



**Connecticut
Orchid
Society
Newsletter**

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

October 2010

50 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010

Time: 7:00 P.M. Socializing begins.

Show table opens

7:30 P.M. Business meeting begins followed by the evening's featured event.

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

Program: *Growing Orchids in a Cave*
Presented by David W. Bird
Bird's Botanicals, Kansas City, MO

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

Write Connecticut Orchid Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 198, Farmington, CT 06034-0198



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Editor Sharon SmithDelisle editor@ctorchids.org

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

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

**Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at (203) 263-2831 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 -- 2010

PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>
TREASURER	<i>Judy Becker</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Morgan Daniels</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Nan Stockmal-Peschel</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY	<i>Judy Arth</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>Open</i>
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
WEB MASTER	<i>Deidra Crewe</i>
WEB TECHNICAL ADVISOR	<i>Joseph Linger</i>



Mentor List

The following COS members are available to answer your culture questions and help you with any orchid growing problems you may have:

Judy Becker judybecker40@att.net (Greenhouse growing methods: Wide variety of species & hybrids)

Charlie Boos charlieb1962@yahoo.com Greenhouse & under lights growing methods: Cattleyas, Vandas, Dendrobiums, Sophronitis & hybridizing

Sam Hinckley samuelhinckley@comcast.net Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

Joe Linger jlinger@snet.net Greenhouse, outdoors & under lights growing methods: Species & hybrids

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

David Tognalli dtog54@sbcglobal.net Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums & mixed genera.

Membership Policy

Membership is open to anyone interested in orchids. Members join the Society by payment of annual dues. Memberships may be individual, student, family, life or honorary. Honorary membership is for life and is made by nomination of the Board of Directors and majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting.



Upcoming Events

Oct. 14 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: *Growing Orchids in a Cave*, presented by David W. Bird, Bird's Botanicals, Kansas City, MO., 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, Cheshire, CT.

Oct. 16 ~ 17 Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale: Sat., Oct. 16, 8:00 am ~ 5:00 pm, Sunday, Oct. 17, 8:00 am ~ 4:00 pm. Admission \$5.00 ea., Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., (off Rt. 139) North Branford, CT. AOS judged bench show, vendors, food & entertainment, instant raffles, junior orchid growers booth, orchid growing seminars and much more.

Nov. 11 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: *Japanese Orchids & Culture*, presented by Dr. Glenn Lehr, New World Orchids, Manchester, MI, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, Unionville, CT

Nov. 13 Woodland Gardens Annual Holiday Open House: 168 Woodland Gardens St., Manchester, CT. COS member Judy Arth will conduct a Basic Orchid Growing Lecture. Visit www.woodlandgardens.com for more details.

Dec. 15 Connecticut Orchid Society Holiday & Mini-Auction: 7:30 pm, Agriculture Experiment Station, New Haven, CT



COS members stuff bags of small prizes for the Orchid Harvest Show & Sale instant raffle prize.

Annual Gordon W. Dillon—Richard C. Peterson Memorial Essay Contest

Time to sharpen up those pencils and put on your thinking caps! The deadline is approaching for the annual Gordon W. Dillon - Richard C. Peterson Memorial Essay Contest. Don't wait until the last minute. The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families. You do not need to be an AOS member.

The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate suitable for framing. The contest was established in 1985 by the AOS Northeast Judging Center to honor the memory of two former editors of the AOS Bulletin (now *Orchids*). Gordon Dillon served as editor from 1943 through 1968 and again from 1970 through 1973. Richard Peterson's name first appeared on the masthead of the AOS Bulletin in April 1971 as associate editor. In 1973, he was named editor and, upon Dillon's retirement in 1977, he became the executive director, retaining his position of editor through 1984.

The theme for the 2011 contest is:

Going Green: Conserving Resources and Still Growing Healthy Orchids. Tell us how you have adapted your orchid growing space and techniques to conserve energy and resources. If doing so has provided any unexpected benefits, share those with our readers. The deadline is **November 30, 2010**.

The winning entry, if any, is published in the June issue of the following year.

Contest Rules

The essay must be an original, unpublished article.

- The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
- Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in English and may be submitted electronically as MS Word or compatible word processor file.
- Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
- Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.



- Non-winning entries will be returned to the contestant if requested. Such entries are eligible for resubmission in subsequent contests. These non-winning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications with the written permission of the author. Published entries will not be eligible for consideration in subsequent contests.

- For a list of previous winners, see www.aos.org

Submit all entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize at AOS headquarters: Jim Watson, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446, Tel 561-404-2040 , email: jwatson@aos.org.

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.

The deadline for submissions to the Nov. issue of the newsletter is Oct. 22nd.

New member welcome



This month we welcome John Hampton, who lives in Haddam, CT. John attended the Sept. meeting and brought an outstanding array of lovely orchids for the show table.



Roger Heigel and Judy Arth enjoy a laugh while helping out at the COS Show work party.

October's Featured Event

Growing Orchids in a Cave

Presented by David W. Bird, Bird's Botanicals, Kansas City, MO

That's right, David Bird raises his orchids in a state of the art cave! He grows over 100 species and over two hundred varieties. If you're ever in Kansas City, Mo contact Dave for a tour of this unusual habitat. Dave grows his orchids under lights, of course. He uses (30) 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium bulbs that operate 16 hours a day. Dave's focus is on low to medium-light plants such as miltonias, odontoglossums, dendrobiums, epidendrums, phalaenopsis and pleurothallids. His set-up is a commercial operation in a limestone cave at the Interstate Underground Warehouses in Kansas City.

Mr. Bird has been growing orchids since 1978. He worked at the Denver Botanical Garden with orchids and managed the orchid greenhouse in college. After receiving his B.S. degree in Horticulture at North Dakota State Univ., the Des Moines Botanical Center hired him to develop a large *Oncidium* collection.

Later on Dave became a horticulturist for Powell Gardens, near Kansas City where he started an orchid exhibit that is still an annual event. This event was the driving force that convinced Dave to start his own business, Bird's Botanicals. The business was eventually located in a limestone cave, part of Interstate Underground Warehouse facilities. The cave is an ideal, climate-controlled environment for growing orchids. With over 10,000 orchids thriving and blooming, a visit to this special "greenhouse" is quite a site to behold!

Join us for what will surely prove to be a very unusual and exciting lecture. Dave will be bringing plants for sale. Please visit his website for more information about the products he sells and the array of plants he will have available at www.birdsbotanicals.com



President's Message



President Cheryl Mizak

Hello Everyone

We are just days away from ORCHID HARVEST. There are a few things we still need help with. For example, our hospital ity room for our hard working volunteers at the show needs food donations. If you can make a casserole, or a salad, or maybe some cookies, we would be most grateful!

Do you have blooming or almost blooming plants? If your flowers are like ours who knows-they are such unpredictable little things. Make sure to register your plants online just in case. All plants on the benches will be eligible for ribbon judging and show trophies.

Ever wonder what judges look for in a flower? By clerking Friday afternoon you will be able to get tips and learn a lot about how the judges make their decisions. If you can't make it on Friday, Saturday and Sunday you could help out by being a host or hostess.

Do you have a plant to enter but can not deliver it Friday morning? No problem, just register the plant online and bring it to Wednesday night's meeting. We will make sure it is properly placed on the bench for judging.

This month we are fortunate to have David Bird from the Orchid Cave to talk to us on how to grow orchids in a cave. I wonder if that translates to growing in our basements or how about the garage?

See you on Tues. the 12th for show set up!

~ Cheryl Mizak
President



September's Meeting Minutes



Judy Arth
Corresponding
Secretary

Farmington Senior Center, September 8, 2010

Cheryl opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and thanked everyone who came at 5:00 to help out with projects for the Orchid Show.

WELCOME BACK after summer break to our regular monthly meeting. We had a busy Spring and Summer with many Outreach Programs and many new members joined as a result. If any Visitors are here, please sign the guest book in the back of the room.

Since our Membership Chairman, Larry Kuekes is moving to Hawaii we have a new chairman, Mary Rampone. It is time to **renew your membership** for next year. If you are not sure if your membership is current, please check with Mary. With the show coming up you will want to be current so that you have free admission to the show .

We all love the newsletter and look forward to receiving it. With the cost of printing and postage continuing to escalate, we are offering a choice of receiving the letter electronically or hard copy. We are proposing an additional \$1 per month or \$10 per year donation when you pay your dues to help defray the hard copy costs.


The motion was moved, seconded and passed. If you decide to change from hard copy to the electronic version, give Mary Rampone your e-mail address and remember to update it if you change it in the future. The electronic copy of the newsletter is free.

The meeting next month will be held at the Cheshire Senior Center. David Bird from Orchid Cave will speak about growing orchids in a cave.

Orchid Harvest Show and Sale will be held next month on October 16th and 17th.

We need lots of help from each of you. Members are needed before, during and at take down at the end of the show. Think about when you can come to help. We will be meeting again on Tuesday night at Cheryl's office in Southbury. We will make and paint the signs, address postcards and go over last minute details. Come if you can.

Sam passed around a sheet for signing up for the preshow days and slots for jobs during the Show. Please sign up. Below are a few of the jobs you could help with.

1. Start Tuesday 9:00 AM on the 12th begin laying out benches, trellis and organize.
2. Wednesday and Thursday ,13th & 14th 9:00 AM cover the benches, tables, decorate the pond, finalize setup 

3. Friday 15th, 7:30 — 12:00 noon, direct the societies and vendors to their correct tables
4. Friday 15th, 1:00 PM, help the judges by being a clerk
5. Volunteer to bake goodies for the hospitality room
6. On the days of the show, 16th & 17th, be a host/hostess— greet guests at the entrance, direct guests to restrooms, offer vendors support, help collect admission at the door, assist at our club table with sale items, and conduct random exit interviews.

We want to urge you to register your plants for the benches ahead of time. There will be no on-site registration. If you are not sure how to register, feel free to email Judy Becker. If you have a plant that will be blooming and you will not be able to make Friday AM entry, bring them to our monthly meeting on the 13th and we will be sure to transport your plant to the judging on Friday.

After the business portion of our meeting was adjourned, Cheryl introduced Phil and Ann Jesup to speak about How to Prepare Orchids for Entry in a Show for Judging. It was a wonderful presentation full of light banter and ideas all of us can use to make our orchids look their best to a judge:

Trim out all the old leaves and stalks that are not needed anymore to make it look clean and neat. If they are flopping down trim them out. You can cut with a clean razor blade the leaves that have brown tips but make it look natural, leave a sharp tip at the end.

Phil's demonstration plant showed how important it is to stake the plant correctly as the stalk grows. Keep the stake as inconspicuous as possible, no cute little butterfly clips. You may need to stake the leaves as well as the flowers. Ann showed how to make a small stake out of wire that can easily be used and hidden in the foliage.


Ann's demonstration plant had lots of roots and obviously needed to be repotted. Some plants like this need to be hung so the roots can hang down. When traveling to and from the show be sure you pack them carefully. Use cotton fiber or support them so the flowers and plants don't get damaged.

They then went to our Show Table and brought a few orchids to critique and actually performed some "surgery" on one to show us how much better it looked after a complete trimming job which gives room for new growth and flowers to come.

We all thanked them for the insightful suggestions and hope their ideas will help us have much better looking plants in the future.

~ Judy Arth
Recording Secretary

Show Table

Genus	Plant	Owner	Culture
<i>Aerangis</i>	<i>mystacidii</i>	J. Hampton	g
<i>Angraecum</i> (<i>eburneum</i> var. <i>comorense</i>)	'Gwen Copley' AM/AOS x	Jesups	l, g
<i>Angraecum</i> (<i>superbum</i> x <i>scottianum</i>)	Longiscott 'OC'	J. Hampton	g
<i>Ascocenda</i> (<i>Meda Sand</i> x <i>Eileen Beauty</i>)	Dong Tarn 'Robert' AM/AOS	Jesups	l, g
<i>Ascocenda</i> (<i>V. luzonica</i> x <i>Ascda</i> Guo Chia Long)	Fat Tuesday AD/AOS	J. Hampton	g
<i>Ascocenda</i> (<i>V. Kasem's Delight</i> x <i>Ascda</i> . Yip Sum Wah)	John De Biase 'Fuchs Indigo' FCC/AOS	J. Hampton	g
<i>Ascocenda</i> (<i>V. merrillii</i> x <i>Ascda</i> . Guo Chia long)	Ken Kone 'Crownfox Spots' AM/AOS	J. Hampton	g
<i>Brassolaelia</i> (<i>Bl. Richard Mueller</i> x <i>B. cordata</i>)	Mem. Bernice Foster	C. Mizak	l, g
<i>Brassolaelia</i> (<i>L. rubescens</i> x <i>Bl. Richard Bueller</i>)	Petite Stars	C. Mizak	l,g
<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> (<i>Bl. Richard Mueller</i> x <i>Blc. Waianae Leopard</i>)	Hawaiian Leopard 'Mei-Ling' AM/AOS	S. Hinckley	l,w
<i>Brassophronitis</i> (<i>B. nodosa</i> x <i>S. coccinea</i>)	Edna	Jesups	c,g
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> (<i>longissima</i> x <i>rothschildianum</i>)	Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AM/AOS	Jesups	l,g
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> (<i>echinolabium</i> x <i>lobbii</i>)	Jersey	C. Mizak	l,g
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>laxiflorum</i>	J. Hampton	l,g
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> (<i>rothschildianum</i> x <i>Elizabeth Ann</i>)	Lovely Elizabeth	J. Hampton	l,g
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> (<i>Jersey</i> x <i>echinolabium</i>)	Valley Isle Queen	Jesups	l,g
<i>Cattleya</i>	hybrid	J. Arth	sunrm. 

<i>Cattleya</i>	hybrid	J. Arth	sunrm.
<i>Cattleya</i> (Empress Bells x Little Angel)	Angel Bells 'Suzie' AM/AOS	J. Sziklas	l,g
<i>Cattleytonia</i> (<i>C. skinneri</i> x <i>Ctna. Capri</i>)	Gabby Quest	Jesups	l,g
<i>Ceratostylis</i>	<i>rubra</i>	Jesups	l,g
<i>Cochleanthes</i> (<i>marginata</i> x <i>aromatica</i>)	Perfume	Jesups	l,g
<i>Dendrobium</i>	Hybridum ig.	D. Tognalli	l,w
<i>Dendrobium</i> (<i>victoria reginae</i> x <i>gonzalesii</i>)	Mingle's Sapphire	Jesups	c,g
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>tobaense</i>	D. Tognalli	l,w
<i>Laeliocatonia</i> (<i>Ctna. Keith Roth</i> x <i>L. briegeri</i>)	Flying Colors	Jesups	l,g
<i>Laeliocattleya</i>	<i>C. Cherry Chip</i> x <i>L. briegeri</i>)	Jesups	l,g
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> (<i>Lc. Cuiseag</i> x <i>C. Landate</i>)	Green Veil 'Dressy'	Jesups	l,g
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> (<i>Lc. Mini Purple</i> x <i>C. Candy Tuft</i>)	Secret Love	D. Tognalli	l,w
<i>Miltonia</i> ('Jane' AM/AOS x 'Newberry' AM/AOS)	<i>spectabilis</i> v. <i>moreliana</i>	Jesups	l,g
<i>Oncidium</i> (Jamie Sutton x Honolulu)	Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	J. Hampton	l,g
<i>Otaara</i> (<i>Blc. Lucky Strike</i> x <i>Ctna. Keith Roth</i>)	Jane Fumiye 'Hawaii' AM/AOS	Jesups	l,g
<i>Paphina</i> (<i>herreriae</i> x <i>cristata</i>)	Magestic	Jesups	l,g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> (Be Glad x Mahogany Leopard)	Knobby's Little Candy	Jesups	l,g
(2-plants) <i>Phragmipedium</i> (sorcerer's Apprentice x Grande)	Les Dirouilles	J. Sziklas	l,g
<i>Potinara</i> (<i>Slc. Judy Smith</i> x <i>Blc. Oconee</i>)	Elaine Taylor 'Krull-Smith' FCC/AOS	Jesups	l,g
<i>Propetalum</i>	hybridum ig.	Jesups	l,g
<i>Prosthecaea</i>	<i>cochleata</i> 'Spy Hill' AM/AOS	Jesups	l,g



<i>Prosthecaea</i>	<i>cochleata</i>		Jesups	l,g
<i>Sophtrolaelia</i>	Sato	(<i>Sl. Orpetii</i> x <i>S. cernua</i>)	Jesups	l,g
<i>Vanda</i>	Pachera Delight 'Isabella'	(<i>Karolea</i> x Gordon Dillon)	J. Hampton	l,g
<i>Vanda</i>	Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride' FCC/AOS	(Crimson Glory x <i>coerulea</i>)	J Hampton	l,g
<i>Vanda</i>	<i>tessellatea</i>		Jesups	l,g
<i>Vanda</i>	Virginia Vercillo	(<i>Gordon Dillon</i> x <i>merrillii</i>)	J. Hampton	l,g

Culture is as noted:

c – cool
w – warm
ws – windowsill

i – intermediate
g – greenhouse
l – lights

News, Notes & Happenings

Van Wilgen's Garden Center
North Branford, CT
Saturday, 8—5 pm, Sunday, 8—4 pm.

Orchid Harvest



**Free admission
for COS members
in good standing!**

Orchid Show and Sale
October 16th & 17th

Be there!!



Out Reach Programs

Old Saybrook Adult Education Classes, Sept.14 & 21



Cheryl

Mizak and Sharon SmithDelisle conducted two adult education classes at the Old Saybrook Highschool. The first class reviewed basic orchid growing techniques and the second class was a repotting clinic and discussion about pests & diseases. There were eight very interested beginner orchid growers in attendance and we hope they will be future society members, too! COS was invited back to conduct more classes next year.

Woodland Gardens Annual Holiday Open House, Nov. 13



Woodland Gardens, 168 Woodland St., Manchester, CT will hold their annual holiday open house on Saturday, Nov. 13th. Judy Arth will attend this event on behalf of COS and will be conducting a basic orchid growing class during the day helping growers with their orchid culture questions.

UCONN purchases 17 new orchid species for epiphyte tree



We have received an e-mail letter from Clinton Morse, Plant Facilities Manager, Univ. of CT Environmental and Ecological Greenhouses at Storrs, CT thanking COS, again for our generous donation to their epiphyte tree project; and notifying us that he has purchased 17 new orchid species for the tree with the donation check. He says that many of these species are a new genera for the facility and represent a very interesting variety of growth habits.

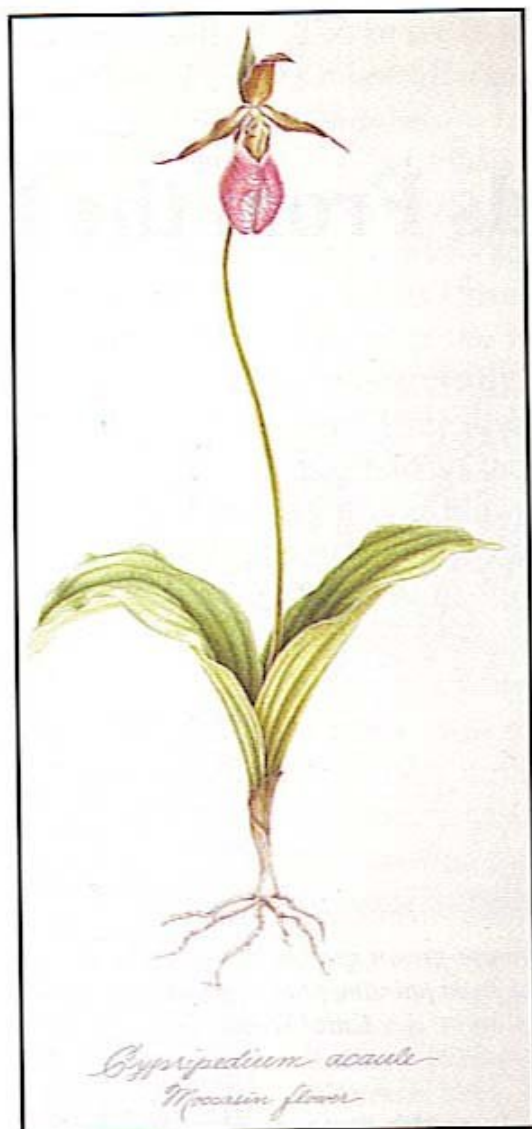
Some of the plants that were purchased include: *Chamaeangis hariotiana* (Kraenzl.) Schltr., *Dichaea glauca* Lindl., *Haraella odorata* Kudo, *Malaxis calophylla* Kuntze, *Oberonia oligotricha*, *Grammatophyllum speciosum* Blume, *Thunia alba*, *Phaius tankervilleae* v. *alba*, *Sievelingia fimbriata*, and many others.



Above: COS members chat during the Sept. meeting.



Many thanks to the members who came to the Sept. mtg early and pitched in to help with miscellaneous small tasks that needed to be done for our upcoming show. Many hands and some great camaraderie made the time and the chores pass quickly!



The source of one orchid-grower's and artist's addiction: discovery of Cypripedium acaule flowering gracefully in the forest.

(Drawing by Carol Woodin, "Orchids from the Palette". Reprinted from AOS Bulletin, July, 1991)

Western prairie fringed orchid numbers up from recent years.

(New release July 26, 2010)



Volunteer Clifford Steinhauer of rural Thief River Falls admires an orchid he found in Pennington County. (Photo courtesy of Alice Sather)

Braving the elements and wading through knee-deep water, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The Nature Conservancy crews and volunteers recently spent some time on the lookout for the federally threatened Western prairie fringed orchid.


Teams completed annual counts of the species in 90 percent of the state's 80 known surviving populations. The 2010 tally to date stands at approximately 4,500 plants — almost double

2009 totals and roughly comparable to 2003 counts.

The majority of these orchids are in northwestern Minnesota. The sole population in southeastern Minnesota reached 10 plants, which is the highest count in 10 years. No new populations were discovered this year, but new patches of plants were documented at known sites in Polk and Rock counties.

Perhaps because the long spring was favorable for plants' emergence during the first week of April, the orchid season was a week and a half earlier than normal.

Plants in northwestern Minnesota flowered the last week in June and early July. Participants in the DNR's Digital Bridge to Photography workshop at Touch the Sky Prairie in Rock County photographed the plants on July 10. Volunteering on such crews is the most reliable way to see the plant each year.

The Western prairie fringed orchid once extended from Oklahoma to Manitoba, east to central Iowa and west to central Nebraska. It has subsequently disappeared from Oklahoma and has been declining in the southern part of its range. Minnesota and North Dakota together support more than 80 percent of the plants in the U.S., but the only place where populations appear to be consistently on the rise is in Manitoba. Their numbers often top those of the neighboring two states. 

50 Years & Growing

In the U.S., Western prairie fringed orchid is protected by state and federal endangered species laws. In Manitoba, it is protected by provincial law and the Canadian Species at Risk Act. It is the only Minnesota plant on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Western prairie fringed orchids recently received publicity in North Dakota when the Department of Transportation sprayed herbicide on a large population of plants in a no spray zone. In Minnesota, DNR and MNDOT staff meets regularly to avoid such errors.

To find out more about volunteering on DNR's monitoring crews, contact the volunteer office at 888-646-6367. Registration begins each June.

(This article was reprinted from the Minnesota DNR website <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/index.php/2010/07/26western-prairie-fringed-orchid-numbers>)

And you think you're having trouble getting your orchids to the show...!!!!



Can you give Paul Gripp a hand loading his *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* 'Don Brown' CCM/AOS into his one-ton pickup truck? Paul was taking this monster to the 1998 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, where it won the Best Plant in Show Trophy and a 99-point Certificate of Cultural Merit. WOW!!

(Photo and information reprinted from Orchids, The magazine of The American Orchid Society, August 1998.)

From the COS archives

the way we were....

20 years ago this month ~

- ◆ The meeting was held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. Mexican orchid authority Alfred Lau was the speaker for the evenings event.
- ◆ The Show Table boasted of 120 blooming beauties. What a feast for the eyes that must have been!

30 years ago this month ~

- ◆ The meeting was held at the Unitarian Church in Hartford. President John Passander introduced Fred Hillerman of Angraecum House. Fred presented a lecture about his orchid safari to Madagascar along with some outstanding slides about the sights he and his wife Mary encountered on the trip, and the lovely orchids they saw.
- ◆ The Executive Committee voted to make Dr. Gus Melquist and Bill Hull Honorary Members of COS “in tribute for their time, efforts & devotion through the years.” At that time Bill Hull was a patient at the Branford Hospice and passed away a few days later. He was one of the original, founding members of COS.
- ◆ The Treasurer, Robert Chase reported that the COS checking account stood at \$1,868.58 .

Website news ~ greetings from cyberspace

The fall is fast approaching and our *Orchid Harvest* show is, too! The website has all the information you need to know about the Show & Sale. There is a tab with all the details on how to enter your plants for judging. There are also links to the website’s for each of our participating vendors — check them out! We have the lecture schedule up, and the volunteer schedule, too. I hope you have set aside a few hours to help out at the show. Go to the volunteer tab and sign up, now! The website is the place to go to for all your show info ...log on and check it out!

Looking forward to seeing you at the show!

www.ctorchids.org

~ Deidra Crewe
Webmaster



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

Coming in from the Cold

By Susan Jones

Many growers summer their orchids outdoors to take advantage of the sun and fresh air unavailable to them inside a greenhouse or home. Before bringing plants back inside their winter growing area, check them thoroughly for hitchhikers — plant and insect pests that may ride into the growing area on the returning plants.



Oxalis is a common weed in orchid pots and difficult to pull out. Seedpods can spread seeds over a wide area.

Visually inspect the upper and undersides of leaves and flowers, and around the base of the plant. Check the growing medium and pot or basket exterior from top to bottom. Some growers recommend a few treatments with a systematic insecticide at weekly intervals before bringing plants back in for the fall, even if no pests are in evidence.

A sampling of the many pests growers should be on the lookout for after summering plants outdoors is listed below.

In addition to insects, all sorts of weeds can establish in orchid pots or baskets, siphoning off needed water, light and fertilizer from the host orchid. Once introduced into a protected environment such as an indoor growing area, they can quickly spread through a collection.

Controls

The key to control is persistence. Regardless of method or chemical used, remain vigilant and expect to make at least two to three weekly applications.

Alcohol A popular home remedy is swabbing bugs off plants with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and a Q-tip™. This works for smaller populations of aphids, mealybugs and scale.

Repotting During extreme infestation, consider replacing the potting



medium. Media can harbor weed seeds, as well as pest eggs and crawlers, so dispose of it in a compost pile or in the garage. When repotting give plants a close inspection, and if necessary, a very gentle cleaning and spraying of the roots is essential.

Oils, Soaps, and Sterilants Horticultural, neem, and mineral oils smother the insect's breathing pores. These and insecticidal soaps, which dissolve the insect's cuticle, are generally considered safer for use around humans, pets, and plants than insecticides. Weekly applications reduce populations of mites, aphids, scale, mealybugs, sow bugs and pill bugs.

Growth Regulators and Chitin Inhibitors Insect-growth regulators, such as Enstar II, include a growth regulator that kills eggs and prevents insect maturation. These need a spreader-sticker (like silicon) to be effective. They are generally regarded as safe around humans and pets.

Insecticides Persistent or heavy infestations may require last-resort applications of synthetic insecticides. Some of the more effective insecticides are Orthene (wetable powder), Malathion (liquid), Diazinon (liquid), and Carbaryl (water-based emusifiable concentrate). Always follow label directions and never exceed the minimum recommended concentration given in mixing directions. Systematic insecticides (Orthene, Shield) absorb into the plant's sap stem, poisoning chewing and sucking insects. Pyrethrum, a natural insecticide derived from plant sources, attacks insects' nervous systems.




Individual Pests

Most insecticides have little effect on mites, but there are a number of chemicals specifically for mite control (called acaricides or miticides). A homemade general insecticide that is also effective against mites is 1 pint (.57 L) each of 409 household cleaner and rubbing alcohol, mixed with water to make 1 gallon (4.55 L) of spray.

Slugs will eat flowers, buds, root tips and new growths. Plants that are summered outdoors are favored haunts for these hungry mollusks.

When controlling aphids, mealybugs and scale, one must also eliminate any ants that protect and farm them. Insecticidal sprays are effective against worker ants that transport and protect other pests. Use this in conjunction with sugar-based ant baits to kill off the rest of the colony.

For snail and slug control, organic (such as Sluggo, EscarGo, and Worry Free) and chemical baits (such as metaldehyde) are available from garden supply retailers. Many growers also hand-pick the critters off or set out a small tuna-fish type can filled with beer to drown the mollusks. Repotting and thoroughly cleaning all old media from the orchid's roots will eliminate any eggs that may be lurking in pots. Roaches, pill bugs, sow bugs and ants can be driven from a plant by immersing the 

pot, right up over the top of the media, in a bucket of water. The insects will emerge to avoid drowning, and may then be disposed of. Roaches may also be controlled through the use of baits, but learn quickly to avoid many chemical baits. Roaches will eat borax, however. West Palm Beach Judging Center Photographer Greg Allikas' simple homemade bait can be constructed by gluing a few boric acid tablets (available in grocery stores) to the inside bottom of an empty 35-mm film can. Set the film cans horizontally on the surface of plants' media.

Weeds must be eliminated by hand. Herbicides are likely to damage or kill the orchid host along with the weed. To eradicate well-established weeds, it may be necessary to replot the plants in order to eliminate seeds in the medium.

Final Considerations

On the extreme side, for a plant showing signs of decline from pest or disease, consider whether the low likelihood of rejuvenating the plant justifies the expense and effort of continued treatments. Destruction of a sick plant can not only be used to justify the purchase of a new, healthier one, but may keep the rest of the collection from becoming infected, making it a precaution well worth taking.

Never apply any liquid pest treatment in direct sunlight or high heat. To prevent burning tissues, always shade plants until the solution dries. Whenever chemical controls are employed, always check to see that the product has been approved for application to orchids, and follow carefully all instructions for the product's safe use. To minimize risks of developing a treatment-resistant pest population, change methods and chemicals occasionally; do not use the same chemical mix more than three to four times sequentially.

Before nighttime temperatures dip too low, take the time to return orchids summering outdoors to their indoor growing spaces. In addition to checking for insects and other pests, remember that a change in environments, especially the light conditions and humidity levels, can impact how successfully your orchids make the transition from the garden back into the greenhouse or home.

Insect Hitchhikers/Inspect Orchids for These Pests Prior to Bringing Them Indoors

Aphids can be found on new growth, at the base of buds, on flowers and on the undersides of leaves. They feed on plant juices, causing poor growth, stunted plants or curled and distorted leaves. Where buds are attacked, the flower — if it opens at all—will be mottled and distorted. The sap sucking may result in wilting, deformed plant growth, yellowing, and even loss of leaves. Another sign of aphids is the presence of ants or sooty mold attracted to the honeydew secreted by these insects. Aphids' salivary secretions can also be toxic to their host plant. Traveling between plants, aphids can introduce and



Aphids can multiply quickly so it is best to eliminate them before bringing



spread virus and disease. Mealy bugs suck the sap from plants; they feed under bracts and sheaths, and on the roots. Signs of an infestation include small whitish, powdery or cottony looking deposits on plants. As the damage progresses, leaves may curl, yellow, become stunted, and/or drop. In addition, flower production and stem growth may be reduced. Like aphids and some scales, mealybugs also secrete honeydew, which attracts ants and promotes the growth of sooty molds.

Mites, due to their almost microscopic size, are often detected by the damage they inflict. This makes a plant's leaves look silvery, especially on the underside, where they have killed the cells of the surface layer. From the top, the leaf often has many tiny yellow spots that turn brown over time. Mites can severely weaken and disfigure orchids by sucking sap and chlorophyll, causing leaves to blanch and appear silvery, and bruised-looking areas on flowers. Because of their feeding style, they are also potential vectors of diseases.

Pill Bugs and Sow Bugs are nocturnal scavengers that prefer to live in humid, sheltered areas that have plentiful decaying organic material (like broken down orchid media), such as orchid pots. They feed on the fungi and bacteria in the dead and rotting vegetation. Orchid roots are damaged when these bugs eat the fungi and microorganisms that inhabit the root surfaces.

Roaches enter orchid pots through drainage holes and remain hidden in the growing media by day. Plants kept on the ground are especially vulnerable. The presence of roaches is indicated by their damage to plants (nibbled flowers, root tips and roots, and new growth).

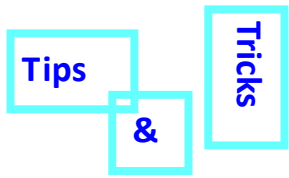
Scale establish on the undersides of leaves, down in leaf axils, and beneath the papery sheaths on orchid pseudobulbs, and so may go undetected until they reach infestation level. Adult scale have a waxy protective coating, under which the insect feeds on plant sap, creating chlorotic spots on plant leaves.

Snails and Slugs prefer to eat blooms, roots and tender new growths, although they will consume any plant part. They do their damage primarily at night, leaving translucent, shiny slime trails; holes with uneven brown edges eaten through the flower tissues; nibbled roots —thicker roots may only have small pockmarklike holes eaten into them, while smaller, finer roots may be eaten clean through; new growths may be damaged or chewed down to a nub.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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Helpful memory hint

Your memory is a poor thing to rely on to keep track of when different things have been done or should be done to your orchid collection. A calendar reserved solely for such use, and conscientiously referred to, is a valuable tool. Choose a size sufficiently large to accommodate modest-sized notes on any given day. *(Submitted by John K. Strickland, reprinted from the Oct. 1992 AOS Bulletin)*

Show us your moustache

The next time you divide an orchid, reach for milk. That's right. Moo juice could prove to be effective against the spread of viruses, according to John Hammond, PHD, a research plant pathologist in the Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit at the United States Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. "Although the element that provides this special benefit from milk has not yet been identified, researchers suspect it is a protein. Researchers have been experimenting with tobacco mosaic virus and have found that when milk came in contact with virused lesions on plants, the lesions were significantly reduced. Try dipping /soaking your cutting tools in milk before and after working on each orchid. It will not prevent virus, but it could significantly reduce the spread of virus. Reconstituted dry milk will work just as well and is much more convenient to store. Using milk does not appear to cause much damage to cutting tools, either. Certainly less damage than the long-term effects of flaming blades or the corrosive effects of chlorine bleach. *(Above quotation and information for this paragraph were obtained from Orchids—The Magazine of the American orchid Society, Sept. 1998. Article was written by James Watson, Editor)*

Don't lose that mix down the drain!

Mrs. J.E. Kelsoe of Avery, Tx. puts a fresh, new, paper coffee filter in the bottom of each pot when she repots to prevent fine mix from washing out. *(reprinted from "helpfullhints", the American Orchid Society Bulletin, May 1993)*

Tie on a red ribbon

Mrs. J.E. Kelsoe of Avery, Tx. also suggests marking those orchids that are beginning to develop buds with a bright red piece of ribbon as a reminder to take extra care during watering or spraying. She suggests marking pots with two red ribbons if you notice that an orchid needs extra attention, such as repotting or clean up. The two ribbons will be a reminder to you that you need to set some time aside soon to tackle this project. *(reprinted from "helpfullhints", the American Orchid Society Bulletin, May 1993)*

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.

Presentation

By Larry Kuekes

(This article first appeared in the Nov. 1993 newsletter)



Larry Kuekes

Whether you grow your orchids for exhibition or just for your own viewing, you want them to look their best. It can be irritating if, when your orchid flowers after a whole year of anticipation, the flower spike droops too much, so you stake it up only to find the flowers are now held at strange angles. With a little attention to details, your orchids can be displayed as attractively as any show plants.

Most orchid species will naturally arrange their flowers in an attractive way without any help. (Some species with pendant flowers need to be hung high up in a greenhouse, so you can see them from underneath. Luckily these are exceptions). But some hybrids have such large and heavy flowers that they need a little artificial support. The best time to stake them is *before* the flowers open, to avoid having the flowers cocked at strange angles as mentioned above.

Long spikes of heavy flowers, such as phalaenopsis and cymbidiums, should be tied to the stake at about one third of their length; the rest of the spike will then make a graceful curve on its own. A thin green bamboo or wooden stake is inconspicuous. Try not to damage the roots when forcing it down through the medium. Spikes of small flowers such as oncidiums won't need staking at all.

Large individual flowers, such as some paphiopedilums, are best supported with wire stakes. You can make your own with wire from the hardware store (get some that's stiff, but not as stiff as coat hanger wire). Just cut off a length and bend the end over with pliers, then bend it again into a U-shape. The wire should go just behind the flower, with the stem resting in the U.

What if, despite your efforts, the flower comes out twisted at a strange angle? Here's a little trick that sometimes works for me. If it's possible to manually bend or twist the flower into the right position, but it just won't stay there, try using a wire "twistem" or a piece of masking tape from the flower stem to the stake to hold the flower in position. You may have to use a little ingenuity, and you need to be very careful not to break the stem. After a few days the twistem or tape can be removed and the flower should stay put. Don't stick the tape to itself or it'll be hard to get off.



Indoor growers face another challenge. In nature, or in a greenhouse, the orchid plant gets sunlight from different directions as the sun moves during the day. On a windowsill, the light always comes from one direction, and since plants grow toward the light, the result can be a lopsided flower display. Even worse, if you try to compensate by turning the orchid, the result can be a flower spike that snakes to and fro. There's no good solution to this problem. The best bet is not to move the plant while in spike, and let nature take its (horizontal) course. I've also found that it's best to let the flowers open facing the window, not turning the plant around for a few days while the flowers "harden". Then turn the plant to let the flowers face into the room. They're less likely to point in odd directions this way.

Fluorescent light growers have a different problem. Since the light comes from above, flower presentation is better than with the sideways light from a window. The problem is that tall spikes quickly run out of room. If the height of your lights above the plants is adjustable, you can just raise the lights temporarily. I used to have one set of lights which I could raise for plants in spike or flower, and another which I kept low for the rest of the plants.



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Drawing by W. Dillion


October Checklist

By Robert M. Scully

Cooler days and nights are increasingly prevalent in most areas. If you are growing either outdoors or in a growing facility independent of your home, plan for winter-like conditions now. Decide where you will keep your most sensitive plants when the first cold arrives. Inspect the covering of your growing house to see if it is intact or needs replacing before the winds—which usually accompany a rainy cold front—strip the structure. Determine if the greenhouse is reasonably airtight to minimize heat loss and/or the development of cold water drips (condensation). Test your heaters to ascertain that they are operating correctly. Verify that your fuel tank (gas or oil) is filled, that the vent systems are functional and that all electrical control devices — including your temperature alarm system—are perfect, too. Act now to get the heating set-up prepared for what could be a severe winter.

Observe with greater care the rate at which your plants dry after each watering. With cooler and shorter days, expect a longer term between waterings. Watch those plants that have been in the brightest light through the summer because they are probably going to need some extra watering when first brought in from the outdoors; let them slow their growth rate gradually, but be sure also that you are not overwatering.

Generally, plants will need less frequent applications of fertilizer from this month forward until spring; with lower light and temperature levels, the plants' food manufacturing systems become less efficient. In other words, an excess of the food manufacturing ingredients (light, water, temperature, etc.) for production of essential carbohydrates within the plant will be wasted, or could cause harm.

Cattleya Alliance In this group, one should include the colorful *Sophranitis coccinea* which enjoys a peak flowering season this month. Some of its hybrids should also be blooming, particularly those involving summer-fall flowering parents. While the plants are usually small, their show of color makes them conspicuous. Also likely to flower now are *Cattleya luteola*, *Laelia pumila*, *Encyclia cochleata*, *Epidendrum ciliare* and *Epidendrum pseudepidendrum*. These range in size from the diminutive first two to the tall and spectacular last-named species. Flower colors range from lavender (*L. pumila*) to green to orange-red and on through the yellow or greenish tones of the others. 

Phalaenopsis *Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana* var. *hieroglyphica* (known also as *Phal. hieroglyphica*) flowers reliably in the autumn. Its pale yellow flowers are distinctively marked with well-defined brown lines arranged randomly on the sepals and petals. These long-lasting flowers also provide an abundance of sweet fragrance. *Phalaenopsis equestris* and *Phalaenopsis lindenii* may also show their best now; the former may be everblooming through spring. *Phalaenopsis lindenii* will arouse curiosity with its attractively striped lip.

Catasetum As predicted in last month's column, you should be seeing the first flowers of *Catasetum pileatum* and its hybrids now. Handle these plants and all of the *Catasetum*s with care when the blooms open. Even a minor jarring of the plant or direct contact with the flower can cause the flowers to eject their pollen-carrying anther caps, resulting in a much shortened flower life. This interesting and unique method of natural pollen dissemination is always a stimulating topic of conversation for those seeing it occur for the first time. Try showing a non-orchid-growing friend the sequence, and you will likely have enticed a new orchid hobbyist right away.

Orchid Flower

Slowly
Turning toward the sun
The orchid opens

It is born
From a green chrysalis

Its petals shine
Like the wings
Of a butterfly

It breathes
The new air
With a delicate mouth

And before its wings close
It touches my soul

— *By Heken Weil*
Member of the Atlanta Orchid Society
802 Saddle Hill lane,
Marietta, Georgia 30068

Reprinted from "Parting Shot",
pg. 480, Orchids —The Bulletin of the American
Orchid Society, Aug. 2010

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



Trivia

Challenge

**This month,
a little Halloween
ghoulish fun**



**Can you guess what this strange object is?
Hint: It's part of an orchid**
(see answer below) *

Autumn Orchids WordFind 2010

- by WordFind for Crossword Maker 98

ACUMINATE	AUSCIBED	AI BINO	AMATEUR	BECKER	CHLOROPHYLL
COLLECTION	CONSERVATION	CLAU TURE	DECARDIOUS	FLASH	CREENHOUSE
HOBBY	HYBRID	KUEKES	LAVENDAR	LEAD	LEAF
LIP	MOTYLED	POLLEN	RAINWATER	REGISTER	STOLONIFEROUS

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

Solution to last month's
wordsearch puzzle.

* Believe it or not this is a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) high magnification photo of an orchid seed (*Papilionidium* Susan Tucker x *Paph. partschtii*). Photo was taken by Mrs. Justine Michaud, University of CA at Irvine, CA. Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Bulletin, October, 1978.

Directions to Cheshire Senior Center

240 Maple Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410

From New Haven, CT:

- Take I-91 North to exit 10 (Route 40)
- Follow Rt. 40 to the end (last exit—for Mount Carmel/Cheshire)
- Turn right onto Route 10 North (Whitney Ave.) At the traffic light for the intersection of Rt. 10 and Routes 68/70 West Turn left onto Main St. —which runs into Maple Ave. at the next traffic light.
Proceed straight ahead on Maple Ave. Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the right 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 Rt. 70.
- At the end of Rt. 70 (facing the Cheshire Post Office) turn left at the light onto Maple Ave. The Cheshire Senior Center is # 240 on the right after The Victorian House Restaurant.

From Hartford via I-91:

- Take I-91 South to Exit 18 onto Route 691 (Meriden/Waterbury)
- Take Exit 3 off Rt. 691 and turn left at the traffic light onto Rout 10 South.
- Continue through seven 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 onto Route 691 (Meriden)
- Take Exit 3 off Rt. 691 and 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 is # 240 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)

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Single Lifetime Membership \$200

Family Lifetime Membership \$250

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

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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.

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