



**C**onnecticut

**O**rchid

**S**ociety

# Newsletter

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society*

**February 2013**

*54 Years & Growing*

## Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Feb.13, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm Orchid Health Depart. opens.

7:00 pm Socializing begins & Show Table opens.

7:30 pm Business meeting begins followed by featured program.

Place: Farmington Senior Center  
321 New Britain Ave.  
Unionville, CT

(See pg. 29 for map & directions.)

Program: [Repotting Workshop](#) sponsored by COS

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

### Contact us

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Connecticut Orchid Society (COS) is an incorporated non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1959. Please consider making a charitable contribution to COS. Most donations made to COS are tax deductible.

**COS Membership Information : \$20/yr. Individual \$25/yr. Family**

**New category: \$200 Individual or \$250 Family Lifetime Membership (never pay dues again!)**

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

## Connecticut Orchid Society Mission Statement

The Connecticut Orchid Society is an incorporated, non-profit association for the preservation and extension of knowledge concerning the conservation, ecology, science, cultivation, hybridization, appreciation and uses of orchids; and to carry on such activities as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate such purposes.



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## Connecticut Orchid Society Officers and Posts -- 2013

INTERIM PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Donna Quill</i>
TREASURER	<i>Judy Arth</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Ben Esselink</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>Vacant</i>
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
REFRESHMENT CHAIRPERSON	<i>Judy Becker</i>
WEB MASTER	<i>Deidra Crewe</i>

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### 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](mailto:judybecker40@att.net)  
Greenhouse growing methods: Wide variety of species & hybrids

Sam Hinckley    [samuelhinckley@comcast.net](mailto:samuelhinckley@comcast.net)  
Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

Jeffrey Richards    [Jeffrey.richards@snet.net](mailto:Jeffrey.richards@snet.net)  
Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

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

David Tognalli    [dto54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dto54@sbcglobal.net)  
Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums & mixed genera.

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### 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.

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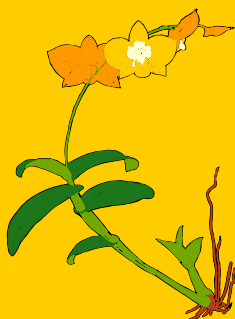
### Content Acknowledgement

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

## Upcoming Events



- Feb. 7—10 Deep Cut Orchid Society Annual Winter Show, Thurs., Fri., Sat. 9—6, Sun. 9—4:30, Dearborn Market, 2170 Tr. 35 south, Holmdel, NJ. Ample parking and food on premises. Free admission. Orchid vendors, exhibits, free lectures. (See pg. 26 of this newsletter for more details.)
- Feb. 8 ~ 10 New Hampshire Orchid Society 22nd Annual Show Orchid Odyssey, Fri. 1 pm—7pm, Sat. 9am—5 pm, Sun. 9 am—4 pm, Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, NH. Admission: \$10 adults, \$6 Seniors (65+), Children under 12 or over 100: Free, 3-day Daytime Pass \$15. orchid vendors, exhibits, gifts, merchandise, workshops and speakers. (see pg. 27 of this newsletter for more details.)
- Feb. 13 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Potting Clinic, **NOTE MEETING LOCATION:** Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT , 7:30 pm. Please bring clean pots for your plants. \$5.00/plant repotting fee includes potting medium.
- Feb. 16 Northeast Judging Center, 12:00 pm, Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT . Chair: Wayne Bourdette
- Feb. 21 ~ 24 32nd Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, Connecticut Convention Center, East Hartford, CT, “ Love in Bloom ” , Thurs. 10—7, Fri. & Sat. 10—8, Sun. 10—5, Admission: \$15 Adults, \$4 Children 5 -12 Over 300 booths, 80 hrs. seminars and demonstrations, three acres of convention displays. (See pg 26 of this newsletter for more details)
- Feb. 22 ~ 24 Amherst Orchid Society Show, Smith Vocational High School, 80 Locust Ave., Northampton, MA, Sat. 9—5, Sun. 10—4. (See pg. 27 Of this newsletter for more details.)



### Connecticut Orchid Society presents Orchid Harvest 2013

#### Orchid Show & Sale

Fri., Oct. 18 2:00 ~ 5:00pm

Sat., Oct. 19 9:00 ~ 5:00 pm

Sun., Oct. 20 9:00 ~ 4:00 pm

Lecture Schedule: Sat. & Sun. 11:00 am/12:30pm/2:00pm  
Ample parking and food available on premises.

Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd. (off Rt. 139), North Branford, CT 06471

## AOS corner



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

AOS Orchids online! As I mentioned last month, the magazine Orchids is now available online. All AOS members are able to access the digital magazine by logging on to the AOS website using their current user name and password; then click on the link to view the magazine. It is portable; it may be download each month and available to read offline. It may be printed – as many pages as needed. No more waiting on the mail to see the new magazine each month. Each month will be readily available before the print copy is mailed.

If you are not a member of AOS, we invite you to join us. For the cost of a domestic membership (\$65 per year) in the AOS you will receive the digital version no matter where you are. Remember, one years' membership includes the twelve magazines per year, access to the members' only section of the website, free or discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta, the annual Orchid Source Directory, discounts at select orchid vendors and back issues of AOS publications as well as being part of a worldwide orchid community who share your passion for orchids. For exact cost of digital and print memberships, check the website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). Non US delivery of magazines may be part of your subscription basically for the additional cost of mailing.

\$50,000 for Orchid Research The AOS is soliciting its members and the general public for practical or applied orchid research ideas that could be immediately used by hobbyists and commercial growers. The ideas will be reviewed and the winners will become proposals to be sent to various universities or institutions of higher learning. The AOS has received this generous donation that will be used to fund the research at the institution(s) submitting the proposal(s). Send your ideas to [ideas@aos.org](mailto:ideas@aos.org). No idea is too "far out." Please note, however, that submitting the idea to the AOS does not qualify for any of the research grant. The grants will be disbursed only to established research institutions.

AOS in San Diego – March 21-23, 2013 The Spring Members' and Trustees' meetings will be held in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Show being held March 21-23, 2013 at the Scottish Rite Temple in San Diego, California. Join the AOS to attend the meetings, its traditional banquet, auction, elections and reorganization meeting by registering at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). The registration fee for AOS attendees includes admission into the show for the weekend. Speaker and vendor information may be found on the society website at [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

Lynn Fuller, Chair

AOS Affiliated Societies Committee



## Around the Greenhouse -- Editor's keikis

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Your feedback about any issue that is on your mind will help us improve our Society, as well as the newsletter. Please write to me at [editor@ctorchids.org](mailto:editor@ctorchids.org)

The deadline for submissions to the Mar. Issue of the newsletter is Feb. 22nd



**Baby, it's cold outside...** After struggling to drive home safely in the bad weather the other evening, I was thinking that a nice hot cup of cocoa or even a nice hot toddy would be just the trick to warm me up and boost my spirits. Of course, being an orchid grower, that led me to think about some of the uses for the vanilla orchid's bean in our food and drink. Patricia Rain, in her

excellent little book the [Vanilla Cookbook](#), says that vanilla is used in commercial drinks and liqueurs as a "lifter" to help balance heavy flavors. Here's her recipe for [Hot Chocolate Mix](#):

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup blanched almonds
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 vanilla bean, sliced open
- 1/2 teaspoon instant espresso coffee powder (optional)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3.2 ounces dry nonfat milk, or enough to make 1 quart

Combine the sugar and almonds in a blender or food processor, and blend until it forms a smooth paste. Split open the vanilla bean, and scrape seeds into the mixture. Add cocoa, nonfat dry milk, espresso, and cinnamon. Process for 1 minute more. Pour the contents into a small saucepan and heat until hot, occasionally stirring. Serve in mugs topped with vanilla whipped cream. Delicious!

The processed mixture can also be stored in airtight container. It will keep for several months and will make 2 to 4 cups, depending upon deferred strength.

And, if you would like something with a little more boost than cocoa, try Patricia's recipe for [Hot Buttered Rum And Cider](#): For each drink, use:

- 1 inch strip of orange peel
- 2 inch piece of vanilla bean
- 1 to 1-1/2 jiggers golden or dark rum
- 1 generous teaspoon unsalted butter
- 1 small piece cinnamon stick
- 3 pinches each powdered cloves and allspice
- 1 cup scalding hot cider



Heat spices, vanilla bean, and orange peel in apple cider. Place rum and butter into mugs. Pour cider into mugs, straining out spices if preferred. Cheers!

Patricia Rein's book [Vanilla Cookbook](#) is in the COS library. (Celestial Arts, Berkeley, California, copyright 1986) Please contact librarian Sharon SmithDelisle at [coseditor@hotmail.com](mailto:coseditor@hotmail.com) if you would like to borrow this book of recipes. The book has many recipes for all sorts of dishes, soups and sauces as well as some interesting history and many color photos about the vanilla plant, how it is harvested and processed. Curl up for a great read on a cold winter's night along with your mug of vanilla cocoa!

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Roll out the red carpet for our new members...



On left, Cynthia Enright attended her very first meeting in January. She told us that she is very much a beginner, but we all reassured her that we were beginners too, at one time. Welcome Cynthia! She is shown here with long time members Ted Zamojski and Joyce Daniels.

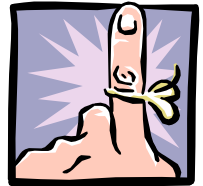


Welcome Devon Harrison! Joyce Daniels and Devon posed for the editor. Devon has been a member for a few years but has only attended a couple meetings before. We all enjoyed his company and hope to see him at monthly meetings more regularly, now.

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## Dues are due... it's that time of year, again!!!

If you joined COS in the last quarter of the year —September or even at our show in October, your dues are already paid for 2013. Otherwise, please get your renewal check to Membership Chair Mary Rampone a.s.a.p. Individual renewal is still a bargain at \$20.00/yr. for the electronic version of the newsletter (\$25.00 for family) . If you would like a hardcopy of the newsletter, the cost is \$30/yr. to help off-set the cost of postage. Use the tear-off return coupon at the end of this newsletter . And THANK YOU!!! Your continued support keeps us going and doing great things in the orchid world. Besides, we'd miss you and you'd miss this great newsletter!





## February's Featured Event



## **REPOTTING WORKSHOP**

Sponsored by Connecticut Orchid Society

Need some help with that annual orchid repotting chore?  
Want to learn some tips & tricks from the pros?

Join us for a repotting workshop!

\$5.00 per plant (covers supplies and medium)

Please bring your own clean replacement pots.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, 7:30 pm**  
**Farmington Senior Center**  
**321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT**

## Presidents' Message



President  
Cheryl Mizak

ule.

Hello —

February finds us in the middle of an active show schedule. Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help on the set up, & take down teams and letting us borrow your blooming plants for everyone to admire.

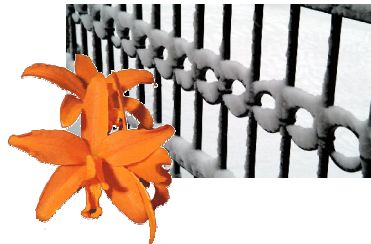
Thank you to Donna Quill and Judy Becker for setting up our display at the CAIOS show. Our display took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the show for society displays and Ginna Plude won a Rosette for one of her plants.

We can still use a few more members to cover the COS table at the Connecticut Flower show in Hartford, February 21 thru Feb24. Sign up for a four- hour shift and you will receive a free pass to the show for that day. Let me know your availability a.s.a.p. so we can have your pass available. Any questions about what you would be doing, feel free to email me [president@ctorchids.org](mailto:president@ctorchids.org)

At our Feb 13 meeting we will be having a potting clinic. Have you noticed all of the new growths on your plants since the days are starting to get longer? Any of your plants that you are not quite sure how to repot, bring them along. Our Orchid Doc's will have their sleeves rolled up and ready to help. There will be a \$5.00 per plant material fee. Please bring your own clean pots.

We will also have plants and potting supplies for sale as usual on the COS Sale Table.

~ Cheryl Mizak



## January's Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch  
Recording Secretary

### COS MEETING 1-8-13

Member John Hampton spoke on vivariums, which are little terrarium-like enclosures. With a 24 to 26 watt florescent light, double doors, and a ventilation strip, they are ideal for small delicate orchids—and dart frogs! (If you introduce herps of any sort, there should not be any fertilizers or chemicals present.) He creates little habitats with clean ceramic pellets, a piece of screening, potting mix, and sphagnum moss below the vent strip, and a slab of cork bark in back.

With 100 percent silicone caulking, he forms nice pockets which are coated in dry moss; these are ideal receptacles for small potted orchids. You can also spray pots with the caulking and coat those with moss or bark. Hooks in the back wall can hang mounted orchids. He often raises the light up on wooden blocks, since it can be too strong for the enclosure. Woods need to be rot resistant mopai, ghost wood, or driftwood.

If frogs are present, they eat flightless fruit flies dusted with vitamin powder. This atypical diet is fine for the frogs, but renders them no longer toxic, since they are not ingesting the alkali of their native lands. Any plants with these hopping frogs need to be relatively tough (think orchid, peperomia, and hoyo rather than maidenhair ferns.) All soil and fertilizers are washed off the plants in a frog habitat with "Fruit Fresh." Sometimes these tiny frogs will lay eggs in a bromeliad's cup. He uses auto misters to enhance humidity to 80 percent, keeping the herps between 72 to 78 degrees with an aquarium heater. Timers keep the light on for 12 hours and off for 12 hours. You can use a Growlight for plants alone, but not for herps, since they don't like the UV.

You can view John's spectacular results on Flickr under his title of 'madfish1c.'

~ Carla Koch  
Recording Secretary



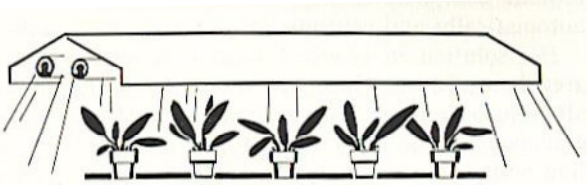
## January Show Table

<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
Cattleyanthe (Cattleya) Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS Cattleya guttata x Guarante aurantiaca	T. Zamojski	c-i,w
Ceratochilus biglandulosus	T. Zamojski	i,w
Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga atroviolaceum x johnsoniae	G. Plude	i,w
Laelia anceps	T. Zamojski	c-l,w
Miltassia Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi' AM/AOS B. verrucosa x M. spectabilis	G. Plude	i,w
Oncidiopsis (Miltonioda Maui Charm 'Sakura'	J. Becker	i-g
Osmoglossum pulchellum	T. Zamojski	c-i,w
Paphiopedilum Druid Spring druryi x primulinum	G. Plude	i,w
Paphiopedilum Krull's Worthy Web Hsinying Web x charlesworthii	G. Plude	i,w
Paphiopedilum venustum	T. Zamojski	i,w
Phalaenopsis (Dtps.) Red Dragon George Vasquez x Sulaceous	G. Plude	i,w
Phragmipedium schlimii	G. Plude	i,w
Zygonesia Cynosure alba Aganisia cyanea x Zygopetalum Skippy Ku	J. Becker	i,g
Zygonesia Cynosure 'Blue Bird' AM/AOS Aganisia cyanea x Zygopetalum Skippy Ku	J. Becker	i,g

Culture is as noted:

c – cool  
w – warm  
ws – windowsill

i – intermediate  
g – greenhouse  
l – lights



On left, above: Mtssa. Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi' Brought to the Jan. Show Table by life member Ginna Plude. Also in the photo; Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga, also brought by Ginna Plude. In right photo, above: Paphiopedilum venustum brought to the Jan. Show Table by long-time member Ted Zamojski.



In left photo above, on left: Laelia anceps, Osmoglossum pulchellum, cattleya Chocolate Drop. Brought to Show Table by Judy Becker. In photo at right , above: Oncidiopsis Maui Charm 'Sakura' in pot with Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue Bird' and Cynosure alba brought to Jan. Show Table by Ted Zamojski

## News, Notes & Happenings



COS display at the Cape & Islands  
Orchid Show  
Jan. 12 -13., 2013

Our display took 3rd Place at the show. Ginna Plude won a rosette for one of her plants in the display. Many thanks to Donna Quill and Judy Becker for their hard work and excellent design skills setting up this display.



COS member John Hampton lead a demonstration on building a Vivarium at the January meeting. John 's hobby (besides growing orchids, of course) is breeding poison dart frogs. The frogs live in a vivarium, which John has discovered is also an excellent habitat for growing orchids.

On left, COS vice president Donna Quill works on setting up her own vivarium. Morgan Daniels observes while new member Cynthia Enright hands a plant to Donna.



In the photo at left, John Hampton lends his expertise to Mary Rampone while she experiments with positioning a piece of driftwood in her vivarium.

Photo on right: COS vice president Donna Quill begins the assembly process on her new vivarium. Long time member Cicily Hajek observes and lends support. We haven't seen Cicily lately, so it was nice to have her back.



**Blooming Plants Needed...** The start of a new year begins a new round of orchid shows. COS supports it's sister orchid societies by participating in their shows whenever possible. That means we need blooming plants...lots of blooming plants. Please help us by loaning your lovely babies for a few days. The shows are beginning right now and will run to the end of February before things begin to slow down. If you think you'll have a few orchids in bloom during the next couple months, please let Cheryl Mizak know. If need be, we can arrange to pick up and return your plants to you. Please call (203) 264-6096 if you can help out.


Below is a wonderful article written by Roger West, a member of Amherst Orchid Society, which he has graciously agreed to allow us to reprint here in our newsletter. If you're planning on loaning some of your blooming plants for upcoming shows, this article is chuck full of important tips for getting your beauties ready for showing and hopefully winning a couple awards. I have seen the Amherst Orchid Society's Show Table monthly listings and Roger can grow some magnificent plants—he knows what he's talking about.

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## Show Plant Preparation

By Roger West

Show prep starts a couple of months in advance of the show. Larger specimens take more time to prepare than your typical single inflorescence plant. There are a few must dos:

- 1) **Don't rotate your plants from their solar source.** I place the plant label facing the solar source so that the plants goes back to its original position after being pulled to be worked on. The goal is to have all the blooms facing the same direction.
- 2) **Staking is important in many ways but probably most important in transporting plants to the show.** Many a long, flowery, and heavy inflorescence will be bent or broken during the jousting involved with getting the plant in and out of your car, and may break on the ride in. You can always remove the stakes at the show.
- 3) **Flower balance is the goal with the larger plants.** Ideally you want to see the flowers and not the foliage. Flowers should be centered over the plant not on opposite sides. Say a plant has 4-6 inflorescences. These should be equally arranged over the plant, not three on one side and two on the opposite with nothing in the middle. Pseudobulbs can be moved around by tying them to non-blooming bulbs. Do this well before the show, months in advance, then remove the ties at the show. For example: at last year's Cape show, J & L had a Masdevallia with 31 blooms on 31 spikes all of which were staked. It was gorgeous and won a CCE/AOS award. The previous year, this same plant was shown with a few less blooms but not staked. It won nothing. It takes time 



to properly prepare show plants, but why else do we grow these things except to show them off?


#### 4) **All plants should be watered the day before the show.**

A few thoughts regarding the different genera. Paph's have a problem with their bloom looking downward instead of straight on. Correct this by putting a wedge under the backside of the pot while the flowering spike develops. After the bloom opens, remove the wedge and the bloom is where you want it. Only the long stemmed vin-colored paphs need staking and again, you can always remove the stake.

Large flowered Phal's need to be staked just below the first bud. The goal is to have the flowers flow downward from the first bud. This was the norm 20 years ago when the big white and pink Phal's were the only ones displayed. Now they are rarely seen at shows with the novelty Phal's taking over. These should be staked just below that first bud, and remained staked during the show. Another tidbit that makes the Phal's look better is to wash the leaves with whole milk a couple of days prior to the show. You will notice a difference.

Oncidiums and their related intergenerics usually have the longest flowering spikes. Staking is essential, especially during transport. I put a green bamboo stake into the potting medium alongside the inflorescence and tie them together. Then I stick a metal rod (Surveyors metal flags, 50/bunch, Home Depot) into the top of the bamboo stick to add another 18 inches to the bamboo. Even this may not be long enough, so splice another metal rod. These rods are very flexible so that you can bend them to the natural flow of the flowering spike. I like to see these tall inflorescences flowing naturally instead of being staked straight up. Sometimes I will place Styrofoam peanuts in the branching angle of the flowering spike to open this angle up to 90 degrees. This prevents crowding of the flowers.

The smaller genera such as the Pleurothallids and Masdevallias have problems with drying out at the show. Every show venue is hot and very dry. These little beauties take a beating. We set-up on Thursday and mist, judge on Friday and mist, but then come Sunday, these plants need help. I suggest putting these potted plants into a larger pot with moss between the pots, or sponges, or something that is moisture retentive. Just a thought. Vandas are in the same boat. I have never brought back one that looked as good as it did going to the show. Another good idea is to put your large, top-heavy plants into clay pots to prevent them from tipping over.

Finally the Cattleyas. I do nothing with the small blooming cluster types other than the constant solar source and centering the spikes if there are many of them. (And there better be!) Mini-cat's require staking because they usually have weak stems and relatively large blooms. Large flowered Cat's may need a couple of Styrofoam peanuts to spread the blooms apart. Add the peanuts 

as the buds develop. You may have to remove a bud if they are crowded. The goal is to have flat blooms that are not crowded.

Take the time and look at your plants. Ask yourself, "What can I do make a better presentation?" wash both sides of the leaves, it is amazing how dirty they can get. Can you speed up the blooming or prolong them? The latter is easier. I wait four days after the blooms have opened, then move them out of the greenhouse into the cooler house. This move gains about one extra week. Speeding up involves bringing the budding plant into the warmer house at night then out to the greenhouse during the day. All of the above works most of the time. At least it makes me feel better.

Carla Koch (on left) George Jones and Dean Delgindice came early to get the best seats at the Jan. meeting!



**Board Meeting Wed., Feb. 27th, 6:30 pm, at Alcher Interiors, 205 Main St., South, Southbury, CT.** The first board meeting of the new year will be held on Wednesday evening , Feb. 27th at Cheryl and Alan Mizak’s place of business, Alcher Interiors, 205 Main St., South, Southbury, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend and lend their ideas, suggestions, etc. to the board to help us run the society. Please let Cheryl know if you plan to attend at (203) 264-8155. Brainstorming is encouraged!



## *Orchid Growing Made Simple , Beginner's Orchid Growing Class, Thursday, March 7th, 7:30 pm—8:30 pm*

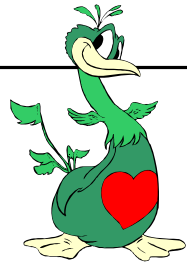
Roger Heigel will conduct a class beginning March 7th for beginner orchid growers at the Cheshire High School, 525 South Main St., Cheshire, CT. Classes are one hour in length and start at 7:30 pm. Cost for the course is \$50.00, which includes a materials fee of \$20.00 and a course fee of \$30.00. Please contact Roger at (203) 757-2292 for more information and how to register.

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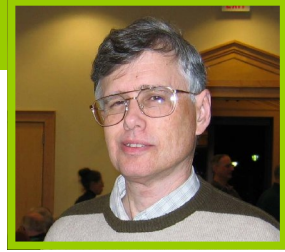
Above, left: *Lockhartia oerstedii*. Photo submitted by your editor Sharon SmithDelisle. Plant was purchased at COS summer picnic auction in 2010. The plant originally belonged to Larry Kuekes. This is the first time the plant has bloomed for the editor.

Above, right: A very clever way to show off a plant and help keep it moist at the same time. Ted Zamjowski brought this cute little *Ceratochilus biglandulosus* to the Jan. Show Table. The plant is mounted on tree fiber and sitting in a bed of moist moss. The whole thing is sitting in a clam shell half—very elegant!



## 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

### Going to Pot, Part 3 Pots

By Larry Kuekes

Another consideration when repotting is what kind of pot to use. The primary choice is clay versus plastic. Both have their advantages. Clay pots absorb water from the mix, so the roots dry out faster than in plastic pots. This is good if you tend to overwater, and essential for certain species which are intolerant of soggy roots. For example, equitant orchids either need to be mounted on slabs (where the roots dry instantly) or potted in tiny one-and-a-half-inch clay pots. Plastic pots, or even larger clay pots, don't dry out quickly enough. I tried moving an equitant orchid into a two-inch plastic pot with lots of extra drainage holes. It didn't die, but it ceased growing for a whole year until I relented and stuffed it back into a tiny clay pot. Now it seems happy again.

Clay pots are also good for tall plants like certain dendrobiums because the weight of the clay helps keep the plant from tipping over. There are special clay pots with slots in the sides for orchids, but regular pots work OK, too.

However, most of my orchids are in plastic pots. Since they don't dry out as fast, they can usually go a week between watering, while clay pots need watering twice a week except for the larger sizes. Less watering is a real advantage when you carry plants to the sink. To make the plants happy, though, the roots still need good drainage and aeration. You can help matters by poking extra holes in the bottoms and even the sides of your plastic pots. I have tried two techniques which both work well. One is to use a soldering iron to melt the holes. This is very easy, but it does leave gunk on the soldering iron and gives off probably toxic smoke from the burning plastic; try to avoid breathing it. The other technique is to use an electric drill to drill the holes. Don't bear down too hard or you can split the plastic. It's easier to use a very small bit first to get the holes started, then go back with a 1/4 inch or larger bit and enlarge the holes.

I've even used seedling flats – the kind you buy annuals in, in the spring. They're wide, which can be good for sprawling rhizomes, but they're shallow and have excellent drainage: the bottoms are half holes. In general, shallow pots are better for



orchids than deep ones, since deep pots can hold so much medium that they don't dry out between waterings, which will then rot the roots.

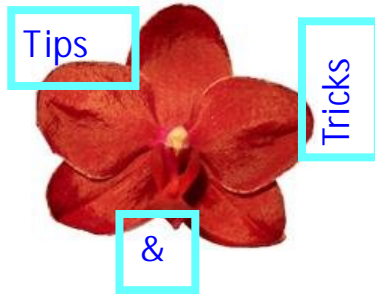
The standard advice on pot size, for orchids like cattleyas which spread horizontally, it to use a pot big enough to allow for two years' growth.

A smaller pot is OK, but means repotting every year. A bigger pot may not dry out fast enough, and after three years the medium will have decomposed and the roots may be dying off.

A final option is not to use a pot at all. Orchids can be grown mounted on a slab or log, as mentioned last time. In addition, they can be grown in baskets made of pieces of wood alternating with air spaces. These baskets provide excellent drainage and aeration on all sides, though they do require more frequent watering. Vandas are often grown this way, sometimes with no potting medium at all inside the basket. The roots attach right to the wood. I can't speak from personal experience about growing in baskets, but I've noticed it seems to be one of Dr. Ben Berliner's favorite "tricks of the trade". For example, his gorgeous *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit', for which he won an FCC/AOS, was grown in a basket.

Next Month: "The Joy of Potting".

(This article first appeared in Feb. 1990)



**A great use for vanilla that is not food related:** Add 1 to 2 tablespoons of vanilla extract per gallon of paint to help mask the odor. It will also help diffuse the fumes. Works for both latex and oil-based paints. (This tip was found in *The Vanilla Cookbook* by Patricia Rain)



**Having problems keeping your phalaenopsis roots in their pots?** Phalaenopsis roots avoid darkness. Roots of plants grown in clear plastic pots will tend to stay inside the pot better than those grown in opaque pots because they can "see" better in the clear pots. A good example is shown in the photo at left. (Growing the Best Phalaenopsis, Yin-Tung Wang, PhD, Matthew Blanchard, Roberto Lopez and Erik Runkle, PhD. Photo by Tin-Tung Wang, PhD, Culture Corner, AOS Orchids, Feb. 2007.)




## February: Renewal and Revitalization

By Thomas Mirenda

### Spreading the Joy of Orchids on Valentine's Day

**One year ago, in this space,** I mentioned the origin of Valentine's Day. But February has a far more ancient significance, one that may date back before recorded history. The feast of Februarius, which took place on the 15th of the month, was one of purification, renewal and fertility. Received annually in ancient Rome with great jocularly, this rather pagan occasion involved youths running through the streets wearing goatskin loincloths and barking menacingly at young women. Charming. Paradoxically, this action was supposed to both purify and increase fertility. Although there are those who would disagree with me, I'm glad that we now celebrate Valentine's Day instead. Still, it's an ancient tradition in this month to "februate" or purify our lives and dwellings, including our orchid collections' dwellings. It's almost as if February is the month to work on and achieve all those resolutions we made last month.

Your orchid collection is now rewarding all your hard work and perfect culture from last year. Cymbidiums and phalaenopsis are at their peak, many encyclias and epidendrums are spiking and deciduous dendrobiums are flush with colorful, long-lasting blooms. There are few periods in the year that match the number of showy blooming plants we get in February. Ironically, with plants needing less water and fertilizer, and potting inadvisable for most orchids, there is less to do culturally than at any other time. So, take some advice from antiquity and use this month to cleanse your greenhouse or growing space. This will make it a most inviting place to bring your friends, especially those who you'd like to be more than friends. It's certainly better than barking at them.

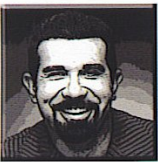
**Watering** With the sun low on the horizon, most orchids need less water than ever this month, notable exceptions being disas and phragmipediums, which do best when the medium is kept wet and pur water is provided. In may parts of the world, Central America for example, February is one of the driest months and many orchids survive on water stored in their pseudobulbs. Plants with large pseudobulbs such as lycastes, coelogyne, calanthes and encyclias may look alarmingly shriveled and fissured by now. It's disconcerting to see, but normal for such plants in their natural habitat and most will plump up once watering begins in the coming months. Look carefully for bud formation and new growths on these sleeping plants. Sometimes they can start a bit early and some moisture may be advisable to hydrate the blooms as they start unfurling. Plants lacking pseudobulbs, such as vandas, ascocendas 

And renantheras (especially if they bear plentiful aerial roots) as well as masdevalias, draculas and other pleurothallids will still need daily watering, as will most of your plants grown on mounts or in baskets.

**Humidity** Pay especially close attention to humidity this month. Get a humidistat and see how low the humidity levels go once the heaters turn on.

To reach optimum growing temperatures in the winter, most growers in the northern latitudes rely on heaters, as sunny days are so rare. There are many techniques to raise greenhouse humidity, including misting, wetting down the greenhouse floor in the evenings, etc. but I fear most for the windowsill grower with the radiator just underneath the plants. This is a deadly combination for most orchids. Humidifiers help but must be replenished and maintained often. Pebble trays will release a limited amount of humidity around the plants as the radiators pump up the heat, but you may find it advisable to set up a light cart for your more delicate orchids and keep them far from the radiator.

**Attend a Show** Hopefully, you are participating in an orchid or flower show and bringing your plants to receive the glory they deserve. If the weather outside is harsh, these events inspire and nurture the soul when we most need to see the beauty of nature. In addition, your attendance will support your local horticultural community and help make these events successful for everyone involved. The future of the orchid community rests on our involvement in it.



Thomas Miranda

(Thomas Miranda is the orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution. Tom invites you to contact him via his e-mail: [MirandaT@si.edu](mailto:MirandaT@si.edu). Photo taken from Feb. 2008 edition of *Orchids*, photographer unknown.)



Lepanthes caprimulgus

Photos submitted by Sharon SmithDelisle. Plant was purchased from J & L Orchids at the COS Jan. meeting in 2012. Plant is mounted on tree fiber and hangs in an enclosed glass bowl. A small amount of water is kept in the base for humidity. This successful growing method was suggested by Cordelia Head of J & L Orchids during the presentation.



# Caribbean Beauties: Two New Orchid Species Found

Editor's Note: Interim pres. Cheryl Mizak sent this article to your editor. Little by little Cuba is beginning to open up to the rest of the world. After all these many long decades, it is marvelous that some biologists have recently been allowed to explore the island's flora and fauna and make discoveries of previously unknown organisms such as these two new orchids. What other wonderful discoveries are just waiting to be found? Dec. 27, 2012 — Researchers from the University of Vigo, in collaboration with the Environmental Services Unit at the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park (Cuba), have discovered two new species of Caribbean orchid.

The Caribbean islands have been natural laboratories and a source of inspiration for biologists for over two centuries now. Suffice to say that the studies by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace in the tropical archipelagos contributed to the emergence of the theory of evolution.

In this case, a Spanish research team from the University of Vigo has discovered two new species belonging to the orchid family (Orchidaceae: Laeliinae) in Cuba. They have been called *Tetramicra riparia* and *Encyclia navarroi*. The two plants were found in the eastern and western zones of the island respectively.



*Tetramicra riparia*

"The first species described, *Encyclia navarroi*, is an orchid with considerably large flowers. A year later we discovered the *Tetramicra riparia* species, with very small flowers. The latter is so named because it grows on the banks of stony streams in the mountains of Baracoa, one of the rainiest and least explored areas in Cuba," as Ángel Vale explained. Vale is a researcher at the University of Vigo and co-author of the studies published by the journals *Systematic Botany* and *Annales Botanici Fennici*.

Darwin was very much drawn to the orchid family, and used it to propose certain hypotheses about the importance of the relations between flowers and pollinators for biodiversity. Between 25,000 and 30,000 species of these plants are estimated to exist. However, the mechanisms that explain this amazing variety are only now being discovered.

"We could highlight their extraordinary capacity to interact with different types of pollinators. Contrary to most plants, many orchids do not produce nectar or other substances to compensate insects and birds that visit them," explained the researcher.

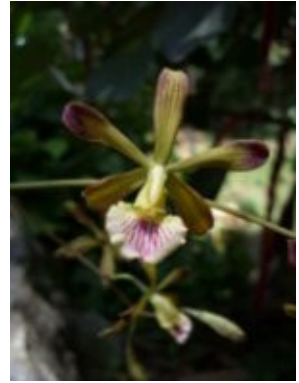
Conservation & Awareness



## Orchids' deceit pollination

Despite this, floral visitors are attracted by orchids' colours and shapes, which enables the plants' sexual reproduction. This is known as deceit pollination.

The University of Vigo Plant Ecology and Evolution research team, which Vale belongs to, is studying the ecological and evolutionary consequences of deceit pollination in orchids that are endemic to the Greater Antilles: Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico. One of the mysteries they aim to solve is if the deceit orchids have a greater taxonomic and genetic diversity than other nectar-producing species.



Vale and his team are drawing up studies in the Antilles not only to reconstruct the evolutionary history of orchids but also to analyse the effect of pollinators in the reproduction of plants, and how this interaction has modelled the colourful aspect of these Caribbean flowers.

"Despite the fact that *T. riparia*'s flowers have a complete central petal, just like other species that make up a subgenre endemic to Cuba; the way they grow is very similar to a more widespread group that seems to have diverged on the neighbouring island of Hispaniola. Our work provides molecular evidence of the greater relationship of *T. riparia* with these species on the neighbouring island. This is in consonance with the geological history of the Caribbean islands, according to which the eastern end of Cuba was in close contact with that land," pointed out Vale.

Scientists are currently trying to estimate how many millions of years ago this and other Caribbean species saw the light of day. This will enable them to test whether the ancestor of this species was already in Cuba, or if on the contrary, it evolved from an ancestor that colonised the island from neighbouring archipelagos.

"Just as with most orchids, which offer no compensation to their pollinators, *Encyclia navarroi* and *Tetramicra riparia* receive very few visits from bees. This is one of the basic reasons that guarantee the survival of these plants, and also help protect the populations of their pollinators," explained the scientist.

Story Source: the above story is reprinted from materials provided by Plataforma SINC, via AlphaGalileo

### Journal References:

1. Angel Vale, Danny Rojas, Yosvanis Acanda, Natividad L. Sanchez-Abad, Luis Navarro. A New Species of *Tetramicra* (Orchidaceae: laeliinae) from Baracoa, Eastern Cuba. *Systematic Botany*, 2012; 37 (4):883DOI:10. 1600/036364412X656491
2. Angel Vale, Danny Rojas. *Encyclia navarroi* (Orchidaceae), a new species from Cuba. *Annales Botanici Fennici*, 49: 83-86, 26; 2012

ScienceDaily. Retrieved January 25, 2013, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com>

Photos Credit: Angel Vale

## 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.***

Deep Cut Orchid Society Annual Winter Show  
February 9–12, 2013  
Thurs., Fri., Sat. 9–6 Sun. 9–4:30  
Dearborn Market, 2170 Rt. 35 South, Holmdel, NJ  
Free Admission



AOS sanctioned show, large sales area, free lectures, orchid vendors and orchid exhibits. Ample parking and food on premises.

[www.nj.com](http://www.nj.com)



"Love in Bloom"  
Connecticut Flower & Garden Show  
Feb. 21–24, 2013

Thurs. 10–7, Fri. & Sat. 10–8, Sun. 10–5  
Connecticut Convention Center, East Hartford, CT

Over 300 booths, beautiful landscaped gardens, 80 hrs of seminars and demonstrations. Admission: \$16 Adults, \$4 children 5–12.

(860) 844-8461 [kristie@notheastexpos.com](mailto:kristie@notheastexpos.com)

# ORCHID SHOW



*Saturday, FEB 23, 2013*

9 AM TO 5 PM

*Sunday, FEB 24, 2013*

10 AM TO 4PM

*AT: SMITH VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
NORTHAMPTON, MA*

*SPONSORED BY:  
THE AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY*

[http://www.larchhillorchids.com/nhberst/orchid\\_society.html](http://www.larchhillorchids.com/nhberst/orchid_society.html)

other contact info: marc d gray 802-348-7896 or [bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net)

Smith Vocational high School is located at 80 Locust

Street (Route 9) next to the Cooley Dickson Hospital

Admission: \$3.00 (Children under 12 Free)

Print this card and bring it with you to enter our door prize raffle!



**New Hampshire Orchid Society**

**22nd Annual Show**

**Feb. 8—10, 2013**

**Fri. 1:00—7:00, Sat. 9:00—5:00, Sun. 9:00—4:00**

**Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, NH**

**Admission: \$10 adults, seniors (65+) \$6**

**Children under 12 or over 100: Free**

**3 Day Daytime Pass \$15**

Orchid exhibits, floral displays, plant vendors, door prizes, instant raffles  
workshops and speakers.

# MID-HUDSON ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING 2013



## ORCHID SHOW & SALE

**Saturday, March 9, 2013**

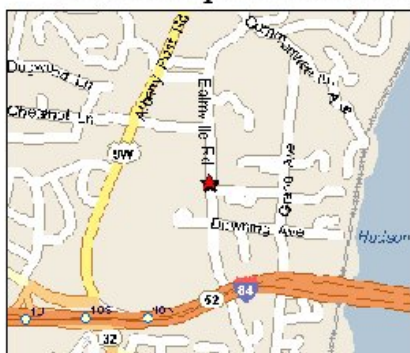
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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 9W 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 Elisabeth Mansfield at  
**845-294-1000**



Visit our web site at [www.mhos.us.com](http://www.mhos.us.com)

The MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

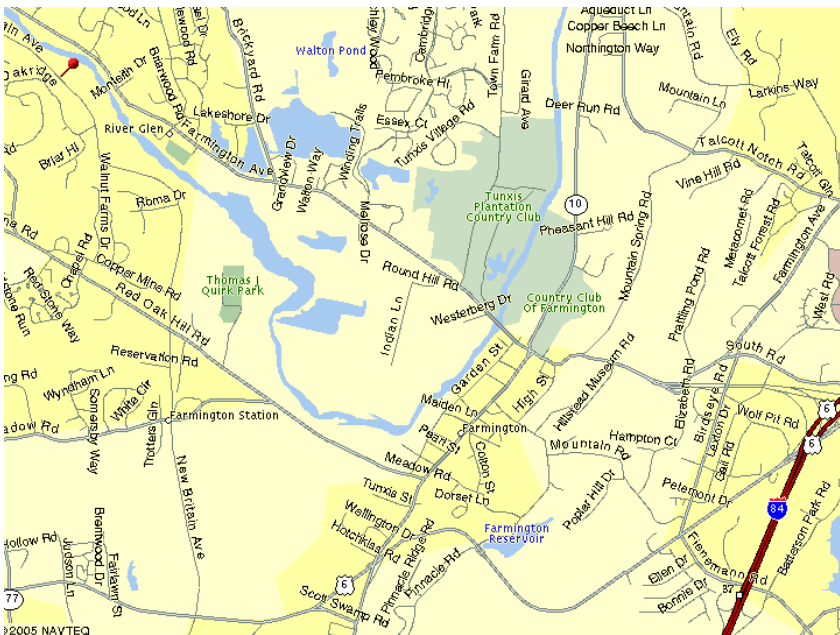


## Directions to Farmington Senior Center 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, CT

**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  
PO Box 198  
Farmington, CT 06034-0198***

