



## Newsletter

July 2022

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Mini Edition Month!

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

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### Next Meeting

See you in September!

### Featured Event

We are hoping someone can help this orchid collector...

Good Afternoon,

I am contacting your society because desperate times have arrived in my search for a replacement orchid.

I have been around orchids my entire life, as my parents had a greenhouse before I was born. My brother and I were always involved in shows as children, setting up tables and running errands. I knew how to transport an orchid and keep it at show quality before I learned to drive. Our daily chores involved scraping clay pots, picking up leaf debris and picking slugs after bedtime. Even as I became an adult and moved off on my own adventures, I still attended local shows and would come home and help in the greenhouse.

My Mother, Jackie Parker, passed away in a car accident in 2019 and as anyone knows, that grieving process never really ends. Spending time with my Dad (Bill Parker) and making sure he was okay evolved into my personal reacquaintance with orchids, joining my local society, the AOS and building my collection.

We've spent countless hours discussing their plants, as my Dad remembers everything-who gave it to him, their story, all the trials and tribulations of learning the plant, memorable blooms, etc.

It was one of the above conversations that started this quest. His dear friend, Jim Quattlebaum (wife Kathryn) gave him a plant of *Erycina echinata* decades ago. Daddy mentioned that it was his most highly awarded orchid (HCC/AOS in 1986) and how it was one of many lost when the heaters went out in the greenhouse one winter. He chuckled during the telling, saying he didn't have any idea where Jim had even gotten the thing. He said he's been looking for it for years-he pulled up google to show me pictures of what it *wasn't* supposed to look like. He mentioned that he'd even talked with people he gave divisions to over the years, without success in finding the plant still living.

It's funny the things we fixate on sometimes, but I want to find this plant for my Dad. I have contacted numerous North American growers, but none have this species. I've spoken with Dr. Meyers (Columbian Orchid Imports) and he's willing to try and see if a Columbian collection has the plant (he's not hopeful). Mexican vendors and I have traded translations and when I've gotten a response, it's that they don't have it.

So now, I'm reaching out to individual societies to see if one of your members has *Erycina echinata* and would be willing to part with a division. I would be beyond appreciative if you could share this with your group and if anyone has a lead (of any type) of where I can locate it, I'm including all my contact information. The picture attached to this email is of my Dad's plant back in 1986 after AOS judging.

Sincerest Regards,

Catherine Chance

405-743-5758 (cell)

# Orchids in the News

Original Article Found Here:

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/02/us/extinct-orchid-vermont-scen-trnd/index.html>

## A rare orchid thought to be extinct in Vermont was rediscovered after 120 years

By Zoe Sottile, CNN

Updated 1:56 PM ET, Sat July 2, 2022



The small whorled pogonia, thought to be extinct in Vermont for 120 years, was rediscovered by an amateur naturalist.

(CNN)The small whorled pogonia, a federally threatened species of orchid, has been rediscovered in Vermont -- 120 years after the plant was last spotted in the state.

The plant was last documented in Vermont in 1902, Aaron Marcus, an assistant botanist at Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, told CNN. Naturalists had searched extensively for the small whorled pogonia in Vermont but come up empty-handed.

The small whorled pogonia is "one of the rarest orchid species east of the Mississippi," said Marcus. The rarity of the species may have to do with its dependence on fungi in the environment, a relationship that is still little understood by scientists.

"One thing that's really cool about our orchid species is that most of them are really, really dependent on fungal species, species we can't see underground, connected to our root system, which makes it so hard for us to understand orchids and what they need," Marcus said.

The last known documentation of a small whorled pogonia in Vermont was a photograph of a plant that had been dug up and placed in a flower pot, Marcus said.

The discovery of an outcropping of the plant in Vermont is "a really great and exciting bright light," said Marcus. The population is "perhaps the most northerly population in the whole range of small whorled pogonia," which are found in southern Maine south to Georgia and west to southern Ontario, Michigan, and Tennessee.

The orchids are threatened by climate change, habitat loss, and collection or trampling by humans.

Marcus explained that the population of small whorled pogonias in Vermont was discovered by a retired greenhouse manager who posted pictures of the orchid to iNaturalist, an online platform for amateur naturalists to identify plants and animals around them. Then Marcus and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Botanist Bob Popp visited the site and confirmed it was indeed a small whorled pogonia on May 25. The department made the discovery public [in a news release published on June 8th](#).

"It was very exciting" to discover the orchid, said Marcus.

The "most important thing is to protect the plants where they are," Marcus added. "That's really our first priority, for them to be able to thrive in place." The plants are located on publicly protected lands in Winooski Valley Park District, and the department is keeping their exact location a secret to ward off would-be collectors.

For Marcus, the discovery is an "incredible and humbling" reminder of how much scientists have left to learn about the natural world. "There's more to find out there," Marcus said. "There's so much right in our backyards that we just don't know, or that we once knew and we need to relearn."

Botanist Bob Popp shared Marcus' excitement at the "amazing find."

"Things like that don't happen that often," Popp told CNN. "I've been in my position for 32 years, and more often than not I'm documenting the decline of species," he said. "Things going the other direction -- it's just phenomenal."

Going forward, Popp said his team members hope to monitor the population. They found evidence of damage from slugs on some of the plants, and the orchids may also face threats from browsing by animals like deer.

Popp also emphasized the importance of naturalists "reporting what they see" in the outdoors. "There's no substitute for eyes and ears in the woods," he said.





## **Notes from our Previous Meeting**

Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful holiday weekend.

A quick review of June's meeting:

It was wonderful to welcome some new members & friends.

Many thanks for all the members who brought their blooming orchids to share on the plant table. If it was show time we would have had an amazing display. It is always such fun to see the variety of plants everyone grown.

Tim's presentation was very informative, even though we missed having plants to purchase.

Enjoy your summer. See you in September.

Cheryl



## **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>



## Mentor List

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

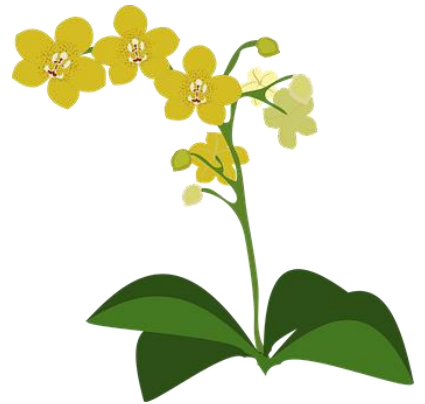
**Sam Hinckley** [samuelhinckley@comcast.net](mailto:samuelhinckley@comcast.net) (860) 688-0943  
(After 7:30 pm) Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

**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.



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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.