



## Newsletter

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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:

NE AOS Judging  
Auction

Page 5:

Meeting Minutes

Page 6-9:

Show Table

Page 10:

Upcoming Events

Page 11:

Mentors  
Membership Info

Page 12:

Officers & Contacts  
Mission Statement



## Next Meeting

May 14th, 2025  
Doors open: 6:30  
Meeting starts: 7pm

Cheshire Senior Center

## Featured Event

Alan Koch of Gold  
County Orchids

## President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Spring time is here, and I hope everyone is enjoying the spring blooms in their gardens and on the windowsill. It's almost time to start moving plants outside again. Before you do move your plants out to their summer homes make sure that the nighttime lows are within the tolerance range for your plants. The last thing you want to do is shock your plants with cool night temps. Even more importantly remember that you may need to provide shading for your plants as they acclimatize to the brighter light outdoors, what may seem like reasonable light levels to us can be far too bright for your plants which have been used to indoor light conditions.

Last month we had a presentation on *Phragmipedium* by one of our very own members Jason Chang. The meeting was well attended and everyone walked away with a greater understanding of the range of species available for the hobbyist and some cultural tips for how to grow them in the home. The multifloral species such as *Phragmipedium caudatum* are showstoppers with their long petals reaching up to 2 1/2ft long! If you don't have the growing space to accommodate the brightly colored flowers of *P. besseae* is sure to brighten up the room with vivid orange/red flowers.

Our meeting this month on May 14th will be at the Cheshire Senior Center, we will be hosting guest speaker Alan Koch, who will be presenting on Dendrobiums. His talk Understanding Dendrobiums— will cover the Dendrobium alliance, which is one of the most diverse Genera in the Orchid Family. Learn the tricks to be successful with all of the different sections.

Alan will be accepting pre orders as outlined in the email to the membership if you haven't looked at the email and are interested the Deadline for orders is 5-5-25. All orders receive free freight. Orders of 3 or more plants get a 10% discount & orders over \$150 a 20% discount. Send your order to Alan at his email address: [gcorchids@aol.com](mailto:gcorchids@aol.com) When ordering make sure you identify yourself by name and Connecticut orchid society all orders will be presorted by society. Note: this offer is for society members only.

Alan 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 3 *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, 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.

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](http://www.aos.org)

**May 8: Greenhouse Chat**

At 8:30pm

**May 15: Calming Your Fears About  
Repotting Your Orchids**

At 8:30pm

**May 18: AOS 7<sup>th</sup> Culture Day**

At 11am

**June 3: Greenhouse Chat**

At 8:30pm



## Orchids in the News

**US's tariffs impact on orchid exports:** 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](#).

## 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

### *Cattleya ludemanniana* 'Ernesti' FCC/RHS



### *Cattleya Irene Finney* 'York' AM/AOS





## April Minutes

The April 9th meeting was held at the Farmington Senior Center. Mary announced the upcoming speaker schedule:

May 14 (Cheshire) Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids. COS members will be offered the opportunity to pre-order plants (Deadline May 5th) . Orders of 3 or more will receive a 10% discount and orders of \$150 or more will receive a discount of 20%. All orders receive free freight. Mary will send an email to the COS membership with a plant list. When ordering, make sure to mention COS.

June 11 (Farmington) Tim Culbertson of Oceanside Orchids will be the speaker.

There is NO meeting in July.

The COS annual picnic will be held on August 11th at Black Rock State Park in Watertown, CT.

Promotional postcards were made available for the Connecticut Orchid Society Orchid Harvest Show and Sale which will be held September 27th and 28th at the Bristol Senior Center. Mary encouraged members to display them at local libraries, Senior Centers or other places that allow announcements to be posted.

The speaker for the April meeting was COS Vice President, Jason Chang. Jason began growing orchids in the mid 1990's as a windowsill grower and most recently transitioned his collection into a basement greenhouse. He grows a wide variety of orchids. His topic was about Phragmipedium orchids (lady slippers) which is one of his favorite types. This South American slipper group includes Phrag. besseae which's is a bright orange and Phrag caudatum which can have petals 30" long.

Phrags like "wet feet." Unlike some other orchids, Phrags do not have bulbs to store water. Therefore they should be watered more frequently and not allowed to dry out completely. In the wild they grow in areas that have a tendency to flood.

Some suggestions include:

- Use plastic pots with holes for both drainage and air circulation.
- Phrags prefer intermediate temperatures.

He uses both K-lite Fertilizer for Orchids and Miracle Grow All Purpose Plant food and says the key is to fertilize on a regular basis.

Repot every year.

The meeting concluded by 9PM.

Submitted by Valerie D'Apice

## April Show Table

<i>Cattleya</i> Irene Finney 'York' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Cattleya ludemanniana</i> 'Ernesti' FCC/RHS	G. McGeough i, g
<i>Cattleya mossiae</i> fma. <i>semi-alba</i> 'Aurora' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Cattleya nobilior</i> 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Cattleya trianaei</i> fma. <i>semi-alba</i> 'Mother Domenica'	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> 'Kenny' FCC/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Laelia lundii</i>	Z. Loughman i, l
<i>Leptotes pohlitinocoi</i>	C. Geissler i, w
<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	R. Schwartz i, w/
<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i> fma. <i>vinicolor</i>	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum hainanense</i>	K. Ward i, w
<i>Paphiopedilum lowii</i>	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Phaleanopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Heather's Mini Purple'	H. Albino i, w
<i>Phaleanopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's Mini Semi-Alba'	J. Meghani i, w
<i>Phaleanopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's Yellow'	J. Meghani i, w
<i>Phaleanopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Valerie's Yellow'	V. D'Apice i, w
<i>Phaleanopsis</i> Intoxicate Tie	C. Mizak i, g
<i>Phaleanopsis</i> Sogo Allen 'Mini Stripes'	R. Schwartz i, w
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Don Wember 'Max' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Phragmipedium longifolium</i> 'Woodstream' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Sue Omeis 'Pride of Mingoville' FCC/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Vanda miniata</i> 'Sharon Garrett' AM/AOS	R. Schwartz i, l

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

g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

***Cattleya mossiae* fma. *semi-alba* 'Aurora'  
AM/AOS**



***Cattleya nobilior* 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS**





***Cattleya trianaei* fma. semi-alba  
'Mother Domenica'**



***Cattleya walkeriana* 'Kenny' FCC/AOS**



***Laelia lundii***



***Leptotes pohlitinocoi***



***Maxillaria tenuifolia***



***Paphiopedilum delenatii* fma. vinicolor**





***Paphiopedilum hainanense***



***Paphiopedilum lowii***



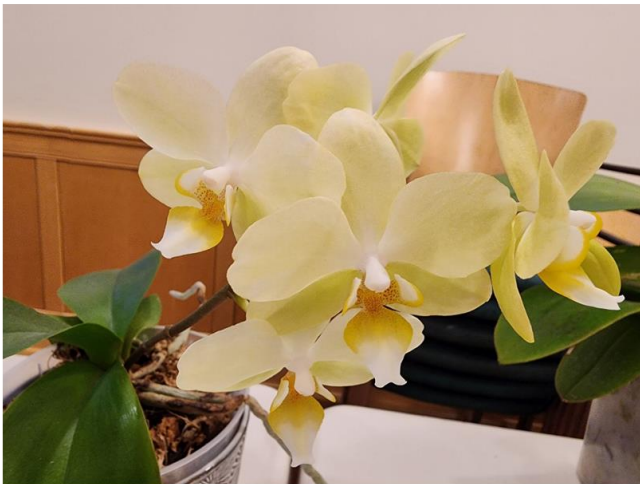
***Phaleanopsis* hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's Mini Semi-Alba'**

***Phaleanopsis* hybrid ig. 'Heather's Mini Purple'**



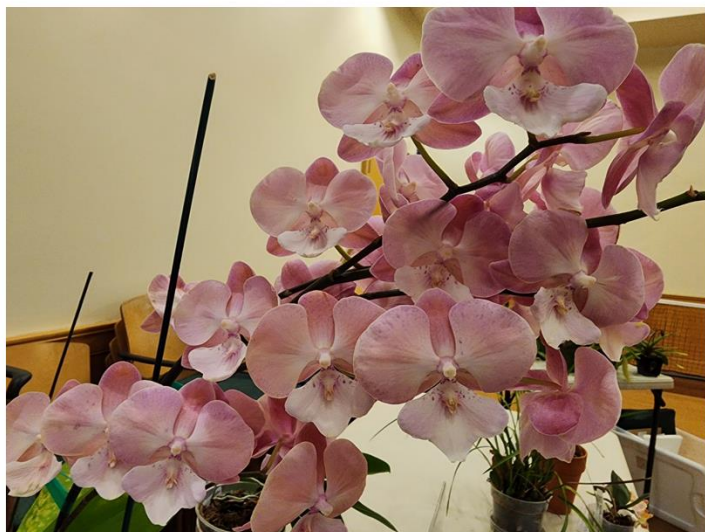
***Phaleanopsis* hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's Yellow'**

***Phaleanopsis* hybrid ig. 'Valerie's Yellow'**





***Phaleanopsis* Intoxicate Tie**



***Phaleanopsis* Sogo Allen 'Mini Stripes'**



***Phragmipedium* Don Wember 'Max' AM/AOS**



***Phragmipedium longifolium* 'Woodstream' AM/AOS**



***Phragmipedium* Sue Omeis 'Pride of Mingoville' FCC/AOS**



***Vanda miniata* 'Sharon Garrett' AM/AOS**



## Upcoming Events for 2025: COS and Beyond

### May

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

### 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*

#### Farmington Senior Center

321 New Britain Ave, Unionville, CT 06085

#### Cheshire Senior Center

240 Maple Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410

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

**Glenn McGeough** [mcgeough7@gmail.com](mailto:mcgeough7@gmail.com) (203) 482-3973  
Specializing in Cattleyas.

**Jeffrey Richards** [jeffrey.richards@snet.net](mailto:jeffrey.richards@snet.net)  
Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

**David Tognalli** [dtog54@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.ctorchids.org) to apply for/renew membership. We accept Paypal.

Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at [COSMembership@earthlink.net](mailto: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	Christain Lesage	

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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.