



**Connecticut
Orchid
Society
Newsletter**

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

March 2011

52 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Time: 6:30 P.M. "Orchid Health Department" help session starts.
7:00 P.M. Socializing begins. Show & Sale Tables open.
7:30 P.M. Business meeting begins followed by the evening's featured event.

Place: Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT
(See pg. 25 for map & directions.)

Program: "*Mini-Catts*"
Presented by Howard Ginsberg
Owner of Bedford Orchids, Montreal, Canada

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

Contact us

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Editor Sharon SmithDelisle editor@ctorchids.org

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

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

**Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at (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.



Inside this Issue --- Mar. 2011 Volume LI I Issue III

REGULAR FEATURES

Next Meeting/Contact Us.....	1
COS Membership Information	1
COS Officers and Posts — 2011.....	3
Mentor List.....	3
Calendar of Coming Events	4
AOS Corner.....	5
Editor’s Announcements & Reminders.....	6
This Month’s Featured Event	7
President’s Message.....	8
Monthly Meeting Minutes	9 – 10
Show Table & Photographs.....	10
News, Notes & Happenings.....	11
Out Reach Programs.....	12
Website News ~ Greetings from Cyberspace.....	13
Conservation & Appreciation— <i>Western Australia’s Incredible Underground Orchid</i>	14
Market Place.....	21
Orchid Show Announcements.....	22— 24
Map and/or Directions	25
Membership Application.....	26

SPECIAL FEATURES

Tips & Tricks.....	15
Beginner’s Corner: “Fertilizer”, By Larry Kuekes.....	16—17
Question & Answer Box.....	17
March Checklist, By Robert M. Scully.....	18—19
Trivia .Fun.....	20

Connecticut Orchid Society Officers and Posts -- 2011

PRESIDENT	<i>Rick Brown</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
TREASURER	<i>Judy Arth</i>
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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



- 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.
- Mar. 9** **Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** Howard Ginsberg of Bedford Orchids, Montreal, Canada will give a presentation about mini-cattleyas, 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. Also, see flyer in this issue, pg. 23.
- 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.
- April 13** **Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** Rescheduled from January, *Mount Your Own Orchids Workshop*. The workshop will be presented by Ann & Phil Jesup along with several other knowledgeable COS members. There is a \$20 supplies fee which includes a choice of orchids suitable for mounting (or you may bring your own), cork or mesquite mount, moss, fishing line or hot glue, hanging hook and a care guide. Please RSVP Cheryl Mizak at (0230) 264-6096 if you plan to participate in this workshop. Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at the Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville.
- May 11** **Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** The Orchid Gallery from Pittsboro & Chapel Hill, NC will be giving a presentation., 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire.
- June 8** **Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids, California will give a presentation, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville.
- June 10 - 12** **Silva Orchids Shore Orchid Festival**, 10:00 am—5:00 pm, Held at Silva Orchids, 635 Wayside Rd., Neptune, NJ. Visit www.silvaorchids.com for more details. Also, see flyer on pg. 24 of this newsletter.
- July 8** **Southbury Garden Club:** *Basic Orchid Growing* class will be presented by a COS member at the Southbury Library, 100 Poverty Rd, Southbury at 12:30 pm.
- 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. \$5.00/ea. admission

Spring Forward! We are always reminded of this catch phrase as we approach the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. You might also use it as a reminder to spring forward — i.e. stepping up during National Volunteer Month (April).

The rewards of volunteerism are abundant but perhaps the biggest payoff is the satisfaction of knowing you have contributed your time, talent and energy to a good cause. In addition, it provides social activity where you are with other like-minded people sharing a common bond or passion. Certainly the orchid world is filled with volunteer opportunities at your local society level or within the regional and national organizations to which you belong. You might consider taking refreshments to your society meeting, exhibiting your blooming plants or greeting visitors at a local orchid show or helping repot orchids at a nearby botanical garden. All regional and national orchid organizations need volunteers to serve on committees or to assist in planning meetings or speaker days. The American Orchid Society depends on national volunteers to serve on the many committees that make the organization function and prosper. Our entire judging system is made up of dedicated volunteers who spend years preparing for and later conducting the business of the many judging centers around the country in such a professional manner. Please consider being a volunteer.

Spring Time is primetime for orchid shows!

Check the AOS site (www.aos.org) for an updated listing of orchid shows and events. Get involved if your society is hosting a show...you will enjoy the backstage peek at what it takes to produce these events. If you can't volunteer your time at a show, you can support local shows by attending to listen and learn from the speakers and workshops plus shopping to support the show's vendors.

Spring AOS members Meeting *Orchids a' la Louisiane*

April 27—May 1 Shreveport, LA will be hosted by the Shreveport Orchid Society whose volunteers have been working hard to plan a schedule for your enjoyment. For more information and registration, check their website at <http://www.shrevepotorchidsociety.com/aos-show.html>. By attending this special event you will be supporting not only the AOS, but the local society that is sponsoring it. Members meetings provide the perfect opportunity to find out what's new in the orchid world, hearing first-class speakers, purchase plants from select vendors and enjoy meeting your orchid friends in a collegial atmosphere.

~ Lynn Fuller, Chair of 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 Apr. issue of the newsletter is Mar. 25th.

New member welcome — It is with great pleasure that we welcome new member Alden Mead .



Mark your calendar— Bob Fuchs of RF Orchids, Florida fame will be giving a presentation at our picnic on July 10th.

Lost & Found — an orchid! Left behind at our last monthly meeting in Farmington. Did you come home without one of your babies? Please contact Cheryl Mizak to make arrangements for pick up.



Show Table pretties: Both plants were brought by John Hampton
On Left: *Ascocendra* Mem. Thianchai 'Yellow Bird'
On right: *Angraecum didieri*
Both photos by John Hampton

March's Featured Event

Mini-Catts

Presented by Howard Ginsberg

Howard Ginsberg is an accredited American Orchid Society judge in the Montreal Judging Center. He first began growing orchids in 1977 and like most of us, tried growing many genera. He gradually narrowed his focus down to growing and breeding *Phalaenopsis*. However, "Recently, he has had to come out of the closet and admit to his love for mini-catts."

In his 'other life', Howard has a law practice in Montreal, which he says pays for his folly. In 1994, Howard opened his business Bedford Orchids. He buys, breeds and sells orchids grown mostly under lights. His business is wholesale but visitors are always welcome.

Howard says that his mini-catts grow well alongside his phals and are in bloom all year round. The mini-catts do have one major drawback though, while phals seem to stay in bloom forever the mini-catts begin to bloom and then are almost immediately done blooming.

Howard has been a featured speaker at AOS Trustee meetings, spoke at the World Orchid Conference in Dijon in 2005 and has traveled the world speaking in New Zealand and Australia, as well.

Howard will be bringing plants to sell at our meeting. Join us for what will surely be an interesting evening. Come early for the best selection of plants! And bring a friend!

(Editors note: Information above obtained from the Bedford Orchids website: www.bedfordorchids.com)

Masdevallia
(*heathii* x *grandulosa*)

Photographed by & brought to
Show Table by John Hampton.



President's Message



President Rick Brown

March is a welcoming month — knowing winter is winding down, as well as the Club's social calendar.

We had a respectable showing at the Deep Cut Orchid Society Show & Sale in New Jersey, last month. We garnered five blue ribbons and one rosette. Kudos to all participants! It was a great show and our table looked terrific.

Our portable Epiphyte Tree attended the CT. Flower Show in Hartford. We held it together and it looked wonderful. It was a beautiful weekend for the event and very enjoyable for all.

Our next engagement is this month at Van Wilgen's Garden Center in North Branford. (3/11 ~ 3/13). *Escape to Spring* promises to be another stimulating event, which will help us all look forward to a new growing season. Anyone wanting to volunteer to help man our booth at this venue should contact Cheryl Mizak or me.

As signs of spring shed winter's grip and are revealed to us (I saw my resident chipmunk this morning), it is an opportune time to anticipate your orchids' needs for the upcoming spring/summer growth cycle. Having the necessary resources available as need arises will help arrest unwanted advance of pests and illnesses, and keep all healthy. New roots on leads signals the best time to repot/divide. Do you have medium on hand? Proper size containers? Insecticides? Miticides? Check out our supplies sale table at the monthly meetings or visit our website at www.ctorchids.org for a current list of orchid supplies available to members at a very reasonable cost (and no shipping or handling, either). A healthy plant entering its growth cycle will perform like a star. Being observant and fulfilling your plants needs will help your collection bloom like a winner.

~ Rick Brown

February's Meeting Minutes

Carla Koch
Recording Secretary




MINUTES OF THE MEETING, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2011

We welcomed new members, introduced new officers, and are actively seeking volunteers for upcoming shows. Please contact Sam Hinckley for more information on volunteering.

The speaker featured at our Farmington meeting was Bob Aldrich, of the Inn at Weston, VT. While a greenhouse grower himself, he spoke on home orchid growing, and as a former doctor, he has an interest in biology. He began by summarizing the process of plant evolution. Early cells, such as cyanobacteria, began the process of photosynthesis; eventually, this led to sexual reproduction and multicellular organisms in the Cambrian era. Early vascular land plants, like ferns, were succeeded by flowering plants, and eventually orchids, which are still actively evolving. (Some would say, with the active aid of humans!)

Tropical epiphytes, such as orchids, live in treetops above the jungle to gain more light. Their roots are covered with spongy velamen, which absorbs moisture and then dries out quickly. There are two types of growth habits: monopodial, with a single stalk growing upwards, and sympodial, with successive pseudobulbs or growths. Orchids usually have six segments: two petals, the lip (which is a modified petal), and three sepals. In some cases, such as Masdevallias, the segments are fused.

Orchids have both male and female parts. The centrally-located male column has a cap which covers the pollinia (pollen grains), and the cleft below it is the female receptacle for the pollinia. Following pollination, the pod swells with tiny seeds, and may take a year to ripen. Lacking any food storage, the 4 million tiny seeds emerge, with perhaps as few as 4 seedlings maturing in nature. The presence of mycorrhiza fungus enables the seeds to grow. It will take many orchid seedlings four years to grow to blooming size.

Hybrids are much easier to grow than species, because they will be more adapted to varying habitats. Mature plants grow more easily and gratify the impatient by blooming sooner. He mentioned Phalenopsis, Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Paphiopediums, and Oncidium intergenerics as being suitable for indoor culture, with the Oncidiums in particular being most forgiving. 

Growers should reproduce the way the plant grows in nature: the wet-dry cycle of watering and the warm, intermediate, or cool temperature ranges. Orchids prefer cooler nights, true darkness at night, and somewhat filtered sun for most types.

~ Carla Koch

Recording Secretary

February Show Table

<i>Genus</i>	<i>Plant</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Culture</i>
<i>Angraecum</i>	<i>didieri</i>	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l
<i>Ascocendra</i>	Mem. Thianchai ‘Yellow Bird’ (Fuch’s Harvest Moon x Kenny Gold)	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l
<i>Masdevallia</i>	Heathii x <i>glandulosa</i>	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l
<i>Masdevallia</i>	Morning Glory (<i>chaparensis</i> x Marguerite)	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l
<i>Odontocidium</i>	Wildcat ‘Green Valley’ (Rustic Bridge x Crowborough)	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	Cat’s Paw Firebird’ Montclair’ (golden Sun x Lee Koi Choon)	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l
<i>Rhyncholaeliacattleya</i>	Ranae Eugene (<i>Lc. Drumbeat</i> x <i>Rl. Glauca</i>)	S. Hinckley	l, w
<i>Vascostylis</i>	Pine Rivers ‘Redland Sky’ (<i>Ascda. Peggy Foo</i> x <i>Rhy. Coelestis</i>)	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l
<i>Wilsonara</i>	Red Pacific ‘Deep Shadows’ HCC/AOS (<i>Odcdm. Wildcat</i> x <i>Wils. Lin Devos</i>)	J. Hampton	i ~ w, l

Please note that Jeff Richards also brought many beautiful orchids to the Show Table, but unfortunately there was a mix-up with the plant slips. Our apologies to Jeff.

Culture is as noted:

c – cool

w – warm

ws – windowsill

i – intermediate

g – greenhouse

l – lights

News, Notes & Happenings

Announcement!

New Program: Orchid Health Department ~ 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. ***This program is available to all members, not just beginners!***

Refreshment Committee needs donations ~ Don’t forget to contact Judy Becker at (860) 435-2263 if you are able to bring some refreshments to the Hospitality Table this month. Your donation will be appreciated by all!

PLEASE!!



Pres. Rick Brown spent some time getting to know our newest members.

CT. Flower Show Raffle Winner: Congratulations to Barbara Butler, the winner of the raffle orchid. Barbara is from Riverside, CT.

Out Reach Programs

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.



2011 Connecticut Flower Show results



Basic Orchid Growing Class ~ Southbury Library, 100 Poverty Rd., Southbury, CT , July 8, 12:30 pm. A COS member will be conducting the class.

Website news ~ greetings from cyberspace

Getting ready for your annual repotting marathon and need orchid supplies? Check out the website! We now have a link to view the list of orchid supplies available through COS. Just go to www.ctorchids.org and click on the link "Orchid Supplies for sale". The link is located on the home page in the lower left corner. The link takes you to the current list of available supplies and prices. Contact Cheryl Mizak at (203) 264-6096 to make arrangements for pick up. Why not pre-order now and then when you come to the monthly meeting your order will be ready and waiting for you to take home. Don't see something on the list that you need? Let us know and we will obtain it for you. Save on shipping and handling! Stock up now!



~ Deidra Crewe
Webmaster



Speaker Bob Aldrich explains aspects of orchid biology to the audience.



Western Australia's Incredible Underground Orchid



Rhizanthella gardneri is a cute, quirky and critically endangered orchid that lives all of its life underground. (Credit: Image courtesy of University of Western Australia)

Science Daily (Feb. 7, 2011)

Rhizanthella gardneri is a cute, quirky and critically endangered orchid that lives all its life underground. It even blooms underground, making it virtually unique amongst plants.

Last year, using radioactive tracers, scientists at the University of Western Australia showed that the orchid gets all its nutrients by parasitizing fungi associated with the roots of broom bush, a woody shrub of the Western Australia out back.

Now with less than 50 individuals left in the world, scientists have made a timely and remarkable discovery about its genome. Despite the fact that this fully subterranean orchid cannot photosynthesize and has no green parts at all, it still retains chloroplasts ~ the site of photosynthesis in plants.

"We found that compared with normal plants, 70% of the genes in the chloroplast have been lost," said Dr. Etienne Delannoy, of the ARC Centre for Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, the lead researcher of a study published in *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. "With only 37 genes, this makes it the smallest of all known plant chloroplast genomes."

"The chloroplast genome was known to code functions other than photosynthesis, but in normal plants, these functions are hard to study," said ARC Centre Director Professor Ian Small. "In *Rhizanthella*, everything that isn't essential for its parasitic lifestyle has gone. We discovered that it has retained a chloroplast genome to make only four crucial proteins. Our results are relevant to understanding gene loss in other parasites, for example, the *Plasmodium* parasite that causes malaria."

Associate Professor Mark Brundrett from the Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project describes *Rhizanthella* as one of the most beautiful, strange and iconic orchids in the world. "Combining on-the-ground conservation efforts with cutting edge laboratory technologies has led to a great discovery with impacts for both science and conservation. The genome sequence is a very valuable resource, as it makes it possible to estimate the genetic diversity of this Declared Rare Plant."

Professor Brundrett has been working with the Department of Environment and Conservation and volunteers from the West Australian Native Orchid Society and Conservation Group to locate these unique orchids. "We needed all the help we could get since it often took hours of searching under shrubs on hands and knees to find just one underground orchid!"

(The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by University of Western Australia. Retrieved February 9, 2011, from <http://Sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/02/110208101337.htm>)



Tips

Tricks

&



Figure 1

Many orchid growers train their inflorescences for best display of the flowers. What about training the roots? For the vast majority of orchids, attempting to train roots would be a big waste of time. However, there can be situations where a little help to the root is needed.

Fig. 1 shows our large *Angraecum sesquipedale*. It is in a plastic 11" in diameter pot, and

9" tall, and it is always trying to grow out of it! I think the next time I repot it I'm going to have to use a trash can. The problem is, new roots begin higher on the plant, and rather than growing downward into the mix, they want to grow outward until they pass the edge of the pot. A little coaxing here can help!

We first construct a small 'guard-rail' out of 2 stakes slotted at the top and a rectangular piece of thin aluminum sheet (available at your local hardware store). This will be used to direct the root horizontally. We need also to direct the root downward. This is accomplished using a short bloom stake inserted into the mix and producing light downward pressure on the root (Fig. 2).



Figure 2



Figure 3

Once the root tip is close to the mix, insert the 'guard-rail' to direct the root horizontally. You will need to check the progress of your training at least once a week and will have to move your training utensils fairly often. Once the new root begins to burrow into the mix, your training toys can be removed.

Fig. 3 shows the final product (sans training tools!)

~ By Dave Tribble

Contributing Editor, Illinois Orchid Society

(Reprinted with permission of the Illinois Orchid Society as part of their newsletter sharing program. This article is from the regularly featured column "Tricks of the Trade")

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

Fertilizer

By Larry Kuekes

Fertilizer is not plant food. Plants make their own food by photosynthesis, which is why they will survive for long periods without any fertilizer at all. Fertilizer is more like vitamins – essential in the long run, but in small doses. Most plants get what they need from the soil. Orchids can get enough from decomposing bark to stay alive, but for them to flourish, you should provide a little extra.

Don't get obsessed with fertilizing. You can't make a weak plant bloom by fertilizing, any more than you can cure a starving person with vitamin pills. Fix the primary conditions (light, temperature) and just provide a little fertilizer as an aid to growth.

Also, don't get hung up on what N-P-K ratio to use (30-10-10, 18-18-18, etc.). The difference between "high nitrogen" 30-10-10, "balanced" 18-18-18, and "blossom booster" 10-30-20 is far less than the difference you make by diluting the stuff and by your frequency of applying it. The directions that come with Peters fertilizers, for example, recommend a confusing range of dilutions ranging from 1/4 teaspoon to 1 tablespoon per gallon. Note that "low nitrogen" 10-30-20 at 1 tablespoon per gallon actually provides 4 times as much nitrogen as "high nitrogen" 30-10-10 at 1/4 teaspoon per gallon.

In theory, orchids grown in bark need a high-nitrogen fertilizer like 30-10-10 because the micro-organisms breaking down the bark use up the nitrogen, while orchids grown in tree fern or on slabs need a "balanced" ratio like 18-18-18. Then, prior to blooming, a "blossom booster" ratio of 10-30-20 is supposed to encourage spikes and buds. The theory doesn't explain why the bark micro-organisms obligingly stop using up nitrogen during "blossom booster" season.

Most of my orchids are in bark, a few are in tree fern or mounted, and the blooming seasons of my plants varies widely. This would seem to dictate mixing up three different ratios every time I fertilize, to be doled out to the appropriate few plants. In practice this is far too much work. I just mix up one ratio and use it on



all my plants. Out of superstition, I usually alternate 30-10-10 and 18-18-18 or 20-20-20 (whatever I have on hand) in the summer and use "blossom booster" in the winter, but the ratio really doesn't seem to make much difference. If the plants get enough light, they bloom; otherwise they don't. Food is more important than vitamins.

Remember that indoors your orchids get less light and water than in a greenhouse, which means the plants are making less food, so you should fertilize with a low dose and/or less often. I use a quarter teaspoon in a half-gallon of water (an empty 2-liter soft drink bottle makes a handy half-gallon size container; just don't let someone drink the results by mistake!) Fertilize no more than once every other watering, to avoid salt buildup (this means once every two weeks, indoors.) If you're lazy like me, you get around to fertilizing more like once a month. You can fertilize more often in the summer when your plants are outdoors and you're watering every day.

Some books recommend using fish emulsion. Have you ever smelled fish emulsion? Take my advice and use one of the powdered orchid fertilizers like Peters. Or a tip I got from Al Thomas: use Miracid. It's 30-10-10, it's just as good as any special orchid fertilizer, the orchids like the acidity, and it's available everywhere.

(This article first appeared in the Oct. 1989 COS newsletter)

Q & A

Q. What would cause the petals and sepals on one of my phalaenopsis to stick together and not open fully?

A. Assuming that this is a plant that has flowered normally before, there are several possible causes. Atmospheric dryness can prevent normal opening, and this is certainly a possibility in your area during cold winter months. It can be a passing anomalous blooming, or it can be genetic. It could also be that the plant is exuding sap and the sticky material is causing the flower parts to stick.

(This question and answer is reprinted from the American Orchid Society website www.aos.org. It was accessed on Feb. 11, 2011. Many thanks to Mildred Dzikas, who submitted the question and Ned Nash, who supplied the answer.)





Gordon W. Dillion

Checklistmarch

By Robert M. Scully

With signs of spring all around, there is a certain excitement in the orchid grower's domain. In addition to the abundance of emerging flower spikes and buds, anticipation provides encouragement for those who must endure the last remnants of winter.

When the flowers begin to show their colorful faces, we know that growth will follow soon. So now is the time to plan your annual repotting program. It may still be early enough in the year that potting materials can be obtained at winter sale prices...usually a significant savings; check with your supplier. Also give some serious thought to space in the growing area; if you divide larger plants, or move specimens into roomier containers, more space will be needed. Perhaps you could donate some of your least-favorite plants to a local orchid society for the raffle table, even while there are still some flowers on them; no doubt, someone will enjoy having these extra plants. Or consider getting someone in particular started in orchid loving; now is the time! Be realistic: you cannot keep all of your plants, and there are so many new hybrids and even species coming along that you certainly do not need to be restricted by space. Plan carefully and make room.

Cattleya Several species flowering now are *Cattleya amethystoglossa*, with its large heads of beautiful crimson and white (or near-white) blooms; *Cattleya aurantiaca* that delights with its clusters of small yellow-to-orange star-like blooms that have inspired many beginning orchidists. Or perhaps you may see the natural hybrid of *aurantiaca* and *skinneri*: *Cattleya guatemalensis*. There are many color forms available, from white to various shades of yellow, orange and even the coral or salmon tones. All of these are fragrant. *Cattleya skinneri* is considered to be an endangered species in its native habitat (Mexico to Costa Rica), so most of the clones available today are propagations from older imported plants or specimens grown from seed made by using selected clones as parents.

Soon, sheaths will emerge on *Cattleya mossiae* hybrids. Monitor their development so that moisture does not accumulate in the sheath, causing bud blast.

Phalaenopsis Still a feature in the greenhouse and on the windowsill, the hybrid moth orchids seem to last in perfection for months. But each month for the next several, you may notice certain species beginning to bloom. In March, *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* (pink) and *Phalaenopsis stuartiana* (spotted) are likely to



be most prominent. Both are fundamental to many of our modern hybrids, but each has its own special charm.

Of course, part of the appeal is that both have typically large, branched inflorescences and literally dozens of blooms. Grown in New Zealand sphagnum moss, these species increase rapidly in a single season. Make sure that the moss does not deteriorate before the flowering season, because a healthy root system is particularly important for the many flowers each of these two species carries. Poor roots and lots of blooms may cause plants to become severely dehydrated, even to the point that you could have difficulty reviving them.

Dendrobium Fragrance is plentiful in the air in March. *Dendrobium anosmum* dominates with its sweetness. *Dendrobium nobile* hybrids cause excitement and sometimes confusion because the huge, pansy-like blooms with their well-defined color markings seem almost foreign to an orchid collection. Do not neglect watering because dryness can cause bud drop in all of your *Dendrobium* species and hybrids. And for those fortunate enough to have *Dendrobium discolor* var. *broomfieldii*, this is a spectacular flowering month, too.

Botanicals Growth may be very active now in some pleurothallid species. Maintain a regular fertilizer program, perhaps once every two weeks with a quarter- or half- strength solution. Watch for the emerging leaves so that each will ultimately display itself in full glory.

Cyrtopodium punctatum, the cow-horn orchid, should be in bloom; its yellow flowers are spotted with mahogany brown and look most curious among the leafless, horn-like pseudobulbs.

The last of the *Cycnoches chlorochilon* may be blooming this month; you do not need to see the flowers to be sure since the early morning greenhouse air will be permeated with the distinctive sweet fragrance of the gorgeous chartreuse flowers.

If you have *Oncidium papilio*, it may be pushing out the first in a series of many buds, and subsequently flowers, that will appear through the spring and early summer. Remember that *Onc. papilio*, the butterfly orchid, is a perpetual bloomer; do not sever the inflorescence because it will continue to produce flowers year after year from the same inflorescence. Even though *Onc. papilio* has rather hard leaves, suggesting that it will tolerate a lot of light (like *Cattleyas*), experience shows that it will grow well and flower even better in bright *Phalaenopsis*-like conditions.

(Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Bulletin, March 1992, pg. 268-9)



Trivia Fun

Looking for Spring Wordfind

by WordFind for Crossword Maker 98

ACCLIMATION	BARBEQUE	BASEBALL	BIRCHMATT	CATTLEYAK	COIR	CREST
DWIGHTSWING	EASTER	EQUINE	FLANNEL	CR. TERPES	CRANE	CRANMAY
FLORIPYRE	HELYEUS	HERSTEM	MOSQUITOES	MCOUNT	MULTIFLORAL	NOLE
GALEHUSKIAN	FLORINDLE	LAURET	PEDRIA	PROBENY	RAINWATER	ROBINS
SEMITERRESTRIAL	SNOWCROPS	STOLONFEROUS	SUBCUTANT	SUNSHINE	SWIMMING	VELVET

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

Find the words: They may be found across, down, backwards and forwards, or diagonally. Good luck!

Answer key will appear in next month's newsletter.



Unknown *Paphiopedilum* brought to Show Table by Jeff Richards

Marketplace

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



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!

**If you are interested in plants from
Madagascar**

Malala Orchids and Botanica Ltd.

**Check out the following: Visit www.botanicaltd.com
For more info and price list: Contact Brenda at
billn@bresnsn.net.**

**Species plants of Angraecum, Aserangis, Aseranthes,
Jumellea and more. You must pre-order for 2011 from
Botanica Ltd by March 18th. Plants will be shipped from
Malala Orchids, Madagascar.**

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



Announcing the second annual
**SHORE ORCHID
FESTIVAL**

Friday, June 10 - Sunday, June 12, 2011 • 10:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Held at Silva Orchids

Guests:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Andy's Orchids | Oakhill Gardens |
| Brennan Orchids | Orchid Philie |
| Cal-Orchid | Orchids Limited |
| Canalma Orchids | Parkside Orchids |
| Celebrate Orchids | Piping Rock |
| Creative Hydroponics | Silva Orchids |
| Fishing Creek Orchids | Stony Brook Orchids |
| J & L Orchids | Suwada Orchid Nursery |
| Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies | Waldor Orchids |
| Little Brook Orchids | Woodstream Orchids |
| Main Street Orchids | |



Food Vendors On Site

Free orchid workshops on Saturday & Sunday for beginners & experienced growers
Great food on site • Free admission • Free parking • Rain or shine • All activities tented

635 Wayside Road • Neptune, NJ • 732-922-2635 • Easy access from major highways
Visit our web site for more information www.silvaorchids.com

Come for a day or enjoy a "Jersey Shore Weekend"

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

From New Haven:

Take I-91 North to Exit 10/Route 40

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

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

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

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

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

From Waterbury:

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

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

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

At the traffic light turn left onto Maple Avenue.

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

From Hartford via I-91:

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

From Route 691 take Exit 3.

Turn left at the traffic light onto Route 10 South.

Proceed through 7 traffic lights.

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

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

From Hartford via I-84:

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

From Route 691 take exit 3.

Turn right at the traffic light onto Route 10 South.

Proceed through six traffic lights.

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

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

Connecticut Orchid Society Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. # _____ E-mail: _____

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

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

Single Lifetime Membership \$200

Family Lifetime Membership \$250

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

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

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

-----Fold Here -----

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

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

First
Class
Stamp
Here

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

