



**C**onnecticut  
**O**rchid  
**S**ociety

# Newsletter

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society*

**March 2013**

*54 Years & Growing*

## Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Mar.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: Cheshire Senior Center  
240 Maple Ave.  
Cheshire, CT

Many thanks to  
all who attended!

Program: [Repotting Workshop](#) sponsored by COS  
(rescheduled from last month)

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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Fax (203) 885-0447

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 -- 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     [dtog54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtog54@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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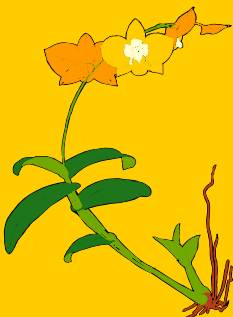
### Content Acknowledgement

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

## Upcoming Events



- April 6 The Fabulous World of Orchids — Basic Orchid Growing & Potting Demonstration , White Flower Farm, 167 Litchfield rd., Rt. 63, Litchfield, CT 10:00 am. Cheryl Mizak will lead the talk.
- April 6—7 Connecticut Cactus & Succulent Society 30th Annual Show & Sale, Naugatuck Valley Community College, 750 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury, CT. COS will have an orchid information table at this event. Please contact Cheryl Mizak at 203-264-6096 if you can help out at this event.
- April 6 & 7, 13 & 14 Hollandia Nurseries 2013 Spring Garden Expo & Landscape 360, 103 Old Hawleyville Rd., Bethel, CT . Sharon SmithDelisle and Cheryl Mizak will give talks about orchid growing on both wknds.
- April 10 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Silva Orchids will give a presentation, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT, 7:30 pm.
- April 20 Treeland Garden Center & Nursery, Orchid Potting Workshop, 1000 Huntington Tpke., Bridgeport , CT Contact Donna Quill at 203-610-7352 if you would like to help out at this event.
- April 27 19th Annual Woodbury Earth Day, Hollow Park, corner of Hollow Rd. and Sycamore Ave., Woodbury, CT. COS will have an information booth at this event. Please contact Mary Rampone or Cheryl Mizak at 203-264-6096 if you can help out at this event.
- May 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, TBA, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT, 7:30 pm.
- June 23—24 Rose Weekend presented by Elizabeth park, 1561 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT . COS will have an information booth at this event. Please contact Cheryl Mizak at 203-264-6096 if you can help out at this event.



### 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



What's going on at AOS Headquarters?

If you have had an occasion to speak with anyone at AOS Headquarters, you may find some new additions (or changes of duties) for the staff. With the addition of Gladys Garcia-Greenberg last summer, a realignment of some of the duties over the past few months has occurred. As a way of introduction, the current staffing at AOS is:

Ron McHatton, Chief Operating Officer ([rmchatton@aos.org](mailto:rmchatton@aos.org))

Gladys Garcia-Greenberg, Director of Administration and Finance ([ggg@aos.org](mailto:ggg@aos.org))

Naya Marcano, Membership Associate ([naya@aos.org](mailto:naya@aos.org)) (responsible for Judging/Affiliated Society/Shows/Awards)

Maria San Juan, Membership Assistant ([maria@aos.org](mailto:maria@aos.org))

Alexandra Cernat, Membership Assistant ([Alexandra@aos.org](mailto:Alexandra@aos.org))

John Wrench, Advertising ([jwrench@aos.org](mailto:jwrench@aos.org))

Alain Gonzalez, Accounting ([alain@aos.org](mailto:alain@aos.org))

If you have any questions that do not fit into any category listed above, you may always send them to [theaos@aos.org](mailto:theaos@aos.org). The main phone number at headquarters is 305-740-2010. Each Committee also has its own email address. The various committees and contact information may be found in the front of *Orchids*, as well as on the AOS website.

Hopefully by now you have checked out the digital version of our monthly magazine, *Orchids*. It can be downloaded and read on your computer, tablet or whatever portable device you may have. It has been very well received, especially for those recipients outside the United States. It is usually available before the first of each month.

Time is running out for the purchase of the 2013 Conservation Calendar. I understand that supplies are becoming limited. Contact headquarters for special bulk ordering or to just order one! Remember \$2 of each purchase price funds the AOS conservation initiatives.

Lynn Fuller, Chair  
AOS Affiliated Society



## 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 Apr. Issue of the newsletter is Mar. 22nd



Phalaenopsis Ho's Dreamy Jade 'Sweetheart'  
(Su-An Cricket x Yungho Gelb Canary)

This fabulous orchid grown by our own Debbie Landrey won a plaque for Best Phal in Show, a rosette for Best Phal Alliance, 1st place in class for yellow flowers and 1st place for growing under lights/windowsill at the 22nd Annual New Hampshire Orchid Society Show & Sale on Feb. 8—10, 2013. WOW!! Congratulations to Debbie for an outstanding plant!!!

## March's Featured Event

COS Monthly  
Meeting Reminder:  
Wed., Mar. 13, 7:30pm  
Cheshire  
Senior Center



# 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, Mar. 13, 2013, 7:30 pm**  
**Cheshire Senior Center**  
**240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT**



## Presidents' Message



President  
Cheryl Mizak

News letter March 2013

Hello Happy Spring

I want to thank all the members who have volunteered to do the show set-ups and take-downs. We did four shows three weeks. Thanks to everyone who loaned their plants for the displays. The rewards were many. Prizes for displays, a plaque, plant rosettes and many ribbons. Congratulations and good growing!

As March roars in COS again has a full month of activities. Keep your eye on the calendar. Show season is over but there are plenty of outreaches and lectures to attend. Our monthly meeting will be a potting workshop with lots of plants and potting material for sale. It is potting season so plan ahead to make sure you have the supplies you will need. If you do not want to repot your plants our orchid doc's will do it for you. Bring your own clean pots, there will be a nominal charge of \$5 for supplies.

The weekend of March 15 – 17, we will have a booth at Van Wilgens event "Escape to Spring". We will be selling plants at this event, telling folks about COS and of course, answering orchid questions. April 6 & 7 we will also have a booth at the Cactus & Succulent Society in Waterbury and could use some help with coverage. If you can help out, please let me know.

Don't forget if you would like to pre-order any Orchidata bark for next months meeting I have to have your order by Sunday March 24.

Looking forward to seeing more blooming plants.

Cheryl



## February's Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch  
Recording Secretary

Due to inclement weather, there was no February monthly meeting and no minutes to report.



### Orchid Terrarium Raffle \$20/ticket

Feeling lucky?  
Take a chance on this  
terrarium filled with  
miniature orchids and ferns.

J & L Orchids used this terrarium for a demonstration during our annual show & sale this past October. After the demo, the terrarium was generously donated to COS to be used as a raffle prize. The funds collected from this raffle will be used for future COS events and projects.



The winning ticket will be not be drawn until the pot has reached \$200. If you would like to see the terrarium, please contact Interim pres. Cheryl Mizak to make arrangements.

## February Show Table

Genus/Parentage

Owner

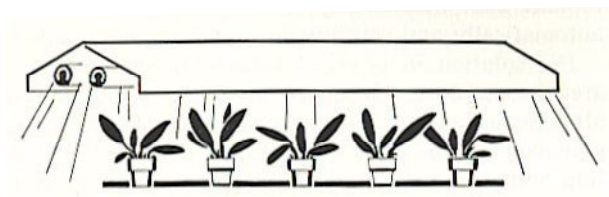
Culture

Due to inclement weather, there was no monthly meeting and no Show Table.

*Culture is as noted:*

*c – cool  
w – warm  
ws – windowsill*

*i – intermediate  
g – greenhouse  
l – lights*



## News, Notes & Happenings

**22nd Annual New Hampshire Orchid Show, Feb. 8 – 10.** Debbie Landry performed a small miracle doing set-up of our display unassisted. She also won numerous awards for her Phal. Ho's Dreamy Jade 'Sweetheart', which made the long drive and hard work all the more worthwhile. Congratulations, Debbie and many, many thanks from all of us for an outstanding job!



COS display at the New Hampshire Orchid Society Annual Show

Because of inclement weather, take down was done by NH members and Donna Quill drove up the next week to collect all the plants. Thank you, Donna!



### 32nd Connecticut Flower & Garden Show Raffle Plant Winner

Margaret from New Milford is the proud owner of a blooming paphiopedilum, which was our featured raffle plant prize at the event. Judging by her smile, Margaret is delighted with her win.

Many thanks to Donna Quill, Sandy Myhalick and Cheryl Mizak for doing the set-up of our display at the show. Cheryl and Alan Mizak did the take-down on Sunday afternoon. A very big thank you to all of the COS members who donated some of their time to man our booth at the event and answer the many questions posed by the interested public. This is how we get the word out about our society and the many advantages of belonging to an orchid club. The members who help out at these events are our goodwill ambassadors — we couldn't succeed without you!





COS display at the Amherst Orchid Society's Show. The display was set up by Sandy Myhalik and her husband Steven Calderon. It took 2nd Place!

## Amherst Orchid Show Feb.

**22 - 24** Our busy show schedule wound up February with the Amherst show. Many thanks to Steven Calderon and Sandy Myhalik for the beautiful COS display, which this husband & wife team is so good at — see the photo at left.

Congratulations are also due to Sandy for her Dtps. Little Gem Stripes 'Chin Lih #1', which won a rosette for the Best Small Phal of the Show. Her Phrag. Schroderae 'Bolin' HCC/AOS also won a rosette for the Best Windowsills and Lights Plant in the Show. Sandy's Phals. Grape Splash, Mont-

clair Valentine, and Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' all won first places in their classes. Her Phrag. Jason Fischer and her Paph. Orchilla x Paph. Winston Churchill both won first place in their class. Sandy, did you leave any awards for anyone else? WOW! Congratulations on this wonderful achievement! And not to be outdone, interim Pres. Cheryl Mizak's won two rosettes and the Best Specimen in Show for her plant *Jumellea arachnanthe*! This show was a huge success for our COS members.

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## Van Wilgen's Annual *Escape to Spring* event, March 15–

**17.** We kick off the month of March with participation in Van Wilgen's annual spring show. Vice president Donna quill has volunteered to set up our booth at this event. We are looking for volunteers to man the booth similar to the CT Flower & Garden Show a couple of weeks ago.. We will be selling plants at our booth , answering questions, handing out our brochure and encouraging the public to join the society. Your help for even just a couple hours either day would be appreciated. Please contact Interim Pres. Cheryl Mizak at (2030 264-6096 if you can lend a helping hand. See pg. 28 of this newsletter for the Van Wilgen's event flier with more detailed information and directions to their greenhouse.

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## *The Fabulous World of Orchids—Basic Orchid Growing & Potting Demonstration* ,White Flower Farm, 167 Litchfield Rd, Rt. 63, Litchfield, CT, April 6th 10:00 am

April finds Interim Pres. Cheryl Mizak giving a talk and potting demonstration at White Flower Farm. Take a pleasant drive up into the Litchfield foothills and enjoy Cheryl's talk then wander around the fabulous White Flower Farm garden center —the choice of spring flowers will wet your appetite for spring.

**30th Annual Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale, April 6–7, Naugatuck Valley Community College, 750 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury, CT** We are looking for volunteers to man the COS table at the Cactus & Succulent Show. The Cactus & Succulent Society has always participated in, and supported, our annual show. We like to reciprocate at their's. It's also a great opportunity to reach out to those cacti growers who very often also love orchids. Please call Interim pres. Cheryl Mizak at 203-264-6096 if you can lend a few hours of your weekend to help out.

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**Hollandia Nurseries *2013 Spring Garden Expo & Landscape 360*, 103 Old Hawleyville Rd., Bethel, CT, two wknds. – April 6 & 7th and 13 & 14th** Editor Sharon Smith-De-lisle will give a presentation on Sunday afternoon, April 7th at 2:30 pm about orchid pests & diseases and growing under lights. This will be followed with a potting demonstration by Interim pres. Cheryl Mizak on Sunday, the 14th also at 2:30 pm.

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**Treeland Garden Center & Nursery *Orchid Potting Workshop*, 1000 Huntington Tpke., Bridgeport, CT, April 20th** We are holding our first potting workshop at Treeland Garden Center in Bridgeport on April 20th. Volunteers are needed to help with the repotting, organizing and coordination of this event. Please contact vice president Donna Quill at 203-610-7352 if you can help out with this event—many hands will make light work.

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**19th Annual Woodbury, CT Earth Day Event, April 27th, Hollow Park, corner of Hollow Rd. and Sycamore Ave., Woodbury, CT** Membership Chair Mary Rampone has kindly offered yet again to set up and man our booth at the Woodbury Earth Day event. She will be handing out our brochures, answering the public's question and encouraging folks to join COS. Volunteers are needed to assist Mary with this event. Please contact Interim pres. Cheryl Mizak at 203-264-6096 if you can help out for a couple hours at this one-day event.

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***Rose Weekend* presented by Elizabeth Park, 1561 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT, June 23-24th.** COS has been invited to participate at the Elizabeth Park annual rose weekend. Please mark your calendar. More details will be available in coming newsletters.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

## Murphy's Law for Phalaenopsis Growers

ROBERT J. GORDON

### Murphy's Law: if it can go wrong, it will.

(Murphy was a phal grower.)

- \* The more you paid for a plant, the greater the chances of crown rot.
- \* When you show your best phal, the judges will all be cymbidium growers.
- \* Your best phal always blooms the day after an AOS judging and gets sepal wilt the day before the next one.
- \* The more you want a cross, the less likely it is to take. Corollary: mediocre crosses produce gobs of viable seed.
- \* Gordon's Law of phalaenopsis pigmentation perversity: (1) all greens are yellow; all reds and blues are purple; (2) all purples are black. Corollary: any phal color is possible if you don't know what you're talking about.
- \* The first fallacy of pest control is that it exists at all. The second is that when the phals are happy, so are the scale.

- Bob Gordon, 1983

— 276 E. Shamrock, Rialto, California 92376.

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Reprinted from the AOS Bulletin, Nov. 1984.

## 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 4 The Joy of Potting

By Larry Kuekes

All right, so I exaggerated the title a little to get your attention. I still consider repotting to be a chore, but afterwards I do have the satisfaction of a job well done.

**How to repot.** People of independent means repair to the "potting shed"; the rest of us use the kitchen table. Gather the materials you will need, namely: a pot (if the plant needs a larger one); some potting mix such as bark; some Styrofoam peanuts (optional); a sharp knife; and, if you're going to divide the plant, some extra pots and plant labels. To avoid spreading virus, the knife and the pots should be sterilized if they have been used on other orchids.

The first step is to get the orchid out of the old pot. For plastic pots, this is usually not too hard. Be patient and try to break as few roots as possible. With a clay pot, the orchid roots will have all stuck to the pot. You may have to use the knife to cut around the rim of the pot, and in any case the adhering roots will all get broken. This is another factor against using clay pots.

After unpotting the plant, you now usually see a mass of roots covering the entire outer surface of the root ball. The problem is to remove the broken-down medium from inside without damaging these healthy roots too much. I treat it as a puzzle like jackstraws: take your time and try to tease the roots apart without breaking them, picking out pieces of bark here and there as you can reach them. Eventually you'll get to the inside, where there will be very few roots and it is easy to remove the medium. Actually, expert orchid growers don't pick apart the roots so carefully: they can't take the time, with their huge collections. But as a beginner with only a few plants, you can afford the time. Remember that careless potting can set a plant back a whole year.

You're supposed to leave the live white roots and cut off the dead brown ones. I find it hard to tell which is which by the color. Another test is to pinch the root between your fingers. If it's firm, it's alive; if it's mushy, it's dead. Despite what you may have read, it doesn't actually hurt anything to leave some dead roots if you're in doubt.

**Divide and conquer.** After removing the old medium and dead roots, you may





decide to divide the plant. If the plant has two or more "leads" or active growing points which are sprawling in different directions, you should probably divide it into multiple, more compact plants. On the other hand, if the plant has multiple leads but remains compact, you may want to just put it in a bigger pot and grow it into a showy "specimen" plant.

To divide the plant, just cut the rhizome with your sterilized knife and gently pull the pieces apart to disentangle the roots.

If you have a problem with scale, this is the ideal time to spray, dip, scrub, or swab the plant, since even the "underground" parts are exposed.

Next, prepare a pot by putting some Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom for drainage (don't use potshards unless they've been sterilized). This step isn't really needed as long as you repot again before the mix breaks down, but it can't hurt. Then insert the plant, holding it where it's going to go. The old (non-growing) end should be against one edge of the pot to give maximum room for growth. Fill the pot with mix, stuffing it into all cavities as you go. It helps to push it in firmly with your fingers, but you don't have to pack it with great force. If the plant is very wobbly you can insert a stake and tie the plant to it, or use special clips which grip the rim of the pot, but I seldom find these necessary. Finally, re-insert the plant label, or make new ones for your divisions. If you don't label your plants, you soon won't know what's what. I follow the practice of writing the repotting date on the label. This helps you figure out when it's time to repot again.

**Done.** You can now replace the plant on its shelf. Remember not to water it for two weeks or so. This lets any broken or cut roots heal without rotting. Savor the true joy of potting – knowing you won't have to do it again for two whole years!

(Editor's note: This article first appeared here in March 1990)

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## Notes for Spring


By James Rose

**Spring is the most glorious season.** Of Course, March is the beginning of spring only on the west coast, but those growing orchids in the east should not despair. It is right around the corner for you too. After months of gloomy winter weather, who isn't ready for it to arrive? Certainly, spring is the season for re-growth, but growers will encounter climatic changes that must be dealt with.

It is often said that plants grown strong throughout the spring and summer will be able to withstand hardships of winter. Though this probably an oversimplification, there is a certain amount of truth.

The most noticeable difference that spring brings is the amount of available light. Day length is progressively on the increase, which is nature's way of telling plants to begin the growth process for the year. Another change is the intensity of the light. As the sun rises above the horizon, the light will become stronger and thus be potentially harmful to foliage. If growing under greenhouses conditions, apply some shading compound in the form of paint (whitewash) or shade cloth. Whereas we sought all the light we could get in winter, soon there will be too much. Be cautious if you have grown your plants indoors and are moving them outdoors now. They will be tender and susceptible to sunburn if this process is not exercised gradually.

This is also the season to orient oneself to pest control. Often, this part of growing has been ignored during the short days and cool temperatures of winter. Now populations will increase if left unmonitored. For those growing indoors, it is the first opportunity to move the plants outside and apply pesticides if needed. Also, there is less chance for damage due to milder temperatures than in the summer.

As we ease into spring, no sight is more wonderful than the appearance of new growth. Remember that from this new growth will emerge flowers, so good culture at this point is essential. There are three basic areas to consider. The first is watering. Potting media dry out faster as the temperatures increase. Remembering that the new growth is composed primarily of water, do not allow plants to dry out. If you've been watering your plants every five to eight days, now you may have to water every four to six. Second, and closely related to watering practices, is fertilizing. Though plants have been dormant for months and have not required much nutrition, feeding now becomes essential. Most fertilizers are composed of the same general compounds, so it is best to choose one that has a balanced formula and will complement your media of choice. Fertilizing at a mild dosage every other watering is 

recommended for most growers. Remember to water thoroughly when feeding. Finally, new growth and especially new root action indicate that now is a good time to repot. Though some plants respond better being processed later in the season, most will benefit from being worked on prior to the arrival of summer's stressful hot days.

Groom flower spikes for proper display. This is the show season and if you are planning to enter plants for judging, have them looking their best. Nothing can sabotage a grower's efforts faster than slugs and snails, and these two pests will be on the move for outdoor growers. Regular applications of an appropriate and preferably long-lasting bait is important.

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## March Checklist

- ◆ **Calanthe** The deciduous varieties that bloom during the winter show new growth now. Divide into plants with one or two bulbs and repot. Usually the third, or oldest, bulb will not perform, so smaller divisions are recommended. Use an organic mix to which has been added some humus.
- ◆ **Dendrobium** March is the peak of flowering for the Australian hybrids. These can be easily grown into large specimens and so make ideal orchid-show candidates. Being quite cold hardy, they are recommended for most growers. This is the time for *Dendrobium nobile* hybrids to bloom after having set buds during the dormant winter months. Most deciduous *Dendrobium* species, like *Dendrobium parishii* with its raspberry fragrance, will be blooming now.
- ◆ **Miltoniopsis** The flowering season approaches. Do not let plants dry out now. Once the bulbs mature. Expect a flush of flower spikes. Stake them for best display. Try to keep plants in bright light, yet where they will receive cool temperatures. As buds form, watch for aphids. These can usually be wiped off with a wet paper towel.
- ◆ **Odontoglossum** and **Masdevallia** These cool growers do best when repotted during the cool spring months. This allows them to establish a vigorous new root system before the heat of summer arrives. Do not overpot. Allow for one year's growth when choosing the size of a container. If a plant is suffering, relocate it to where it will receive more shade.
- ◆ **Paphiopedilum** Now is a good time to repot. The standard-type paphiopedilums have finished flowering and the mottled-leaved types have not gotten too far along in their bud formation to prevent reestablishing before flowering. Strap-leaved multi-floras can use all the light you can give them to promote growth and spike formation.
- ◆ **Phalaenopsis** The flowering season is winding down. Decide whether to let the spikes branch or cut the spikes and repot for best growth for next year's flowers. Remember that more frequent watering and feeding of phalaenopsis causes the mix to decompose more rapidly, thereby necessitating more frequent potting. Examine the mix and determine its condition. New roots emerging from the base of the plant indicate the plant is ready to be potted. Do not overpot. Size the pot for the root mass, not the leafspan. This will allow the more rapid drying needed by a plant with watering needs like the phalaenopsis. — Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose. Reprinted from AOS Bulletin, March 1994, pg.292.

# Orchid Adding Bird Perch for Crossing Ensures Reproduction

Jan. 8, 2013 — Chinese researchers have solved the mystery of the function of sheaths in flowering orchids. In a paper published in PLOS ONE, the team led by Zhong-Jian Liu at the Orchid Conservation & Research Center of Shenzhen and Laiqiang Huang at Tsinghua University found the perch essential to orchid reproduction.



Photo credit: Zhong-Jian Liu, Li-Jun Chen, Ke-Wei Liu, Li-Qiang Li, Wen-Hui Rao, Yu-Ting Zhang, Guang-Da Tang, Lai-Qiang Huang.

In many orchids such as *Coelogyne rigida*, the basal axis of the pendulous, multi-flowered inflorescence is covered by multiple coriaceous sheaths (bracts) forming a clavate cylindrical handle whose function has long been a puzzle and remained mysterious until today. (See photo at left — arrow is pointing toward the sheathed handle or perch— COS editor's comments)

A team led by Zhong-Jian Liu at the Orchid Conservation & Research Center of Shenzhen and Laiqiang Huang at Tsinghua University investigated the func-

tion of the sheaths in flowering populations of *C. rigida* in the limestone area of Southeast Yunnan, China, and have solved the mystery. They discovered that the sheaths-wrapped handle serves as the specialized perch (landing platform) to attract, secure and position foraging sunbird, *Aethopyga gouldiae*, for orderly collection and dispersal of pollinaria, attached to different spots of its beak, resulting in efficient cross-pollination and fruiting. The perch-enabled cross-pollination by sunbirds accounts for essentially all the seed production of this orchid, which was largely abolished by sheaths removal (perch damage) that reduced the visitations by sunbirds markedly both in frequency and duration, revealing an essential role of the perch in assuring the species' reproductive success by

Conservation & Research Center of Shenzhen and Laiqiang Huang at Tsinghua University

(see photo at right — note how sunbird is perching on the sheathed handle while reaching down to obtain nectar & pollen from the orchid.— COS editor's comments)

crossing.

Intriguingly, *C. rigida*, while self-incompatible, has a bi-modal pollination system. It is also self-pollinated by insects, honeybee and wasp, that use the floral lip common in orchids as visiting plate, leading to infertile self-pollination which decreases (wastes) pollinaria and ovules otherwise available for fruitful cross-pollination, incurring high mating cost (gamete discounting). However, the insect-mediated fruitless self-pollination is offset by the efficient cross-pollination by sunbird.



Photo credit: Zhong-Jian liu, Li-Jun Chen, Ke-Wei Liu, Li-Qiang Li, Wen-Hui Rao, Yu-Ting Zhang, Guang-Da Tang, Lai-Qiang Huang.

This represents a new and striking mode of structural adaptation that promotes cross-pollination in angiosperms.



*Coelogyne rigida*

Photo credit: flickr.com.  
Flickr-photo sharing. Accessed 3/06/2013

By merely adding a perch to the basal axis of inflorescence without altering the multiple flowers on it, *C. rigida* gains not only reproductive assurance but also mating and fertility advantages and genetic variability from crossing. It is likely that in *C. rigida*, self-incompatibility has evolved to avoid inbreeding depression by rendering insect self-pollination infertile, but it can't prevent self-pollination that still leads to gamete discounting at a high cost to mating, nor directly promote crossing which becomes essential for sexual reproduction; which, in turn, necessitates and selects for the evolution of an outbreeding mechanism — the perch-enabled bird cross-pollination to assure reproductive success with multiple

advantages. The findings may have broad implications for many other plant species with inflorescences and sheaths.

This article was accessed from Research SEA (2013, January 8). Orchid adding bird perch for crossing ensures reproduction. [ScienceDaily](http://www.sciencedaily.com/). Retrieved March 5, 2013 from [www.sciencedaily.com/](http://www.sciencedaily.com/)

## 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*

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# ADULT EDUCATION

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

## Orchid Show Classes in March and April at NYBG. Register today!

Classes related to *The Orchid Show*, on view in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, March 2–April 22, bring you into the fascinating world of orchids and teach you how to cultivate them successfully.



### MINIATURE ORCHIDS: JEWELS OF THE ORCHID WORLD

Miniature orchids are defined as any orchid plant that is 6" high or less, and there is an amazing variety of species. The appeal of these little gems can be due to the relatively large flowers on a small plant, the copious amount of blossoms produced at once, or the extravagant colors of the bloom. A wide range of orchids and their cultural needs will be examined, including terrarium culture for humidity-loving species. A planting demonstration will conclude the session.

Marguerite Webb

Saturday, March 2, 10 am–1 pm  
133GAR213A

Non-Member \$57/Member \$51

### ORCHID GROWING 101

Not all orchids are prima donnas—difficult and demanding. Many are easy houseplants and can be grown without special equipment. The key is to choose species that can adapt to your indoor growing conditions. Discover a variety of recommended orchids and how to care for them, including details on watering, fertilizing, light requirements, potting media, pests, and diseases.

Mike Di Tota

Saturday, March 9, 10 am–1 pm  
133GAR213B

Non-Member \$57/Member \$51

### DIVIDE, REPOT, REJUVENATE!

Nervous about repotting and transplanting your orchids? Sooner or later, you need to do it. Discover how to tell when your orchids need repotting and how to divide and do so without trauma (to you or the plants!). Learn about different types of containers and potting media, making your own bark mix, and even bark-mounting a prized specimen.

Marc Hachadourian

Saturday, March 16, 10 am–1 pm  
133GAR213C

Saturday, April 6, 10 am–1 pm  
134GAR213D

Non-Member \$57/Member \$51

### TROUBLESHOOTING FOR ORCHIDS

Your orchids have finished blooming and seem to be growing well. Discover solutions to many common problems that new orchid growers may encounter, including how to identify and treat orchid pests and diseases, many of which can be handled with non-toxic remedies. This practical troubleshooting class demystifies orchid care and puts you on the road to success.

Elena Andrews Gaillard

Saturday, March 30, 10 am–1 pm  
133GAR213E

Non-Member \$57/Member \$51

Register for all four courses and receive a discount:  
133GAR213F: Non-Member \$205/Member \$184

### MORE ORCHID CLASSES ON THE BACK!

Register online at [nybg.org/AdultEd](http://nybg.org/AdultEd) or call 800.322.NYBG (6924)



# ADULT EDUCATION

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### MORE ORCHID CLASSES OF INTEREST:

#### ORCHID MORPHOLOGY

This session is devoted to an in-depth study of orchids. Look at some of the special adaptations and growth patterns using microscopes and lab books. Examine and record differences and similarities in this large and varied group of plants. A single plate rendered in pen and ink is required for a grade. Please bring lunch. *Prerequisite: Plant Morphology for Botanical Illustrators–BIL 300.*

Dick Rauh

Monday, March 11, 10 am–3:30 pm  
133BIL324

Non-Member \$123/Member \$110

#### IKEBANA WITH ORCHIDS

This class is devoted to ikebana with two types of orchids: *Cymbidium* and *Phalaenopsis*. Students learn how to arrange them using two different styles of ikebana: *moribana* (arrangements using a shallow container and kenzan) and *nageire* (using a tall, narrow-mouthed container). A materials fee of \$100 is due upon registration. Please bring floral tools, clippers, and lunch to class.

Junko Miura

Friday, March 15, 10:30 am–5 pm  
133FDN328

Non-Member \$145/Member \$131

#### CAPTURING THE BEAUTY OF ORCHIDS: WORKSHOP

The Garden's renowned *Orchid Show* is ideal for capturing the beauty of these highly prized flowers, using techniques of composition, natural light, and close-up angles. Using macro and other lenses, create exciting compositions with color, texture, and line. Complete the day with a presentation and critique of your photographs. Bring your digital camera, charged battery, storage cards, and accessories. A laptop and tripod may also be useful. Please bring lunch.

Emily Kelting

Sunday, March 17, 10 am–5:30 pm  
133GWP946

Non-Member \$158/Member \$142

#### ORCHIDS IN ICE!

Create a show-stopping arrangement of orchids after gaining creative inspiration from the beautiful orchids in the Garden's *Orchid Show*. A walk through the exhibition will illustrate the theories of color and form that are used in modern orchid floral designs. Then you'll design your own arrangement in a glass container filled with faux ice. A materials fee of \$65 is due upon registration. Please bring floral tools, clippers, and lunch to class.

Trish O'Sullivan

Sunday, March 24, 11 am–3:30 pm  
133FDN332

Non-Member \$96/Member \$86

#### ORCHIDS OF NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK

Few people know that 65 species and varieties of orchids grow in the New England and New York area. Some are large and showy, while others are diminutive and hard to find, but all are captivating. Learn about the fascinating world of native orchids, including their unique floral structure and the specific seed germination and habitat requirements that contribute to their rarity.

Tom Nelson

Saturday, April 20, 10 am–1 pm  
134BOT343

Non-Member \$74/Member \$66

Register online at [nybg.org/AdultEd](http://nybg.org/AdultEd) or call 800.322.NYBG (6924)

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*Native Long Island Cypripedium acaule*



# **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.*
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- *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  
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c/o Mary Rampone, Membership Chair  
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