



Connecticut

Orchid

Society

Newsletter

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

April 2011

52 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Time: 6:30 P.M. "Orchid Health Department" help session starts.
7:00 P.M. Socializing begins. Show & Sale Tables open.
7:30 P.M. Business meeting begins followed by the featured event.

Place: Farmington Senior Center
321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT
(See pg. 29 for map & directions.)

Program: *"Mount Your Own Orchid" Workshop*
Rescheduled from our January meeting
Presented by Phil & Ann Jesup, Roger Heigel,
Alan Mizak and Sharon SmithDelisle

Meeting Status: For notice of last-minute or inclement weather cancellation, visit our website www.ctorchids.org or call Judy Becker at (860) 435-2263.

Contact us

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Connecticut Orchid Society (COS) 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 : \$20/yr. Individual \$25/yr. Family
New category: \$200 Individual or \$250 Family Lifetime Membership (never pay dues again!)**

**Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at (860) 649-7952 for more details.
A membership application is located on pg. 30 for your convenience.**

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.



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Upcoming Events



- April 13 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** Rescheduled from January, *Mount Your Own Orchids Workshop*. The workshop will be presented by Ann & Phil Jesup along with several other knowledgeable COS members. There is a \$20 supplies fee which includes a choice of orchids suitable for mounting (or you may bring your own), cork or mesquite mount, moss, fishing line or hot glue, hanging hook and a care guide. Please RSVP Cheryl Mizak at (230) 264-6096 if you plan to participate in this workshop. Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at the Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville.
- April 16 Northeast Judging Center:** Bring your blooming orchids for AOS judging to The Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY. Judging commences at 12:00 pm. Contact Wayne Bourdette (631) 258-5388 or e-mail wbourdette@wcs.org for more details about judging procedures.
- May 11 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** The Orchid Gallery of Pittsboro & Chapel Hill, NC will be giving a presentation., 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire.
- May 21 Northeast Judging Center:** Bring your blooming orchids for AOS judging to The Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY. Judging commences at 12:00 pm. Contact Wayne Bourdette (631) 258-5388 or e-mail wbourdette@wcs.org for more details about judging procedures.
- June 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids, California will give a presentation, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville.
- June 10 - 12 Silva Orchids Shore Orchid Festival,** 10:00 am—5:00 pm, Held at Silva Orchids, 635 Wayside Rd., Neptune, NJ. Visit www.silvaorchids.com for more details. Also, see flyer on pg. 28 of this newsletter.
- July 8 Southbury Garden Club:** *Basic Orchid Growing* class will be presented by a COS member at the Southbury Library, 100 Poverty Rd, Southbury at 12:30 pm.
- July 10 Connecticut orchid Society Annual Picnic:** Bob Fuchs of R.F. Orchids, Homestead, FL. will give a presentation about the Vandaceous Alliance. As usual, the picnic is a pot-luck affair and members attending are asked to bring enough food to share. COS will provide beverages and paper goods. Picnic location TBA.
- Oct. 21 ~ 23 Connecticut Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale:** *Orchid Harvest*, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT. Orchid plant and merchandise vendors, educational lectures, junior orchid growers booth, refreshment caterer, etc. \$5.00/ea. Admission.

AOS corner



As I write this, the Philadelphia International Flower Show has just finished. The American Orchid Society participated in this show for the first time in 56 years. The Philadelphia Horticultural Society, the sponsor of this show was almost as excited to have us there as we were to be there. Some undisputed facts of this show are that it is the oldest and largest indoor garden show in the United States, if not the world; last year's attendance was over 249,000 over its 8 day opening and this year's show beat all prior attendance records. AOS would not have had such a strong showing had it not been for the area affiliated societies, the many trustees and national volunteers of the AOS, in particular Chris Rehmann (AOS President), Barbara Noe (AOS Membership Chair), Michael Bowell (Designer of the exhibit and owner of Create A Scene, as well as Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society member), Jeff Bradley (Houston Orchid Society) who planted the seed for the exhibit and started conversation with Philadelphia Horticultural Society and many others who flew (at their own expense) to Philadelphia from afar. AOS affiliated society members were asked to be part of it and they responded with orchids, plants, ideas and volunteers for design, set up, tear down, membership recruitment, manning our exhibit; talking about and answering all kinds of questions about orchids. It was a collaborative activity and we created an exhibit that you would all be proud of. The exhibit received a number of awards, but most coveted ones were the two daily PNC People's Choice Awards! A large majority of the visitors of our exhibit had at least one orchid at some point. Just a testament to our common passion. Our volunteers talked at length to them about the benefits of the local societies, the American Orchid Society and the wealth of information that would be available to them if they reached out to them and joined us. Be on the lookout for more details about your exhibit and the show in an future issue of *Orchids*.

The purpose of me bringing up the Philadelphia International Flower Show and its success is two-fold. First, if there is a special event that would warrant special attention to promote AOS, get in touch with AOS and explore the possibility of an AOS presence. It is a great way to engage any regional societies. Secondly, if you have hosted an exhibit, participated in a show or have any report, photographs, or comments, I would like to start posting them on the AOS Forum. We need to pat our selves on the back occasionally and that would be a great way to share our successes. For instructions on how to post to the AOS Forum, visit www.aos.org. Participating in that forum is another benefit of being a member of the American Orchid Society.

~ Lynn Fuller, Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Around the Greenhouse -- Editor's keikis



Letters to the editor are always welcome. Your feedback about any issue that is on your mind will help us improve our Society, as well as the newsletter. Please write to me at editor@ctorchids.org or 38 Robinhood Rd., Danbury, CT 06811.

The deadline for submissions to the May issue of the newsletter is Apr. 22nd.

Cuttings needed for COS Epi Tree 🌿 We're looking for cuttings and divisions for our epiphyte tree. Plants should be epiphytes that are suitable for attaching to bark. (Paphiopedilums are not suitable and would not survive on the tree.) Our tree has been traveling to various out reach events these past few months and always generates a lot of interest. Your plant donations would be appreciated.



Beware of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug 🌿

This invasive insect has been hitch-hiking from state to state and is rapidly spreading cross the country. It is a menace to food crops and can cause havoc in your greenhouse. At present there isn't any available biological control because it is an alien species. Picking them off your plants one-by-one and sqashing them works best at present. So far, I have only seen a few at a time on my plants outdoors. Occasionally, I have found them indoors. However, there have been recent reports of infestations of them at a time.

Economic impact of Japan's catastrophe 🌿 One of Taiwan's most important exports is orchids. Japan is the second largest market destination for Taiwan Phalaenopsis growers (the United States is the first at 42%). 31% of Taiwan's Phals go to Japan. The March 11 earthquake and tuisami is having a significant effect on these exports. Most of the Japanese customers are safe and their greenhouses were not damaged by the earthquake, but due to limited electricity and petroleum in some areas, the Japanese cannot heat their greenhouses. Since plants shipped now would be damaged by cold temperatures, shipments to Japan have been temporarily discontinued. (This information obtained

from the AOS website www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTNETEDID=8618&TEMPLATE. Information was accessed on 3/29/2011.)

- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
- raffle, *n.* 1. great opportunity to get orchids cheap. ■
- 2. great way to support a ■
- COS fundraising activity. ■
- 3. only \$5 for six tickets. ■
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

April's Featured Event

Rescheduled from
our snowed-out
January meeting!

"Mount Your Own Orchid" Workshop



*Presented by COS Members
Roger Heigel
Ann & Phil Jesup
Alan Mizak
Sharon SmithDelisle*

\$20 Materials Fee

(includes selection of orchids suitable for mounting, cork slab or mesquite mount, care instruction booklet, moss, fishing line, hot glue, hanging wire, etc.

Learn techniques to properly mount an orchid & how to care for mounted orchids. We'll show you how to do it!

You are welcome to bring your own plant for mounting (not to exceed 6 inches in height) or purchase a plant from us (included in the materials fee).

Please R.S.V.P. to Cheryl Mizak (203) 264-6096

March's Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF COS MEETING, 3/11/11

It was announced that the Connecticut Cactus and Succulent society will be having their show in Waterbury April 9th & 10th. Our next meeting, April 13th, will be in Farmington at the Senior Center, and will involve a demo on mounting orchids. Hot gluing, twine & moss, and use of carpet remnants will be shown. For a \$20 fee, a plant brought to the meeting may be mounted.

The speaker at the Cheshire Senior Center was Howard Ginsberg, an AOS judge, who spoke on "Mini and Compact Cattleyas in the 21st Century." These Cattleyas are usually defined as under 6 to 8 inches. A standard Cattleya, in contrast, usually stands at least 12 to 14 inches, and requires a 5-inch pot before it blooms. Breeders attempt to decrease rhizome spacing, and have the small plants blooming size in a 4-inch pot at 6-inch height. After summarizing the judging point system, Mr. Ginsberg explained the importance of ploidy. Diploid orchids have two sets of chromosomes, whereas some tetraploids have double the number, resulting in improved plants. Hybrids between the two types are triploids, which are often sterile. The compact *Slc. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'* is a triploid, which occasionally breeds.

Important species in minicatt breeding are the finicky *Soph. coccinea* featuring large red flowers with a droopy stem and tiny lip, and *Laelia briegei*, a rupicolous (rock-dwelling) plant, with long stems and yellow flowers. Some other important species include small-growing *C. walkeriana*, *L. pumila*, *L. millerii*, *C. aclandiae*, *C. aurantiaca*, and *L. sincoriana*.

Certain primary hybrids, resulting from the cross of two species, have also been essential in the development of minicatts. *Sc. Orpetti* (*Soph. coccinea* x *C. luteola*), *Lc. Mini Purple* (*C. walkeriana* x *L. pumila*), and *Sc. Beaufort* (*Soph. coccinea* x *C. luteola*) are examples of these. *Sc. Beaufort*, in particular, has given rise to 200 more hybrids. More complex hybrids include plants such as *Slc. Minipet* (*Sl. Orpetti* x *Soph. coccinea*) and *Slc. Hazel Boyd* (*Sc. California Apricot* x *Slc. Jewel Box*.)

All Catts like to dry out between watering, require bright light, and good (i.e. low mineral) water. Mr. Ginsberg plants them in a mix of bark, lava rock, and diatomite.



~ Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

March Show Table

Genus	Plant	Clone	Owner	Culture
<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> (Blc. Lemon Tree x C. Beaufort)	Sweet Lemon	'Eichenfels Mem. Jim. Nickou'	Jesups	i,g
<i>Cattleya</i> (Margaret Stewart x <i>C. aurantiaca</i>)	Caribbean	'Orange Bowl' HCC/AOS	S. SmithDelisle	i,w
<i>Cattleya</i>	hybridum	ign.	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Coelogyne</i>	<i>chloroptera</i>		C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>aberrans</i>		D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>gratiossissimum</i>		Jesups	i,g
<i>Dendrobium</i> (<i>aberrans</i> x <i>johnsoniae</i>)	Mini Snowflake		D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Dendrobium</i> (Fukujyu x Yuubae)	Oriental Smile	'Fantasy' AD/AOS	D. Tognallii	i,w
<i>Dendrobium</i> (Roy Tokunaga x Roy Tokunaga)	Roy Tokunaga		S. SmithDelisle	i,w
<i>Dendrochilum</i>	species		C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Dendrochilum</i>	<i>uncatum</i>		C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Dialaeliocattleya</i> (Silver Maker x Lc. Hsinying Excell)			Jesups	i,g
<i>Doritaenopsis</i> (I-Hsin Black Jack x Sinica Sunday)	I-Hsin Waltz	'Hello Kitty'	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Hasagawaara</i> (Pot. Coral Queen x <i>Ctna.</i> Keith Roth)	Red Stella	'Hawaii' AM/AOS	Jesups	i,g
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> (Lc. Red Gold x C. Warpaint)	Gold Digger		S. SmithDelisle	i,w
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> (Mari's Song x Love Knot)	Mari's Love		Jesups	i,g



<i>Laeliocattleya</i> (<i>C. Interglossa</i> x <i>Lc. Tokyo Magic</i>)	Purple Cascade	T. Zamojski	i,l
<i>Leptotes</i>	<i>bicolor</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Lycaste</i> (<i>lawrenceanum</i> x <i>macrobulbon</i>)	Phoebe	Jesups	i,g
<i>Lycaste</i> (<i>skinneri</i> x <i>Koolena</i>)	Shoalhaven	Jesups	i,g
<i>Maclellanara</i> (<i>Odm. Cornelia</i> x <i>Bsdm. Gilded Urchin</i>)	Yellow Star 'Okita'	J. Becker	i.g
<i>Masdevallia</i> (Pink Mandarin x Kimball's Mana)		Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i>	<i>amplexa</i>	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Masdevallia</i>	<i>andreetana</i>	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> (Marguerite [yellow] x Angel Tang)	Angel Marguerite	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> (Kimball's Kissing Cousin x <i>discoidea</i>)	Blood Orange	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> (Golden Canary x Angel Glow)	Canary Glow	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i>	<i>decumana</i>	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> (<i>veitchiana</i> x <i>reichenbachiana</i>)	Oriole 'Eichenfels Redbird'	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i>	<i>pachyura</i> v. Ripley	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i>	<i>princeps</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> (Urubamba x <i>oscitans</i>)	Yma Sumac	Jesups	c,g
<i>Maxillacaste</i> (<i>Max. heubchii</i> x <i>Lyc. Peter Sander</i>)	Delta Dawn 'Eichenfel's Pure Magic' AD/AOS	Jesups	c,g
<i>Maxillaria</i>	<i>hedwigae</i>	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Maxillaria</i>	<i>variabilis</i>	J. Becker	i,g

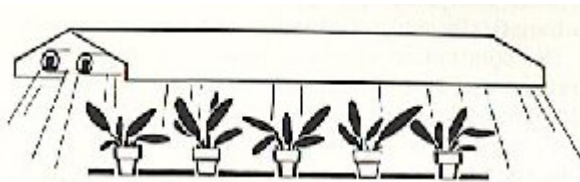


<i>Oberonia</i>	<i>setigera</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> (<i>Hsinying Web x lawrenceanum</i>)		J. Becker	i,g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>delenatii</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> (<i>malipoense x armeniacum</i>)	Norito Hasagawa	J. Becker	i,g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	hybridum ign.	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	hybridum ign.	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Pleurothallis</i>	<i>fastidiosa</i> syn. <i>schweinfurthii</i>	C. Mizak	i,g
<i>Potinara</i> (<i>Slc. Tangerine Jewel x Blc. Meditation</i>)	Heavenly Jewel 'Kodama'	Jesups	i,g
<i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> (<i>Slc. California Apricot x Lc. Drumbeat</i>)	Final Touch 'Golden Fleece'	Jesups	c-i,g
<i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> (<i>Sl. Psyche x Lc. Jose Diaz Castro</i>)	Love Castle 'Kurenai'	Jesups	i,g
<i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> (<i>Slc. Naomi Kerns x S. coccinea</i>)	Morning Glow 'Nice Day'	Jesups	i,g
<i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> (<i>Lc. Gold Digger x Slc. Hazel boyd</i>)	Orglade's Spotlight	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Sophronitis</i>	<i>coccinea</i> 2N	Jesups	c,g
<i>Sophronitis</i>	<i>coccinea</i> 4N	Jesups	c,g

Culture is as noted:

c – cool
w – warm
ws – windowsill

i – intermediate
g – greenhouse
l – lights





Dave Tognalli's Cattleyas blooming happily

Show Table Lovelies



Paphiopedilum Norito Hasagawa
(*malipoense* x *armeniacum*)

Grown by Judy Becker



Laeliocattleya Gold Digger
(*Lc. Red Gold* x *C. Warpaint*)
Owner: Sharon SmithDelisle

It being April Fool's Day, we bring you the following interesting news item:

German Orchid Research

By Larry Kuekes

Recently, I had the privilege of interviewing a well-known orchid scientist from Germany, who was in the United States on a speaking tour. I arranged to meet for breakfast at a local restaurant. After we had ordered, I began asking him about his work.

"For the past few years I have been doing some very interesting work," he said. "It involves genetic engineering."

"You mean gene splicing?" I asked. "Like that new tomato that they spliced a gene into to keep it from spoiling?"

"Yes, just so. But what I have been doing is bigger than that, much bigger."

"Tell me about it."

"I started with the idea of making a blue cattleya. Not like what they call blue now. Hah! Pitiful! I mean really blue, like a delphinium. Well, delphiniums and other blue flowers are blue because they make a pigment called delphinidin. But cattleyas can't make delphinidin. They make purple pigments, and yellow pigments, and red pigments, but not blue."

"So here's where genetic engineering comes in. I took the gene for making delphinidin out of a delphinium plant, and spliced it into a cattleya. This is not easy. You have to work with very tiny seeds under a microscope, and then grow them until they flower, which takes years. But this year the first ones started to bloom, and look at the results."

He took a picture out of his pocket and handed it to me. It was a cattleya plant with a single, sky-blue flower.

"That's amazing!" I said. "This would be worth a fortune to some people."

"That's only the beginning," he said. "It's possible to mix genes not just from other plants, but from animals as well."

The waitress arrived with our order.

"My other interest is paphiopedilums," he continued, sipping his coffee.

"I know you wrote a book on paph species," I said.

"But I also like the hybrids, especially the large round ones called toads. So I thought, what if we mixed in some amphibian genes? Then they'd really be toads! But seriously, I've been trying to splice in a gene for skin color from the South American poison arrow frogs. They have very brilliant colors, and it would be quite something to transfer those colors into a paph. The problem is, the gene that makes the frog's skin poisonous seems to be right next to the color gene, and it's hard to transfer one without the other. And, you know, there wouldn't be much of a market for paphiopedilums, no matter how beautiful, if when you



touched them you would die within seconds.”

“No, I can see that,” I said, munching on my doughnut.

“There’s more,” he said, lowering his voice. “Now that Germany is re-united, we have gotten access to some of the secrets that the East Germans used to produce their women’s swim teams.”

“I thought they used steroids.”

“That’s what everyone thought. They were genetically engineered. You’d be amazed at what they spliced in.”

“I don’t think I want to know. But what else did you find out?”

“Something the East Germans had been working on for years. You know about the famous speech your President Kennedy made in Berlin when he said ‘Ich bin ein Berliner’. It means ‘I am a Berliner’, right?”

“Right.”

“Wrong. *Berliner* is also German slang for a type of pastry. He should have said ‘Ich bin Berliner’. Instead he said ‘Ich bin *ein* Berliner’, which means ‘I am a jelly doughnut’. The East Germans were convinced that this was not a mere slip of the tongue, but evidence for an elaborate CIA plot. Your country never would have risked sending the real President Kennedy to Berlin. Instead they sent a clone — a clone produced by a top-secret project which crossed the President’s cells with those of a doughnut!”

“That’s a little hard to swallow,” I mumbled with my mouth full.

“It’s the only way to make sense out of Kennedy’s assassination— it was necessary to cover up the secret project which had gone wrong. In any case, the East Germans started their own secret genetic pastry engineering project in order to catch up. They had many failures, but some successes, like the swimmers. Now I have access to the methods they developed over many years.”

“What do you plan next?”

“I’m going to try again with paphiopedilums. Imagine crossing a paph with a glazed doughnut! The result would be round and shiny. The judges would love it. And because of the paph genes, it would be high in fiber!”
The waitress came with the check.


“Are you finished?” she asked, looking at my half-eaten doughnut.

“Yes.” I said. “I’m not hungry. Here, put it on Master Card.”

In a moment she returned.

“I’m afraid your card has expired,” she said. Sure enough, the card was good through March, and it was April 1.

“Let me pay,” he said. “I’m going to make a fortune from those blue cattleyas, remember?”

I wished him success as I left the restaurant. He was still lingering over the pastry tray. 

(This article first appeared in the April –of course– 1995 edition of the COS newsletter.)

News, Notes & Happenings

Presidency vacated 🌀 Rick Brown has resigned as president. The Board of Directors is looking for a replacement. If you are interested in this position and would like to learn more about the duties and responsibilities, please contact Cheryl Mizak at (203) 264-6096.

July 10th, Annual Summer Picnic with Special Guest

🌀 This year our annual picnic will have a special guest speaker, Bob Fuchs of R. F. Orchids, Homestead, FL. You may know that Bob is very well known for his work with the Vandaceous alliance. His orchids have won more than 900 awards from the American Orchid Society.

Anyone who would like to host the picnic is asked to contact Cheryl Mizak at (203) 264-6096.



On left: Bob Fuchs, President. On right: Michael Coronado, Vice president

Plant Sale Table 🌀 Roger Heigel has graciously offered to staff our plant sale table at the monthly meetings. If you have any plants that you would like to sell, please contact Roger at (203) 757-2292 or see him before the start of the meeting. **Please remember that there is an 80/20% split with COS on any sales that you make.**

Believe it or not.... it's already time to start planning for our next annual show & sale in October! Got an idea for the display? Got some ideas on how to improve our event? We're looking for a new caterer if you happen to know anyone in the business. Van Wilgen's Garden Center in North Branford has invited us back for October. We need your ideas and suggestions. October will be here before we know it!



Out Reach Programs



Escape to Spring raffle prize winner 🌸 Meet Diane Gourley of Madison, CT. Diane was the winner of our raffle orchid from the Van Wilgen's *Escape to Spring* event this past March 11th—13th. Judging by her huge smile, Diane is very pleased with her beautiful *Phalaenopsis* treasure.

The weekend was a great success with approximately 600 people stopping by our booth to talk about orchids and get to know a little about COS and its mission. Everyone wanted an opportunity to win the free orchid. Congratulations to Diane Gourley who held the winning ticket!

Connecticut Cactus & Succulent Society 28th Annual Show & Sale, April 9—10

🌸 COS has been invited to attend the CCSS annual show. We will have an information booth, which needs to be staffed. The show is held at the Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury. Please contact Cheryl Mizak at (203) 264-6096 if you can help out for a few hours on either day.

Basic Orchid Growing Class ~ Southbury Library, 100 Poverty Rd., Southbury, CT, July 8, 12:30 pm.

A COS member will be conducting the class.



Website news ~ greetings from cyberspace

Greetings from *Cyberspace*,

Spring is in the air, even if the weather disagrees! Our Website is showing signs of the new season, too. There are new updates and page changes happening everywhere! Our website is a great resource for current meeting happenings, E-Newsletters, orchid culture and links to other places orchid related. Log in and stop by at: www.ctorchids.org

Thank you!
Deidra Crewe
COS Webmaster



On left: *Lycaste Shoalhaven* (*skinneri* x *Koolena*)
Brought to Show table by Ann & Phil Jesup

Below: *Bulbophyllum mormolyca ringens*
Grown & Photographed by Deidra Crewe



Orchid Named for Future Queen of Cambodia



Cattleya Yinneka Norodom 'Queen of Cambodia' (Bow Bells x Joan Holloway), the best seedling of the cross. Grown by Chadwick & Son Orchids, Inc. Photo by John Martin.

It was appropriate that the “Queen of Orchids”, a frilly, feminine and fragrant new cattleya cross was recently presented to the future queen of Cambodia. Almost all major orchid genera are represented in Southeast Asia with the exception of the *Cattleya* species, which is endemic to Central and South America. When Chadwick & Son were trying to decide which orchid would be suitable

for the future queen, it just seemed natural to give a “queen to a queen”. The color white is of great significance in Cambodian lore. It represents perfection, goodness and purity.

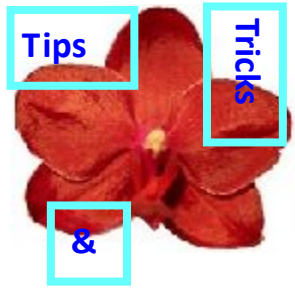
The hybrid that was chosen is a direct off-spring of *Cattleya* Bow Bells. Bow Bells was originally bred in 1945 and is a very famous white ‘stud plant’. This new hybrid is a cross between Bow Bells and *Cattleya* Joan Holloway. The cross was made by Chadwick & Son and the best of the seedlings was chosen for the future queen, who expressed her gratitude and said that she was very flattered by the gift.



Art Chadwick presents namesake cattleya to future Cambodian Queen Yinneka Norodom. Photo by Linda Le.

C O S W I C K & S O N
O R C H I D S

~ Information for this article was obtained from the American Orchid Society website www.aos.org. <http://www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home & CONTENTID=8598&TEMPLAT...> on 3/11/2011. ~Editor



Recycled Wine Corks for Orchids

By Charles Marden Fitch

During the past few years I have used recycled wine corks in potting some orchids. The corks are clean, slightly fragrant, and contain a small quantity of sugar from the wine they once protected. Orchids love them! I find corks especially useful in potting thick-rooted vandaceous orchids. The corks are good in the bottom of a container, along with pebbles, for drainage. Since the corks are easy to handle and just soft enough to “give” when pushed into a tight place they can serve to wedge loose plants in sturdy pots such as clay. Thin plastic pots may crack if potting materials are pushed in too tightly.



Photography: Charles Marden Fitch

The roots of this *Callista* seedling have tightly gripped a wine cork in their potting medium.

The wine corks maintain a coarse, open space when used with hardwood charcoal and coconut fiber. Sometimes a wayward root needs to be pushed back into a pot to stop it from rooting in an adjacent container. The wine corks are useful here since they will hold the root inside a pot.

Most importantly, the orchid roots quickly attach to the corks. Perhaps the plants also absorb some of the sugar that remains in the corks. I have not done any scientific test to compare corks from various years, vineyards, or wine types. Perhaps in a blind tasting the orchids would prefer California varieties over imported types. Up to now my plants enjoy a blend of corks from California, Chile, Germany and Spain.

(Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Bulletin, Nov. 1983)

Editor's Note: If you aren't a wine lover and you don't have used corks laying around, you can buy packages of corks in various sizes at your local craft store (such as Michael's).

Beginner's Corner



Larry Kuekes

Editor's note: These columns were written by our previous editor Larry Kuekes and were run quite regularly over the past years. Larry's perspective is refreshing and some of our new members may welcome this introductory advice.

Going to Pot : Fear of Potting

(Part 1 of 4)

By Larry Kuekes

"If you move I strike, and if you do not move I strike," said Nagaina the cobra in Rudyard Kipling's *Rikki Tikki Tavi*. After my first few attempts at repotting orchids, followed by the plants' swift demise, I felt a similar dilemma. "If you repot us, we will die, and if you do not repot us, we will die," my plants silently re-proached me. Since then I have learned how to repot without fear. Let me offer a few pointers to those who are still afraid to repot.

Potting-On. This refers to repotting into a larger size pot. If the old pot is small and the plant has outgrown it, just remove the old pot, set into the new, larger pot and fill around it with new medium. This dandy technique leaves the roots completely undisturbed and will not shock the plant. But be aware that you are just postponing the inevitable. Sooner or later you will have to replace the old, broken-down medium.

When to Repot. You can't delay indefinitely. Eventually either the plant climbs over the pot edge or the mix breaks down into compost and kills the roots. For cattleyas (and many other genera), the ideal time is when tiny new roots are just starting to grow from the leading shoot or rhizome. This is because in your gentle way you will probably cut, break, or mangle most of the old roots during repotting, and the rest will promptly rot. But the new roots will still grow and re-establish the plant. However, if new roots are starting when the plant is in bud or bloom, don't repot. You will have to repot some other time and resign yourself that repotting will set the plant back (it may skip blooming the next time). *Paphiopedilums* and *phalaenopsis* don't have a special time of year for repotting. *Phalaenopsis* need repotting when most of the roots are above the level of the mix, growing into thin air.

Watering. Don't water for a couple of weeks after repotting. I know your gardener's instinct is to flood a transplanted plant, but don't. This gives all those broken roots a chance to heal so they won't rot. Almost all orchids have succulent pseudobulbs or leaves and can easily survive a couple of dry weeks.

(This article first appeared in the Dec. 1989 COS newsletter)

Going to Pot, Part 2 of 4 Potting Mix

By Larry Kuekes

Perverse plants that they are, orchids will grow in anything except soil. This has generated endless discussion on the "ideal" potting mix. Various substances are extolled by different authors as if they had found the Holy Grail. The truth is that orchids respond to a combination of factors including potting mix, frequency of watering, fertilizer, and others, so which mix works best for you depends on the rest of the culture you provide.

What to Use. As a beginner, use bark (medium-size) to start with. You can experiment later with other mixes.

Bark. Orchids grow naturally on bark on tree limbs, of course, but in pots bark behaves differently. Paradoxically, the advantage of using bark is the same as the disadvantage: it decomposes. Brand new bark absorbs hardly any water. However, after a month or two the surface of the bark starts to break down, resulting in a rich, organic, free-draining mixture which is ideal for orchid roots. Eventually the bark completely decomposes into compost, which holds too much water and will rot the roots. Plants like cattleyas will grow over the side of the pot and need to be repotted before that happens, anyway.

Tree Fern. Coarse tree fern hardly decomposes at all and has excellent drainage, so it's almost impossible to overwater. However, it holds very little water, so you have to water it often. Many people mix bark with coarse tree fern: the bark holds some water and the tree fern helps extend the time between repotting. Fine tree fern is another story: it packs together and stays wet. One of my early mistakes was to pot a vuykstekeara in fine tree fern, which I figured was a good match for the plant's thin roots. The mix held far too much water; the roots rotted and the plant expired. I've since learned that the thinner the roots are, the coarser the potting material should be.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place. People have grown orchids on lava rock, gravel, styrofoam peanuts, even chunks of rubber tires. The advantage of these substances is that the mix never breaks down, so you only have to repot when the plant outgrows the pot. The disadvantage is that you have to use a complete fertilizer, which provides all the nutrients the plant needs, including micro-nutrients (other than nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) which normally would be provided by the decomposing medium. Also, gravel can make the pots very heavy; conversely, styrofoam is so light that the pots may tip over too easily.

Tie One On. Some of the best-grown orchids I've ever seen have been mounted on cork slabs or tree branches. However, these generally have to be watered every day, which is too much work if you water at the kitchen sink like me.

Living Fossils. Back in prehistoric times, when dinosaurs roamed landscapes of giant ferns, orchid growers used to pot in osmunda. Some books still recommend potting in osmunda. Their authors are known as "living fossils". No one uses osmunda these days. (This article first appeared in the Jan. 1990 COS Newsletter)



Three friends catch up with each other over the refreshment table. On left: Rosemary Call, center: Judy Arth and on the right: Mary Rampone



Show Table beauty — *Cattleya hybridum ign*
Grown by Dave Tognalli. Photo by Sharon
SmithDelisle



Does Roger Heigel look like he is enjoying the company of these two lovely ladies? On the right is Clare Leake and her daughter Jennifer is on the left.

Q & A

Q. I have been growing orchids for about two years, and have re-bloomed ever-green dendrobiums and oncidiums with no problem. My cattleyas are in the same growing area — a large south-facing window where the light is also supplemented by a Wonderlite, especially in winter. None of my cattleyas have re-bloomed. I realize lack of light is the usual reason for failure to flower, but I'm puzzled by my success with the dendrobiums if light is the factor. Could it be light duration? I do reduce the duration in winter but perhaps not enough. The area gets warm temperatures, rarely below 62 F on winter nights.

A. Since you have pre-empted my first guess, which would be lack of light (it sounds like they receive plenty), I would then suspect that your plants are receiving insufficient day-night differential. Especially if you have selected plants that bloom in winter into spring, long nights are particularly necessary for blooming. Unless the plants receive at least 10 to 12 uninterrupted hours of night, they may not bloom. Lack of uninterrupted darkness may be the key. If the room in which they are grown has even so much as a reading light close to the plants, it will interrupt their night and provide a short-night treatment. The warmer winter nights may also be a contributory factor, but a minor one.

(Question & answer reprinted from the American Orchid Society website www.aos.org , accessed on 3/11/2011. Question posed by Aline M. Kuntz . AOS' Ned Nash provided the expert answer.)



Cattleya Caribbean 'Orange Bowl' HCC/AOS
(Margaret Stewart x *C. aurantiaca*)

This is an example of a Catt. that needs total nighttime darkness in order to bloom. (Grower: Dennis & Joanne Horvath. Photo: Sharon SmithDelisle)



Gordon W. Dillion

Checklist April

By Robert M. Scully

This may be one of the most exciting months of the year. For example, we see an abundance of flower spikes emerging and witness the beginning of what we hope will be a long growing season, enabling us to provide our plants with the foundation for maximum flower production in the next flowering season. So while there are many floral rewards to capture our interest this month, there is also an open invitation for the grower to begin an intense cultural program that will ultimately yield major floral dividends in the months beyond.

Cattleya *Cattleya aclandiae* and *Cattleya forbesii* produce flowers in the first half of the month that usually last for weeks. *Cattleya mossiae* blooms later; some clones flower in May. *Cattleya mossiae* and its hybrids are well-known for their spectacular, long-lasting heads of 6-inch blossoms that provide an abundance of sweet fragrance for several weeks. These also make excellent cut flowers, so think about severing a stem (with a sterile knife, of course) to take to the office or bringing some cheer into the lives of persons in a nursing home.

Begin the annual repotting cycle this month by shifting and dividing (if necessary) those cattleyas that flowered earlier this year and are beginning to produce new growth. Typically, you should repot only when the new growth is emerging to take advantage of the plant's tendency to make new roots when it is forming new pseudobulbs. Fertilize twice a month; with longer days and warmer temperatures, the plants can use more food.

Encyclia Plants of *Encyclia cordigera* (syn. *Epidendrum atropurpureum*) should be blooming profusely now. The spicy fragrance will last for several weeks. *Encyclia cordigera* makes an excellent specimen; why not shift it to a log cabin-style wood basket when flowering is completed?

Laelia *Laelia cinnabarina*, *Laelia flava*, *Laelia harpophylla* and perhaps *Laelia milneri* will flower this month. When blooming ceases, shift the plants to another pot. All of these rupicolous* laelias need to have their roots in a cool medium. Consider using clay pots for the evaporative cooling effect that results when they are drying after a thorough watering.

Phalaenopsis In April, moth orchids are at their prime, boasting arching and/or branching sprays of beautifully arranged flowers in a wonderful array of colors.



Since most growers avoid spraying chemicals on their blooming “phals” for fear of damaging or staining flowers, your plants may have developed a minor infestation of pests, e.g., scale or mites. Inspect the flower stems for scale. Look for signs of weeping (exuding honey) at the nodes and also on the back sides of flowers; these are favorite haunts for armored and soft scale. If these pests are present, you may spot treat with an alcohol swab or wipe on a light application of an insecticidal soap; again, it is not advisable to spray when flowers are open or damage may result. Check the undersides of the leaves for scale or developing mite infestations near the mid-vein. The scale may be treated as suggested above. For mites, however, application of a carefully directed miticide spray may be necessary to halt increasing population.

Maintain a monthly fertilizer schedule for flowering plants; as new leaves emerge, you can fertilize more often. Next month, we will be adjusting cultural practices to avoid dehydration in plants that have been in flower for a long time.

*(Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Bulletin, Vol. 61, Number 4, April 1992, pg. 374
© American Orchid Society, Inc. 1992)*

* “*rupicolous*” meaning “growing among or upon rocks”)



An interesting anomaly....

Cymbidiums that have already set buds do not like to be brought into a warm environment too abruptly. If buds have set, they may blast. Sometimes the warmth will cause the plant to rush into blooming and the flowers will not be as big and full as normal. In the situation pictured at left, the inflorescence was just starting to grow out from the eye. The

warm environment caused the plant to abort any further development of the flower spike and it rushed to development a single bud right there at the base of its pseudobulb, instead. (In the picture you can see a second smaller bud, which has not developed any further.)

The picture on the right is the flower in bloom—very pretty but surely looks funny, and out of place down there at the base of the plant.



~ Editor
Sharon SmithDelisle

Marketplace

Need some supplies for repotting? As a new service to our members COS now offers a wide range of supplies at our new Sale Table. Supplies may be ordered in advance, but must be picked up at a monthly meeting. Prices are only slightly above wholesale, no taxes and no shipping fees—what a deal!

COS Potting Supplies Price List

Basket—4” square slat w/hanger	\$3.00/ea.
Charcoal chips (4 scoops/bag)	\$2.00/bag
Coconut Husk (medium size chips) ½ cu. Ft.	\$10.00/bag
Coco Tek Coir 150 g. bag	\$5.00/bag
Dyna-grow fertilizer Grow 8 oz.	\$7.00/ea
Dyna-grow fertilizer Bloom 8 oz.	\$7.00/ea.
Grow More Orchids Food 1.25 lb.	\$6.00/ea.
Hydro rocks (one gallon bag)	\$3.00/bag
Mesquite slabs for mounting orchids	\$1.00 /ea.
Orange Guard Insect Spray 32 fl. oz.	\$9.00/bottle
Orchid Bark mix (Cattleya/Dendrobium/Oncidium) 2 gal.	\$5.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix(Cymbidium/Phalaenopsis) 2 gal.	\$6.00/bag
Orchid Bark—small 2 cu. ft.	\$25.00/bag
Orchid Bark – medium 2 cu. ft.	\$25.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix (cattleya/Dendrobium/ Oncidium) 1 cu.ft.	\$20.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix (Cymbidium/Phalaenopsis) 1 cu. ft.	\$22.00/bag
Physan 20 plant insecticide 8 fl.oz.	\$10.00/ea.
Plant labels (set of 25 yellow or white)	\$ 3.00/set
Pots – round, green, plastic 4 ½ “ (set of 10)	\$ 4.00/ set
Pro-Teckt plant fertilizer 8 oz.	\$ 7.00/ea.
Rhizome clips—large	\$ 0.50/ea.
Rhizome clips – small	\$ 0.25/ea
Shagnum moss – ¼ lb. block	\$ 8.00/ea.
Superthrive Vitamins-hormones ½ fl. oz.bottle	\$ 3.00/ea.
Thermometer – digital min/max.	\$22.00/ea.
Tree Fern (medium) ½ cu. ft.	\$ 3.00/bag
Water breakers	\$ 5.00/ ea.

How we measured quantities:

¼ cubic foot mix or bark will fill approximately:

(15) 4” pots

(8) 5” pots

(5) 6” pots

(3) 7” pots

(2) 8” pots

Contact Cheryl Mizak at (203) 264-6096 to preorder.



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| Creative Hydroponics | Silva Orchids |
| Fishing Creek Orchids | Stony Brook Orchids |
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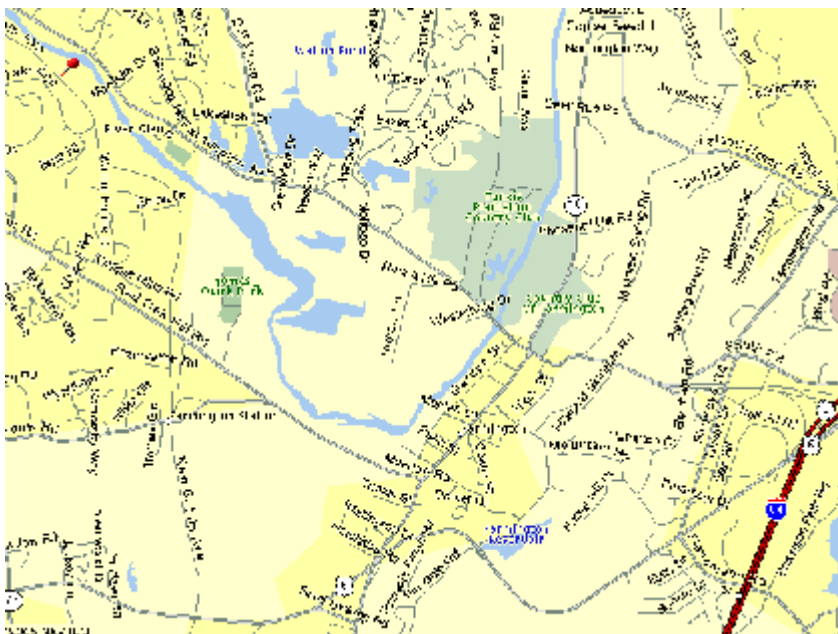
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From the West: Take I-84 east to exit 37 (Fienemann Rd.). Turn left on Fienemann Rd., go over the highway, then turn left onto Rt. 6. Follow Rt. 6 west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Ave. next to the police station.



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