



Conservation Through Knowledge

Issue 51 Volume 8

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# Nutmeg State Orchid Society Inc.

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**Affiliated with the American Orchid Society**



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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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## 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 26 people in attendance.

The two upcoming shows were discussed.

NSOS is looking for someone that has storage space that we can use for our show supplies. The board has offered a life time membership to anyone that has a space we can use.

NSOS "Come See Our Bloomers" will take place on March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 with setup on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help set up the show as well as manning the different areas. If anyone is interested please contact Sandy. This year from 8am till 9:45am on Sunday we are allowing Photography groups access to our show to take pictures, all tripods must be removed prior to the show opening. These photographers will pay normal admission.

Glen Decker will be having another picnic on June 4, 2016 and NSOS will be chartering a bus and will be attending as our trip for the year.

For those that have not heard J&L orchids is selling their business.

June 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Carrie will be with Amherst Orchid Society and having an orchid outing in Amherst (where the Amherst show is held).

**NSOS DUES ARE NOW DUE!! Anyone who has not paid their dues by April 1, 2016 will be dropped from the roster. Dues are \$20 for single & \$25 for Family.**

## **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. 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

## **2016 Schedule of Meetings & Events**

**March 10, 2016 – Meeting Topic –How to prepare for an orchid display - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville**

**March 18, 2016 - Setup for NSOS "Come See Our Bloomers"**

**March 19, 2016 - 12 noon - 5 pm - "Come See Our Bloomers" - The West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT**

**March 20, 2016 - 10 am - 4 pm "Come See Our Bloomers" - The West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT**

**April 14, 2016 – Meeting Topic -TBA - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville**

**May 12, 2016 – Meeting Topic -TBA - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville**

**June 9, 2016 – Meeting Topic -TBA - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville**

**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**

## 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

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



**2015 NSOS SHOW TABLE**



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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.*

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## Spring Has Sprung

Today is the first day of spring and for orchid growers, that means our orchids will be commencing their annual growth cycle soon. Depending on where you live, some plants may be in growth already. As we head toward summer we will be practicing a different culture regime for our orchids. We want to optimize their growth as much as possible during the warm part of the year. The most important task we associate with spring is repotting our plants. I often hear of a novice buying an orchid and immediately repotting it regardless of the time of year. That is not sound practice. The best, and safest time to repot an orchid is in the springtime and there are good reasons why. Lengthening days continue to accelerate plant growth through the summer solstice. With some species, growth can be explosive at this time of year. Orchids that receive ample food and water, and the proper temperatures and light for their type, can quickly fill a pot with roots. The more roots, the better a plant can utilize the nutrients it receives. This rapid growth also insures that newly potted orchids will quickly establish themselves in the fresh medium. All of this adds up to a strong, healthy plant capable of producing abundant blooms.



While there are exceptions, for most orchids it is a safe bet to repot in the spring. It is a good idea to confirm that your orchids are indeed beginning their growth cycle.

Monopodial and sympodial orchids (see [August 2009 newsletter](#)) should both have some active, green root tips on mature roots. Sympodial orchids should have a cluster of new roots starting from the base of the newest pseudobulb and may or may not have a new pseudobulb starting. The longer the new roots are the easier it is to accidentally break them so try to repot plants when these roots are not much more than a half-inch long. Soaking a plant in a bucket of room temperature water will make old roots more pliable and easier to remove from the pot. This is especially helpful with monopodial orchids like *Phalaenopsis*.

Repotting orchids is fairly straightforward and once you get the hang of it, it becomes an enjoyable part of the hobby. There are a few rules to remember...

- Always sterilize cutting tools between plants to avoid the spread of disease. A minute or two under a torch flame will suffice.
- Remove old medium and dead roots. Leafless backbulbs may be removed from sympodial orchids.
- Use fresh, clean media and pots, do not recycle media, and reuse pots only if they have been sterilized.
- Potting time is a good time to examine plants for any pests that might be hiding. Spring cleaning applies to orchids too! Remove any old, dried sheaths with a toothbrush dipped in 70% isopropyl alcohol. Also remove any dead leaves or pseudobulbs.
- Makes sure that all of the needed materials are at hand, that includes assorted pots, enough of your preferred media, rhizome clips and/or bamboo or wire stakes and don't forget nametags!

If you pot them correctly, most orchids only need to be repotted every second or third year. Some, like *phalaenopsis* and *catasetums* appreciate fresh medium every year.



# “COME SEE OUR BLOOMERS!”

## NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE



Beautiful Orchids from all over the world will be displayed by our Hobbyists, Commercial Growers and Orchid Societies

Exhibits - Orchid & Supply Vendors  
Related Arts & Crafts - Seminars  
Door Prizes!  
Admission is \$10 children 12 & under free  
Public Invited and Welcomed!

Call: 860-677-0504

Email: [nyhalik@comcast.net](mailto:nyhalik@comcast.net)

Visit: [www.nutmegorchids.org](http://www.nutmegorchids.org)



Saturday March 19, 2016  
12 noon - 5 pm

Sunday March 20, 2016  
10 am - 4 pm

The West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center  
50 South Main Street West Hartford, CT  
Handicapped Accessible  
(Parking Validation Provided for Adjacent Lot Only)



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