



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 May 8th, 2019
Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave, 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

Featured Events

Bag Revival
Method
Presented by Dr.
Sue Kennedy

President's Message

Hello everyone,

Spring is finally here and with that the new roots are beginning to really grow. It's the perfect time of year to repot and prepare the plants to soon go outside and enjoy the warm summer weather. When repotting please keep COS in mind if you have extra divisions as they are always popular at our club sales table.

Some of you may have been experiencing some web site issues when trying to open and navigate the COS site. We apologize Mary Ellen has been working diligently with our site builder to work out the kinks and I am happy to report all should be sorted out. Thank you Mary Ellen.

Next month in Cheshire Norman Fang will be the guest speaker. He is offering a nice preorder discount so please check out the info found in the newsletter and place your orders early.

This month in Farmington, our very own Sue Kennedy will share the tips and tricks to successfully (most of the time) growing orchids in a plastic bag. A technique I have not been able to master.

Good Growing
Cheryl

June Preorders

Our June speaker will be Norman Fang. Regarding pre-orders, Norman is offering to bring any pre-orders with him to the meeting, and a discount if you order within a category of orchids and a certain dollar amount. You also get 2% Reward Points that never expire. For example, if you order within the Phalaenopsis Category:

- buy at least \$700.00, save 15%
- buy \$300.00 to \$699.99, save 10%
- buy \$150.00 to \$299.99, save 5%
- With free shipping that is at least \$15.99, and more if people order more than \$100.00

Norman wants people to order at his orchids.com website, no later than June 2, and indicate at check out under Special Shipping Instructions that the order is for your society delivery on the date of the meeting.

Upcoming AOS Webinars

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

Registration at www.aos.org

May 7: 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.

May 16: Asian Cymbidiums

All about Asian Cymbidiums



Upcoming Events

May 17 - 19

Redlands International Show Homestead, FL

May 4

AOS Judging Boylston, MA

May 11

Northeast Judging Center Business Meeting Madison, 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

National Orchid Day: [here](#).

British Orchid Under Guard in Secret Location: read more [here](#).

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

April Show Table

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

Cattleya Koolau Seagulls 'Volcano Queen' AM/AOS x Epicattleya Kyoguchi 'M. Sauno' mutation	D. Tognalli	i, w
Dendrobium hancockii	R. Schwartz	i, w
Holconopsis Newberry Jasmine syn. Vandirea (Holcoglossum amesiana syn. Vanda x Phalaenopsis japonica syn. Sedirea)	T. Zamojski	i, w
Phalaenopsis I-Hsin Waltz 'Hello Kitty' HCC/AOS	D. Tognalli	i, w
Phalaenopsis Kaoda Twinkle 'Chocolate Drop'	D. Tognalli	i, w



Homemade Insecticidal Soap

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



April Meeting Minutes April 19, 2019

Our speaker was Stephen Frowine, former COS vice president and author of *Orchids For Dummies*. He spoke on orchid diseases and insect problems. Not a fun topic, but most necessary!

Sometimes orchids have damage because of cold or too much sun. Cold water may cause tissue collapse. Too much sun may cause brown spotting from sunburn. If the leaf is hot, it indicates that it is in danger of burning, Brown leaf tips may result from too much fertilizer as well, or very hard water.

Most of us, unfortunately, are well aware of the insect problems. Stephen asserted that mealy bugs are the worst pest, and while they may be treated with superior oil or soaps, best control it is often found by using Orthene. Scale also hides under leaves, and is also controlled with Orthene or insect growth regulators, such as Distance or Enstar II. Neem is also a growth regulator. Aphids can attack young growth, and also are virus vectors. In each case, the addition of a spreader sticker to oils or soaps will help to control the insects. Slugs and snails are controlled with organic baits, beer, or lettuce leaves (they hide underneath and can be collected that way.) Mites are a separate problem, common in dry or hot conditions, which can be controlled with Avid or Floramite if needed. It is good to know that in a home situation a plant can be given a bath, with many bugs being eliminated by drowning. Mice and other animals may nibble leaves, and can be controlled with trapping, cloves, or mothballs.

Diseases are common with too much humidity. Bacterial diseases such as botrytis can often be controlled with Physan 20, hydrogen peroxide, 409, Listerine, or even cinnamon. Cinnamon can be mixed with Elmer's glue and painted on. Root hormones can be used to stimulate root growth. Viruses are also a concern, resulting in leaf spotting or decline of the plant, but are fortunately much less common today than previously.

When to Water a Catasetum

A Catasetum in spring is a tricky thing. There are several rules of thumb to keep in mind, and most have to do with the roots. Some Catasetums come out of dormancy faster than others. Here is the first stage. Do not water in this stage! There are no viable roots.



The next stage has a few little roots, and the leaves are starting to show themselves. Do not water in this stage either! Be patient.



The next stage has leaf branching out and roots at least three inches long – or three roots at least one inch long. Now is the time to begin watering. However, watch out for multiple grows. Make sure all growths are watering size before you water.



Yes, watering size, but look in back....



Survival of the Trickiest, Part 6 Fake Bugs



Epipactis gigantea, native to the western U.S. Note the little bumps inside the lip that mimic aphids. Photo by NC Orchids on Flickr.com, by permission of Creative Commons license.

Nature knows no limits when it comes to the ingenious tricks that orchids play on their pollinators. Some flies have larvae that feed on aphids. A female fly will look for a plant infested with aphids as a good place to lay her eggs. Certain *Epipactis* orchid species have taken advantage of this fact.

Epipactis gigantea is a terrestrial orchid in the western United States and parts of Mexico. It emits the fragrance of honeydew, the sweet liquid excreted by aphids. This attracts the interest of female syrphid flies, also known as hoverflies. Furthermore, the lip of the orchid contains fake aphids in the form of little bumps. (If you look closely at the photo, you can see the little fleshy-looking fake aphids inside the lip.) The hoverfly thinks she has found the perfect spot to lay her eggs, and she does so on the orchid. In the process, she pollinates the flower.

A related species, *Epipactis veratrifolia*, native to south Turkey and the Middle East, has evolved a similar trick. Scientists measured the chemicals in the fragrance of this orchid and found compounds identical to the alarm pheromones given off by aphids. The hoverflies that pollinate this orchid also have larvae that eat aphids. Smelling this fragrance, a female hoverfly thinks she has found a bunch of aphids, and proceeds to lay her eggs on the orchid, again pollinating it in the process. In both cases, when the eggs hatch, however, the fly larvae find no aphids to eat, and they starve. Presumably, other flies find enough real aphid-infested plants that the fly species survives to be deceived again into pollinating the next generation of orchids.

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 (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
Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

Sharon Smith Delisle sharonsmithdelisle@hotmail.com
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.

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 to apply for/renew membership. We accept Paypal.

Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at 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.