



Connecticut Orchid Society

Newsletter Feb. 2017

58 Years & Growing

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 8th, 2017,

(See last pg. 10 for map & directions)

Farmington Senior Center

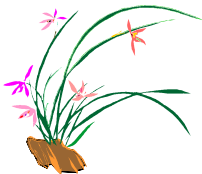
321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT

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 "N" through "Z", please bring goodies for this month's refreshment table.



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

Orchid Mounting Workshop

Interested in growing mounted orchids? Afraid to try? This meeting is for you! Join our experts as they demonstrate the techniques for mounting orchids. You will have a chance to try your hand at doing it, too. Just bring a pair of rubber gloves, all other supplies will be provided by COS.



Refreshment Host/ Hostess Needed

COS is in need of a volunteer to take on the duties of the Refreshment Table.

If you can help with this important job, please contact Dave Tognalli at (860) 521-7249 or dtog54@sbcglobal.net.



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

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The deadline for submissions to the Mar. issue of the newsletter is Feb. 17th.

Contact us:

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president@ctorchids.org
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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.

2017 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

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SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	Cheryl Mizak	(203) 264-6096
REFRESHMENT CO-CHAIR	(Vacant)	—
WEB MASTER	Mary Ellen Wilson	(203) 433-4161

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) 824-0561 (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



Feb. 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Orchid Mounting Workshop, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT, 7:00 pm

Feb. 25-26 Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show, Smith Vocational High School, Northampton, MA. See flyer on pg. 9

Mar. 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Topic TBA, 7:00 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT

Mar. 25 Connecticut Orchid Society will host Orchid Workshops at Sam Bridge Nursery. See page 3 in this newsletter for more details.

Many thanks to David Yerkes for donating his late father's orchid collection to COS. His kind generosity is appreciated.



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.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 11, 2017 meeting were unavailable at press time.

News, Notes & Happenings



Your Blooming Plants are Needed for Upcoming Shows...

Don't forget to bring your blooming plants to the Feb. 8th meeting.

COS participates in many sister orchid societies annual shows. To make our displays a success, we need many blooming plants. Dave, Rebecca and Cheryl will take very good care of your precious babies and make sure they get back to you safe and sound.

Orchid Workshops and Sale Hosted by Sam Bridge Nursery Presented by The Connecticut Orchid Society

Members of The Connecticut Orchid Society will be on hand to hold an orchid class, plant sale and repotting clinic on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Snow date (hopefully not!) will be the following Saturday, April 1.

Basics of Orchid Growing Class – 1:00 to 12:00 AM. This class is geared towards beginner and hobby orchid growers. Expert growers from the Society will cover the basics of growing orchids and share tips and techniques they have learned to grow them well and get them to re-bloom year after year. Audience participation and questions are encouraged. Curious about orchids and how to grow them well? Wondering how to get that orchid you received as a gift to bloom again? This class is for you.

Orchid Repotting Clinic – 12 PM through 3:00 PM. Need some help repotting your orchids? Want to learn the ins and outs of repotting? Anxious about tackling the job yourself? Bring your orchids that need repotting and a clean pot for each. The Society will do the rest and you'll go home with a freshly repotted orchid. The cost starts at \$5.00 per orchid in pots up to 6" and varies for larger pot sizes.

President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Hello—

I hope everyone took an hour to listen to the AOS sponsored talk by Fred Clarke. The talk was as usual excellent with helpful growing tips. No worries if you missed the talk it is available for members on the AOS web site.

February is shaping up to be a very busy show month for COS. There are quite a few opportunities to exhibit your plants in AOS judged shows. First is the Deep Cut show in NJ. I will be setting up on Wed Feb 8th. I definitely will need some of your blooming plants by Sunday the 5th so they can be registered. The same week, Dave Tognalli will be setting up the New Hampshire show. Dave will be able to take any of your blooming plants home from the Wednesday night meeting on the 8th.

Then we move to the Amherst Show. Rebecca will do the set-up. We are in need of a member or members to do the take down on Sunday Feb 26th.

That same week, the Connecticut Flower show is in Hartford. We will have our informational booth in the educational section. We have a few spots to staff our booth still available. Don't forget when you volunteer, a nice feature is you will be able to enter the show for free and have discounted parking. Make sure to let me know as I need to give the list of volunteers to the garden club.

We need everyone's plants! Please don't be bashful! Last year produced several rosette awards for the delighted and surprised owners.

Our Feb. meeting will be lots of fun learning from the masters how to successfully mount Orchids. Bring your rubber gloves. Everything else will be provided.

See you in Farmington —

Cheryl

Orchids for Sale – 10 AM through 4:00. Looking for an interesting orchid to add to your collection? The Society will have a wide variety of orchids for sale that are different than those typically available in the big box and grocery stores. All sale plants will be blooming or in-bud to bloom soon and are appropriate for all growing conditions and beginner growers.

(Proceeds from plant sales and the repotting clinic benefit The Connecticut Orchid Society.)



January Show Table —



~ Dave Tognalli

<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Brassavola cucullata</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Brassavola nodosa</i> (‘Mas Major’ AM/AOS x ‘Susan Fuchs’ FCC/AOS)	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Brassocatanthe</i> Little Marmaid ‘Janet’ AM/AOS syn. <i>Brassocattleya</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Gene May x <i>Brassocattleya</i> Morning Glory syn. <i>Brassolaelia</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cattleya</i> hybrid ig.	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Koolau Seagulls ‘Volcano Queen’ AM/AOS syn. <i>Lealiocattleya</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cattleya loddigesii</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Sergio Araujo	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> var. semi-alba ‘Gold Country’	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cycnoches warscewiczii</i> x <i>Cycnoches</i> Kevin Clarke	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cycnoches warscewiczii</i> x <i>Cycnoches</i> Martha Clarke	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Cymbidium ensifolium</i>	C. Mizak	i. g
<i>Cymbidium</i> hybrid ig.	B. Esselink	i. g
<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> ’	B. Esselink	i. g
<i>Dendrobium</i> Star King ‘Irvine’	R. Schwartz	i. w
<i>Dendrobium</i> Warrior ‘Jordan’ x <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> ‘Windermere’	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Laelia flava</i>	D. Tognalli	i. w
<i>Oncidium</i> hybrid ig.	B. Esselink	i. g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Deperle (<i>primulinum</i> x <i>delenatii</i>)	C. Koch	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Crazy Bull	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid ig. <i>fairrieatum</i> type	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid ig. Complex type	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i>	B. Esselink	i. g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. large white	B. Esselink	i. g

<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Kaboom syn. <i>Brassocattleya</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Uptown Girl syn. <i>Potinara</i>	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Princess Clementine x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Suncoast Sunspots syn. <i>Brassolealiocattleya</i>	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Mahina Yahiro 'Mishima' syn. <i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i>	B. Esselink	i, g
<i>Vanda</i> Pachara Delight 'Pachara'	M. Sabolcik	w, g
<i>Vandachostylis</i> Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' syn. <i>Neostylis</i>	C. Mizak	i, g

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

AOS corner



THE FEBRUARY 2017 AOS CORNER— *From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice-Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee* (dluceroaosmembership@gmail.com)

For newsletter editors:

Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner, in whole or in part, in their society newsletters. We encourage promotion of AOS website use by your members.

Affiliated Societies Committee

The New Year has begun, many beautiful orchids are coming into bloom and exciting things are happening at the AOS. The AOS has a mission to promote and support the passion for orchids through education, conservation and research. At the Fall Planning Session, the Board of Trustees set a path into the future to provide societies and members with access to the wealth of “everything orchid” they hold in their treasure troves. So as technology moves forward, they will make things more available electronically.

Remind your society members, that along with the ever popular culture sheets, you can already see many recorded webinars, take a look at pages of exquisite AOS awarded orchids and the scanning continues of Orchids Magazine where you can already view 29+ years that are now on the website, with more to come.

Just in case you weren't aware... Candace Hollinger of the Affiliated Societies Committee, is doing a wonderful job as our Instagram account administrator. Let everyone know, that if they use Instagram we'd love them to find and follow us at: [americanorchidsociety](https://www.instagram.com/americanorchidsociety/). In the short time our Instagram site has been up we have gained over 1200 followers--and each time we post we get new followers! Amazingly, most of our followers appear to be international—which proves that orchids speak a universal language!

To keep this momentum going, we need your help. Please send your photos and short videos to: americanorchidsociety@gmail.com. Award photos (with credits) from judging centers are very popular. Candid shots and

(Con't. on top of next page)

Upcoming Webinars:

The Dunes and the Mist: Sanctuary and Ledges: Orchids of Southern Brazil

Thursday, February 9, 2017@ 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST *Members Only*

Join Nile Dusdieker as he chronicles a tour through Southern Brazil looking for orchids, with Francisco Miranda and 8 of his closest orchid friends.

Register now using this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2263227416717337859>



Cattleya intermedia 'Memoria Luiz Carlo Pasa' AM/AOS; Photographer: Luiz Filipe Klein Varela

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Tuesday, February 21, 2017@ 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST *Everyone invited*

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions by Sunday, February 19th to stillisch@cox.net.

Register now using this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9087761951054886147>

Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Thanks to Jim Webb for his sharp eye locating this great article!!

Dormant Orchids Need Fungi to Rise Again

Posted by KristenM on January 6th, 2017 [http:// today.uconn.edu/2017/01/dormant-orchids-needfungi-rise/](http://today.uconn.edu/2017/01/dormant-orchids-needfungi-rise/) by Kristen Minogue Small whorled pogonia orchid, *Isotria medeoloides*. (Melissa McCormick/SERC)

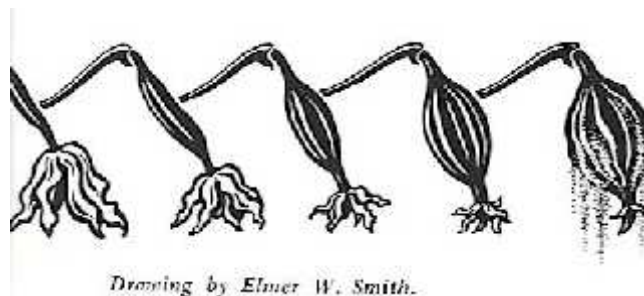
“If you are a plant, when life aboveground turns harsh, you have few options. Some orchids respond by going dormant, spending years to decades underground before reemerging aboveground. But an army of the right fungi may help jolt them out of dormancy, ecologists from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) discovered in a new study published in the American Journal of Botany Friday. Smithsonian scientists have been working to understand the ecology of one particular orchid – including why it enters and exits dormancy. The small whorled pogonia is widely regarded as the rarest orchid east of the Mississippi. Federally listed as threatened, the orchid has vanished from Maryland and is endangered in 16 other states. Melissa McCormick kneels in a Virginia forest with small whorled pogonias. (Dennis Whigham/SERC) Endangered Orchids Underground At first glance, the small whorled pogonia is a strange poster child for orchid conservation. It’s a tiny, unassuming plant with a pale green flower above a whorl of five leaves, or occasionally four or six. “It’s not very fancy at all,” said Rachel RockBlake, who worked with the SERC team as part of her master’s thesis at the University of Connecticut. But, she said, its sensitivity makes it an indicator for the health of the entire forest. “You’ve got this plant that is so in tune with the health of the soil and all of the organisms that live within the soil ... If that plant is failing, it means that there’s a lot of plants and a lot of organisms in that ecosystem that are probably also in danger.” Many small whorled pogonia populations have plants that go dormant and persist underground, perhaps as a way to survive drought, deer or other dangers. While underground, they can secure enough resources to survive and emerge aboveground, most likely because orchids have an underground source of energy: fungi. Fungi grow in and on the roots of almost all terrestrial plants, helping them absorb more water and nutrients in exchange for carbohydrates. But when fungi and orchids interact, only the orchid seems to benefit. In essence, orchids become parasites, digesting fungi as a source of nutrients. Small whorled pogonias, like all other orchids, depend on these fungi, especially during periods of dormancy when they don’t have any leaves to capture sunlight and provide carbon to the plants. The SERC team and Rock-Blake made the first discovery of a possible link between the amount of certain soil fungi and orchid dormancy. They wanted to know whether the amount of fungi in the soil would not only help orchids survive during dormancy, but also help snap them out of it. “If you have something like a fungus that’s a nutrient source for a plant, it seems logical that the more of the fungus there is, the better the plant should grow,” said Melissa McCormick, lead author and SERC molecular ecologist. “But nobody’s ever shown that before.” Continued on page 5

Fungi and Orchids —continued from pg 4 Photo: An odd couple: When fungi encounter an orchid root, the fungus roots form coiled balls called pelotons, like these, which the orchid digests for nutrients. (Liz Kabanoff, University of Western Sydney) which orchids had gone dormant and for how long. The team collected soil from areas next to orchids that had emerged aboveground or were dormant, and analyzed them in the lab to measure how many fungi were present. They were searching specifically for one group of fungi—Russulaceae, a group of fungi the small whorled pogonia uses. The

idea was simple enough: Orchids aboveground should have more fungi in the soil around them. Using DNA to find those fungi was another story. “When you take an amount of soil the size of a lima bean and you have 150 species of fungus in it, being able to pick out just the fungi that you’re interested in or that your plant would be interested in, is difficult,” McCormick said. McCormick, Rock-Blake and SERC intern Hope Brooks did it by using a special fragment of DNA called a primer. The primer latched onto DNA of Russulaceae fungi in the soil samples and nothing else, allowing them to calculate the amount of those fungi in the soil. Within all three sites, soils with the most Russulaceae fungi were more likely to have small whorled pogonias with aboveground shoots. Soils with fewer of those fungi were more likely to have orchids that had lain dormant for two to three years, and soils where there had never been any small whorled pogonias had the fewest Russulaceae fungi. The scientists also showed that to bring orchids back from dormancy, it’s not enough to have just some of the right fungi. “Before, I think we all were running on the assumption that it was just whether the fungus is present or not,” said Dennis Whigham, SERC plant ecologist and co-author. The SERC team showed that having a big enough supply of fungi is just as important as the type. However, what the “right amount” is may depend on the soil. In that, all three sites were different. That leaves scientists another mystery to solve: how to guarantee enough fungi can thrive to support this orchid. McCormick and Whigham discovered in earlier research that some fungi like decomposing wood. Trees may matter as well, as the fungi small whorled pogonias need form relationships with trees as well as orchids. But the answers to conserving endangered plants, McCormick said, often lie beneath the surface. “If you’re concerned about a species you’re trying to conserve and you’re only detecting what’s going on aboveground, you’re not getting the whole picture,” she said.

Learn more: [DNA Offers New Hope for Saving Orchids](#) [Orchid, Fungi and Bacteria Relationships: “It’s Complicated”](#) Rock-Blake, Rachel, McCormick, Melissa, Brooks, Hope, Jones, Cynthia and Whigham, Dennis. “Symbiont abundance can affect host plant population dynamics.” *American Journal of Botany*.

(This article was submitted by Cheryl Mizak—*Editor*)



(This drawing was found in the January 1973 AOS magazine.)

The Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show

February 25-26, 2017

Smith Vocational High School
Northampton, MA
(Next to Cooley Dickinson Hospital)

Saturday, Feb 25th
9AM to 5 PM

Sunday, Feb 26th
10 AM to 4 PM

Admission: \$5.00
(Children under 12 Free)



Bill Benner

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.

