



**Connecticut
Orchid
Society
Newsletter**

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

February 2011

52 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011

Time: 6:30 P.M. Beginners Help Session starts.

7:00 P.M. Socializing begins. Show & Sale Tables open.

7:30 P.M. Business meeting begins followed by the evening's featured event.

Place: Farmington Senior Center

321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT

(See pg. 29 for map & directions.)



Program: *"How to Grow Orchids in the Home Environment"*

Presented by Robert Aldrich,

Orchid Grower & Owner of the Inn at Weston, VT

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

Write Connecticut Orchid Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 198, Farmington, CT 06034-0198

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Web Master Deidra Crewe dcreweorchids@yahoo.com
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 (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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Connecticut Orchid Society Officers and Posts -- 2011

PRESIDENT	<i>Rick Brown</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
TREASURER	<i>Judy Arth</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Dottie Kern</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Roger Heigel</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY	<i>Carla Koch</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>
REFRESHMENT CHAIRPERSON	<i>Judy Becker</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



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:** *"How to Grow Orchids in the Home Environment"*, presented by Robert Aldrich, orchid grower and owner of The Inn at Weston, Weston, VT., 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT.
- 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. 11~13 New Hampshire Annual Show & Visit** for details. **New Hampshire Show Cancelled!!!** **Orchid Society 20th Sale:** *"Celebrate Orchids"*, Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH. Visit www.nhorchids.org
- Feb. 19 Northeast Judging Center — Elmsford :** 12:00 pm, The Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY. Contact Rita Cohen, 1433 Kew Ave., Hewlett, NY 11557 for details.
- Feb. 24 ~ 27 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show:** *"Capture the Magic"*, 30th Annual Show, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT.
- Mar. 11 ~ 13 Van Wilgen's Garden Center:** *"Escape to Spring"*, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT., 8:00—5:00 pm, 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:** Howard Ginsberg of Bedford Orchids will give a presentation, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, Cheshire, CT.
- Mar. 12 Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Spring Show & Sale:** *"Spring 2011"*, Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Rd., Newburgh, NY, 11:00 Am ~ 3:00 PM. FREE ADMISSION. Call (845) 294-1000 for more information. See flyer in this issue, pg. 28.
- Mar. 19 Northeast Judging Center — Elmsford:** 12:00 pm, The Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY. Contact Rita Cohen, 1433 Kew Ave., Hewlett, NY 11557 for details.
- Oct. 21 ~ 23 Connecticut Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale:** *Orchid Harvest*, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT. Show opens Friday afternoon and continues through Sunday afternoon: Orchid plant and merchandise vendors, Educational lectures, Junior Orchid Growers Booth, refreshment caterer, etc.

AOS corner



To continue on the various benefits of an AOS membership, one benefit I feel is often overlooked is the Reciprocal Admissions Program which is provided through AOS' affiliation with the American Horticultural Society. As an AOS member you will have access to a wide array of botanical gardens, arboreta, and conservatories throughout North America offering special admission privileges and many other benefits. For those AOS members who currently use this program, it provides benefits beyond their cost of AOS membership. For more information and a listing of reciprocal locations in your area, visit AHS website at : http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal_events_online_directory.htm. There is an online directory which has the reciprocal admissions by state. The AHS also provides the following tips on using the Reciprocal Admissions Program:

- ◆ Before visiting any garden check the garden's website or call to verify hours of operation, confirm admission policy, and get the latest updates on programs and other information. For easy access, gardens have links to their web pages in the AHS online directory.
- ◆ Be aware that some special events are not included in the reciprocal benefits of the program. If you have any questions, please contact the garden you plan to visit.
- ◆ Present your current AOS membership card at the admissions counter or gift shop to receive the RAP benefit listed for that garden. Each card will only admit the individual(s) whose name is listed on the card. Some gardens may require a photo ID.
- ◆ Remember that the gardens you visit rely on admissions and donations to maintain their property and gardens for all to enjoy. Please support them by visiting their gift shops and/or making a contribution.
- ◆ The gardens with an asterick next to their name do not offer reciprocal benefits but encourage you to visit.

I hope you all will explore this AOS membership benefit and support your local reciprocal botanical garden, arboreta and conservatories soon.

Lynn Full, Chair
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 Mar. issue of the newsletter is Feb. 25th.



Don't Forget Your Membership Dues are Due!

Judy Becker saves your editor every month ~ Every month Judy Becker proof reads the newsletter, prepares the Show Table list and catches the editor's innumerable mistakes. Every month the editor thanks Judy profusely. But that's really not enough. Your editor wants the membership to know that quietly, dependably and efficiently there is someone else in the background who helps make sure your newsletter is as accurate as possible. Thank you, Judy — I can't do it without you!

Mark your calendar for the Connecticut Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale "Orchid Harvest", Oct. 21 ~ 23 , Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT. Further details forthcoming.

Two Board of Directors Meetings Held ~ The new Board of Directors has already held two meetings. President Rick Brown graciously held the meetings at his home where the directors were treated to a medley of fruit teas and delicious goodies. Much work has to be done including planning for our show in October, a review of the treasury and CDs, annual reports from the various committees, and scheduling staffing for our many out reach programs. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, Feb. 28th at 6:30 pm. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the planning for this new year of activities.

This from professional writer and photographer Peter Burstin's article in the Parting Shot , the AOS Bulletin *Orchids*, Nov. 2010:

Orchids have helped me a great deal with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). They have put me on a regular schedule. I have to get up and spend 15 minutes to an hour with them every morning. A regular schedule for anyone with OCD is a godsend.

February's Featured Event

How to Grow Orchids in the Home Environment

Presented by Robert Aldrich

Mr. Aldrich was scheduled to speak last February but our meeting was snowed out. Our weather this year is far worse than last year, but we hope that Bob will be able to finally give his talk this month.

This former cardiologist from New Jersey, and now a very happy innkeeper of the Inn at Weston, Vermont, maintains a greenhouse of approximately 1,000 orchids of many varieties. He has pursued his love of orchids for more than 20 years. Visitors are always welcome at the greenhouse, and guests staying at the inn are encouraged to wander through the greenhouse and surrounding grounds as part of their relaxing stay.

Bob will begin his talk with a summary of the evolution of the orchid. Then he will discuss some of the things that need to be considered in order to successfully grow orchids in the home environment.

This is the first time that Bob has spoken at our society and we look forward to an interesting presentation. Please join us. The public is welcome, so bring a guest! Refreshments will be served.



Bob Aldrich's greenhouse and its crowded interior.

President's Message



President Rick Brown

(Editor's note: Let me introduce you to our new president Rick Brown. Rick is a relatively new member who immediately came forward to volunteer to help with any projects we needed done almost as soon as he joined the society. He may not have been a member for very long before he was propelled into the presidency, but Rick knows he can count on a great group of people to help him lead the society forward. Rick lives in Middlebury with a houseful of orchids and other favorite botanicals. He has a background in commercial printing but recently has been working in the nursery business pursuing his love of working with plants. Please join me in welcoming Rick and letting him know he can count on us to get the job done.)

February is a very busy month for us highlighted by several shows we have been invited to participate in. The Deep Cut Orchid Society Show & Sale in New Jersey runs Feb. 10 — 13. The Connecticut Flower & Garden Show at the Convention Center in Hartford runs Feb. 24 — 27. Our presence has also been requested by the New Hampshire Orchid Society for their annual show & sale. It runs Feb. 11 — 13. I realize many orchids are at rest now but I am appealing for whatever blooming orchids members can contribute. It is beneficial to the society to have a strong showing at these shows and I encourage your participation.

For the Deep Cut Orchid Society show in New Jersey we have secured an eight-foot table on which we are positioning a second tier, which measures 2' x 4' to create a stepped effect. This is very similar to our exhibit at the Cape & Islands Orchid Show in Hyannis, Cape Cod. The Connecticut Flower & Garden Show is another big event which certainly will have something to offer for everyone. All three of these shows promise to be very exciting and members are needed to help man our booths. Any participation will be greatly appreciated. Please contact me with the times and dates you are available. These events will be followed by Van Wilgen's "Escape to Spring" show in March, which we will also be participating in. This event will also need booth staffing, as well.

Looking ahead to new programs for our beginner members, we are offering a "poor performer" clinic during our regular monthly meetings which will start about an hour before the official start of the meeting. Bring your poor performing/biggest challenge plants to the experts for analysis. Suggestions, diagnosis' and recommendations will be offered by the "Doctor". You don't have to be a beginner to attend. Any member who needs questions answered or wants some help with a plant should plan on attending. Our society's greatest asset is the experience and knowledge of its members. Take advantage of this! It is a big reason why I became a member!

~ Rick Brown
President

January's Meeting Minutes

Carla Koch
Recording
Secretary

There were no meeting minutes for the month of January because the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

January Show Table

There was no Show table for the month of January because the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

New member welcome ~

Just received word from Mary Rampone, Membership Chair that Jeffrey Richards has joined COS.

Jeffrey , we look forward to meeting you at the next monthly meeting and getting to know you.



Welcome!



Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'
Grown & photographed by Alan & Cheryl Mizak



"you are not a true orchidist until you have killed your weight in orchids." Does that include the pot and medium?

(Peter Burstin, Parting Shot, Orchids, the bulletin of the American Orchid Society, Nov. 2010)

On left: *Bulbophyllum sulawesii*

Grown & photographed by Alan & Cheryl Mizak

From the Archives

the way we were....

10 years ago — Feb. 2001: COS was struggling to overcome a huge hole in our treasury and our financial situation was uncertain. A large sum of money was missing from the checking account and the treasurer could not account for it. Volunteers were asked to help with an out reach program "Keep Stamford Beautiful", which was being presented by the Connecticut Nursery Society. A new program was introduced at monthly meetings called "Orchid Clinic for Problem Plants". Members were reminded to keep any of their problem plants separated from the plants on the Show Table.

20 years ago — Feb. 1991: Jerry Rehfield of Carpinteria, California spoke about color in Cattleyas, explaining how different species contribute color during the making of a cross. The Society decided to have an exhibit at the New England Orchid Show in Boston that year instead of at the Greater New York Orchid Society show.

30 years ago — Feb. 1981: There was a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of treefern during the Information Exchange portion of the monthly meeting. The membership rolls listed a total of 207 members and there was \$2,010.02 in the checking account. Expenditures included \$ 12.50 for a new library book and \$60 rental fee for use of the hall.

News, Notes & Happenings

Election Results ~ We are pleased to announce the following new 2011 Board of Directors:

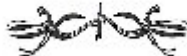
President Rick Brown
Vice president Cheryl Mizak
Treasurer Judy Arth
Recording Secretary Carla Koch
Director at large Roger Heigel
Director at large Dottie Kern

Congratulations to these members and a big thank you for volunteering to help your society!



New Program ~ Members with questions about, and/or problems with, their orchids can now bring their plant to the monthly meeting. A table will be set up at the back of the room and the “Doctor”, an experienced COS member, will look your plant over and make some suggestions about what you can do to improve the plant’s health. This new program will be available for one hour before the business meeting begins—6:30—7:30 PM. Please feel free to ask the doctor about any culture or repotting questions you may have.

Refreshment Committee needs donations ~ Refreshment Committee Chair Judy Becker is looking for volunteers to help her provide a nice spread at our monthly meetings. Judy would like one or two volunteers per month to bring goodies to the meeting. This month Sharon SmithDelisle has volunteered to help Judy. The Society provides beverages and paper goods. We depend on the members to bring cookies, fruit or other dishes for the table. We all enjoy a hot cup of coffee or a soda, and some cookies or pastry while chatting with other members before the meeting. In the past the Society provided an assortment of foods and asked for donations to offset the expense. This has had mixed success and requires one person to do the extra work going to the supermarket before a meeting to buy the food. We also tried requesting that members take turns bringing food to the meetings by using the alphabetical system based on last names, which had very little success at all. So, here we are beginning a new year and trying yet another method. Please contact Judy at (860) 435-2263 if you can help out for the March meeting otherwise there will be lots of long faces when members arrive at the meeting and there is nothing to nibble on.



Out Reach Programs

New Hampshire Orchid Society Show and Sale, *Celebrate Orchids*, Feb. 10—13, Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH

~ Once again, the New Hampshire Society has asked COS to participate in its annual show. Volunteers are needed to help with set up & take down.

New Hampshire Show Cancelled!

Hampshire Society has asked COS to participate in its annual show. Volunteers are needed to help with set up & take down.

Deep Cut Orchid Society Show and Sale, Feb. 10—13, Dearborn Market, Holmdel, NJ

~ COS has been invited for the first time to participate at this show. Rick Brown & Cheryl Mizak are working on our display. Volunteers are needed to help with set up & take down.

Old Saybrook High School Adult Education “ Basic Orchid Growing”, Feb. 7 & 14

~ Sharon SmithDelisle will conduct two classes about basic orchid growing. The program is open to residents of the Old Saybrook township.

Connecticut Flower Show, Hartford, CT , Feb. 24—27 ~ Volunteers are needed to man our booth and hand out information about COS each day of the show.

Van Wilgen’s Garden Center “ Escape to Spring”, Mar. 11 — 13,

8:00—5:00, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT ~ Volunteers are needed to man our booth and hand out brochures. We will be holding instant raffles at this event.



Orchids for Sale

ORCHIDS, orchids everywhere with beauty all are sealed
Orchids, orchids everywhere with fragrances revealed
Orchids, orchids everywhere so what are we to think
Orchids, orchids everywhere so some of them do stink
Orchids, orchids everywhere you can buy them at a sale
Orchids, orchids everywhere you can buy them by the bale.
So, beware of what you purchase lest you wind up in despair
Orchids may be everywhere just be reverent for their care.

By John D. Ramsey

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

Under the Lights



**Junior Orchid Grower's
Success Story:
7 yr. old Nicholas Crewe
shows off his blooming
Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite**

Nicholas Crewe, son of COS member and webmaster Deidra Crewe has successfully bloomed the *Oncidium* orchid he got at the Junior Orchid Growers Booth at our show this past October. Nick was interviewed about his success with his orchid and had the following to say in response to our questions:

Nick, what do you like most about growing orchids? *They smell good! And they're pretty.*

What does your *Oncidium* smell like? *It smells like Lucky Charms, that's my favorite cereal.*

How do you care for your orchid? *I water it very carefully with a spray bottle.*

What do you grow your orchid in? *Moss — it looks kinda' neat and different. It's not dirt.*

Do you think you will collect more orchids? *Yes! I can't wait to go to the Junior Orchid Growers Booth again next year. I wish they would have the show sooner.*

What other kinds of orchids do you like? *Pink lady's slippers. My mom and I go hiking every spring in the woods looking for them and they are very pretty.*

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about orchids? *I read about them in a book about the rainforest. It's important to save the rainforest so orchids have a place to live.*



Close up of Nick's
***Oncidium* Tsiku
Marguerite**

Ah-h-h-h, Nick! You are our hero! You restore our faith in the future of orchid growing. We hope you WILL continue to grow orchids and that other children will follow your lead. ~ Sharon SmithDelisle, editor. Photos by Deidra Crewe.

A Touch of Class ~ Beautiful Art from the Past



*Painting greenhouse-grown specimens such as *Encyclia alata* allows a welcome break from painting plants in the field. All illustrations by Carol Woodin.*

(Reprinted from *Orchids From the Palette*, Carol Woodin, American Orchid Society *Bulletin*, July 1991.)

Some Orchids That Flower in the Winter

C = 50F minimum, I = 55F minimum, W = 60-65F minimum

Cattleya percivaliana and many of its hybrids (I)

Coelogyne cristata (C)

Laelia superbiens [also known as ***Schomburkia superbiens***] (I)

Lycaste superbiens (I)

Trichocentrum cavendishianum (also known as ***Oncidium***) (C)

Phaiis tankervilleae [Known as the Nun's Orchid] (I)

Phalaenopsis and their hybrids (W)

Angraecum eburneum (W)

Angraecum sesquipedale (W)

Brassavola nodosa (I)

Dendrobium nobile and its hybrids ©

Epidendrum cilare (I)

Masdevallia and hybrids (C—I)

Rhynchostylis gigantea (W)

Sophronitis coccinea and many of the miniature cattleyas developed from this species (C)

(Reprinted from AOS website www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Monthly_Checklist&TEMPLATE=/CM/, 10/30/2009)

Breeding Orchid Species Create a New Perfume

ScienceDaily (Apr. 22, 2010)

Some orchids mimic the scent of a female insect in order to attract males for pollination. Researchers writing in the open access journal *BMC Evolutionary Biology* found that breeding two of these orchid species to generate a novel hybrid resulted in a new scent. This new odor had no effect on normal solitary bees from the area but was highly attractive to another species of wild bee that never visited any of the parent orchid species.



A novel hybrid orchid proved highly attractive to wild bees that never visited any of the parent orchid species. (Credit: Image courtesy of BioMed Central)

Nicholas J. Vereecken from the Universite' Libre de Bruxelles worked with a team of researchers based in Switzerland (Zurich) and Italy (Naples) to carry out the study in the terrestrial orchid species *Ophrys arachnitiformis* and *O. lupercalis* growing in southern France. The offspring of this pairing were sterile, but their floral odor was shown to be both novel and attractive to solitary bees unfamiliar with the parents' scent. According to Vereecken, "Our study provides a unique window into the stepwise process by which apparent reproductive barriers can be broken down and how new combinations of floral traits can be generated, leading to the evolution of novel, highly specific plant-pollinator interactions."

In a video accompanying the paper a male solitary bee can be seen attempting copulation with one of the plants, lured in by its deceptive scent. Speaking about this unusual behavior, Vereecken said, "The fact that some plants reproduce by advertising a false promise of sex to patrolling male bees is an extraordinary strategy. These orchids rely almost exclusively on their floral fragrance to attract pollinators on a highly specific basis, and this pollination mechanism is so far only known from the orchid family."

Reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by [BioMed Central](#), via [EurekAlert!](#), a service of AAAS. BioMed Central (2010, April22). Breeding orchid species creates a new perfume. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved November 18, 2010, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/04/100421102344.htm>

COSSON & APPEL
NO-THE-100

Record \$100,000 fine in Vancouver for illegal import of threatened orchids

By Larry Pynn, Vancouver Sun

Conservationists applauded Monday [Dec. 6, 2010] a \$100,000 fine — a Canadian record — levied against a wholesale company that unlawfully imported threatened orchids for the traditional Chinese medicine market.

“It’s outstanding, the first six-figure fine,” said Ernie Cooper, an international wildlife trade expert with the World Wildlife Fund in Vancouver. “It sends the message you don’t just get penalized for dealing in the charismatic megafauna. [It’s] not just tiger, rhino, and elephant. “It’s all important. The impact on conservation is significant, therefore the fines should be as well.”

The fine was issued in Vancouver Provincial Court after Sun 2006 Import and Export Ltd. Pleaded guilty to unlawful importation of the orchid *Dendrobium*, under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Inter-provincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). The act is the Canadian legislation that enforces the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Environment Canada charged Sun 2006 Import and Export Ltd. In May 2010 after an intensive year-long investigation. Although the origin of the orchids has not been stated, Cooper suspects they came from China or that region of the world.

Environment Canada wildlife officer Marko Goluza said a total of 110 kilograms [50 lbs.] of the dried orchid — also known as shi hu in the Asian community — were seized in Richmond. The Crown stayed 17 other charges. Goluza confirmed the \$100,000 fine is the first to “reach the six-figure total” under WAPPRIITA.

Other species or animal derivatives seized during the investigation and ordered forfeited by the Crown included tree fern (*Cibotium Barometz*), orchid (*Bletilla*), ivory of African elephant (*Elephantidae*), monkey (*Primates*), bear (*Ursidae*) and crocodile (*Crocodylians*).

“It was a big seizure,” Cooper said. “It shows that the court and the prosecution are taking it seriously, and it shows that enforcement is out there.”

Of the total fine, \$95,000 goes to refining genomic or other DNA research methods for identifying endangered species and their parts or derivatives to help deter illegal trade. Cooper said some 20,000 orchid species are listed with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, more than anything else. The primary trade is in live orchids, although in this case it was for traditional medicine.

“Although lots of orchids are cultivated, there is a component of the market that is seeking new, rare, and endangered orchids — and therein lies the problem,” he said.

(Reprinted 1/21/2011 from the internet http://www.vancouversun.com/story_print.html?id=3937926&sponsor=) Copyright © The Vancouver Sun

Happiness is puttering around with our "little pretties" (as Steve Frowine likes to call them) and anticipating the arrival of those beautiful flowers. As our orchids grow and thrive so should our experience and knowledge about them. There is a tremendous amount of information that is important for understanding orchid culture and for growing better orchids. The goal of this column is to expand your general knowledge about the world of orchids and help you sound like a pro when you are talking to your fellow COS orchid growers. — Editor Sharon SmithDelisle

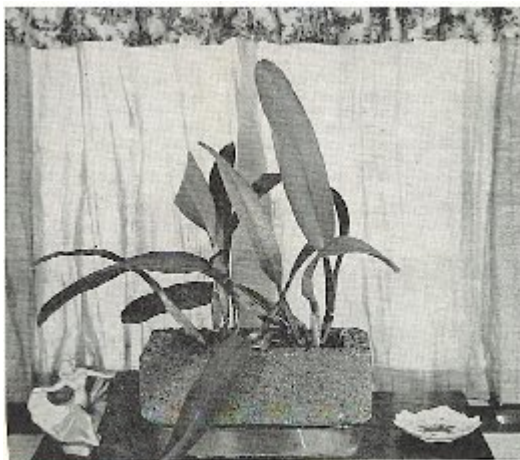
Unusual Orchid Containers

By Mrs. Athalie H. Hotchkiss

In approaching the subject of unusual containers, there is much to be desired for incentive. The ones mentioned here, of necessity, emphasize minimum cost as well as minimum size for good form and compatibility.

Before delving into this phase of orchid culture, may I say that any similarity to expert or authoritative knowledge is purely accidental. My apologies.

Because we get around more than most working people, we have come upon these various forms of odd containers. Our first one is a 4" X 6" X 12" concrete block of the type used for retaining walls. This is extremely porous, compact, decorative (mine is light red) and sturdy. It can accommodate the same size plants as two 4" pots; as you can see by the accompanying photo, it holds two blooming-sized *Cattleya Belgica* plants. This rests upon a 12" Pyrex biscuit dish into which drains excess water or liquid fertilizer. Also, I have observed that there are "air roots" extending down through the old copper screening which holds the fir bark from falling out!

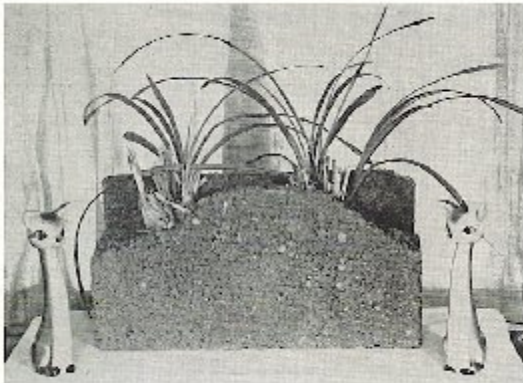


Concrete block holds two blooming sized *Cattleya* plants

While on a scavenger hunt in the desert, I found another block of a still different material and shape, which had undergone a trash fire. This one measured 8" X 6" X 16". Fire damage was evidenced only by broken corners on the same side of the block. This left a picturesque container for two *Cymbidium* bulbs that had been given to me a few days before and were hanging in polyethylene bags for sprouting. To salvage this piece



of “junk” took continual perseverance on my part trying to keep it from Pops! As you can see from the photo, it works very nicely. In this I also used old screen wire to keep the mix from falling out the bottom. While “space savers” are not so unusual, the are not a part of ment. For super mar-num various 5” X 7” male) trays individual 4 pie dishes, regular pie mine were with their zen prod-hold gravel under my pots as humidity trays. Very effective and serviceable, but also expendable at no cost! One oblong tray holds fir bark in which I have placed five Fert-o-Pots, each with a *Cattleya Nellie Roberts* selfed seedling and they seem to be doing quite well. The chicken-pie size (4” to 5”) are just right to set under a 5” pot and so on to your larger ones. The oblongs hold two pots.



BRICKS DISORDERED HERE. Is used for Cattleya's culture

ones I am using conventionally orchid equip- instance, any ket sells alumi-freezer trays of sizes, such as biscuit (or ta- about 1” deep, 1/2 “ chicken or 7” -8” - 9” plates. Though bought filled intended fro- ducts, they now

One of my handiest gadget is the wire rack from a set of iced tea glasses. It is fitted to hold eight glasses. This is ideal for 3” nursing pots and takes care of eight small plants in a tip-proof way that is tops with me. You can see by the photo how neatly and safely each pot fits into its individual rack, yet they all can be easily lifted to sink or window shelf without upsetting or even out into a nice warm rain as safely.

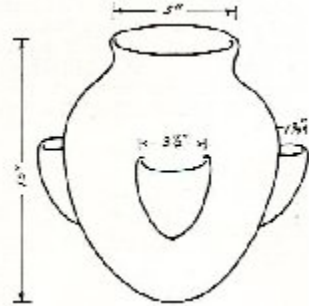


ICED-TEA RACK conveniently holds eight pots for growing or carrying



My strawberry jar is something else again! It is a 10" (high) jar with a 5" neck or top opening. There is a row of four cups at the shoulders, equally spaced as compass points. These are 3 1/2" wide and extend out 1 3/4" from the jar. This forms a kangaroo-type pocket wherein resides an orchid plant. This particular jar holds *Oncidium* and *Miltonia*.. Of the six original plants placed therein, I have four in good shape. One bloomed too soon after transplanting and faded shortly thereafter; the sixth one did not survive shipment.

This sounds like a neat, compact arrangement and it truly is attractive. However, it has one serious drawback, how to keep the top plant damp without drowning those in the "side pockets". But the solution is simple! Take "pea" grade gravel 2" deep in the bottom, add fir bark to the half-way mark of the cups, locate the roots of your side plant, pointing them towards the center of the jar. Cover with fir bark by adding it through the top opening until just above the level of the side cups. This also holds plants firmly in place by weight. Now take a 2 1/2" Fert-to-Pot and cut the sides down almost to the bottom, evenly around. Force it open inside the jar like the top of a pie that has been cut for serving (evenness unnecessary), add enough for bark to plant top orchid as if it were a regular 5" pot, water each plant a little each time around the shoulders but drench the top plant until the water runs out the hole in the bottom of the jar. The Fert-to-Pot absorbs and retains moisture longer than the fir bark and also feeds all five or six plants at the same time. I would not recommend a jar with two decks of side pockets as the top row would dry out too fast and the top plant would die from lack of water, while the bottom row would damp off from too much.



My newest experiment is with an insulation material used for lining "freezer rooms" in the markets. It looks like the Styrofoam used for Christmas decorations. It is supposed to be damp proof, insect proof and should, from a plant point of view, be disease proof. This is workable to shape with any handy carving tool or even a vegetable knife. Pops brought home a few pieces of a light blue color. I don't think the color will hinder or help the project in any way. It is porous and airy, but, believe it or not, it holds water without saturation. This material comes in sheets only 2" thick, so it would need to be used for epiphytes or as mounts. It can be hewn out with a pen knife, like eating the heart out of a watermelon, as easily as sharpening a pencil. But I would advise that the bottom be punctured to allow for drainage. As you can see, I have marked out the plant wells in this piece with a common cookie cutter. Also, I've hewn out the two wells with a vegetable knife. I have a round one about 7" across and 2" deep which has well about 5" wide by 1 1/3" deep. This is not a good depth but as a mount should manage very nicely. Two layers of the material can fastened together with modeling or liquid





INSULATING MATERIAL can be shaped into useful containers

plastic, to build it up to regular pot depth, if desired. I would not recommend that you buy it for this purpose — it isn't cheap. But Pops has access to scraps in his work. That is how I got it.

Now, we come to the plastic sponge or real sponge of the kitchen type. Pick one of a size and color to suit; shape with ordinary scissors and hollow it out to receive your mix and plant. With this you must be a bit more watchful of water as it becomes saturated and holds moisture, therefore it is inclined to mold or sour and may give trouble from damping off. It is extremely decorative and handles easily. I find a curved finger nail scissor are very apt too, for working these— not the light, thin ones used for manicures, rather the heavier ones for pedicure.

(These excerpts were taken from an article written by Mrs. Athalie H. Hotchkiss and appeared in the American Orchid Society Bulletin, February, 1961. The photos were also taken by Hotchkiss.)



Epsom salts for orchids? A dose of Epsom salts on roses or outdoor flowering plants is often recommended to help them green up and improve their vigor. The key ingredient here is magnesium sulphate. Plants need magnesium and it is critical that orchids have it for the flowering process. A top-dressing of Epsom salts on your orchids in the spring and fall will improve flower production.

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


Surgery

(This article first appeared in the Dec. 1996 newsletter)

Two different people recently asked me the same question. Each had a cattleya which had reached the edges of its pot and needed repotting. Each had been repotting the plant into larger and larger pots and had reached the limit on pot size. The question: is it OK to cut off some of the pseudobulbs, and how should you go about it? Coincidentally, in last month's meeting, John Passander gave a demonstration of dividing and repotting a cattleya. So this month, let me review how to perform surgery on your orchid.

To get back to the original question, yes it's OK to cut off pseudobulbs. In fact, it's mandatory. It has been said that, with proper care, an orchid will never die of old age. There are orchid plants in England that are over 100 years old. Assuming a cattleya rhizome grows about one inch between the pseudobulbs each year, then these ancient plants should be more than eight feet wide. Of course they aren't, because the plants have been divided repeatedly over the years.

The way a cattleya grows is by making a new growth from a bud at the base of the previous year's pseudobulb. This new growth is horizontal at first, called a rhizome. Then it turns upward and makes a pseudobulb topped with one or two leaves. The roots grow out of the rhizome into the potting medium. The rhizome should grow along the surface of the medium. (Sometimes, an orchid will climb out of the pot, with each growth higher than the last, which is awkward because the new roots end up in thin air.)

If a cattleya continues to make one new growth each year from last year's growth, you end up with a plant that has all the pseudobulbs growing in a line. John Passander divided such a plant for his demonstration. When one of these plants outgrows its pot, dividing it is pretty straightforward. Note that the newest growth is at one end, and the other growths are progressively older. After removing the plant from its pot and pulling off all of the old potting material, cut the plant between two pseudobulbs, leaving four growths at the "new" end, which will become the new plant. The reason for leaving four growths is so that the plant will be big enough to flower. If you leave fewer than four growths, the plant will live, but may take a year or two to grow back to flowering size. If there are also three or four growths at the "old" end, you can choose to repot that piece, too. It will make a growth from the 

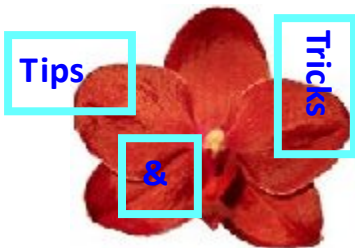
base of the pseudobulb closest to the cut. Or, if you don't really need another orchid taking up space, you can throw away the "old" end. When you repot, place the oldest pseudobulb right up against the edge of the pot. The pot should be big enough to leave room for two new growths from the newest pseudobulb.

A note on cutting the orchid: orchid viruses are, unfortunately, very common, so you should assume that every time you cut an orchid plant, there may be virus on the knife or cutting implement (this applies to cutting flower stems, too). This is why all experts advise sterilizing cutting tools before using them on another plant. The best tool for dividing orchids is a stout knife. To sterilize it, hold the blade in the flame of a propane torch. Lacking that, you can hold the blade in another kind of flame such as a candle, or soak the tool in bleach or in a saturated solution of trisodium phosphate (TSP), or heat the tool in a 450° oven for an hour (a good technique for single-edged razor blades).

If the cattleya has been making more than one new growth each year from last year's growth, then the rhizome branches and you end up with many pseudobulbs making flowers each year. This is called a "specimen" plant. In such a case, you may want to let the plant continue growing into a larger specimen and delay dividing the plant by potting into a larger pot. However, you can only do this for so many years until the plant becomes too big to manage (remember the plants that would have grown to be eight feet wide).

At that point, you need to divide the plant, and determining where to cut apart the pseudobulbs is harder than in the simple straight-line case. Again, remove the pot and all the potting medium. If some of the oldest pseudobulbs have lost their leaves and have shriveled, they can certainly be cut off. Try to trace how the pseudobulbs are connected by rhizomes, and cut the rhizome so that you end up with two or three connected pieces with at least four pseudobulbs on each piece you plan to save.

Don't feel guilty about throwing out some of the pseudobulbs. If you divided every cattleya in two every four years, in 20 years you would have 32 times as many cattleyas as you do now! Or you can dispose of surplus plants by giving them away, selling them on the sales table, or donating them to the auction.



How much light? A Rule of Thumb — Large leaves = less light. Small leaves = more light. Stiff leaves = high light. Soft leaves = low light.




Gordon W. Dillion


Checklist february


By Robert M. Scully

Severe winter conditions have usually affected a large portion of the United States by February. But most growers have protected their orchids and companion plants from the harsh cold, either by bringing their horticultural treasures indoors for a few nights or by virtue of cultivating plants in the home, basement or greenhouse in the first place. It is very important that you observe your plants carefully for signs of disease and insects. Both of these can develop quickly in the protected environment while you are preoccupied with the temperature conditions outside. Do not overlook companion plants, such as ferns and aroids; they often provide cover for insect populations that may spread to orchids.


In addition, give careful attention to humidity conditions; too often growers fail to provide adequate moisture in heated air, leading to dehydration of plants and reduced flower life. Avoid having heated or air-conditioned drafts blowing directly on your orchids, whether they are in the growing area or in the home or office for display. Ventilate the growing area when the weather permits during these cold months. Fresh air is important to plants and their growers.


 **Cattleya** An occasional fertilizer treatment is appropriate for these robust orchids, even though temperature and light conditions are not ideal for growth. Apply dyed fertilizers with care to prevent staining the blooms with splattered drops of the colored liquid. Watch for signs of buds rising in the sealed sheaths; sometimes it is necessary to split open a sheath to reduce pressure on the emerging buds or to allow accumulated condensation (possible result when temperatures are fluctuating) to dissipate. Use a sterile blade to slit open a sheath.


 **Phalaenopsis** Add a weak fertilizer solution to the watering schedule this month; be careful not to splatter the flowers or they will stain. As with any orchid, do not fertilize a dry pot; water today and fertilize tomorrow. Grade the blooms from your 'phals" since you may want to eliminate those which are least desirable while making room for some more-promising hybrids. Remember that the way in which you have staked (groomed) your racemes influences the appearance of the matured flowers.


Phalaenopsis exude a honey-like substance on the developing inflorescences; it seems to attract scale insects. Watch for signs of any problem that could be 

spot-treated before it becomes a major situation. You want to avoid having to spray insecticide on your blossoms if at all possible.

 **Dendrobium** Watch for flower buds on *Den. Aggregatum* (now *lindleyi*), *Den. Nobile* hybrids, *Den. superbum* (now *Den. Anosmum*), and other deciduous *Dendrobium* species and hybrids. These all seem to have longer lasting flowers when exposed to cooler night temperatures as the blooms open and mature. For example, the modern *Dendrobium nobile* hybrids from Japan tolerate nighttime temperatures in the low 60s with the result that the flowers remain in perfect condition for a month or more. And if you happen to miss seeing the first flowers of *Den. superbum* as they open, you will soon smell the sweet fragrance. Avoid heavily dowsing open flowers when watering; give slightly more water to these plants (which you have been keeping reasonably dry prior to flowering) once they begin to bloom. Continue to protect evergreen-type *Dendrobium*s from low temperatures that may cause leaf loss.

 **Cymbidium** Stake or carefully tie the showy inflorescences that have emerged from the mass of foliage on these winter-spring bloomers. Maintain temperatures at 50 to 60 F to keep flowers opening slowly, and to prevent them from “rushing” into the growth cycle that follow this flowering. Dramatically higher temperatures and hot drafts cause bud drop.

 **Odontoglossum and Miltonia** Do not permit these plants to dry out, because this is a critical time when flower spikes develop. Stake the spikes to achieve the ideal presentation of the developing flowers. Apply a weak fertilizer treatment just before the flowers begin to appear. Be wary of insects and eliminate any before the buds are well defined on the inflorescence.

 **Botanicals** With so many large-flowered types blooming now, it is easy to over-look small plants tucked away in your growing space. Notice whether any inflorescences are emerging on the spring bloomers. Bring those that are about to bloom to the foreground, and groom them for good flower presentation. Water carefully to avoid dehydration; the flowering process does require a constant supply of moisture.



Trivia Fun



Winter Rainwater Hoard.

609 gallons of bottled rainwater line both sides of a one-car garage, which makes getting in and out of the car a little tricky.

Your editor's summer project: Collect enough rainwater to make it through the winter until about March or so. (She had no idea what she was getting herself into.)

Estimated needs = 600 gallons. (She can't for the life of her figure out how she came up with that number.)

Recycling Goal: Go green and use discarded milk jugs and water jugs to hold the rainwater. (The friendly gal at the local recycling center was very cooperative about setting aside plastic gallon jugs, although she did shake her head often.)

Unanticipated extra work: All 609 plastic gallon jugs had to be washed!

Storage Requirements: A location large enough to store 600 gallons of water that wouldn't freeze during the winter. (The only place available was her one-car garage.) And the purchase of ten wire- shelving units.

Project Summary: Due to the very dry summer, it took until mid-December before all 600 + gallons were collected. (Editor's family thinks she's nuts and the neighbors, watching her go back and forth day after day with plastic jugs from the rain barrel, swear she is operating a still down in the back of her property.)



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.



**Don't miss our second annual
Escape to Spring Expo at our
main nursery and retail center in
North Branford.**

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday
March 11-13, 2011
8am to 5pm**

**Free admission, free parking,
free ideas and education!**



Bifrenaria harrisoniae Bronze
Grown & photographed by Alan & Cheryl Mizak

MID—HUDSON ORCHID SOCIETY

SPRING 2011



ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Saturday, March 12, 2011

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road, Newburgh, NY

FREE ADMISSION

Education for beginners at 1:00 PM

Orchid experts available all day for your questions



DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 84

Take Interstate 84 to exit 10
Proceed north on Route 9 W and make a right at the traffic light onto Chestnut Street (there is an M&T Bank branch on the west side of Route 9W at this intersection; it is less than a mile once you get off at exit 10).
Proceed to the stop sign and make a right onto Balmville Road.
Proceed approximately 1/4 mile and make a left onto Beech Street. The parking lot is on the left.
Entrance to the community center is off the parking lot.



For further information, call
845-292-1000

Visit our website at www.mhos.us.com

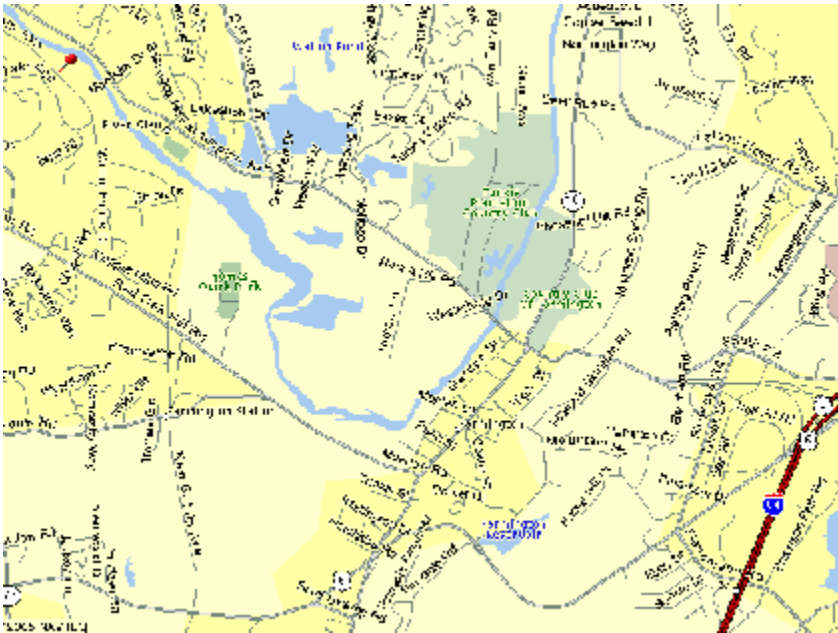
The MHOS is an affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

Directions to Farmington Senior Center 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, CT

From the North or East: Take I-84 west from Hartford to exit 38 (Rt. 6). Proceed west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Avenue next to the police station.

From the South: Take Rt. 9 north to I-84 west. Proceed as above.

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.



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
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Woodbury, CT 06798***

