



Newsletter

March 2023

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The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

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Next Meeting

March 12, 2023

NY Botanical Garden

For Orchid Show!

Read on for details!

Featured Event

New York
Botanical
Garden Orchid
Show



The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory at the New York Botanical Garden built in 1902

Hi Everyone!

A shout out to all the volunteers who manned our CT Flower and Garden Show this past weekend. We saw a ton of foot traffic and generated some orchid fever! Welcome to all the new members who joined at the show.

Looking ahead to March, in place of our regular meeting we are planning a trip to the New York Botanical Garden for the 20th annual Orchid Show! You won't want to miss this mark your calendars for Sunday March 12th. The conservatory are always spectacular and I am excited this year's designer Lily Kwong has created.



booth at the
saw a ton of
Welcome to

meeting we
for the 20th
field trip so
displays in the
to see what



The Orchid Show always has a large wow factor!



We are organizing car-pooling arrangements for transportation to the show with an 8am meet-up for a roughly 10am arrival depending on departure locations. Tentatively lets plan a 10am-2pm visit. depending on how ever Photos from the 2022 NYBG Orchid Show .er, check with your group. For lunch there is a restaurant and café right on site.

Drivers are needed; at the moment we have only 2 confirmed drivers who can take an additional 6 passengers. If you are on the fence because you are worried about driving in city traffic this is a Sunday trip and the Botanical Garden is located just outside of the city in the Bronx, it's an easy drive right off the Hutchinson River Parkway South. Below is the address and general directions from CT. Parking is \$22 at the Main Gate and can be split between the passengers in the car.

The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458.

- New England Thruway South (I-95) to Pelham Parkway West (Exit 8C). Pelham Pkwy turns into Fordham Rd after 2 miles. Turn right onto Southern Blvd, and continue to the Garden entrance on the right.
- Or:
Merritt Pkwy South to Hutchinson River Pkwy South to Cross County Pkwy West to Bronx River Pkwy (Exit 6) South to Fordham Road (Exit 7W) Merge onto Fordham Rd and stay in right lane. Turn right onto Southern Blvd, and continue to the Garden entrance on the right.

A signup sheet was circulated at the February meeting and I will be reaching out to everyone who signed up to connect you with a carpooling group. I realize that I should have included a column for the towns everyone lives in and how many additional passengers you can fit **not including yourself**. Even if you already signed up, please either add this in on the attached Google doc or reach out to us directly at: ctorchidsociety@gmail.com

Please add your info to the Google Doc here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yh0SA35SirCn-A0xdaKs6eXqCBUmONIN/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104167156145722613413&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Tickets for the garden including Conservatory entry are normally \$35 on Sundays if you sign up on the Google doc or reach out to me by next Monday March 6th we can pre-buy tickets at the discounted group rate of \$33 for adults and \$29 for seniors. Even if you miss the group signup you are welcome to join us and buy your ticket directly.

Hope to see you there!

Christian

Notes from the Presidents' Desk

What a mild winter season we have had thus far! Those of us with heated greenhouses are certainly grateful for the warmer temperatures we are experiencing. We were very fortunate to have had lots of blooming plants for our COS display at the Cape and Islands Orchid Show (CAIOS) in January and the Amherst Orchid Society Show in February! We had full display's and all of our contributors came away with a ribbon or two! Congrats to Brian Pervere, a first time show entry, taking home a second-place ribbon at the CAIOS!

This month we'll see lots of Phalaenopsis spikes and buds growing fast or starting to bloom, and there are plenty of winter-into-spring blooming Cymbidiums, Cattleyas and Dendrobiums to enjoy. In place of our March meeting we will be taking a Field Trip to the New York Botanical Garden for the annual orchid

show on Sunday March 12th , see the write up on the above pages for more info and link to the signup sheet. You won't want to miss it!

We are looking forward to the guest speakers on our Spring meeting schedule, Kelly McCracken in April and Tim Culbertson in June and our Mother's Day Fundraising Event for Saturday, May 13th in Southington, just in time for Mother's Day weekend. Be sure to get the word out and tell your friends and family to stop by for something extra special for all the mothers in their lives!

If you haven't already don't forget it is time to renew your membership for 2023, a separate email reminder will go out to anyone who isn't current. There are details on our website or better yet....come to a meeting and bring your dues in person.

Christian Lesage & Mary Rampone

Hartford Flower and Garden Show

Here is a note from the Federated Garden Clubs of CT's Kelle Ruden:

Hello CT Flower Show Education Division Exhibitors. It was great to see you all at the CT Flower and Garden Show last week. I think it was one of the best shows ever, attendance was super, and interest seemed exceptional.

On behalf of The Federation, I want to thank you and all your volunteers for joining us and setting up interesting display tables to educate attendees about the work of your societies and organizations. I hope it was successful for you and I hope you will consider joining us again next year!

And from our Presidents:

'It was a busy weekend at the CT Flower and Garden show in Hartford with record breaking attendance. We participated in the educational section of the Federated Garden Club section with an informational booth and display. If you didn't get a chance to swing by over the weekend, here's a photo of the booth which Mary Rampone and Christian Lesage put together to promote the society. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped staff the booth and engage with the public. A warm welcome to all the new members who joined during the show, we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!'

We gained a number of new members, and met lots of people who had orchid questions. It was a really great time for all!

Our table display:



Photos from the Amherst Show
(Before Ribbons)



Table set up and photo by Dave Tognalli and Sue Kennedy



Table set up and photo by Dave Tognalli and Sue Kennedy



Table set up and photo by Dave Tognalli and Sue Kennedy

(After Ribbons)



Photo by Jason Chang

Looking Ahead:

March

3/12/23 Sunday Field Trip to the NYBG for the Orchid Show

April

**4/12/23 COS Meeting Farmington: Guest Speaker Kelly McCracken
Growing Under Lights**

May

**5/10/23 COS Meeting Preparing for our Mother's Day Fundraiser
5/13/23 Mother's Day Orchid Sale: Southington First Congregational
Church**

June

6/14/23 COS Meeting Farmington: Guest Speaker Tim Culbertson

July

7/9/23 Summer Picnic Black Rock State Park: Guest Speaker Fred Clarke

Notes from February Meeting

Members Dave Tognalli and Glen McGeough spoke on Cattleyas. Cattleyas were formerly the province of the ultra- wealthy and even royalty. Often times when they were finished blooming, they were thrown out. (Horrors!) Mister Cattley was a guy that collected *C. labiata* and then bloomed it. In 1857, the first greenhouse was constructed in Washington DC by President Buchanan, growing exotic tropicals. It burned down in 1867, but was rebuilt. It finally was torn down when the West Wing was built in 1902, but interest in these plants persisted. Growers such as Lager and Hurrell, Roebeling, and others cultivated them.

Orchids, as epiphytes, have spongy air roots which are better by rain and dry quickly. Pseudobulbs act as water storage, while the sympodial, mature plants bloom on new growth. It takes 3 1/2 years for them to reach blooming size. 50 percent sun is good, drying between waterings, air movement and mild fertilizer. Dave waters each twice and lets it drain thoroughly. They can be grown under florescent lights or LEDs, 10 hours of light in winter, 14 in summer. Look out for sunburn in March and April, and September and October, because of the sun angle. It is great to put them out in the summer under shade cloth and off the ground.

Orchids in the News



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>



Orchids in the News!

Click the link to learn more about what's happening to the Mule Ear Orchids in Florida and what is being done to save them.

<https://news.fiu.edu/2023/saving-mule-ear-orchids>

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.

2023 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

PRESIDENT	Christian Lesage/Mary Rampone	
VICE-PRESIDENT, EDITOR		
TREASURER	Suzy Spinelli	
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE		
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		

Contact Us

By Mail:

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

By Email:

Editor Suzy Spinelli
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.