



## Newsletter

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The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with The American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest

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## Next Meeting

Wednesday October 10th, 2018  
Farmington Senior Center  
321 New Britain Avenue,  
Unionville, CT

6:30 pm.: Doors open. Socializing.  
Come early and help set up.  
7:30 pm: Business meeting.  
8:00 pm: Featured speaker and/or  
presentation.

Please bring a snack for the  
refreshments table!

Don't forget to bring your blooming  
plants for the show table!

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

## Featured Event

### Orchids of Borneo

In the Footsteps of Alfred  
Russell Wallace

Speaker: Tom Sampliner

## President's Message

Hello Everyone.

Now that we have learned how to properly prep our plants for fall & next year's blooming, I hope everyone is diligently working on bringing in all of your plants. Take care of fall housekeeping now.

Coming soon is the MOS show and sale. They have changed their venue to the Sons of Italy in Winchester Mass. Keep your eyes out for spiking as we will need to borrow your blooming orchids for the COS display.

Fall is the time of year to renew your membership. Dues remain the same \$20 for single and \$25 for family. Please see Mary, Dave or myself. Confirm we have your current contact information.

We are excited to announce our library is finally catalogued and organized. Sharon has worked hard to bring it up to speed. When you see all the reference material available you will understand what a labor of love it was. Many thanks to Sharon and her dedication to the library. Maryellen will begin posting the titles soon.

This month in Farmington we welcome Tom Sampliner from Cleveland Ohio. Tom takes fabulous pictures—quite the accomplished photographer. He will take us on a tour of the Orchids of Borneo.

Cheryl



## Upcoming Events

### October 6

AOS Judging at Tower Hill Boylston, MA

Deep Cut OS Annual Auction Oceanport, NJ

### October 20

Mid-Hudson OS Show and Sale Newburgh, NY

### November 2-4

MOS Show and Sale Winchester, MA

## Upcoming AOS Webinars

All webinars from 8:30-9:30PM EST

Registration at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

### Oct 9: Orchiata Bark

Presenter Garry Clark, Group General Manager for BestGrow and learn all about the potting media Orchiata., Advanced Registration (space is limited) required.

### Oct 18: AOS Greenhouse Chat

Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, will hold a Q&A session on orchid culture. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is free for everyone.

### Nov 7: AOS Greenhouse Chat

## Orchids in the News

A new species of orchid (*Andinia tingomariana*) has been discovered in the Peruvian rainforest: read more [here](#).

What is eating the endangered orchids of Japan? read more [here](#)

## Your Origin Story

How did you come to grow orchids? Everyone has a story. Some are more interesting or involved than others. What's your story? Share it here! No need to disclose how many orchids have gone to the compost pile (it's a lot: it always is).



## Catasetum Season

This one is growing on my windowsill: Ctsm. Green Dragon (Ctsm. schmidtianum x Ctsm. Orchidglade 'JTM'). Not sure how it earned that hybrid name. The only green part is the lip frill.



As per Fred Clarke's instructions, keep watering your catasetum until it loses all its leaves and goes dormant. Then ignore it until the new growths fan out in the late spring. Or force your catasetum to go dormant on January 1<sup>st</sup> by stopping all watering. If the pseudobulbs shrink too much over the winter, mist lightly.

If you have a hybrid that blooms during dormancy, there is no need to water it. The plant has stored enough energy over the summer to bloom, and watering the plant may cause the spike to blast and buds to drop.

Some people remove the bulbs from the pot and media, as all the roots die back, but this discourages dormant-blooming hybrids from putting out a spike. The removal is done to make repotting in the spring easier. Other than that, there is no need to remove the plant during dormancy. Ignore them all winter!



# Joe Silva's Advice for Preparing Orchids for Winter

Joe gave some growing guidelines to follow in September and October for the most common genera we grow:

**Cymbidiums:** Heavy fertilizing up until mid-July when fertilizing should either stop or switch to a blossom booster formula (low nitrogen, high phosphate – the first number is low and middle number is high). Plants must be subjected to cool night time temperatures in October to finish off the flower spikes. However, watering must be reduced and the plants grown relatively dryly or else rot can occur. Outside is good but protected from rain so you can control the watering.

**Cattleyas:** Increase light as much as possible. Silva Orchids removes any shade cloth over their Cattleyas by mid-September. Ideally Cattleya leaves should be medium to light green, not dark green which means too little light. Dial back on fertilizer to harden off the growths. You don't want to encourage new growth now as, with reduced light and day length, it will be soft and not bloom well.

**Phalaenopsis:** They are lower light plants than other genera discussed. But now you want to increase light. Not to the extent you would for Cattleyas but brighter than during the previous months. Silva Orchids grows their Phalaenopsis in a greenhouse with whitewash for shade. This month they remove the whitewash not entirely but in stripes to bolster the light. Also change fertilizer to be a blossom booster (see Cymbidiums above). They need to stay warmer than other genera but subjecting them to a week of temperatures in the low 50's at night in early October, combined with the higher light, will encourage flower spikes to form for winter blooming. For the short time the temperature is lowered, make sure to keep them dryer than usual to prevent rot. Phalaenopsis are prone to crown rot if temperatures are low and water accumulates in their leaves.

**Vandas:** These are the warmest growers. They should wait until about mid-June to go outside and be coming inside by mid-September. They do not grow well with temperatures below 60 degrees. They like a lot of water year round. In the hot months you can water the entire plant. But starting in September, Silva Orchids starts to only water the roots to prevent crown rot and other types of rot.

**Oncidiums:** Increase light levels and reduce watering to harden off the plants.

Silva Orchids adds Epsom salts at the rate of 1 lb. to 100 gallons of water at this time of year as it helps to build strong cell walls. That is a strong dosage so for household growing you might cut that in half.



## September Show Table

Culture is as noted: C- cool I-Intermediate W-Warm; G- Greenhouse WS- windowsill L- Lights

Brassavolacucullata	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Brassavolanodosa	D. Tognalli	i, ws
CattleyaLeoloddiglossa var. coerulea (2 plants) (Leoloddiglossa var. coerulea 'Blue Sky' xleopoldii var. coerulea 'Kathleen' JC/AOS)	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Cattlianthe Secret Love	D. Tognalli	i, ws
Habenaria (Tracey x medusa)	T. Zamojski	i, ws
Habenariarhodocheila	D. Tognalli	i,ws
MiltassiaEstrelita 'Sweet Senorita'	K. Kuziel	i,ws
Miltassia (Brassiaverrucosa x Miltoniaspectabilis)	K. Kuziel	i,ws
MiltassiaSchelob	K. Kuziel	i,ws
Mormolycaringens	C. Mizak	i, g
MonnieraraMillenium Magic 'Witchcraft' FCC/AOS	D. Tognalli	i, ws
Mormodes Painted Desert x Catasetumbarbatum	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Paphiopedilum(Snow Cap x fairrieatum 'Little White Fairy')	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Phalenopsisesequestris	R. Schwartz	i, ws
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. pink	K. Kuziel	i, ws
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. white	D. Tognalli	i, ws
Rhyncholaeliocattleya(Cattleya Circle of Life 'Fordyce Herald Angel' AM/AOSx Rhyncholaeliocattleya Loud Nine 'SVO Screaming Red' AM/AOS)	M. Sabolcik	i, g





*Phalenopsis equestris*



*Vanda Suksamran Beauty*  
*'Bubblicious'*  
syn. *Ascocenda*



*Brassia verrucosa* x  
*Miltonia spectabilis*



*Mormolyca ringens*



*Cattlianthe*  
*Secret Love*



*Habenaria (Tracey x medusa)*



*Phalaenopsis hybrid ig.*



*Spathoglottis plicata  
var. alba*



*Phalaenopsis hybrid ig.*



*Miltassia Estrelita  
'Sweet Senorita'*

### **Your Opinion Matters**

Is there something in the newsletter you'd like to see? Is it an article you've written? Is there something you wish you didn't see in the newsletter? Which section do you read first? Which do you skip?

This is YOUR newsletter! Let us know!



*Paphiopedium* (Snow Cap x fairrie anum 'Little White Fairy')



*Brassavola cucullata*



*Miltassia Schelob*



*Habenaria rhodocheila*



*Cattleya Circle of Life* 'Fordyce Herald Angel' AM/AOS  
x *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Loud Nine* 'SVO Screaming Red'



*Mormodes Painted Desert*  
x *Catasetum barbatum*

## Homemade Insecticidal Soap

1-2 drops dish soap  
1-2 drops cinnamon extract  
1 gallon water



## September Meeting Minutes – Sept 12, 2018

To begin Cheryl asked the members present what they thought of the September newsletter. Response was positive to the new format. On page 7 of the newsletter are a few questions posed to the membership regarding the newsletter. Please take a look and provide feedback so we can provide a newsletter you value.

Our membership chairperson, Mary Rampone, then reminded the members that it was time for members to consider renewing their memberships for 2019. Membership must be renewed annually. Individual memberships are \$20 and family memberships are \$25. Payment can be made directly to Mary at a meeting, sending a check made out the Connecticut Orchid Society to Mary, or online using Paypal.

Cheryl concluded the business meeting with announcements of upcoming events. The Deep Cut Orchid Society is holding an orchid auction on Saturday, October 6, at the Monmouth Park Race Track in New Jersey. Admission is free. There will be a buffet lunch available for \$12.50. Around 300 plants are expected to be presented at auction. Check out the Society's website for more details.

Cheryl introduced this month's speaker, Joe Silva, from Silva Orchids located in Neptune, New Jersey. Joe's topic was How to Prepare Your Orchids for the Winter.

Joe's father started Silva Orchids in the late 1950's. Silva Orchids does not buy in orchids from other growers and sell them to the public. They make their own hybrids, and raise the orchids they sell both from seed and mericlone. As such, Joe could offer practical advice on how to grow and bloom orchids for our membership as growing in Connecticut is not much different than growing in Northern New Jersey.

September and October is a delicate time of the year for growers in the Northeast. There is much work to do and attention to be paid to our orchids. Joe stressed several times that this is the time of year to 'finish off' the growing that has been done in the Spring and Summer so our orchids are prepared to grow well through the Winter and bloom to their optimum potential in the coming months. See his recommendations on page 4 for the major genera we grow.

Our seasons are shorter in the Northeast than in places like Florida, California and Hawaii where many commercial orchid growers are located. As such, we have to grow plants harder and tougher than growers in warmer climates in order to bloom them well.

Joe also gave the following general tips for growing well:

- If you use bark as a medium, Silva Orchids has found greatly improved results using Orchidata instead of regular bark.
- When repotting, use a potting stick and not your hands to pack the medium in tightly between the orchid and the edges of the pot. Some roots will get damaged in repotting. But if you repot in the Spring/Summer the plant will easily recover. September is the latest Joe recommends repotting. Outside of then, only repot if the plant needs to be repotted to survive.
- When bringing a new plant into your collection, always isolate it for a couple of weeks and make sure it does not have bugs or diseases before mixing it into your collection.
- Fungicides are very helpful in stopping and controlling fungal infections, like pythium rot, which can develop now as a result of cooler and wetter conditions. Silva Orchids uses Subdue and Aliette which are designed for greenhouse/commercial use. If growing in the house, search the internet for safer fungicides to use.

The meeting concluded with a raffle and Joe Silva's review of the show table which, though small, included a wide variety of orchids representing many different genera.

Dave Tognalli

## 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)  
Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

**Sharon Smith Delisle** [sharonsmithdelisle@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonsmithdelisle@hotmail.com)  
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.

Connecticut Orchid Society 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.



## COS Membership Information

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. Annual membership includes electronic delivery of the newsletter. The newsletter is published each month except July and August.

**COS Membership Dues:** \$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 [COSMembership@earthlink.net](mailto:COSMembership@earthlink.net) for details.



## 2018 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

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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.