



Newsletter

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Next Meeting

December 10th, 2025
Set up: 6:30pm
Business meeting: 7pm

Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave,
Unionville, CT 06085

Featured Event

**Holiday Party and
Elections**

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

The dark, grey days of winter are upon us once again and there is nothing more restorative to the soul than working with plants and nurturing a living thing. Many people feel a special connection to their friends, family, and loved ones this time of year and we go out of our way to reaffirm those bonds with gatherings and gift giving. As the earth takes a pause before cycling through another growing season let's remember our connection to the living natural world and seek to identify ways that we can strengthen our understanding and sense of place. We tend to ignore the myriads of life stories that are unfolding around us every day because they are happening at a different pace or on a different scale than our own. We anthropomorphize our pets and project our emotions onto the macro fauna because they are easier to relate to. But the slow, organized process of growth in the plant kingdom, with their self-contained autotrophic habits, means they are moving at a pace that doesn't register within our short attention span.

For us to connect with a plant you must understand what it's like to experience the environment from a completely different perspective. The best growers are those that can imagine what it's like to be a plant, what kind of light levels are suitable for growth, what kind of moisture levels are sufficient for hydration without either desiccation or inundation, how temperature affects metabolism, what kinds of nutrients are available in the environment, is the atmosphere conducive to opening stomata. Plants make active decisions about how and when to grow based on the environment, understanding this intelligence makes us better growers and allows us to provide a growing environment that will lead to the best outcomes for the plant. Every day working with our plants we are actively looking and listening to what they are saying and this connection enriches our lives as we learn to understand them, and hopefully this connection translates to a greater respect for the natural world as a whole.

Last month 'Bill' Bodei from the Deep Cut Orchid Society presented a talk on Digital Culture-Improving Orchid Outcomes using lessons learned from the world wide web. For those of you who missed the talk there is a 2020 version available through the AOS in their webinar section, just search Digital Culture through the indexed webinars list. A short plug for the American Orchid Society, if you are not a member I would highly recommend joining, there are so many great resources available including an extensive library of educational webinars, the Orchids magazine arriving in the mail every month is also something to look forward to. Bill has been extensively involved with the AOS serving on their Board of Trustees for several years and more recently spearheading the makeover of the AOS website. This was a talk where everyone walked away with copious notes, there were so many useful tips and resources you might not have realized existed. I definitely need the Orchid Album app for my phone for tracking pictures of my plants and recording details about their culture, sadly this is only available for ios or pc users.

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 10th at 6:30pm. As usual the club will be buying in entrees from a local restaurant and we ask that everyone bring either a side, salad, or dessert. 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 do so here or reach out to Mary at ctorchidsociety@gmail.com. Last year a very merry time was had by all, join us for a dose of orchid cheer We hope you will come on out and join us at the December meeting, there is always something new to learn, and as always, we encourage you to bring 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! See you there!

-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

January 8: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

February 10: Greenhouse Chat

At 8:30pm

Orchids in the News

Rare orchid brought back from brink of extinction: read more [here](#).

Famous monkey-face 'Dracula' orchids are vanishing in the wild: read more [here](#).

Rare orchid species discovered that blooms entirely underground: read more [here](#).

November Meeting Minutes

The November meeting of the CT Orchid Society was held in Cheshire on November 12th with 16 attendees. The following topics were mentioned in the business meeting prior to the presentation by Bill Bodei:

1. A reminder about the holiday gathering on December 10th at the Farmington Senior Center was made by Christian Lesage. A \$20 fee is asked to cover the cost of the entrees provided by COS, Attendees are asked to bring either an appetizer, salad or dessert. A sign up sheet was distributed. It should be a fun evening for all.
2. Officers for 2026 will be elected at the December meeting. The slate of officers is as follows:
President: Christian Lesage Vice President: Jason Chang Treasurer: Mary Rampone Recording Secretary: Valerie D'Apice
3. There was a discussion about ordering navy blue T-shirts with the COS logo on either the left chest (small) or a larger logo on the center of the chest, Price is estimated to be \$15 and COS would do pre-orders, A sign up sheet was distributed. When the meeting attendees were polled it seems like the interest in the logo placement was split, No decision has been made as of yet.
4. COS had a display in the Massachusetts Orchid Society's recent show on the weekend of October 31- November 2nd in Winchester MA. Jason Chang was awarded Best in Show.

The guest speaker this month was Bill Bodei. Bill is from Deep Cut Orchids in New Jersey. He started as a window sill grower 16 years ago and currently has approximately 1500 plants in three greenhouses. He is very active in the American Orchid Society and has been instrumental in increasing their social media presence, It took approximately two years to complete a major rewrite of the AOS website.

Bill's discussion was about how to find information on the web about orchids. Popular search topics include how to identify or take care of plants. Questions such as, "What requirements will the orchid need? Is the grower going to be able to provide the proper light, humidity, etc? While researching, Crowd sourcing may not be all that reliable so Bill recommends using the AOS website or the St. Augustine Orchid Society website <https://staugorchidsociety.org> for orchid information.

Bill shared a lot of information about the updates to the American Orchid Society's web pages. It was a huge undertaking. He also shared how the AOS Facebook group has grown to over 4,000 members largely due to Bill's contribution to the page over the past few years.

Other resources he mentioned are: Just add ice (not recommended), Orchid Pro, Orchidspecies.com, Orchidroots.com (a good source for researching parentage), and OrchidWiz (software to install). *orchid marketplace.com, eBay, and Facebook group might provide names of vendors. Other resources include: YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, Reddit.

Bill spoke about finding reputable growers on line. A reputable grower will not sell something you can't grow. They should be knowledgeable and offer good advice.

In conclusion, Bill suggested membership benefits of joining the American Orchid Society.

The meeting ended at approximately 9:15PM.

November Show Table

<i>Aliceara</i> Sunday Best 'Muffin' HCC/AOS	J. Meghani	i, w*
<i>Bratonia</i> Royal Robe	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> Bow Bells 'Rex' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Cattleya</i> C. G. Roebling 'Blue Indigo' SBM/JOGA	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> <i>lobata</i> 'Jeni' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Cattleya</i> Volcano Queen	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Cattleya</i> <i>walkeriana</i> v. <i>semi-aba</i> 'Kenny' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Dendrobium</i> Chocolate Chip	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Dendrobium</i> hybrid ig. 'Venus'	Z. Loughman	i, l
<i>Galeandra</i> <i>greenwoodiana</i>	J. Chang	i/w, g/l
<i>Oncidium</i> Twinkle 'Gold' 4N	J. Meghani	i, l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Exotic Ice	J. Chang	i, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Jurgen Roth	C. Lesage	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Petula's Distinction	J. Chang	i/w, g/l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Worthy Fred	J. Chang	i/w, g/l
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Jiuhbao Fairy 'Angel' AM/AOS	J. Chang	i/w, g/l
<i>Vandachostylis</i> Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'	R. Schwartz	i, l

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

g=greenhouse, l=lights, w=windowsill

Aliceara Sunday Best 'Muffin' HCC/AOS

***Cattleya* C. G. Roebling 'Blue Indigo' SBM/JOGA**



Bratonia Royal Robe



Bratonia Royal Robe

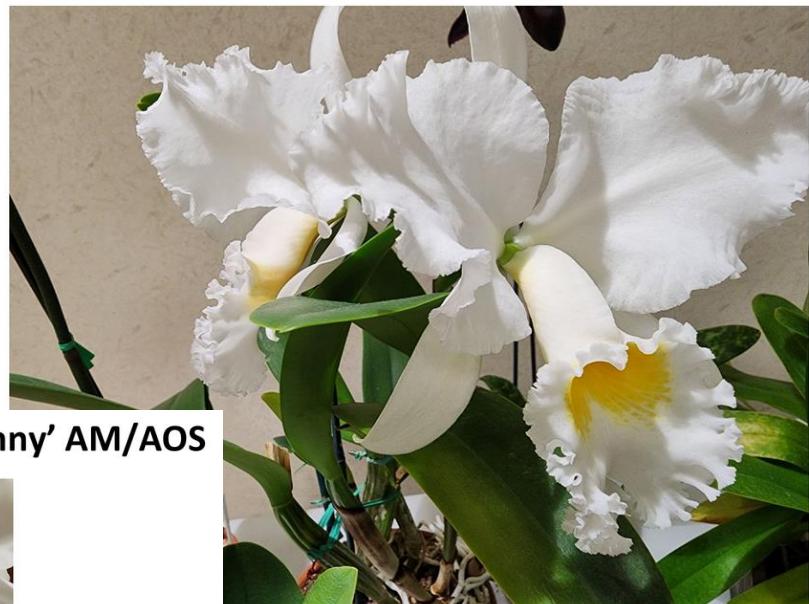
Cattleya lobata 'Jeni' AM/AOS



Cattleya Volcano Queen



***Cattleya* Bow Bells 'Rex' AM/AOS**



***Cattleya walkeriana v. semi-aba* 'Kenny' AM/AOS**



***Dendrobium* Chocolate Chip**



Oncidium Twinkle 'Gold' 4N



Galeandra greenwoodiana



***Paphiopedilum* Jurgen Roth**



***Paphiopedilum* Exotic Ice**



***Paphiopedilum* Worthy Fred**



***Paphiopedilum* Petula's Distinction**



People's Choice Award

Winner

Zoe Loughman

***Dendrobium* hybrid ig. 'Venus'**



Runner Up

Jason Chang

***Phalaenopsis* Jiuobao Fairy 'Angel' AM/AOS**



Upcoming Events for 2025: COS and Beyond

December

December 8 Board Meeting 7pm

December 10 COS Meeting Farmington: Holiday Party

Subject to Change

***Vandachostylis* Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'**



Mentor List

The following COS members are available to answer your culture questions and help you with any orchid growing problems you may have.

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 and cabinet 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.

2025 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

CO-PRESIDENTS	Mary Rampone & Christian Lesage
VICE-PRESIDENT	Jason Chang
TREASURER	
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE, EDITOR	Rebecca Schwartz
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	
RECORDING SECRETARY	Mike Wicki
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON	Carla Koch & Valerie D'Apice
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Mary Rampone
LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN	203-272-8121
AOS REPRESENTATIVE	Glenn McGeough
CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON	203-482-3973
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR	
WEB MASTER	Christian 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.