



Newsletter

May 2024

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The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with The American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest

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Next Meeting

May 8th, 2024

Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Ave
Cheshire, CT 06410

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

Featured Event

Jumping Worms

Presented by Dr. Gale
Ridge, Associate
Scientist from The
Connecticut Agricultural
Experiment Station

President's Message

Hi everyone,

From the Culture Corner:

The color of this month is green in all its verdant glory, and how we have missed it these long winter months of brown and grey. For the orchid grower this signals that it's finally safe to begin transitioning our collections back outside to take advantage of the additional light and moisture. The importance of the acclimation process cannot be emphasized strongly enough, the transition between an indoor growing environment and the great outdoors can be stressful on plants long accustomed to stable conditions. Never move a plant from an indoor location into direct sunlight. Low light levels outside are significantly brighter than what we would consider bright indoor lighting, the intensity and duration are much stronger than anything other than perhaps commercial HID grow lights. Even plants that can handle high light levels must be acclimated to prevent leaf scorch and permanent damage to mature leaves. It's critical to find a shelter, shaded location where plants can be gradually accustomed to outdoor light levels.

Over time you should notice morphological changes to the leaves signaling that the plant is adapting to changes in the environment. This can take the form of a color change and hardening of growth in the leaves as deep greens lighten, cuticles thicken, and anthocyanin pigments are produced. Once these cues are noted, consider the natural environment in which your plants are from and find microclimates in your outdoor growing areas that meet species requirements. You will find that the added boost to plant growth from moving outside will allow your plants to put on more roots and store energy for larger growths and better blooms, that may make it worth investing in benches, pergolas, shelves, shade cloth or lattice, and rain shelters. As always growing orchids should enrich our lives and foster creativity through the beauty and discoveries of the plant world. Have a setup that works for you or want to show off your outdoor growing area feel free to submit photos for next month's newsletter, you might just inspire someone else!

Looking Ahead to this month:

First off welcome to all the new members who joined at the Show and Sale last month. Being a part of the COS you are a part of a community of growers with a shared passion in orchids. Our officers and board strive to put together an engaging and educational program of events for the year featuring orchid events, parties, and speakers. We encourage you to become involved in the society and help us make the society better. Orchid growing is mostly a solitary pursuit and our monthly meetings provide an engaging space to learn and connect with others who share your passion. We are looking forward to meeting you and hope to see you at one of our next meetings.

For the May meeting we are venturing slightly off the orchid theme with a talk by Gale Ridge, PhD from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station on the topic of Jumping Worms in Connecticut. This is relevant for those of us that move plants outdoors in the summer or are interested in cultivating native terrestrial orchids. The gardener in me certainly fears seeing these critters appear in my garden or local woodland. Seeing firsthand the work of a population of Jumping Worms it's devastating to the soil ecology and plants growing there. Thankfully the name is a bit of misnomer, since they can't actually jump, but they are fast moving and voracious consumers of organic matter which can quickly turn the soil into a crumbly mass of castings.

Potted plants can be equally at risk and a pot filled with moisture retentive potting mix high in organic matter can quickly become infested with worms that disturb plant roots and reduce plant vigor. Thankfully most of our orchids should be growing in fresh mixes that drain quickly and don't provide a home for these critters, but pots with older mix that is breaking down or more 'soil like' mixes could become a buffet if left in ground contact where these guys are present. Interested in learning something new, come on out and join us at the May meeting, we will be recapping from the Show last month and discussing how it went, and as always, we encourage you to bring your blooming plants for the Show Table!

For a visual comparison of worms there is a useful guide found on the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust website.

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

May 9: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

May 16: Taiwan World Orchid
Conference

At 8:30pm

June 11: SITF (Species Identification
Task Force)

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](#).

April Show

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, effort and blooming orchids for our show. Our beautiful and impressive display table was undeniably the centerpiece of our show's display room. Many show ribbons were awarded to our plants. We also garnered two trophies and two rosettes as well! Those special awards were:

The American Orchid Society's Show Trophy for the Best Display in the Show was awarded to COS. Thanks goes particularly to George Anthony Jones for his design of the display and the infrastructure, along with Robert Dudley and Christain Lesage for their help at setup in constructing the display and filling it so artfully.

Ginna Plude's Phragmipedium Hanne Popow won both the Rosette for the Best of the Paphiopedilum Alliance in the Show and also the Al Deluca Memorial Trophy for the Best Slipper Grown by a Hobbyist.

Christian Lesage's Leptotes bicolor won a Rosette for the Best of the Cattleya Alliance in the Show.

Well done, everybody!

Three documents detailing the show ribbon, rosette and trophy winners are available on our website for you to check out if you like. One lists all the winners grouped by each Exhibitor. One lists all the winners grouped by each Judging Class. One lists only the rosette and trophy winners.

Go to [2024 Orchid Show and Sale: 'Spring Into Orchids' | The Connecticut Orchid Society \(ctorchids.org\)](#) and look at the links under Judging Results.

Once again, thank you to everybody who helped out in any way at the show. Congratulations to all our ribbon, rosette and trophy winners!



Our Display at Our April Show



April Show Table

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------|
| <i>Aliceara</i> Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS syn. <i>Beallara</i> | B. Michaelis | i, w |
| <i>Cattleya</i> Nancy Off 'Maria' | J. Chang | i, g/l |
| <i>Dendrobium</i> Royal Chip | K. Lazor | i, g |
| <i>Enanthleya</i> Golden Sunburst 'Exotic Orchids' AM/AOS | D. Tognalli | i, w |
| <i>Guaricyclia</i> Kyoguchi ('Peter's Pick' x 'M. Sauno' Mutation) | D. Tognalli | i, w |
| <i>Paphiopedilum callosum</i> | J. Chang | i, g/l |
| <i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i> | J. Chang | i, g/l |
| <i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i> | J. Chang | i, g/l |
| <i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Big White' | B. Michaelis | i, w |
| <i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Big Lip' | B. Michaelis | i, w |
| <i>Phalaenopsis</i> I-Lan Crystal Yellow 'LU2011-A' | D. Tognalli | i, w |
| <i>Phalaenopsis schilleriana</i> | K. Lazor | i, w |

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

***Aliceara* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'
AM/AOS syn. *Beallara***



***Cattleya* Nancy Off 'Maria'**



***Dendrobium* Royal Chip**



***Enanthleya* Golden Sunburst 'Exotic Orchids'
AM/AOS**



April Show Table

***Guaricyclia* Kyoguchi**
(‘Peter’s Pick’ x ‘M. Sauno’ Mutation)



Paphiopedilum callosum



Paphiopedilum delenatii



***Phalaenopsis* I-Lan Crystal Yellow ‘LU2011-A’**



***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. ‘Big Lip’**



People's Choice Winners for April

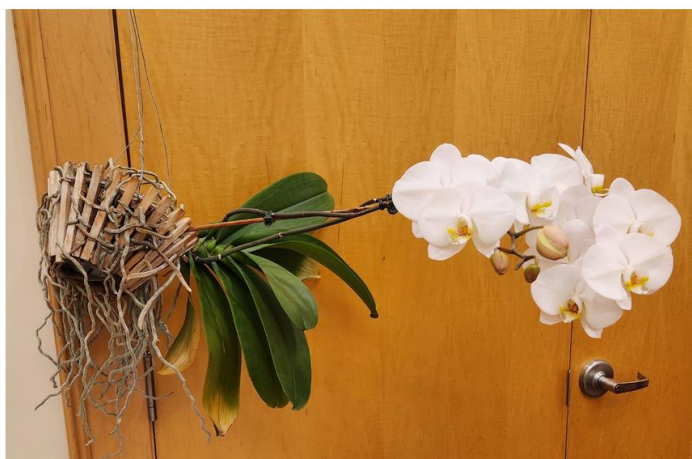
First Place: first attachment - Katya Lazor's *Phalaenopsis schilleriana*

Phalaenopsis schilleriana



Runner Up 1: second attachment – Brenden Michaelis' *Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. 'Big White'

***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. 'Big White'**



Runer Up #2: third and fourth attachment – Jason Chang's *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*

Paphiopedilum rothschildianum



Other Displays at our April Show





Setting Up the April Show Display

Our annual Show and Sale which took place at the Bristol Senior Center on the weekend of April 20th and 21st was an all-around success! Congratulations to all those who entered plants in the show area for judging and took home some ribbons and glory! The master designer behind this year's COS display was George Anthony Jones supported by Robert Dudley, myself and countless others who stepped up to put it all together, kudos to them for garnering the AOS award for Best Display. If you weren't quite sure about entering plants in the society exhibit or are new to orchid shows hopefully you got a chance to see what it's all about.

Many thanks to all our associated societies who put together displays they did a beautiful job. When we ask for volunteers to set up or take down and put out the call for blooming plants we are usually setting up a display in support of another societies Show and Sale. It takes a community to put together a successful show and if you walked through the Show floor this year and explored the displays, we have an incredible community of orchid growers all around. In the Sales on Saturday morning was especially bustling, remember we are open for two whole days! Our vendors brought out a nice selection of plant material and we saw many fine plants going by in boxes and bags to new homes! The society sales table was the place to go for all your orchid repotting needs with a wide array of potting supplies. For the discerning collector a select number of plant divisions donated from member collections were quickly snapped up by the voracious public. With over 400 visitors this year we hope everyone enjoyed the event and look forward to next year's Show and Sale!



Upcoming Events for 2024: COS and Beyond

May

May 6: Board Meeting 7pm

May 8: COS Meeting Cheshire: Gale Ridge PhD, Jumping Worms in Connecticut

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 Sorokowsky, Slipper Orchids

December

December 9: Board Meeting 7pm

December 11: COS Holiday Party

Subject to Change



The COS Club sales table stocked and ready for the Saturday morning rush!

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 | | |
| SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR | Katya Lazor | |
| 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.