



## Newsletter

March 2019

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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 March 13th, 2019  
Cheshire Senior Center  
240 Maple Ave, Cheshire, 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 Events

COS Spring Show!

March 30-31

March Meeting  
Repotting Workshop

## President's Message

Hello everyone,

February was a very busy month for COS. We participated in 3 flower shows. A big thank you to Tom G for taking lead on the set up at Deep Cut and Amherst. Plants returned with lots of ribbons. Congrats and thank you to all who lent their plants for the displays. The COS, thanks to Tom's artistic eye and the help of Sue K and Chris A our display at Amherst took 1st place.

Our display at the Hartford Flower Show received a 2nd place. COS received a nice thank you note from the show committee for participating. Many volunteered time to staff our booth and be ambassadors for COS. Now we are on the fast track for our show March 29 – 31st.

- If you have divisions of plants, please consider donating them to the club sales table. Plants can be brought to the March meeting.
- Friday March 29, we will need help setting up the display and sales areas—placing tables and signs, and folding the table cloths.
- Tom G has volunteered to take lead on our display. PLEASE make sure to let him know if you will be having blooming plants for our display. We will need about 90 plants. Also, consider helping with the display assembly. We must have everything set up by 9PM.
- Saturday morning the judges will need a few good helpers to place ribbons on plants. It is a great opportunity to listen and learn.
- Saturday and Sunday we will need hosts and hostesses to greet guests. Direct them to the show, vendor, and lecture areas.
- Sunday afternoon at the close of the show – 4pm – we will need a break down/clean up team. Tables will need to be cleaned, table cloths folded, and floors to be swept.

There will be sign-up sheets at the March Meeting.

THIS MONTHS MEETING AT THE CHESHIRE SENIOR CENTER! We will have our annual potting workshop. Have questions about when, how, what size pot or what to use? Don't hesitate to bring your plants. The Orchid Docs will be answering your questions. If you would like one of the Docs to pot your plant-- please bring clean pots. We recommend one size smaller, one the same size and one larger; you just never know what will be needed. Material fee of \$5.00 for pots 4 inch and smaller. Larger sizes tbd.

See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl

## CALL FOR PLANTS

**We need your divisions for our member's sale table and blooming plants for our show table at our spring show!**

## Upcoming AOS Webinars

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

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

### March 12: Choosing the Best Plants

How to pick a good orchid

### March 26: 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.



## Upcoming Events

### February 23 – April 28

New York Botanical Garden "Orchid Show: Singapore"  
Bronx, NYC

### March 2

AOS Judging Boylston, MA

\*\*\*\***March 30-31**\*\*\*\*

Connecticut Orchid Society Show Bristol, CT

## COS Library

Our library is fully categorized. There are currently 227 individual titles as well as AOS Orchid magazines and Orchid Digests. These resources are available to any society member.

To request a book, contact Cheryl.

Take a look [here](#).

## Orchids in the News

An article of orchid addiction, featuring one of our own: [here](#).

The Making of the Michelle Obama orchid: read more [here](#).

Zambian appetite for orchids is endangering them in the wild: more [here](#).

# January Show Table

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

Bletilla striata	D. Tognalli	i, w
Brassavola Little Stars	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Cattleya Drumbeat 'Victory' syn. Brassolealiocattleya	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Cattleya Jose Martin 'Mothers Favorite'	T. Gargano	i, g
Cattleya trianaei 'La Moriaquita'	G. McGeough	i, g
Cattleya warszewiczii var. semi-alba 'Marjorie'	G. McGeough	i, g
Cattlianthe Loog Tone syn. Laeliocattleya	C. Allen	w, l
Cattlianthe Orglade's Spotlight	D. Tognalli	i, w
Cymbidium hybrid ig. pink	C. Allen	c, g
Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'	C. Allen	c, g
Dendrobium All Season Blue	C. Allen	i, l
Dendrobium (Aussie Chip x rhodostictum)	C. Allen	i, l
Dendrobium (Gilleston Jazz 'Seven' x Ten Tosca Starburst 'Red Wine')	R. Heigel	i, g
Dendrobium (Golden Vista 'SVO' x Dunokayla Tuyet)	T. Gargano	i, g
Dendrobium kingianum	C. Allen	c, g
Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Maxillaria porphyrostele	C. Mizak	i, g
Maxillaria schunkeana	C. Mizak	i, g
Paphiopedilum Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS	R. Heigel	i, g
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. mini-white	D. Tognalli	i, w
Phalaenopsis Kaoda Twinkle 'Chocolate Drop'	D. Tognalli	i, w
Phalaenopsis Red Cat 'Red Cat'	D. Tognalli	i, w
Phalaenopsis stuartiana f. nobilis	D. Tognalli	i, w
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Dan O'Neil 'Jubilee' AM/AOS syn. Brassolealiocattleya	C. Gargano	w, g
Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Cattleya Circle of Life syn. Slc. x Rhyncholaeliocattleya Loud Nine syn. Potinara)	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Marcella Koss 'Pink Marvel' syn. Brassolaeliocattleya	M. Sabolcik	i, g

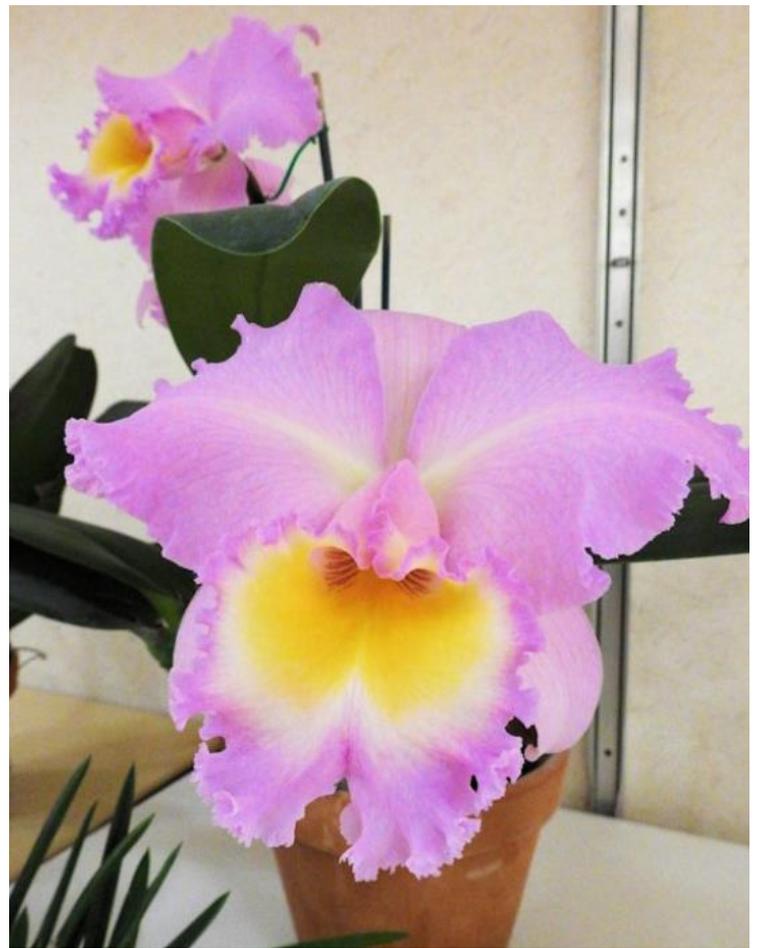




### **Homemade Insecticidal Soap**

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





## February Meeting Minutes

Feb 13, 2019

Our speaker was Beth Off of Waldor Orchids in New Jersey, who gave us a quick tour of many favorite “Beth” species. Waldor has large commercial greenhouses, where exotica such as *Coelogyne* and *Isabelia* are hiding under the benches, still blooming and thriving despite cooler temperatures on occasion.

Many of her favorite species were discussed, such as *Maxillarias*, not just the coconut-scented *tenuifolia*, but red-flowered *sophranitis* and the pink *scalariformis*; hanging *Stanhopeas*, boasting 55 species; many tiny-flowered *Dendrochilums*, such as *magnum* or *wenzellii*; and the smelly but cute *Bulbophyllums*, such as *caudatum* and *makoyanum*.

Some large species were examined as well, notably a plant called *Trichotosia vulpina* (formerly an *Eria*) which is 6 feet tall and adorned with red hairs. *Schomburkia* ‘Wellesley’ has 3 foot long flower stalks. *Sobralias* are tall, willowy plants with short-lived *Cattleya*-like flowers. *Vanilla planifolia* is a long vine with green flowers after it reaches 6 feet tall. Beth was enthusiastic and informative throughout, and a fountain of information.





## BAG IT — TAG IT — FORGET IT - Mini greenhouse for one

A trick I learned from experimentation and Mother wisdom. Thought I would share it with you.

So you have a treasured orchid (any species or hybrid) and it needs some tender loving care. The plant has minimal roots, or no roots but a solid healthy pseudobulb. Or maybe it is a Kiki that you want give a little push. Rather than toss into the compost pile. Why not try (A Plastic Bag Greenhouse). The trick is simple and fast. It does require a lot of patience as time is on your side. LEAVE IT ALONE once prepared!!!. Warning: There will be failures but then it is always worth the try. The wisdom I was told long before I ever thought about growing orchids was "Everything good is worth the wait." This is the key to success. Here is how it works.

Supplies needed:

1. Plastic Bag – Clean unused ziplock bag. The size of the bag should be big enough to enclose the entire specimen and about 2 to 3 inches of medium. Use a bag small enough to give the piece of plant comfort but not so much air space that the moss cannot sustain moisture or gets too wet. The latter is more than likely to cause the specimen to rot. No worries this happens. Don't give up.
2. New Zealand Sphagnum- A good handful to support and be under the plant to continue to provide moisture. (Avoid using moss from a garden center it is not clean.)
3. Rooting Hormone.



4. Super Thrive.
5. A warm place for it to rest for a long period of time in indirect light.
6. Lots of patience.

Prepare your plant for the Mini Bag Greenhouse

1. Clean all dead material from the plant.
  - a. Clean all dead roots if you have roots. Snip the roots back to "live active roots."
  - b. If you do not have any roots and you are holding a pseudobulb with nothing showing, use a sterile razor blade and shave off the bottom of the bulb. Not much just to get to live tissue.
  - c. Dip the end of your pseudobulb in fresh and preferably organic cinnamon (a natural anti fungal agent).

Continued on next page

## BAG IT — TAG IT — FORGET IT - Mini greenhouse for one, cont.

2. Prepare your sphagnum moss, large enough to cover the entire bag with about 2 to 3 inches height.
  - a. Use distilled water or even tap water but remember orchids like a ph that is between 5.8 and 6.3 ph (slightly acidic). Most home tap water is around 7.2ph or higher. Soak the moss so it is completely wet. Use warm water.
  - b. MOST IMPORTANT: Squeeze as much water out as you can and place the moss in the bottom of your bag. This becomes the floor of your mini greenhouse. I am currently experimenting with a layer of clay balls or small rocks that hold moisture under the moss but the rooting takes place in the moss and am finding this is too wet.
3. Using an eye dropper and drop some Super Thrive on the fresh cut and, if you want, on some of the sphagnum where you are going to place your pseudobulb. Then sprinkle a small amount of Rooting Hormone on the moss. You can push it in if you wish or leave it on the surface. I have done it both ways but find mounding the moss around the plant or bulb will secure it best.
4. Close your bag. You have just created a greenhouse for your baby.
5. Label your bag with date and name of the plant if you have that information. Many times I find the piece on the floor and have no idea where it came from so I enter "unknown." Include the date that the piece was put in the bag. I use a label maker on s plant label as it sticks best and does not fade over time.
6. Take your plant in its new home and gently place in indirect light and somewhat warm but not HOT. I grow in a greenhouse and have had them on the northeast and or the northwest. They can go out in the summer but make sure they do not get beat up by the elements.
7. FINALLY THE TOUGH PART- Do NOT open the bag. Do not worry about your plant. Do NOT shake the bag. Just let it rest. You may not see anything for a very, very long time. I had one I placed for more than 15 years. I was cleaning the greenhouse one day and saw green in this crispy bag. It turned out to be a new blooming size plant from the mother plant which had died years ago.

Remember: this may not work every time. This is not fail proof, but it is fun and can be done anywhere at any time of the year. Happy experimenting.

Sue Kennedy  
Connecticut Orchid Society



Our Display at Amherst

## Survival of the Trickiest, Part 4 Bucket Orchids



Left: *Coryanthes speciosa*, one of the “bucket orchids”, growing in Bahia, Brazil.

Right: Euglossine bees trapped in the bucket. Photos by Alex Popovkin on Flickr.com, by permission of Creative Commons license.

Another almost unbelievable pollination mechanism was evolved by the genus *Coryanthes*, the “bucket orchids” of Central and South America. These orchids are pollinated by Euglossine bees, which are known as orchid bees because they are found visiting many kinds of orchids such as *Stanhopeas*, *Gongoras*, and *Catasetums*, as well as *Coryanthes*. These bees have brilliant iridescent colors of blue, green, red, or purple. The male bees are attracted to the orchids not for nectar, but to gather fragrant oils that the orchids produce, which the male bees use to attract females, kind of like a teenage boy putting on cologne to attract girls. Different orchid species attract different species of Euglossine bees.

The *Coryanthes* orchids take this one step further. First, the flower attracts the bee from afar with a powerful fragrance. The cologne that the bee wants is produced near the top of the flower, over the bucket. The flower is very waxy and slippery, so while collecting his cologne, the bee may fall down into the bucket. The bucket is partly filled with water (the orchid has special glands to fill it), so the bee’s wings get wet and it can’t fly out. It can’t climb up the slippery sides of the bucket, either. So far, this sounds like a carnivorous plant, like a pitcher plant.

But the orchid’s purpose is more subtle. There is one, and only one, escape route from the bucket. The bee climbs up a little bee-sized step at the back of the bucket (the left side in the photos above), which leads to an escape tunnel. The bee squeezes through the tunnel, and along the way it is forced to pass by the orchid’s column, picking up the orchid’s pollinia (for the first bee that comes through), or depositing the pollinia from another *Coryanthes* (for subsequent bees that come through). This orchid leaves nothing to chance!

Other orchids use similar strategies to force the pollinator to pass by the column. Slipper orchids like *Cypripediums* (lady’s slippers) and *Paphiopedilums* don’t have a bucket, but they have a lip that forms a bulbous pouch. The pollinator is either attracted to the pouch by scent, or it slips and falls into the pouch. Once inside, the pouch is too confined for the insect to fly out, so it has to crawl out. All the sides of the pouch are slippery except the back side, so the insect crawls up the back, and – guess what? – that path forces the insect to pass by the column and pollinate the flower.

Larry Kuekes

## 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** [beckerjudy8@gmail.com](mailto:beckerjudy8@gmail.com) (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.