June 2024

Volume LXIV Issue VI

Newsletter

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with The American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest

Inside this Issue

Page 1:
- Next Meeting
- Featured Event

Page 2:
- President's Message

Page 3:
- AOS Webinars
- Orchids in the News

Page 4:
- May Minutes

Page 5-8:
- Show Table

Page 9:
- Catasetums in Spring

Page 10:
- Events

Page 11:
- Mentors
- Membership Info

Page 12:
- Officers & Contacts
- Mission Statement

Next Meeting

June 12th, 2024
Doors open: 6:30
Meeting starts: 7pm

Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave
Unionville, CT 06085

Featured Event

Alan Koch

The ABC's of Orchid Nutrition

President's Message

Warmer temps have arrived long at last, and our warm growing specimens are luxuriating in the heat while we languish in the shade with our cool growing cloud forest specimens. The longer summer days mean that plants are pushing lots of growth this time of year as new growths which budded out in late winter harden off and mature. With much to do in the outdoor gardens it's time to sit back and let nature take care of our plants while we step back and enjoy some time outdoors. Many specimens are still blooming in my collection including Oncidium, Miltoniopsis, Dendrobium, and Cattleya. There is never an off season with orchids, they come into bloom like old friends gracing us with their return.

Last month we saw a nice turnout in Cheshire for a talk on Jumping Worms in CT. From firsthand experience with these pests in my gardens at home this is a topic that should be of interest to any plant grower out there. The amount of soil disturbance and perturbation in my planting beds is unbelievable. I unknowingly transported them here from my last garden before realizing how serious a problem they were and how careful you need to be about transporting them around. Plants that don't like disturbance are at serious risk, which includes our native terrestrial orchids. The fact sheet Gale Ridge passed around at the meeting is available online from the Connecticut Agricultural Station and is worth a read.

For the June meeting in Farmington, we will be welcoming Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids who is traveling all the way from California to give a talk on The ABC's of Orchid Nutrition. This can be an overlooked and mystery shrouded topic where we hesitate to feed our plants due to fears about burning the roots or doing more harm than good, often covered simply by the mantra 'Weakly, Weekly'. Oh how the pendulum swing, I used to fertilize regularly promoting lots of lush succulent new growth which often led to floppy leaves and fungal problems in the roots, while I now stand on the opposite side of the spectrum keeping the plants nutrient starved to promote harder sturdier new growth. In the search for some middle ground this is sure to be an enlightening talk as Alan dives into rhizosphere to share tip and trick for maximizing plant growth.

June's Presentation: The ABC's of Orchid Nutrition

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's along with miniature species. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with three Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 250,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature compact and Cattleya breeding.

Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society magazine, Orchids, as well as many International Publications. He has also been published in several proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Emeritus Judge and is Training Coordinator for the California-Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and 3 terms on the Board of Directors, as well as two terms as a Trustee for the AOS. He is currently the First Vice President for the International Phalaenopsis Alliance. Alan is also well known for the many AOS auctions he has done.

His talk will feature how to get the most out of your hobby and your plants. Learn some very simple tricks to get the most out of growing orchids. Interested in improving your orchid culture, come on out and join us at the June meeting, as always, we encourage you to bring your blooming plants for the Show Table! It's always exciting to see what's coming into bloom, looking forward to an awesome show table! See you there!

Please print and fill out the ID card for the show table

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

June 11: Species Identification Task Force

At 8:30pm

July 9: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

Sept 5: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

Orchids in the News

Orchids Feed Their Young Through Underground Fungal Connections: read more here.

Legal Victory Speeds Protection Decision for Rare Ghost Orchid: read more here.

May Meeting Minutes

Our speaker was Gayle Ridge from the Connecticut Experimental Station speaking on jumping worms. These are a very unpleasant invasive species with the potential to cause great havoc. They are an Asian worm that changes the habitat to be unfavorable to native plants. actually, Native American earth worms were pushed south during the Ice Age. Those that we are more familiar with come from Europe. These new ones are quite different.

They are stiff and snakelike, with light bellies. The collar that goes around them is continuous rather than broken as it is in other species. They have a flattened tail. like a beaver. Embryos will emerge from the cocoon in late April. Some can actually wait for another year and then emerge. They are parthenogenic, able to reproduce asexually. they can well survive forest fires, and frost. They have the potential for survival all over the United States. What is so bad about them is that they disturb the topsoil. Acting like a mini Rototiller, they turn the soil into a substance like coffee grounds, three or 4 inches thick. Unless plants are very deep rooted, they cannot survive this disturbance. Their activity produces more greenhouse gas, and also brings out heavy metals in the soil. ultimately, this activity leads to low germination desiccation and unstable routing. It can disturb native insect and even collapse stonewalls.

These worms were first introduced to the Bronx Zoo by Australian scientist in 1948. In 2013, hurricane Sandy. destroyed a great many trees in the New York area. As a result, mulch was brought from this area to New England, and this effectively imported the worms. They can damage crops as well as ecosystems. A simple way to keep them from coming to your area is to clean your shoes after visiting someone else's garden. Don't use them as bait because fish hate them, red wiggler worms are fine. They are known to be eaten by robins and toads, and the imported hammerhead worm can also eat them. Rototilling helps. Try to shop locally or bare root plants. Buy heat treated mulch. Soil can be freed of these worms by solarizing it. Put painters plastic on a sunny area, pour the soil on top of it, then put another sheet on top and duct tape the edges.

Fortunately, there are native plants that are able to survive the onslaught. Prairie plants, such as milkweed, black eyed Susans and goldenrod easily survive. Certain deep-rooted plants such as trilliums, partridgeberry, and Christmas fern are fine. There is a fungus that will control them, called Botanigard.

May Show Table

Cattleya warscewiczii 'Fabio Nahas' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
Paphiopedilum Harold Koopowitz (*rothschildianum* x *malipoense*)	J. Chang	i, g/l
Paphiopedilum rothschildianum ('Black Star' x 'Tarantula' GM/JPG)	J. Chang	i, g/l
Paphiopedilum Wossner Black Wings (*rothschildianum* x *anitum)*	J. Chang	i, g/l
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. 'Mini Yellow'	J. Meghani	w, w
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. 'Standard Yellow'	C. Liu	i, l
Phalaenopsis OX Black Face 'OX 1647' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g

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

Paphiopedilum Harold Koopowitz

Paphiopedilum rothschildianum

Paphiopedilum Wossner Black Wings

Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. 'Mini Yellow'

Phalaenopsis OX Black Face 'OX 1647' AM/AOS

People's Choice Awards Winner

Cattleya warscewiczii 'Fabio Nahas' AM/AOS

Runner Up

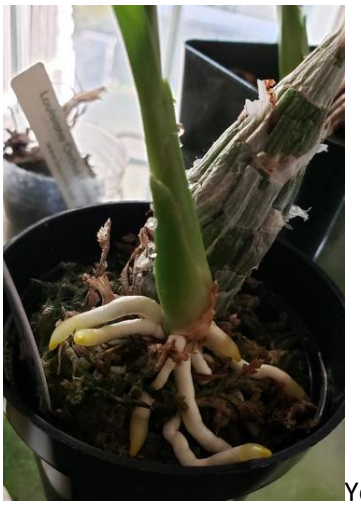
Phalaenopsis hybrid ig. 'Standard Yellow'

When to Water a Catasetum

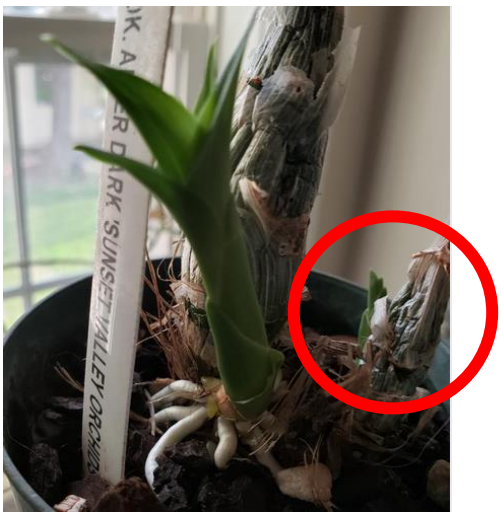
A Catasetum in spring is a tricky thing. There are several rules of thumb to keep in mind, and most have to do with the roots. Some Catasetums come out of dormancy faster than others. Here is the first stage. Do not water in this stage! There are no viable roots.

The next stage has a few little roots, and the leaves are starting to show themselves. Do not water in this stage either! Be patient.

The next stage has leave branching out and roots at least three inches long – or three roots at least one inch long. Now is the time to begin watering. However, watch out for multiple grows. Make sure all growths are watering size before you water.



Yes, watering size, but look in back….



Upcoming Events for 2024: COS and Beyond

June

June 10 Board Meeting 7pm
June 12 COS Meeting Farmington: Alan Koch, The ABC's of Orchid Nutrition

August

August 5 Board Meeting 7pm
August 11 COS Summer Picnic: Black Rock State Park

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

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 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	
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	

Contact Us

By Mail:

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

By Email:

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.