



## 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 November 13th, 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](http://www.ctorchids.org)

## Featured Event

Speaker: Gary Meyer

Topic: Draculas

## President's Message

Hi Everybody

Kudos to everyone who came out in the torrential rain last month to hear Kim Fedderson. He gave us lots of good tips on how to successfully grow plants that prefer cool temps. I have to admit I am not quite brave enough to yet to leave my cymms outside this late. All of my plants are safely tucked into the GH waiting for me to put them in their winter places. With Kim's suggestions, some will now have different winter care.

It's show time the MOS show is Nov 8 – 10 we need to borrow your blooming plants for our display. Remember for us to have a great show and have other society displays we need to support their show. Please contact Dave T or Cheryl if you have plants, can help with set up on the 7th or take down on the 10th . Thanks for your help.

**COS HAS TALENT** We know many of our members have hidden talents and may be a little shy about checking out the duties of the different positions. With elections coming, even if you would prefer not to take lead on a position please consider offering assistance. It is a great way to meet other members and learn more about growing orchids. What can you do?

**HOSPITALITY** –Karen Kuziel Co- ordinates and brings beverages and paper goods to our monthly meetings, auction, and our show.

**WEB MASTER**—Suzie Spinelli a new member has volunteered to work on our web site. Watch for some exciting new additions.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**- open Can easily be done at home. Write thank you notes, send get well cards. COS reimburses cost.

**RECORDING SECRETARY** Carla Koch take notes at regular meetings and submits to the newsletter editor – Rebecca Schwartz. This position can easily be shared – it would be great to have a back up.

**TREASURER** Dave Tognalli- Need good basic book keeping skills. Record proceeds from monthly raffles, dues, auction sales, pay speaker expenses, monthly meeting rent etc. Dave will be leaving this position next year so if you think you may want to check out the position shadow Dave.

**VICE PRESIDENT** Rebecca Schwartz fill in for the president when not available support

**PRESIDENT** Cheryl Mizak next year I will be leaving this position. It would be great to have one or more members shadow what happens. Run meetings, secure meeting locations (done a year in advance) Answer questions about the society.

COS is your society. Your participation is essential for our survival and success.

This month we will be meeting in Farmington. Gary Meyer will be speaking on Draculas. Gary is from Colombian Orchid Imports.

See everyone Wed the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl

### Upcoming Events

**November 8-10**

MOS Show and Sale Winchester, MA

# CALL FOR PLANTS

**Your blooming  
plants are  
needed for the  
MOS show!  
Please email  
Dave, Cheryl, or  
Rebecca.**



## Upcoming AOS Webinars

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

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

### Nov 7: 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 12: How to Grow Bulbophyllums

All about Bulbophyllums.

## 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).

## Orchids in the News

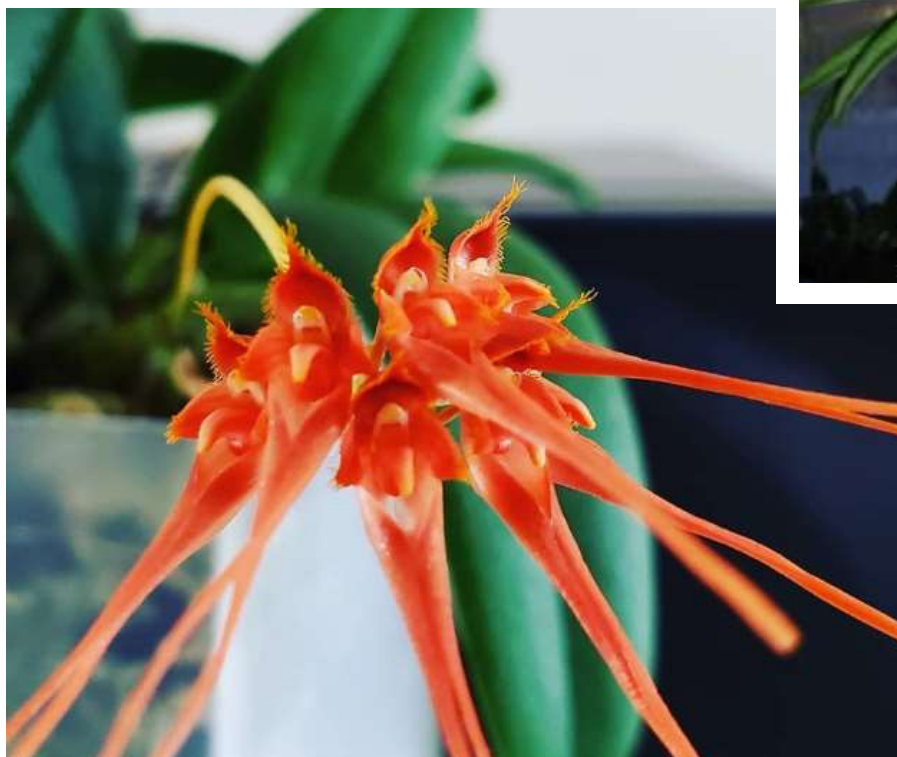
Senate bills include help for orchid growers: read more [here](#).

Florida's rare ghost orchids are being cut off from water: read more [here](#).

## October Show Table

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

<i>Angraecum scottianum</i>	T. Russell	i, l
<i>Brassanthe</i> Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS syn. <i>Brassocattleya</i>	T. Russell	i, l
<i>Bulbophyllum tingabarinum</i>	R. Schwartz	i, ws
<i>Dendrobium victoria-reginae</i>	D. Tognalli	i, ws
<i>Masdevallia roseola</i>	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Miltonidium</i> Bartley Schwarz 'Highland' AM/AOS	T. Russell	i, l
<i>Restrepia schizosepala</i>	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Vandaenopsis</i> Newberry Whimsy	T. Russell	i, l





# October Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2019

## Kim Federson of Fair Orchids on Growing Orchids Outdoors

Kim grows many orchids outdoors from the third week in April until first frost in the fall. He began his presentation by discussing hardy orchids, which of course can stay in the ground year-round. *Bletilla striata* can be grown outdoors in full or part sun and is hardy through hardiness zone 6A. Japanese *Calanthe* hybrids can be grown in part shade, but are not as showy as *Bletilla*.

Moving on to orchids that can take cool temperatures but cannot spend the entire year outdoors, Kim started with the Australian dendrobiums. *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* can be grown in temperatures ranging from 32 to 125 degrees fahrenheit. Kim fertilizes only until mid-September, and in mid-October he reduces watering by 90% until the plants flower. (He waters about once per month.)

Other dendrobiums that can take cool weather include *Dendrobium nobile*, which likes warm, moist weather in the spring and summer, followed by cool temps and bright light in the fall and winter. Kim does not fertilize after mid-September, and provides very little water after mid-October. To produce canes of a uniform height, he plucks out the newest leaf when the canes are within 2 or 3 inches of the desired height.

*Laelia anceps* gets the same outdoor schedule as the dendrobiums. It likes higher light and cooler temperatures than one would provide for *Cattleyas*. Kim has found that growing *L. anceps* in full sun produces stronger growth and more pseudobulbs.

He also grows miniature cymbidiums, which are usually standard-sized plants with smaller flowers. *Cymbidium Sweetheart* 'Spring Pearl' is a miniature hybrid from the 1950s that actually does have a shorter stature. Later crosses, done in the 1960s, crossed shorter-growing 1950s hybrids back to standard sized plants, thus resulting in the common miniature cymbidiums with too-large plants and smaller flowers. Cymbidiums bloom on immature pseudobulbs. New vegetative growth and new flower spikes look similar, but the spikes are somewhat more plump.

To grow cymbidiums, Kim uses a mix consisting of 3 parts chunky peat, 2 parts composted manure, 1 part *Cattleya* size bark, and 1 part coarse perlite. He top dresses this with 1 to 2 tsp. of nutricote per pot in March. Since cymbidiums are 'greedy' feeders, he also uses a full-strength, 20/20/20, water-soluble fertilizer every 2 weeks in the summer. If cymbidiums are placed outside in late April, there is no need to acclimate them to full sun. If placed outside in May, they need a week in light shade before being able to take full sun.



*Dendrobium  
victoria-reginae*

## In the Valley of the Leopard (Orchid)

Rebecca Schwartz - Last month, I made my first trip to Africa. I spent two weeks in Zambia with a few side trips to Zimbabwe and Botswana. I spent the majority of my time in South Luangwa National Park, which is in the northeast corner of Zambia. It was the very end of the dry season and blazingly hot. South Luangwa is at the very southern end of the Rift Valley and is locally named The Valley of the Leopard due to the high concentration of leopards. In five days, I had seen eight individual leopards. (Yes, they were distinguishable.)

Since it was the end of the dry season, there were sporadic showers. Two of them in two weeks. In that time, all the dormant plants awoke, and flowers and leaves emerged. This included the leopard orchid (*Ansellia africana*). The narrow psuedobulbs plumped up and spikes emerged. However, due to the slowness with which orchids spike, I was not there for the flowering or even budding. It was still great to see them in situ.



Top left: *Oncoba spinosa*, locally called fried eggs (not orchid)

Top right: Leopard orchid putting out spikes

Bottom: Old lady hanging around with her kill (not shown) at sunset

## Mentor List

The following COS members are available to answer your culture questions and help you with any orchid growing problems you may have.

**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.

**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.

**Rebecca Schwartz** [rebecca.r.schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.r.schwartz@gmail.com) Vivarium  
growing methods, windowsill Catasetums and species Phaleanopsis

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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RECORDING SECRETARY	Carla Koch	203-272-8121
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON	Mary Rampone	203-263-2831
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY		
LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN		
AOS REPRESENTATIVE	Glenn McGeough	203-482-3973
CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON		
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR		
REFRESHMENT CO-CHAIR		
WEB MASTER	Suzie Spinelli	

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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.