



# Connecticut Orchid Society

## Newsletter June 2017

*58 Years & Growing*

*The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut*

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest*

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday, June 14th, 2017,**

**Farmington Senior Center**

**321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, 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

#### How to Successfully Grow Standard Cymbidiums

Presented by Dick Doran

Dick has been growing orchids for over 30 years. He has received more than 100 AOS awards for his outstanding orchids.

Dick will be bringing divisions of some of his awarded plants for sale at the meeting. Come early for the best selection.



For notice of last-minute or inclement weather cancellation, visit our website

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



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June 2017 Volume LVIII Issue VI

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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.

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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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## Upcoming Events



**June 14 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Speaker Dick Doran will speak on standard cymbidiums, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT**

### 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) 824-0561 (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** [sharonsmithdelisle@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonsmithdelisle@hotmail.com) (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.

### Orchiata Orchid Bark earns Preferred Product Status from American Orchid Society

**AOS cited better rooting, more leaves, longer pot life and other advantages to other potting media.**

#### May 22, 2017 Press Release

The American Orchid Society has announced that Besgrow's Orchiata brand Premium New Zealand Orchid Bark has been designated an AOS-preferred product under its newly launched Preferred Product Program.

Preferred product status is only bestowed once a product has been vetted by the AOS Product Evaluation Committee according to product-specific evaluation criteria and test protocol. Orchiata was found to deliver superior results when compared to alternative potting media as measured by number and length of roots and number and size of leaves. The product also offers several advantages over other potting media, including its ready [to] use straight from the bag, long pot life and superior water/nutrient retention and release. Given the AOS' interest in conservation, the Product Evaluation Committee was also impressed by Besgrow's sustainability practices.

"Orchid growers are faced with many options when it comes to products used in orchid culture," said AOS President George Hatfield. "Choosing what might work best can be daunting, not to mention expensive. When a product earns the AOS 'seal of approval,' orchid growers know they are getting a product that has proven itself."

**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.

## President's Message



Cheryl Mizak

Well it seems like we have skipped spring and gone right to July. It's still early, so be cautious about putting out the really tender orchids. We can still have a surprise cold night or two.

As many of you know, Sharon SmithDelisle has served many positions in COS. Now that Sharon is settling into retired life, and busier than when she was working full-time and going to school, she has decided to retire from some of her COS responsibilities. Sadly, this June issue will be her last news letter. We thank her for her wonderful newsletter that many times was an orchid magazine. I am sure she spent many hours searching for just the right article or tidbit to share.

Introducing your new newsletter editor, Vice President Monty Sabolcik. Please forward all articles for the news letter to Monty.

A big thank you to all the auction plant donors -- what a wonderful selection of large species. The auctioneers Dave, Rebecca & Monty kept everything moving at a fast pace. We realized \$2000.00 to help support our programs. I can't wait to see the plant table at future meetings.

The annual potting workshop last month was a fun time to exchange ideas and watch the orchid Docs in action. A lot of orchids went home happy with fresh media to sink their roots into.

This month, in Farmington, we welcome Dick Doran, who will discuss how to successfully grow standard cymbidiums. Dick has been growing orchids for over 30 years and has received over 100 AOS awards. We are lucky Dick has agreed to bring along some of his award-winning divisions for sale. Come early to check out his sale table.

See you on the 14<sup>th</sup>.  
 --- Cheryl

### May Show Table —



~ Dave Tognalli

<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
<i>Brassidium</i> Nittany Gold ( <i>Brassia verrucosa</i> x <i>Oncidium ghiesbreghtiana</i> )	S. Kennedy	i,g
<i>Bulbophyllum falcatum</i> 'Standing Tall' AM/AOS	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Bulbophyllum falcatum</i> var. <i>flavum</i> 'GC'	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Grammatophyllum</i> Broga Tiger	K. Kuziel	i,g
<i>Jackfowleria</i> Appleblossom syn. <i>Iwanagaara</i> ( <i>Caulaelia</i> Snowflake syn. <i>Dialaelia</i> x <i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Golden Nugget syn. <i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> )	S. Kennedy	i,g

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



## Upcoming Webinars:

### Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 @ 5:30 PM — 6:30 pm, EDT *Everyone invited*

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions to [stillisch@cox.net](mailto:stillisch@cox.net) by Sunday, June 11th.

Register now using this link: <http://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/2368118630129673219>

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

### Vanilla: Growing, Harvesting & Curing with Jim Reddekopp



*Vanilla imperialis* 'Denver Botanic Gardens' HCC/AOS; Photographer: Unknown

Thursday, June 22, 2017 @ 5:30 pm—6:30 pm EDT *Members only*

There's nothing vanilla about **Jim Reddekopp** other than everything he lives and breathes, of course. Join Jim, the owner of the first commercial vanilla operation on the 'Big Island' of Hawaii, as he shares his failures and victories growing, harvesting, and curing the world's most delicate orchid blossom.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5538096413604700930>

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

## 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

### Summer Vacation

In May, when frost danger is past, it's time to put your plants outdoors. It's a vacation for them, and for you too, since they're easier to care for outside. If you grow indoors, nothing will make a bigger difference in getting them to bloom.

**Location.** Dr. Ben Berliner once suggested I summer my orchids in a spot with dappled sun all day, such as under high-branched trees. Unfortunately, my trees are maples, which cast shade so deep that grass won't grow. I ended up using an east-facing porch, which gets full sun all morning and shade from noon on. It works fine. Try to find a spot, which at least gets shade in the heat of the day. If you're ambitious, you can provide your own "dappled shade" with a lath structure or window screening (double thickness).

**Light.** The difference in light levels between outdoors and a windowsill, to say nothing of under lights, can have an amazing effect on your plants. One of my first orchids was SLC Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'. I bought it in flower. Then, on a windowsill for the next two years, it just grew leaves. Finally I put it, and most of my other orchids, outside on my porch. That winter my Jewel Box bloomed profusely. From then on I've been putting almost all of my orchids outdoors in the summer.

**Leaf burn.** Leaf burn isn't much of a danger outdoors. The heat can't build up like it does in greenhouses. Just use common sense. Don't put your orchids in full sun all day, and put the cooler-growing types in back of the sun-lovers.

**Watering.** Outside, you don't have to lug your plants to the sink to water them. This alone is a prime reason for summering them outdoors. Because of more sun and natural winds, they will dry out much faster than inside. Inside most of my plants get watered once or twice a week. Outside I water every plant every day. They dry fast enough that the medium doesn't decompose excessively.

**Fertilizing.** Because the orchids are growing faster outdoors, and because of the frequent watering, you should fertilize more often. I fertilize once a week outdoors.

**Temperature.** There is a much larger day-night temperature difference outdoors, as well as a lower night minimum most of the time. Both are highly beneficial for all orchids. Only during heat waves would cool growers (like odontoglossums) do better inside in your air conditioning or your basement. Also, many varieties are encouraged to set spikes by leaving them outside in the fall until the night temperatures get down to 50.

**Pests.** My porch is several steps above the ground, which seems to foil slugs and crawling insects. Last summer a bug chewed through a developing spike on my *Doritis pulcherrima*. That's been the only problem in four summers.

(This article was first published in the May 1989 newsletter)



*Is the Lady slipper Flower Endangered?*  
*Lady Slipper Facts*

The following article was sent to your editor by Cheryl Mizak.

**Is it illegal to pick a lady slipper flower? Because the plant takes many years to grow from seed to maturity, special rules are in place to ensure its survival. Learn more!**

◆ Shelley Wigglesworth, May 18, 2017

The lady slipper flower —also known as the moccasin flower — is North America’s own much admired and often misunderstood wild native orchid. Here you’ll learn more about the folklore, growth process, and growing conditions of this beautiful and alluring New England wildflower.



Is the lady slipper flower endangered? We set out to learn more. Here’s a lovely lady slipper specimen in Amherst, New Hampshire.

### Lady Slipper Facts

**What is a Lady Slipper Flower?** Though they are named for their resemblance to a delicate pair of feminine slippers in hues of pink, white, or variegated colors, the lady slipper flower is a hardy perennial that is able to withstand the brutal New England winters. They emerge and flower in New England forests between the months of May and July.

**History of the Lady Slipper Flower** Native American folklore tells the story of a young maiden who ran barefoot in the snow in search of medicine to save her tribe, but was found collapsed on the way back from her mission with swollen, frozen feet. As a result, beautiful lady slipper flowers then grew where her feet had been as a reminder of her bravery. In addition to inspiring folklore, lady slipper roots were also widely used by Native Americans as medicinal herbs. (Con’t. on next page)

CONSERVATION & EDUCATION



A crowd of lady slipper plants in a New England forest.

**Lady Slipper Growth & Survival** A stubborn plant, the lady slipper can take many years to grow and develop from seed to mature plants. They rely on a process called symbiosis to survive, which is typical of most orchid species. Symbiosis is when an organism, in this case a fungus found in the soil, is needed for a plant to grow and thrive. The fungus breaks open the lady slipper seed and attaches to it, passing on the food and nutrients needed for it to flourish. Once the lady slipper is mature and producing its own nutrients, the fungus will extract nutrients from the orchid roots.

**Is the Lady Slipper Endangered?** Once established, lady slipper plants will propagate on their own and live for many years if left undisturbed. Because a picked lady slipper will not rejuvenate itself, and the plant has a less than 5% transplant success rate, they are often considered “off limits” to pickers and diggers. Some species of lady slipper are listed as endangered or threatened in New England. Others, like the common Pink Lady’s Slipper, are listed as “special concern” under the Native Plant Protection Act. Although regulations on picking or transplanting lady slipper plants vary from state to state, either practice is generally discouraged and it is illegal to pick or dig up lady slipper plants on Federal properties.



## 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](mailto:editor@ctorchids.org) or 38 Robinhood Rd., Danbury, CT 06811.

Dear Readers—

All good things must come to an end, someday. For me, that day is here. After 11 + years as your editor, it is time for me to retire. As you know, creating the COS newsletter month after month; and year after year has not been a job for me. It has been a labor of love. I hope along the way you have gained some useful orchid growing tidbits, short cuts and how-to's to help you with your orchid growing culture. Thank you for being such faithful readers; patient with my many errors and mistakes. It's been a wonderful journey and I've learned so very much along the way.

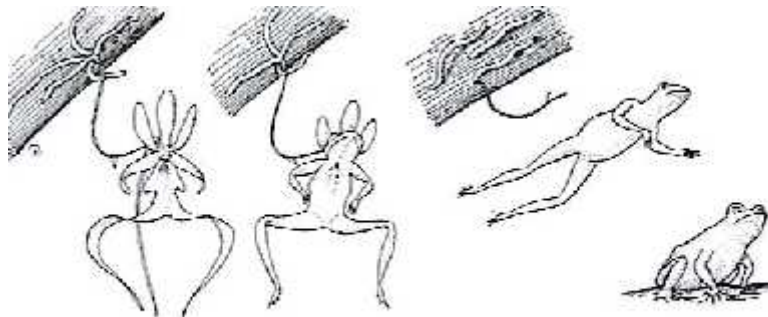
Take good care of your orchid babies, and keep on reading and learning about orchids—it is the key to your continued growing success! — Sharon SmithDelisle

## 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.



Drawing by Ruth Sheehan