



Conservation Through Knowledge

# Nutmeg State Orchid Society Inc.

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## Officers:

**President:** Jeanne McDermott

[jtmcdermott@comcast.net](mailto:jtmcdermott@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Alan Stauch

[alanstauch02@gmail.com](mailto:alanstauch02@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Tom Mierzejewski

[tommajeski@comcast.net](mailto:tommajeski@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Walter Doehr

[johndeered@att.net](mailto:johndeered@att.net)

**Directors:** Diane Deane

[ddean@sjc.edu](mailto:ddean@sjc.edu)

**Russ Muller**

[Muller34@comcast.net](mailto:Muller34@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Walter & Harriet Doehr

[johndeered@att.net](mailto:johndeered@att.net)

[winnietpooh@att.net](mailto:winnietpooh@att.net)

**AOS Representative:** Ginna Plude

[gcplude@aol.com](mailto:gcplude@aol.com)

**Membership:** Jeanie Falco

[jfalco12@gmail.com](mailto:jfalco12@gmail.com)

**Affiliated with the American Orchid Society**



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## The President's Message:



### **HAPPY NEW YEAR Everyone!**

It's been two years since I wrote my last President's Message, and I do welcome the challenge to help facilitate an exciting year ahead for NSOS along with our new Board of Directors. Please join me in extending **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Alan Stauch**, VP; **Tom Mierzejewski**, Treasurer; **Walter Doehr**, Recording Secretary and Webmaster; **Diane Dean**, Director; and **Russ Muller**, Director. **THANK YOU!!** Together we will do our utmost to continue the positive direction that NSOS has thus far enjoyed in our first four years of existence! As introduced at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, please use our new NSOS Suggestion Box to tell us your orchid needs...or simply send any, or all of us, an email. This is **OUR Society** and we all wish to make it the best that it can be. Let us hear from you.

Two key NSOS roles have been filled by **Jeanie Falco** and **Alan Stauch**. Jeanie has taken over the responsibilities of **Membership Chair**. You can be sure that Jeanie will be sending you gentle reminders to renew your membership and send in your dues. Jeanie will also be our official "Greeter" at our NSOS meetings. It's most important to welcome new folks in a manner that makes them feel a part of our organization....nametags always help! **Alan Stauch** has agreed to be our NSOS official **Publicity Chair**. His talents will not only be essential for the success of our 2012 "Come See Our Bloomers!" Show & Sale, and also to advertise our monthly meetings via multiple local media outlets. Since our meetings are opened to the public, communication with those free enterprises is important. This is one way to not only increase our membership, but help support our speakers when they offer their prized orchids for sale. **Thank you Jeanie and Alan!!**

**WOW!** We do have lots to be grateful for!! And what about that Holiday Party! Fifty-four members and guests attended!! Our Camp Happy Hill hall was seasonally decorated with poinsettias, colorful table coverings, a Christmas tree, and was well stocked with an incredible array of food! Everyone was most generous in sharing their favorite appetizers. Walter and Harriet Doehr complemented everything with their very fine cooking and baking. The NSOS cake was exquisite! (Please see the "Photo Gallery" on this site for that work of art!) Thanks everyone for making the evening most enjoyable for all. What a way to kick off the Holidays!

The next challenge ahead is our "Come See Our Bloomers!" Show & Sale on March 17 & 18. The next Show Committee Meeting will be held on January 4<sup>th</sup> at our home at 26 Basswood Road, Farmington, in

conjunction with the first 2012 NSOS Board Meeting. All prospective Chair positions are asked to attend. Please join us!

Happy Holidays Everyone!!

Jeanne

## **REMINDER: NEXT MEETING JANUARY 9, 2012 NOT JANUARY 2, 2012**

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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

Director: Russ Muller - [Muller34@comcast.net](mailto:Muller34@comcast.net)

Director: Diane Dean - [ddean@sjc.edu](mailto:ddean@sjc.edu)

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: Harriet Doehr – [winnietpooh@att.net](mailto:winnietpooh@att.net)

Show Chair: Tom Mierzejewski - [tommajeski@comcast.net](mailto:tommajeski@comcast.net)

Webmaster: Walter Doehr - [johndeered@att.net](mailto:johndeered@att.net)





# Holiday Party



## NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2010

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:johndeered@att.net">johndeered@att.net</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@sprintmail.com">jpresbie@sprintmail.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: [johndeered@att.net](mailto:johndeered@att.net)

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

A short business meeting was called to order for the purpose of electing a new Board. Bios had been placed on each table for the members to review. Tom addressed the members and asked if anyone from the floor wished to run for any of the open positions, there were no nominations from the floor. The election was then held and the slate of officers was elected unanimously. The meeting was then adjourned and the party started. There were 54 members present who brought all sorts of appetizers along with some desserts. The club supplied Chicken Cacciatore, Pasta Alfredo, cake, soda, water & coffee. Everyone that attended the party had a great time and lots of fellowship.

The raffle table was full of raffle prizes.

There will be a suggestion box @ each meeting for any suggestions that you might have.

We wish to thank the outgoing members of the board for their time and service.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2012**

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

**January 9, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – George Crozer from Crozer and Crozer Orchids in New London, NH will be our speaker - Topic "New Directions in Cattleya Hybridization" - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm**

**January 21, 12:00pm ... Judging takes place at the Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY at 12:00PM on the third Saturday of the month. Send cut flowers to: Wayne Bourdette, 5 Emily Ct., Greenlawn, NY 11740**

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

**February 6, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – Margaret C. Bridge from Black Meadow Flora inc. from Chester NY will give a presentation, Topic "A Primer on the Culture of Cymbidium, Phaius and Ludisia Orchids." - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm**

**February 18, 12:00pm ... Judging takes place at the Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY at 12:00PM on the third Saturday of the month. Send cut flowers to: Wayne Bourdette, 5 Emily Ct., Greenlawn, NY 11740**

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

**March 5, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – Jerry E. Kessler will be our speaker, his talk will be entitled "My One and Only" - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm**

**March 17, 12:00pm ... Judging takes place at the Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown Rd., Elmsford, NY at 12:00PM on the third Saturday of the month. Send cut flowers to: Wayne Bourdette, 5 Emily Ct., Greenlawn, NY 11740**

**April 2, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – J&L Orchids -Topic TBA - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm**

**May 7, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – A & P Orchids in Swansea, MA Website: [www.aandporchids.com](http://www.aandporchids.com) Penny Mustafa will be our speaker - The topic will be "Cattleya Highlight!" - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm**

**Meetings are held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 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](mailto: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 2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2012. 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 2011, YOU ARE PAID UP THRU 2012.**

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

**JEANNE FALCO  
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 repot 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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## Keep Your Labels

For scientific reasons, all plants have names which distinguish their genus and species. Frequently, individual plants are given a third name. Because orchids are among the most prized of flowering plants, growers keep track of these names for each plant. Thus, every orchid is identified by three names: the first gives the big group or genus (e.g., *Cattleya* or *Phalaenopsis*) to which it belongs and sets some of the boundaries for potential hybridizing. The correct name is determined by international authorities who publish the correct (and current) names which can be found on the web. This name is often abbreviated.

The second (in nature, species) name gives its relation to genetically close relatives – sort of like a name for all of the blood relatives from mating of close relatives with the same family names. Just as with the genus level name, these species' names are determined by international authorities and are published and can be found on the web. Because the genus and species level names are important in scientific pursuits, these names are monitored closely and revised when appropriate (making life more challenging for the hobbyists and AOS judges but keeping the system coherent).

Nature does not recognize rules about incest and orchid hybridizers often deliberately mate closely related plants to isolate wanted traits. Mating of species produces remarkably uniform children. Sometimes one of these children has a different trait which is prized. This prized plant can be given a third (or clonal) name. The third name identifies a particular, genetically unique, plant. This third one is like a given name, and is often a name chosen by the owner of that individual plant. Hybridizers are especially careful with these names so that close-inbreeding can be tracked. Hobbyists are interested in these given names because they are necessary for establishing which actual plants are better and, thus, worthy of award recognition. If you ever want to enter a plant into a show, you will need to know this third name. If it already has one, you will be able to recognize it because it will be surrounded by single quotation marks on its label. American Orchid Society Quality Awards are given to particular plants, identified by this third name. Once given to a particularly plant, this third name is permanently attached to the plant as are the Quality Awards. When a plant is awarded, the owner has the right to add that award to the label. You can tell that a plant has been awarded when you buy it, if it has the award written on it. The award will follow the clonal name (in single quotes) and have a slash mark followed by an abbreviation of the awarding organization. For instance, AM/AOS means that the orchid received an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society.

Fortunately, the names attached to orchid hybrids closely parallel those for natural species. The names get longer, more complex at times, but also more memorable. Because hobbyists are less constrained in the names they can give their individual plants, the names in single quotes are usually the funniest, bawdiest, or even most touching. Part of the fun of orchids is getting your plant awarded and having the name you have given your plant published in the official record of awards kept by the American Orchid Society. Hobbyists often honor friends or family with these names. If you do give your plant a name, it is up to you to keep track of it.



So, safeguard your plants identity by just shoving its label down into the pot or using one that ties on. Alas, orchid labels have a way of wandering off. Beginning with your first orchid, make a special effort to keep the label. Conscientious vendors try to provide each plant with a label with these three items (and sometimes more). At first, these labels may not mean much to you the buyer; many of the names are Latin or Greek derived and some of the information is abbreviated. But, as your experience grows, these labels will become more and more valuable to you. So, keep them with the plant.

***Greg Truex***  
***AOS Education Committee***





**MAY YOU HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**