



Conservation Through Knowledge

Nutmeg State Orchid Society Inc.

Issue 23 Volume 2

December 2010

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Affiliated with the American Orchid Society



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The President's Message:



I must start by relaying sad news. Lois Muller, with her husband, Russ, a Charter Member of NSOS passed away suddenly on December 18. Also, as many of you knew, Jay Presbie's mother had been quite ill during 2010; she passed away in December. We relay our heartfelt condolences to Russ and Jay.

I hope all of you weathered our Christmas weekend snowstorm. My arms and back certainly are sore from shoveling. Since most of my orchids live outside and love snow, the more the better, I am sure that they are all resting very happily under their blanket of about 18 inches here.

Our first business meeting of 2011 will be a Show Committee meeting to be held at Jeanne and Tom's house (26 Basswood in Farmington) at 7 PM on January 3. The big push will now be on to get ready for our March show to be held March 19-20. We will be depending upon everyone to pitch in to help make this show as successful as our 2009 Fall show.

Speaking of shows, NSOS will participate with an exhibit at the Cape and Islands show January 28-30. We hope that many of us will provide blooming orchids for exhibition. While it is winter season rest assured that your plants will ride in warm comfort to and from the show!

Our January Society meeting will be held on January 10. Diane Dean will present her adventure touring Ecuador to see its rich orchid flora. This promises to be a great way to bring a feeling of warmth to a cold January evening. We will have our raffle and plant show table as well.


February 7 Julia Massolin-Walas will present a lecture about pests and how to avoid them or get rid of them. This is information that all of us unfortunately more often than we would like!

Keep warm and enjoy a colorful bloom season this winter!



NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2010

Ron Burch	Cypripediums Native orchids	860-567-0431	ronjonb@aol.com	Call/e-mail anytime
Walter Doehr	Cymbidiums, Phals., Growing under lights Hydroponics	203-634-7712	johndeered@att.net	Call/e-mail anytime
Joe Hertz	Under lights and Windowsill growing All species	860-233-5505	jhertz1015@aol.com	Call/e-mail anytime
Julia Massolin-Walas	All species, Hydroponics Pests & diseases, Mounting/Repotting Dividing	860-673-3578	orchidjulia@hotmail.com	Call/e-mail anytime
Jeanne McDermott	Windowsill growing: Phals, Paphs, Brassia, Oncidium, Cymbidiums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera	860-677-5381	jtmcdermott@comcast.net	Call/e-mail anytime
Sandy Myhalik	Phalaenopsis	860-677-0504	myhalik@comcast.net	
Jay Presbie	Growing under lights All species	860-651-3155	jpresbie@sprintmail.com	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: johndeered@att.net

BUSINESS MEETING

NO MEETING due to holiday party & elections

SPEAKER

No Speaker

ELECTION RESULTS

President – Ron Burch

Co Vice President – Jeanne McDermott & Ginna Plude (new)

Direstors – Jay Presbie & Sandy Myhalik (new)

Treasurer - Tom Mierzejewski

Secretary – Walter & Harriet Doehr

AOS Rep. – Ginna Plude

The holiday party and elections was held on December 5th at the home of Sandy Myhalik & Steve Calderon who graciously opened their home to NSOS. Due to Illness I was not present, but from all reports that I have heard everyone had a great time. NSOS wants to thank Sandy & Steve for their great hospitality.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2011

January 2 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

January 10, ... NSOS Meeting 7:00pm - "Ecuador: Where Orchids Grow Like Weeds!" By Dr. Diane Dean Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

January 16, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

January 29-30 - Cape and Island Orchid Society Show, The Resort and Conference Center at Hyas, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA. Contact: Tina Balog, 64 Carol Ave., E. Falmouth, MA 02536; (508) 540-5006; tina@plaid.who.edu.

February 7, NSOS Meeting 7:00pm - Speaker Julia Massolin-Walas - Topic "What's Bugging Your Orchids?" discussion about the most common pests and diseases including molds ,viruses and insects, that affect orchid collections. It also presents pesticide-free methods and organic recipes for getting rid of them, and how to prevent from introducing them into your collection. Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

February 6 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

February 11-13 - New Hampshire Orchid Society Show, Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH. "Celebrate Orchids" Contact: Jean Hallstone, 4 Bud Way, Suite 14, Nashua, NH 03063; (603) 880-0404; jhallstone@yahoo.com.

February 20, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

February 26-27 - Amherst Orchid Society Show, Smith Vo-Ag High School, Locust St., Route 9, Northampton, MA. Contact: Harold Norman, 7 Maple St., Monson, MA 01057; (413) 267-5124; Leilani.norman@verizon.net.

March 5-13 - Philadelphia International Flower Show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Drew Becker, PHS, 100 N. 20th St 5th Fl, Philadelphia, PA 19103; bgreene@pennhort.org.

March 6 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

March 7, ... NSOS meeting 7:00pm- TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

March 19 & 20 ... 12 noon till 6 pm Saturday & Sunday 10am till 5 pm. Nutmeg State Orchid Society's Orchid Show. West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 West Main St., West Hartford. The Public is Invited

March 20, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

March 25-27 - Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Contact: Mary Beth Clarke, 1540 Anne Dr., West Chester, PA 19380; mcrna2go@aol.com.

April 3 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

April 4, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

April 17, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

May 1 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

May 2, NSOS meeting 7:00pm –TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

May 15, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

June 5 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

June 6, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

June 19, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

July 3 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

July17, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

August 7 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

August 21, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

September 4 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

September 12, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

September 18, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

October 2 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

October 3, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

October 16, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

November 6 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

November 7, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – TBA - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

November 20, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

December 4 , 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Boylston, Tower Hill Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

December 5, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – Holiday Party & Elections - Held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm

December 18, 12:00pm ... Northeast Judging Center - Elmsford, The Hampton Inn, 200, Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY

Meetings are held at the Farmington Senior Center, Room C @ 7 pm – 9 pm the first Monday of each month unless otherwise posted above or on our website.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: Starting in January I would like to start a new feature with input from the membership. I would like to include tips that you have tried that work. I would like input from all our members whether you are new or old to orchids.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NSOS financial data is available to members upon request. Send your inquiries to our Treasurer, Tom Mierzejewski: tommajeski@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. ¼ page \$25, ½ 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 A thru M bring in a snack or finger food to share with members. Thanks in advance for your contributions!



IMPORTANT



NSOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL of DUES

YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2011. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO WRITE A CHECK, PAYABLE TO NSOS, TO RENEW YOUR DUES ASAP. A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP REMAINS AT \$20.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR, AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AT \$25.00. IF YOU JOINED IN SEPT./OCT./NOV./OR DECEMBER OF 2010, YOU ARE PAID UP THRU 2011.

YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS DETAIL IS MOST APPRECIATED. THANK YOU!!

**JEANNE MCDERMOTT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON**



Robert Hirnyk Memorial Library

	TITLE	AUTHOR	PUB
1	Book of Orchids	Withner, Dr. Carl	1985
2	Botanical Orchids and How to Grow Them	Kramer, Jack	1998
3	Complete Guide to Maine's Orchids	Kenan, Philip E.	1983
4	Exotic Orchids -- Successful Indoor Gardening	Rittershausen, Wilma	1989
5	Expanding Your Orchid Collection	Rentoul, J. N.	1989
6	Field Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Europe	Williams, John & Andrew	1978
7	Flowers of the Amazon Forest	Mee, Margaret	1988
8	Forgotten Orchids of Alexandra Brun	Cribb, Philip	1992
9	International Book of Orchids	Hunt, P. Francis	1979
10	Miniature Orchids	McQueen, Jim and Barbara	1992
11	Orchid Genera Illustrated	Sheehan, Tom and Marion	1979
12	Orchids	Black, Peter McKenzie	1973
13	Orchids	Menzies, David	1991
14	Orchids -- A Guide to Cultivation	Cribb, Dr. Philip & Bales, Chris	1992
15	Orchids -- Natural History & Classification	Dressler, Robert L.	1990
16	Orchids -- Wonders of Nature	Kijima, Takashi	1987
17	Orchids at Kew	Stewart, Joyce	1992
18	Orchids from Seed	Thompson, P.A.	1974
19	Orchids of Africa	Stewart, Joyce & Hennessey, Esme F.	1981
20	Orchids of Asia	Eng Soon, Teoh	1980
21	Slipper Orchids	Hennessey, Esme F. & Hedge Tessa A.	1989
22	Southern African Epiphytic Orchids	Paul, John S.	1978
23	The Specialist Orchid Grower	Rentoul, J. N.	1987
24	Wild Orchids of Britain and Europe	Davies, Paul and Jenne	1983
25			

Monthly Checklist for January and February

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard *Paphiopedilum* *insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a *paphiopedilum*, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not replot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

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

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Transporting Blooming Orchids

By Susan Jones

During this time of year unpredictable and often inhospitable winter weather makes transporting flowering orchids a tricky matter. A shock of cold, dry air can quickly damage and even blast an orchid bud or bloom, a particularly heartbreaking event if one is on the way to have the flower judged. When carrying your flowering plant to a show, home from a nursery, to judging or even to give as a holiday gift, taking a little bit of precaution against potential cold damage can prevent a lot of disappointment later on.

An orchid's flowers and buds, as the most vulnerable parts of the plant, are easily damaged by environmental stress. Some of the more cold-sensitive varieties may even drop leaves if the exposure and shock is of sufficient severity. Phalaenopsis and vandaceous orchids (neofinetias are a bit hardier than most, but their blooms are still sensitive) are among the least tolerant of chills. Other orchids that are most often affected include those with flowers of more delicate substance. The thicker, heavier and waxier an orchid's floral tissues are, the more resistant to cold damage they will be.



Be sure to have plenty of boxes and packing material for transporting orchid plants.

Tips from a Pro

Long-time orchid grower, Connecticut Orchid Society member and one of the technical editors of Orchids magazine, Ann Jesup provided the following savvy ideas for ways to minimize disaster en route to an orchid society meeting, show or judging at a presentation to the Society.

Start with a good quantity of packing materials, she advises. Have on hand a variety of boxes of different sizes, including some insulated styrofoam boxes to shelter your plants from inclement weather. Padding is also important. she suggests waxed floss paper (also known as "spaghetti"), shredded paper, polyester batting and styrofoam peanuts as useful materials.

For protection against brief exposure to the elements, the plastic bags in which newspapers are delivered make an ideal sleeve to slip over a smaller plant. Dry-cleaning bags supported by wire hoops can help protect larger plants or those with tall inflorescences from freezing or drying out in winter weather.

Insulating Plants

Newspaper is an effective, easily available and inexpensive insulation material. If plants must remain in an unheated area for any length of time during inclement weather, a cardboard box lined with newspaper will help retain heat around the plant. Foam packing peanuts may be added to stabilize and protect the plant in the box, but provide little in the way of insulation or heat retention.

For extreme situations in which prolonged exposure is anticipated, a heat pack can be placed under protective insulation in the bottom of the box. Disposable chemical heat packs are available in different lengths of

effectiveness — the most commonly available last six to eight hours, but other durations are available. They can be ordered on line (enter “disposable heat packs” into a search engine to find a vendor). Some orchid vendors who use them for shipping may also be persuaded to sell some of their stock.

Another consideration is staking your plant’s inflorescences. This can not only improve the overall appearance of the blooms, but will also help keep the spike and flowers stationary and less susceptible to injury during transportation. The proper time to stake an inflorescence is when the flowers are beginning to develop. This helps ensure that the buds are oriented properly once they open. For aesthetics’ sake, Jesup suggests attempting to keep the stake unobtrusive. Placing the thinnest stake possible as close to the foliage as is practical helps to avoid distracting attention from the blooms themselves.

Finally, when the temperature is low, warm up your vehicle in advance of transporting blooming orchids to minimize the length of time your plants will have to endure the chill temperatures. Plan your trip so the plants will spend the shortest possible time in transit, and never leave orchids sitting in a hot or cold car.

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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Happy New Year

