



Newsletter

November 2024

Volume LXV Issue III

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:

October Minutes

Page 5-9:

Show Table

Page 10:

Upcoming Events

Page 11:

Mentors
Membership Info

Page 12:

Officers & Contacts
Mission Statement



Next Meeting

November 13th, 2024
Doors open: 6:30
Meeting starts: 7pm

Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Ave
Cheshire, CT 06410

Featured Event

Slipper Orchids

Dave Sorokowsky

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

This past month was an eventful celestial calendar with an aurora borealis, comet, and meteor shower all visible in the CT night sky. For those who look beyond their busy lives, the world is filled with wonder if you just know enough to look up. Finding beauty is easy when you grow orchids, each month new wonders unfold, the swelling of a new eye on a rhizome, fresh green root tips emerging, buds breaking out of sheath, and the dazzling blooms with colors richer than any jewel. Now more than ever as the landscape sheds summers leafy tunic and the days grow darker in the northeast a bit of something green and growing brightens the day.

I hope everyone enjoyed last month's talk with Kim Fedderson, sadly I ended up missing the meeting, but looking forward to seeing everyone again this month and hearing about it. Our next meeting will be November 13th at the Cheshire Senior Center, with a talk by Dave Sorokowsky from Paph Paradise Orchids on Paphiopedilum culture titled, "Don't Fear the Slippers."

Here is the preorder information: For pre-orders you can just select from the website online inventory <https://paphparadise.com/>. The deadline is November 3rd. Do **not** purchase through the online store. Email orders directly to Dave: dave@paphparadise.com Orders over \$100 will receive a 10% discount. There will be no shipping charge since he will be bringing the plants with him.

Dave's Bio:

"After receiving his degree in biochemistry from the University of Toronto, Dave opted to step outside his chosen field and operated a tropical fish import business for eight years. Upon returning to school, Dave received a degree in enology and viticulture from Brock University in St. Catharine's, Ontario. While attending Brock, Dave began acquiring orchids one 2" pot at a time and before he graduated, Dave had over 100 orchids. Winemaking and a passion for orchids prompted Dave to seek a warmer climate in California about one year later. Dave has been growing paphiopedilums for about 20 years and seriously hybridizing for over 10 years. He is an accredited AOS judge, and his paphiopedilums have received over 100 awards to date from the AOS and CSA. Many of those awarded plants playing important roles in his breeding program. In 2018 Dave left winemaking in order to focus all of his time running Paph Paradise Orchids."

If you are a beginner or a seasoned grower, Dave is sure to have some useful advice for successfully growing and blooming slipper orchids. With a generally compact habit and lower light requirements than other orchids Paphs tend to be a good choice for the home windowsill grower or perhaps for a grow rack setup. In a greenhouse I tend to tuck them on the North shady side of benches behind and under other high light orchids where they grow luxuriously and flower constantly. When the greenhouse cat is doing his job and the mice aren't eating the flower buds, they are long lasting attractive flowers and there are generally slippers in bloom at all times of the year. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the monthly meeting this month!

-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

**Nov 10: AOS CULTURE DAY "KNOW
MORE NOVEMBER: ORCHID CULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND YOU!"**

At 11:00am

**Nov 12: Citizen Scientists Meet Native
Orchids**

At 8:30pm

Nov 19: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm



Orchids in the News

Kew Orchid Collection Digitalized: 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](#).

October Meeting Minutes

COS met in Farmington on October 9th. Mary discussed the following prior to our guest speaker:

1. MOS (Massachusetts Orchid Society) is having their annual orchid show November 8-10 in Winchester MA <https://www.massorchid.org/show> . COS is participating and requests members provide blooming plants for display. Plants should be pre-registered with their names and categories and of course need to be bug free. Dave, Mary or Christian can help identify your orchid if you are in doubt. Plants need to get to either Dave Tognalli or Cheryl Mizak by November 6th. Set up for the MOS show will be November 7th between 10AM and 7PM. Christian will take down the COS display on Sunday November 10th.
 2. At the October COS board meeting October 7th it was decided that the COS show will be held in October 2025. Dave will verify that the Bristol Senior Center has October 11-12 available.
 3. COS wants to do a plant sale/ fundraiser May 10th in Southington similar to the one held in 2023. Mary will check to see if the Congregational Church is available.
 4. COS is looking for someone to take Karen's role of hospitality/food coordinator since she is stepping down. It was suggested that perhaps we can get two people, one for our Cheshire meetings and one for Farmington meetings. The role includes purchasing coffee, water, snacks, cups, etc and setting up for the meetings and special events.
- COS is also in need of a Social Media Coordinator and Web Master for our site. This role can be combined or separate.
- COS also needs a Show Committee Chair and Committee, an Advertising Lead for the 2025 show.
- Elected Officers will remain the same for 2025.
5. The November meeting (Cheshire) will feature a discussion about slipper orchids
 6. Our December meeting (Farmington) will be our annual Holiday Party

COS guest speaker, Kim Fedderson of Fair Orchids (www.fairorchids.com) began his presentation discussing orchid virus'. He said that once a plant gets a virus it is almost impossible to bring it back. He does not recommend US tests for virus due to either false negative/false positive readings. Instead, he suggests using Agitest virus test kits. They have a shelf life of 18 months and do not require refrigeration. Bill Stender of Lehigh Valley offers them in bulk. Kim said virus can spread by using the same knife or scissor and reusing pots. He never reuses a plastic pot. He uses razor blades once and discards. When reusing clay pots, he soaks them in bleach prior to baking at 200 degrees for 4 hours. If you don't want to use your oven, a grill can be used instead. Kim showed photos of orchids with virus. Characteristics include streaking, splotches of color but he emphasized that seeing a streaky flower is not always an indication of virus.

Kim's presentation was about Cymbidiums. There are 61 varieties from Southeast Asia, India, Japan, New Guinea and Australia. He discussed growing conditions, classifications, flowers, hybrids, etc. He shared quite a bit of information with the group.

submitted by Valerie D'Apice

October Show Table

<i>Aliceara</i> Sunday Best 'Muffin' HCC/AOS	J. Meghani	i, w
<i>Cattleya labiata rubra</i> 'Kimberly Burzell' HCC/AOS	G. McGeough	i, g
<i>Cattleya maxima striata</i> 'Lucho Mendez'	G. McGeough	i, g
<i>Fredclarkara</i> After Midnight 'Miguel' HCC/AOS	J. Chang	i/w, g/l
<i>Haemanthus albiflos</i>	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum leucochilum</i>	J. Chang	w, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum purpuratum</i>	J. Chang	c/i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Worthy Fred	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Chiyueh Frances	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Mini Magenta Spotted'	H. Albino	w, w
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Standard Purple'	H. Albino	w, w
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Fritz Schomburg 'Eddy Lick Run' FCC/AOS	J. Chang	c/i, g/l
<i>Pleurothallis</i> Walnut Valley	C. Mizak	i, g
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Goldenzelle 'Promised Land' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Stelis benzingii</i>	C. Mizak	i, g

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

g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

Aliceara Sunday Best 'Muffin' HCC/AOS



October Show Table

Cattleya maxima striata 'Lucho Mendez'



Paphiopedilum purpuratum



Haemanthus albiflos (non-orchid)

Fredclarkeara After Midnight 'Miguel'
HCC/AOS



Paphiopedilum leucochilum



***Phalaenopsis* Chiyueh Frances**

***Paphiopedilum* Worthy Fred**



***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. 'Mini Magenta Spotted'**



***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. 'Standard Purple'**



***Pleurothallis* Walnut Valley**



***Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Goldenzelle
'Promised Land' AM/AOS**



Stelis benzingii



People's Choice!

Winner with 3 votes – Jason Chang's *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg 'Eddy Lick Run' FCC/AOS

Phragmipedium Fritz Schomburg 'Eddy Lick Run' FCC/AOS



Runner up with 2 votes – Glenn McGeough's *Cattleya labiata rubra* 'Kimberly Burzell' HCC/AOS

Cattleya labiata rubra 'Kimberly Burzell' HCC/AOS



Upcoming Events for 2024: COS and Beyond

November

November 8-10 Massachusetts Orchid Society Show, Winchester, MA

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



Stay tuned for the **Massachusetts Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale** in November, the COS will be putting together a display table for the event which will take place on **November 8th -10th** at the Sons of Italy Hall in Winchester, MA. If you have blooming plants that you would like to show in our society display, we will be reaching out with an email to coordinate collection of plants, Dave Tognalli and Mike Wicki will be setting up on Thursday the 7th so plants will need to be pre-registered by Wednesday the 6th. Christain will be breaking down on Sunday the 10th and will be bringing the plants to our monthly meeting on Wednesday the 13th the following week for folks to pick up. It's always fun to enter a plant and come home with a ribbon! Keep your eyes open for an email coordinating plant pickup.

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	
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	

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.