



Connecticut

Orchid

Society

Newsletter

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

February 2012

53 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012

Time: 7:00 P.M. Short Business meeting begins followed by Holiday Party
8:00 P.M. Mini-Auction (open to the public)

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

(See pg. 25 for map & directions.)

Program: The Mystery of Orchid Pollination
Presented by Thomas Mirenda
Orchid collection specialist at Smithsonian Gardens

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

Contact us

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

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

**Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at (860) 649-7952 for more details.
A membership application is located on pg. 26 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 -- 2012

PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Vacant</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>Vacant</i>
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
REFRESHMENT CHAIRPERSON	<i>Judy Becker</i>
WEB MASTER	<i>Deidra Crewe</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

Sam Hinckley samuelhinckley@comcast.net

Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

Jeffrey Richards Jeffrey.richards@snet.net

Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

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. 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Tom Mirenda will give a talk about orchid colonization and pollination, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT.
- Feb. 27 Orchid Growing Made Simple: Adult education classes presented by COS Director Roger Heigel at the Cheshire School. The classes run for four weeks starting Monday, Feb. 27th @ 7:00—8:00 pm. There is a registration fee of \$30.00 and a materials fee of \$20.00. Register at www.cheshire.k12.ct.us or call 203-250-2450 for more information.
- Mar. 14 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Potting Workshop—Bring your orchids and clean pots—there will be a \$5.00 materials and supplies fee per pot (6" in. maximum) , 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT.
- Apr. 11 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Presenting Andy's Orchids, San Diego, CA. Topic to be announced. 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT.
- May 9 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: TBA, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT.
- June 13 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: TBA, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT
- Sept. 12 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: TBA, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 maple Ave., Cheshire , CT
- Oct. 10 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids, NC will give a presentation. He will bring plants for sale. Topic will be announced. 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT.
- Oct. 19 ~ 21 Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale: Orchid Harvest 2012, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT
- Nov. 14 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Bill Thoms of Central Florida will give a presentation about growing outstanding bulbophyllums. 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT
- Dec. 12 Connecticut Orchid Society Holiday Party & Mini-Auction: 7:00 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT

AOS corner



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

While surfing AOS website for a topic for this month's AOS Corner, I came across a little known project of the Species Identification Task Force (SITF) AOS (in full disclosure, I have to admit it is little known by me probably because I am not a judge). SITF is under the supervision of the judging committee of the AOS and its mission is to try to improve and simplify the processing of awards, with the goal of ensuring that awarded species are correctly named. Members of the Task Force are not necessarily taxonomic experts but individuals who are reference material to confirm the identity of submitted awards. When the SITF collective expertise and reference collections are not adequate, members of the task force turn to a network of qualified experts.

The discussion on their website goes on to describe that the "task force replaces the previous cumbersome identification and verification procedure, which often involved shipping plant material to a taxonomic expert. The SITF, using today's electronic communications capabilities and readily available high quality digital images, hopes to facilitate the process of identifying awarded plants and to get the process done in a timely manner. Most awarded species do not need a taxonomist for identification, if reference material is available. When reference material is not available we use taxonomic experts who are willing to give opinions based on digital photographs. Occasionally awards will require in depth investigation by a taxonomic specialist, and SITF coordinates this when it is required." Their webpage also provides links to a variety of other resources which any orchidist would find interesting to explore. To find out more about the SITF check out their site at <http://www.aosforum.org/sitf> you should all enjoy exploring this site.

This SITF page on the AOS website is an example of the vast amount of information on the AOS website.

We are in the middle of an exciting show season and I hope you all will try to support the shows in your areas. Some that are on my radar screen for this year will be the 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show. AOS will again be outing in an exhibit at this world renowned event. Last year 265,000 attendees visited the show over its 7 days. The theme this year is Hawaii: Islands of Aloha. A committee has been put together and we will be soliciting plant material and volunteers for 'manning' the site. Another show is the Spring Members' Meeting of the AOS. This will be hosted by the Wichita Orchid Society. More information on these two Shows (including how to register for the Members' Meeting) will be forthcoming on the AOS website under events.

Hope you all had a great holiday and New Years. Lynn Fuller, Chair

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. 17th

New member Welcome ... We have had quite a few new members join COS since our show in Oct. This month we take a moment to welcome these members, and we look forward to getting to know them at the next monthly meeting.

Anne Hobson of Woodbury, CT

Lorraine Goodwin of Southbury, CT

Leslie Mastrianna of Middlebury, CT

Anita Finkle of Naugatuck, CT

Rosa Woodruff of New Preston, CT

Rosemary Garbien of Roxbury, CT

Ken Blount of Guilford, CT

Gerri & Chris O'Meara of Milford, CT

Tom Russell of Woodbridge, CT

Henrietta Buch of Southbury, CT

Bonnie McLachlan of Avon, CT

Joy Fopiano of Branford, CT

Sandra Allen of Naugatuck, CT

Natalie van Sambeck of Norwich, CT

Daniel Walsh of North Branford, CT

Judy Evans of Guilford, CT

Patricia Bee of Guilford, CT

Jennifer Waugh-Healy of Torrington, CT

George Jones of Plantsville, CT

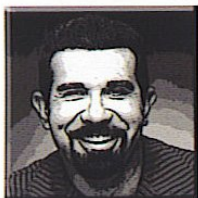
Dean Delgindick of Plantsville, CT

Sandy Myhalik of Farmington, CT (a former member who we are so glad has re-joined.)

Ted Zamojski of New Britain, CT (another former member that we are delighted has rejoined.)

The Orchid Olympics The Smithsonian magazine has an interesting article this month by Somali Roy with fabulous photos by JG Bryce. "The Orchid Olympics: The exotic flowers seduce pollinators of every kind, from moths and birds to the extreme breeders at the 20th World Orchid Conference." The Smithsonian calls orchids "the world's sexiest flower." If you would like to read this article, please contact Sharon SmithDelisle at coseditor@hotmail.com.

January's Featured Event



Thomas Miranda

Mystery of Orchid Pollination Presented by Thomas Miranda

This month we welcome a speaker who is new to us—Thomas Miranda. Tom is the Orchid Specialist for the Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian's orchid collection started back in 1974 with five plants, and now Tom oversees 8,000 plants at the greenhouses. What does a museum do with 8,000 orchids? In addition to education, they use them to beautify the museum's interiors and also for special exhibitions. Recently, Tom had the wonderful job of moving the Smithsonian's entire plant collection (10,000 plants) to a new location. The museum's Paphiopedilum collection is considered outstanding.

In addition to his daily chores around the greenhouses, Tom also plans a four-month long annual orchid show with a new theme each year—and we thought planning our annual show & sale was a nightmare! He is also involved with a very important new project, North American orchid conservation. But, so that he doesn't look like a slacker, Tom is committed to writing two articles a month for the AOS magazine *Orchids*. (See page 18 of this newsletter for his orchid advice for the month of February.)

Tom has degrees in marine biology and worked as a marine biologist in Hawaii for ten years, but that was before the allure of Hawaiian orchids pulled him into the world of horticulture. Tom is an accredited AOS judge and lectures worldwide.

Please join us for a talk by an exciting new speaker. Tom promises that his talk will be amusing and you will have fun learning many new things about orchid romance.



Presidents' Message



Co-president
Cheryl Mizak

Hello Everyone —

We are right in the middle of winter orchid show time. Yes, we have had a few spring-like days, which make us long for spring, and putting our collections outdoors for their summer vacation — but not yet.

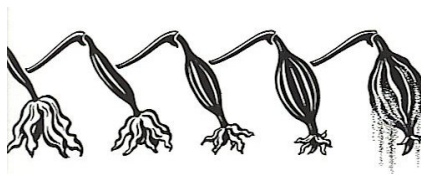
COS will be participating in the Connecticut Flower Show, Thursday, Feb. 23 ~ Sunday, Feb. 26th. The show hours are 10:00 am ~ 8:00 pm. If you have not yet signed up to help staff our booth, please do so. It is fun introducing the public to orchids and meeting fellow orchid-philosophers. There is also a nice bonus for helping staff our booth for four hours, as you will receive a free pass to the show and reduced parking fee.

Looking ahead to the month of March, we will be participating at the Van Wilgen's Garden Center Escape to Spring event again this year. The event is March 9 ~ 10. We need volunteers to staff our booth there, as well. It is important to support Van Wilgen's because they have very kindly hosted our show & sale for the past two years.

This month we will host Tom Mirenda at our monthly meeting on Feb. 8th. You may recognize Tom's name because he is a regular contributor to the AOS magazine *Orchids*; his monthly culture column is included in this newsletter every month.

Next month, we will hold a repotting workshop for our March meeting. Look your collection over and see if there are any plants that could use a little TLC. Bring your plants and clean pots for the repotting. We will charge a nominal fee of \$5.00 per plant for materials and potting supplies, and the Society's Repotting Masters will do all the work for you!

~ Cheryl Mizak



Drawing by Elmer W. Smith.

January's Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

COS MEETING January 12, 2012

Our speaker was Cordelia Head of J & L Orchids, Easton, Connecticut, and her topic was warmth-tolerant pleurothallids. These orchids are usually small, native to Central and South America, and while many are cool-growing, some grow happily at lower, warmer elevations. (60 to 90 degrees.) Sympodial, they have no pseudobulbs, and prefer a humid and moist atmosphere. (60 % humidity.) Because of this, many are happy in an orchidarium or even a terrarium.

Ms. Head showed a great variety of these orchids, many of which may be undergoing name changes (unfortunately.) Plants such as *Pl. allenii*, *imperialis* or *gargantua* (the latter being much larger) may be placed in *Acronia*-- *Pl. hemirhoda* var. *alba* and *medina* may wind up in *Lindleyanus*—and so on. Amusing curiosities such as the *Pl. amparoana*, which resembles a fuzzy toilet seat, were shown. Other types, such as *Stelis barbata*, *Dryadella liliputiana*, *Trisatella triglochis*, *Platystele repens*, and *Lepanthes jayandelli* (!) were featured. The well-liked *Dracula lotax* and *Masdavallias infracta*, *constricta*, and *strobelli* also are some warm-growing types.

She also showed many of their *Masdavallia* hybrids which tolerate warm temperatures, such as *Angel Tang* (*vetchiana* x *tonduzii*), *Redwing* (*coccinea* x *infracta*), *Angel Heart* (*igneus* x *infracta*), and *Marguerite 'Red Star'* (*infracta* x *vetchiana*.)



Cordelia Head
J & L Orchids, Easton, CT

~ Carla Koch



COS members enjoyed coffee and the opportunity to catch up with each other after the holidays. Back row, left to right: Judy Becker chats with Morgan Daniels. Front row, left to right: Joyce Daniels talks with COS Director Dottie Kern.



Above: Here is an example of *Dracula lotax* as mentioned in the monthly minutes. Photo is courtesy of the J & L Orchids website.



On left: *Masdevallia infracta* , also mentioned in the monthly minutes as one of the warm-growing types. This photo courtesy of Orchidphotos.org.

Below: Here is the little orchid that Cordelia called a “fuzzy toilet seat” during her talk: *Pl. amparoana*. This photo courtesy of Orchidphotos.org



Show Table

Plant Name (Parentage)	Owner	Culture
Angraecum sesquipedale	C. Mizak	i,g
Angraecum sesquipedale	R. Heigel	w,g
Ascocenda Jeannette Brandon 'Crown Fox Sunshine' (Fuchs Gold x Udomchai)	R. Heigel	i,g
Brassidium Fangtastic Bob Henley syn. Odontobrassia (Br. Rex x Brsdm. Kenneth Bivin)	J. Hampton	i-W,g
Cattleya (Circle of Life x Culminant)	R. Heigel	i,g
Cattleya Circle of Life 'Mesmerize' (coccinea x Culminant 'La Tulerie')	T. Zamojski	c-i. w
Cymbidium Nicole's Valentine 'Modoc' (Flame Hawk x Ruby Eyes)	J. Hampton	i,g
Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascades' (pumilum x Sleeping Beauty)	J. Hampton	i,g
Dendrochilum tenellum	S. SmithDelisle	i,w
Dendrochilum uncatum	S. SmithDelisle	i,l
Epidendrum porpax	C. Mizak	i,g
Gongora galeata	R. Heigel	i,g
Laelia anceps	T. Zamojski	i,w
Miltonia flavescens	J. Hampton	i,g
Oncidostele Red Pacific 'Deep Shadows' HCC/AOS (Ons. Wildcat x Onc. Lisa Devos) Syn. Wilsonara or Odontocidium	J. Hampton	i,g
Osmoglossum pulchellum	T. Zamojski	c-i,w
Otorhynchocidium Cherry Fudge (Oca. Summit x Onc. Leucochilum)	R. Heigel	i,g



Paphiopedilum (Sheba x fairrieanum)	Fairy Princess 'Rosebud'	C. Mizak	i,g
Plectrelminthus caudatus		J. Hampton	i,g
Pleurothallis ascera		C. Mizak	i,g
Pleurothallis (teaguei x gargantuan)	Bev Debrincant	C. Mizak	il,g
Pleurothallis	fastidiosa or schweinfurthii	C.Mizak	i,g
Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc. Fortune x C. Horace)	Goldenzell 'Lemon Chiffon'	R. Heigel	i,g
Rhynchostylis	gigantea	R. Heigel	i,g
Trichopilia marginata		R. Heigel	c,g
Vanda (mellata x denisoniana)	Bronze Butterfly	R. Heigel	i,g
Vanda Robert's Delight 'Pink Glow' (Kasem's Delight x Madame Rattana)		R. Heigel	i,g

Culture is as noted:

c – cool
w – warm
ws – windowsill

i – intermediate
g – greenhouse
l – lights



ShowTable beauties ~
Above: *Laelia anceps* Brought to the Show Table by Ted Zamojski
On right: *Pleurothallis* Bev Debrincant brought to the Show Table by Cheryl Mizak

Under the Lights



Meet Ryan, who is arguably our newest member in more ways than one. Ryan's mom Stephanie Davis enjoyed the J & L Orchids talk very much. Ryan doesn't look quite as thrilled.



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

“ The sun's first rays
strike the chilly bloom
awakening it to exuberance.”

By Helmut Rohrl, PhD.
(reprinted from the AOS
Magazine Orchids , Sept. 2007)

News, Notes & Happenings



COS Display CAIOS, Jan. 28 & 29, 2012

Roger Heigel (in photo on right) and Cheryl Mizak drove up to Hyannis for set up on Thursday. Jenny Lane manned our booth over the wknd. and Mary Rampone drove up on Sunday to help with take down. Our display garnered a lot of attention, especially the large ceramic fish container. Our plants won one 1st place, two 2nd place and one 3rd place ribbons. (Winners and plants to be announced next month.)



Last chance to renew your dues 🐞 If you haven't sent in your dues, please take a moment to do it now. March 1st is the cut-off date. You don't want to miss out on any newsletters and meeting announcements. There is a tear-off membership form at the back of the newsletter for your convenience.

Letters



from Hilo


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

Dear COS Friends,

When I joined the Hilo Orchid Society a little over a year ago, I let the people who were running it know that I was willing to volunteer, having been active in the Connecticut Orchid Society (including having been President), and that I was willing to help out with the newsletter, having done that in Connecticut also.

You can guess what happened. I'm now co-editor of their newsletter. The man who was doing the newsletter formatting likes doing it, and has specialized formatting software, so he's still doing it. But he's really into photographing orchids and isn't especially interested in learning or knowing about them, so he willingly agreed for me to be the content editor while he's the format editor.

Then, when their nominating committee was short of volunteers (sound familiar?) they tapped me to become President-Elect and I accepted. They recently revised their bylaws to add the office of President-Elect in addition to Vice-President. So in Hilo, the Vice-President doesn't succeed to the office of President as usually happens in Connecticut. Rather, the President-Elect does. They also changed the bylaws to make most of the offices two-year terms. So the current President will serve for two years, and after that I'll be President for two years (unless I'm challenged for the job, which is unlikely). Meanwhile, I get two years to get to know the people and learn the ropes of how they do things here. Other than being on the Board, the President-Elect has no official duties. So I told them the position was ideal for me, because I was willing to serve but I needed some time to get familiar with things. Of course I'll be helping out with other activities such as the annual show as well.

Most volunteer organizations are run by a small group of people while the vast majority of members just come to meetings (if they even do that) and never open their mouths. Now, I'm not unrealistic enough to think that everyone could be magically persuaded to volunteer. It's just not human nature, and people are busy with other things. But I am here to tell you that there are benefits to volunteering. You don't have to volunteer to be President. Just helping out with something like 

an orchid show, you get a feeling of satisfaction knowing that you helped make it a success. And, spending time together, you're bound to get to know your fellow volunteers better, and -- guess what? -- they turn out to be nice people, and may even become good friends.

Recently, Judy Arth and her husband took a cruise to Hawaii, and their first port of call was Hilo. Judy let me know that they were coming, and I met them and acted as their tour guide for the day, taking them to see the volcano and some other local attractions. I love showing people around this beautiful place. It was great to see Judy again and I'm sure they had a good time. But it wouldn't have happened if I hadn't gotten to know Judy because we were both COS volunteers.

~ Larry Kuekes



Life member Larry Kuekes shows off his new outdoor growing area in Hilo, HI. Judging by the photo, I think Larry is adjusting to retired life reasonably well! The photo was taken by COS member Judy Arth while visiting Larry on the big island. They all enjoyed a pleasant visit catching up on old times.

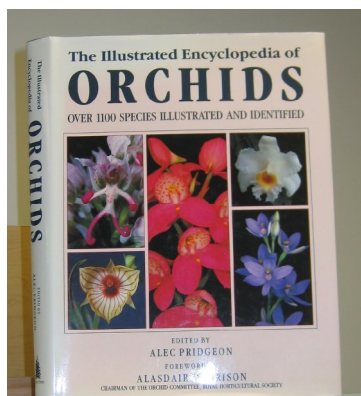
Speaking of Hawaii, Webmaster Deidra Crewe submitted this photo of her Laelio-cattleya Mini-Purple 'Blue Hawaii'.



Library

News from the Catts hiding in the stacks

New donations!



Judy Becker has generously donated a new book to our library and has also donated a box of past issues of the AOS Awards Quarterly, the AOS magazine Orchids and some past issues of Orchid Digest.

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids edited by Alec Pridgeon is an excellent addition to our library. It contains information about, and many, many photos of, over 1100 species of orchids. Each orchid described includes a short paragraph with pertinent information about the species and some general culture information. The encyclopedia is set up alphabetically and the photography is exquisite. Some photos even show the orchid's pollinator at work.

Books may be borrowed for 30 days by any member in good standing. There are also many years of the AOS magazine Orchids available as well as numerous books and guides to help you grow your orchids better and answer all your questions. Please visit the library table at the monthly meetings or contact Sharon SmithDelisle via e-mail to make arrangements to borrow material — coseditor@hotmail.com

BK. Goldenzell 'Lemon chiffon'

**Brought to the Show Table
by Roger Heigel**






February: Longing and Passion

By Thomas Miranda

It's only natural that in bleak midwinter the hearts of men and women should long for the vivid exuberance and metaphorical rebirth that arrives with spring, a longing so profound that many feel it viscerally. You can almost sense the impending changes soon to come, the tulip bulbs rooting under the snow, wintering finches gathered about the birdfeeder, a furry groundhog stirring in anticipation of its upcoming holiday.

By the middle of February, we have the pleasant distraction of Valentine's Day to temper the bitter cold outside. Consider yourself lucky if you have a dear companion to snuggle with on those cold February nights. Such love is elusive for many of us and should be cherished. But love comes in many forms aside from the physical — the innocent love of children, the unconditional love of family, the spiritual love that comes from faith, the intellectual and emotional love of art, music and literature and the awe inspiring love of nature. I think most of us can agree that we orchid growers are among the most passionate people on earth. Something about our hobby creates in us an ardor so ferocious, so authentic, that we know almost immediately we are on the right path. Congratulations to all of you for finding true love, whether it be in the form of a lover or a lepanthes.

Winter Flower Fever If flowers embody the passion of plants, then there is a hotbed of exhibitionism going on in our greenhouses this month. Many of the showiest and most popular orchids are now in bloom. Hence, winter orchid shows. Cymbidiums and phalaenopsis are showing off shamelessly. [Orchids have evolved to look and smell the way they do to attract specific pollinators, but we forget that for all those hybrid orchids in our collections, we are their pollinators.](#) Therefore, it is how they look to us that is most important.

Grooming During orchid show season, presentation is of utmost importance. It may seem unfair, but even orchids with exceptionally beautiful and awardable flowers are often ignored or passed over by the judges at shows because of an untrimmed or yellow leaf, poor presentation or even bad placement in an exhibit. [Make sure your plants look their best when exhibited; wash and gently polish leaves to a natural sheen, remove ragged or damaged foliage, stake inflorescences so that the flowers are well presented](#) and place orchids in exhibits so that the flowers are clearly visible. Flowers that face upward, such as those of cym- 

bidiums and epidendrums, can be set low in the exhibit, while pendent or droopy flowers, such as those of cynoches or coelogynes, are best placed higher up where the blooms aren't hidden by the plant's leaves, and viewers can look into their interiors unobstructed.

Watering It's still winter, and the days remain bleak and short. Many plants are still in dormancy and shouldn't be watered for at least one or two more months. But if one looks carefully, there is some action going on. It is ill advised to repot plants that are completely dormant or in full bloom, but certain Cattleyas and Oncidium alliance intergenerics are sending out new roots with the subtle lengthening of days following winter solstice. Careful observation of these plants will allow you to do some early repotting. It's always wise to repot plants before the roots become too long and brittle. Take this opportunity to repot a few plants before the busy season in April and May. It'll be that much less to do when collection demands become excessive.

Pests and Pathogens With all the flowers in the greenhouse, it's easy to overlook potential problems. Carefully examine blooming plants for insects. While there tend not to be big infestations now, it is the rare orchidist who can claim to have a pest-free collection. Small colonies of mealybugs often go unnoticed on the reverse side of phalaenopsis flowers or in the sheaths of developing paphiopedilums. If allowed, these populations will explode later in the spring and will be harder to eradicate. Look carefully on developing spikes of oncidiums, masdevallias and even cymbidiums for aphids that often start to appear this month. Aside from sucking the vigor from these spikes, aphids are potential vectors for virus and shouldn't be tolerated, certainly not allowed to spread from plant to plant. Luckily, since they are soft bodied, they are fairly easy to control with pesticidal oils and soaps as well as most mild pesticides, including pyrethrins. But the first step to control is observation. It's imperative that you scout for insect pests regularly.



Thomas Mirenda

(Thomas Mirenda is the orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution. Tom invites you to contact him via his e-mail: MirendaT@si.edu. This article was reprinted from The American Orchid Society's February 2008 edition of *Orchids*, pg. 100, *Orchid Checklist*. Photo taken from same edition of *Orchids*, photographer unknown.)



Out Reach Programs

Orchid Growing Made Simple Classes will be conducted by COS Director Roger Heigel at the Cheshire School starting Monday, Feb 27th @ 7:00 pm. The course is four weeks long and there is a \$30.00 fee plus \$20.00 material fee. Register at www.cheshire.k12.ct.us or call (203) 250- 2450 for more information.



Above, on left: *Brassidium Fangtastis* Bob Henley brought to Show Table by John Hampton.

Above, on right: The famous Darwin Orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale*. Two examples of this interesting orchid were brought to the Show Table this month. Cheryl Mizak and Roger heigel both brought this plant. It is famous because Darwin theorized that its pollinator had to be a moth with a very long proboscis. Some years after his death he was proved correct.

Below: Several beautiful *Cymbidiums* were brought to the Show Table by John Hampton.



**Now Showing on the
COS Epiphyte Tree...**



The COS Epiphyte Tree's success this month is blooming *Bulbophyllum* "Jersey". The plant has been growing on the tree since early spring of 2011. The cutting was donated by Cheryl Mizak and it quickly attached to the tree surface. We had a lot of rain this past summer and although the plant tried to bloom on several occasions, the weather rotted the spike before the flower could open. Once cooler weather arrived, the tree was moved indoors, and finally the flower was able to open and display this magnificent bloom.

"The fact that humans find orchids so attractive is no accident. Mankind has taken the orchid family down pathways of evolution that never would have happened in nature. The question is, are we manipulating them or are they manipulating us? "

~ Tom Mirenda

Orchid collection specialist
for Smithsonian Gardens

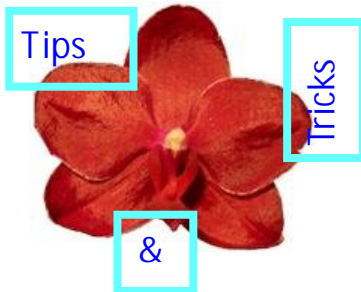
(Reprinted from Smithsonian Magazine, Feb. 2012)

Quote of the Month



Bollea violacea

(Artist: Angela Mirro, 2003. Watercolor on paper. 11 x 14 inches (27.5 x 35 cm). Plant courtesy of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Grower: Dave Horak. Courtesy of The Brooklyn Botanic Garden Florilegium Society. Reprinted from the AOS magazine *Orchids*, Feb. 2008, pg. 123)



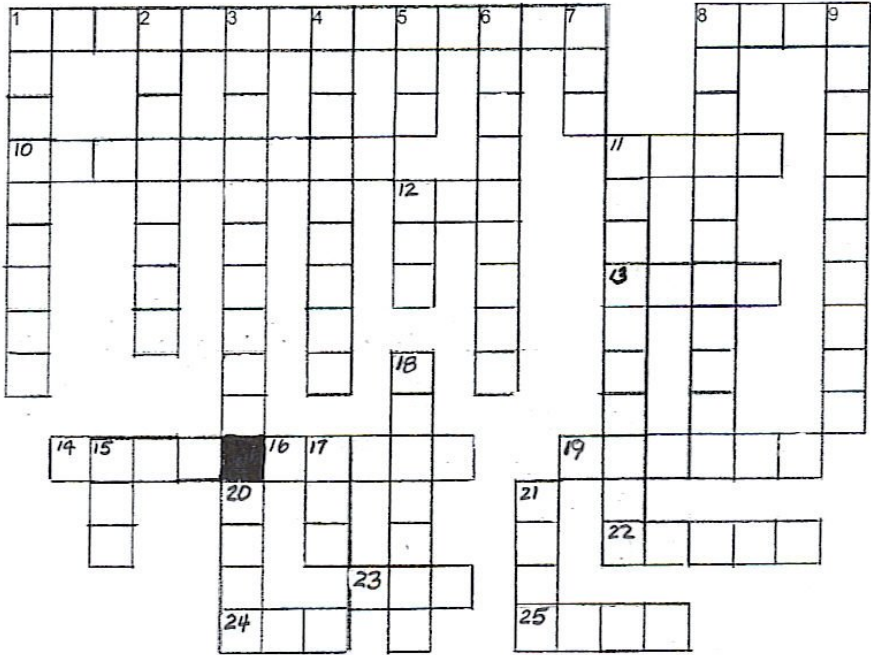
Got gnats? Boy, have I got gnats this year! The gnats do not harm our orchids. They are looking to feed on fungus which is often found on plant roots and also in decomposing bark medium. If you've got gnats flying around it probably means there are some plants that need repotting. Sometimes the plant may have recently been repotted but the medium used was already beginning to decompose. Anyway, here is a neat trick that really works quite well. [Sprinkle cinnamon on the bark medium](#). This will kill the fungus and starve the gnats. (Editor's note: Ken Slump says that Dot Henley, editor for the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society provided this home remedy. [Tips, Facts and Home Remedies](#), Ken Slump, AOS magazine "Orchids", pg. 659, Sept. 2007)

Neosporin to the rescue 🦋 When you've got health problems with your orchids, don't run for the pesticides and carcinogenic chemicals—rummage through your medicine cabinet first. Good, old ,over-the-counter [Neosporin ointment can be used to treat crown rot](#). First cut out and clean up the infected area, then use a Q-tip to rub on a small amount of Neosporin over the exposed area. You may need to reapply the ointment repeatedly until you see signs of recovery. ([Tips, Facts and Home Remedies](#), Ken Slump, AOS magazine "Orchids", pg. 659, Sept. 2007)

Growing under lights? According to Fred Bergman in his article about growing under lights ([Artificial Lighting Systems](#), AOS Orchids, pg. 102-105, Feb. 2008) the "optimum artificial orchid growing light is ganged fluorescent lights." he says the secret is to "[gang two- lamp strip lights without reflectors into units containing a minimum of four or more strips.](#)" This will give you the most light output for the money. Fred has investigated all of the various lighting systems out there and he believes fluorescent light tubes give the most bang for the buck.

Use min-max thermometers to locate microclimates 🦋 Thomas Miranda suggests using min-max thermometers to discover microclimates in your growing area. Put min-max thermometers in various spots in your growing area and monitor the temperatures. This will tell you how that area is affected by sunlight and airflow. He says you may be surprised to find out how much the temperature, light and air flow varies from spot to spot. This may be a great way to discover a prime microclimate for special orchids just by doing a little sleuthing with a thermometer! (AOS magazine "Orchids", July 2011, pg.)

February Crossword Puzzle Challenge



Across

1. without pseudobulbs
8. woody, jointed stem
10. lateral growth
11. not warm growing
12. anther _____
13. copy
14. tip of an organ
16. equipped for protection
19. mass of microspores in a seed plant.
22. fragrance
23. moist
24. bristle-like part or appendage.
25. uncommon

Down

1. without a beak
2. plant that grows on another plant
3. very large genus of tropical Asian epiphytes.
4. arranged in two rows
5. projecting edge
6. progeny
7. natural light source
8. orchid's green color
9. short-lived
11. preferring lime
12. Connecticut Orchid Society
15. seed container
17. primary vein in a leaf
20. white form or phase
21. coconut husk fiber

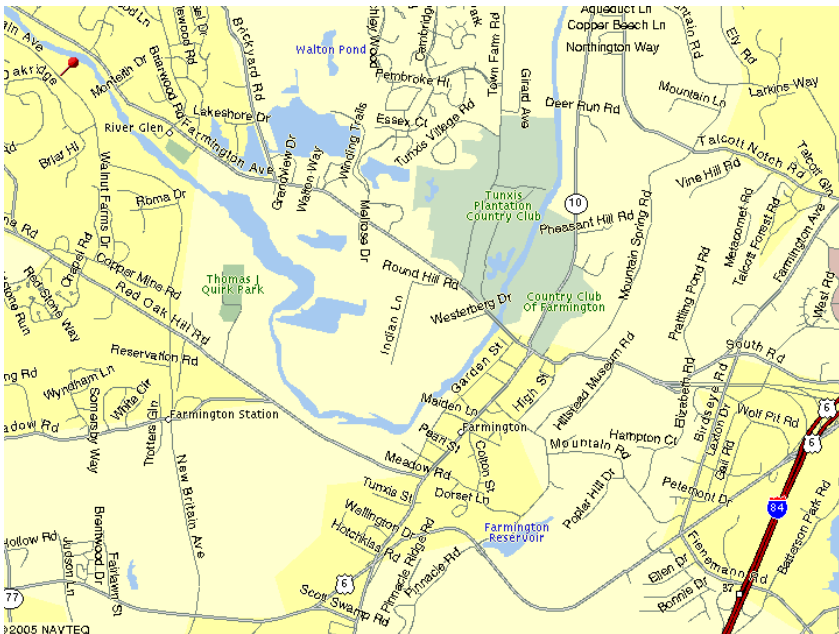
All clues and answers are orchid related. Solution will be published in next month's newsletter. **Good luck!**

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 newslter. E-mail delivery is free of charge, please provide your e-mail address above.*

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

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

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

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

First
Class
Stamp
Here

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

