



Conservation Through Knowledge

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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 7:20 PM. She welcomed everyone back after summer break and reviewed the Society calendar for the rest of 2017.

In lieu of a regular meeting in October, the 2017 Gala Dinner and Auction will take place on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at Tunxis Plantation. Price and menu will be the same as last year -- \$30/couple, \$15/individual – which includes food, wine, and the auction. Tickets must be reserved and paid in advance. Checks (payable to NSOS) must be received by Sandy no later than October 13th so she can give the caterer a final headcount. The cost of dinner is subsidized for members. Non-members may attend for \$35/person. Items for auction will include blooming orchids purchased from Hawaii as well as plants donated by members plus a silent auction of gift baskets. Auction plant donors should let Sandy know what and how many plants they have so she knows how many additional to order. Members are also asked to gather items for themed gift baskets and drop them off at Sandy's. Baskets will be assembled and wrapped by Society volunteers (Donna Lamoureux and others).

Alan Koch (Gold Country Orchids) will be the guest speaker on November 9th. He will bring pre-orders and additional plants for sale. The topic of his presentation is TBD.

The Christmas party and annual meeting will take place at Camp Happy Hill on December 14th. It has not been decided whether the main course will be catered.

A last minute reminder was provided about the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) "Focus on Phals" Day on 9/9 in Bedford NH and 9/10 in Voorheesville NY. The same program will be presented at each location. Speakers include Alan Koch, Carrie Rieven-Ravens and Dorothy Woodson (pest & disease management). Cost is \$15; walk-ins are welcome. At the December meeting, we will be voting to elect a new President for 2018-19.

Sandy has served 2 consecutive terms (4 years) so she is not eligible to run again. Anyone interested in this critical leadership position should contact Sandy.

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 will take it down. They will need your bloomers, at least 25 plants to make a good display. Show plants should be registered and dropped off to Diane by November 1st.

Sandy raised the possibility of changing our monthly meeting time to Sunday afternoon, at least for the winter because Thursday evenings seem difficult for members who work full-time or have families. Furthermore, concerns about driving at night during the winter have been raised. The premium to rent the Senior Center on a weekend versus weekday (\$100 vs \$75) would be justified if rescheduling resulted in increased attendance, particularly by our younger members. However, educational programming is especially challenging during the spring show season. Vendors are not available to speak on show weekends, so we have historically relied on members to lead programs during these months.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

SPEAKER

Kris Ulthus, the new owner of New World Orchids in Manchester, MI was our guest speaker. Her presentation “Japanese Orchids: The Small and Mighty” covered four genera: *Sedirea japonica* (Nagoran “the orchid from Nago”), *Cymbidium* species (Shun-ran “spring orchid” and Kanran “cold orchid”), *Dendrobium moniliforme* (Choseiceran, “long life orchid”) and *Neofinetia falcata* (Furan “Wind orchid” or Fuukiran “Rich and Noble Orchid” or Samurai orchid). Thank you Kris for providing an introduction to the rich history and fascinating traditions surrounding Japanese orchid culture plus plenty of practical advice on how to grow and bloom these diminutive beauties.

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

Oct 7, 2017 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical Gardens, 11 French Dr, Boylston MA

Oct. 21, 2017 - Orchid Gala

Oct. 21, 2017 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Stamford - Bartlett Arboretum & Garden, Silver Education Center - 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, Ct.

Nov. 3-5, 2017 - Massachusetts Orchid Society (MOS) Show and sale, [Mahoney's Garden Center](#), 242 Cambridge St, Winchester, MA

Nov. 4, 2017 - Noon - Northeast Judging Center, Tower Hill Botanical gardens, 11 French dr, Boylston MA

Nov. 9, 2017 - Alan Koch -- from Gold Country Orchids - Topic -TBD - Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 7 pm – 9 pm

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.

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

Monthly Checklist for September and October

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.



Cycnoches chlorochilon, the green swan orchid.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.



Dendrobium Burana Stripe is a popular and easy phalaenopsis-type hybrid.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Rhynchostele bictoniensis

Both *Rhynchostele bictoniensis* and its *hybrids* bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum*, *Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in Odcdm. Bittersweet and Odm. bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.



Rossioglossum grande shows off its large, dramatic flowers.

Rossioglossum grand

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

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

Preparing Orchids for Winter

By Susan Jones

The onset of shorter days and longer, colder nights heralds winter's arrival. Many factors play into keeping your orchids happy and healthy through this time — finding the right combination of variables can be tricky, especially for beginners. The phrase “proper prior planning” is appropriate here; doing so will help your orchids to reach their greatest potential and increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby.

Generally, temperatures between 50° and 80° F (10° to 27° C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100 F (38 C) or drops even into the 30s (0 C) will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold hardiness, the measure of the orchid's resistance to or ability to adjust to cold stress, should be considered when adding new orchids for your landscape or collection. The degree of cold hardiness is determined by environmental conditions, the overall health of the plant and its genetic makeup. Some species are always killed by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.



During the winter, flowering orchids brighten well-lit windowsills. On cold nights, it's a good idea to move plants away from the window or use bubble wrap as insulation between the pane and the plants.

Cold Injury

Symptoms indicating cold damage usually become visible some days after exposure to critically low temperatures, not during the cold exposure. Cold injury includes damage from temperatures above and below freezing. Chill injury is that caused by low temperatures above freezing, and freeze injury is damage from temperatures at or below freezing. Frost damage takes place when dew freezes after it has condensed on leaf surfaces if the air temperature drops below freezing.

The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment after the exposure. Continued cool temperatures and high humidity after exposure to cold may slow the development of symptoms, while high light intensity and warm temperatures may accelerate the appearance of symptoms.

Chilling

Many chilling-injury symptoms are common to other stresses such as lack of water, root-rot diseases, chemical phytotoxicity, heat stress and light stress, and as such may be difficult to diagnose. General symptoms of chilling injury include surface lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration; water-soaking in tissues, usually followed by wilting and browning; internal discoloration (browning); increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria; slower-than-normal growth (this may be difficult to identify without undamaged plants for comparison or a knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate) and accelerated rate of natural death.

Freezing

Symptoms of freeze injury include desiccation or burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves, and death of sections of the plant or the entire plant. Obvious symptoms may not be present until after the plant has been stressed by very warm temperatures.

The Basics

Preparation for weathering winter's chills begins at the point of purchasing your orchids. Choose carefully for the growing conditions you are able to provide your plants. If you keep your home or greenhouse cool in the winter to save on heating costs, avoid the warmer-growing genera such as phalaenopsis and vanda. Instead, stick to intermediate- (most brassavolas, cattleyas, dendrobiums, epidendrums, laelias or mottled-leaved paphiopedilums) or cooler-growing (cymbidiums, masdevallias, miltonias, odontoglossums, oncidiums, plain-leaved paphiopedilums or sophronitis) orchids, depending on the conditions they will be grown under during the summer months. White or yellow vandas, as well as some dendrobiums (phalaenopsis- and antelope-types), are especially cold sensitive and do not like temperature drops below 60° F (16° C), and can be particularly prone to losing leaves when exposed to cooler temperatures. Seedlings and immature plants, particularly those in flasks or compots, are also much more sensitive to chills than their mature counterparts.

Another consideration for growers in northern climes is the shorter day length winter brings. Many orchids need 14 hours of light every day to flower successfully. Relying on daylight alone during winter months will not provide sufficient light to induce budding. Genera with high light requirements may produce healthy green foliage but without sufficient illumination might never reward their growers with the desired flowers. For indoor and greenhouse growers in the north, supplemental lighting may be necessary for optimal plant health and flowering. Depending on the type of light source chosen, the heat generated by the lamps may help counteract cold temperatures.

When adding to an orchid collection, choosing carefully to match the conditions you are able to provide as a grower will go a long way toward keeping your orchids in optimal health through winter's gloom and chills.

Once they're comfortably situated in your collection, cultural factors to consider in keeping them happy through the winter months include less frequent watering and fertilization. It is worth the extra effort to read up on the seasonal needs of the orchids in your collection. This is especially important for the species, but hybrids will benefit from this research as well. Some enter a period of partial or full dormancy; they will require a rest period at this time of year, and could be adversely affected if they do not receive one. As temperatures drop and daylight is reduced, their growth slows down or even stops, depending on the species or hybrid. The quantities of water and fertilizer they required for spring and summer growth are no longer needed and could negatively affect the plant unless reduced accordingly. Excess water can accelerate the breakdown of organic growing media (such as pine bark and sphagnum moss) and lead to root and plant rots. A surplus of fertilizer can accumulate in the growing media until the fertilizer salts burn the orchid's root and leaf tips, and actually inhibit rather than enhance growth.



Although winter requires preparation by the orchid grower, the shorter days are exactly what initiates bud development for seasonal species such as *Cattleya trianae*.

Windowsill

Because they have less control over the quality and amount of lighting reaching their plants than under-lights growers, windowsill growers face special considerations during the winter months. The day length is shorter in the northern latitudes, so supplemental lighting may be needed for part of the day to maintain a comfortable day-night balance for the plants. At this time of year, the sun's angle is lower on the horizon and may no longer be shaded by trees that have lost their leaves for the winter. A fresh snowfall can also reflect a great deal more light than normal. A sheer curtain may be needed to protect your plants from sunburn at these times.

At night, a heavy curtain between the window and your orchids can act as an insulating barrier to help keep the nighttime temperatures from damaging sensitive tropical plants. Thermopane windows will also help — their two panes of glass separated by an air pocket are good for both orchids and heating bills in the winter time. Even sheets of bubble wrap covering the glass will help keep warmth in and winter chills out. Never allow the foliage to touch the glass; condensation can freeze on the windowpane and kill your orchid's leaves.

Good air movement will help maintain temperatures as well. A fan to circulate the air around the window helps keep temperatures uniform, and distributes and circulates heat from heaters or other sources to keep the growing area closer to the ambient temperature of the room rather than the cold outside.

Greenhouses

Properly planned, a greenhouse may be constructed and oriented to minimize the effects of winter's chill on your orchids. The use of twin-walled instead of single-layered glazing materials adds insulation and reduces heat loss through the greenhouse exterior. Double-layered materials are also better able to withstand the weight of accumulated snow in the wintertime (but never allow the snow to remain on the greenhouse or it may cause damage). Attached greenhouses (those with one or more walls attached to a building), partially excavated and earthsheltered greenhouses retain heat better than freestanding models, and so cause growers less difficulty and expense to heat. Because one or more sides are opaque, attached and earth-sheltered greenhouses do not generally receive as much sunlight as a freestanding greenhouse.

Orientation

the direction of the greenhouse roof relative to the sun's movement — allows growers to take best advantage of available light. During the cold months, to optimize winter growing conditions, an eastwest orientation will allow the greatest amount of sunlight to reach your orchids through the shortest days of the year. This must be balanced with the needs of your orchids, the layout of your property, trees that might shade the greenhouse, etc. For maximum year-round exposure, a greenhouse with a north-south orientation is a better choice.

The next step is critical. Provide “backup, backup, backup and alarms,” says Jan Szyren, horticulturist and greenhouse coordinator for Michigan State University. As Szyren notes, an alarm system is critical for notifying growers if the greenhouse temperature should fall below a certain level, as is a backup heating system. Supplemental heating need not maintain optimal temperatures, but protect the orchids from cold damage during a power outage or unusually cold temperatures. Should disaster strike and temperatures drop, try to keep your growing area above 45° F (7° C) at minimum. Gas- or diesel-powered generators, generator fuel and long, heavy duty extension cords for heating appliances and fans to distribute the heat are available at most home-improvement centers to heat your greenhouse during an emergency. Automated systems are available; manual systems are less expensive, but require that someone be on hand to operate them.

Kerosene or propane heaters are another option for supplemental heat if the power goes off, but their fumes that can damage flowers quickly, and to a lesser extent affect plants as well. In addition, these should never be used in attached greenhouses, as the fumes are toxic to people and animals. Greenhouses in which this equipment has been used should be ventilated before being reentered.

Ann Jesup of Bristol, Connecticut adds to and emphasizes the importance of seasonal preparation — “going over the greenhouse to check for and seal any air leaks, have the alarms, furnace and heating system tested, and,” she adds, “pray that the temperatures are not going to drop (in the greenhouse, anyway ...).”

As a last resort, moving your collection or your most treasured and cold-sensitive plants indoors temporarily may be an option. While they do not provide optimal growing conditions, homes are much better equipped to keep out the cold than greenhouses. This step can make the critical difference between plant survival and plant loss, so optimal culture can be foregone for a few days until the danger of freezing passes. If your collection is too large to bring indoors in its entirety, grouping those that would be moved indoors together or marking them with a special, brightly colored, easily identifiable tag can save time and plants as temperatures drop. Plastic sheeting or tarps can protect indoor surfaces and furniture from damage from dirt and dampness that comes in with the orchids.

After the Fact

If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, don't assume that they are goners. Treat the plant as though it has just been repotted — avoid direct sunlight and high temperatures, keep the medium moist and give them a weak solution of liquid plant food with a full compliment of minor elements. When you see the beginnings of new growth sprouting,

apply a very light dose of fertilizer and continue with your weekly liquid food program.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

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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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	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.
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24	Wild Orchids of Britain and Europe	Davies, Paul and Jenne
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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
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34	Dendrobium Orchids of Australia	Upton, Walter T.
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36	Orchids of Vanuatu	Lewis, Cribb
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38	The Cattleyas and Their Relatives Volume I. The Cattleyas	Withner, Carl L.
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67	Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia	Upton, Walter T.
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WORLD OF ORCHIDS *New England*

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MAHONEY'S GARDEN CENTER

242 Cambridge St.

Winchester, MA

Workshop & Speaker Schedule

All workshops will be held in the Dr. Alan Kaitz Education Center. We thank Dr. Kaitz for his generous donation for educational purposes.

Time

Topic / Speaker

Fri, Nov 3, 2017

12:30 PM - 5 PM

Exhibits & Sales Area Open

1 PM

AOS Show Plant Judging Session - Judges from the American Orchid Society will review the plants at our show to determine if any qualify for AOS awards. Open to the public.

5:30 PM Awards Ceremony

Sat, Nov 4, 2017

10 AM - 5 PM Exhibits & Sales Area Open

10:30 AM Orchids 101
Sasha Crotty, MOS Treasurer

Noon Topic TBA
Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids

1:30 PM Your Dream Greenhouse
Jennifer Sutton, Botanical Greenhouse Builders
Jennifer will speak about designing, building and maintaining a greenhouse. Here is your chance to talk to an expert about building your dream conservatory!

3 PM Repotting Your Orchid
Brian Leib, MOS President

Sun, Nov 5, 2017

10 AM - 4 PM Exhibits & Sales Area Open

11 AM Orchids of New England
George Newman, MOS Member

12:30 PM Topic TBA
Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids

2 PM Repotting Your Orchid
Brian Leib, MOS president



