



Newsletter

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The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

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Next Meeting

June 14, 2023

Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave,
Unionville, CT 06085

Featured Event

A presentation on
Encyclias by guest
Speaker Tim
Culbertson

Join us for a presentation on Encyclias by guest Speaker Tim Culbertson!



Tim is holding Paph. Yerba Buena 'White Caps' HCC/AOS, an exceptionally important cultivar in the development of modern green and white complex paphs. This cultivar was awarded in Oakland in 1967.

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 14th at the Farmington Senior Center. Doors open at 6:30pm for socializing and the meeting starts at 7pm.

Presentation: Encyclias of Mexico and Beyond; including natural history of Mexico, and Central and South America, forest types and associated species

Bio: “Although I teach middle school kids for a living, one of my passions has always been plants. I began growing orchids as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which my collection numbers nearly 3000. While I love finding old, rare stepping stones in paph breeding, I also do a little hybridizing of my own, and growing up my own babies is a blast. I was once the youngest accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and have served in various capacities with various orchid societies in California and on the East Coast. I love meeting other people who like orchids too, and doing so often finds me traveling to shows, vendors, and peoples’ greenhouses to see the latest and greatest in new hybrids and to get the best orchid gossip. I like to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, I’ve worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids, and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium. In short, I really like plants.”

Meeting Topic: “For your meeting, I’ll be sharing a presentation on Encyclias of Mexico and Beyond. These spectacular cattleya relatives grow well outside in subtropical climates like Southern California and much of Florida, and with their compact habit, great fragrance, and ease of growth, these are delightful plants for every collection. By extending the traditional definition of Encyclias to include recently separated groups like Anacheilum, Panarica, Prosthechea, Euchile, and others that I and many of you grew up calling Encyclia, we end up with a diverse, beautiful, fragrant, exciting group of plants and flowers; if we add those to the wonderful flora of Mexico and Central America, we have a group that every collector should grow. By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of the range of plant habits, floral forms, and fragrances of Encyclia broadly, as well as an appreciation of their lovely flowers and ease-of-growth.

Note From the President

From the Prez:

Hi Everyone!

Memorial Day may have officially kicked off our Summer Season but the weather we have been having has some of my plants confused. I hope everyone weathered the late season frost mid-May without any casualties. Thankfully things were a bit busier than usual this spring and I hadn't managed to bring things outside on the normal schedule, which was a blessing in disguise! Some of the trees and shrubs around the landscape still haven't grown out of the frost damage yet. Temps have been up and down like a roller coaster and with the super dry weather in the Western portion of the state has been pleasant, but everything is living and dying at the end of my garden hose. For the time of year things are looking unseasonably dry, we can only hope that this won't be another dry summer like 2022.

Many thanks to all the volunteers at our Mother's Day Orchid Sale last month; I hope everyone had a chance to pick up something new! We had an amazing turnout of volunteers for pre-sale prep and on the day of the sale. Things wouldn't have gone as smoothly without you guys. Also many thanks to the First Congregational Church for hosting our event, the location and accessibility on the Southington Green were perfect. As our main fundraising event of 2023 this makes a huge difference for the financial standing of the club as we plan events and activities for the year allowing us to keep the calendar packed with guest speakers. This was the first time holding a fundraiser event like this and we would love to hear your

feedback or suggestions on how to make this event better if we decide to move ahead with something like this in the future. With this under our belts it's time to start thinking ahead to a 2024 Orchid Show and Sale, more to follow as we begin the process we are always looking for members to get involved!

Looking ahead, the June Meeting will be on June 14th in Farmington, featuring guest speaker Tim Culbertson's talk on Encyclia's of Mexico and Beyond. For those of you who attended Tim's virtual talk last June he gave a stellar presentation on Paphiopedilum's for our group. For this meeting we are looking forward to meeting him in person and maybe picking up a few plants from him during the meeting. One of the many membership benefits in addition to expert speakers and the featured talk there is usually the opportunity to purchase plants related to the featured topic directly from the speaker. Tim will be bringing plants to sell at the meeting so while everything is outside for the summer there is always room for one more!

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Christian

Some Photos from Our Mother's Day Orchid Sale!



Looking Ahead

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

Pre-Order from Fred Clarke (Sunset Valley Orchids) for our July Picnic.

Fred will be sending our orchids ahead of the picnic date, July 9th at BlackRock State Park in Thomaston, CT . There will be a 10% discount applied to the website pricing. Checks to be collected at the picnic when you can pick up your plants and enjoy a presentation by Fred. (Or you can make other arrangements with me personally to get the plants if you are not attending the picnic)

DEADLINE to email orders to me: JUNE 21, 2023

Website: <http://sunsetvalleyorchids.com/>

NOT PLACE YOUR ORDER ON LINE....Send me (Mary Rampone) the information and I will combine the group for free shipping.

Information required to be sent to me at

COSMembership@earthlink.net :

-SVO Item number

-Plant name

-Price

-Your Name and Phone number in case of questions.

Happy Shopping!!

A mysterious rare orchid makes its home in New Hampshire's forests

Hadley Barndollar New Hampshire

Bulletin <https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/2023/05/17/a-mysterious-rare-orchid-makes-its-home-in-new-hampshires-forests/70218544007/> Phptp By Jeffery Lougee



Everybody likes something rare, whether it's a baseball card, an old car, or a seemingly nondescript orchid.

One of the rarest orchids in North America happens to make its home among particular topography in New Hampshire, in forests of hemlock, beech, oak and pine.

The federally threatened wildflower has a grayish green stem, and its elliptical-shaped leaves "radiate like a star," said Chris Kane, part-time ecologist at the [New Hampshire Natural Heritage](#)

Bureau. One, sometimes two green-yellow flowers open up like delicate little mouths. Look closer and you might see rows of what look like tiny teeth.



This is the small whorled pogonia. Sporadic concentrations of the rare plant span from Canada to as far south as Georgia, while New Hampshire and Maine have the largest populations in the world.

It's not at all showy like the pink bulbous flowers of the lady slipper orchid, or the popular moth orchids for sale at garden centers. Instead, the small whorled pogonia grows humbly on the forest floor among its fellow native neighbors – such as Indian cucumber root, witch hazel, and New York fern. It blends in with much of its surroundings.

“It's quite possible that people who walk by one might not even know they see one,” Kane said.

The small whorled pogonia is found largely in the east-central part of New Hampshire, with populations stretching across the border into Maine. Scientists working with the orchid tend to keep their specific locations publicly quiet, but that doesn't deter the serious hobbyists from venturing out into the woods.

“I think for some people that develop an interest in botany and finding species, it's like a little treasure hunt,” said Jeff Lougee, director of stewardship and ecological management at The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire. “I think that's a big part of it. With orchids, just like birds, there are folks out there that develop lists and want to see them all.”

This orchid remains a mystery of sorts. It can go dormant for years, sometimes decades. It likes specific spots within common habitats, and yet doesn't propagate very successfully in them. Its seeds can remain in the ground for 20 years unspouted, but still be viable.

Kane called it "a really sort of inscrutable species."

The perennial orchid made national headlines last year when it was found in Vermont for the first time since 1902. Before it was identified by two community scientists, the small whorled pogonia was widely believed to be extinct in the Green Mountain State for the last 100-plus years. A state botanist called the discovery "astounding."

A mysterious wildflower

New Hampshire's small whorled pogonia populations can range anywhere from a single plant to "many hundreds," Kane said. But because some can go dormant for several years at a time, they're tricky to count. He estimated there's likely many more out there than people realize.

The rare little flower has a lot of complexities, and researchers remain fascinated by its peculiar existence.

"You'd think that it being rare, it has a rare habitat," Kane said. "But as it turns out, the habitat is about as plain vanilla as it gets. A mixed hardwood-softwood, average-age forest. There are probably a million acres of habitat like that in New Hampshire."

And yet the orchid likes very distinct conditions within that common habitat, showing up in a spotty manner. Lougee said it's typically found "at the toe of slopes where there is a little bit more moisture."

The orchid develops capsules holding hundreds of dust-like seeds, and yet it struggles to propagate. That's because it requires a certain "fungal partner" in order for seeds to germinate, Kane said. Scientists are enthralled by the relationship between the small whorled pogonia's roots and a mysterious type of mycorrhizal fungi, which appears to be essential to successful propagation.

Sabrina Stanwood, administrator at the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau, called the small whorled pogonia a "diva plant" because of its distinct needs.

Protecting New Hampshire's small whorled pogonia populations

Generally speaking, the small whorled pogonia has been put at risk over the years by human development of forest habitats. It was listed as federally endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 1982, and has since been changed to “threatened” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Lougee credits that positive movement to increased identification and recovery efforts over the last three decades.

“There was a lot of work done to identify populations,” he said, “to help implement a recovery plan. Part of that included inventory work to make sure we had a good handle on where the populations were. We identified a number of populations not known about, and we’re getting a better handle on where the species can be found.”

Some experimental management work appears to have helped make populations more viable, both Lougee and Kane said. The work is focused around increasing the amount of light getting into the forest’s “deep-shaded understory,” as populations located there have seemed to decline over time and not reproduce.

For example, small whorled pogonia populations had been decreasing in the White Mountain National Forest starting in the late 1990s, largely attributed to an increase in competing vegetative growth preventing sunlight from reaching the small orchid.

“We have seen a response where more plants are producing capsules and that’s really exciting because that’s a pretty key thing to the viability,” Lougee said.

Kane said experimental work in some locations has resulted in a “flush of new plants coming up.”

So why should people care about a modest rare orchid that grows so inconspicuously you might not be able to find it? Its presence is ultimately indicative of New Hampshire’s native biodiversity – the rich variety of plants and creatures that create a carefully connected ecosystem. Native plants are especially important in a changing climate that’s enabling invasive species to run rampant.

And with all of its mysteries, who knows what the small whorled pogonia could mean for the future. That’s why, in part, researchers like Kane and Lougee feel a duty to help maintain this one tiny piece of an enormous ecological puzzle.

“(In a world) largely dominated and controlled by humans, (plants) don’t really have the opportunity to avoid destruction or even maintain their successful life in certain situations unless we step in,” Kane said. “That becomes a moral question. Is that a responsibility that humans have on this earth?”

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 the Orchid bees! Yes, they are real!

<https://www.farveda.gov/buildflowers>

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

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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.