



Newsletter

May 2022

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The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

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Next Meeting

Wednesday May 11, 2022

Will be Held at Sue Kennedy's home. Please check your emails for address.

Featured Event

Getting things ready for our first fundraising sale in literally YEARS!

That will be at the Elephant's Trunk Flea Market in New Milford.

May 15 (rain date May 22).

From Cheryl

Everyone will gather at Sue Kennedy's (she will have her flag out at the end of the driveway so folks will know where to turn in) Bring a sandwich or snack, also rubber gloves. We will be bagging potting material, washing & pricing pots etc. All in prep for our Elephants Trunk sale May 15 or rain date May 22. There will be no show table.

From Suzy

Her address has been sent via email. If you can't find it, please email me at coswebinfo@gmail.com and I will send it out to you. I feel weird about publishing personal info online... 😊

Hope to see you there!

Suzy

Orchids in the News

Original Article Found Here: <https://www.greenhousemag.com/article/whats-better-than-orchids--carbon-neutral-orchids/>

What's better than orchids? Carbon-neutral orchids

Features - Production

California-based grower Westerlay Orchids has committed to carbon-neutral production by 2026. President Toine Overgaag shares how they plan to achieve their goal.

January 25, 2022

[Chris Markham](#)

As climate change continues to present a threat to our planet, sustainability is on the minds of scores of people and businesses, including those in the horticulture industry. With the industry's need for energy use and water, it's especially important for greenhouse owners to figure out how to operate more sustainably. And many growers are doing just that, working to reduce water and energy usage, waste, pollution and carbon output in their greenhouses.

Westerlay Orchids in Carpinteria, California, has committed to making their production carbon-neutral — meaning that they will completely offset any and all carbon emissions they create by reducing the same amount of emissions elsewhere — by 2026.

From the beginning

Led by owner and president Toine Overgaag, the company grows and distributes four million phalaenopsis orchids per year.

“We were founded in 1978 by my parents when they emigrated from the Netherlands,” Overgaag says. “They operated Westerlay Roses as a very successful cut flower grower focused on high-end retail.”

Eventually, the company pivoted to selling cymbidium orchids, and later branched out to phalaenopsis orchids. Now, phalaenopsis orchids are all they grow.

Even before their plans to become carbon neutral were put in motion, sustainability was already an important issue at Westerlay. In 2021, the company reduced its carbon footprint by 43%, thanks to a combination of facility improvements, including solar panels and energy curtains. Each year since 2015, Westerlay has achieved an 'A' rating from horticultural rating agency MPS, thanks in part to their past carbon reduction efforts.

These past efforts include examples such as installing a 300,000 square foot irrigation water recycling catch system. Installed in 2018, the system cut water use by 38%. In addition to reducing water use, Westerlay's also

reduced natural gas consumption by 11%, thanks to the channeling of water resulting in a drier environment, which requires less heating to maintain humidity and temperature. This 11% cut equals the carbon reduction of taking 29 cars off the road.

A sense of urgency

Although the grower has been concerned with sustainability for a while, climate change is really accelerating Westerlay's commitment to sustainability, as, according to Overgaag, "global climate change is the defining challenge of the 21st century. Nothing else comes close." This existential threat to the planet underscores Westerlay's goal of achieving carbon-neutral production, and other companies would be good to follow suit, both in and outside of the horticultural industry. As good as it is for one business to reach carbon neutrality, the world needs as many companies as possible to become more sustainable to stop climate change



Notes from our April Meeting

Our talk was by Francesco Miranda on cattleyas of the Brazilian coast. Near the coast, the Atlantic mountains hold moisture as opposed to more inland, where there is a dryer season. The coastal forest is at severe risk for development and habitat destruction, except for state parks. Francesco identified different habitats: sandy beach, swamps, forest, rocks and slope forest. Dunes block water from going back out, and cause swamps to be develop. Most of these are endangered. In the sand dunes themselves, there is good drainage and drier plants live among the shrubs. Grass first establishes the dunes, and then other plants move in, such as Cattleya intermedia and cacti. Included are *Cyrtopodium panamense* and *Epidendrum denticulatum*, rooted in the sand. *C. guttata*, *C. leopoldii*, *Brassavola* species also enjoy the breezes and sun. Swamps are being developed for banana cultivation, but do have rich soil. Here are *C. harrisoniana*, *Brassavola tuberculata*, and *Laelia purpurata*, with catasetums. Semideciduous forests host *C. amethystoglossa* and the bifoliate *C. aelandiae*. Boulders feature *Laelia purpurata* in crevices as well as *Cyrtopodiums*.

Slope forests have small plants on steep areas of granite. *C. forbesii*, *Miltonia cuneata*, *Oncidium flexuosum*, *Stanhopea guttata*, and others find purchase here. Even pleurothallids. *Dryadella*, *Leptotes* and other miniatures are here. In higher elevations, red *Sophronitis coccinea*, *Malaxis*, and cool lovers flourish. The frost line is at 3000 feet.

HAVE IDEAS?

If you have ideas about the direction of the future of the society, please consider joining the board!

Upcoming AOS News and Events

Click on this link below

<https://www.aos.org/news-events.aspx>



More Orchids in the News

Find out About Australia's Subterranean orchid!

<https://theconversation.com/like-finding-life-on-mars-why-the-underground-orchid-is-australias-strangest-most-mysterious-flower-144727>



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April Show Table

<i>Bulbophyllum falcatum</i> 'Standing Tall' AM/AOS	C. Mizak	i, g*
<i>Cattleya</i> Bob Betts 'York' AM/AOS	C. Lesage	w, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Circle of Life x <i>Cattleya</i> Angel's Fantasy	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Circle of Life x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Paradise Rose	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Koolau Seagulls 'Volcano Queen' AM/AOS x <i>Guaricyclia</i> Kyoguchi M. Sauno mutation	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Cattleya lueddemanniana</i> 'Crownfox Goliath' FCC/AOS	G. McGeough	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Mini Love	T. Russell	i, l
<i>Cattleya</i> Schroderae 'Guava Dream'	G. McGeough	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Seagulls Apricot sib. cross	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Virginia Dickey 'Loud Nine'	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> v. <i>semi-alba</i> 'Kenny' HCC/AOS	C. Lesage	w, g
<i>Dendrobium</i> Nestor	C. Lesage	w, g
<i>Dendrobium nobile</i>	I. Contreras	i, w
<i>Enanthleya</i> Golden Sunburst	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Enanthleya</i> Golden Sunburst 'Exotic Orchids' AM/AOS	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Encyclia boricana</i> x <i>Encyclia bractescens</i>	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Epicyclia</i> Serena O'Neill	C. Lesage	w, g
<i>Guarianthe aurantiaca</i> ('Mishima Spots' x 'SVO Spots')	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Guaricyclia</i> Kyoguchi x <i>Gauritonia</i> Why Not	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Oncidium</i> Pacific Passage 'Handsome'	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Papilionanda</i> James Craig Adamson	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Phaius tankervilleae</i> var. <i>alba</i>	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Sogo Yukidian	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Higher Multiplier x <i>Cattleya</i> Marissa Kubo	M. Sabolcik	i, g

<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Little Toshie x <i>Cattleya</i> Angel's Fantasy	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Pink Diamond	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Polestar	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Stelis emarginata</i>	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Trichopilia</i> hybrid ig.	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Vanda</i> Cherry Blossom 'Hawaii'	T. Russell	i, l
<i>Vanda</i> Kulwadee Fragrance #5	M. Sabolcik	i, g
<i>Vandaenopsis</i> Newberry Whimsy	T. Russell	i, l

* c = cool, i=intermediate, w=warm
g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

***Cattleya Schroderae* 'Guava Dream'**



***Cattleya walkeriana* v. *semi-alba*
'Kenny' HCC/AOS**



***Cattleya* Seagulls Apricot sib. cross**



***Dendrobium* Nestor**



***Cattleya* Virginia Dickey 'Loud Nine'**



Dendrobium nobile



***Enanthleya* Golden Sunburst**



Enantheleya Golden Sunburst
'Exotic Orchids' AM/AOS



Guarianthe aurantiaca
('Mishima Spots' x 'SVO Spots')



Encyclia boricana x Encyclia bractescens



Guaricyclia Kyoguchi x Gauritonia Why Not



Oncidium Pacific Passage 'Handsome'



**Rhyncholaeliocattleya Higher Multiplier x
Cattleya Marissa Kubo**



Papilionanda James Craig Adamson



**Rhyncholaeliocattleya Little Toshie x
Cattleya Angel's Fantasy**



Phaius tankervilleae var. alba



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Pink Diamond



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Polestar



Vanda Cherry Blossom 'Hawaii'



Stelis emarginata



Vanda Kulwadee Fragrance #5



Trichopilia hybrid ig.



Vandaenopsis Newberry Whimsy



A super huge THANK YOU to Dave and Susan for photos and putting the show table together!

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 (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.

David Tognalli 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
Vivarium growing methods, windowsill Cattleyas and species Phalaenopsis

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.

2021 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

PRESIDENT	Zac Mistry	zacswm@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT, EDITOR		
TREASURER	Suzy Spinelli	
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	Sue Kennedy	860-567-1337
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	Karen Kuziel	203-262-9077
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 MISTRESS	Suzy Spinelli	

Contact Us

By Mail:

Connecticut Orchid Society, Inc.
 Editorial Office
 P.O. Box 198
 Farmington, CT 06034-0198

By Email:

President

president@ctorchids.org

Editor Rebecca Schwartz

ctorchidsociety@gmail.com



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.