

**Note change of
Sept. meeting
date to Monday,
Sept. 10th.**



Connecticut
Orchid
Society

Newsletter

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

September 2012

53 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Monday, September 10, 2012

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 featured event.

Place: Cheshire Senior Center
240 Maple Ave.
Cheshire, CT
(See pg. 29 for map & directions.)

Note
Change of
Meeting
Date!

Program: Lycaste skinneri
Presented by Jim Rose of Cal-Orchid, Santa Barbara, CA

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. 30 for your convenience.**

Connecticut Orchid Society Mission Statement

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



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Connecticut Orchid Society Officers and Posts -- 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.

Content Acknowledgement

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

Upcoming Events



Sept. 10 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Jim Rose of Cal-Orchids, Santa Barbara, CA will give a presentation about *Lycaste skinneri*, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 maple Ave., Cheshire , CT **NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE.** Jim will be bringing plants for sale.

- Sept. 1 Northeast AOS Judging: Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Rd., Boylston, MA
- Sept. 15 Northeast AOS Judging: New judging center location—The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT.
- Oct. 6 Northeast AOS Judging: Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Rd., Boylston, MA
- 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.
- Oct. 20 Northeast AOS Judging: New judging center location—The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT.
- Nov. 3 Northeast AOS Judging: Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Rd., Boylston, MA
- 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
- Nov. 17 Northeast AOS Judging: New judging center location—The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT.
- Dec. 1 Northeast AOS Judging: Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Rd., Boylston, MA
- Dec. 12 Connecticut Orchid Society Holiday Party & Mini-Auction: 7:00 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT
- Dec. 15 Northeast AOS Judging: New judging center location—The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT.



AOS corner



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

I hope your summer has been going well. Gearing up for the upcoming fall season, I thought I would focus on a few news items and reminders from AOS Headquarters.

1. The special supplement this year is on the genus *Cycnoches*, its species and hybrids. This special supplement is becoming a favorite tradition and extra benefit of being a member of the American Orchid Society. The supplement is underwritten by a combination of advertising and members' donations. More information about the supplement, its costs and your opportunity to underwrite some of the expense of its publication and distribution may be found on the AOS website (<http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=226>). Donations of any size are appreciated. The continuation of this supplement on an annual basis will be dependent on its appeal to and the support of AOS members. Please be generous in your support of these special supplements.
2. Did you know that liability coverage for your meetings and shows is available through the AOS at a competitive fee? We are pleased to announce that we are again able to offer this benefit of affiliation for \$250. As last year, a single fee can now cover both your society meetings and your show. More information about this benefit and the procedure for procuring it may be found on the website under the Affiliated Societies tab (<http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=44>).
3. Another benefit of being an affiliated society is that your society can host one of the two meetings per year of the American Orchid Society's members and trustees meetings. Hosting the AOS as part of your annual show can be a rewarding experience for your society as well as taking your show to the 'next level' having international or national prominence. AOS is looking for locations for upcoming meetings starting in the Fall of 2014 and beyond. Other orchid Alliances that often join the AOS at many of these shows are the Orchid Digest, the Slipper Orchid Alliance and the Phalaenopsis Alliance. These joint meetings are an incredible opportunity to learn about the fascinating world of orchids.
4. As fall is approaching, the AOS is getting this year's Orchid Source Directory ready for printing. Each affiliated society will be listed at no cost with the information on file with the AOS. If your society has changed your meeting locations, dates, times, addresses, website or email, please let Membership Services (theAOS@aos.org) at AOS know so the most up-to-date information is printed. In addition if you have an orchid related business and want to be included in the directory contact John Wrench at AOS (jwrench@aos.org) for the form. The cost for a business listing is \$150 and includes both the printed listing as well as our online directory. August 31 is the deadline for these listings.
5. Do you know what your society's renewal date is? Starting three months prior to expiration, a renewal notice for all membership levels is included in the magazine polybag. If you or your society happened to have missed these, we'd love to have you back. Please contact the office at theAOS@aos.org or by phone at 205-740-2010 to inquire about expiration dates.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Northeast Judging Center Change of Location

The Northeast Judging Center of the American Orchid Society is pleased to announce that, **beginning July 21, 2012, its monthly judging held on the 3rd Saturday of each month will now take place at the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT** in their new educational center. We are excited at the prospect of establishing a long-term partnership with the Bartlett, one of the premier arboretums and gardens in the Northeast, including the development of educational opportunities for the orchid-growing public and making available for on-site usage the extensive collection of books and journals related to orchids currently owned by the Northeast Judging Center.

ABOUT AOS JUDGING

- The AOS's judging system is comprised of 35 Centers throughout the United States and Canada. These Centers provide opportunities to have plants judged on specified monthly dates, as well as at AOS-approved orchid shows and events. Center activities are open to visitors who wish to see the judging process in operation or bring their plants to be evaluated. The Northeast Judging Center provides two such judging opportunities each month, on the first and third Saturdays. On the first Saturday of each month at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Road, Boylston, MA 01505 (508) 869-6111 www.towerhillbg.org
- On the third Saturday of each month at Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT 06903 (203) 322-6971 www.bartlettarboretum.org
- All orchid plants or cut flowers submitted at a monthly judging session are candidates for an award.
- Plants must be entered in the most presentable condition possible.
- Plants may be entered by the owner in person or by someone else on his/her behalf. The exhibitor completes a single sheet entry form for each plant entered for judging. After an entry number is assigned the exhibitor places the entry form with the plant on the display table.

American Orchid Society judges are dedicated volunteers who serve the AOS membership and the orchid-growing public through participation in the Society's judging system. Each judge has made a sincere, long-term commitment, and gives much of their personal time and resources. AOS Judges are not compensated for their services or travel to various judging events.



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 Oct. Issue of the newsletter is Sept. 21st.

Welcome back for a new season ☘ Typically, we think of September as starting off a new COS season. We've been on vacation for a couple months, our plants have been summering outdoors, the repotting is done (well, almost) and for the most part we've been taking a little breather away from all the daily attention and monitoring our plants require during the winter. Well, the kids are starting school in a few days and COS is gearing up for the fall season—our trip to the Smithsonian Greenhouses and our annual show, both of which will happen in October. We also need to think about annual elections —perhaps you are ready to step forward to fill one of the open positions. Cheryl Mizak has done an outstanding job as interim president but she is looking to hand the position off to a new person with new ideas and new plans. All of the other positions on the board are also up for election. Make a vow that this season you will become more involved and help your society become bigger and better.



New member welcome ☘ Several new folks joined us these past few months. If you run into one of these new members at a meeting, take a few moments to introduce yourself and make them feel at home.

- ◆ Pat Gallagher, Kent, CT
- ◆ Deborah Roman, Danbury, CT
- ◆ Jim Birch, Bethel, CT.

Stanhopea Chocolate Drop
Blooming in the Mizak greenhouse this past week. Cheryl says the scent permeates the entire greenhouse. (Photo by Cheryl Mizak)



September's Featured Event



James and Lauris Rose

Lycaste skinneri

Presented by Jim Rose
Cal-Orchid, Santa Barbara, CA

We're kicking off our new season with a special presentation by Jim Rose of Cal-Orchid fame. Jim comes to us from Santa Barbara, CA where he and his wife Lauris have been operating their nursery Cal-Orchid since 1987.



Meeting is on
Monday, 9/10/2012
Cheshire Senior Center

Jim will be talking about *Lycaste skinneri* one of his very favorite orchids. He will be bringing plants for sale so come early for the best selection.

Join us for a great presentation and bring a friend!

Visit Jim & Lauris' website www.calorchid.com to see what's for sale. Their inventory is very diverse.



Lycaste skinneri
Photo: www.orchidstory.forumactif.org

Presidents' Message



President
Cheryl Mizak

Hi Everyone —

I hope everyone's plants have enjoyed their summer vacation outdoors and have thrived in all of this humid weather.

Our September meeting will be the 2nd MONDAY of Sept. At the Cheshire Senior Center. Make sure to not the change on your calendars! Jim Rose from Cal orchids will be our speaker. Jim will be bringing plants for sale.

We have been busy planning our up coming bus trip to Washington, D.C.. It is sure to be a very special weekend, especially spending a day with Tom Mirenda, the Orchid Collection Specialist for the Smithsonian Institution, behind the scenes at the Smithsonian and Botanical Garden Greenhouses. We still have a couple seats available for any of you who are on the fence about attending. The seats will be available on a first-come basis.

Two weeks after we return from our trip to Washington, DC is our annual Orchid Harvest Show at Van Wilgen's Garden Center. We need everyone's help setting up, clerking, hosting, staffing the COS club table and of course, showing our blooming plants. So, please e-mail either Judy Arth at Judar@cox.net or me at Alcher@millenicom.com to get the details on the various tasks we need to fill. Please let us know if you can help. This is our main event of the year. We depend on everyone's help. There will also be sign-up sheets at our Sept. meeting. Our website has a downloadable poster (8 " x 10") with the show details. Please print out a copy of this poster and post it on all of your local community bulletin boards. It is important to spread the word about the show. Due to last year's hard work our 2011 show attendance was up. Let's build on that momentum and do the same again this year!

Anyone who needs potting supplies should e-mail me by Friday, Sept. 7th in time for me to bring your order to the meeting.

COS has scheduled one of its most active fall seasons yet. Make sure to mark your calendar and take advantage of all of the wonderful events that have been planned.

~ Cheryl Mizak
COS President

June's Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

COS MEETING JUNE 2012

Our speaker was Ellie Ronis, who spoke at Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden on Masdavallias. She had at first been growing warm orchids, but then went to cool, high-elevation orchids, which she now grows under lights in her basement. She maintains three temperature ranges, helped along by advice from J & L, John Weathers, and Ron Parsons.

These small orchids are cloud forest plants, native to Andean Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. She showed many species, such as *Masd. angulifera* 'J & L,' and *Masd. coccinea*, as well as hybrids such as Bay Breeze 'Elle,' and Samantha Kha. There was a brief discussion of genetics in hybrids, from primary hybrids to more complicated.

Her culture involves high-intensity lights for her Miltoniopsis. Oyster shells, finely ground, keep an even pH in the bark. She prefers Orchidata bark, and the water-activated Neutricote fertilizer. Humidifiers and a cooling unit complete her setup.



Above, on left: *Masdevallia angulifera*, accessed from www.flowershots.net on 8/27/2012.
Above, on right: *Masdevallia coccinea*, accessed from www.orquivalle.com on 8/27/2012.

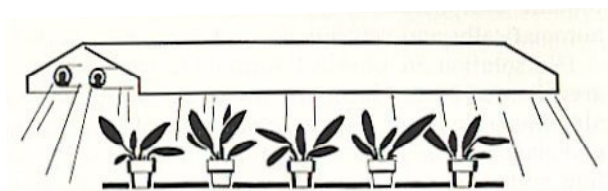
June Show Table

<u>Genus/Parentage</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Culture</u>
Aliceara Pacific Nova 'Pacific Heights' HCC/AOS (Bsdm. Shooting Star x Milt. clowesii)	J. Becker	i,g
Lycaste Gladys Eljuri (Kiama x Alan Salzman)	C. Mizak	i,g
Meiracyllium trinasutum	J. Becker	i,g
Paphiopedilum delenatii	J. Becker	i,g
Paphiopedilum Lady Isabel (rothschildianum x stonei)	C. Mizak	i,g
Paphiopedilum Oberhausen Diamant (primulinum x sanderianum)	J. Becker	i,g
Phalaenopsis Tying Shin Cupid 'Maria Teresa' (Sogo Lawrence x Kuntrati Rarashati)	C. Mizak	i,g
Pleurothallis ascera	C. Mizak	i,g
Sarcoglottis septrodes	C. Mizak	i,g
Zygopetalum hybrid	J. Arth	i, sunporch

Culture is as noted:

*c – cool
w – warm
ws – windowsill*

*i – intermediate
g – greenhouse
l – lights*



News, Notes & Happenings

Trip to Smithsonian Greenhouses, Washington, D.C.

Oct. 5–7 Join us on an orchid weekend trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Smithsonian Greenhouses. Tom Mirenda, the Smithsonian's Orchid Collection Specialist has invited COS for a private tour of the Smithsonian Greenhouses on Sunday, Oct. 7th. The new greenhouses are not open to the public. The tour also includes the Botanical Garden Greenhouses.



COS has rented a bus for the trip so that we can all travel in comfort without the hassle of driving. The cost for a seat on the bus is \$132.00/person. We will depart from Connecticut mid-day Friday, Oct. 5th. Reservations have been placed at the Hyatt Arlington in D.C. The cost for a room with a king-size bed is \$129.00/night. Meals and entertainment are up to the individual. The hotel is located within walking distance of the Smithsonian and across the street from the entrance to the metro.

Saturday, the 6th will be spent at the National Capital Orchid Show in the National Arboretum. In addition to the orchid show and sale, the arboretum has beautiful bonsai gardens and lovely grounds to stroll in. Those who don't wish to spend the day at the Capital Show can hop on the train at the nearby metro station and visit other Washington D.C. memorial sites.

After the Smithsonian Greenhouses tour on Sunday, we will depart home for Connecticut. There are still several seats available on the bus and a few rooms available at the hotel. If you would like to join us on this trip, please contact Cheryl Mizak at alcher@millenicom.com as soon as possible. Reservations are on a first come basis. Estimated trip cost for a couple is \$522.00. For a single, \$390.00. A deposit of \$300. for a couple and \$250.00 for a single is required to reserve a seat.

Al DeLuca Plants for sale ☘ Mary Rampone has provided us with the latest list of the remaining plants from the Al DeLuca donation. As many of you may recall, we lost Al some months ago. His family has generously donated all of his orchid collection to COS. The proceeds of the sale of these plants will go into a special Al DeLuca Memorial Fund. Please contact Mary Rampone (rampone@earthlink.net) or Cheryl Mizak (alcher@millenicom.com) if you would like to purchase any of these remaining plants.

Description	Cross or further detail	PRICE	Pot Size	Growth s(old + new)	Bloom. Size	notes
Aerangia biloba		\$25	mounted	7 leaves		
Cat walkeriana v. coerulea	x walkeriana v. coerulea	\$45	3	6 + 3		
Dtps. Sogo Berry 'Little Princess'	(Sun Jye Diamond x Phal. Zuma's Pixie)	\$18	4	5 leaves		
Miltassia Charles M Fitch (Epstein Clone)	Brassia Vernucosa x Miltonia Spectabilis	\$32	6	8+3	yes	
Paph Addicted Phillip	Paph philippinense x adductum var. anitum)	\$68	5	1 + 3	yes	
Paph Bel Royal	Paph. rothschildianum x kolopakingii	\$68	5	1		
Paph Black Stallion	x Susan Booth 'SY' HCC/AOS	\$117	8	2 + 3	yes	
Paph Cam's Cloud	(bellatulum 'Fat Boy' x emersonii 'Wide Kings')	\$45	2	1		seedling
Paph Clifton Booth	Saint Swithin x primulinum	\$68	8	5	yes	blooming
Paph Deloiphyllum	(delenatii x moquetteanum)	\$23	2	2		
Paph Doulgoldi	(rothschildianum 'Eagle' x armeniacum #15')	\$117	8	2 + 3		
Paph Formosa Lady #1'	x Paph Moustache	\$90	6	1 + 2	yes	
Paph Gary Romagna	Paph Saint Swithin 'Wallula' x Paph rothschildianum 'Walla Walla'	\$81	5	2 + 2	yes	
Paph gigantifolium 'Awesome'	x Paph Michael Koopowitz 'Stephen'	\$36	3	1		
Paph Ho Chi Minh	(delenatii '02021' x vietnamense '1815A'	\$36	3	1		
Paph Hsinying Web	x Hampshire Raven	\$25	4	2 + 1	BS	
Paph lantha Stage	(sukhakulii x rothschildianum)	\$90	6	2 + 4	yes	
Paph In-Charm Firebird	bellatulum x Susan Booth 'SY' HCC/AOS	\$45	4	4 + 3	yes	
Paph Jerry Spence	roth x berenice	\$45	6	3+1		
Paph Kemp Tower	(philippinense '2002' x Prince Edward of York 'Hsinying Queen' SM/TPS	\$90	6	2 + 3	yes	
Paph liemianum	x Saint Swithin	\$27	4	2		
Paph Mem. Larry Heuer	maliipoense 'Jerry Base' AM/AOS x emersonii 'Swan'	\$36	2	1		
Paph Mount Toro	stonei #2' x philippinense #44')	\$59	4	3+1	yes	
Paph Mount Toro	Stonei x philippinense	\$68	5	5+2	yes	
Paph Muriel Constance	x Paph Hsinying Franz #2'	\$45	4	2 + 3	yes	
Paph philippinense 'Subdule'	x Paph Temptation 'Wallula 48'	\$23	2	1		seedling

Orchid Harvest COS Annual Show & Sale, Oct. 19 - 21 ☞ We are hard at work preparing for our annual show and sale. Once again, Van Wigen's Garden Center in North Branford has generously offered their facility for our venue. The show will open for a few hours on Friday afternoon 2:00—5:00 pm , all day on Saturday 9:00-5:00 pm and Sunday 9:00—4:00 pm. Your help is needed. Please let us know if you can help with set-up on Thursday, judging on Friday, or hosting and manning tables during the weekend. Many hands make for light work and lots of comaradarie. Please contact Cheryl Mizak at alcher@millenicom.com if you can help with set- up or during the show. Please contact Dave Tognalli at dtog54@sbcglobal.net if you can help with clerking at judging .

Annual elections — Nominating Committee ☞ With the beginning of a new season it 's time to think about our annual elections. Dave Tognalli has kindly agreed to head up the Nominating Committee again this year. Sometimes this is a difficult and thankless job. Cheryl Mizak has continued in the position of interim president because we have not found a replacement for this position. All of our other board positions are also up for election this year: vice president (currently vacant), treasurer, recording secretary, and both director-at large positions. If you think you would like to get involved with the daily operations of the society and help direct its future, please contact Dave at dtog54@sbcglobal.net

Out Reach Programs

Orchid Culture talk at Gledhill Nursery, May 19, 2012 ☞ Dave Tognalli reports that the orchid culture talk he gave at Gledhill Nursery this past May was attended by about twenty people. There were lots of questions and so much interest that Dave spent almost two hours there. Nora Fox from Avon, CT signed up for the three-months of free newsletters and also asked to be notified about the annual show & sale in Oct.



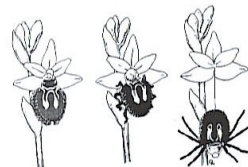
Elizabeth Park Rose Garden Weekend, Hartford, CT, June 23 & 24 ☞ Judy Arth sent this photo of the COS Information Table at the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden event which was held during the weekend of June 23rd and 24th.

Library
News from the Catts hiding in the stacks



This issue of the National Geographic magazine may seem very out of date — April 1971. However, it contains a wonderful article titled The Exquisite Orchids by Luis Marden. While some of the information about meristem may seem outdated today, the overall article is informative and provides an excellent history of our hobby, and outstanding photos that illustrate how vast the orchid family is. On the next page is a quote taken from the article and used here as our 'Quote of the Month'. The photos on the next page also give you an idea of the depth of this

article. At 27 pages in length, this is a short and pleasant evening's read. If you would like to borrow this magazine, please contact librarian Sharon SmithDelisle at coseditor@hotmail.com.



Quote of the month...

" Bizarre members of a fabulous clan"

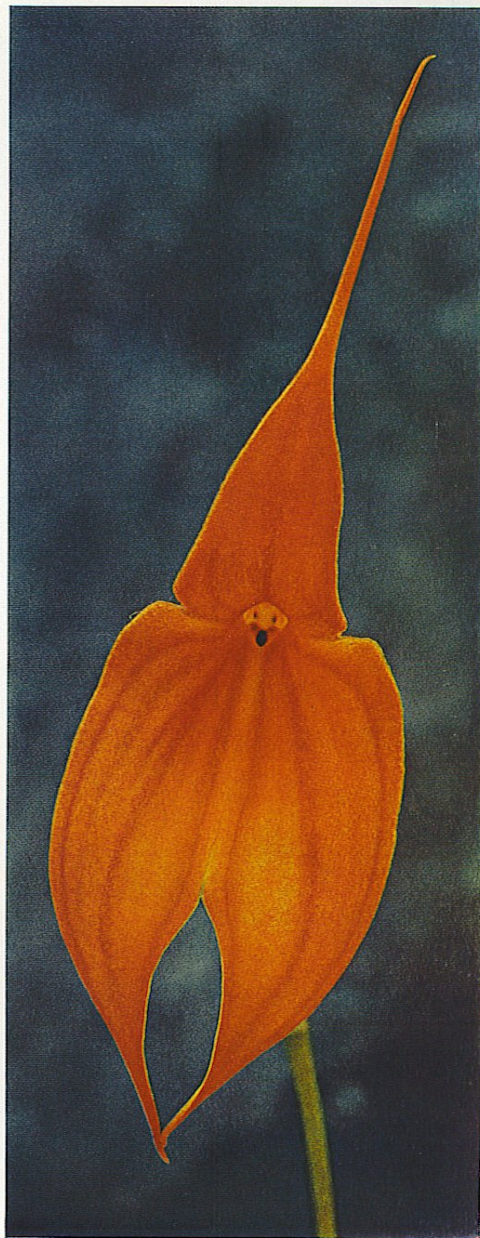
The Exquisite Orchids by Luis Marden
National Geographic Magazine, Vol. 139, No. 4,

Bizarre members of a fabulous clan

A bearded hillbilly (left) stares from an Australian orchid; a laughing gnome lurks in a Peruvian blossom (right). Fuel for man's imagination, such curiosities attract specific pollenators—usually insects—that unwittingly perpetuate the species. Glossy hairs of the "beardie," as Australians call it, mimic a caterpillar, prey of a wasp; the brilliant cinnabar gnome attracts hummingbirds.

Despite the variety of shapes and sizes, all orchids share common structures. Each blossom has three outer sepals and three inner petals, one of which is a distinctive lower lip, or labellum, that serves as a landing platform for insects. In the beardie it takes the form of whiskers; in the gnome it lies hidden within the mouth.

In most plants the male and female reproductive parts are separate, but in orchids they unite in a single column, here the beardie's nose. In most orchids this organ is ingeniously constructed so that when a pollen-carrying insect crawls under the column, seeking nectar, it deposits a golden burden on the female stigma. Backing out, it picks up new masses of pollen from the male anther and carries them to another flower.



MASDEVALLIA VEITCHIANA VAR. GRANDIFLORA, 1/3 TIMES LIFE-SIZE, GORDON W. GAHAN

495



Pogonia ophioglossoides
Aka Rose Pogonia orchid, Snake-mouth orchid and Beard Flower.
Photos by Richard Delisle



Sarracenia purpurea
Also seen at this site were many nice clumps of blooming pitcher plants. The pitcher plant is carnivorous and an indicator plant for the presence of orchids.

COS members Sharon SmithDelisle and her husband Richard Delisle spent a pleasant June Saturday morning hunting for native orchids on a pond in the Northeast corner of Connecticut with Eleanor S. Saulys of the Connecticut Botanical Society. They all paddled around in their kayaks searching among the reeds and grasses, and discovered the Rose pogonia orchid. It's ID was confirmed by Eleanor (who goes by Sam). Sam is an authority on Native Northeastern orchids. The orchid was not found in abundance at the site but Sam said it was great to see it growing successfully in this area. The orchid is not rare in Connecticut but it is not common in the Northeastern part of the state.

Rose pogonia is a hardy terrestrial orchid that grows in wet meadowlands and swampy areas. It produces a single rose-pink blossom on each stem.

Now Showing on the
COS Epiphyte Tree...

Looks like the cooler nights these past couple weeks have sent a wake up signal to this cute little Mtdm. Ruffles 'Scent of a Woman', which is blooming on the COS Epi Tree.




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

Multiplication by Division By ken Slump When Repotting, Consider the Benefits of Dividing Orchids

Most of today's orchid growers do not remember the days before orchid mericlones were available. It was in the 1960s that it was discovered that the growing tip, or apical meristem, of an orchid could be excised and treated in a way that its cells would develop into many identical or nearly identical plantlets. Prior to that, divisions were the only way superior orchids could be shared among enthusiasts. Imagine how coveted the really great plants could have been among orchid breeders and exhibitors and appreciate how priceless they may have seemed when it took years to produce just a few flowering –size divisions from one wonderful plant.

Today's hobby growers are as likely as not to discard divisions and backbulbs at repotting time, yet it is a useful propagating technique. This is particularly true for species orchids that are not mericlones and for hybrid seedlings that are unique. Those, in particular, are plants that ought to be divided and shared, providing they are of good quality and free of disease.

Sometimes it is difficult to ascertain if a particular orchid is a mericlone, but when properly labeled, a word or words enclosed in single quotation marks at the end of the plant name will confirm clonal status. (Editor's note: See pg.17 for an example of this. The little plant blooming on the COS Epi Tree is a clone —note the single quote marks around its name.) The absence of a clonal name does not guarantee that the plant is genetically unique. Indeed, orchids available for sometimes amazingly low prices at grocery stores and big-box retailers are as likely as not to be labeled “phalaenopsis orchid” or “dendrobium orchid” if they carry any label at all. While these may make pretty and long-lasting potted plants, they are not the orchids that any serious grower should be propagating to share with friends and collectors.

When one thinks of dividing an orchid, we are generally referring to those with a sympodial growth habit, which are the majority. Those are the orchids that produce their new growths or leads from the previous one, often along a creeping stem. The cattleyas and their relatives provide an excellent example. 

As seedlings or young plants, they will generally produce but one new growth each year. Each successive growth tends to be larger until the plant reaches flowering size. Once mature, such orchids, when well grown, will often produce more than one lead each year. This can result in multiple inflorescences at flowering, and in time, a showy specimen plant. Some orchids, however, are more disposed to this than others.



ORCHID ALLIANCE

When the time comes to repot a larger plant with multiple leads, the grower must

Rhizomes growing over the edge of a container indicate it's time to repot. Timing is important — make the move before the new roots are more than 1/2 inch (1.25 cm) long.

decide whether to move the entire plant to yet a larger pot or whether it is time to divide it into smaller plants. Each pseudobulb with its basal part has the potential to become an individual plant if it is able to produce new roots and a new lead from its base. Plants produced from single pseudobulbs usually produce weak new growths that tend to look like those of young seedlings. It may take several years for those plants to reach flowering size again. Much better success results from divisions consisting of several connected pseudobulbs, at least three or four if possible.

This is easy to achieve if the orchid readily produces new leads. Remove the plant from its container and carefully clean away old potting medium and dead roots. When cutting any part of an orchid plant, always use a sterilized blade to prevent the spread of virus. If you have the time and the inclination, this is sometimes easier to achieve on large, old plants if you first soak the pot and medium for a short period in a small tub or bucket of water.

After the plant is as clean as possible, make a clean cut on the stem between pseudobulbs, being careful to include several leads for each new plant. 🖐️

Disposable single-edged razor blades are ideal for this purpose. Do not be concerned if some of the older leads seem to lack visible roots. They still help sustain and nourish the new plant.

Pot each division in a container suitable for its size. It is well to use a pot clip to hold the plant firmly in place until its roots extend and anchor it in its new home. Be sure to label each division.

Some orchids do not tend to produce multiple leads. Even so, these can be divided into two plants when at least seven or eight growths are present. Again, make sure each division includes at least three or four pseudobulbs. The division without the newest growth is referred to as the “backbulb” and should produce a new lead from a latent bud at the base of a growth. Backbulb divisions are typically not as vigorous as the lead division and may take a couple of years to reach flowering size again.

If you have an orchid that stubbornly remains a one-lead plant, you might try the trick of partially severing the stem or rhizome between leads to encourage a latent bud to break. This should be done at least three or four pseudobulbs behind the lead. Cutting halfway through the stem should be sufficient. In this way you might encourage a plant to branch that would not otherwise produce multiple leads. It will also be better suited for division when the time comes. However, plants in this condition are not eligible for cultural wards.

The best time for dividing an orchid is, of course, at repotting time when new roots are forming, or are due to emerge. This helps ensure that each division will prosper. Next time you are repotting and are ready to toss away otherwise healthy backbulbs or divisions, consider repotting them as well to share with fellow hobbyists or to donate to your orchid society’s divisions table.

(Article and photograph reprinted from AOS Orchids magazine, September 2009, pg. 514-515. This article is part of a regular series titled Back To Basics. Author Ken Slump writes monthly for Orchids magazine)



Deep Cut Orchid Society Annual Auction
Date: October 6, 2012
**Place: Colts Neck Firehouse Company #1,
86 Route 537, Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722**
Time: Preview 9 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Auction 10:00 A.M. – 3 P.M. (Rain or Shine)

Refreshments & Lunch Available
Free Admission –
Come at any time – Buying not required

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,

In the COS May meeting minutes, Carla reported that the speaker said that *Cattleya percivaliana* smells bad since its pollinator is a carrion fly. Well, I'd like to speak up in defense of *Cattleya percivaliana*, which is one of my favorite orchids. The only clone that I have grown (or seen, or smelled) is *C. percivaliana* 'Summit' FCC/AOS. And it doesn't smell bad. Some reference books refer to its smell as "musty", but that's not right, either. Years ago, Ann Jesup said that it smelled like Castile soap, and that's exactly right – it has a spicy smell like scented soap. It's not a conventional floral scent, but it's certainly not unpleasant.

It definitely doesn't smell like a dead animal, which would attract a carrion fly. That's what certain *Bulbophyllum*s, which are fly-pollinated, smell like. The worst, *Bulbophyllum beccarii*, is said to smell like a herd of dead, rotting elephants – I think you get the picture! I searched my orchid library and the Internet to identify the pollinator of *C. percivaliana*, with no results. In the absence of information, I have to say I seriously doubt that it's a carrion fly.

In any case, the scent of *C. percivaliana* doesn't fill the room, like the heavenly scent of *Brassavola nodosa* does (my all-time favorite fragrant orchid). You have to sniff *C. percivaliana* up close to smell it.

Leaving aside scent, *C. percivaliana* 'Summit' has a lot of other attributes that make it a great orchid to grow. Though the flowers are not as large as some *Cattleya* species, they're good-sized (4 to 5 inches), and the shape is very nice, with large, full petals. This shape is all the more amazing since this clone was jungle-collected, not artificially line-bred for generations to achieve a full shape like some other species have been. This clone didn't win an FCC award for nothing.

In addition, the plant is compact, growing to about a foot tall, so it will fit on a windowsill, unlike most of the large-flowered *Cattleya*s. Each growth makes a cluster of two to four flowers. The plant tends to make multiple leads, so it's not hard to grow into a beautiful specimen plant. And the icing on the cake – it blooms reliably at Christmas time!



C. percivaliana 'Summit' has a Connecticut connection that some of you may not know. The late Dr. Ben Berliner was an AOS judge who used to liven up Connecticut Orchid Society meetings with his tremendous knowledge and his inexhaustible supply of orchid stories. One story was about *C. percivaliana* 'Summit'. It was originally jungle-collected in 1922 and imported by the Lager and Hurrell nursery in Summit, New Jersey. For years, divisions of the plant were passed around the Northeast from one grower to another. It became familiarly known as "Percy Summit". Dr. Ben knew that 'Summit' had an AM/AOS award, but he believed that it deserved better. After growing his plant in his Bloomfield greenhouse as perfectly as possible, he brought it to judging in 1986, and sure enough, it finally got the FCC/AOS award it deserved, more than 60 years after it was introduced to cultivation! Shortly afterwards Dr. Ben brought it in to the COS show table where I saw it. It was growing in a wooden basket with perfect drainage, one of Dr. Ben's favorite tricks of the trade. But I can attest that my division grew just fine in a plastic pot.

When I moved to Hawaii, I didn't bring any orchids with me. But there were a few orchids that I loved enough to want to re-acquire, and "Percy Summit" was one of them. That was easier said than done – most mainland orchid nurseries don't ship to Hawaii, and I couldn't find a Hawaii nursery that offered it. I finally found a small plant that will take a few years to grow to blooming size. In Connecticut I grew it intermediate, like a normal *Cattleya*, but it's said to be temperature-tolerant and grow in anything from warm to cool conditions. In Connecticut it always bloomed in December, but in Venezuela, where the species is native, Dunsterville recorded it as blooming any time between July and November. So it will be interesting to see when it blooms in Hawaii.

Bottom line: if you come across a "Percy Summit" for sale, or are offered a division, grab it! It's one of the finest orchids you can grow. (And it doesn't smell bad.)

Larry Kuekes



Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit' FCC/AOS. Photo by Scott361 on flickr.com

Orchid Hunting In The Lost World (And Elsewhere in Venezuela), G.C.K. & E. Dunsterville, p. 75



September: The Month of Insanity


By Thomas Mirenda

Gearing Up for a Season of Indoor Growing

Those of you who have the luxury of living in a climate where tropical orchids can remain outside through the winter can't imagine the brow-furrowing vexations endured by those of us who have to sequester our orchid collection to safety before the winter season. Not only is every square inch of windowsill or greenhouse bench space already spoken for, many orchid nurseries choose this time of year to advertise lower prices and bargains. After all, many of them need to pack up for the winter, too. I've learned long ago that I cannot resist an orchid sale and so my windowsills and benches will always be filled beyond capacity through the inclement weather.

This is the kind of obsession that many of us share. Some would call it passion, others pathology. But due to our fascination with the outrageous diversity displayed in the tens of thousands of orchid species and the never-ending array of spectacular and easy to grow hybrids, we must resign ourselves to slavishly devoting hours of our personal time, vast amounts of space and financial resources to our collections. Are we insane? Well, if so, we are in good company. Some extremely respectable individuals (not I, of course) are secret orchid growers. You'd never know it if you saw them at work or on the street. They seem normal enough, with respectable careers, devoted spouses and above-average children. But we know that we're living on the edge, seized by an uncontrollable mania that immerses us in that beautiful and mesmerizing world of orchids. If you've not yet reached capacity, what are you waiting for?

Clean up your act. Your collection grew well this summer thanks to the excellent care you gave it after reading about the plants in *Orchids*. Those that summered outside received plenty of rainwater, excellent light and air movement. Many have put on large new pseudobulbs. Cattleyas are forming sheaths, phalaenopsis are hardening their new growths and dendrobiums are producing terminal leaves on their long canes, basically finishing their vegetative growth for the year. Now's the time to prepare the winter growing space, be it a windowsill, light room or greenhouse. If you haven't already done so, take the time to clear out debris from last year, clean and sterilize the surfaces with a disinfectant and plan your strategy for getting all your orchids safely inside for the winter.

No Hidden passengers. With many of your warmer-growing plants, such as vandas and angraecoids, about to come in for the winter before the first cold snaps, September may be your last chance to check your orchids for hitchhiking critters. 

Any number of undesirable winter residents may have invaded orchids that are outside. Sucking insects, such as mites, scale or mealybugs, are often decimated by the beneficial insects that live in our yards or washed away by rains, but sometimes, small enclaves of these survive. Take the time now to look over plants carefully and treat any pests accordingly. Even though they may not be visible on the leaves, colonies of ants sometimes invade the porous interstices of orchid mix. These cannot be tolerated and could cause you a lot of grief if allowed in the greenhouse. Once discovered, the ants must be evicted either by drowning or drenching with an insecticide. It's always a good idea to repot such plants in fresh medium as the old mix is likely seriously broken down or badly acidified by the formic acid released by ant habitation.

Flower power. Many hobbyists anticipate the approaching blooming season for may orchids, including cymbidiums, phalaenopsis and dendrobiums by fertilizing plants less frequently and with a lower concentration. Particularly, the use of high-nitrogen fertilizers this time of year can inhibit blooming by encouraging plants to continue growing foliage. For orchids that you are expecting to spike in the autumn, switching to a blossom booster fertilizer now can give plants the extra boost they need to flower extravagantly.

The little death. A few orchids — deciduous dendrobiums, lycastes, many terrestrials (*Habenaria*, *Cynorkis*) and some members of the *Catasetinae* — are showing brown-tipped or yellowing leaves now. Don't be alarmed. Usually shortly after the autumn equinox, as day length starts to shorten, many orchids adjust and slough off leaves in preparation for dormancy. Most of these are benefiting from the cooler night temperatures after enduring the summer heat and are genetically programmed to shut down their metabolisms. Respond by letting these plants dry out and holding back plant fertilizer. Over-watering now can lead to rot problems later in the autumn.

Just one more. It's so tempting to load up on new orchids during those ubiquitous autumn sales. I certainly can't preach to anyone about the virtues of restraint when it comes to orchid acquisition. So I hereby release you from any guilt you may be feeling about crowding your collection too much this winter. It may be irresponsible of me to tell you this, but we are what we are. I believe the correct word is "enthusiasts." So go for it. Order a few new sale plants from orchid nurseries. And have fun.



Thomas Miranda

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



A Touch of Class ~ Beautiful Art from the Past



Cattleya labiata

From *L'Orchidophile*, Paris: V.F. Lebeuf, 1892, shows variation within a species.

Reprinted from *AOS Orchids*, 11/2006, pg.836-837

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



The Russian novelist-poet Vladimir Nabokov only wrote about two-dozen poems in English. This poem coincidentally mentions the Phantom Orchid. Mr. Nabokov was visiting Oregon at the time he wrote the poem and he is referring to *Cephalanthera*. *Cephalanthera* are myco-heterotrophs, which are completely devoid of chlorophyll. This is the only member of the genus found in North America and it grows in the states of Oregon and Washington.

*And I rest where I awake
In the sea shade — l'ombre glauque —
Of a legendary oak;*

*Where the woods get ever dimmer,
Where the Phantom Orchids
glimmer —
Esmeralda, immer immer.*

~ Vladimir Nabokov



Cephalanthera austiniiae
aka Phantom Orchid

Photo found at www.shastawildflowers.jpg
Accessed on 8/27/2012

From the COS archives

the way we were....



Here's a great photo op from our 2006 annual show. The location was the West Hartford Town Hall. From left to right: Sam Hinckley, Charlie Boos, then Connecticut State Representative Nancy Johnson, Cheryl Mizak and Larry Kuekes.



MID-HUDSON ORCHID SOCIETY **FALL 2012**

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Saturday, October 13, 2012

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road, Newburgh, NY 12550

FREE ADMISSION

Education for beginners at 1:00 PM

Orchid experts available all day for your questions



DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 84

Take Interstate 84 to exit 10.

Proceed north on Route 9W and make a right at the traffic light onto Chestnut Street (there is an M&T Bank branch on the west side of Route 9W at this intersection; it is less than a mile once you get off at exit 10).

Proceed to the stop sign and make a right onto Balmville Road.

Proceed approximately 1/4 mile and make a left onto Beech Street. The parking lot is on the left.

Entrance to the community center is off the parking lot.

For further information, call Elisabeth Mansfield at
845-294-1000



Visit our web site at www.mhos.us.com

The MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

Marketplace

Need some supplies for repotting? As a service to our members, COS now offers a wide range of supplies at the Sale Table. Supplies may be ordered in advance, but must be picked up at a monthly meeting. Prices are only slightly above wholesale, no taxes and no shipping fees—what a deal!

COS Potting Supplies Price List

Basket –4” square slat w/hanger	\$3.00/ea.
Charcoal chips (4 scoops/bag)	\$2.00/bag
Coconut Husk (medium size chips) ½ cu. Ft.	\$10.00/bag
Coco Tek Coir 150 g. bag	\$5.00/bag
Dyna-grow fertilizer Grow 8 oz.	\$7.00/ea
Dyna-grow fertilizer Bloom 8 oz.	\$7.00/ea.
Grow More Orchids Food 1.25 lb.	\$6.00/ea.
Hydro rocks (one gallon bag)	\$3.00/bag
Mesquite slabs for mounting orchids	\$1.00 /ea.
Orange Guard Insect Spray 32 fl. oz.	\$9.00/bottle
Orchid Bark mix (Cattleya/Dendrobium/Oncidium) 2 gal.	\$5.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix(Cymbidium/Phalaenopsis) 2 gal.	\$6.00/bag
Orchid Bark—small 2 cu. ft.	\$25.00/bag
Orchid Bark – medium 2 cu. ft.	\$25.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix (cattleya/Dendrobium/ Oncidium) 1 cu.ft.	\$20.00/bag
Orchid Bark mix (Cymbidium/Phalaenopsis) 1 cu. ft.	\$22.00/bag
Physan 20 plant insecticide 8 fl.oz.	\$10.00/ea.
Plant labels (set of 25 yellow or white)	\$ 3.00/set
Pots – round, green, plastic 4 ½ “ (set of 10)	\$ 4.00/ set
Pro-Teckt plant fertilizer 8 oz.	\$ 7.00/ea.
Rhizome clips—large	\$ 0.50/ea.
Rhizome clips – small	\$ 0.25/ea
Shagnum moss – ¼ lb. block	\$ 8.00/ea.
Superthrive Vitamins-hormones ½ fl. oz.bottle	\$ 3.00/ea.
Thermometer – digital min/max.	\$22.00/ea.
Tree Fern (medium) ½ cu. ft.	\$ 3.00/bag
Water breakers	\$ 5.00/ ea.

How we measured quantities:

¼ cubic foot mix or bark will fill approximately:

(15) 4” pots

(8) 5” pots

(5) 6” pots

(3) 7” pots

(2) 8” pots

Contact Cheryl Mizak at (203) 264-6096 to preorder.

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



DRAWING MARION SHEEPAN/INKING STIG DALSTROM