



Conservation Through Knowledge

Nutmeg State Orchid Society Inc.

Issue 25 Volume 4

January 2012

Officers:

President: Jeanne McDermott

jtmcdermott@comcast.net

Vice President: Alan Stauch

alanstauch02@gmail.com

Treasurer : Tom Mierzejewski

tommajeski@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Walter Doehr

johndeered@att.net

Directors: Diane Deane

ddean@sjc.edu

Russ Muller

Muller34@comcast.net

Secretary: Walter & Harriet Doehr

johndeered@att.net

winnietpooh@att.net

AOS Representative: Ginna Plude

gcplude@aol.com

Membership: Jeanie Falco

jfalco12@gmail.com

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society



501 (c) (3) non for profit organization

The President's Message:



Where is our Old Man Winter? Mother Nature has been so gracious to all of us with her mild temperatures and lack of snow thus far. Guess she knows we paid our dues with October Storm "Alfred"! Let's hope she elects to shine brightly upon NSOS when our "Come See Our Bloomers!" Show & Sale takes place on March 17 & 18, 2012. That's only 2 ½ months away!!

Plans for our Show are coming along nicely. So far, seven major vendors and five artisans have joined us, besides two massage therapists, and a few others pending. Advertisers have been very supportive in repeating their ads in our Show Brochure or buying new ads. Now the remaining challenge is to seek out items for our Silent Auction which complement our fundraising. If you know of a business/vendor who would be willing to contribute a service or items to our Silent Auction, please ask. As a 501 (c) (3) corporation, all necessary documentation can be provided for tax purposes. By the way, the next Show Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 30, 6:30 pm at Tom & Jeanne's. All who are interested in contributing are invited to attend.

Several Sister Society Orchid Shows are taking place in the next few months. Cape & Islands Orchid Society, New Hampshire Orchid Society, and the Amherst Orchid Society have shows in January and February. Please see our "Schedule" for further details: www.nutmegorchids.com NSOS will exhibit at the Amherst Show on February 25 & 26. Your bloomers will be needed for this exhibit. More information will be forthcoming via email. Stay tuned!



For all who summer your orchids and other plants outside, please allow me to tell you a short, true story. Tom & I have a large night-blooming Cereus that we originally obtained from Tom's now deceased Mom. Each May, the plant goes out on our back deck. Every year, it rewards us with 20-30 gorgeous, most fragrant blossoms on any given summer night, even though the blossoms last only one night. Early November, the plant is returned to our dining room on the floor in front of a window. This year, soon after it came in, sporadic chirping originated in the area of the plant. With flashlight, we searched everywhere numerous times and could not determine the source of this amazing "call of the wild". Last week, the mystery was solved. Our Cereus is home to an albino tree frog!! I share this story with you since some of you have offspring/cuttings from this tropical plant. Tom & I are now buying crickets weekly at Pets Mart to feed this little helpless guy who found a home in our home! Just goes to show that you never know what Mother Nature will bring upon you and your loved ones. We are just grateful that our two kitties don't try to seek him out, although they are very curious! Can't wait for late Spring to get the plant back outdoors!

Our February 6th Meeting will host Margaret Bridges from Black Meadow Flora, Chester, NY. As a wholesaler to many NY/NJ enterprises, she will be bringing many lovely orchids to appeal to you. Please join us to learn more on: "A Primer on the Culture of Cymbidium, Phaius and Ludisia Orchids."

See you then.

Jeanne





Paph Green 'Bulldog'
Grown By Jeanne McDermott



Paph Spicerianum
Grown By Jeanne McDermott



Ign 'A Sons Love
Grown By Jeanne McDermott



Twinkle Red 'Fantasy'
Grown By Jeanie Falco



Clarissa
Grown By Alan Stauch



Circle of Life
Grown By Ted Zamojski

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Publicity: Alan Straub - alanstauch02@gmail.com

Director: Russ Muller - Muller34@comcast.net

Director: Diane Dean - ddean@sjc.edu

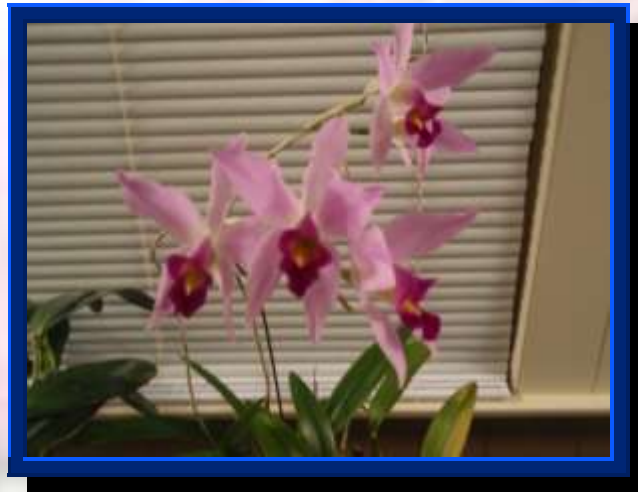
Library: Richard & Sally Duvall richard.c.duvall@snet.net

sally.s.duvall@snet.net

Hospitality Chair: Harriet Doehr – winnietpoo@att.net

Show Chair: Tom Mierzejewski - tommajeski@comcast.net

Webmaster: Walter Doehr - johndeered@att.net



Laelia anceps
Grown By Ted Zamojski

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, Oncidiums, 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 New Format

The meeting started at 7:00 sharp under our new format. There were 35 members present. The first 15 minutes were used for greeting members & visitors as well as an update on the show. The new banners have arrived to put out in front of the building, lettering much easier to see from the road. Tom is in the process of making 5 permanent signs that will be used to direct people to our show and can be used in the future. So far we have two sister societies that have confirmed attendance in our show. We have 7 plant vendors as well as 6 non plant vendors that have confirmed their participation. The show brochure is coming along well and has been paid for by advertising, no outlay in monies from the club.

Sign up lists were circulated for volunteers to help with the show. Jobs needed are Skirting & setup on Friday March 16 starting at noon, Admission 18 people, Membership Table 12 people Judging clerks 20 people for Saturday morning. Anyone interested can contact Tom Mierzejewski @

tommajeski@comcast.net to sign up. Joanna Eckstrom will be the AOS Registrar & Judging Chairman.



After the first 15 minutes George Crozer reviewed our show table for us. This was a change from the past meetings as we wanted those bringing in plants to show them off and for the membership to learn about them.

After the show table we had our speaker.

When the speaker was done we completed the rest of our business meeting as well as had our raffle.

SPEAKER



George Crozer from Crozer & Crozer Orchids in New London, New Hampshire. "New Directions in Cattleya Hybridization" was his topic. George has been growing orchids for the past 30 years. George is specializing on getting large flowers on his Cattleyas. One of the main reason for Cattleyas, as well as other orchids not blooming is not enough light. There are many considerations when trying to create a new flower, size of flower wanted, characteristics you want from the parents, fragrance, color you must also have patience as it takes may years before you get the first flower from your cross and sometimes it is disappointing. George also fertilizes his orchids every week with 7-9-8.

Georges talk was very interesting and informative, he also brought several orchids for sale.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012

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 9 - 12... Deep Cut Orchid Society Show - Dearborne Market, 2170 Route 35, Holmdel Twp., NJ

February 10 - 12... New Hampshire Orchid Society Show, Nashua, NH It's theme is "Parade of Orchids". At the Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH. Admission: \$10.00 Seniors, \$6.00 Open to the public Friday, Feb. 10, 1 pm to 5 pm; Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 am to 5 pm; Sunday, Feb. 12, 9 am to 4 pm. They will have Exhibits & Sales, Free Workshops and Guided Tours. Directions: US 3 (Everett Tpk) off Exit 1. Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH. Call 603-888-9970 or go to www.radisson.com/nhorchids2012

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

February 24 - 26 ... Amherst Orchid Society Show - Smith Vo-Ag High School, 80 Locust St., Route 9, Northampton, MA

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

March 28, ... Board meeting & post show critique, 6:30pm - 26 Bass Wood Rd., Farmington Ct. All members welcome.

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

April 20 - 22 ... Southern Tier Orchid Society Show, Johnson City, NY

May 7, ...NSOS meeting 7:00pm – A & P Orchids in Swansea, MA Website: 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

June 4, ... NSOS meeting 7:00pm

June 20, ... Board meeting, 6:30pm - 26 Bass Wood Rd., Farmington Ct. All members welcome.

July ... NO MEETING

August ... Picnic - Date & Place TBA

September 10, ... NSOS meeting 7:00pm - Topic TBA - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm

September 26, ... Board meeting, 6:30pm - 26 Bass Wood Rd., Farmington Ct. All members welcome.

October 1, ... NSOS meeting 7:00pm - Nancy Goodman - Topic: Native New England Orchids - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm

November 5, ... NSOS meeting 7:00pm - Topic: TBA - Held at the Lions Clubs Camp Happy Hill, 87 W. Avon Rd, Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm

December 10, ... NSOS meeting 7:00pm - Holiday Party & Elections - 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.

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 Doebr if interested and send your check to Tom Mierzejewski, our Treasurer.

Refreshments :

It is requested that for the February 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!



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!!

**JEANIE 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			

These Books and more are available for your pleasure to take home and read and return the following month.

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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Give Me Some Air!

During the 19th century "Orchidmania" craze that swept Europe, thousands of orchids would die in dry, heated "stoves", as the orchid greenhouses were called. It is surprising that any survived and it was only the sheer numbers being ripped from the jungles that allowed a hobby to be born. These early orchid hobbyists had little first-hand knowledge of where or how orchids actually grew and the plants often arrived in Europe unaccompanied by the person who actually collected them. The notion was that epiphytic orchids grew in dank, steamy, tropical jungles. There certainly are orchids that come from sea level forests close to the equator, but even in those places there is open air movement and that is the next cultural element we will cover.



For this newsletter we will look at humidity and air movement, both qualities of the air that surround your orchids, and you! Although there are genera-specific requirements for more or less humidity, most tropical epiphytic orchids require between 50-70% humidity. Less than 40% humidity can cause plants to grow poorly or at best, less than optimum.

Plants transpire moisture through stomata, tiny pores on the leaves. If the humidity of the growing environment is too low, orchid plants will transpire water faster than they can take it up through the roots and become desiccated. Roots and potting media will also dry out quicker keeping a plant in a dehydrated state. Watering more frequently is not a solution for dehydration and leads to root problems because of rapid media decay.

If you grow orchids in a greenhouse it is most likely properly equipped to provide an acceptable range of humidity. Evaporative coolers are an excellent means of adding humidity and keeping temperatures cooler in summer. If you grow orchids in the home, you have more of a challenge to maintain proper humidity. Winter heating and summer air conditioning both dry the air significantly. For just a few plants there is a classic solution that may be somewhat limited in its effectiveness, but is easy and provides some humidity. Fill a shallow tray, such as an aluminum oven liner, with pebbles, then add water to just below the tops of the pebbles. Set your orchid pots on the pebbles. Refill the tray every few days as needed (if algae builds up, empty the pebbles into a colander in the sink and rinse with diluted bleach, then plenty of clean water). This works well if you are growing just a few orchids on a windowsill. Misting can also help, but the water evaporates so quickly the benefits do not last long. If you have a larger collection that you perhaps grow on a plant stand or cart, an inexpensive humidifier can be bought for slightly more than the cost of a couple of orchid plants. Look for one with a large reservoir that does not need frequent refilling. Specific orchid growing setups such as orchidariums, terrariums, Wardian Cases and many under-lights setups in basements all will provide ample humidity.



If you were to visit the habitat of an epiphytic orchid, let's say

Cattleya mossiae shown above, you would discover a setting totally contrary to the Victorian perception mentioned in the first paragraph. You would be in the Venezuelan mountains at about 3000-4500 feet above sea level and the cattleyas would be growing in the canopy of the trees above you. Air constantly flows up the mountains and the tops of the trees sway in the breeze. Many of our favorite orchids come from this kind of airy environment. Optimum conditions for cultivating orchids are often described with the words, "buoyant atmosphere". What that describes is air that feels light and is constantly moving. Primarily, a buoyant atmosphere provides a constantly fresh supply of carbon dioxide to the trees and the orchids in them. Green plants convert carbon dioxide and water into food compounds, such as glucose, and oxygen through the process called photosynthesis. Air that is constantly moving provides other benefits, such as eliminating pockets of extreme temperatures and moderating the temperature of both air and leaves. An adequately ventilated orchid growing space discourages fungal infections by hastening the evaporation of standing water. The surest way to discourage the flower damaging fungus, *Botrytis cinerea*, is to increase air movement.



Providing orchids with air movement is one of the simplest things to achieve. If you are growing a few orchids on a windowsill, merely open the window a few inches any time the outside temperature is above 50° F. If you have a grow cart of orchids, one or two six or eight inch muffin fans will do the trick. Turn them on low and aim them above or to the side of the orchids to draw air over the plants. Ceiling fans provide excellent air circulation for patios and sun rooms, while most commercial greenhouses offer fan options. If yours doesn't, buy one or

two 24 inch box fans depending on the size of your structure.

As you have probably gathered; if the setting feels comfortable to you, your orchids will like it too!



TIP: from Walter Doehr

We all know that humidity is very important for our orchids. We have all used trays filled with water to help increase our humidity (which I still use). I have found that by using a cool mist humidifier I can raise my humidity level significantly in a short period of time. I raised my level from 35% to 50% in three hours. I have tried using the warm steam humidifier but was afraid of my grand children getting burned if they got to close and pulled them over. They also get mineral build up on the electrodes and need frequent cleanings to keep them working properly, this is not needed on the cool mist humidifiers. Below are two of the humidifiers that I use. There are many brands available at most pharmacies.



