



Newsletter

January 2024

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The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

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Next Meeting

January 10th, 2024

Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Ave
Cheshire, CT 06410

Doors open
at 6:30pm for socializing and
the meeting starts at 7pm.

Featured Event

Orchid Viruses

President's Message

Hi everyone,

I trust everyone had a pleasant holiday season with friends and family as we reach the end of 2023. The long winter nights certainly leave plenty of time to reflect on warmer brighter days of spring and summer. I finally have time to work a bit more on my collection and I am itching to do some long-procrastinated repotting, but most plants are dormant and to repot when not in active growth would hamper growth if not kill the plants. Best to wait till spring. As the dryer winter rest continues for many of the plants in my collection flower sheaths are filling out and buds beginning to swell. A few winter favorites are blooming in spite of the season to provide some holiday cheer. Flowers this time of year seem to last longer and seem more precious when there is little else happening outdoors. This is a time to enjoy some downtime and marvel at the beauty that we are able to bring into our lives.

It was a festive gathering at the annual Holiday Party this year at the Farmington Senior Center with plenty of good food and better company. We tried to set up the tables so we could all see each other, but in the end, I think things felt a bit like a meeting of the world orchid congress. The officer slate was proposed and all the officers were voted into office. This year we welcome Jason Chang as Vice President and Valerie D'Apice as Recording Secretary. The remainder of the evening was spent enjoying the food, there were some chefs out there with some delicious recipes; potlucks are always a fun time. The show table was brimming with eye-catching blooms with a good selection of plants considering the time of year.

Hold on to the seat of your pants show season is almost upon us. There are lots of orchid events in the upcoming months. If you have never been to a show take a look at the calendar of events there is lots happening in January and February. Many of our sister societies in the Northeast host shows this time of year; the first of which is the New Jersey Orchid Society Show & Sale on Jan. 12-14th followed by The Cape and Island Orchid Society Show & Sale Jan 20-21. As usual we will be putting together a club display at each of the shows and will be collecting blooming plants for the display in the week leading up to the show. So keep in mind any plants you might have in spike or bud that will be ready for show season. It's always a fun time to earn some ribbons for the club.

On the topic of shows we are planning a show for 2024 the third weekend of April at the Bristol Senior Center April 19-21. This will be our first show since 2019 before the pandemic. It's an important event for the society to maintain a public image in the orchid world and in our local community. We are in the initial stages of planning the event and are looking to form a Show Committee to meet separately from the monthly Board Meetings. A signup sheet was passed around at the Holiday Party if anyone else is interested in joining the planning process please reach out directly to either Mary or myself with your contact info and we will add you to the list. We are still in the initial planning stages, but this will soon become an all hands on deck effort to man all the moving parts. It's also a great way to become involved and have a fun time.

Our upcoming January meeting will be held at the Cheshire Senior Center on January 10th and will feature a talk that I am putting together on Orchid Viruses. This is a topic I wish I had known about when I first started working with orchids. It only came onto my radar once there were severe symptoms of plant decline manifesting throughout the collection I was working with, truly a situation that would strike fear in the heart of any orchid professional. When we think of disease-causing organisms in plants and animals we often overlook the commonalities between the maladies we experience and those that affect plants. While we can't necessarily come down with a fungal case of botrytis or a viral case of CymMV there are similarities in how these diseases are spread. It's important to be aware of common pathogens so that disease prevention in your plants becomes as second nature as washing your hands before eating.

See you at the January Meeting!

-Christian

HAVE IDEAS?

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

Upcoming AOS Webinars

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

Registration at www.aos.org

January 3: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

January 23: Multifloral Paphs

At 8:30pm

February 7: Phalaenopsis: Soup to Nuts

At 8:30pm

February 8: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm



Orchids in the News

Cataloguing Florida's Rare Orchids: read more [here](#).

Emmanuel Tarpin's Orchid Jewellery: read more [here](#).

Florals in Fashion: NYBG Orchid Show: read more [here](#).

Six New Orchid Species Discovered in China: read more [here](#).

Lawsuit to Protect Florida's Ghost Orchids: read more [here](#).

December Meeting Minutes

The December 13, 2023 Connecticut Orchid Society (COS) meeting was held at the Farmington Senior Center with 23 people in attendance. The meeting began at approximately 7PM with Christian Lesage and Mary Rampone (Presidents) leading the business meeting portion of the gathering. They shared information about upcoming events that will be happening in our region. These include:

COS January 10th meeting will be in Cheshire and Christian will discuss viruses and their impact.

COS February 14 will be back in Farmington with a flasking workshop.

Cape & Islands Society will have a show January 20-21 in Hyannis MA. Mary will attend.

Deep Cut Orchid Society will be having a show February 16-18 in Holindel NJ. Cheryl will attend.

Volunteers are needed for COS participation in the CT Flower and Garden Show in Hartford February 22-25. There will be a sign up for set up/ take down and for shifts manning the booth. Volunteers will receive free admission to the event.

COS will be hosting our own show in April. We are looking for people to serve on the Show Committee. There are many functions needed to make it a successful event.

Plants are needed for display purposes at all these events. (Loan) It's a way to potentially win recognition for your orchid(s)

Dave Tognalli introduced the slate of officers for 2024 for election. They include:

President: Mary Rampone and Christian Lesage.

Vice President: Jason Chang

Treasurer: Suzy Spinelli

Directors at Large: Rebecca Schwartz, Mike Wicki, Karen Kuziel

Recording Secretary: Valerie D'Apice and Carla Koch

Dave asked if anyone else wanted to run for any office and hearing none the motion to accept the nominations was entered. Katya Lazur seconded the motion. A show of hands - unanimous yes. None opposed. Motion carried.

Following elections, Cheryl was presented a gift in gratitude for her many years of dedication and service to COS.

A "pot luck" dinner was enjoyed by all with a variety of appetizers, main dishes and dessert. The cost was \$15 per person. We played a game where we had to guess Christmas carols from a description. The winner received raffle tickets.

Dave shared information about each of the orchids on the show table.

The meeting finished by 9:30pm.

Submitted by Valerie D'Apice

December Show Table

<i>Brascidostele</i> Gilded Tower	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Bratonia</i> Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi' AM/AOS	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Catasetum</i> Hat Trick 'Oh Yeah'	J. Chang	w, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Athena Chagaris 'Pisgah'	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Hsinying Excell 'DG' HCC/AOS	T. Zamojski	i, l
x <i>Cattleya</i> Circle of Life 'Red Halo' HCC/AOS		
<i>Cattleya</i> Lynn Spencer 'Pearl' HCC/AOS	J. Chang	i, g
<i>Cattleya maxima</i>	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya trianaei</i> 'Geneva's Holiday Surprise' HCC/AOS	J. Chang	i, g
<i>Epidendrum parkinsonianum</i>	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Oncidium cheiroporum</i> x sib	K. Lazor	i, w
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hawaiian Contrasts	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. yellow with spots	M. Rampone	i, g
<i>Renantanda</i> Sunrise 'Prasong' AM/AOS	T. Zamojski	i, l
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Cornerstone 'Compass'	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Vanda</i> Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride' FCC/AOS	J. Change	w, g
<i>Vandachostylis</i> Lou Sneary 'Lea' AM/AOS	C. Lesage	i, g

* c = cool, i=intermediate, w=warm

g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

***Bracidostele* Gilded Tower**



***Catasetum* Hat Trick 'Oh Yeah'**



***Cattleya* Hsinying Excell 'DG' HCC/AOS
x *Cattleya* Circle of Life 'Red Halo' HCC/AOS**

***Cattleya* Athena Chagaris 'Pisgah'**



***Cattleya* maxima**



***Cattleya* Lynn Spencer 'Pearl' HCC/AOS**



***Cattleya* trianaei 'Geneva's Holiday Surprise'
HCC/AOS**



Epidendrum parkinsonianum



Oncidium cheiroporum x *sib*



Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Contrasts



Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. yellow with spots



Renantanda Sunrise 'Prasong' AM/AOS



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Cornerstone 'Compass'



Vanda Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride' FCC/AOS



Vandachostylis Lou Sneary 'Lea' AM/AOS



Our Holiday Party



People's Choice from our December Show Table

1st Place:

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Goldenzelle
'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS



2nd Place:

Bratonia Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi' AM/AOS



Upcoming Events for 2024: COS and Beyond

January

January 8: Board Meeting 7pm
January 10: COS Meeting Cheshire: Orchid Viruses
January 12-14: The New Jersey Orchid Society Show & Sale
January 20-21: The Cape and Island Orchid Society Show & Sale

February

February 12: Board Meeting 7pm
February 14: COS Meeting Farmington: Orchid Unflasking Workshop
February 16-18: The Deep Cut Orchid Society Show & Sale
February 22-25: CT Flower and Garden Show Hartford, CT
February 24-25: Amherst Orchid Society Show & Sale

March

March 1-3: New Hampshire Orchid Society Show & Sale
March 11: Board Meeting 7pm
March 13: COS Meeting Cheshire: Possible Slipper Talk from Deep Cut Society

April

April 8: Board Meeting 7pm
April 10: COS Meeting Farmington: Show Preparation
April 19-21: The Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale

May

May 6: Board Meeting 7pm
May 8: COS Meeting Cheshire: TBD

June

June 10: Board Meeting 7pm
June 12: COS Meeting Farmington: Alan Koch, Gold County Orchids

July

July 8: Board Meeting 7pm
July Date TBD: COS Summer Picnic

September

September 9: Board Meeting 7pm
September 11: COS Meeting Cheshire: Repotting Clinic

October

October 7: Board Meeting 7pm
October 9: COS Meeting Farmington: Kim Fedderson, Fair Orchids

November

November 11: Board Meeting 7pm
November 13: COS Meeting Cheshire: Dave

December

December 9: Board Meeting 7pm
December 11: COS Holiday Party

Subject to Change

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: \$30/yr. Individual \$35/yr. Family

\$300 Individual or \$350 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.

2024 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

CO-PRESIDENTS	Mary Rampone & Christian Lesage	
VICE-PRESIDENT	Jason Chang	
TREASURER	Suzie Spinelli	
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE, EDITOR	Rebecca Schwartz	
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	Karen Kuziel	203-262-9077
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	Mike Wicki	
RECORDING SECRETARY	Carla Koch & Valerie D'Apice	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.