



Conservation Through Knowledge

Issue 52 Volume 8

April 2016

# Nutmeg State Orchid Society Inc.

## Officers:

**President: Sandy Myhalik**  
[myhalik@comcast.net](mailto:myhalik@comcast.net)

**Directors: Michael Sadlon**  
[michaelsadlon@cox.net](mailto:michaelsadlon@cox.net)

**Vice President: Ginna Plude**  
[gcplude@aol.com](mailto:gcplude@aol.com)

**Steve Calderon**  
[myhalik@comcast.com](mailto:myhalik@comcast.com)

**Lydia Pan**  
[markandlydia5357@icloud.com](mailto:markandlydia5357@icloud.com)

**Treasurer : Tom Mierzejewski**  
[tommajeski@comcast.net](mailto:tommajeski@comcast.net)

**Secretary: Walter Doehr**  
[Johndeered1923@gmail.com](mailto:Johndeered1923@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor: Walter Doehr**  
[Johndeered1923@gmail.com](mailto:Johndeered1923@gmail.com)

**AOS Representative: Ginna Plude**  
[gcplude@aol.com](mailto:gcplude@aol.com)

**Membership: Sharon Field**  
[sjfield42@gmail.com](mailto:sjfield42@gmail.com)

**Affiliated with the American Orchid Society**



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## The President's Message:



Dear Fellow Orchid Lover's,

I wanted to start out this letter by saying Happy Spring but I guess I can't since all I can see out my window is snow!!! B-O-O!!!!!! Oh well, I'm sure it can't stay around long since it's predicted to be 60 this weekend.

I am happy to report to our members that our orchid show "Come See Our Bloomers" was a big success this year bringing in a profit of over \$5000. I want to say a big thank you to everyone that was involved!!! We also got over a dozen new members at the show. Welcome aboard to all of you! I can't wait to meet you all. The first chance I will have to meet you will be our next regular meeting which is on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Farmington Senior Center in Unionville at 7 pm. Our speaker will be Joanna Eckstrom who is an AOS judge as well as a speaker and orchid grower. She will be talking to us about her favorite orchids, vandas. Please bring all your beautiful orchids that didn't bloom in time for the show into the meeting for our show table. I know you all have some because orchids are known for not behaving themselves and blooming after the show is over. I know this because I have some that did the same thing!!

We have a lot of other orchid activities to look forward to this spring and summer. Lyman Estates in Waltham, Mass is having their yearly orchid sale this weekend April 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>. You can google Lyman Estates for more information. And Carri Raven-Riemann from the orchidPhile in conjunction with the Amherst Orchid Society is planning the first ever New England Orchid Festival. It will be held at the site of the Amherst Orchid Show, the Smith Vocational High School in Northampton, Mass on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 and Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> from 9-5. Northampton is only a one hour drive from here so take a ride up there in June and have some fun and check out the vendors. There will also be lectures and food!!! What more could you ask for!

On Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> our society will be taking a bus full of members to Piping Rock Orchids for a picnic/sale. Piping Rock is owned by Glen Decker who specializes in paphs and phrags. J&L Orchids will be there also for the last time because they have sold their business. We will miss them!! We will have a picnic and a chance to meet other people from other sister

societies as well as time to purchase orchids. The bus will leave the commuter lot on the corner of Tunxis Farm Road and Rt. 4 at 8:00 am and return at 6 pm to the same lot. I think it will be a fun day and you don't have to worry about driving and it's free for members!! You can just relax and enjoy!!!

We don't have a meeting in July and we usually don't have one in August either but this year is an exception. We will be meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Farmington Senior Center at 7 pm to hear a very special speaker, Jason Fischer. He will speak to us about his phrags which he is famous for hybridizing. If you love orchids you won't want to miss this meeting!!

It's going to be a very busy Spring/summer! I hope to see you all at these interesting and fun activities. Sandy



### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Publicity: Alan Stauch - [alanstauch02@gmail.com](mailto:alanstauch02@gmail.com)

Library: Richard & Sally Duvall- [richard.c.duvall@snet.net](mailto:richard.c.duvall@snet.net)  
[sally.s.duvall@snet.net](mailto:sally.s.duvall@snet.net)

Hospitality Chair: OPEN

Webmaster: Walter Doehr – [johndeered1923@gmail.com](mailto:johndeered1923@gmail.com)

Membership Chair: Sharon Field – [sjfield42@gmail.com](mailto:sjfield42@gmail.com)

## NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2013

Ron Burch	Cypripediums Native orchids	860-567-0431	<a href="mailto:ronjonb@aol.com">ronjonb@aol.com</a>	Call/e-mail anytime
Walter Doehr	Cymbidiums, Phals., Growing under lights Hydroponics	203-634-7712	<a href="mailto:johndeered1923@gmail.com">johndeered1923@gmail.com</a>	Call/e-mail anytime
Joe Hertz	Under lights and Windowsill growing All species	860-233-5505	<a href="mailto:jhertz1015@aol.com">jhertz1015@aol.com</a>	Call/e-mail anytime
Julia Massolin-Walas	All species, Hydroponics Pests & diseases, Mounting/Repotting Dividing	860-673-3578	<a href="mailto:orchidjulia@hotmail.com">orchidjulia@hotmail.com</a>	Call/e-mail anytime
Jeanne McDermott	Windowsill growing: Phals, Paphs, Brassia, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera	860-677-5381	<a href="mailto:jtmcdermott@comcast.net">jtmcdermott@comcast.net</a>	Call/e-mail anytime
Sandy Myhalik	Phalaenopsis	860-677-0504	<a href="mailto:myhalik@comcast.net">myhalik@comcast.net</a>	
Jay Presbie	Growing under lights All species	860-651-3155	<a href="mailto:jpresbie@gmailmail.com">jpresbie@gmailmail.com</a>	Call/e-mail anytime
John Sziklas	Paphiopedilums Phragmepediums Cattleyas	860-658-2908		Call anytime

NSOS now has a mentor list and would like to add more folks going forward. We are looking for people that are willing to answer questions on something that you are familiar with pertaining to orchids. You do not have to be an expert, just able to help someone who has a question in your area of knowledge. We all have areas that we feel comfortable in that would be of great assistance to someone just starting out. If you wish to be added to our NSOS Mentor List, please send me a note: [johndeered1923@gmail.com](mailto:johndeered1923@gmail.com)

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Meeting was Called to order at 7:15pm by President Sandy Myhalik, there were 23 present.

Information about our upcoming show was given out. Ginna and Sandy gave a presentation on how to get your orchids ready for judging.

**Congratulation to NSOS on another successful show. Thank you to all the members that gave a few hours of their time to help setup & take down or man the membership & admission tables.**

**Pictures of our show can be seen on the following link:**

The link is [www.meetup.com/Mid-CT-Photography-Meetup/photos/26830061](http://www.meetup.com/Mid-CT-Photography-Meetup/photos/26830061)

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NSOS financial data is available to members upon request. Send your inquiries to our Treasurer, Tom Mierzejewski: [tommajseski@comcast.net](mailto:tommajseski@comcast.net).**

### **Advertising in our NSOS Newsletter**

**Advertising is now open to members and businesses. The following rates apply: \$10/month business card size ad. 1/4 page \$25, 1/2 page \$50. Members would get \$5 & \$10 off these rates respectively. A four line word ad for members would be \$2. Contact Walter Doehr if interested and send your check to Tom Mierzejewski, our Treasurer.**

## **Refreshments :**

It is requested that for the January meeting, those members with last names beginning with N thru Z bring in a snack or finger food to share with members. Thanks in advance for your contributions

## 2016 Schedule of Meetings & Events

**April 14, 2016 – Meeting Topic -Joanna Eckstrom Vanda Culture - We haven't had anyone speak about them so it should be very informative and interesting. We will also have a raffle (not of vandas). If you have any plants to add to the raffle please bring them. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville**

**April 16, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast - Boylston - Judging Center  
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA**

**May 12, 2016 – Meeting Topic -Carri - Growing in Moss - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville**

**May 14, 12pm – 3pm - Northeast - Boylston - Judging Center  
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA**

**May 21, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford  
Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Road,  
Stamford, CT 06903**

**June 4 , 2016 – Sat. – Picnic at Glen Decker's : We will take a Peter Pan bus up to his place providing that we have 50 members who would like to go. FREE to all members. Glen will be providing us lunch and J&L orchids will be at his place to sell for the last time. (They sold their business!) So, you don't want to miss this picnic/sale. It will be a fun time!! ( BUS IS FULL)**

**June 4, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast - Boylston - Judging Center  
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA**

**June 18, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford  
Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Road,  
Stamford, CT 06903**

**July 2, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast - Boylston - Judging Center  
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA**

**July 16, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford  
Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Road,  
Stamford, CT 06903**

**August 6, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast - Boylston - Judging Center  
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA**

**August 10, 2016 – Jason Fischer will come here to the Farmington Senior Center to speak to our society! Yes, I do know that we do not meet in the summer and that Wed is not our**

normal meeting day but this was the only time we could get him. He is going to several societies in the Northeast and we will share expenses with them which will make it affordable. It's the only time he could come. In case you don't know he is famous for the hybridization of the phrag named after him, "Phrag. Jason Fischer" and he is known world wide for his knowledge about phrags and paphs. You shouldn't miss his talk!!!

August 20, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford  
Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Road,  
Stamford, CT 06903

September 3, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast - Boylston - Judging Center  
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

September 17, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford  
Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Road,  
Stamford, CT 06903

October 1 , 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast - Boylston - Judging Center  
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

October 15, 2016 - 12pm – 3pm - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford  
Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Road,  
Stamford, CT 06903

Meetings are held at the Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT  
@ 7 pm – 9 pm the Second Thursday of each month unless otherwise posted above or on  
our website



2016 NSOS SHOW

## Robert Hirnyk Memorial Library

	TITLE	AUTHOR
1	Book of Orchids	Withner, Dr. Carl
2	Botanical Orchids and How to Grow Them	Kramer, Jack
3	Complete Guide to Maine's Orchids	Kenan, Philip E.
4	Exotic Orchids -- Successful Indoor Gardening	Rittershausen, Wilma
5	Expanding Your Orchid Collection	Rentoul, J. N.
6	Field Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Europe	Williams, John & Andrew
7	Flowers of the Amazon Forest	Mee, Margaret
8	Forgotten Orchids of Alexandra Brun	Cribb, Philip
9	International Book of Orchids	Hunt, P. Francis
10	Miniature Orchids	McQueen, Jim and Barbara
11	Orchid Genera Illustrated	Sheehan, Tom and Marion
12	Orchids	Black, Peter McKenzie
13	Orchids	Menzies, David
14	Orchids -- A Guide to Cultivation	Cribb, Dr. Philip & Bales, Chris
15	Orchids -- Natural History & Classification	Dressler, Robert L.
16	Orchids -- Wonders of Nature	Kijima, Takashi
17	Orchids at Kew	Stewart, Joyce
18	Orchids from Seed	Thompson, P.A.
19	Orchids of Africa	Stewart, Joyce & Hennessey, Esme F.
20	Orchids of Asia	Eng Soon, Teoh
21	Slipper Orchids	Hennessey, Esme F. & Hedge Tessa A.
22	Southern African Epiphytic Orchids	Ball, John S.
23	The Specialist Orchid Grower	Rentoul, J. N.
24	Wild Orchids of Britain and Europe	Davies, Paul and Jenne
25	Orchid Pests and Diseases Guide	American orchid Society
26	Growing Orchids Guide	American orchid Society
27	Understanding Orchids	Cullina, William
28	Orchids Made Easy	Levesque, Ryan & Laura
29	A Guide to Orchids of the World	Hodgson Paine Anderson
30	An Introduction to the Orchids of Mexico	Wiard, LeonA.
31	1990 Awards Annual A.O.S.	American Orchid Society
32	Orchids For Everyone, A Practical Guide	Williams, Dumbelton, Bilton, et al
33	Orchids in Australia	Kerr, Ronald
34	Dendrobium Orchids of Australia	Upton, Walter T.
35	The Orchid	Hunt, Kijima
36	Orchids of Vanuatu	Lewis, Cribb
37	The Cattleyas and Their Relatives Volume II. The Laelias	Withner, Carl L.
38	The Cattleyas and Their Relatives Volume I. The Cattleyas	Withner, Carl L.
39	Exotic Orchids in Australia	Jones, David L.
40	Exotic Orchids in Australia (paperback)	Jones, David L.
41	Orchids of South Australia	Bates, Weber
42	Expanding Your Orchid Collection	Rentoul, J.N.



43	Dendrobiums an introduction to the species in cultivation	Schelppe, Stewart
44	Orchid Growing in the Tropics	OS of SE Asia (Singapore)
45	Beautiful Thai Orchid Species	Kamemoto, Sagarik
46	Cultivation of Autralian Native Orchids	Richards, Wootton, Datodi
47	Growing Orchids The Australasian Families	Rentoul, J. N.
48	Growing Orchids The Cattleyas and other Epiphytes	Rentoul, J. N.
49	Miniature Orchids	McQueen, Jim and Barbara
50	Growing Orchids The Hybrid Story	Rentoul, J. N.
52	Growing Orchids The Specialist Orchid Grower	Rentoul, J. N.
53	The Astonishing Stanhopeas:the upsidedown orhids	Greer, Barney
54	Native Orchids of Taiwan (English and Tai)	Su, Horgg-Jye Ph.D.
55	Japanese Indigenous Orchids in Color(Non English)	Hashimoto/Kanda
56	Exotic Orchids in Color (Non English)	Hashimoto/Kimura
57	Tropical Orchids of Southeast Asia	Banks, David P.
58	A Cultural Manual For Angraecoid Orchid Growers	Hillerman, Fred
59	Notes from the Royal Botaic Garden Edinburgh	Reeve, Woods
60	A Revision of Dendrobiu Section Oxyglossum	
61	Vandas and Ascocendas and Their Combinations with Other Genera	Grove, David L.
62	Native Orchids of Peninsula Malaysia	Teo, Chris K.H.
63	Genus Phalaenopsis (Orchid Digest, V.1)	Sweet, Herman R., PHD
64	Miniature Orchids	Northern, RebeLavarack,
65	Dendrobium and Its Relatives	Harris, Stockercca Tyson
66	Vandas: Their Botany, History, and Culture	Motes, Martin R.
67	Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia	Upton, Walter T.
68	Indian Orchids: Guide to Identifiation & Culture V. II	Pradhan, Udai C.
69	Orchids of India	Rao,A.S.
70	Orchidaceae: Genus—Coelogyne, Botanical Survey of India	Das, Jain
71	Quality Stream of Cattleya 1980's (Jap and Eng)	Jusekisha
72	Asian—with pictures)	
73	Masdevallias:Gems of the Orchid World	Gerritsen & Parsons
	AOS Magazines (dir and suppl)	December 2009 – Current issues
74	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	December
73	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	January
76	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	February
77	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	March
78	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	April
79	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	May
80	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	June
81	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	July
82	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	August
83	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	September
84	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	October

<b>84a</b>	AOS "Orchid" Supplement	October
<b>85</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	November
<b>86</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	December
<b>87</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	January
<b>88</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	February
<b>89</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	March
<b>90</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	April
<b>91</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	May
<b>92</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	June
<b>93</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	July
<b>94</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	August
<b>95</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	September
<b>96</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	October
<b>97</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	November
<b>98</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	December
<b>99</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	January
<b>100</b>	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	February



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## Monthly Checklist for March and April

### Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.



*Cymbidium Magic Mountain* photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

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## **Cymbidium**

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

## **Dendrobium (Australian)**

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

## **Lycaste**

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

## **Miltoniopsis**

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold..



Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

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## **Paphiopedilum**

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

## **Phalaenopsis**

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

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*Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit'*  
AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids.  
Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

### **Pleurothallids**

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

*The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.*

**American Orchid Society** at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden | 10901 Old Cutler Road | Coral Gables, FL 33156

**Phone:** (305) 740.2010

**Fax:** (305) 740.2011

**Email:** [TheAOS@aos.org](mailto:TheAOS@aos.org)

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# Bud Blast

By Susan Jones

It can be heartbreaking to watch helplessly as long-awaited orchid buds brown, die and drop instead of becoming those much-anticipated flowers. Bud blast, when buds wither and fall from an otherwise healthy plant, may occur through any of a number of causes. Buds are the most sensitive part of an orchid, and are easily affected by unsuitable conditions in the growing environment. Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums seem particularly susceptible to this problem. The most frequent reasons for this are as follows.



Orchid flowers can abort for a variety of reasons, but the end result is always the same. Fortunately, precautions can be taken.

## Water

Under- or overwatering is a common cause of bud blast. If a plant becomes too dry, it may withdraw moisture from buds as a survival mechanism. Overwatering can damage the orchid's root system, with the end result being a lack of water to the plant. As with underwatering, when the plant is unable to absorb sufficient quantities of water, it will withdraw water from the buds, bringing about their demise. Budding Cattleyas are particularly sensitive to overwatering, which can cause buds to blacken and die while still in their sheath. Water that is allowed to sit on buds or in bud sheaths provides the perfect environment for fungi and bacterial growth, generating rots that will blast buds. Watering with cold water can shock a plant, causing bud drop.

## Temperature

Temperature extremes or rapid temperature changes are often a culprit in bud blast. If a budding orchid receives drafts from a window, an air conditioning or heating vent, or even a rush of air from a hot oven, it may drop buds. Similarly, buds may blast when exposed to temperature fluctuations that occur when taking a plant in from the car or outside during hot or cold weather, bringing plants back into a heated house after a summer outdoors, or temperature extremes caused by running heating or air conditioning for only part of the day.

## **Atmosphere**

Orchid buds are sensitive to fumes from paint, natural gas leaks and other chemicals. Once pollinated, flowers generate methane gas, causing them to collapse and saving energy for seed production. Methane or ethylene gas from other sources may also trigger bud or flower collapse. Ethylene gas given off by ripening fruit; gas leaks; inefficient burning of gas stoves or heaters; engine exhaust; cigarette, cigar or pipe smoke; open fires; smog or air pollution can also cause bud blast and age and distort open flowers.

## **Light**

If lighting available to its developing buds is inadequate, an orchid won't flower properly. Low lighting can cause buds to abort. Too much lighting may also cause trouble; direct sunlight on developing buds can overheat and desiccate them, leading to bud blast.

## **Chemical Damage**

Fertilizer, fungicide or pesticide applied at dosages above a plant's tolerance or in a manner inconsistent with manufacturer's instructions may damage buds, causing them to drop.

## **Humidity**

Developing buds need high humidity. If their environment is too dry, or the ambient humidity fluctuates a great deal, buds may be adversely affected and drop.

## **Insects**

Aphids and thrips can cause bud blast. These insects feed on flowers and flower buds, sucking the plant juices. The buds of infested plants fail to develop properly, dropping from the plant or opening to damaged and disfigured flowers. Thrips can be controlled using Diazinon or Malathion. Aphid control often involves not only eliminating the aphids themselves, but also the ants that farm them. Insecticidal sprays and sugar-based ant baits are recommended. For a few aphids, dab with a cotton swab soaked in rubbing alcohol. Other means of control include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils (Neem or Sunspray), growth regulators and chitin inhibitors (Enstar II), Pyrethrum-based insecticidal sprays, stronger insecticides (Malathion), and systemic insecticides (Orthene, Shield).

Repeat any treatment method twice after the initial application at seven- to 10-day intervals to kill successive generations. Test new controls on a small population of plants before widespread use. When using insecticides, check labels to be certain the insecticide works against the particular pest and that it is approved for use on orchids. Always use any chemical in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

## **Genetics**

Occasionally, even under perfect cultural conditions, an orchid will continually abort buds. There may be a genetic mutation responsible for its inability to produce viable blooms, in which case the plant should be discarded.



## References

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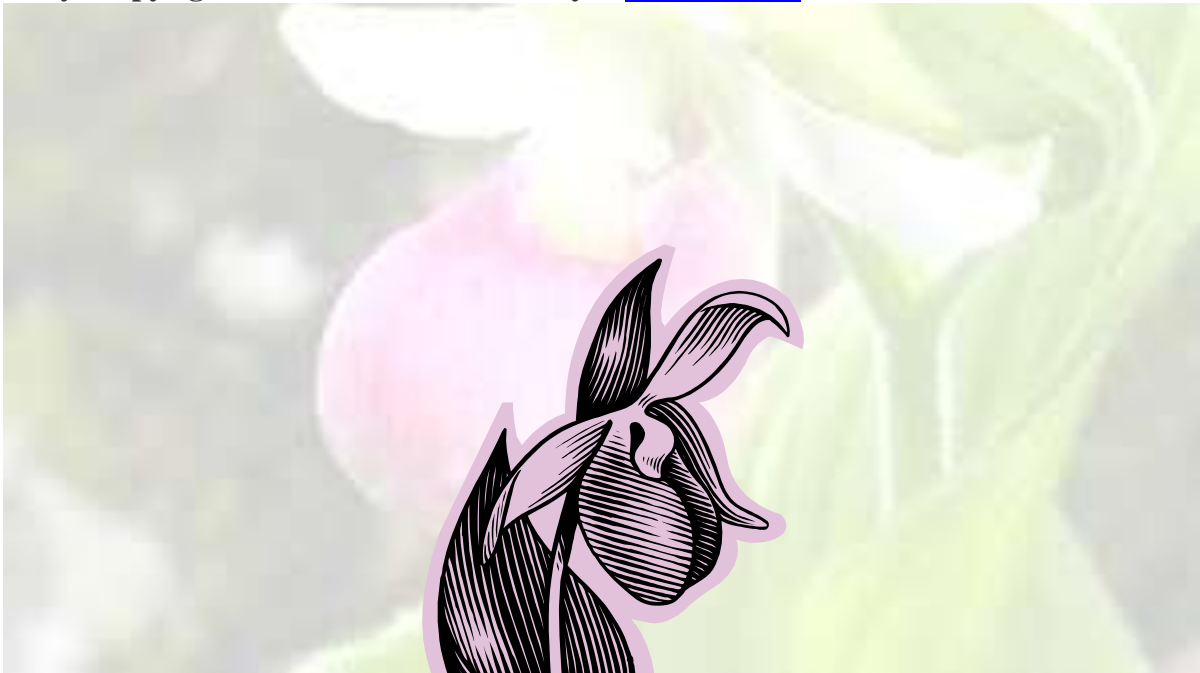
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Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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# SAVE THE DATE

## New England Summer Orchid Fest



Introducing the first annual New England Orchid Fest hosted by the  
Amherst Orchid Society

### Dates

Friday June 24: 12-5

Saturday June 25: 9-5

The fest will be held at the Smith Vocational High School, 80 Locust St. (Rt.9),  
Northampton, Ma 01060

You can email [neorchidfest@gmail.com](mailto:neorchidfest@gmail.com) for information and follow us on Facebook  
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