



Newsletter

December 2024

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The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

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Next Meeting

December 11th, 2024
Doors open: 6:30
Meeting starts: 7pm

Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave
Unionville, CT 06085

Featured Event

**Holiday Party and
Elections**

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

There is never enough time! In a world crafted to our hearts desire we would always have enough time to spend with the people we care about and on the things we love. As it's the days are still growing shorter and daylight feels like a precious commodity, I find myself planning ahead and prioritizing anything that I want to accomplish outside, while putting the garden to winter rest is taking weeks rather than a few summer days. At the same time everything green and growing is taking a break so should we! As 2024 draws to a close, it's time to take a moment for self-reflection and see what went well this year and perhaps what didn't go so well. Perhaps pest populations got a bit out of control in the collection, or a few things ended up getting a bit overwatered in their summer location. Maybe you discovered that growing a new orchid genera was easier than you thought or you finally splurged on a grow tent and lights with surprising improvements for your plants. Take a moment to look back at where you've been and prepare to set your sights on where you want to be next year.

The meeting this past month with Dave Sorokowsky from Paph Paradise was well attended and I hope everyone gleaned some important cultural information from his talk 'Don't fear the Slippers.' His talk was structured around roughly five main groups of Paphs., Maudiae, Complex, Multifloral, Parvi, and Brachy in which most species can be grouped with similar cultural requirements. A common theme we are always hearing was repeated again, 'More water, More often!'. Pot your plants up in a well-draining mix which dries down quickly, the key to keeping the roots healthy is frequently flushing them with clear water. Mixes that take a long time to dry down build up salts more easily since you can't leach as often. The key takeaways for each group were.

Maudiae- don't like to dry out completely, benefit from regular repotting, yearly.

Complex- hardier, can take it cooler, keep them drier, but give them enough water when they are in bloom.

Multiflorals- like it warm and bright with your cattleyas, bigger bark mix for bigger pots, only repot in the summer, don't repot when cool.

Parvis- need superior drainage, grow on rocks in habitat, bright light, but less intense than multiflorals, most appreciate oyster shells, need calcium.

Brachys- keep them shady, like it warm, keep them on heat mats if your growing area doesn't stay warm enough

This month it's time to kick back and relax, no need to take notes. it's time to socialize. Our meeting will be the annual Holiday Party at the Farmington Senior Center on December 11th at 6:30pm. Similar to last year the club will be buying in entrees from a local restaurant and we ask that everyone bring either a side, salad, or desert. There will be a small fee of \$20 per person to cover the cost of the food, and we ask that you please RSVP if you will be attending so we order enough food for everyone. If you want to attend and haven't already signed up please reach out to Mary at ctorchids@gmail.com. Last year a very merry time was had by all. Join us for a dose of orchid cheer!

Hope to see everyone at our next 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

Jan 2: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

Jan 9: Inorganic Potting Media: Never
Repot Again Part 1

At 8:30pm

Feb 5: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

Feb 12: Inorganic Potting Media: Never
Repot Again Part 2

At 8:30pm



Orchids in the News

**New research offers fresh hope to curb illegal
orchid trafficking in Vietnam:** read more [here](#).

Searching for Rare Orchids at Sleeping Bear Dunes:
read more [here](#).

Inside a 40-year effort to protect a tiny wild orchid:
read more [here](#).

New insight into orchid origins: read more [here](#).

November Meeting Minutes

The November 13 COS meeting was held in Cheshire with approximately 25 people in attendance. Prior to the presentation by our guest speaker, Mary Rampone and Christian Lesage conducted our monthly business meeting. Highlights include:

1. The December meeting will be on the 11th in Farmington. COS will be having our annual holiday celebration. Attendees are asked to bring a dessert or side dish for the Potluck. COS will provide the main course and beverages. A sign-up sheet was distributed at the November meeting.

2. At the December meeting, officers will be elected. The following are willing to serve again in 2025;

- Mary Rampone and Christian Lesage - Co-Presidents
- Jason Chang - Vice President
- Susie Spinelli- Treasurer
- Valerie D'Apice and Carla Koch - Recording Secretary
- Director at Large, Editor - Rebecca Schwartz
- Director at Large - OPEN (to replace Karen Kuziel)
- Director at Large - Mike Wicki
- Membership chairperson - Mary Rampone
- AOS Representative - Glenn McGeough

Other appointed positions:

- Corresponding Secretary
- Librarian/Historian
- Social media/website
- Refreshments (could potentially have 2. One for each meeting site.)
- Show Committee chair
- Special Events chair
- Conservation Chairperson

3. There are orchid shows coming up beginning in January where COS will need blooming plants to display. Cape and Islands Orchid Society will have their show Saturday and Sunday January 25-26 at the Hyport Conference Center in Barnstable MA. Mary will set up the COS table.

4. 2025 Membership dues will be collected soon. Dues is \$30 for an individual or \$35 for a family. Lifetime membership is also available for \$300 for an individual or \$350 for a family. You can pay your dues on the COS website <https://ctorchids.org/> or at a COS meeting or by mailing a check to Mary Rampone.

5. 2025 meetings are still in the planning phases. Speakers/programs are being determined.

7. Our guest speaker for the November 13th meeting was Dave Sorokowsky from Paph Paradise Orchids, in CA. He has over 20 years of experience growing and breeding top quality orchids with over 100 AOS and CSA awards. The topic of his presentation was "Don't Fear the Slippers (paphiopedilums or paph for short)". Contrary to the opinion of many orchid growers, Dave believes that growing paphs is not difficult to do. He began his talk by emphasizing that it is important to water paphs thoroughly in order to flush salts out of the medium and to provide oxygen to the roots. He discussed the need to fertilize your plants after watering. Don't fertilize while the potting medium is dry. Dave gave a detailed account of growing Maudiae or mottled leaf paphs, Complex Paphs and Multiflorals. The information he shared can all be found on his website <https://paphparadise.com/paphiopedilum-care-feeding/> .-

8. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Valerie D'Apice

November Show Table

<i>Aliceara</i> Sunday Best 'Muffin' HCC/AOS	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Brassocattleya</i> Binosa 'Kirk' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Cattleya</i> Bob Betts 'Liberty Hill' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Cattleya</i> Bonanza 'Las Vegas'	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Dinard 'Blue Heaven' AM/AOS	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Fire Lighter	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Cattleya jenmanii</i> 'Autana'	G. McGeough	i, g
<i>Cattleya maxima</i> 'Lowlands-3'	M. Rampone	i, g
<i>Cattleya maxima semi-alba striata</i>	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya trianae</i> 'Full Moon' AM/AOS	G. McGeough	i, g
<i>Cattleya trianae</i> 'Patricia'	G. McGeough	i, g
<i>Clowesetun</i> Miguella Nunez 'Tunxis Road' AM/AOS	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i>	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Oncidium</i> Tsiku Marguerite	M. Prasad	i, w
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Charly Web	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Exotic Ice	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hawaiian Sunset	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Heron's Faire	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid ig.	M. Prasad	i, w
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Jurgen Roth	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum leucochilum</i>	J. Chang	w, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Memoria Cha Cha Spritz	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Odette's Fantasia	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i>	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Voodoo Magic	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Worthy Fred	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Phalaenopsis bellina</i> 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS	J. Chang	i, l
<i>Phragmipedium longifoilum</i> 'Woodstream' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Pleurothallis</i> Ecuagenera Perfection	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Pleurothallis superbiens</i>	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Zygonisia</i> Cynosure 'Blue Birds' AM/AOS	D. Tognalli	i, w

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

g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

November Show Table

***Aliceara* Sunday Best 'Muffin' HCC/AOS**



***Cattleya* Bob Betts 'Liberty Hill' AM/AOS**



***Cattleya* Dinard 'Blue Heaven' AM/AOS**



***Cattleya* Fire Lighter**



***Cattleya jenmanii* 'Autana'**



***Cattleya maxima* 'Lowlands-3'**



Cattleya maxima semi-alba striata



Cattleya trianae 'Full Moon' AM/AOS



Cattleya trianae 'Patricia'



Cattleya ??? (no show table slip nor plant tag)



***Clowesetum Miguela Nunez 'Tunxis Road'*
AM/AOS**



Coelogyne fimbriata



Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite



Paphiopedilum Charly Web



Paphiopedilum Exotic Ice



Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Sunset



Paphiopedilum hybrid ig.



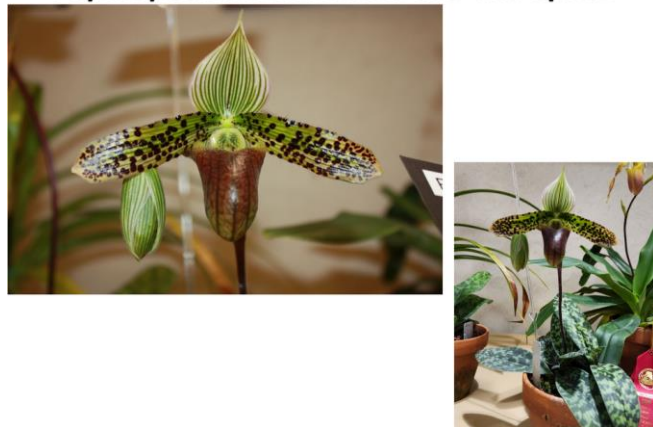
Paphiopedilum Jurgen Roth



Paphiopedilum leucochilum



Paphiopedilum Memoria Cha Cha Spritz



Paphiopedilum Odette's Fantasia



Paphiopedilum venustum



Paphiopedilum Voodoo Magic



Paphiopedilum Worthy Fred



Paphiopedilum ??? (no show table slip nor plant tag)



Phalaenopsis bellina 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS



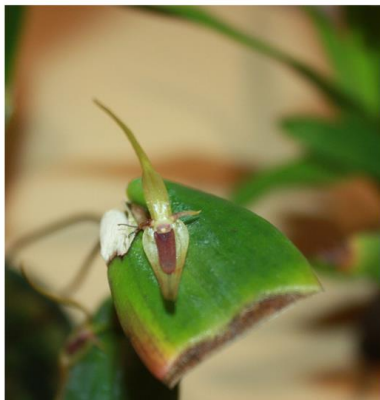
Phragmipedium longifolium 'Woodstream' AM/AOS



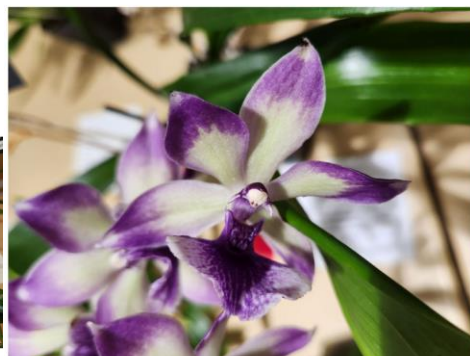
Pleurothallis Ecuagenera Perfection



Pleurothallis superbiens



Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue Birds' AM/AOS



People's Choice

1st place – Cattleya Bonanza 'Las Vegas' – grown by Christian Lesage

Cattleya Bonanza 'Las Vegas'



2nd place – Brassocattleya Binosa 'Kirk' AM/AOS – grown by Jason Chang

Brassocattleya Binosa 'Kirk' AM/AOS



Officer Election and Appointments 2024

It's that time of year again, the December meeting is also the time for annual elections. We will be voting on the following proposed officer slate:

President: Christian Lesage & Mary Rampone

Vice President: Jason Chang

Treasurer: Suzanne Spinelli

Recording Secretary: Valerie DApice and Carla Koch

Directors at Large: Rebecca Schwartz and Mike Wicki

There are also several appointed positions we would like to see filled if anyone is interested, most importantly we are still looking for someone to take over for Karen as Refreshments Chair.

If you regularly attend the meetings and are wondering how you can help out, this is a position that I am sure everyone appreciates. It involves setting up the refreshments for the meeting along with a light snack such as cookies, muffins, or cupcakes. They are responsible for bringing the coffee maker, tea, and paper goods to each meeting. If you enjoy attending meetings how about pitching in and getting involved!

Our Display at the Massachusetts Orchid Show



This past month saw the COS participating in the first orchid show of the season with a display at the Massachusetts Orchid Society Show and Sale. A big shout out to everyone who contributed plants and assisted in setup and takedown. Our display was a riot of color! Congratulations to Dave Tognalli, his Clowesetum Miguela Nunez 'Tunxis Road' won an AM/AOS with 81 points, it also received the rosette for Best Orchid Grown in the Home. Also congratulations to Christian Lesage for receiving the John E. Stacy Memorial Trophy for Best of Class Oncidium for Aliceara Sunday Best 'Muffin'! The next show we will be participating in is the Cape and Island Orchid Show the weekend of January 25 th and 26 th . As usual we will be sending out a notice ahead of the show to coordinate plant pickup and show setup.

Upcoming Events for 2025: COS and Beyond

January

January 6 Board Meeting 7pm
January 8 COS Meeting Cheshire: Topic TBD
January 17-19 North Jersey Orchid Society Show & Sale
January 25-26 Cape and Island Orchid Society Show & Sale

February

February 10 Board Meeting 7pm
February 12 COS Meeting Farmington: Greg Griffis from Longwood
February 14-16 Deep Cut Orchid Society Show & Sale
February 20-23 CT Flower and Garden Show: Hartford Convention Center
February 22-23 Amherst Orchid Society Show & Sale

March

March 10 Board Meeting 7pm
March 12 COS Meeting Cheshire: Terrarium workshop
March 28-30 New Hampshire Orchid Society Show & Sale

April

April 7 Board Meeting 7pm
April 9 COS Meeting Farmington: Topic TBD

May

May 10 Mother's Day Orchid Sale
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: Repotting Clinic and Supplies Sale

October

October 6 Board Meeting 7pm
October 8 COS Meeting Farmington: Show prep and Display design
October 11-12 Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale

November

November ? 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	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

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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.