



Conservation Through Knowledge

Issue 64 Volume 9

November 2017

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501 (c) (3) non for profit organization



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NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2013

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Jeanne McDermott	Windowsill growing: Phals, Paphs, Brassia, Oncidium, Cymbidium, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera			
Sandy Myhalik	Phalaenopsis	860-677-0504	myhalik@comcast.net	
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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

BUSINESS MEETING

Sandy Myhalik called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The Christmas party and annual meeting will take place at Camp Happy Hill (Farmington Lion's Club) on Thursday, December 14th. The party will begin at 6:30 PM, with appetizers and socializing followed by dinner. The main course will be catered (2 choices of main course plus potato and vegetable). Members should bring appetizers and desserts to share. Nonalcoholic beverages will be provided and members can BYO wine/beer. There will be a raffle. After dinner we will hold our annual meeting and elections. The evening will close with the raffle drawing.

The proposed change to our bylaws would move up the deadline for lapsed memberships to expire from April 30 to February 1 of the following year. Since the NSOS membership year runs January 1-December 31, this still allows for a 30-day grace period for members to renew after the end of the membership year.

At the December meeting, we will be voting to elect a new President for 2018-19. Rick Brown is chair of election committee. There are currently no nominees. Since Sandy has served 2 consecutive terms (4 years) she is not eligible to continue as President. Anyone interested in this critical leadership position should contact Rick or Sandy.

Regardless of election outcome, next year's activities are already being planned. Monthly programs through March have been set; Ginna is working on speakers for the April and May meetings. Our March show will go ahead as planned. Deb Mullikin Spearot has volunteered to chair next year's picnic. Absent a President, the Board will manage ongoing society operations until it is no longer practical to do so. An alternative would be to have co-presidents with shared responsibility for the office. [Post-meeting note: Walter Doehr has volunteered to run for President.]

The first orchid show of the season will be presented by the Massachusetts Orchid Society (MOS), November 3-5, 2017. Ginna Plude & Diane Dean will set up our display; Alan Stauch and Sandy Myhalik will take it down. Please volunteer your bloomers -- at least 25 plants are needed to make a good display. Show plants should be registered and dropped off to Diane or Ginna by Wednesday, November 1st.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

SPEAKER

Alan Koch, owner of Gold Country Orchids, Lincoln, CA, was our guest speaker. He is widely recognized for his knowledge and breeding of miniature and compact Cattleyas. His presentation topic was “ Growing Miniature Catts in the Home.”

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.

2017 Schedule of Meetings & Events

Nov. 18 2017 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Dec. 2 2017 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Dec. 14, 2017 - Meeting, Elections and Holiday Party, - Lions Club Camp Happy Hill, Unionville @ 7 pm – 9 pm

Dec. 16, 2017 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

2018 Schedule of Meetings & Events

Jan. 6, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Jan. 7, 2018 – Meeting – Topic TBD - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 3 pm

Jan. 12 - 14, 2018 [North Jersey Orchid Society Show and Sale](#) at the Douglass Student Center at Rutgers University, 100 George St., New Brunswick, NJ

Jan. 20, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Jan. 27 – 28, 2018 –Cape & Island Orchid Society Show – The Resort & Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA

Fed. 3, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Feb. 4, 2018 – Meeting – Topic TBD - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 3 pm

Feb. 8, 2018 –New Hampshire Orchid Society Show – Courtyard by Marriott, 2200 Southwood Dr., Nashua, NH

February 8 - 11, 2018 Deep Cut Orchid Society Show & Sale at the Dearborn Market, 2170 Route 35 South, Holmdel, NJ

Feb. 17, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Mar. 3, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Mar. 4, 2018 – Meeting – Topic TBD - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 3 pm

Mar. 17 – 18, 2018 – Nutmeg State Orchid Society “ Come See our Bloomers” show & Sale, West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 West Main St., West Hartford, CT

Mar. 17, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

March 23 - 25, 2018 - Genesee Region Orchid Society's 44th Annual Orchid Show at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

Apr.7, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Apr. 8, 2018 – Meeting – Topic TBD - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 3 pm

Apr. 21, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

May 2, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

May 6, 2018 – Meeting – Topic TBD - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 3 pm

May 19, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Jun.7 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Jun. 16, 2018 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Meetings are held at the Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 1 pm – 3 pm the First Sunday of each month unless otherwise posted above or on our website

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilums* are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.



Neofinetia falcata will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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

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

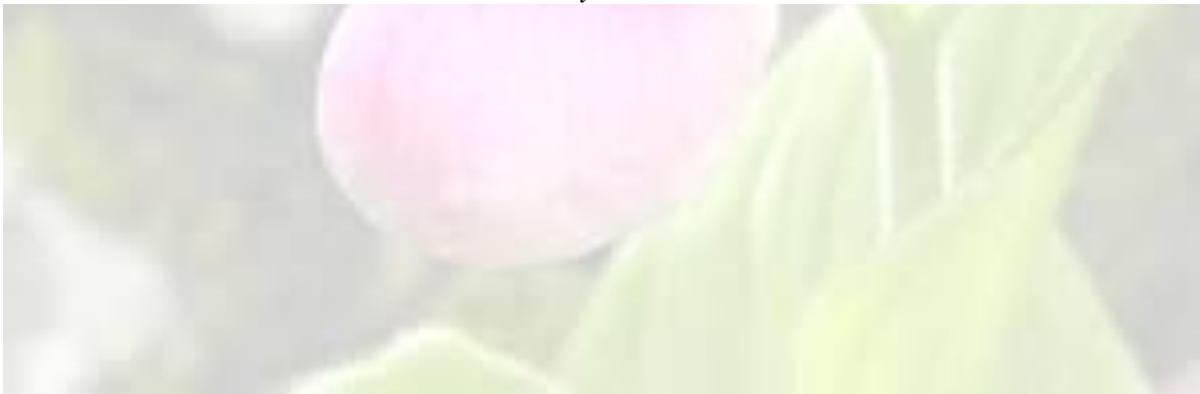
dioxide to the trees and the orchids in them. Green plants convert carbon dioxide and water into food compounds, such as glucose, and oxygen through the process called photosynthesis. Air that is constantly moving provides other benefits, such as eliminating pockets of extreme temperatures and moderating 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!

Greg Allikas
May 2010



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
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85	AOS "Orchid" Magazine	November
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