



Connecticut

Orchid

Society

Newsletter

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

May 2011

52 Years & Growing

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2011

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

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

Program: **Succeeding With Cool Growing Plants in a Warm Climate**
Presented by Geraldine Powell
of *Orchid Gallery*
Pittsboro and Chapel Hill, NC

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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Co-President Cheryl Mizak president@ctorchids.org
Web Master Deidra Crewe dcreweorchids@yahoo.com
Editor Sharon SmithDelisle editor@ctorchids.org

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

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

**Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at (860) 649-7952 for more details.
A membership application is located on pg. 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 -- 2011

CO-PRESIDENTS	<i>Cheryl Mizak & Jim Michlewski</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
TREASURER	<i>Judy Arth</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Dottie Kern</i>
DIRECTOR -AT- LARGE	<i>Roger Heigel</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY	<i>Carla Koch</i>
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON	<i>Mary Rampone</i>
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>
EDITOR, LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN	<i>Sharon SmithDelisle</i>
AOS REPRESENTATIVE	<i>Sam Hinckley</i>
CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON	<i>Vacant</i>
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR	<i>Cheryl Mizak</i>
REFRESHMENT CHAIRPERSON	<i>Judy Becker</i>
WEB MASTER	<i>Deidra Crewe</i>
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

- May 11 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** The Orchid Gallery of Pittsboro & Chapel Hill, NC will be giving a presentation., 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire.
- May 21 Northeast Judging Center:** Bring your blooming orchids for AOS judging to The Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY. Judging commences at 12:00 pm. Contact Wayne Bourdette (631) 258-5388 or e-mail wbourdette@wcs.org for more details about judging procedures.
- June 8 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids, California will give a presentation, 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville.
- June 10 - 12 Silva Orchids Shore Orchid Festival,** 10:00 am—5:00 pm, Held at Silva Orchids, 635 Wayside Rd., Neptune, NJ. Visit www.silvaorchids.com for more details. Also, see flyer on pg. 28 of this newsletter.
- June 11 Connecticut Orchid Society Potting Clinic:** 10:00 ~ 2:00 pm, located in the storefront next to Nutmeg Wine & Spirit Shoppe, Sherman Village Plaza, 660 Main St., South (jct. Rt. 6 & Rt. 64), Woodbury, CT. Free potting demonstration at 1:00 pm. \$5.00 ea. for pots up to 5in. diam, \$10 ea. for pots over 5 in. diam. (special pricing for large, specimen-sized plants.) Bring your own plants and clean pots. COS will provide potting media.
- July 8 Southbury Garden Club:** *Basic Orchid Growing* class will be presented by a COS member at the Southbury Library, 100 Poverty Rd, Southbury at 12:30 pm.
- July 10 Connecticut Orchid Society Annual Picnic:** Bob Fuchs of R.F. Orchids, Homestead, FL will give a presentation about the Vandaceous Alliance. As usual, the picnic is a pot-luck affair and members attending are asked to bring enough food to share. COS will provide beverages and paper goods. Picnic location TBA.
- Sept. 14 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** TBA, 7:30 pm, Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT
- Oct. 12 Connecticut Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:** Leon Glicenstein will give a presentation on Jewel Orchids & Painted Leaf Orchids. Plants will be for sale. 7:30 pm, Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT
- Oct. 21 ~ 23 Connecticut Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale:** *Orchid Harvest*, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT . Orchid plant and merchandise vendors, educational lectures, junior orchid growers booth, refreshment caterer, etc. \$5.00/ea. Admission.

AOS corner



As many of the societies take a summer hiatus, here are some suggestions to help keep your orchid experience going through the summer. As an example, as you are repotting (either individually or as a society), perhaps you could solicit the assistance of new members of your society, give them some hands on experience and share divisions with them... a win-win for everyone. Visit commercial orchid firms listed on the AOS web site and in the Orchid Source Directory (I've heard of some members who keep theirs in their car so they can check while traveling on whose nearby). As you are planning your summer vacations or outing take advantage of reciprocal garden admissions AOS members enjoy. Use some hot lazy summer days exploring the members only section of the AOS web site.... Lots of hidden nuggets to enrich your orchid journey and improve growing or spark a new or renewed interest in a particular variety. Check out some of the summer orchid events (listed in *Orchids* as well as on the AOS website — keep checking for new additions) including Redland Orchid Festival, Shore Orchid Festival, Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Fair, Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day, Houston Orchid Society Summer Workshop or Phalaenopsis Symposium.

As I write this, I'm preparing to go to the Spring AOS meeting in Shreveport, LA. The Affiliated Societies Committee will be holding their committee meeting as well as its traditional Affiliated Societies breakfast. I'll do a brief report next month on those meetings as well as forward along any information from the Trustees meeting. I would like to also remind all affiliated society representatives to let us know when any changes take place in any contact information for your society including, but not limited to the AOS representative (who also must be a member of AOS), any newsletter editor and the President. Current email and snail mail information would be appreciated. You can send that information to affiliated_societies@aos.org.

Have a wonderful month.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee



(This article provided by Susan Taylor, Kiva.org—Loans That Change Lives)

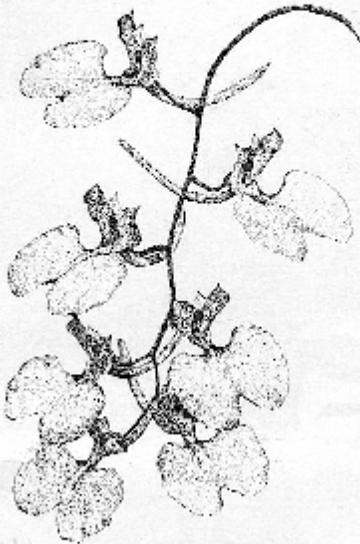


Around the Greenhouse -- Editor's keikis

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

The deadline for submissions to the June issue of the newsletter is May 20th.

J&L ORCHIDS



1981

Orchid Art find ~ Browsing through the COS archives your editor found this old catalog containing many lovely pen & ink orchid drawings by Richard B. Gates. J & L Orchids has kindly allowed us to reprint the drawings in our newsletter. Richard Gates is the artist, but the drawings are owned by J & L Orchids.

COS Epi Tree Donations ~

Many thanks to Carla Koch who recently donated several cuttings and a small mounted epiphyte to the COS epi tree. Each donation brings our tree closer to completion. If you have an orchid suitable for mounting on our epiphyte tree and it is not doing well for you, please consider bringing it to a meeting for the tree.

Donated supplies made our orchid mounting clinic a success ~

Thanks to Phil and Ann Jesup who

brought carpet padding to the meeting for members to experiment with. Thanks to Jim Michlewski for donating some tree fern, sassafras sticks for mounting and other mounting materials. Also, many thanks to an unknown donor who brought six, small *Dendrobium nobile* divisions to the meeting for members to use for mounting. Joining together and sharing our extra supplies, and extra plant cuttings helps keep costs down and makes for a great workshop. Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of our Orchid Mounting Workshop.

May's Featured Event

Succeeding with Cool Growing Plants in a Warm Climate

Presented by Geraldine Powell
of *Orchid Gallery*
Pittsboro and Chapel Hill, North Carolina

If you've ever wanted to try growing cool growing orchids, don't miss this presentation.

Geraldine provided us with the following bio:

"I have been growing orchids for over thirty years and have been involved in the orchid business for over twenty-five years. I have lectured extensively on various topics from Paphs., Phrags., Masdevallias, Miltoniopsis and other topics.

My first orchid was a *Cattleya*. I bought it because it smelled wonderful. The rest is history. My interests have changed over the years from Catts. to Paphs. and Phrags. to weird species and so on. I have always liked Masdevallias and Miltoniopsis but hesitated to try many of them because of their reputation for being cool growing. I grew a few of the warmer growing types but I really wanted *coccinea* and *yungasensis* and the like.

When we opened our nursery in Brooksville, Florida I set up a small greenhouse specifically for cool growers. My partner thought I was nuts. I guess she was right. But our cooler growing plants started to receive AOS awards. When we moved to Signal Mountain in Tennessee I continued with the cool growers. It might be a little cooler on the side of the mountain but I still had problems with the coolest growers. Over the first two years in Tennessee I developed Cool Pots. These have allowed us to grow a much wider variety of Madevallias. We began marketing Cool Pots about three years ago."

Geri will be bringing plants for sale and her Cool Pots. Join us for an interesting evening.



Presidents' Message



Co-president
Cheryl Mizak



Co-president
Jim Michlewski

Hello —

It is with great pleasure the Board of Directors welcomes Jim Michlewski as co-president. Jim, a long time COS member, is a recognized “voice” calling our meetings to order.

Mary Rampone has graciously volunteered space at her place of business for COS to hold another of our popular potting clinics. We will need volunteers to help with potting, potting helpers and hostesses. If you can help out for a couple hours or even for the entire event, please give Mary or Cheryl a call.

This month we welcome the Orchid Gallery to our meeting in Cheshire. Geraldine Powell makes some very interesting pots. I have been experimenting since October with these pots and my plants are thriving. So if, up to now, you have wanted to grow cooler growing plants and not been successful, now is the perfect time to learn an exciting new culture technique.

~ Cheryl Mizak



April's Meeting Minutes



Carla Koch
Recording Secretary

COS meeting 4/13/2011

It was announced that long-time member Roger Vars has been ill — we wish him well and hope his health improves soon. Phil Jesup also announced that former COS member and past president Eric Christianson has passed away. Eric was a noted taxonomist, receiving his PhD from the University of Connecticut while studying under renowned orchidist Gus Mehlquist (who was also a former member of COS). Mr. Christiansen lectured and wrote many books as he was both a hobbyist and a conservationist. Among his accomplishments were a monograph on *Phalaenopsis*, *Icones of Orchids of Peru*, and a monograph on *Maxillaria*, unfinished at his demise.

The featured event for this month's meeting is How to Mount orchids. Phil and Ann Jesup conducted the program giving a brief discussion about the proper techniques followed by a demonstration. Ann has invented a rather clever method of keeping moisture near the roots of mounted orchids using commercial rug matting. It is a very economical substrate when placed on a firm support. Commercial rug padding comes in very gaudy colors, which are unbecoming to our orchid beauties. Aging the rug padding in the sun for a few days will turn the colors to a more acceptable brownish-green.

Dry-loving plants prefer being mounted: *Brassavola nodosa*, *Encyclias*, and other twig epiphytes are very suitable. Some cloud forest plants, such as *Pleurothallids* and *Lepanthes*, can be happy if given sufficient moisture and water. Mas-sive plants, such as *Oncidium sphacelatum* hybrids; terrestrials, such as *Paphio-pedilums*; and pseudoterrestrials, such as *Lycastes*, are not suitable.

Sharon SmithDelisle demonstrated the use of a hot glue gun to mount orchids. The hot glue is dabbed on the mount, let cool a bit, and then the plant is placed firmly in place. Moss can then be tied on over the root base of the plant. Mounted plants should be absolutely firm and not wiggle, or they will not take root.

Epiweb is a web-like substance made for terrarium use, and also suitable for mounting. Epiweb is made from plastic bottles that are spun into a web-like filament. John Hampton and the Mizaks use cedar shingles as mounts, other



other than the more usual wood or tree fern (the fern becoming obsolete due to its rarity). The shingles should be soaked in a bucket of water overnight. Add a pad of moistened sphagnum moss under the plant before affixing in place with fishing line. Fishing line has long been the standard material used to attach the plant to the mount. Fishing line is strong, durable and almost invisible. However, fine wire, twine and hot glue are also used. Wrap the entire mount, plant and all, working from top to bottom to securely tie the plant and its roots in place. Secure the ends of the fishing line with two to three knots. Drill a hanging hole near the top of the mount and insert an S-shaped hook to hang. The plant's ID tag may be hooked over the S-hook to keep it handy for viewing.

After the demonstrations were completed, the members broke up into small groups and participated in mounting their own orchids under the tutelage of our presenters.

When the "mounting party" was finished, the Show Table was expertly reviewed by Judy Becker; Ann and Phil Jesup.

The meeting broke up at about 10:00 pm.

~ Carla Koch
Recording Secretary



Above, Cheryl Mizak talks to the audience about mounting orchids on cedar shingles, on the right, Ann Jesup demonstrates which types of orchids are suitable for mounting. (Photos courtesy of Carla Koch)

April Show Table

Genus	Plant	Clone	Owner	Culture
<i>Ascocenda</i>	Thianchai 'Yellow Bird' Fuchs Harvest Moon x Kenny Gold w-i,g		J. Hampton	
<i>Ascocentrum</i>	<i>ampullaceum</i> i,g		Jesups	w-
<i>Brassoepilaelia</i>	Fifthieth Anniversary <i>Bl. Richard Mueller x Epi. conopseum</i> i,g		Jesups	
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>sanguineopunctatum</i> i, g		J. Hampton	w-
<i>Cattleya</i>	<i>porphyroglossa</i>		Jesups	i,g
<i>Cattleya</i>	<i>schroederiae</i>		Jesups	w,g
<i>Cattleya</i>	<i>skinneri</i> 'Heiti Jacobs' FCC/AOS w,g		Jesups	
<i>Coelogyne</i>	<i>nitida</i> syn. <i>ochracea</i> i,w		T. Zamojski	c-
<i>Cymbidium</i>	Little Black Sambo 'Ink Spot' AM/AOS <i>canaliculatum x madidum</i> l,g		J. Hampton	w-
<i>Cymbidium</i>	Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' <i>pumilum</i> x Sleeping Beauty		J. Hampton	w-l,g
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>chrysotoxum</i>		Mizaks	i,g
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>jenkensis</i>		Jesups	w-i,g
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>moniliforme</i>		T. Zamojski	ci,w



<i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>	Jesups	c,g
<i>Doritaenopsis</i> I-Hsin Waltz 'Hello Kitty' <i>Dtps.</i> I-Hsin Black Jack x Sinica Sunday	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Encyclia candollei</i> 'Eichenfels'	Jesups	w,g
<i>Epidendrum</i> Panama Red <i>porpax</i> x <i>medusae</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Epidendrum stamfordianum</i>	J. Becker	i,g
<i>Ida fulvescens</i> syn. <i>Lycaste</i>	Mizaks	i,g
<i>Laelia harpophylla</i>	Jesups	w-i,g
<i>Laeliocatonia</i> <i>Lc.</i> Koolau Seagulls x <i>Ctna.</i> Why Not	Jesups	i,g
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Trick or Treat x Fire Dance	J. Becker	i,g
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Fire Dance 'Patricia' AM/AOS <i>C. aurantiaca</i> x <i>Lc.</i> Fire Island	D. Tognalli	i,w
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Purple Cascade <i>C.</i> Interglossa x <i>Lc.</i> Tokyo Magic	T. Zamojski	i,l
<i>Lockhartia</i> Bullseye <i>bennettii</i> x <i>oerstedii</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> Baby Glow Baby Dragon x Angel Glow	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> Canary Glow Golden Canary x Angel Glow	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> Canary Glow Golden Canary X Angel Glow	Jesups	c,g
<i>Masdevallia</i> Prince Charming 'Highland' <i>angulata</i> x <i>veitchiana</i>	Jesups	c,g
<i>Maxillaria parahyboniensis</i>	S. Smith Delisle	w,l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> (Inca Gold x Gege Hughes) x Treevill Winston	J. Richards	c,l 

<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Tombola x Ravenstart	J. Richards	c,l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Web x <i>lawrenceanum</i>	J. Becker	i,g
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> 3 seedlings Black Rook x <i>sukhakulii</i>	J. Richards	c,l
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Dark Water Secret Watercolor Artist x Black Rook	J. Richards	c,l
<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i> <i>delenatii</i> '#10' x '#6'	Jesups	i,g
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid. ign	D. Tognalli	il,w
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Cape Sunset Eric Young x <i>schlimii</i>	J. Becker	i,g
<i>Pleurothallis aculeata</i>	S. Smith Delisle	w,l
<i>Pleurothallis digitalis</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Pleurothallis nipterophylla</i>	S. Smith Delisle	w,l
<i>Polystachya paniculata</i>	Jesups	w,g
<i>Promenaea</i> Meadow Gold Limelight x <i>xanthina</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Promenaea ovatiloba</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>SophrOLAELIOCATTLEYA</i> Rebecca Organo <i>L. milleri</i> x <i>Slc. California Apricot</i>	Jesups	i,g
<i>Tolumnea</i> Pretty in Pink	T. Zamojski	i,w
<i>Vanda</i> Kultana Red x Kasem's Delight	J. Becker	i,g
<i>Vanda</i> Pure's Wax 'Grape Magic'		
Kasem's Delight x Dr. Anek	J. Hampton	w-i,g
<i>Vanda</i> Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride' FCC/AOS Crimson Glory x <i>coerulea</i>	J. Hampton	w-i,g
<i>Vanda</i> Virginia Vercillo Gordon Dillon x <i>merrilli</i>	J. Hampton	w-i,g

Culture is as noted:

c – cool
w – warm
ws – windowsill

i – intermediate
g – greenhouse
l – lights



April Show Table Beauties
(Photo courtesy of Carla Koch)



Clockwise from above: Phil Jesup, John Hampton & Alan Mizak answer mounting questions, and point out do's & don'ts to our audience at the April meeting. (Photos courtesy of Carla Koch)

News, Notes & Happenings

Massachusetts Orchid Society Sponsors Dr. Harold Koopowitz, Noted Orchid Breeder and Conservationist, May 10th ~

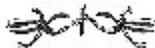


Dr. Harold Koopowitz

Photo courtesy of Dr. Loukie Viljoen
CliviaNet People
www.shieldgardens.com

Slipper orchids have always intrigued orchid lovers. Renowned botanist and conservationist Dr. Harold Koopowitz has devoted his professional life to this genera (Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums). He will speak on the “Creation of the New Miniature Paphiopedilums” on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 pm at the Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple Street, Arlington Center (MA). The meeting is sponsored by the Massachusetts Orchid Society.

Dr. Koopowitz is Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Irvine. He is one of the top Paph breeders in the world, and his book, *Tropical Slipper Orchids* is about the species, hybrids, and breeding of Paphs. His other major research interest is loss of biodiversity as a major conservation problem. His focus has been on studying threatened and endangered plant species and devising methods of combating these problems, particularly in orchid species. He is Editor Emeritus of the *Orchid Digest*. His most recent books include *Orchids and their Conservation*, *Tropical Slipper Orchids*, and the well-received *Clivias*. He is currently working on a new introductory book on slipper orchids. (Information provided by Joan Blackett, Massachusetts Orchid Society)





~ Eric Christenson ~

Occasionally, someone special bursts upon the scene like a shooting star—bright & shining, burning fast and furiously then gone too soon.

It was with great sadness that we learned that renowned botanist and taxonomist Eric Christensen, PhD passed away early in April. Eric was a COS member until he moved to Florida. Connecticut was his stomping ground and he was a graduate of UCONN where he earned all of his degrees including his doctorate. His death is a very big blow to the

orchid world.

It is said that he had a “superbrain” — an amazing mind like a filing cabinet where he stored all manner of facts and minutiae including a treasure trove of information about his greatest love —orchids. His friends say that he had a gift of making lists and remembering facts sometimes from many years later.

Eric was a leading orchid expert, a prolific writer of books, articles, and research papers. He was credited with naming hundreds of new orchid species and was a dedicated conservationist. His death is a loss to orchid research and conservation that will be felt for years to come.

Eric lived life to the fullest and he never did anything by halves—his signature was a very strong opinion about everything, which sometimes caused rifts with his friends.

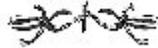
A truly unforgettable character, perhaps destined to die young, this very bright star in the orchid universe has winked out.



Hay scented *Dendrecillum* with 32 inflorescences
Owned & photographed by Al & Cheryl Mizak

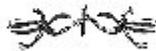
Out Reach Programs

3rd Annual Basic Orchid Growing lecture at Hollandia Nurseries, Bethel, CT on April 9th a success ~ Sharon SmithDelisle spoke to 26 new orchid growers about basic orchid growing techniques on Saturday, April 9th at Hollandia Nurseries in Bethel, CT. This is the third year in a row that Hollandia has asked COS to give a presentation during their annual spring gardening event.



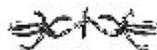
The Connecticut Cactus & Succulent Society cordially invited COS to its annual show & sale on April 9-10th ~ COS was invited to set up an information booth at the Connecticut Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale. Many thanks to Cheryl Mizak, Dottie Kern and Roger Heigel for hosting our table and meeting with many new orchid growers. The winner of the orchid raffle was David Martin of New Milford, CT.

Earth Day, April 30th at New Morning Natural & Organic Foods Store in Woodbury, CT ~ This is the third year in a row that New Morning Health Food has asked COS to participate in their Earth Day Awareness Event. As usual it was a big success and we got to meet many new orchid enthusiasts. Sharyn Longley of Litchfield, CT (on right) was the winner of the orchid raffle. Thanks to Cheryl Mizak and Mary Rampone for volunteering to spend the day meeting & greeting the public.



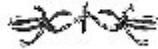
Green Bay Tree Garden Club meeting, May 3rd, 1:00 pm at Van Wildens' Garden

Center ~ John Hampton will give a Basic Orchid Growing talk to the Green Bay Tree Garden Club on Tuesday, May 3rd at Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd., North Branford, CT. This is at the request of Van Wilgen's Garden Center.

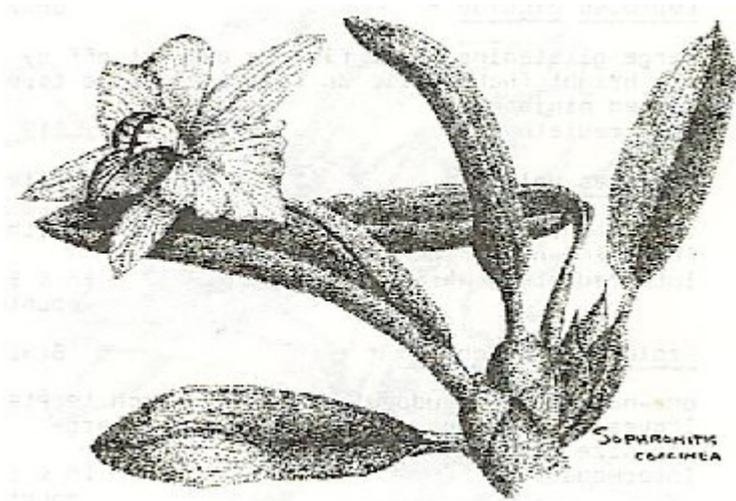


Potting Clinic ~ June 11th, 10 am—2 pm, Nutmeg Wine & Spirit Shoppe, Sherman Village Plaza, Woodbury, CT.

COS will conduct its second annual potting clinic in the same location as last year. Many thanks to Mary Rampone for graciously extending another invitation to use her vacant commercial rental property again. This year we will hold one lecture which will be a hands-on demonstration by a COS member showing the dos and don'ts of repotting, followed by a Q & A session. The public is invited to bring their orchids for repotting between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. COS will provide the potting media and the manpower. Customers should bring their plants and clean, suitable pots. There is a repotting charge of \$5.00 ea. for plants in pots under 5" in diam. And \$10.00 for plants in pots over 5" in diam. Large specimen size plants will be charged on an individual basis dependent upon the size of the pot and how root-bound the plant may be.



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

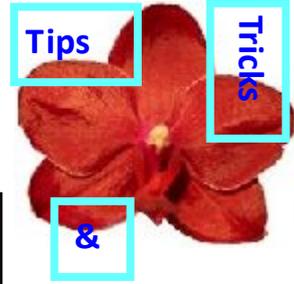


Sophronitis coccinea
By Richard B. Gates, 1981
(reprinted with the permission of owner J & L Orchids.)

A Couple of Cheap Tricks

Smart Ideas for Growing Orchids More Efficiently

By Phil Jesup



Editor's Note: Phil and Ann Jesup graciously led our orchid mounting workshop at last month's meeting. If you missed the meeting the following is an article Phil wrote for the January 2011 issue of the AOS magazine Orchids, which discusses one of the very clever techniques Phil and Ann demonstrated at our workshop. Read on to see for yourself how useful some scraps of rug padding are for keeping the roots of mounted orchids moist.

My wife, Ann, should be writing this because the orchid culture innovations I'll be describing were both her ideas. However, as of this writing in late September 2010, I've finished processing my plants (ours is a "his and hers" collection) back into the greenhouse after their outdoor summer vacation, and she hasn't completed hers; therefore, only I have a bit of time on my hands.

STAYING UPRIGHT Have you ever become frustrated trying to stabilize a sympodial orchid (one with rhizomes) in a wood-slat basket, particularly if it doesn't have much in the way of roots? Metal pot clips, normally the solution to the "wobble," can be used only with pots. I used to tie the growths to the wire basket hanger with fishing line, but that involved more time and effort than it was worth, and often didn't do the job well enough to stabilize the plant. I had to pull it in several different directions with the ties, in effect a tug of war.

The solution devised by Ann: insert one or more bamboo shish kebab sticks (about \$1.99 for a package of many sticks at a supermarket) between the top two slats of the basket, running the stick over the rhizome and pressing it firmly against the medium. The ends of the sticks may protrude in unsightly fashion, but can be clipped off flush with the basket. By the time the stick has rotted, the plant is usually well-established and rooted in and on the basket. We've been doing this for some years now, and found it fail-safe.

MOISTURE RETENTION A few years ago, we purchased a roll of 1/2-inch-(1.25-cm-) thick rug padding. This is normally used under rugs in one's home, but our purpose was to spread it on the wire and wood-frame greenhouse benches to divert the dry heat rising in the winter from the finned tubing under the benches. It was porous, but stayed damp for awhile after watering, and therefore was an aid to keeping up the humidity as well. After awhile, we noticed that, in some cases, roots had ventured through the pot drainage holes and traveled through and into the padding so that when one picked up a pot it was attached to the pad. That gave Ann the idea of using a small swatch of padding tied just below mounted plants to provide more moisture to exposed roots. In the past, we had used a pad of sphagnum moss, but it tended to dry too fast and ultimately disintegrate. The padding was inorganic, 

and seemed to remain moist a little longer.

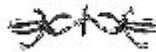
It worked. The first plant Ann experimented with, an *Encyclia candollei* was long established on cork; after two years with its rug padding it needs watering less often, and has produced noticeably longer and more heavily branched inflorescences. New roots grew under, through, into, out of and back into the padding with abandon. And roots, to us, are often more exciting than flowers. We have subsequently used this technique on other mounted orchids of all sorts, with excellent results.

Despite my misgivings, Ann then began experimenting with using tightly packed rug padding shards as a potting medium in relatively small (so far) clay pots. The shards are inserted vertically, as were chunks of osmunda fiber in the old days. So far, so good — the roots seem to benefit from it, and because it is inorganic, it does not rot. Nevertheless, as with any potting medium, it seems wise to repot such plants periodically to prevent salt buildup.

We're now lining baskets with padding so that standard mixes don't fall through, and the latest trick is to use chunks of it as the medium itself in baskets.

Clearly the cost isn't as cheap as shish kebab sticks, because you have to buy a rug-sized roll, but perhaps one could cadge a free supply of scraps from retail rug sellers, not an illogical concept. A 6 x 9-foot (1.8 x 2.7-m) roll costs 61 cents a foot locally, which is about \$32 per roll. The padding is easy to cut with scissors, or you can simply pull off pieces or little chunks; it tears readily. Some padding has a backing on one side of a network of thin plastic film, and if so it's easily removed before use with orchids. Another trick of this new trade: the padding that is manufactured of a conglomerate of rather garish mottled colors, but if you spread it out in strong sunshine for about three days, it bleaches to an acceptable greenish background color; if you don't bleach it before use, algae will eventually do the same job.

While the padding appears extremely useful, we're not going whole hog yet, particularly with using it as a potting mix. It always pays to take it slow and experiment over time.



Phil Jesup has been growing orchids for 58 years. He is an honorary vice president of the AOS, a member of the AOS Publications Committee, an AOS judge emeritus and a recipient of the AOS Gold Medal of Achievement. Formerly he was chair of the Northeast Judging Center and an AOS trustee. With Ann, he was a proofreader for Orchids magazine. Phil is also an honorary life member of COS and served as president of COS in the 1960s.

(Reprinted from the January 2011 edition of the AOS bulletin *Orchids*, pg. 40–41, and with the kind permission of Phil and Ann.)

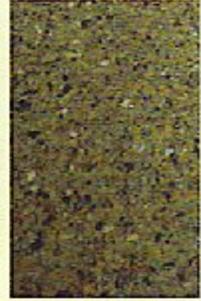
Happy Roots



Rootless backbulb division of *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit', AM-FCC/AOS, held in place with shish kebab stick until roots, which are now evident, were produced.



Shish kebab etick holding newly basketed *Miltonia moreliana* in place.



Detail of rug padding bleached by sunshine.



Near blooming-size *Cattleya eslandiae* five months since removal from pot and tied on sassafras log with rug padding in root zone.



Close-up of *C. eslandiae* roots on and in rug padding. Note roots entering, emerging and reentering pad.



One year after being potted in rug padding, a scrap of *Cattleya* Valentine blue form (*ladrigesii* x *warneri*) has rooted.



Cattleya Leaf Hopper (*E. tamperensis* x *El Habillo*) on sassafras log with rug padding in place for 1½ years. — *Phil Jesup*.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANN JESUP

(Reprinted from the AOS bulletin *Orchids*, Jan. 2011. Photos were taken by Ann Jesup.)

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.



showing off

By Larry Kuekes

Larry Kuekes

For a long time after I joined the Connecticut Orchid Society, I was reluctant to bring in any of my orchids to the show table. The one or two that I might have in bloom seemed insignificant compared with the spectacular displays brought in by some of the members with greenhouses. And, now and then, when reviewing the show table, Ben Berliner or Phil Jesup would sometimes make a disparaging comment, such as "I don't know why anyone would want to grow that," or "that cross is worse than either of the parents." I didn't want to risk being criticized in public.

Then, after a while, I realized that these knowledgeable growers only made critical remarks about each other's orchids, or certain other growers whom they obviously knew and who could stand a little good-natured ribbing. For plants brought in by novices like me, they had nothing but compliments.

Encouraged, I started bringing in my plants if I had any in bloom. It was immensely gratifying, while looking at the other show table plants, to see or hear someone admiring a plant I had brought in. Occasionally the person reviewing the show table would mention one of my plants, and, sure enough, they always said something nice.

Once I brought in my *SLC Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'*, AM/AOS, and the guest speaker, Hermann Pigors from Oak Hill Gardens, selected it and a few other plants from the show table as examples of well-grown orchids. I thought this was ironic, since this was the first time I had gotten the plant to bloom in three years, but it was covered with flowers, and if he wanted to praise my culture I wasn't going to contradict him. In fact it made my day.

Then there was my *Paphiopedilum niveum* which I kept bringing in every time it bloomed, twice a year, until I figured everyone must be sick and tired of it. The last time it bloomed I debated whether to bother bringing it in again, but decided I might as well. At that meeting the guest speaker, Norito Hasagawa from Paphanatics, who was speaking on paphiopedilum breeding, admired my little *Paph. niveum*, telling me it had unusually large flowers for the species (which I didn't know), and asked if he could have a piece of it when I next repotted it, a highly flattering request.

So if you haven't been bringing in your orchids to show off, please do. You never know what might happen. I promise it'll be an ego boost for



After all, you've slaved for a whole year to get your orchids to flower, probably only to find that your spouse or friends couldn't care less about them. This is your chance to show off your orchids where they will be genuinely appreciated. Even one extra orchid enhances the display, and if enough people bring one, the result is spectacular.

Just one caution: if your orchids have scale or mealy bugs, make sure you get rid of absolutely all that you can find, including under the leaves and in all the crevices, before you bring the plant in. You don't want to infest someone else's plants.

Oh – about the disparaging remarks. Recently, after previously having explained that he used the term "toads" for large, round, hybrid paphiopedilums, Ben Berliner pointed to a large red paph I had brought in and called it a "semi-toad". I didn't mind. I figured it was a way of saying, "welcome to the club."

A Touch of Class ~ Beautiful Art from the Past



Brassia caudata with caterpillar by Emily Luks, Toronto, Ontario. This is a whimsical and wonderfully graphic image. It is a study in contrasts. The plant exactly composed and meticulously rendered in graphite, dominates the space of the paper, effectively contrasting lights and darks, the wispy delicacy of the flower segments overlapping the sculptural modeling of the plant and leaves. Strong diagonal and horizontal movement across the page are balanced by the delicacy and verticality of the flowers. But the seeming dominance of the plant is usurped by the intensely green, diminutive, gouache image of the caterpillar, which becomes a grounding focal point. This pairing creates both a visual and contextual complexity. Neither would be as interesting alone. (20 x 21 inches; 50 x 52 cm). ~ Reprinted from the AOS Bulletin *Orchids*, May 2006, pg. 364.



Gordon W. Dillion

Checklistmay

By Robert M. Scully

There's little doubt that summer is just around the corner. So dig in, and prepare yourself for the growing season ahead.

Now is the time to maximize growth and, hence, to develop the plant strength and food reserves needed for good flower production. Remember too that larger plants typically produce bigger and better flowers than smaller ones; resist the temptation to divide your plants just for the sake of making more specimens.

Identify those orchids that will need repotting over the next 60 days; consider tagging them with different colored labels (to indicate anticipated repotting week). Plan your materials requirements, too.

Recycle your clay or plastic pots. Make sure they have been thoroughly washed and sterilized. Soak pots in a RD-20/Phyosan solution (follow label instructions) to kill most pathogens. Before soaking, carefully scrub away algae and salts residues with a stiff brush. Heat sterilize clay pots (350 F in the stove oven for one or two hours) to eliminate virus particles. Sterilizing wire products (stakes and clips) is acceptable. Recycling tree fern and wood baskets and any potting or drainage material (pot shards or polystyrene chips) is not recommended.

Cattleya Planning to divide one of your cattleyas? Get a head start. Using a sterile and very sharp knife, sever the rhizome completely or even partially (at the appropriate point to insure that you will have at least three or four pseudobulbs per division) while the plant is still in its original pot. After new growth emerges (weeks later), complete the repotting project. When securing new divisions in their pots, use some cushioning material, e.g., a redwood chip or an osmunda pad, between the rhizome clip and the rhizome to prevent trauma to the sensitive plant tissue.



Feed all cattleyas (except those just repotted) every two weeks. Water more frequently; plants need more water to efficiently utilize food and light levels that are typically available now. 

Phalaenopsis repotting plants that have finished flowering is a priority. Wait for the emergence of a new leaf in the crown before proceeding. When you repot, remove the old inflorescence and eliminate all rotten or completely dehydrated roots. Fertilize repotted plants only when new roots become visible; select a fertilizer formula tailored to use on the medium in which the phalaenopsis grow. Consider a spraying program with a recommended fungicide.



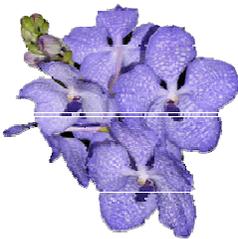
Paphiopedilum This probably the ideal month to complete repotting of your “lady’s slippers.” Prepare a terrestrial mix with fresh ingredients. Remove dead roots and keep as many growths together as practical. Monitor light levels to be sure that these plants receive adequate shade and cool temperatures. Keep root-zone moisture levels reasonably high; occasionally mist the foliage. The *Brachypetalum* types generally prefer drier conditions.



Cymbidium Finish repotting these elegant orchids. If the medium is in good condition (maybe a year old), you may be able to simply move the plant from one container to another with the addition of a small volume of new medium; avoid disturbing the roots, especially any new root tips. Keep the pots moist and syringe the foliage frequently, particularly if you have moved the plants into brighter light (following the emergence of new growth).



Vanda and Ascocenda Some plants may need more room for root development. If your plant is in a log-cabin style wooden basket, simply drop it into a larger-size basket with the roots either wound around in the space between the two “boxes” or worked through the slats of the new basket. With longer and warmer days, these orchids grow vigorously; fertilize three to four times this month with a liquid or soluble 1:1:1 ratio formula, e.g., 7-7-7 or 20-20-20.



(Reprinted from the American Orchid Society's Bulletin, May 1992)



Nickname nonsense!

Nicknames often tell us something about the nickname"e". Test your prowess with these orchid nicknames and see if you can figure out which nickname belongs to which orchid.

Draw a line from the orchid's nickname to its species name
(Solution will be published next month)

Bucket Orchid

Oncidium

Moth Orchid

Angraecum sesquipedale

Lady 's Slipper Orchid

Brassia

Cigar Orchid

Encyclia cochleata

Swan Orchid

Psychopsis

Darwin's Orchid

Phalaenopsis

Clamshell Orchid

Cattleya

Spider Orchid

Cymbidium

Butterfly Orchid

Cypripedium

Dancing Lady Orchid

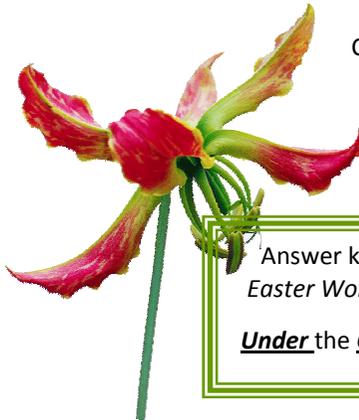
Cyrtopodium

Corsage Orchid

Coryanthes

Boat Orchid

Cycnoches



Answer key to last month's
Easter Word Scramble puzzle:

Under the Cattleyas of course!

Marketplace

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

COS Potting Supplies Price List

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

How we measured quantities:

¼ cubic foot mix or bark will fill approximately:

(15) 4” pots

(8) 5” pots

(5) 6” pots

(3) 7” pots

(2) 8” pots

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

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Creative Hydroponics	Silva Orchids
Fishing Creek Orchids	Stony Brook Orchids
J & L Orchids	Suwada Orchid Nursery
Kelley's Komer Orchid Supplies	Waldor Orchids
Little Brook Orchids	Woodstream Orchids
Main Street Orchids	



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

From New Haven:

Take I-91 North to Exit 10/Route 40

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

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

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

Turn left onto Main St., which runs into Maple Ave. at the first traffic light. Proceed straight ahead. On the right is # 240, the Cheshire Senior Center, which is just after The Victorian House Restaurant.

From Waterbury:

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

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

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

At the traffic light turn left onto Maple Avenue.

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

From Hartford via I-91:

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

From Route 691 take Exit 3.

Turn left at the traffic light onto Route 10 South.

Proceed through 7 traffic lights.

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

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

From Hartford via I-84:

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

From Route 691 take exit 3.

Turn right at the traffic light onto Route 10 South.

Proceed through six traffic lights.

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

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

Connecticut Orchid Society Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. # _____ E-mail: _____
(Information provided to the Connecticut Orchid Society is not sold, shared or given out)

- Membership choice:** *Single \$20/yr. ** *Family \$25/yr. **
 Single Lifetime Membership \$200
 Family Lifetime Membership \$250

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

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

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

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

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

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

