



**Connecticut
Orchid
Society
Newsletter**

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

December 2010

50 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Dec.15, 2010

Time: 7:00 P.M. Socializing begins; Show & Sales Tables open.
7:30 P.M. Business meeting begins followed by the evening's featured event.

Place: Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station
Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington St., New Haven, CT
(See pg. 29 for directions.)

Program: *Holiday Party, Mini-Auction & Awards Ceremony*
(Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite casserole or holiday dish to share at the party.)

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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Editor Sharon SmithDelisle editor@ctorchids.org



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 (203) 263-2831 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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Connecticut Orchid Society Officers and Posts -- 2010

PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>
TREASURER	<i>Judy Becker</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Morgan Daniels</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Nan Stockmal-Peschel</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY	<i>Judy Arth</i>
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON	<i>Mary Rampone</i>
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>
EDITOR, LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>
AOS REPRESENTATIVE	<i>Sam Hinckley</i>
CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON	<i>Open</i>
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
WEB MASTER	<i>Deidra Crewe</i>
WEB TECHNICAL ADVISOR	<i>Joseph Linger</i>



Mentor List

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

Judy Becker judybecker40@att.net Greenhouse growing methods: Wide variety of species & hybrids

Charlie Boos charlieb1962@yahoo.com Greenhouse & under lights growing methods: Cattleyas, Vandas, Dendrobiums, Sophronitis & hybridizing

Sam Hinckley samuelhinckley@comcast.net Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

Joe Linger jlinger@snet.net Greenhouse, outdoors & under lights growing methods: Species & hybrids

Sharon SmithDelisle editor@ctorchids.org Under lights & windowsill growing methods: Bulbophylums, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera.

David Tognalli dtog54@sbcglobal.net Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums & mixed genera.

Membership Policy

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.

Upcoming Events



- Dec. 15** **Connecticut Orchid Society Holiday & Mini-Auction:** 7:30 pm, Agriculture Experiment Station, New Haven, CT
- Dec. 18** **Northeast Judging Center Holiday Party:** Elmsford, NY, potluck lunch, short business meeting and a mini-auction. For more details contact Judy Becker at judybecker40@att.net.
- Jan. 12** **Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** *Mounting Your Own Orchids Clinic*, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, Cheshire. Details to be announced.
- Jan. 27 ~ 30** **Cape and Islands Orchid Society *Orchid Odyssey Show & Sale*:** 22nd Annual Orchid Show at The Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis, 135 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, Cape Cod. Visit www.caios.org for more details.
- Feb. 7 & 14** **Old Saybrook Adult Education Class, 'Basic Orchid Growing':** COS member Sharon SmithDelisle will conduct the classes.
- Feb. 9** **Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** TBA
- Feb. 10 ~ 13** **Deep Cut Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show:** 14th annual show & sale at the Dearborn Market, Holmdel, NJ. Visit www.deepcutorchidsociety.org for more details.
- Feb. 24 ~ 27** **Connecticut Flower & Garden Show:** "*Capture the Magic*", 30th Annual Show, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT.
- Mar. 4 ~ 7** **Van Wilgen's Garden Center:** "*Escape to Spring*", Gardening expo with many local vendors. COS will have an information booth at this event. North Branford, CT.
- Mar. 9** **Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** TBA
- Mar. 12** **Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Spring Show & Sale:** Visit www.mhos.org for details.





The Benefits Of Membership

Whether a beginner or an expert orchid grower, you will find membership in the American Orchid Society a truly rewarding experience. You'll join over 16,000 others worldwide who share a passion for orchids, as well as furthering conservation and research efforts for these wondrous plants. And you'll enjoy a wealth of membership benefits:

- Monthly subscription to Orchids magazine
- Free and discounted admission to [more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta](#)
- Receive the annual Orchid Source Directory detailing orchid suppliers worldwide
- Access to online orchid information and features available only to our members at www.aos.org
- 10% discount on purchases in the Orchid Emporium or on-line at www.aos.org
- Discount on back issues of Orchids magazine and on American Orchid Society published books
- Reduced processing fees for American Orchid Society judged plant and flower awards
- Discounts on orchid class fees at the American Orchid Society Botanical Gardens
- Free admission to the American Orchid Society Botanical Gardens and 50% off admission for any guests

Membership Types

US Membership	One Year	Two Year
Individual	\$65	\$125
Joint*	\$80	\$155
Student**	\$40	\$75

Our Gift to You:

By joining or renewing now for a two-year period, you will receive a \$30 coupon good toward a \$100 purchase at one of 13 select orchid nurseries nationwide!

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.

The deadline for submissions to the Jan. issue of the newsletter is Dec. 24th.

New member welcome Two more members were added to our ranks this past month. Please welcome Dave Goral & his family, and Gene Lofaro. We hope that Dave and Gene will introduce themselves at the Holiday Party next week. Please take a few minutes to make these new folks feel comfortable. I'm sure you have many orchid stories you would like to share!



Error in Announcing Nominating Committee Chairperson



Last month I announced that Ann Jesup was the Nominating Committee Chairperson. I would like to apologize for this error. The Committee does not have a Chair. All three members of the Committee are working together and sharing the task of searching for suitable candidates for the slate of nominees for our Board of Directors election. As soon as a full slate has been obtained, a postcard ballot will be mailed to each member and the ballot will also be posted on our website.

Time to renew your dues It's Show your support for your dues early. The cost of membership is \$20 for a single membership and that a family is considered two husband & wife. There is a back of every newsletter. Take a moment and complete the form today—send it to Mary Rampone. You'll be glad to check this task off your "To do" list and COS will thank you for your early response.



that time of year again! society by renewing your membership remains the same: \$25 for a family. Please note or more people, such as a membership form at the

Postage Cost Sharing Effective January 1st, all members receiving a hard copy of the newsletter are asked to help out with raising postage costs by paying an additional \$10 per year. This fee amounts to \$1.00 per month to defray postage & handling costs. You may pay this fee when you send in your membership renewal. Alternatively, you can receive the newsletter electronically, instead at no additional cost. Please provide your e-mail address on your renewal application.

December's Featured Event



Connecticut Orchid Society Holiday Party time...



*Time for our Gala Awards Ceremony,
Mini-auction and Lots of Delicious Food, too!*

Help us put on a fabulous holiday food spread -- bring your favorite casserole, salad or hot food dish (enough to share, please).

Plan on participating in some hectic bidding at the mini-auction for many blooming orchids—Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis', Ondontoglossums, etc.--- they will make fine holiday gifts for your loved ones. There is also a wonderful selection of miniature South American orchids up for bid—including Masdevallias and Pluerothallids.

The highlight of the evening will be our awards ceremony where we thank all of our volunteers for their hard work and the many long hours they have contributed to make the year a success. Be sure to attend so that you can be personally awarded your Certificate of Appreciation.



*Join us! Bring a Friend!
Wednesday Evening, Dec. 15th, 7:30 pm
Agricultural Experiment Station, Jones Auditorium,
123 Huntington St., New Haven, CT*

President's Message



President Cheryl Mizak

Hello

It's that time of year again, families gathering, friends reconnecting. As I write this last note of 2010 we are about to have our Thanksgiving dinner and yes Christmas is just a month away. Somewhere sandwiched in between is a full calendar of holiday events. I hope you have marked the COS Christmas party, awards and mini-auction on your schedule.

I want to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and talents in the different COS activities over the past year. Your participation and support of club events are what makes our continued growth possible.

Starting off the new year in January at the Farmington Senior Center, we will be having a Mount Your Own Orchid Workshop. If you would like to try your hand at mounting an orchid, reserve your plant and supplies with me by Dec 20th as we need to order and have the plants arrive in time. There will be a material fee not to exceed \$20.00 per mount.

Some other highlights for 2011 will be the Connecticut Flower Show in February. Van Wilgens Garden Center *Escape to Spring* in March, Orchid Gallery in May. Our own show date for 2011 will be October 21 thru October 23, at Van Wilgens Garden Center. Be sure to mark these important dates on your new calendars as we will need your help.



I wish you and your families the most spectacular holiday season.

~ Cheryl Mizak
Pres.

November's Meeting Minutes



Judy Arth
Corresponding
Secretary

Farmington Senior Center, Nov. 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Mizak at 7:30 at the Farmington Senior Center.

We had many new members and visitors attending and they were asked to sign the guest book in the back of the room.

The reports we have received from the Orchid Harvest Show at VanWilgen's in October seem to be very favorable and we want to thank everyone who had a part in making it a success.

It is time for dues which are due at the end of December. Dues will remain at \$20.00 for a single membership and \$25.00 for a family. However due to the cost of printing and mailing the monthly newsletter which we all enjoy you have an option this year. If you wish to receive the printed newsletter we ask that you pay an additional \$10.00 for this privilege. If you opt out your newsletter will be available on line at our website www.ctorchids.org and you may print it out from there if you want.

The nominating committee consists of Dave Tagnalli, Ann Jessup, and Larry Kuekes. We will announce our new officers at the December meeting. If you think you would like to be an active member and play a role in the running of our organization please let us know. We will be voting either on line or with paper ballots.

Next month the meeting will be held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington Street in New Haven on Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. There will be lots of surprises, a mini auction, party food and an awards ceremony to thank our volunteers. Come and bring your favorite pot luck dish to share with all.

Bring your plant back that you received at last year's Christmas party and let us see how they fared this year.

This month's speaker was introduced by Cheryl - Dr. Glenn Lehr, New World Orchids, Manchester, MI. A member of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society.



He has been judge at the World Orchid Festival and Grand Prix International Orchid Festival, a 10 day orchid show that dwarfs the shows in America. He brought with him an amazing selection of slides from his time in Japan. We were able to have an insider's view of the huge facility and workings at this show which draws nearly a half-million visitors. The vendor displays were huge and yet beautifully designed and artistically arranged.

We also saw a quieter side of Japan away from the show with visits to quiet temples and gardens. His wonderful talk and slideshow made each of us wish we could go and share in this remarkable experience.



Some Show Table Beauties



Above, center: **Phrag**. Haley Decker
Brought to Show Table by Ted Zamojski

Above, right: **Phal. Tying Shin Cupid 'Maria Teresa'**, Brought to Show Table by the Jesups.

November Show Table

Genus	Plant	Owner	Culture
<i>Ascocenda</i> (<i>Ascda. Royal Sapphire</i> x <i>V. coerulea</i>)	Princess Mikassa 'Pink'	J. Arth	i, g
<i>Brassavola</i>	<i>subulifolia (nodosa)</i>	J. Hampton	i-w, g
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>medusae</i>	J. Hampton	i-w, g
<i>Cattleya (Sl.)</i> (<i>briegeri</i> x <i>coccinea</i>)	Pole-Star	Jesups	i, g
<i>Epidendrum</i> (<i>melanoporphreum</i> x <i>capricornu</i>)	Jubilee 'Hot Lips'	Jesups	i, g
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> (Mini Purple x Mari's Song)	Mini Song 'La Primera Morada' HCC/AOS	J. Becker	i, g
<i>Miltassia</i> (<i>Brassia arcuigera</i> x <i>Mtssa. Aztec</i>)	Kauai's Choice 'Tropical Fragrance'	J. Hampton	i-w, g
<i>Miltonioda</i> (M. Yuko Hatsui x <i>Cochlioda noezliana</i>)	Maui Charm	J. Becker	i, g
<i>Oncidium</i> (Shonan x Kaizumic Delight)	Jiuhbao Gold 'Dancing Ladies'	R. Brown	
<i>Oncidium (Miltonidium)</i> (<i>sotoanum (ornithorhynchum)</i> x <i>fuscatum</i>)	Ruffles 'Scent of a Woman'	J. Hampton	i-w, g
<i>Oncidium</i> (<i>sotoanum (ornithorhynchum)</i> x <i>cheirophorum</i>)	Twinkle	D. Tognalli	i, w
<i>Ornithophora</i> (syn. <i>Sigmatostalyx radicans</i>)	<i>radicans</i>	Jesups	i, g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	Hsinying Web x <i>lawrenceanum</i>	J. Becker	i, g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> (sogo Lawrence x Kuntrati Rarashati)	Tiyng Shin Cupid 'Maria Teresa'	Jesups	i, g
<i>Phragmipedium</i> (<i>kovachii</i> 'Laura' x Saint Ouen)	Haley Decker	T. Zamojski	i, w

<i>Phragmipedium</i> (<i>besseae</i> x <i>schlimii</i>)	Hanne Popow	D. Tognalli	i , w
<i>Pleurothallis</i>	<i>mystax</i>	Jesups	i , g
<i>Pleurothallis</i>	<i>ramulosa</i> 'Fox Den' CHM/AOS	Jesups	i , g
<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> (<i>Potinara</i>) (<i>Psyche</i> x <i>Rcnthe</i> Love Sound)	Love Tapestry 'Popular Song' HCC/AOS	T. Zamojski	i , w
<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> (<i>Rlc.</i> Fortune x <i>C.</i> Horace)	Goldenzelle	R. Brown	
<i>Vanda</i> (Blitz's Heartthrob x Alice Johnson)	Crownfox Goliath	J. Hampton	i –w, g
<i>Zootrophion</i>	<i>atropurpureum</i>	Jesups	i , g
<i>Zygolum</i> (<i>Zygolum</i> Louisendorf x <i>Zygotepalum</i> Artur Elle)	Rhein Harlequin'	J. Becker	i , g
<i>Zygotepalum</i> (Bright Eyes x Imagination)	Bright Imagination 'Master Ian'	J. Becker	i , g

Culture is as noted:

c – cool
w – warm
ws – windowsill

i – intermediate
g – greenhouse
l – lights



Bulbophyllum medusae
 Brought to Show Table
 by John Hampton



November Show Table Beauties



Above: *Lc. Mini Song*, Brought to Show Table
 By Judy Becker

On Left: *Oncidium Twinkle*, Brought to Show
 Table by Dave Tognalli

News, Notes & Happenings

Election of Officers for our 2011 Board of Directors ~ The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of nominees for the annual election:

President	Rick Brown
Vice-President	Cheryl Mizak
Treasurer	Judy Arth
Recording Secretary	Carla Koch
Director at large	Rober Heigel
Director at large	Dottie Kern



Paper ballots will be mailed to members the week of Dec. 10th. Please cast your vote and mail the postcard back as soon as possible. You may also vote via the internet. Please visit our website www.ctorchids.org to cast your electronic vote. Members are only allowed to cast one ballot. **The deadline to vote is midnight, Dec. 31st.** The results of the election will be announced at the January monthly meeting.

Members in the news ~

Congratulations to Ben Esselink on his recent marriage to Jean Watson in October. Ben says he says he has a new lease on life! Jean is not yet an orchid grower, but Ben is working to change that.

Best wishes to Joe Linger for a speedy recovery. Joe was recently hospitalized for a serious illness. He is home now and beginning the long road to recovery. Please take a moment to send him a cheery get well e-mail at jlinger@aya.yale.edu.

Director at large Nan Peschel has also been suffering from an extended illness. Nan has been unable to attend any meetings for many months now. We wish her all the best and hope that 2011 will be a much better year!

Welcome FCOA Members ~ COS welcomes two new members from the former Fairfield County Orchid Association: Peter Penczer and Pamela & Stephen Kuri-mai. Ben Esselink, Steve Gorin and Roger Vars have been long time members of COS already. All other FCOA members are always welcome to attend meetings and share in our programs.

Out Reach Programs

Woodland Gardens Annual Holiday Open House, Nov. 13 COS member Judy Arth attended the Open House on the Society's behalf. Judy met some wonderful folks, handed out new member brochures and talked about the benefits of joining COS. **Spreading the word... that's what it's all about!**

Cape and Islands Orchid Society, *Orchid Odyssey Show & Sale*, Jan. 27 ~ 30, 2011. We have been invited to participate in CAIOS's show & sale. The event is being held at the Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis, 135 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, Cape Cod. Volunteers are needed to set up and take down our display, as well as loan flowering plants for this event. This is CAIOS' 22nd orchid show. Please contact Cheryl Mizak if you would like to help out with this event. Visiting the Cape this time of year means no crowds at the beaches and discounts at the hotels—give it some thought!

Deep Cut Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show, Feb. 10 ~ 13, 2011. COS has been invited to participate at Deep Cut's 14th annual show & sale. The event is being held at the Dearborn Market in Holmdel, NJ. We need your help setting up our display at this event. If you think you will have some orchids in bloom, please let Cheryl Mizak know. We will set up a display at this event but will not be manning a daily booth.

Connecticut Flower Show, Hartford, CT, Feb. 24 ~ 27, 2011 We need volunteers to man our booth at this show. The job entails greeting the public and handing out COS literature. Last year we also had a raffle plant on the table and guests were encouraged to fill out a raffle ticket. A winner was chosen from the raffle box on the last day of the event.

Old Saybrook Adult Education Class for "Basic Orchid Growing", Feb. 7th and 14th, 7:00—9:00 pm. COS has been invited back for a second season teaching basic orchid growing at the Old Saybrook High School. Sharon SmithDelisle will be conducting the classes.

Van Wilgen's Garden Center *Escape to Spring* Event, March 4 ~ 6, 2011 COS has been invited to participate in Van Wilgen's second "Escape to Spring" gardening event. We will also need volunteers for this event. Again, the job involves greeting the public and answering their questions. We will probably have a sale table at this event and an orchid raffle plant.



Under the Lights



**Founding Member Richard D. Coyle, President 1962 ~ 1963
Cheryl Mizak, President 2009 ~ 2010**

One of the highlights of our *Orchid Harvest* show was a surprise visit by Richard D. Coyle. Mr. Coyle was a founding member of COS and was president in 1962 and 1963. Richard stopped by the show to say hello and we talked him into a photo op with President Cheryl Mizak. Richard also brought us two large boxes of books and AOS Bulletins from the 1960s. He talked about his greenhouse, which he just recently had to close due to his health. It was a great pleasure to meet one of the founding fathers of the Society and hear about the old days of COS.

Treasurer's Report

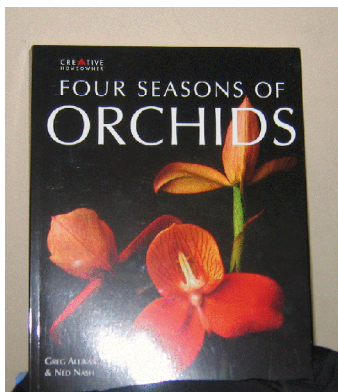


Judy Becker
Treasurer

The Treasurer's Report and the results of our 2010 *Orchid Harvest Show & Sale* are available upon request from our Treasurer, Judy Becker. Judy may be contacted at (860) 435-2263 or by e-mail at judybecker40@att.net

Library

News from the Cats hiding in the stacks



Four Seasons of ORCHIDS, By Greg Allikas & Ned Nash, Creative Homemaker, 2007.

Sharon SmithDelisle has donated a new book to our library. Many of you may recognize the authors. Both men have been long time contributors to the American Orchid Society's magazine *Orchids*. Greg is a well known photographer and Ned is a writer and longtime orchid grower. These two authors have teamed up to present an excellent, general purpose book about orchid growing. As would be expected, the photography is outstanding and the many articles about orchid growing are timely and insightful. I am planning to build my greenhouse soon and the section about building a greenhouse is helpful because it contains information about modern materials and equipment.

If you would like to borrow this book, please contact the librarian, Sharon SmithDelisle.



Oncidium leucochilum, photographed from
Bateman's *Orchidaceae of Mexico and
Guatemala* by Robert M. Hamilton.

(Reprinted from The American Orchid Society's *Bulletin*, January 1991, *Bateman and Skinner* — 2: TAB. 1—*Oncidium leucochilum*, Robert M. Hamilton, pg. 39—43.)

Orchid Tricks Hoverflies: Eastern March Helleborine Mimics Aphid Alarm Pheromones to Attract Pollinators



Eastern marsh helleborine (*Epipactis veratrifolia*), an orchid species, has successfully lured a hoverfly of the genus *Ischnodon* by mimicking alarm pheromones usually emitted by aphides. (credit: MPI Chemical Ecology, Johannes Stokl)

Science Daily (Oct. 14, 2010) — Scientists have discovered the trick the orchid *Epipactis veratrifolia* uses to attract pollinative hoverflies. The plant's flower practices special mimicry; it produces chemical substances that are usually emitted as alarm pheromones among aphids. Hoverfly females smell the alarm and lay their eggs close to aphid colonies, which serve as baby food for their hatching larvae. By mimicking these alarm pheromones, the orchid takes advantage of the hoverfly females, deceiving them into pollinating its flower.

The research is published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

Even Darwin was a self-admitted orchid lover. Dictionaries describe orchids as exotic ornamentals. Indeed, these plants — more than 30,000 different species are thought to exist — are exotic due to their extraordinary and diverse flower morphology. However, they are also exotic from a point of view other than beauty: as crafty imposters in order to achieve reproduction and to make sure that their ovaries are pollinated. Orchids depend on the assistance of pollinators, and like many other flowering plants, attract insects.

Epipactis veratrifolia, an orchid native in South Turkey, the Middle East, and Cyprus, has specialized in hoverflies. Because these insects prefer aphids as food for their larvae, the orchid produces three aphid alarm substances, α - and β -pinene, and β -myrcene and β -phellandrene, all of which attract hoverfly females. Interestingly, as the scientists observed, even male hoverflies hang around the orchids, hoping for a chance to copulate with the attracted females.

A bit of nectar as reward

“Hoverfly females as well as males enjoy the small amount of nectar the orchid flower provides. Both sexes serve as pollen transmitters,” says ecologist Johannes Stokl. The alarm substances lure five of the different hoverfly species that feed on aphids. Females lay their eggs in the flower of the orchid, although no aphids are there. “We assume that the insects are not only deceived by the aphid alarm

NO-TA-NATION & APOLLON

Pheromones, but also fall for the aphid-like dark warts in the orchid's flower," explains Bill Hansson, director at the Max Planck Institute.

Mass spectra and electroantennograms

The aphid species *Megoura viciae* preferred by *Episyrphus balteatus* hoverflies produces α - and β -pinene as well as β -myrcene. These volatile substances generate measurable electrical impulses in the hoverfly antennae. Behavioral experiments carried out by the research team supported the assumption that it is exactly these substances that attract hoverflies and encourage oviposition. Further analysis revealed that the orchid *Epipactis veratrifolia* does not mimic the alarm pheromones of just one aphid species, because the volatiles emitted by the aphids and the flower differ in amount and constitution.

An evolutionary dead end?

Is *Epipactis veratrifolia* a ruthless imposter? Johannes Stokl answers: "At least the plant provides a small amount of nectar for the deceived hoverflies. This is comparable to two related species, the wasp-pollinated orchids *E. helleborine* and *E. purpurata*, which lure stingy insects by mimicking their prey, mostly butterfly larvae. However, unlike *Epipactis veratrifolia* these species reward their pollinators by providing large amounts of nectar."

Nevertheless, the scientist would classify the Eastern marsh helleborine as a treacherous imposter, because hoverfly larvae hatching from the eggs laid in its flowers won't find any food there and must die. From an evolutionary perspective this seems to be a contradiction: If hoverfly larvae die, the population of this species is decimated and as a consequence the number of pollinators decreases.

"We cannot provide a coherent explanation of this conflict. However, we can imagine where the mimicry of the alarm pheromone is originated," says Bill Hansson. The plant is remarkably aphid-free, probably due to the emission of α - and β -pinene. These two volatiles are produced by aphids in case of danger. Therefore aphids avoid everything that smells of α - and β -pinene. Both substances may have originally been used by the Eastern marsh helleborine as a defense mechanism against aphids. Once hoverflies were fooled and mistook the volatiles for aphids, they also served the purpose of attracting pollinators.

Story Source: The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by [Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology](#), via [EurekAlert!](#), a service of AAAS.

Journal Reference: J. Stokle, J. Brodmann, A. Dafni, M. Ayasse, B. S. Hansson. **Smells like aphids: orchid flowers mimic aphid alarm pheromones to attract hoverflies for pollination.** *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 2010; DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2010.1770



From the COS archives

the way we were....

30 Years ago ~ Wed., December 10, 1980, Concordia Lutheran Church, Manchester. Recording Secretary Margot Levy reported that this meeting was the annual "Cookie Party" and as usual a wonderful array of goodies from the Society's "good cooks" were available. Helen Evonsion and Imogene Gilbert of the Hartford Refreshment Committee presided over the refreshments.

President John Passander called the meeting to order. Charlie Wiesner presented the slate of officers, which was promptly seconded by Ben Berliner. The vote was apparently unanimous to accept the proposed slate.

The evening's program consisted of an AOS slide presentation (remember slide shows?) on Pests, Rots Diseases, etc. It was recommended as a good opportunity to see what you had or did not have attacking your plants. Lee Soule was the expert narrator.

An interesting committee that seems to have fallen by the wayside was the Information Exchange Committee, which Margot reported "elicited a fast and furious discussion" about the merits of hardwood charcoal as a potting media. Sepal wilt due to the increased use of firewood and charcoal for home heating was also discussed.

The Treasurer Robert Chase reported that the checking account had a balance of \$1,815.21. The cost of the rental hall for the evening was \$50.00. The membership consisted of 201 total members.

20 Years ago ~ Wed., December 12, 1990, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven. Our esteemed Larry Kuekes was already editor at this time. Larry reported that COS held its annual holiday party and gift exchange. Everyone was asked to bring party-type food and an inexpensive (\$5-\$10) orchid-related gift for the gift exchange. The slate of nominees was presented by Dr. Ben Berliner: John Parshley for Pres., Larry Kuekes for Vice Pres., Allen Wachtel for Treasurer, Ted Zamojski for Recording Secretary, and Roger Vars for Corresponding Secretary. Members were reminded that dues were due: \$15 for individual and \$18 for family.

10 Years ago ~ Wed., December 13, 2000, Knights of Columbus, Newington. President Joe Linger presided over the annual holiday party and mini-auction. The annual elections were also held: Joe Linger was voted in for a second term as President, Paul Cusson as Vice Pres., Mark Snyder as Treasurer, Valerie Allgrove as Recording Sect., and the two Directors-at-Large positions were yet to be determined.



Orchid Frustrations

By Hilda Berger

I never can call an orchid by name;
When asked, I never know them.
And let me make it very plain;
I know I could never grow them.

That funny latin nomenclature
Is quite beyond my knowledge.
Amo, amas, amat — I'm sure,
I couldn't even learn in college.

There's one that's called *Cymbidium*
With the accent on the *bid*.
Another is *Cypripedium*.
You're right! It's on the *ped*.

I can't say *trichocentrum*,
Nor *Vanilla planifolia*,
Odontoglossum schlieperianum,
Or *Bifrenaria* and *Sobralia*.

To call *Cycnoches* by its proper name,
You must really twist your tongue
Over every syllable the same,
Or you'll surely say it wrong.

When on some V.I.P. occasion,
An orchid or two I need,
I make a quick and bold invasion
Into Bill's greenhouse and plead.

I look around if it takes all day.
Till I find one that's quite rare;
Then I'll point to it and say,
I'll take that one — over there!

take a moment,
oh, let's converse;
stop & enjoy
some orchid verse.



Reprinted from the AOS
Bulletin, April 1970,
which reprinted the poem
from *Orchidinnewsium*,
Vol. 5, No. 3.. Hilda
berger is from Henryetta,
Oklahoma.

Beginner's Corner

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.



Larry Kuekes

Cold Feet

By Larry Kuekes

Despite popular misconceptions, very few orchids grow in hot jungles; most grow on mountains where it gets quite cold, though not freezing. The temperature nomenclature in orchid books is for greenhouses. What the books call "warm" is comfortable in a house; what they call "intermediate" is cold, and what they call "cool" is ridiculous. Indoors, you can easily find places to grow paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis. For other orchids, the challenge is to find – or create – areas, which are cold enough.

What counts is the nighttime temperature in the winter. The daytime temperature should ideally be 10° or 15° higher, but is not as critical. The simplest thing to do is to turn down your thermostat to 60° at night. If that's too cold for you, turn up the electric blanket or wear socks to bed. 60° is at the boundary between the "warm" and "intermediate" groups and should allow you to grow both.

Second, pay attention to "microclimates". For example, a spot right next to the windowpane will be colder at night (and brighter during the day) than a spot just 8" or 10" farther into the room. So you might put cattleyas next to the glass and phalaenopsis farther away. Some rooms may be cooler than others. Near the floor is decidedly cooler than higher up. If you don't have a maximum-minimum thermometer, get one, and try it in all different places around the house that have enough light (or where you could install lights). It's the only way to search out those microclimates without getting up at 2:00 a.m. to check.

To grow "cool" orchids, you should find a spot which gets down to 55° or colder. Fluorescent lights in the basement are good for things like odontoglossums which don't need bright light. The hardest combination to provide is bright sun and cold temperatures, preferred by cymbidiums and many dendrobiums. If you are lucky enough to have a basement with a sunny window, you can grow these normally difficult plants indoors (even "mini"-cymbidiums can be enormous, though). Another good spot is an unheated spare room. I have a guest bedroom with a south window; when I shut off the hot air register at night it gets down to 50° or less, which is ideal for these orchid Eskimos.

One last tip: assuming you put your orchids outdoors in the summer, leave them outside in the fall as long as possible, without letting them freeze, of course. This will encourage many varieties to make spikes or buds, even if the house



temperature after you bring them in is a little too warm. It may be a nuisance to bring everything in when the weatherman predicts frost, then move them out again for a spell of Indian summer, but the plants seem to benefit. Even warm-growers like phalaenopsis should be left out until the temperatures get into the lower 50s at night. Intermediate types can stand temperatures in the 40s before you bring them in, and certain really cool-growers like cymbidiums and *Dendrobium nobile* hybrids are said to tolerate light frosts, though I've never tried it.



Above top: **Zygolum Rhein Harlequin**
Brought to Show Table by Judy Becker
Above bottom: **Miltonioda Maui Charm**
Brought to Show Table by Judy Becker



Above: **Brassavola subulata**
Brought to Show Table by John Hampton



More November Show Table Beauties



Above: **Zygopetalum Bright Imagination**
Brought to Show Table by Judy Becker



Above: **Vanda Crownfox Goliath**
Brought to Show Table by John Hampton



Drawing by Gordon W. Dillion

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be



collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.


Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilums* are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While *paphiopedilums* rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With *paphiopedilums*, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in *phalaenopsis*. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our *phalaenopsis* will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower 

buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay .



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Trivia Fun

Word Search Challenge

Orchids Wordfind II

- by WordFind for Crossword Maker 98

ALLIANCE	BACKBULB	BEE	BIFOLIATE	BRACT	BREEDER
CHESHIRE	COLLECTION	CORSAGE	DORSAL	EQUITANT	EYE
FIR	FOOTCANDLE	GERMINATE	GRANDIFLORA	GREX	HABITAT
HUMIDITY	KEIKI	LIP	MERICLONE	MINIATURE	POD
POLLINATOR	PROGENY	SHEATH	SHOW	SPIDER	SUN
VANILLA					

G H Z D E K W T C A R B J D O R S A L
 E I T R N C G B Z B L T N A T I U Q E
 R O T A N I L L O P J L M F X A K W R
 C V L E E Q S B I F O L I A T E E Z X
 E K P N J H O C N P U R H A K Y R W T
 D N R P O C S H B A S M S Q N E Z G I
 A K O W C V P E C R B L U B K C A B G
 M D G L V A I S Q Q E J N I A P E W R
 X K E Z C N D H L J E E Z K V W A Y A
 N S N F W I E I H N X J D C I G I F N
 M H Y L U L R R N O I T C E L L O C D
 L I A Q R L S E Q B E G A S R O C Y I
 K E N X O A M K M X A K Z F T Q Q P F
 N O H I G X C M E D D G S C W K Z J L
 Z R W S A N V H A B I T A T Q E S X O
 U C H I F T R Z T K I N Q Y T I I Y R
 D N T J E T U R R Y D R D M R K X M A
 U N N Z Z T I R J L X Y T I D I M U H
 X O Q Q N T R Y E T A N I M R E G Z Z

22nd Annual Cape & Islands

ORCHIDSHOW

January 29-30, 2011

Orchid Odyssey

Sat. & Sun. 9-5

Admission:

\$8 Single Day

\$12 Two Day Pass

The Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis
135 Scudder Ave. (West End Rotary)

Photo Courtesy of ArtEmbroidered.com



Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Best wishes for a healthy & happy 2011!



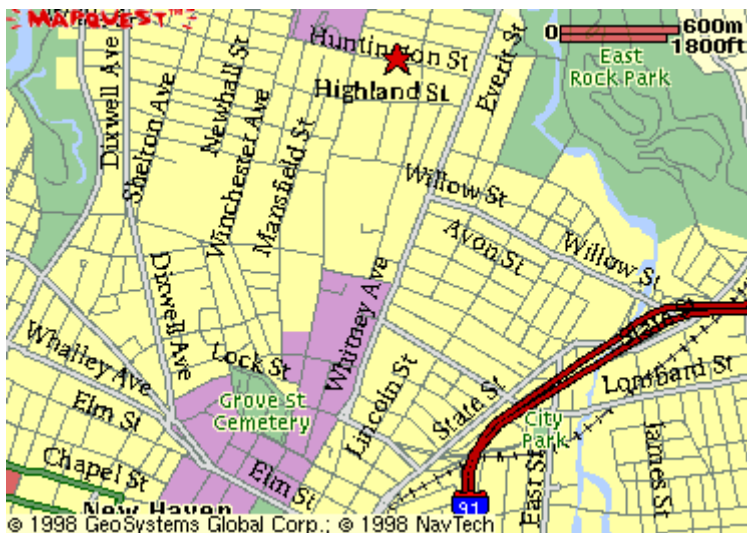
Winter Show, February 10-13, 2011
Dearborn Market, 2170 Rt 35 south,
Holmdel, NJ 07733
10am to 6pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10am to 4pm on Sunday



Held in Dearborn Market's 10,000 square foot greenhouse, the Deep Cut Orchid Society Winter Show is the largest orchid show and sale in New Jersey. It is an AOS sanctioned show and hosts many displays from orchid societies and professional growers from the area. This is the time of year when orchids are at the blooming peak and you will see hundreds of beautiful orchids covering a wide variety of orchid genera. And it's **Free!!** There will be free lectures on Saturday and Sunday, free group guided tours throughout the week, and information on growing orchids. The show also includes a large sales area of the growers attending the show.

Drop in and brighten up a dreary February day with the sights and smells of beautiful and colorful orchids. It's **FREE!!** Ample parking and food on the premises.

Directions to Agriculture Experiment Station Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington St. New Haven, CT



From Wilber Cross Parkway: Take Exit 61 (Whitney Ave.) south about 4 miles until you cross the New Haven town line. The next street has a traffic light, and the street after that, with an A-frame church on the corner, is Huntington Street. Turn right onto Huntington and proceed up the hill. The Agricultural Experiment Station is on the right. The meeting is located upstairs in the Jones Auditorium.

From I-91: Take the Trumbull Street exit-Exit 3. Go straight for two blocks and turn right on Whitney Avenue. Proceed north for about one mile. Watch for an A-frame church, which is on the corner of Huntington Street. Turn left and proceed up the hill. The Agricultural Experiment Station is on the left. The meeting is located upstairs in the Jones Auditorium.

Connecticut Orchid Society Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. # _____ E-mail: _____

(Information provided to the Connecticut Orchid Society is not sold, shared or given out)

Membership choice: *Single \$20/yr. ** *Family \$25/yr.**

Single Lifetime Membership \$200

Family Lifetime Membership \$250

Newsletter delivery preference: *U.S. Mail* *E-mail*

** Please include an additional \$10 fee for postage costs for U.S. mail delivery of your newsletter. E-mail delivery is free of charge, please provide your e-mail address above.*

At this time I would only like to receive the next three newsletters & directions to the meetings.

-----*Fold Here*-----

- *Complete the information required above.*
- *Tear this form out of the newsletter.*
- *Fold in half.*
- *Insert your check payable to : “Connecticut Orchid Society”, for membership amount.*
- *Tape on three sides.*
- *Mail to COS (Address is printed on the back of this form) .*

Membership includes the monthly COS newsletter, monthly meetings Sept. through June with a featured speaker or educational activity, a vote at the annual election of the Board of Directors, opportunities to volunteer for many exciting orchid related activities, and COS sponsored field trips, clinics & shows. Join us!! You’ll be glad you did.

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c/o Mary Rampone Membership
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Woodbury, CT 06798***

