February 2024

Volume LXIV Issue II

Newsletter

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with The American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest

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Next Meeting

February 14th, 2024

Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave
Unionville, CT 06085

. Doors open
at 6:30 PM for socializing and
the meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Featured Event

Orchid Unflasking

President's Message

Hi everyone,

January is the month of the dreamer. With the land locked away beneath the icy embrace of winter it's hard to imagine what the green and growing world looks like. In January it's all about living vicariously through gardening magazines, periodicals, and journals. All the back issues that I was too busy to read back during the summer are dusted off and thoroughly pored over. Spare time abounds and invariably this leads to excessive seed and plant orders. It's hard to imagine how I will find the time to take care of everything or even have room in the garden and in the greenhouse for everything, but that is a 'future me' problem. Right now anything seems possible and I am willing to commit myself to a life of servitude to my plants if only to enjoy the sights and scents of a living, breathing world. But even now during the coldest part of the year, the days are already growing longer and with it comes the promise of new growth. On a walk through the greenhouse, it's exciting to see all the new growing leads budding out at the base of last year's pseudobulbs. Another month and it will be time to put up the shade cloth again, already the light levels are strong enough to produce excess pigmentation on new leaves. Especially on a sunny, snowy day it can be shockingly bright and warm under glass. It has me wishing that I could build a greenhouse around my house and enjoy the winter sun in short sleeves and shorts.

I hope everyone enjoyed the talk on viruses last month. This is a topic that I wish had been on my radar earlier in my orchid growing journey. While your tolerance level for viruses in your collection is a personal choice, the emphasis should be on prevention through proper sanitation and handling practices when working between plants. Remember we are the main vector for CymMV and ORSV transmission between plants. It may not be practical or cost effective to test every plant in your collection or it just might not matter enough if plants are asymptomatic. Many plants are completely asymptomatic, depending on genetics they may be more tolerant or vigorous enough to grow and flower well despite being virused. Many times, symptoms are not expressed unless the plant is stressed. Some plants are of significant historical or breeding value which means collectors are willing to keep them segregated in their collections. We talked about ordering virus test strips in bulk for folks who don't necessarily need a full package of 50, if you are interested, please reach out to me at ctorchidsociety@gmail.com. If we have enough people it will be cost effective to order a bulk pack and split it between the members. The cost per strip is $6 per test from Regabio.

Our upcoming meeting in February will feature a hands on un-flasking workshop. We are putting together a short presentation on orchid tissue culture, after which where we will de-flask and pot up Paphiopedilum seedlings for everyone to take home.

Thanks to everyone involved in putting together our display for the Cape and Island Orchid Society Show the third weekend of January. It was a beautiful setup and folks received a number of ribbons. Participating in these shows is important for the society to maintain relationships with other orchid societies in the Northeast. We are in the process of planning our 2024 Show and Sale for the 3rd weekend of April - 4/20 and 4/21. If we want them to show up to our event with displays, we need to be there for them! February is going to be another busy month with two upcoming shows on top of the Hartford Flower and Garden Show Educational Booth!

We need your help to make the COS participation a success!

Don't forget to bring along your blooming plants for this month's show table. It's always exciting to see what's coming into bloom. Looking forward to an awesome show table! See you here!

-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

February 7: Phalaenopsis: Soup to Nuts

At 8:30pm

February 8: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

March 3: AOS Culture Day

At 8:30pm

March 14: Designing and Building Home Greenhouses

At 8:30pm

Orchids in the News

Kew's Top 10 New Plants (and Mushrooms) of 2023: read more here.

Australian Orchids Blooming Early: read more here.

Florals in Fashion: NYBG Orchid Show: read more here.

Smithsonian Orchid Show Art: read more here.

Climbing into a Bornean Rainforest: read more here.

January Meeting Minutes

The January 10 2024 meeting of COS was held in Cheshire with approximately 20 people in attendance. Two new people joined, Robert Dudley and George Jones. Mary Rampone called the meeting to order and shared about the upcoming orchid shows in our region, including NJ, MA and NH. Participation is encouraged. Set up, take down and orchids to show at the shows is needed to make our displays possible. We will also be at the CT Flower & Garden Show in Hartford Feb 22-25th and need volunteers to work the table. A sign up was distributed.

COS is planning to do a show this year and is waiting on confirmation from AOS (American Orchid Society) for the dates April 20-21st. Looking to form a show committee to plan and work the show.

Mary reminded us that this is the time of year membership dues are being collected. New annual rates are $30 individual and $35 for a family. Lifetime memberships are $300 individual and $350 for a family. Payment can be given to Mary at the meeting or paid on line at ctorchids.org .

Our next meeting will be in Farmington on February 14th. An unflasking workshop will be held. Cost for the plants is $10 per plant. These "baby plants" should be ready to bloom within about 18 months.

The program at the January meeting was a presentation by Christian Lesage about viruses that plants can be susceptible to. Viruses weaken plants and reduce their vigor. Bloom quality is impacted and viruses can spread from plant to plant. Sometimes plants are asymptomatic. Christian mentioned there are 30 different viruses known to affect orchids. His presentation focused on some of the most prevalent. He discussed how they spread and how growers can help prevent spread. Bottom line: Start Clean/Stay Clean. His PowerPoint presentation was recorded and will be made available on the COS website. It was very detailed and informative. The presentation was very well received. Christian concluded by talking about test kits that are available and some members inquired about ordering them. Buying in bulk and splitting the cost is a possibility.

After Christian's talk concluded, Dave spoke about the orchids that members brought for our show table.

The meeting concluded at 9:15PM.

Submitted by Valerie D'Apice

***Cattleya* hybrid ig. purple mini**

Cattleya percivaliana
('Karen Graft' x 'Summit' FCC/AOS)

February's Meeting

Our upcoming meeting in February will feature a hands-on un-flasking workshop. We are putting together a short presentation on orchid tissue culture, after which where we will de-flask and pot up Paphiopedilum seedlings for everyone to take home. After talking with Dave Sorokowsky over at Paph Paradise, we decided on a nice hybrid sequential blooming Paph, amazingly enough he is claiming it can be bloomed in as little as 18 months out of flask! For those of you interesting in looking up the lineage, the cross is Paphiopedilum Magic Paradise 'Merlot' x Paph. victoria-regina. The fee to participate in the workshop is $10 per person. This will include: 1 seedling, potting mix, and container for transitioning the plant out of tissue culture.

Ever wonder how new orchid crosses are produced commercially? The process is a bit more complicated than popping a few seeds into a pot and watching them develop into a seedling. Early orchid growers sowed the dust like seeds of orchids onto moss trays in the greenhouse, success was very low and few plants were produced with this method. After a selected was
bloomed successfully and found to be worth keeping the only way to propagate the plant was the slow process of division from growing leads. Early orchids were expensive and of limited availability to the general public unless in the form of jungle collected plants. With the advent of tissue culture the germination rate increased, making it feasible for production of seedling
crops. At the same time a choice selection of a plant could be clonally propagated from meristematic tissue and multiplied exponentially faster in vitro than through division. While you can order blooming sized seed grown or meristem culture plants, many growers also offer the option of purchasing flasks of young plants. Successfully transitioning plants out of the flask takes a bit of care to ensure that the tender orchids are properly acclimated to the new growing environment. The workshop part of the talk should demystify the process a bit for the hobbyist, with a controlled environment grow chamber of light rack this could be your next orchid adventure.

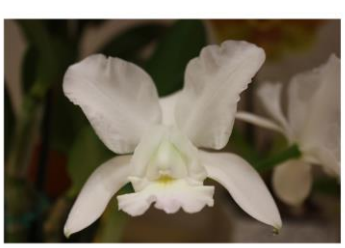
The pod parents Paph. Magic Paradise 'Merlot' x Paph. victoria-regina are both very attractive plants and should produce some nice offspring, seedlings all bring something unique to the table, maybe even an award winning cross in the batch!

January Show Table

Cattleya hybrid ig. purple mini	K. Kuziel	i, w/l
Cattleya percivaliana ('Karen Graft' x 'Summit' FCC/AOS)	M. Rampone	i, g
Cattleya walkeriana 'Limrick' HCC/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
Cattlianthe Secret Love	K. Kuziel	i, w/l
Ceratostylis philippinensis	K. Lazor	i, w
Laelia Splendid Spire	M. Rampone	i, g
Lealiocattleya Amoena var. coerulea	C. Lesage	i, g
Oncidium Green Valley Sweet	C. Lesage	i, g
Oncidium Shary Baby	B. Michaels	c, w
Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite	C. Lesage	i, g
Paphiopedilum (Dot McNay 'Quebec Vini' x Cormoran 'Aigret')	M. Rampone	i, g
Paphiopedilum hybrid ig. white/green	C. Lesage	i, g
Paphiopedilum liemianum	J. Chang	i, g/l
Paphiopedilum sukhakulii	J. Chang	i, g/l
Paphiopedilum Via Oro 'Golden Gift' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. pink harlequin	B. Michaels	c, w
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. white with red spots	I. Contreras	i, w
Phalaenopsis japonica Shima syn. *Siderea*	J. Chang	i, g/l
Rhyncattlianthe Memoria Olga Iris Colon x *Cattlianthe* Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM/AOS	K. Kuziel	i, w/l
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Temple Bells 'Shapely' HCC/AOS x *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Mendenhall-Summit' AM/AOS	C. Lesage	i, g
Stenorrhynchus speciosum	C. Lesage	i, g
Zygoneria Adeliade Meadows	J. Change	w, g/l
Vanda hybrid ig.	G. Gross	w, g

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

***Cattleya walkeriana* 'Limrick' HCC/AOS**



***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. pink harlequin**

***Cattlianthe* Secret Love**

***Lealiocattleya* Amoena var. coerulea**

***Oncidium* Green Valley Sweet**

***Oncidium* Shary Baby**

***Oncidium* Tsiku Marguerite**

Paphiopedilum
(Dot McNay 'Quebec Vini' x Cormoran 'Aigret')

Stenorrhynchus speciosum

***Zygoneria* Adeliade Meadows**

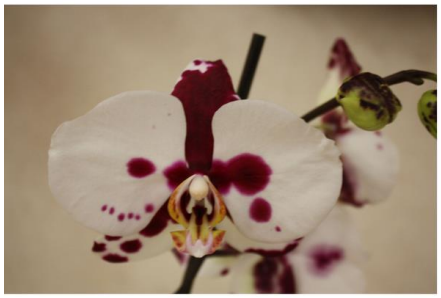
***Paphiopedilum* hybrid ig. white/green**

Paphiopedilum liemianum

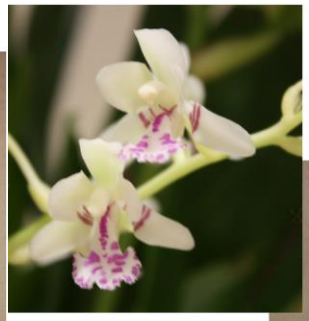
***Paphiopedilum* Via Oro 'Golden Gift' AM/AOS**

Paphiopedilum sukhakulii

***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. white with red spots**



Phalaenopsis japonica* Shima syn. *Siderea



***Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Temple Bells 'Shapely' HCC/AOS x *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Mendenhall-Summit' AM/AOS**

***Rhyncattlianthe* Memoria Olga Iris Colon x *Cattlianthe* Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM/AOS**

People's Choice from our January Show Table

1st Place:

Laelia Splendid Spire

2nd Place:

Ceratostylis philippinensis

The COS display at the Cape and Island Orchid Show garnered many ribbons for the society, a special shout out to Mary Rampone for setup and Brian Pervere for takedown!

The **Deep Cut Orchid Society Show 2/16-2/18** & the **Amherst Orchid Society Show 2/24-2/25**. We need blooming plants to put together displays, if you have plants to contribute to the Deep Cut Orchid Society Show and Sale please bring them to the February meeting for drop off. Cheryl Mizak will be driving down on Thurs. 2/15 to set up the display, if you are unable to make it to the meeting and would still like to contribute plants, stay tuned for an email about when you can coordinate drop off with Cheryl.

For the Amherst Orchid Society Show and Sale I will be driving up to MA to setup the display on Thurs. 2/22 and will be coordinating plant pickups earlier in the week. Stay tuned for a coordinating email for that show as well.

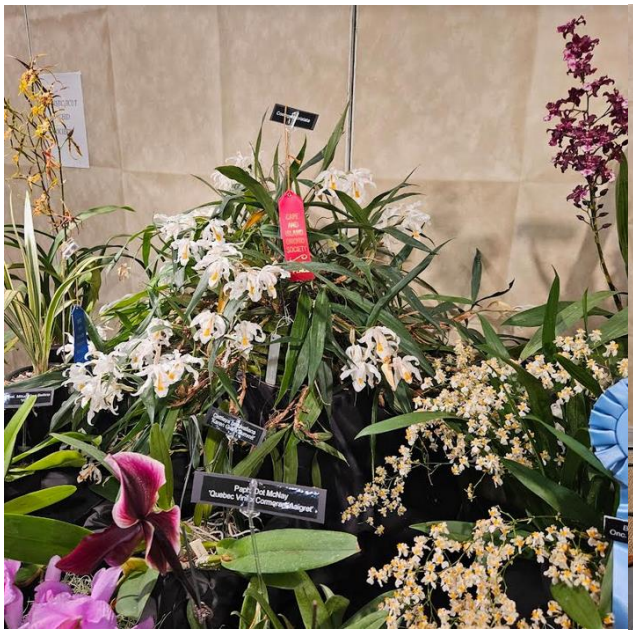
The Hartford Flower and Garden Show 2/22-2/25 Once again the COS will be putting together an informational booth in the Federated Garden Clubs education section. Members are needed to staff the table and engage with the public and answer questions. This is a great outreach opportunity for the club, creating visibility and generating new memberships. Combined we have a wealth of knowledge about orchids so let's get out there to promote some interest by helping people understand what they are and how they are grown.

The sign-up sheet was passed around at the last few meetings and thank you to everyone who already volunteered. If you haven't signed up yet and still want to volunteer, please reach out to ctorchidsociety@gmail.com.

COS Members who volunteer to staff the booth will have free entry to the show that day! We are asking for a commitment of at least 3hrs, which leaves plenty of time for enjoying the rest of the show. Please respond ASAP to so your name will be registered for free entry.

***Vanda* hybrid ig.**

Our Display at CAIOS



Upcoming Events for 2024: COS and Beyond

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 Hinckleysamuelhinckley@comcast.net(860) 688-0943 (After 7:30 pm) Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

Glenn McGeoughmcgeough7@gmail.com(203) 482-3973Specializing in Cattleyas.

Jeffrey Richardsjeffrey.richards@snet.net
Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

David Tognallidtog54@sbcglobal.net(860) 521-7249 (Contact Evenings& weekends) Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, & mixed genera.

Rebecca Schwartz rebecca.r.schwartz@gmail.comVivarium 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: $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	
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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.