-7249 (Contact evenings & weekends) Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums & mixed genera.

**COS Membership Information : \$20/yr. Individual \$25/yr. Family \$200 Individual or \$250 Family Lifetime Membership (never pay dues again!) Visit [www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org) to apply for/renew membership. We accept Paypal. Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at [www.COSMembership@earthlink.net](mailto:www.COSMembership@earthlink.net) for more details.**

**Membership Policy** Membership is open to anyone interested in orchids. Members join the Society by payment of annual dues. Memberships may be individual, student, family, life or honorary. Honorary membership is for life and is made by nomination of the Board of Directors and majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting. The newsletter is published each month except July and August. Annual membership includes electronic delivery of the newsletter.

## Upcoming Events



**Oct. 12 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville CT, 7:00 pm, An *graecums and Their Relatives for the Home Grower* presented by Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids, Lincoln, CA.**

**Oct. 15 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**

**Nov. 9 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT, 7:00 pm. Topic TBA.**

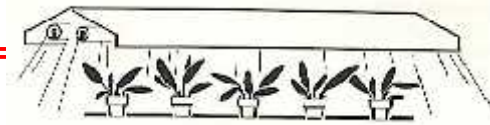
**Nov. 4-6 Massachusetts Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale, Mahoney's Garden Center, 242 Cambridge St., Winchester, MA. Visit [massorchid.org/show](http://massorchid.org/show) for more details.**

**Nov. 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**



**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.

## Sept. Show Table —



~ Dave Tognalli

<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Amesiella monticola</i>	T. Russell	i, l
<i>Angraecum</i> Lemforde White Beauty ( <i>magdalenae</i> x <i>sesquipedale</i> )	T. Russell	i, l
<i>Brassavola cuculatta</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Catasetum</i> Alexa	M. Sabolcok	w, g
<i>Cattleya</i> hybrid ig.	T. Zamojski	i, w
<i>Cattleya maxima</i> var. <i>semi-alba</i> 'La Perena'	G. McGeough	i, l
<i>Cattleya purpurata</i> var. <i>flamea</i> 'Nancy' FCC/AOS syn. <i>Lealia</i>	G. McGeough	, g
<i>Cattleya purpurata</i> var. <i>sanguinea</i> 'Chitoshi' AM/AOS syn. <i>Lealia</i>	G. McGeough	i, l
<i>Habeneria rhodocheila</i>	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Oncidium</i> intergeneric hybrid ig.	C. Koch	c, g
<i>Oncidium</i> Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy'	J. Arth	i, w
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> ( <i>sukhakulii</i> x <i>rothschildianum</i> )	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Rhynchovanda</i> Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' syn. <i>Neostylis</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Stanhopea jenishiana</i>	M. Rampone	i, g
<i>Stanhopea jenishiana</i> 'Baker's Orange Lantern'	G. McGeough	i, l
<i>Vanda</i> Sagarik Gold syn. <i>Ascocentrum</i> ( <i>miniatum</i> x <i>curvifolium</i> )	T. Zamojski	i, w

Culture is as noted:

c – cool  
w – warm  
ws – windowsill

i – intermediate  
g – greenhouse  
l – lights

Dave Tognalli and Jan Lesnikowski have teamed up to coordinate monthly photos of Show Table plants with the Show Table list. Please see the next page for September's Show Table beauties. Many thanks to Dave, Jan and all of our members for making our monthly Show Tables such a success. A special thanks to Dave Tognalli for checking plant names and registrations. Dave personally makes each plant look like an AOS award winner!



outstanding examples of members' Show Table beauties. Many thanks to Dave, Jan and all of our members for making our monthly Show Tables such a success. A special thanks to Dave Tognalli for checking plant names and registrations. Dave personally makes each plant look like an AOS award winner!

## Show Table Beauties

All photos were taken by Jan Lesnikowski, with many thanks.



*Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy'*  
Autumn is *Oncidium* blooming season and isn't this a spectacular example. Judy Arth brought this plant to the Show Table.



This lovely *Vanda* was brought to the Show Table by Ted Zamojski



Meet 'Bluebird', a very delightful shade of blue purple. Brought to the Show Table by Monty Sabolcik.



Monty Sabolcik brought this *Catasetum* to the Show Table. We don't see this species often enough at the Show Table.



Another beautiful plant from Monty Sabolcik.



This magnificent hanging, scented specimen caused quite a stir at the meeting. It was brought to the Show Table by Mary Rampone.



And not to be outdone, this equally magnificent plant was also brought to the Show Table by Glenn McGeough.



Another seasonal *Oncidium*. This beauty was brought to the Show Table by Carla Koch.



Tom Russell brought this sweet little mounted *Amesilla* to the Show Table.



It is very hard to decide which of these three *Cattleyas* is more lovely. Glenn McGeough brought all of them to the Show Table. Wow!



But this *Cattleya* was brought to the Show Table by Ted Zamojski and just as beautiful as the other three.



## Meeting Minutes

Sept. 14 meeting:

### The Wonders of Orchid Roots

Greg Griffis is responsible for growing over 6,000 orchids at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. While other speakers have talked about how to grow a variety of orchids, Greg's talk focused specifically on orchid roots. Epiphytic orchids, which harmlessly cling to trees for support and get their nutrients and moisture from the surrounding environment, have roots that are surrounded by velamen. Velamen is the visible, spongy outer layer. It temporarily stores water and food, and also attaches the plant to its support. Velamen absorbs more water with age and appears green when wet. Epiphytes have greater or fewer layers of velamen depending on the type of orchid.

Epiphytic roots are designed to absorb the greatest amount of water in the shortest amount of time, thereby taking advantage of rain when it is available. These roots are long-lived and will photosynthesize sunlight. Photosynthesis is mainly accomplished by the leaves of the plant, but both roots and rhizomes can supplement the process. Certain orchids that are considered terrestrial (earth dwelling) actually have epiphytic roots, including paphiopedilums, cymbidiums, and masdevallias. In contrast to the roots of epiphytes, truly terrestrial roots have a shorter lifespan and are not photosynthetic.

To quote Greg, "The life of the plant is in the new roots". That explains why the best time to repot an orchid is often when new root tips are just starting to show. In the case of cattleyas, for example, new root tips will begin to show either shortly before or shortly after a new growth has flowered. At that time the plant should be repotted to allow the new roots time and space to grow.

Greg has designed a system for watering that relies on several criteria. He suggests paying close attention to the "wet-dry cycle": how long it takes for a pot to go from moist to dry. He also advocates using native plant conditions as a guide, and recommends referencing Orchid Wiz and the Margaret & Charles Baker orchid guides, both of which are accessible online.

A related factor to consider is media moisture retention: does the planting medium dry quickly or does it hold moisture? Again, he suggests looking at conditions

## President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Oct 2016 message

Hello Everyone —

With fall weather finally starting to arrive, I am guessing everyone is in the process of bringing in their orchids. With the warm humid conditions we had this summer, many have had a real growth spurt. It is always exciting to see, with the start of the cooler temperatures, the spikes starting to form.

Just a reminder COS will be participating in the Mass. Orchid Society show the first week of November. We will need to borrow your blooming plants for our display. Who knows, you may even win a ribbon or two! Just ask the members who have been surprised with those awards. We will be announcing the plant pick-up and collection locations at the next meeting.

Don't forget the next AOS *Open Mike* with Ron McHatton will be Tues., Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. You don't have to be a member of AOS to listen in. I always learn at least one new tip. It's well worth your time.

This month we are excited to welcome back to our Farmington meeting location Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids. Make sure to check out his plant pre-order list. There's 20% off and no shipping, plus an evening with Alan. He will also have plants available for sale at the meeting.

See you in Farmington.

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in nature to determine the correct medium for each plant. When watering, wait until water emerges from the bottom of the pot. The goal is to thoroughly saturate the medium. It is also beneficial to rinse the leaves with water as long as air circulation is adequate.

Following is a list of resources recommended by Greg:

[www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)

[www.app.kew.org/wcsp/qsearch.do](http://www.app.kew.org/wcsp/qsearch.do)

[www.apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp](http://www.apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp)

[www.orchidwire.com](http://www.orchidwire.com)

— Tom Russell

## Library

### News from the Catts hiding in the stacks



Looking for a couple of good books on general orchid care? We have many excellent books, magazines and pamphlets covering a wide range of orchid-related topics.

Here are a few books that you may find helpful:

- ***Orchids Simplified: An Indoor Gardening Guide*** by Henry Jaworski
  - Eleven chapters with many color step-by-step photos that demonstrate various techniques such as repotting, mounting orchids on cork, photos of pests, building a light stand, photos of the different types of orchid media, etc.
  - Every chapters discusses a different aspect about orchid growing with tips & tricks, how-to's and reassurances.
- ***Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants*** by William Cullina
  - Mr. Cullina was a speaker at COS a few years ago. His helpful book contains many photographs that will guide you with your culture on many individual species of orchid. He offers troubleshooting tips , an excellent full-page table comparing various potting mixes, fertilization and dormancy discussion, pros and cons of different types of water resources such as rainwater vs. reverse osmosis systems, and an excellent section on orchid conservation.
- ***Growing Orchids: A Cultural Handbook*** Prepared by the American Orchid Society
  - This book is my standby, go-to manual for looking up quick answers to culture questions. It has great how-to photos and short, easy paragraphs about orchid care. You can't go wrong with this guide.

To borrow any of these books, please contact me, the librarian, Sharon SmithDelisle at [coseditor@hotmail.com](mailto:coseditor@hotmail.com) or call (203) 744-1849. I will make arrangements with you to bring the books to the next meeting or send them out in the mail.

## Trivia Fun

## Wild & Weird: A Walking Flower

Cheryl Mizak brought this neat tidbit to your editor's attention:

"The orchid mantis, *Hymenopus coronatus*, is one of several species of 'flower mantises' so called for their resemblance to blooms. Also commonly known as a walking-flower mantis, the orchid mantis — native to the rainforests of Southeast Asia — is amazingly camouflaged when sitting on an actual orchid. The mantis' body parts mimic the parts of the flower, its four legs looking nearly identical to orchid petals.

Take a look at our new video on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) and see an orchid mantis on an orchid flower, hunting and eating a fly."



This brilliant, red flowered *Habeneria* was brought to the Show Table by Dave Tognalli.



Charles Darwin would have been pleased to see this orchid at the Show Table. Thanks to grower Tom Russell.

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

**From the North or East:** Take I-84 west from Hartford to exit 38 (Rt. 6). Proceed west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Avenue next to the police station.

**From the South:** Take Rt. 9 north to I-84 west. Proceed as above.

**From the West:** Take I-84 east to exit 37 (Fienemann Rd.). Turn left on Fienemann Rd., go over the highway, then turn left onto Rt. 6. Follow Rt. 6 west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Ave. next to the police station.



Happy Halloween

