



Connecticut

Orchid

Society

Newsletter

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

May 2012

53 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2012

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: Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Ave.
Cheshire, CT

(See pg. 13 for map & directions.)

Program: **Venezuelan Species focusing on Cattleyas**
Presented by Michael Sinn of Canaima Orchids, Palmetto, FL

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. 14 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.



Inside this Issue --- May 2012 Volume LIII Issue V

REGULAR FEATURES

Next Meeting/Contact Us.....	1
COS Membership Information	1
COS Mission Statement.....	2
Newsletter Table of Contents.....	2
COS Officers and Posts — 2012.....	3
Mentor List, Membership Policy, Content Acknowledgement.....	3
Calendar of Coming Events	4
This Month's Featured Event	5
Presidents' Message.....	5
Monthly Meeting Minutes & Meeting Photos	6
Show Table & Photographs.....	7—8
Meeting Photos.....	11
Marketplace.....	12
Membership Application.....	14
Map and/or Directions	13

SPECIAL FEATURES

Letters From Hilo by Larry Kuekes:	9—10
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Connecticut Orchid Society Officers and Posts -- 2012

PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>	(203) 264-6096
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AOS REPRESENTATIVE	<i>Sam Hinckley</i>	(860) 688-0943
CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON	<i>Vacant</i>	—
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>	(203) 264-6096
REFRESHMENT CHAIRPERSON	<i>Judy Becker</i>	(860) 435-2263
WEB MASTER	<i>Deidra Crewe</i>	(973) 853-8442

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 (860) 435-2263 (8:00-8:00 pm) Greenhouse growing methods: Wide variety of species & hybrids

Sam Hinckley samuelhinckley@comcast.net (860) 688-0943 (After 7:30 pm) Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

Jeffrey Richards Jeffrey.richards@snet.net (Contact anytime).
Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

Sharon SmithDelisle editor@ctorchids.org (203) 744-1849 (Contact anytime) Under lights & windowsill growing methods: Bulbophylums, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera.

David Tognalli dtog54@sbcglobal.net (860) 521-7249 (Contact evenings & weekends) 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.

Content Acknowledgement

All information, opinions, reporting and recommendations that appear in this newsletter are those of the editor, unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Events



May 9 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Michael Sinn of Canaima Orchids, Palmetto, FL. Topic to be announced. 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT.

May 19 Northeast Judging Center: Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown-White Plains Rd. (Rt. 119), Elmsford, NY. Slides & presentations begin at 10:00 am. Judging begins at noon; bring your own lunch.

June 13 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: TBA, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT

June 16 Northeast Judging Center: Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown-White Plains Rd., (Rt. 119), Elmsford, NY. Slides & presentations begin at 10:00 am. Judging begins at noon; bring your lunch.

Sept. 12 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: TBA, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 maple Ave., Cheshire, CT

Oct. 10 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids, NC will give a presentation. He will bring plants for sale. Topic will be announced. 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT.

Oct. 19 ~ 21 Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale: Orchid Harvest 2012, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT

Nov. 14 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Bill Thoms of Central Florida will give a presentation about growing outstanding bulbophyllums. 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT

Dec. 12 Connecticut Orchid Society Holiday Party & Mini-Auction: 7:00 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT



May's Featured Event

Join us for a presentation by guest speaker
Michael Sinn
of
Canaima Orchids, Palmetto, FL

Michael will give a presentation about
Venezuelan Species with a focus on Cattleyas.

Presidents' Message

Hello—

You will recall when Tom Mirenda from the Smithsonian was here he invited COS to come to Washington, DC for a private tour of the greenhouses. We are in the process of finalizing the plans for the trip. Mark your calendar as we will be traveling by bus to DC. Our plan is to depart mid-day, Friday, Oct. 5th. On Saturday, we will have the opportunity to attend the National Capital Orchid Show. On Sunday, we will have our private tour of the Smithsonian Green Houses. Tom will also escort us on a private tour of the National Botanical Garden Green House. Please note that these greenhouses are NOT open to the public. We will return to Connecticut on Sunday.

Make sure to take advantage of the specials this month's speaker Michael Sinn is offering. There will be a 10% discount on all preordered plants. Check out the list on our website www.ctorchids.org

Al Deluca's family has generously donated his orchid collection of award winning plants to COS. We have been instructed to sell the plants and use the funds to establish the Al Deluca Award: Best Hobby Slipper Grower. The award will be presented at our annual show. You recently received a list of the plants being offered. The price is \$30 ea. Or 3 for \$75.00—your choice. First come, first serve. Please email Mary Ramone at cosmembership@earthlink.net with your choices. She will bring only preordered plants to the meeting. Remember that this is an opportunity to purchase some great plants and help us keep Al's memory alive.



President
Cheryl Mizak

— Cheryl

April's Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

COS MEETING 4/11/12

Andy's Orchids, miniatures

Our speaker vastly appreciated the sticks so prevalent in Connecticut, excellent for mounting minis—to which we responded, "You should have been here after the storm in October!" He feels that these minis are underappreciated. Not only are they cute, but structurally interesting, as a view through the loop proves. We viewed *Pleurothallis rubella*.

Most minis are 6 inches and under, requiring specific conditions, which growers need to research. For example, *Neofinetia falcata*, being Japanese, likes cool and bright conditions. Some cuties, such as *Schoenorchis fragrans*, could be worn as a pin or earrings! (temporarily!)

He finds a light meter very helpful in growing plants, also a TDS (total dissolved solids) water meter. Good water, such as rain water, is 60 ppm or under, and has a pH of 5.5 to 6.5. He mounts little plants with fishing line, using gloves and a razor blade for cutting, in the interest of hygiene. Good-quality moss is good for those that like it damp. He recommended the book *Growing Miniature Orchids* by Rebecca Tyson Northern. Sometimes, coming from a dry climate, he uses an unglazed ceramic "swamp stick" for mounting, which will ooze water, or a drain tile. A swamp cooler adds humidity to an overly dry and hot greenhouse.

For those growing indoors, you can use bottom heat in an aquarium, with egg crating supporting the plants. An aquarium heater placed horizontally in water will create humidity. A tiny computer-venting fan can provide air movement. Above, fluorescent lights will provide light. Many places make suitable equipment—vented hydroponic domes to place over trays, front-opening aquariums by Exo-terra, and herp vivariums as recommended by New England Herp (neherp.com)
Inventiveness and keen observation are key!

April Show Table

<u>Genus</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>owner</u>	<u>conditions</u>
Angraecum	Gem Star 'Eichenfels' JC/AOS cucullatum x florulentum	Jesups	i,g
Angraecum	viguieri	Jesups	i,g
Ascocenda	Dong Tarn 'Robert' AM/AOS Medasand x Eileen Beauty	Jesups	i,g
Ascocentrum	ampullaceum	Jesups	i,g
Ascofinetia	Cherry Blossom Neofinetia falcata x Asctm. Ampullaceum	Jesups	i,g
Bulbophyllum	frostii	D. Landrey	i,l
Bulbophyllum	nymphopolitanum	J. Hampton	w,g&l
Bulbophyllum	pardolatum	J. Hampton	w,g&l
Catcylaelia	Banana Split Syn. Enantheleya Lc. Pixie x Enc. cordigera	Jesups	i,g
Cattleanthe	Orange Passion 'Tangerine' CCM/AOS Ctt. Chocolate Drop x Ctt. Chicanery	G. Plude	l,w
Cattleanthe	Seagulls Firecracker Ctt. Rojo x C. milleri	Jesups	i,g
Cattleya	Caribbean 'Orange Bowl' syn. Cattleanthe C. Margaret Stewart x C. aurantiaca	S. Smith Delisle	l,w&l
Cochlioda	Louis Posey sanguinea x rosea	Jesups	c,g
Dendrobium	mohlianum	Jesups	i,g
Dendrobium	trigonopus	Jesups	i,g
Dendrobium	Yukidaruma 'King' AM/AOS Shiranami x Pinocchio	Jesups	c,g
Dendrobium	unicum	Jesups	i,g
Doritaenopsis	I-Hsin Waltz 'Hello Kitty' I-Hsin Black Jack x Sinica Sunday	D. Tognalli	i,w
Doritaenopsis	Little Gem Stripes 'M' Dtps. Taisuco Stripe x Phal. Taisuco	D. Landrey	i,l
Encyclia	bractescens	Jesups	i,g
Epidendrum	Jubilee 'Hot Lips' melanoporphyreum x capricornu	Jesups	i,g

Macroclinium manabinum	Jesups	i,g
Oncidium Charlesworthii Syn. Oda. &n Ocda) noezlianum x incurvum	J. Becker	i,g
Oncidium Eric Wilhelm 'Kalapana' maculatum x Tiger Crow	J. Becker	i,g
Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum	J. Richards	c,l
Paphiopedilum Jerry Spence rothschildianum x Berenice	A. Deluca	i,g
Paphiopedilum Julius lowii x rothschildianum	A. Deluca	i,g
Paphiopedilum Naive Susan Susan Booth x niveum	D. Landrey	i,l

Culture is as noted:

c – cool

w – warm

ws – windowsill

i – intermediate

g – greenhouse

l – lights



Bulbophyllum frostii
This sweet little orchid was brought to the
Show Table by Debbie Landrey.



Editor's Note: After dedicating many decades of his life volunteering for COS, honorary life member Larry Kuekes finally realized one of his dreams when he retired and moved to Hilo, Hawaii. Larry is the author of the Beginner's Column which you may have seen in this newsletter in the past. Larry was also the previous newsletter editor for many years. With more time on his hands these days, Larry writes about his adventures with warm weather orchid growing in Hawaii.


Dear COS Friends,

I'm a species nut. Oh, I grow hybrids, too, and some of them are very beautiful, but what I really love is to see the amazing things that nature has produced without any help from the hand of man. There's always another orchid species to try – there are over 20,000 of them (the exact number depends on who's counting) – and the variety is staggering.

When I'm looking at listings from orchid nurseries, figuring out what to buy, I need to consider my growing conditions. I live on the coast of Hawaii, and that means warm. Last winter, the temperature never went below 62 degrees on my max-min thermometer. If an orchid needs intermediate or cool temperatures to bloom, it's not for me.

It's also helpful to know how much light the orchid needs, and whether it needs to have a dry rest at certain times of year. I can provide more or less shade, and though I grow the orchids outdoors, where it rains a lot, I can move plants onto my lanai (porch) to keep them dry.

But which orchids require which conditions? While looking at on-line orchid nursery listings, I spent a lot of time leafing through orchid books and doing Google searches like "Dendrobium farmeri culture" to see whether a particular species would grow in my conditions.

Then I found the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia www.orchidspecies.com. It's a web site with photos and cultural information about orchid species. Not just one genus. Not just the species that one nursery grows. It covers a staggering 16,404 species in 758 genera, at last update. Every species I've looked for has been in there. For each species, it has at least one photo, information on the required temperature, light, blooming season, flower size, and whether the orchid is fragrant, plus a technical description that includes the country of origin and elevation where it grows in nature. It also lists synonym names, which is useful because the taxonomists keep changing the names. If you look up *Oncidium* 

pulchellum, for example, it refers you to Tolumnia pulchella, since the equitant oncidiums have been renamed Tolumnias. It doesn't reflect the latest changes to the Cattleya alliance, but I'm sure that will come in time.

It's the labor of love of one man, Jay Pfahl, another species nut who lives in Key West, Florida, with photographs contributed by people around the world.

The home page asks you to contribute a "subscription" of \$10 to help support it, but that's optional. The site is completely free and open – you don't have to sign in to use it. I use it so often that I've bookmarked it in my browser, so I decided to send in the \$10. If you're at all interested in species, especially if you're considering buying some, or even if you just want to see some beautiful photographs, be sure to check it out.

Larry Kuekes



On left: Ann and Phil Jesup enjoy a good laugh with our speaker Harry Phillips



On right: members chatted and reviewed the Show Table before the meeting started.



On left: Dottie Kern (left) and Judy Arth (right) catch up with each other while waiting for the meeting to start.



Above: Two old COS friends, Carla Koch and Dave Tognalli visit.
On left: Our guests enjoy the bounteous Show Table.

Marketplace

Need some supplies for repotting? As a service to our members, COS now offers a wide range of supplies at the 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.

Directions to Cheshire Senior Center 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT

From New Haven:

Take I-91 North to Exit 10/Route 40

Follow Route 40 to the last exit for Mount Carmel/Cheshire.

Turn right onto Route 10 North, which is Whitney Ave.

Continue to the traffic light at intersection of Route 10 and Routes 68/70 West.

Turn left onto Main St., which runs into Maple Ave. at the first traffic light.

Proceed straight ahead. On the right is # 240, the Cheshire Senior Center, which is just after The Victorian House Restaurant.

From Waterbury:

Take I-84 East to Exit 26 (Cheshire/ Route 70)

The exit ramp automatically forces you to go right and follow Route 70.

At the end of Route 70, you will be facing the Cheshire Post Office.

At the traffic light turn left onto Maple Avenue.

The Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the right just after The Victorian House Restaurant.

From Hartford via I-91:

Take I-91 South to Exit 18 (Route 691 for Meriden/Waterbury).

From Route 691 take Exit 3.

Turn left at the traffic light onto Route 10 South.

Proceed through 7 traffic lights.

At the 8th traffic light bear right onto Maple Avenue.

The Cheshire Senior Center is #240 on the left after the Cheshire Fire Department.

From Hartford via I-84:

Take I-84 West to exit 27 and onto Route 691 (Meriden).

From Route 691 take exit 3.

Turn right at the traffic light onto Route 10 South.

Proceed through six traffic lights.

At the 7th traffic light bear right onto Maple Ave.

The Cheshire Senior Center, #240 is on the left after the Cheshire Fire Department.

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.

First
Class
Stamp
Here

***Connecticut Orchid Society, Inc.
c/o Mary Rampone, Membership Chair
53 Barbara Lane
Woodbury, CT 06798***

