



**Connecticut  
Orchid  
Society  
Newsletter**

*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society*

**September 2010**

***50 Years & Growing***

## Next Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 P.M. Socializing begins and Show Table opens  
7:30 P.M. Business meeting begins followed by the evening's featured event.

**Place:** Farmington Senior Center  
321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT  
(See pg. 37 for directions)

**Program:** ~ *Select, Stake, Scrub & Shine* ~  
*Preparing Your Orchids for Judging*  
Presented by Ann Jesup and AOS Judge Phil Jesup

**Meeting Status:** For notice of lastminute or inclement weather cancellation, visit our website [www.ctorchids.org](http://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

**E-mail** President Cheryl Mizak [president@ctorchids.org](mailto:president@ctorchids.org)  
Web Master Deidra Crewe [dcreweorchids@yahoo.com](mailto:dcreweorchids@yahoo.com)  
Editor Sharon SmithDelisle [editor@ctorchids.org](mailto:editor@ctorchids.org)

Connecticut Orchid Society (COS) is an incorporated nonprofit 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. 38 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>Vacant</i>
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
WEB MASTER	<i>Deidra Crewe</i>
WEB TECHNICAL ADVISOR	<i>Joseph Linger</i>

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### Mentor List

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

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

**Charlie Boos**    [charlieb1962@yahoo.com](mailto:charlieb1962@yahoo.com) Greenhouse & under lights growing methods: Cattleyas, Vandas, Dendrobiums, Sophronitis & hybridizing

**Sam Hinckley**    [samuelhinckley@comcast.net](mailto:samuelhinckley@comcast.net) Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

**Joe Linger**    [jlinger@snet.net](mailto:jlinger@snet.net) (Greenhouse, outdoors & under lights growing methods: Species & hybrids

**Sharon SmithDelisle**    [editor@ctorchids.org](mailto:editor@ctorchids.org) Under lights & windowsill growing methods: Bulbophyllums, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera.

**David Tognalli**    [dtog54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtog54@sbcglobal.net) Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums & mixed genera.

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### Membership Policy

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



## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 8 Licke'em, Stick'em, Paint'em & Stuff'em Pizza Party:** 5:00 pm –7:00 pm, work session preparing show post cards for mailing, stuffing raffle prize bags and other small misc. tasks that need to be done for our orchid show. Pizza and so drinks will be provided by COS. Join us for a li le fun prior to the start of the monthly meeting—many hands make light work. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville.
- Sept. 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** *“Select, Stake, Scrub & Shine, Preparing Your Orchids for Judging”* presented by Ann Jesup and AOS Judge Phil Jesup, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, Unionville, CT. Members are encouraged to bring blooming plants for critiquing.
- Sept. 14 Orchid Harvest Show & Sale Workshop:** Please join us to continue the many small tasks that we need to complete in preparation of our orchid show & sale in Oct. 6:00 pm—9:00 pm, Alcher Interiors, Main St., Southbury, CT. Bring your own sandwich/supper. Contact Cheryl Mizak to RSVP and for directions (203) 264-6096.
- Oct. 14 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** *Growing Orchids in a Limestone Cave*, presented by David Bird, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, Cheshire, CT.
- Oct. 16 ~ 17 Connecticut Orchid Society Show & Sale:** *Orchid Harvest*, Sat., Oct. 16, 8:00 am ~ 5:00 pm, Sun., Oct. 17, 8:00 am ~ 4:00 pm, daily admission \$5.00 ea., Van Wilgen’s Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., (off Rt. 139) North Branford, CT. AOS judged bench show, orchid vendors, food, instant orchid raffles, junior orchid growers booth, orchid growing seminars and educational booths.
- Nov. 11 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** TBA, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, Unionville, CT
- Dec. 15 Connecticut Orchid Society Holiday Party & Mini-Auction:** 7:30 pm, Agriculture Experiment Station, New Haven, CT

## AOS corner



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

By Chris Rehmann

Lynn Fuller, the new Affiliated Society Chairperson has given me the opportunity to introduce myself to each of the Affiliated Society members through the **AOS Corner**. I am your new AOS President and have the pleasure to serve each of you for a one year term.


Who am I? Well, I am an orchid hobbyist like most of you. I grow mainly *Cattleya* species with some multi-flora *Paphiopedilums* to take up the darker spaces in my greenhouses. In order to support my "orchid habit", I own a Civil-Environmental Engineering firm located in southern New Jersey.



The Affiliated Societies are the backbone of the American Orchid Society. We all probably started as a member of a local society to find more information about these beautiful flowers called, orchids. My local society is the Sandpiper Orchid Society, located near Atlantic City, New Jersey. This great group of orchid lovers has assisted me in many ways to cultivate better orchids.

Walter Off, the co-owner of a local commercial orchid business helps to organize the Sandpiper Orchid Society and has been a tremendous assistance to new and long time growers. Walt provides information on local conditions that improve culture and eliminates the trial and error methods to find the right fertilizer for our local conditions.

I am sure each Affiliated Society has a local commercial grower that is involved with their group. Support them so that they are there to provide the best cultural information for your area.

Many commercial growers provide discounts to AOS members. Ask them and see if they participate in this program. If you are like me, I pay for my AOS membership with discounts from orchid purchases. 

One of my initiatives is to provide better communication between the Affiliated Societies and the national organization. All too often, the AOS Trustees come to a Show that has been organized by an Affiliated Society, become engrossed in meetings and never mingle with our local members. After organizing the Show, raising funds to rent the venue needed, and all the backbreaking work to set up exhibits, it would be nice to be able to interact with your national leaders. It is my goal to encourage this discourse.

The Merri Huntington Memorial Symposium is being held in Virginia Beach, Virginia from October 27 — 31, 2010. This will be a great event. Please consider joining us at the Show. The hotel has given the event planners great prices so come for the weekend. There are international speakers from France and Germany. It is a once in a lifetime chance to hear their words of wisdom about orchid culture.

Thank you again for affording me the opportunity to serve you as President. It is a great Society of wonderful people. Join us. Become a member of the American Orchid Society.

*(This message provided by Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, BellaOnline, Kiva.org—Loans That Change Lives)*



*Bulbophyllum lobbi*

Grown & photographed by  
Alan & Cheryl Mizak



## Around the Greenhouse -- Editor's keikis

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Your feedback about any issue that is on your mind will help us improve our Society, as well as the newsletter. Please write to me at [editor@ctorchids.org](mailto:editor@ctorchids.org) or 38 Robinhood Rd., Danbury, CT 06811.

*The deadline for submissions to the Oct. issue of the newsletter is Sept. 24th.*

September is the beginning of a new season for orchid societies in the northeast. The calendar may say there are still four more months in the year, but for us it is time to kick off another year; time for membership renewal, time to start thinking about nominations for a new Board of Directors, outreach programs and turning over the reins of responsibility to the new board of directors. This year all of the directors terms of office are ending except Nan Peschel's, who is still eligible to run for one more year as Director at Large. Do you have any special skills that would make you a good candidate for a position on the board? Do you know anyone who might be interested in helping the Society plan its future? Please get in contact with us.

We are also in high gear for our show and sale *Orchid Harvest* on Oct. 16 and 17. This bench show will be AOS judged on Friday, Oct. 15th. Plant registration will be via our website [www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org). Check the site out for more details about the show and register your blooming orchids for judging. Help is always needed on our shows—a huge endeavor but always worth the effort. Sam Hinckley is coordinating show volunteers. Help us beforehand with some of the multitude of small tasks that need doing or volunteer to be one of our hosts/hostesses on the weekend of the show itself. You will have a lot of fun and you will feel good that you were one of the members who helped make the show a huge success. And don't forget to loan us your blooming plants for the show!

Publishing and printing costs continue to escalate. Starting with our membership drive in September, we are asking everyone who wants to continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter to help defray costs by contributing an additional \$10 per year. That works out to \$1/issue of the newsletter. Postage alone for each newsletter works out to be 61 cents on average!

If not otherwise noted, all of the clever line drawings and vignettes that you will find scattered throughout the newsletter are the work of Marion Ruff Sheehan. Marion's talented work was featured for several decades on a regular basis in the AOS Bulletin from the 1970s through the 1990s. It is a pleasure to reprint her art here.



Happy reading & growing...  
Sharon SmithDelisle, Editor





**New member welcome** ☹ It may have been summer vacation and we didn't have any meetings, but several new folks joined our ranks. A very warm welcome to the following new members: Toni Nabholz from Danbury, Mary Beth Morrison also from Danbury, Joan Benetson from Woodbury, Dore Kern from Northfield and Mary Ferrano from Prospect. We look forward to getting to know you at our next meeting.

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**Mentors needed** ☹ Like to talk about growing your orchids? Have you been growing orchids for awhile and feel confident that you could help other members with their culture? Consider becoming a COS Mentor. Your name and growing interests will be listed in the newsletter and online along with your preferred method of contact. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your knowledge with others.

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**New Membership Chairperson announced** ☹ Membership Chair Larry Kuekes is retiring and moving out of the area. Mary Rampone has volunteered to take over the Membership Chair from Larry effective immediately. Mary has some very big shoes to fill! Larry has expertly handled membership, enrollment, collecting dues and maintaining the membership database during his tenure. Recently, the Welcome Committee was made a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. In addition to the duties of membership, Mary will also be assembling and mailing out New Member Kits. Thank you, Mary for taking over this important job!

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**Dues are due** ☹ September begins our membership drive and dues renewal period. Please send your dues to Membership Chair Mary Rampone, 53 Barbara Lane, Woodbury, CT 06798. Dues are \$20 for individual and \$25 for family. Won't you take a minute and do it now? Then it will be off your "To Do" list for another year.

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**Newsletter hardcopy publishing costs** ☹ Do you look forward to your hard copy of the newsletter arriving in the mailbox every month? Well, publishing and printing costs continue to rise. Each year COS must absorb more and more expense in a down economy. Unfortunately, we are forced to ask every member who wishes to continue receiving a hardcopy of the newsletter to donate a \$1.00/month to help defray costs. This works out to \$10.00 a year. When you renew your dues, please include an additional \$10.00 if you want to continue to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter. If not, please give your e-mail address to the membership chair so that we can add your name to the list of members who receive their newsletter electronically.



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**Rick Brown, thank you!** ☹ If you notice some improvements to the newsletter layout, thank Rick Brown. Rick has worked in the publishing world for a number of years and noticed a few things that were wrong with our layout. He kindly made some excellent suggestions to your editor about ways to make our newsletter look more professional, which were promptly put in place.

## September's Featured Event

### *~ Select, Stake, Scrub & Shine ~ Preparing Your Orchids for Judging*

Presented by COS Members Ann Jesup and AOS Judge Phil Jesup



Our Orchid Show and Sale *Orchid Harvest* is just around the corner in October. Ann and Phil Jesup will conduct a workshop about preparing your plants for showing and judging. You are encouraged to bring blooming plants for critiquing to the meeting. Ann and Phil will discuss selecting which plants should be brought to a show/judging and which plants it would be better to leave at home. They will be glad to review the plants you bring and make expert recommendations about culture, flaws, ways to prepare the plant for showing, containers, staking, cleaning and shining up the foliage. Ann and Phil will conduct a practice mini judging session, which will explain the differences between ribbon judging and AOS judging.

Ann and Phil are expert growers who have been involved with AOS judging for many years and have received more awards than they can count for outstanding orchids. It is an honor to have them come to this meeting and share their thoughts, ideas and secrets. You can be assured that your plant will be treated with respect and that they will make useful, kindly suggestions about ways to improve your presentation and your chances at winning an award.

This special meeting will be video taped for future presentations. Join us for a fabu-

## President's Message



President Cheryl Mizak

Hello

I hope everyone had a great summer. Our plants certainly did! I am hoping they will all fit back in my greenhouse. As summer winds down COS is gearing up for our show, ORCHID HARVEST, Oct. 16 & 17. The Show Committee is planning a great show. For this month's program we have asked COS members and notable growers Ann and AOS Judge Phil Jesup to coach us on how to prep and present our plants for the show. They have keen, trained eyes and we are lucky to have such talented members to teach us.

There are also many small tasks that need to be accomplished before the show opens, such as labeling and stamping post cards, stuffing instant raffle prize bags, painting our show signs, etc. Join us at 5:00 pm for a pizza & work party on Wed., Sept. 8th before the monthly meeting gets underway at 7:00 pm, and help us get many of these little chores done. We are also planning another work session for Tuesday, Sept. 14th from 6 ~ 9 pm (bring your own supper/sandwich) to finish up whatever we don't get done on Sept. 8th. Sam Hinckley will have sign up sheets at Wed. night's meeting. Please check in with Sam to see how you can help. We will meet in Southbury, so please ask Sam or me for the directions.

We need one or two people to be host/hostess for our monthly meetings this fall. Sharon Smith-Delisle usually gets the refreshment table set-up and the coffee pots perking for us but she has a schedule conflict this fall, and we need someone to fill in for her. If you think you could arrive a little early and get the coffee made ahead of members arrival, we would appreciate your help.

Look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday.



Cheryl Mizak  
President

# June's Meeting Minutes



Judy Arth  
Corresponding  
Secretary

(Editor's Note: Judy Arth was out of town and unable to attend the meeting. Judy Becker stepped in and took the minutes.)

Minutes June 9, 2010

The meeting was held at Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT. Despite rather heavy rain at times, members managed to see part of the nursery displays prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Mizak at 7:30 pm. COS will have a display at the Rose Garden in Elizabeth Park on June 19-20 and a potting clinic in Woodbury on June 26. Our July picnic will be at the home of Nan Peschel on July 17.

Ann and Phil Jesup then introduced our speaker, Marni Turkel. Many of us are first attracted to large flowered orchids, which can quickly outgrow windowsill and artificial light conditions. So in the words of our speaker, "Get over that size thing". "Less is More" was a fascinating argument for the beauty to be seen in small orchids. Many of them have interesting foliage (for the times they aren't in bloom) or even sculptural qualities. Among the superbly photographed plants shown were a variety of pleurothallids, *Oberonia* species, *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, *Paphina*, and some where the name is probably longer than the plant. Even *Phalaenopsis gibbosa* a species that is deciduous in winter when it should be kept cooler.

Cultural recommendations for the small ones.

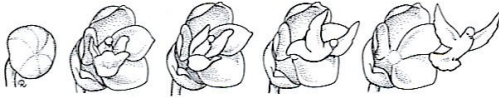
1. Water quality is very important, especially for mounted plants where the water evaporates quickly. Many fine rooted plants are very sensitive to excess salts in the water. Ideal pH 6.0-6.5 She recommends using a watering agent.
2. Mini – Max Thermometer can register the temperature range. Some plants have a limited range, others tolerate, and even thrive with wide swings between day and night.
3. Light quality and day length.
4. Humidity She likes under bench fans.
5. Fertilizer lightly with almost every watering while plants are in active growth.
6. Potted or mounted depends on plant and your conditions.



Special considerations for miniatures. Inverted net pot keeps center of pot from staying too moist. Beware of “moss creep” which can overwhelm small plants. The algae coat blocks light. Spray with 3% hydrogen peroxide. Ants can be a problem. Try Terro ant dust. Bush snails and slugs are worse.

And then there was a quick tour of some of her favorites: *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta*, *Gastrochilus fuscopunctatus*, *Cymbidium grinum*, *Dendrobium cyanocentrum*, *Promenaea silvana*, *Pleione formosanum*, *Trichocentrum longicalcaratum*, *Polystachya pubescens*, *Aeranthes longipes*, *Sarcochilus ceciliae*, *Lycaste campbellii* and others. Do try to look up her articles which have appeared in *Orchids* and *Orchid Digest*.

Judy Becker, Secretary Pro tem



On left: Members enjoy Marni Turkel's talk.  
Below: Ann & Phil Jesup introduce speaker Marni Turkel.



Speaker Marni Turkel talks with members after the meeting.

## Show Table

Genus	Plant	Owner	Conditions
<i>Ascocenda</i> ( <i>Ascda</i> Madame Kenny x <i>V. denisoniana</i> )	Kenny Gold 'Orchid Grove' AMAOS	Jesups	i,g
<i>Ascocentrum</i>	<i>miniatum</i>	B. Esselink	w,g
<i>Brassia</i>	<i>verrucosa</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> ( <i>Blc.</i> Meditation x <i>Blc.</i> Waikiki Gold)	Erin Kobayashi 'Lahaina Gold' AM/AOS	Jesups	i,g
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>frostii</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Encyclia</i>	<i>prismatocarpa</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Masdevallia</i>	hybrid	Jesups	c-i,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> ( <i>oscitans</i> x <i>Urubamba</i> )	Yma Sumac	Jesups	c,g
<i>Maxillaria</i>	species	Jesups	i,g
<i>Miltonioides</i>	<i>karwinskii</i>	S. SmithDelisle	i,w
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>druryi</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> ( <i>niveum</i> x <i>tonsum</i> )	Olivia	Jesups	i,g
<i>Pescatoria</i>	<i>coronaria</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Potinara</i> ( <i>Pot.</i> Hisako Akatsuka x <i>Slc.</i> Circle of Life)	Dream Circle	Jesups	c,g
<i>Promenaea</i> ( <i>ovatiloba</i> x <i>stapelioides</i> )	Lime Light 'Skippy' AM/AOS	Jesups	i,g
<i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> ( <i>Sl.</i> Psyche x <i>Lc.</i> Jose Diaz Castro)	Love Castle 'Kurenai'	Jesups	i,g
<i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> ( <i>Slc.</i> Naomi Kerns x <i>S. coccinea</i> )	Morning Glow 'Nice Day'	Jesups	i,g



Vascostylis Pine Rivers 'Deep Sea'  
(Ascda. Peggy Foo x Rhynchostylis coelestis)

Jesups

i,g

Culture is as noted:

c – cool

w – warm

ws – windowsill

i – intermediate

g – greenhouse

l – lights




# Orchid Harvest



Orchid Show and Sale  
October 16th & 17th

**Our Show & Sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 16 & Sunday, Oct. 17 at Van Wilgen's Garden Center, North Branford, CT ~** COS has teamed up with the Van Wilgen's family to present an AOS sanctioned and judged bench show. The Van Wilgen's Garden Center is an internationally recognized award winning garden center and we are delighted to hold our show at this special place. The bench show will be AOS judged on Friday, Oct. 15th. 8 vendors including plant and art vendors have accepted our invitation to partake in the show. We will also have lectures, educational booths, instant orchid raffles and a Junior Orchid Growers booth. "Good To Go" will cater the event and they are offering a varied autumn-themed menu of delicious foods and beverages.

The COS Board of Directors has been meeting month after month planning and preparing for this event. This major show can't be done by just a few volunteers. We're going to need lots of help for it to succeed. If you haven't been active in the Society before, now is a great opportunity to demonstrate your support. Please consider volunteering to do just a few, small things. It will help the Society and you will have some fun getting to know your fellow members better.

The following list of tasks are some of the things you can volunteer to help with. This list was compiled by former editor Larry Kuekes and reprinted from the 



Feb. 2003 COS newsletter. The dates may have changed but the tasks necessary to put on a successful show remain the same.


**Lend plants for our show.** Everyone with orchids in bloom in early October should try to lend some to the event. We're going to put on a large bench show and will need a lot of plants to fill up the tiered shelves. You don't even have to bring the plants to the show and back (although it would be great if you can.) One important detail — due to time constraints, it will not be possible to register plants for judging on the morning of the show setup, so **all plants must be pre-registered.** Pre-registration couldn't be easier, go to [www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org) and click on the tab for plant registration. Complete the form and hit the send button. Whoila! It's done! If you have an orchid that may or may not be in bloom for the show, go ahead and register it anyway. Judy Becker is our show registrar and she can easily delete your registration if the plant isn't blooming in time. **Without your blooming plants we can't have a show!**

**Store plants before and after the show.** We need several people around the state to act as distribution centers for those who would like to lend plants but can't make it to the show. All you need to do is provide some space for a few days before and after the show where people can drop off and pick up their plants. Since it's only for a few days, nothing fancy is required — putting the plants on the sunroom floor or in the greenhouse aisles would be fine.

**Transport plants to and from the show.** If you have a van, SUV, or other vehicle with cargo space, you can help by transporting plants to the show for setup on Friday morning (setup is from 8:00 am to noon but plan to come early, since we can't setup everything at the last minute) or for takedown on Sunday afternoon (takedown is from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm).

**Help set up.** Setup is from 8:00 am to noon on Friday, Oct. 15th. We need lots of people to help set up our bench show and displays. We could also use some people to help with logistical support for the show as a whole (for example, we're providing tables for exhibitors and vendors), although exhibitors and vendors are responsible for setting up their own displays.

**Help take down/clean up.** Takedown is from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday, Oct. 17th. Normally takedown is much quicker than setup — destroying is always easier than building — but we could use people to help take down our bench display as well as help with logistical support and general cleanup.

**Help clerk for the AOS judging.** Judging is from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Friday, Oct. 15th. Clerks are volunteers who perform specific tasks to help the judges. They don't have to know a lot about orchids, but it's a great opportunity to learn by seeing what the judges say and do. Head clerks coordinate the process, ribbon clerks attach ribbons to the plants that have been awarded, and plant spotters locate plants in the exhibit so the judges don't have to search for them. 

**Man the Welcome/Information/Membership/Sales/Junior Orchid Growers/Instant Raffle tables.** The show is open to the public Saturday, Oct. 16th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, Oct. 17th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will need lots of volunteers to staff the various COS tables and floaters to work the floor greeting our guests, and assisting vendors and staff. You don't have to work the entire day—just a couple hours would be a big help. You won't be stuck working by yourself. Members from the show committee will be right there to help you with any questions or problems you may encounter.

**How to volunteer.** If you want to help with any of these activities, call Show Chairpersons Judy Becker (860) 435-2263, Cheryl Mizak (203) 264-6096 or Sharon Smith-Delisle (203) 744-1849.

**Come to the show.** Even if you can't commit to helping out in other ways, try to come see the show on Saturday or Sunday. We think our show at this new venue at Van Wilgen's Garden Center will be a very special event, and we want as many people as possible to see it. Plus, there will be many orchid and merchandise vendors that you might want to check out. After you have toured our show, you are invited to browse through Van Wilgen's nursery and garden center, which will be open to the public. And last but not least, remember that our show is free to all members in good standing!

**Directions:** Take I-95 to exit 55. At end of ramp turn onto Route 1. Turn left onto Route 139. Take right onto Valley Rd. (approx. one mile). Van Wilgen's Garden Center is on the right approx. 1/2 mi.

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**Annual Picnic, Sunday, July 18th ☘** The annual picnic was held at the Cheshire Park & Rec. facility because our hostess Nan Peschel was taken ill quite suddenly. The picnic was a combined surprise farewell party for Larry Kuekes and a mini-auction. It was a very hot and windy day but about two dozen members attended and enjoyed a great feast under the nice, shady gazebo. Larry was presented with a photo album that chronicled some of his activities with COS over the years and a gift certificate to help him start a new orchid collection at his new home in Hawaii. The mini-auction turned out to be an extra special event because Larry donated quite a few of his prize-winning orchids. Hawaii requires a lengthy quarantine for plants and animals before they can be allowed on the island. Larry decided it would be less hassle to give away and donate his collection to friends and COS, instead.





(On left) Larry Kuekes takes some friendly “roasting” in stride at his farewell party/picnic. Meanwhile Judy Arth (on right) enjoyed a dish of fruit from the groaning picnic table.

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### Lick’em, suck’em, paint’em & stuff’em pizza party, Sept. 8th ☘

Plan on coming to the Sept. meeting in Farmington at 11:00 am and help out with some small tasks that we need done for our upcoming show in Oct. Pizza and soda will be provided along with lots of fun and camaraderie. We need to put labels and stamps on our show postcards, stuff little clips into baggies for the instant raffle consolation prize, paint the show signs, etc. We plan to start at about 5:00 pm and work until the meeting begins at 7:00pm. Come have some fun and help out with the show!

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### Show Committee meeting & work session, Southbury, CT, Tuesday, Sept. 14th ☘

Whatever we are unable to get done on Wed., Sept. 8th we will pick up on Tuesday, Sept. 14th at Cheryl & Alan Mizak’s business place in Southbury from 6:00—9:00 pm. Please bring your own sandwich/supper. Sam Hinckley will have a sign up sheet at the Wed., Sept. 8th monthly meeting. Please see him and Cheryl to sign up and get directions to Alcher Interiors in Southbury.

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### How cum....??

**The most delicate plant will be the one to fall from the bench?**

(Reprinted from the AOS Bulletin, June 1970)

## Under the Lights



### *Larry Kuekes* **Honorary Life me Member**



For 30 years COS has had a dependable, creative, hardworking and dedicated volunteer in Lawrence Kuekes. But Larry has decided that it's time to retire and that means following his dream of moving to Hawaii to live. He says he chose the wet side of the big island to buy his new home because it was the best location for growing orchids—imagine that! In these past three decades, Larry has held every position on the board of directors except treasurer. He has also held several terms as the recording secretary. In 1994 he assumed the editor's position and held that job for 16 years producing an excellent newsletter singlehandedly. During that time he also created the Beginner's Column to help new growers with their culture and growing problems. He wrote 51 articles for the column over the sixteen year period. His articles were so well received



that reruns continue to appear every month in the newsletter, today. His timely information is a great resource for all levels of orchid growers and many of us often reread his articles for a refresher on some issue or another. Larry was elected president in 1992 and 1993. Over the years he also volunteered for the nominating committee, bylaws revision committee, outreach programs, annual shows and any other event COS held or participated in. Larry is that very special member all clubs and societies hunger for because almost as soon as he joined COS he raised his hand, stood up and said: "How can I help?" The highest honor COS bestows on any of its members is Honorary Life me Membership. In the late



1990s Honorary Life Membership was bestowed on Larry in recognition for his many, many years of being the Society's "right-hand man". We may not realize it yet, but we're gonna' miss this great guy!

Larry says that he will try to write some new articles for our newsletter about warm climate orchid growing since he expects to have a lot more free time on his hands. Knowing Larry, it won't be long before he has joined one of Hawaii's orchid societies and gets caught up volunteering, again!

Larry, a huge thank you from all of us for all that you have done over the years to make COS what it is today. We couldn't have done it without your help. And we hope that when you are back visiting in the area you will visit us sometime, maybe even give a talk at one of our meetings about Hawaiian orchid growing. We surely will look forward to that. Good luck and God bless!



## Out Reach Programs

**Country Flower Farms Orchid Lecture, June 8th** ☼ Morgan Daniels gave a basic orchid growing talk to approximately 50 attendees on Tuesday evening. A blooming orchid was raffled off and many people expressed interest in joining COS. Country Flower Farms was very pleased with the response to this program and asked COS to come and speak again next year.

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### Annual Rose Garden Festival Wknd., June 19 & 20th

 ☼

Cheryl Mizak, Judy Arth, Dave Tognalli and Anne Marie Reimer volunteered to man the COS booth this year. It is a two-day event and the volunteers teamed up to cover both days. Information about COS was distributed to the public and our sale table had plants and COS products for sale. The Orchid Raffle generated quite a bit of interest and Deb Agrella from Farmington was the lucky winner.

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**Replanting Clinic, June 26th** ☼ Our replanting clinic was a huge success thanks to the generous donation of a very suitable location at the Sherman Village Plaza in Woodbury free of charge from Mary Rampone and her husband. At least 50 interested orchid growers attended the clinic many with more than one plant to be replanted. The posters were bombarded with culture questions and there was standing room only for Judy Becker's two *Basic Orchid Growing* lectures.



(On left) Morgan Daniels offers some culture tips to a guest, while Cheryl Mizak (on right) begins to clean up a plant before replanting it.

On right, Judy Becker explains to a customer what should be done to his plant in the future for better culture and care.



Mary Rampone greets the public with a warm and welcoming smile at our Reporting Clinic on Sat., June 26th.

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## Basic Orchid Growing Adult Education Classes, Sept. 14 & 21 ☘

Sharon Smith-Delisle and Cheryl Mizak will conduct two basic orchid growing classes at Old Saybrook High School, Old Saybrook, CT on Tuesday, Sept. 14 and Tuesday, Sept. 21, 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm.

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## Woodland Gardens Annual Holiday Open House, Nov. 13 ☘

Woodland Gardens has invited COS to another open house on Saturday, Nov. 13th. Judy Arth has volunteered to attend. She will be answering questions and talking about basic orchid growing. Woodland Gardens is located at 168 Woodland St., Manchester, CT. Call (860) 643-8474 for more details or visit their website [www.woodlandgardensct.com](http://www.woodlandgardensct.com).

## Website news ~ greetings from cyberspace

The fall is fast approaching and our show is too! The website has all the information you need to know about our Orchid Harvest Show & Sale. Plant entry forms, vendor information, lecture schedules, and more are on our website ...log on and check it out!

Looking forward to seeing you at the show!

COS Webmaster,  
Deidra Crewe

[www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org)



### Ask the “Experts” ...

Dear Barb: My plant of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* has been in bloom for so long that algae is growing on the flowers. What should I do? — FOX DEN

Dear FOX: Your culture is obviously at fault. Let the plant dry out so the flowers fall off, and your algae problem will be solved.

Dear Barb: I have boisduval scale in my greenhouse. I’ve tried everything to get rid of it from alcohol to malathion, but it keeps coming back. How can I get rid of it for good? — DESPERATE

Dear DESPERATE: When ordinary measures fail, I’ve found that burning your greenhouse to the ground will often discourage this pesky creature.

*(By Larry Kuekes, reprinted, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, from COS newsletter dated April 1991.)*





*Odontoglossum hastatum*, painted by Mrs. August I. Withers. Plate dated December 1839. Photography by Media Services of the University of British Columbia.

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American Orchid Society Bulletin

(Reprinted from AOS Bulletin, July 1991, Bateman and Skinner TAB 20 *Odontoglossum hastatum*, Robert M. Hamilton)

# Radio Tracking Orchid Bees

*Editor's note: We've all heard about the radio collars that researchers place on lions, elephants and many other animals in an effort to better understand these creatures and help them to survive, but radio collars on orchid bees? Yes! The technology has reached the level where the activity of orchid pollinators can now be studied. Read on to learn more about how this important scientific advancement is providing insight into the struggle to save our rare orchid species.*

Blue-green orchid bees zip through increasingly scarce patches of tropical forests pollinating rare flowers. For the first time, researchers at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute track unique signals from tiny transmitters glued to individual orchid bees, yielding new insight into the role of bees in tropical forest ecosystems.

Researchers, using helicopters, discovered that the orchid bees traveled surprisingly long distances, zipping through increasingly scarce patches of tropical forest as they moved pollen between rare flowers that grew



*Orchid bees, like Exaerete frontalis, may fly great distances to pollinate specific orchid species. Now scientists can track their flight paths using radio telemetry. (Credit: STRI)*

“People disrupt plant life and destroy tropical forests,” said David Roubik, senior staff scientist at the Smithsonian. “Radio tracking significantly improves our understanding of the plants they pollinate. Now we can track orchid bees to spaces at distances and which have completely eluded researchers in the past.”

The team trapped 17 iridescent orchid bees, *Exaerete frontalis*, which are fairly common in the forest. “These bees easily carry a 300-milligram radio transmitter glued onto their backs,” said Martin Wikelski, director of the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, professor at Princeton University and research associate at STRI. “By following the radio signals with a hand-held antenna, we discovered that male orchid bees spent most of their time in small core areas but could take off and visit areas farther away. One male even crossed over the shipping lanes in the Panama Canal, flew at least 5 kilometers, and returned a few days later.”



CONSERVATION & APPLIED SCIENCE

This was a big improvement over following individuals marked with paint between baits, or using radar, which does not work well when trees are in the way. “Carrying the transmi er may reduce the distance that the bees travel,” said Roland Kays, curator of mammals at the New York State Museum and research associate at STRI. But even if the flight distances we record are the minimum distances that these orchid bees can fly, they are impressive, long-distance movements. “These data help to explain how orchids these bees pollinate can be so rare.”

STRI, the U.S. Environment Protec on Agency, the New York State Museum and the Na onal Geographic Society provided support for this study. Cœauthors are affiliated with the University of Arizona in Tucson, Cornell University, EcolSciences Inc. and the New York State Museum.

*Reprinted from ScienceDaily (May 26, 2010). The above story was reprinted (with editorial adap ons by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by [Smithsonian Tropical Research Ins tute](#) via [Eurek Alert!](#), a service of AAAS.)*

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## EGADS? WHAT NEXT?

By Clarence S. Lindsten

Things sure happen fast nowadays,  
with so much science here.

It wasn't long ago that they  
said, "Give your orchids beer."

Now if it wasn't bad enough,  
to teach our plants to drink,  
they tell us not to have bad thoughts,  
because our plants can think!

One has to be most cau ous now,  
this I can plainly see.

For man has recently found out,  
that plants have ESP.

We'll have to treat them tenderly,  
and see that we don't vex.

For if we do,  
they'll get a very bad complex.

So if a plant of yours won't bloom,  
just pick it up and say,

"I'm sorry I've offended you,  
won't you forgive me, pray?

I'll put you in the choicest spot,  
and give you lots of room,  
so please, oh please, I beg of you,  
won't you relent and bloom?"

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



*(Reprinted with permission from  
the Arizona Orchid Society.  
[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org))*

## From the COS archives

*the way we were ....*

### 20 years ago this month ~

- ◆ Judy Becker was president, John Parshley, vice-president, Al Wachtel, treasurer, Ann Jesup was the conservation chair and Larry Kuekes was editor/correspondent.
- ◆ The September 1990 meeting was held at the Knights of Columbus hall and Bill Bergstrom of Bergstrom Orchids spoke on collecting orchids in Peru. Well, Judy, Ann and Larry are still very active COS members today, but we no longer meet at the Knights of Columbus in Newington. Bill and his “mean” cat Sibelius are still at the helm of Bergstrom Orchids although we can’t go orchid collecting in Peru anymore, which is probably a very good thing.
- ◆ Anne Roark of North Stonington, Jim Michlewski of Plantsville, and Marjorie & Marsha Cohen of West Hartford became members in 1990. Congratulations to these members on their 20th anniversary! Thank you for your support all these many years.



*Pescatoria coronaria*

Brought to Show Table by Ann & Phil Jesup

## Q & A

**Q.** I am growing phalaenopsis in the house, but they don't want to bloom. What am I doing wrong?

**A.** I suspect that you are not giving your phalaenopsis sufficient light; that is the most common cause of these plants not blooming. Place the plants where they will get fairly strong but indirect, or shaded, light. If they get full, direct sunlight after 10 A.M., phalaenopsis will usually develop a sunburn spot on a leaf or two. That will do no harm if it does not continue; it does tell you that they are getting too much light.

**Q.** Given proper attention and all "advantages", is the life of a sympodial orchid theoretically infinite, or is there some sort of limiting factor built into its genes that would eventually put an end to it?

**A.** Given proper attention and all the advantages, the sympodial orchid should live indefinitely.

**Q.** After we purchased two 250-gallon, galvanized horse troughs to gather rain-water for our greenhouse, we learned that galvanized steel puts zinc into the water. How can we treat the troughs (if it is necessary) to prevent this?

**A.** If the water pH is about neutral, and you keep them clean, I doubt that you will need to treat the troughs. On the other hand, if you have any doubts about it, you can paint the insides with Gilsonite or another pure-asphalt paint. Pure asphalt is insoluble to anything that might bother your plants.

**Q.** Can I use a colored light bulb in my greenhouse at night, such as green, red or yellow, that the orchids cannot "see"? Sometimes I have to go into the greenhouse after dark but I don't want to interrupt their dark period.

**A.** Orchids are not so sensitive to light in the dark period as are some other plants. I doubt that 15 minutes' exposure of a 60- or 75-watt bulb will cause any trouble.

**Q.** The leaves of my phalaenopsis are crinkled, and its long, green spike is dying. What should I do?

**A.** There are several possible causes of leaf crinkling. One is genetic, another mechanical, and a third due to lack of water. Check the roots of your plant. If they are dry and blunted, you may have a problem with soluble salts. If this be the case, stop fertilizing and flush the pot thoroughly with water. Do not fertilize again until new roots appear. In any event, cut off the spike.

*(Reprinted from the AOS magazine 'Orchids', May 1981, March 1984, Sept. 1991. Dr. O. Wesley Davidson and Dr. Thomas J. Sheehan, University of Florida provided answers to AOS member submitted questions.)*

*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*



Black rot moves quickly through a plant and can decimate an orchid collection if not treated.

## Black Rot

By Susan Jones

A danger to orchids any time the weather is rainy or damp for extended periods, black rot can quickly destroy an entire plant if left unchecked. Caused by one or both of the fungi *Pythium* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, black rot affects a wide variety of orchids.

Calceyas seem to be particularly susceptible.

### Life Cycle

The fungi that cause black rot in orchids can live only in environments where water is available to them. They consist of spores capable of independent movement, called zoospores, which swim through the water. If that water happens to be sitting on an orchid leaf, the zoospores can penetrate the plant tissue and begin the next stage in their life cycle. At this point, the fungus develops a vegetative part or mycelium consisting of hyphae (thin, thread-like tubes), which spread quickly through the affected plant tissues. Once this occurs, the visible signs of infection — small, watery, translucent spots — expand quickly and change to brown and then black. Left untreated, the affected plant or plants may infect others and will probably die themselves.

### Symptoms

When the fungus attacks seedlings, it is usually at the soil line. This can cause the little plants to topple and die, and is referred to as damping off.

In mature plants, the disease can strike at any point on the plant (leaves, pseudobulbs or roots), but often starts in new leaves or growing leads, and progresses downward through the plant until it reaches the roots.

As its name implies, black rot shows up as dark blackish spots or lesions on the affected plant part. The black spot or spots enlarge rapidly and can spread throughout the plant. If allowed to reach the crown of a monopodial (single-stemmed) orchid, the rot will kill the plant.



Affected leaves may turn yellow around the infected area, and the lesions themselves will be so and exude water when pressure is applied.

### **Prevention**

Unsterilized pots, media or water sources, as well as water splashed from affected plants nearby, are all excellent means of spreading the fungus. In addition, plants that spend some outdoors should be elevated 3 to 4 feet (90 to 120 cm) above the ground to avoid splash contamination. Do not allow your orchids' leaves to remain wet for any extended periods. Good air circulation in the growing area is key, and can help plants dry quickly after watering or rains. The addition of a fan or fans to the growing area can improve the airflow and help prevent rots. At first signs of infection, segregate all affected plants to avoid contaminating healthy plants. Finally, some growers recommend the use of a high-calcium fertilizer in the spring to help avoid black rot in new growth.

### **Mechanical Treatment**

To stop the spread of black rot in your orchid, begin with a sterile knife and cut out the diseased portion of the plant. Remove all infected plant material, taking out a small amount of healthy tissue bordering the infected area as a safety precaution. Examine the cut portion carefully. It is sometimes possible, especially in pseudobulbs, to see a brownish discoloration extending into the interior of the tissue that appears healthy on the surface. In sympodial (many-stemmed) plants such as a cattleya, it may be necessary to cut below the leaves and into the pseudobulb to stop the spread of the disease. If the plant is badly infected, cut into the rhizome, growth by growth, until you reach healthy tissue. For a monopodial orchid such as a vanda or phalaenopsis, remove the infected portion of the leaf, or the entire leaf if necessary, to halt the spread of the fungus before it reaches the crown. Place the plant in an area that receives good air circulation to allow the cut to dry.



Black rot is easily spread by splashing water.

### **Chemical Treatment**

Once the infected plant parts have been removed, a fungicide should be applied to protect the remaining healthy tissue. Cinnamon is an excellent fungicide and ground cinnamon may be applied straight from the spice jar directly to the exposed area where infected portions of the plant have been excised. First Rays Orchids also recommends mixing cinnamon with either casein-based glue (such as Elmer's) or cooking oil to form a thick paste. This paste is fairly waterproof and can be used to cover the wound.

Another product that was developed specifically for use on orchids is StopRot. The product contains a Bordeaux mixture in lanolin. The Bordeaux, a mixture of copper sulfate and lime, has fungicidal properties. The lanolin seals the wound to keep



moisture out. Whatever method is chosen, be sure to cover all of the exposed (cut) area with the fungicide or sealant, so that no new infection can be introduced to the open wound.

Drenching the affected plant with fungicide is also an option. Drenches of a protectant fungicide such as Truban or Terrazole are recommended if the disease is diagnosed early. For more advanced cases, a systemic fungicide such as Aliette or Subdue is more effective. Captan, Dithane M45 and Physan 20 have also been recommended by some growers for control of black rot.

To protect seedlings against damping off, water with the fungicide of choice (at the dilution rate for seedlings specified in the product's instructions) as soon as they are deflasked and potted in composts. Afterward, treat with a preventive fungicide at two-week intervals. (Reprinted from AOS website [www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Pests\\_and\\_Diseases&CONTENTID=5602](http://www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Pests_and_Diseases&CONTENTID=5602). 8/6/2010)



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Tips

&

Tricks

**Turbo Misting** ☘ Tired of using that old hand sprayer to mist your plants every morning? Cathy Tacoma from Ontario, Canada suggests purchasing a one-gallon compressed air sprayer —the kind that you use for applying fertilizers and pesticides. She fills hers with rainwater and Super Thrive and says that misting is now a “turbo” misting cinch.

**Polishing orchid leaves for judging** ☘ Almost time for our orchid show. Let's get our orchids looking bright, clean and ready for showing. Do you have mineral deposits on your leaves? Hard water leaves a hard, white deposit on leaves. A little acid will help remove the deposit. Use a tablespoon of white vinegar or lemon juice mixed with about a gallon of water to remove the deposits. Dip a soft cloth in the acidic mixture and *GENTLY* scrub each leaf. If calcium or iron deposits have been on the leaves for awhile, you may need to do a second treatment. Watch out for thin-leaved plants — don't scrub too hard! (This tip provided by Ned Nash, AOS Orchids magazine, June 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.*



### Symmetry

By Larry Kuekes

Larry Kuekes

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

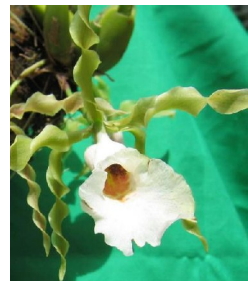


Most familiar flowers are highly symmetrical. A lily, for example, has six petals arranged like the spokes of a wheel. Every petal looks like every other one. Because of this, the lily has not only bilateral symmetry (the left half is the mirror image of the right half, for example), but also rotational symmetry (if you rotate the flower 120 degrees, it looks the same as before). Other flowers, like marigolds and dahlias, have so many petals that for practical purposes they are symmetric in all directions, like a circle—no matter how you turn them, they look the same.

Artists always found symmetry beautiful, but they know that too much symmetry becomes sterile-looking. We consider the human body beautiful, and it only has bilateral (left-right) symmetry. (Those of you with spherical bodies may disagree with this analysis.)

Like our bodies, most orchids have only limited, bilateral symmetry. I think this lack of symmetry is part of what makes orchids look more “exotic”, and therefore more appealing, than the run-of-the-mill “round” flowers. The orchid lacks rotational symmetry (the round or starshape of other flowers) because the lip is different from the petals. It’s almost always a different shape, and often differently colored, too. Whatever the lip looks like — the pouch of a paphiopedilum, the rolled tube of a cattleya, the large bright flag of a miltonia or oncidium, the delicate curved filaments of a phalaenopsis — the result looks sophisticated when placed next to the simple-minded circle of a daisy.

Some orchids don’t even have bilateral symmetry, if you look closely. *Catasetums* have two “triggers” that forcibly eject the pollinia when an insect touches them, and one trigger, say the left one, will cross in front of the right, which is not symmetrical. The columns of morphemes are twisted to one side, again not symmetrical. The champion of asymmetry seems to be *Trichopilia torilis* in which the five sepals and petals (but not the lip)



*Trichopilia torilis*



look like long ribbons twisted into corkscrew-like spirals, and there's nothing more asymmetrical than a cork-screw.

However, there are orchids that appear symmetrical. Most species of *aerangis*, for example, are white and star-shaped, with a lip that looks like just another petal.



*Aerangis modesta*

A more interesting type of orchid symmetry is a phenomenon called *peloria*. In a peloric orchid flower, the lip is as distinctive as ever, but the two petals are shaped or colored to resemble the lip as well. Usually this is due to a mutation, and possibly constitutes a genetic throwback to the orchid's remote ancestors, which are thought to be lily-like flowers.



*Caelya intermediavar. aquinii*

There are peloric dendrobiums and phalaenopsis, but surely the most famous example of peloria is *Caelya intermediavar. aquinii*, a naturally occurring variant of this species. The normal species is a typical *caelya*, with narrow white sepals and petals and a broader purple-rippled lip. Variety *aquinii* is startlingly different. The sepals are still narrow and white, but the petals are much wider, with a purple stripe down the middle, flaring out at the end, which is also what the lip looks like. The flower appears to have three lips. Some people think it's beautiful, though to me it's a grotesque mutant.

Much breeding has been done with *Caelya intermediavar. aquinii*, resulting in what are called "splash-petal" *caelya* hybrids, which have patterns of contrasting colors on the petals, usually at the tips. In some cases, the flowers even show flares of the same color pattern on the sepals as well. Splash-petal hybrids can be spectacular, but I question what the breeders are aiming for. If carried to its logical conclusion, this line of breeding will result in flowers where the petals, sepals, and lip will all look alike. However colorful, the flowers will look like lilies or tulips, not orchids, because the asymmetry will have been lost.

Well, that's not likely to happen soon. As I write, my *Blc.* Keowee 'Mendenhall' is in bloom. Its yellow petals and sepals are ordinary and too narrow by judging standards, but the lip – large, ruffled, outrageously spotted and striped with red – makes the flower asymmetric in both shape and color, and very exotic looking. It reminds me of why I love orchids.



*Blc.* Keowee 'Mendenhall'



Drawing by W. Dillion

## September Checklist


By Robert M. Scully

**A**utumn is nearly here, so expect to witness the emergence of buds on many orchids, from the caudexes and vandas to cycnoches, catasetums and even warm growing miltonias. Begin grooming each soon-to-bloom plant in order to realize the best possible display.

Select an ideal spot for the plant. This will likely be atop an inverted pot for those types with arching or pendulous inflorescences; or it may mean moving the plant to the upper level on your step bench. Position the plant so that it receives ideal light for most of the day. Support the inflorescence as it emerges. Sometimes it is necessary to open the sheath to prevent the accumulation of excess moisture around the developing buds, even before they emerge. Plus, it is a time to remove dried cataphylls from caudex pseudobulbs as the newest growths are securely staked. Groom for maximum satisfaction.

**Cauleya** Few growers are without some hybrid representing the influence of the spectacular, multi-flowered *Cauleya bowringiana* and all of these should be in sheath. Observe the puffy sheath structures often; they may need to be opened at the top with a sterile instrument to encourage the evaporation of condensation that forms around the buds. **Do not water these plants, or for that matter, any plants which are in flowering mode, from overhead.** *Cauleya labiata* and its hybrids will begin to flower this month, along with one of the most spectacular and wonderfully fragrant forms of the species known as *Cauleya percivaliana*.

**Dendrobium** This is *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* season. While modern dendrobium hybrids involving at least one recent generation of *Den. phalaenopsis* influence are referred to as *phalaenopsis*-type, the purest forms of this showy line involve almost all *Den. phalaenopsis*. The line is typically very inbred, with combination and recombination of genetic material from one clone or another of this variable species. The long, arching sprays of flat, dark red-purple to white or pink saucer-like blossoms will provide weeks of satisfaction. *Nobile*-type hybrids should continue to be maintained on a nitrogen-free fertilizer program. Water only sparingly to keep the pseudobulbs from dehydrating.

**Catasetum and Cycnoches** For both genera, autumn is typically the end of their growing season. Plants may produce flowers from pseudobulbs with leaves. 

or in some instances, from bulbs that have already lost their leaves. Watch the undersides of the leaves to control spider mites which seem to find these delicacies just as the foliage reaches its prime or plants are about to bloom. Support the basal racemes of catasetums as they emerge; and consider putting the plants on inverted pots to provide room for them to hang freely.

**Miltonia** Of the three popular pansy orchids — *Miltonia xblun* *i*, *Miltonia roezlii* and *Miltonia spectabilis* — the latter is probably the most showy. The reddish purple flowers of *Milt. spectabilis* —var. *moreliana* usually appear singly and last for weeks. The racemes can be very heavy, even when carrying only a single bloom, so do provide support.

**Vanda and Ascocenda** This is the principal blooming season for *Euanthe sanderiana*, also known as *Vanda sanderiana* and the foundation for largeflowered modern vandaceous hybrids. Position plants so that the inflorescences will grow out of the leaves toward the light; help uncooperative types by placing a thin bamboo stick between the emerging inflorescences and the flattened form of the leaves, thereby forcing the raceme outward.

*(Robert M. Scully is president of Jones & Scully, Coral Gables, FL.  
Reprinted from the AOS Bulletin, Sept. 1992)*



Above: Sharon SmithDelisle repots a customer's plant.

At right: Judy Arth helps a customer pack up her plants.



## Trivia Fun

### Autumn Orchids WordFind 2010

- by WordFind for Crossword Maker 98

ACUMINATE  
COLLECTION  
HOBBY  
LIP  
SYMMETRY

ADDICTED  
CONSERVATION  
HYBRID  
MOTTLED

ALBINO  
CULTURE  
KUEKES  
POLLEN

AMATEUR  
DECIDUOUS  
LAVENDAR  
RAINWATER

BECKER  
FLASK  
LEAD  
REGISTER

CHLOROPHYLL  
GREENHOUSE  
LEAF  
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 Y 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

**Search the puzzle for COS & orchid related words from the lists above. Words may be found up or down, forward or backward, or on the diagonals.**

**Good Luck!**

**(Solution will be published in next month's newsletter)**

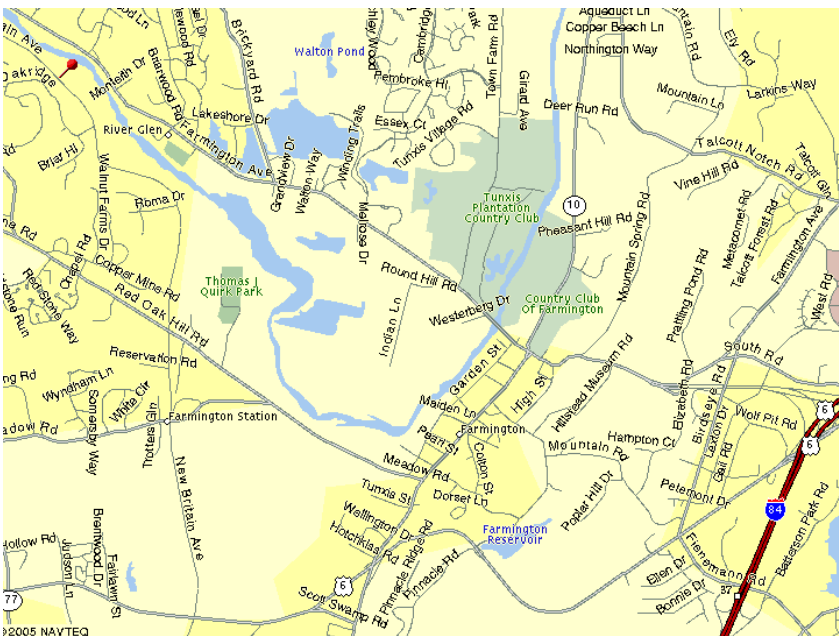
Puzzle created by editor Sharon SmithDelisle

## Directions to Farmington Senior Center 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, CT

**From the North or East:** Take I-84 west from Hartford to exit 38 (Rt. 6). Proceed west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Avenue next to the police station.

**From the South:** Take Rt. 9 north to I-84 west. Proceed as above.

**From the West:** Take I-84 east to exit 37 (Fienemann Rd.). Turn left on Fienemann Rd., go over the highway, then turn left onto Rt. 6. Follow Rt. 6 west. Turn right onto New Britain Ave. Farmington Senior Center is at 321 New Britain Ave. next to the police station.



# Connecticut Orchid Society Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Single Lifetime Membership \$200

Family Lifetime Membership \$250

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

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***

