



Newsletter

September 2025

Volume LXVI Issue I

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with The American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest

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Next Meeting

September 10th, 2025
Set up: 6:30pm
Meeting starts: 7pm

Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Ave
Cheshire, CT 06410

Featured Event

Preparing for our
show!

President's Message

Change is in the air as we head into the Fall Season. Almost overnight it feels like the sultry summer nights have given way to cooler and more comfortable temps. Nothing is constant except change, and in this lies opportunity for new experience and growth. Seasonality keeps things from growing stagnant and should prompt us to reassess how we are doing as growers. While some of our plants are adapted to specific growing conditions, it's often hard to replicate the conditions they need to thrive in our homes and grow areas. When something isn't thriving changing things up may help you discover the key to better cultural practices. Many of my plants are outside this time of year basking in better lighting and air circulation, soon it will be time for the migration back inside as night temps cool off. This always triggers a vigorous burst of new growth for me as the plants have been experiencing cooler and dryer conditions at the tail end of the summer outside and the move back into the humidity and warmth of the greenhouse triggers root growth. It's also a chance to re-organize and assess the collection. Right now is a good time of year for division and repotting while most plants are still in active growth.

As we come off the summer break from our regular meeting schedule we are jumping right back into the swing of things with our **September Show and Sale 'Orchid Harvest'** at the Bristol Senior Center the weekend of **September 27th and 28th**. This is our biggest event of the year, and we hope that everyone will join in and volunteer to make this another successful show. Mary has put together a volunteer sign-up sheet outlining all the tasks and stations we will need to man over the weekend starting with setup on Friday the 26th. Please look over the sheet and see what areas still need volunteers. It's critical that we have enough volunteers to run the show throughout the weekend. We are asking if you have any time to volunteer from Friday to Sunday that everyone pitch in. **We can't make this happen without you!**

A huge part of our event will be the COS club display in the show area. We have the home field advantage and this is where we want to make our club shine by having the best display! Blooming plants and non-blooming filler plants are needed to create an outstanding display. If you have any blooming plants in your collection we need them to create the club display! Pre-registration is required if you would like your plants judged, please see the website for plant registration information under the 2025 Show and Sale tab. More information will follow in reminder emails and we will go over how to register your plants at the September meeting. If you have any questions or need assistance, Dave Tognalli will be handling registration and will be able to answer any questions.

On **Thursday the 25th**, we will be able to get into the Senior Center at 4:30pm to begin dropping of supplies, infrastructure, plants onto the stage area of the cafeteria, we will be trying to get the bulk of our materials dropped off at this time.

On **Friday the 26th**, we will be able to start setup of the Show area in the cafeteria at 1:30pm and the Sales area in the gymnasium at 3pm. We will need as many sets up hands as possible at this time to get the floorplan setup and table covers on ahead of the arrival of our vendors and sister orchid societies. The club sales area setup, and the club plant display setup will be the two areas where we will need the most hands. Plants for the club display will need to be dropped off at this time for incorporation into the display.

On **Saturday the 27th**, the show will open at noon to the general public after the judging of the Show area is complete and will run until 5pm. At this time, we will need to man club stations and monitor the Sales and Show area.

On **Sunday the 28th**, the show will open at 10am and close at 4pm, breakdown of the Show and Sales area will begin once the doors close to the general public, and once again, we will need all hands on-deck to break down and cleanup, all the club supplies will need to be packed and returned to our storage area at Cheryl's.

At our regular monthly meeting on **September 10th**, we will be meeting at the Cheshire Senior Center to discussing volunteer roles and going over the plan for setup on Friday the 26th. If you are planning on volunteering at the Show and Sale, we strongly recommend that you attend the September meeting for discussion of roles and a briefing for what to expect. There will be a show table, so don't forget to bring along 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!

-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

Sept 11: Indoor Pest Management

At 8:30pm

**Sept 23: Growing Specimen-sized
Plants**

At 8:30pm

Oct 9: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

Oct 13: Historical Look at Phrags

At 8:30pm

Nov 4: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

Orchids in the News

Ghost Orchid Proposed for ESA Protection: read more [here](#).

Climate change-driven northward expansion of the mediterranean orchid: read more [here](#).

Country diary: Scanning for treasure on a chalky hill: read more [here](#).

Previously known only from Myanmar's Kachin state, Gastrochilus pechei has now been documented in India for the first time: read more [here](#).

August Meeting Minutes

Sunday August 11th: 13 COS members met at Black Rock State Park in Thomaston for our annual picnic. COS supplied hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks and paper goods, and members provided various “pot luck” foods to share. Members also brought plants for the show table.

Before eating, Mary conducted a short business meeting to discuss some details regarding the orchid show and sale that will be held on **September 27 and 28 at the Bristol Senior Center**. Highlights include:

1. Glen will investigate T-shirts for the group to sell as a fundraiser. Christian will provide the file for the imprint. Mike said the cactus club sells t shirts for \$15 each. Further discussion on T shirts will be needed to finalize colors, designs and pricing.
2. Mary will send copies of the poster file out to everyone for publicity.
3. Christian will create a Facebook “event.” Members are encouraged to share the event on their pages.
4. Rebecca volunteered the use of her garage to store items needed at the show.
5. It was suggested there be no peanut butter at the event due to possible allergies.
6. Members are encouraged to wear their name tags and membership pins.
7. Sign-ups to volunteer will be available at our next meeting.

The next regular meeting will be in Cheshire on September 10th.

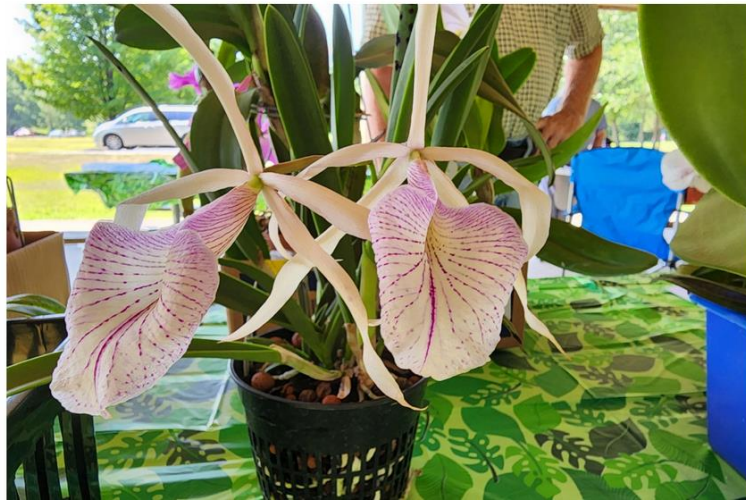
August Show Table

<i>Brassocattleya</i> Morning Glory	M. Rampone i, g*
<i>Cattleya</i> Enid coerulea 'Blue Lou'	G. McGeough i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Lustre 'Westonbirt'	G. McGeough i, g
<i>Cynoches pentadactylon</i> 'Dr. John Doherty' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
x <i>Cynoches pentadactylon</i> 'SVO'	
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Gloria Naugle	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Iantha Stage	M. Rampone i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum stonei</i> x sib. ('New Dimension' x 'The Best')	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's Purple Mini'	J. Meghani i, w
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's White with Spots'	J. Meghani i, w
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mainshow Hiero 'MS'	J. Meghani i, w
x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mituo Purple Dragon	
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Silver Eagle 'Pink Frost' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Goldenzelle 'Passion' AM/AOS	G. McGeough i, g
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Kakemizu Splendor 'Hawaiian Variable'	G. McGeough i, g
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Walnita Char 'Big Red' AM/AOS	J. Chang i, g/l

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

g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

***Brassocattleya* Morning Glory**



***Cattleya* Enid coerulea 'Blue Lou'**



***Phragmipedium* Silver Eagle 'Pink Frost' AM/AOS**



***Cattleya* Lustre 'Westonbirt'**



***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's Purple Mini'**



***Rhyncholealiocattleya* Goldenzelle 'Passion' AM/AOS**



***Cycnoches pentadactylon* 'Dr. John Doherty' AM/AOS
x *Cycnoches pentadactylon* 'SVO'**



***Paphiopedilum* Gloria Naugle *Rhyncholealiocattleya* Kakemizu Splendor
'Hawaiian Variable'**



***Paphiopedilum lantha* Stage**



***Paphiopedilum stonei* x *sib.*
(‘New Dimension’ x ‘The Best’)**



***Rhyncholealiocattleya* Walnita Char ‘Big Red’
AM/AOS**



***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. 'Jacqui's White with Spots'**



***Phalaenopsis* hybrid ig. Mainshow Hiero 'MS' x
Phalaenopsis Mituo Purple Dragon**



Upcoming Events for 2025: COS and Beyond

September

September 8 Board Meeting 7pm

September 10 COS Meeting Cheshire: Show prep and Display design

September 26 Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale Setup

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

Orchids in situ

Don't forget to keep an eye out for orchids! There are many growing this time of year. For example, this one is Broad-Leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*). It is not a native orchid but it is widely naturalized. This one was found on the side of the road in Burlington.



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.