



Newsletter

June 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 June 12th, 2019
Cheshire 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

Norman Fang!

President's Message

Hello and Happy Memorial Day,
To all members that have served, a big thank you for your service.

It is the official start of summer. Time to prep the orchids for their time at plant camp. What is plant camp—the time I like best when most of the collection is outside and if Mother Nature does her watering chores regularly, I have more time for other things. Plus, like all of us the orchids seem to thrive when on vacation.

Mark your summer calendar for some summer fun in Litchfield hills at Sue Kennedy's Saturday Aug 17th rain date Sunday Aug 18th. More info to come.

This month we are very fortunate to welcome Norman Fang as our guest presenter. Norman is accepting preorders until June 2th. Check out his web site www.orchids.com as he offers some amazing plants. Make sure to note delivery at the COS meeting June 12th in Cheshire. This is the first time Norman has been scheduled to speak in New England. What a treat!

See you in Cheshire on the 12th
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

June 5: Care and Feeding of Stanhopia

All about Stanhopia

June 13: 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

May 31 – June 2

Long Island Orchid Show and Sale

June 1

AOS Judging Boylston, MA

June 15

AOS Judging New Jersey

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](#).

May Show Table

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

Bulbophyllum sulawesii	C. Mizak	i, g
Clowesia Grace Dunn 'Live Oak' x Catasetum Dentigrianum 'SVO'	R. Schwartz	i, w
Dendrobium tanii	T. Gargano	i, l
Encyclia anacheilium	T. Gargano	i, g
(Cattleya Koolau Seagulls 'Volcano Queen' AM/AOS x Epicattleya Kyoguchi 'M. Sauno' mutation)	D. Tognalli	i, w
Maxillaria tenuifolia	C. Mizak	i, g
Oncostele Catatante 'Kilauea Kama' AM/AOS syn. Odontocidium	S. Kennedy	i, g
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig.	K. Richardson	i, w
Phalaenopsis Sogo Yukidian	D. Tognalli	i, w
Renanthera Firecracker	T. Gargano	i, g
Rhyncattleanthe Burana Fire (syn. Potinara)	M. Wicki	i, w
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hawaiian Passion 'Carmela' syn. Brassolaeliocattleya	T. Gargano	i, g
Rhyncholaeliocattleya San Salvador	T. Gargano	i, g
Vanda testacea x Rhynchovanda Dr. Sally 'Meiners'	T. Gargano	i, g
Rodrumnia Mummer's Dance HCC/AOS (Orchidom Dancer "Will's" x Orchidom Happy Choice 'Alameda')	T. Gargano	i, l
Vanda M.V. Tannis	T. Gargano	i, g
Vanda tessellata 'Cascade Steel'	T. Gargano	i, g





May Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2019

Our speaker was one of our own, Sue Kennedy, who told us her method for saving weak orchids. They will either live or die, but nothing will happen if you don't try. She puts them in a plastic bag, with very well wrung out damp sphagnum moss. There is a 50-50 chance that this method will work on back bulbs, and orchids with poor roots. She uses super thrive and also commercial rooting powder, which often includes some fungicide. Before she seals up her Ziploc bag, she adds oxygen by blowing into it with a straw. When the plant starts to make roots, she pots it in sphagnum moss, and then finally in bark when it is stronger.

These frail plants should not be put in the sun, or they will cook. Shade is best for them. The bag needs to be big enough to give the plants air. You can put a few holes in the top for ventilation, but oxygen seems to pass into the plastic bag anyhow. Another excellent organic fungicide is cinnamon. If she makes any cuts, she will use cinnamon on the wound. A paint brush is handy for dusting cinnamon on areas. Cuts should preferably be made with a single use razor blade or similar sterile instrument. 10% bleach can be used to sterilize tools. The goal is to have the bag filled two thirds with air, and one third with sphagnum.





Survival of the Trickiest, Part 7 Runway Lights



Cattleya purpurata (formerly *Laelia purpurata*) var. *Schusteriana*. The stripes in the throat guide the pollinator in to pollinate the flower. Grown by Bill Rawson; photo by Sheryl Rawson.

When a plane is landing at night, the airport turns on a set of lights on the sides (and sometimes down the center) of the runway. From the air, these beacons form long stripes outlining the runway, guiding in the plane to a safe landing.

Many flowers have the equivalent of runway lights: patterns guiding a bee to the center of the flower where the bee will find nectar or pollen. Sometimes the patterns are visible in ultraviolet light, which bees can see but we can't. These patterns are common enough to have a name: nectar guides.

Bees learn to follow nectar guides, and some orchids, like the *Cattleya purpurata* pictured above, have taken advantage of that fact. Just follow the stripes! If the bee does, it bumps into the orchid's column (which is where the stripes lead to), and the orchid gets pollinated.

But in this case, the nectar guides do not lead to nectar. *Cattleyas* are among the one third of all orchids that deceive their pollinators and provide no reward.

Little research has been done on *Cattleya* pollinator deception, but it's thought that the tubular shape of the *Cattleya* lip attracts pollinators who have learned to visit other tubular, nectar-producing flowers. No doubt color and fragrance also play a role. Whatever it is, a bee will investigate the *Cattleya* until it discovers that this flower isn't worth it. But by the time it figures that out, the *Cattleya* has been pollinated.

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

PRESIDENT	Cheryl Mizak	203-264-6096
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LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN		
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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.