



Newsletter

April 2025

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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

April 9th, 2025
Doors open: 6:30
Meeting starts: 7pm

Farmington Senior Center

Featured Event

Jason Chang
Phragmipediums

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

It's that time of year: Spring is just around the corner and spring fever is upon us! Many of our orchids are bursting into bloom and we are all itching to spend more time outside with our plants and gardens.

Last month we hosted J&L Orchids from Easton CT, Cordelia Head former owner of the business gave a marvelous talk on Miniature Orchids for the Windowsill grower. Due to a problem with communication at the Cheshire Senior Center we had to move next door to the Victorian House Restaurant which graciously hosted us in their front dining area. We made do with a makeshift screen and projector setup in a cozy environment. Coffee and tea were available on request, and everyone pitched in to put the room in order for our meeting. What could have been a disaster turned into a fun change of scenery.

This month our presentation will be on Phragmipedium by our very own Vice President Jason Chang at the Farmington Senior and Community Center. He will go over a bit of the basics on culture and talk a bit about how to successfully bloom the plants in a home grow environment. If you have ever perused the monthly show table, you know that Jason is a fantastic grower with a keen eye for the best plants. There is rarely a month where he doesn't win the people's choice award. This should be a fun, interactive talk so be sure to come with questions. If anyone is interested in pre-ordering plants, please reach out to us at ctorchidsociety@gmail.com about reserving a Phragmipedium. They are fun plants to grow what the flowers lack in longevity they make up for in the duration of the blooms which on a mature plant appear sequentially over a long period of time. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 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

April 3: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

April 16: Growing Orchids Indoors and in Terrariums

At 8:30pm

May 8: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

May 15: Calming Your Fears About Repotting Your Orchids

At 8:30pm



Orchids in the News

Britian's Rarest Orchid Not Extinct: read more [here](#).

Orchid uses appendage to self-pollinate: read more [here](#).

Using Dogs to Find Orchids: read more [here](#).

New Australian Orchid Looks like a Cupcake: read more [here](#).

March Meeting Minutes

Connecticut Orchid Society Meeting
March 12 2025
Cheshire CT

COS members arrived at the Cheshire Senior Center only to discover the building was locked. Fortunately, Mary Rampone walked next door to the Victorian House Restaurant and negotiated the use of two of their adjoining front rooms for our use that evening. With a sign posted on the Senior Center door, COS members walked over to the restaurant to set up for the meeting.

Mary held a brief Business meeting. Topics included:

- 2025 Dues are needed from a few individuals
- Jason Chang is scheduled to speak on Phrags at our April 8th meeting in Farmington
- COS will be hosting an AOS show on September 26-28 and is in need of volunteers in many capacities. We especially need someone to coordinate food. Karen, our former food coordinator, left very detailed notes about providing for the event.

The speaker for the March meeting was Cordelia Head from J&L Orchids in Easton CT. J&L specializes in miniature orchids that can be grown at home. Cordelia and her co-worker had a variety of miniature orchids both mounted and in pots on display and for sale. Cordelia's talk was about Miniature Orchids and How to Grow them. She offered insight about quite a number of species and provided information on their natural habitat, water, humidity and temperature needs. Some of the plants are only an inch big! Orchids smaller than 6" are considered "mini."

In addition to growing in pots or mounting them, some growers choose to grow them in terrariums. Keeping the terrarium closed up creates a high humidity environment that mimics their natural environment. She suggested using a plastic deli container with holes punched in it as a makeshift terrarium.

For a plant without roots, she suggested, "double potting." i.e., place a basket in a square pot. This technique works well for a plant without roots.

Cordelia warned about using 3% hydrogen peroxide with orchids as a fungicide since it can kill plants. If growers choose to use it, she suggests that the plants be well hydrated first and the peroxide should be diluted. Do not water and use fertilizer immediately afterwards.

From lighting, humidity trays, watering and temperature preference, Cordelia has a wealth of knowledge about growing Miniature orchids.

Submitted by Valerie D'Apice

March Show Table

<i>Cattleya schroederae</i> 'Hercules' FCC/RHS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Freckles 'Show Stopper' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Koko Faire	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Maudiae 'The Queen' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Vanda christensoniana</i> 'MV Pink Clouds' FCC/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l

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

g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

Due to the need to move the meeting and hastily set up in a new location, the show table listing and photos are incomplete. COS apologizes that not all show table plants are included. Thank you to everyone who brought plants to show at the March monthly meeting.

***Cattleya schroederae* 'Hercules' FCC/RHS**



***Paphiopedilum* Freckles 'Show Stopper'**

AM/AOS



***Paphiopedilum* Koko Faire**



***Paphiopedilum* Maudiae 'The Queen' AM/AOS**



***Vanda christensoniana* 'MV Pink Clouds' FCC/AOS**



**New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show:
Modern Mexico
Through April 27**





Northeast Judging Center Auction

On Saturday, May 3rd, the Northeast Judging Center will hold an orchid auction at its Northboro, MA site in support of our center's activities, which include facility rental fees related the monthly judging sessions that take place at First Parish Unitarian Universalist (Northboro, MA; First Saturday of the Month) and Flat Rock Brook Nature Center (Englewood, NJ; Third Saturday of the Month). Many special plants from our judges' collections, as well as premier orchid growers from around the US, will be available at this event.

We are hoping that you, as representatives in the societies who work with and support the Northeast Judging Center, can help us get the word out about this event. We are working with the folks at First Parish UU to see if we can get in earlier than our normal 10 AM set-up time but that is still to be determined, so more specific details will follow in the coming months. I would very much appreciate your help in publicizing the event, At this time, if you could put a 'Save the Date' notice in your newsletters, as well as make announcements at your member meetings, that would be most helpful.

Thank you for your help!

Bob Winkley, Vice-Chair

Northeast Judging Center

Upcoming Events for 2025: COS and Beyond

April

April 7 Board Meeting 7pm
April 9 COS Meeting Farmington: Jason Chang

May

May 3 Northeast Judging Auction
May 12 Board Meeting 7pm
May 14 COS Meeting Cheshire: Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids

June

June 9 Board Meeting 7pm
June 11 COS Meeting Farmington: Tim Culbertson from Oceanside Orchids

August

August 4 Board Meeting 7pm
August 10 COS Summer Picnic Black Rock State Park

September

September 8 Board Meeting 7pm
September 10 COS Meeting Cheshire: Show prep and Display design
September 27-28 Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale

October

October 6 Board Meeting 7pm
October 8 COS Meeting Farmington: Repotting Clinic and Supplies Sale

November

November 1 - 2 Massachusetts Orchid Society Show & Sale
November 10 Board Meeting 7pm
November 12 COS Meeting Cheshire: Topic TBD

December

December 8 Board Meeting 7pm
December 10 COS Meeting Farmington: 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		
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		
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.