

January 2024

Issue 121 Volume 17

NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY

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**AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ORCHID
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2008 - 2024

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Presidents Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

I'm sorry I did not have the opportunity to spend time with you all at the Holiday Party. Unfortunately, I caught the stubborn, drawn out cold that is going around this season. So, while you were all enjoying the good company and delicious food by George's in Unionville and by some of our members who are great cooks, I was camped out on my sofa under a blanket with a cup of tea!

I am just coming up to the end of my first full year as a retiree. A definite adjustment after 40 years in the information & IT industry to be sure. One of the things that will keep me busy though in the coming months, in addition to my AOS judging duties, will be growing into the role as president of this wonderful society. I am grateful for all the support and input the outgoing board members are providing and look forward to working with you all to keep the momentum going. Please bear with me as I get acclimated and do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas for the board to consider.

It takes the proverbial village to make a society work and I hope that you all will take an active involvement in its success. The board cannot do it all on our own. Even small contributions of time make a difference and I thank you in advance for your participation.

Wishing you all health and happiness in the coming year -

Ginna

NSOS financial data is available to members upon request. Send your inquiries to our Treasurer, Barbara Putko, bwputko@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.

2024 Schedule of Meetings & Events

Jan. 6, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Jan. 7, 2024– Speaker = Kim Feddersen of Fair Orchids will be our speaker and his topic is: "Cymbidiums - an overview of the more important species, hybrid types and cultural requirements." - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Jan. 20, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Jan. 20 - 21, 2024 - Cape & Island Orchid Society Show & Sale

Feb. 3, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Feb. 4, 2024– Speaker = Mark & Mary Wendell, Topic: “Orchids of the Amazon”- This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Feb. 17, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Feb. 25 - 26, 2024 - Amherst Orchid Society Show & Sale

Mar. 1 - 3, 2024 - New Hampshire Orchid Society Show & Sale

Mar. 2, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Mar. 3, 2024– Speaker = Sandy Myhalik & Ginna Plude Topic: Upcoming NSOS Prep - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

March 16 – 17, 2024 “Come See Our Bloomers” Show & Sale - The West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center 50 South Main Street West Hartford, CT

Mer. 16, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Apr. 6, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Apr. 7, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Apr. 20, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

May 4, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

May 7, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

May 18, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

June 1, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

June 2, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

June 15, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

July 6, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

July 20, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Aug. 3, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Aug. 17, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Sept. 7, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Sept. 8, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Sept. 21, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Oct 5, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Oct. 6, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Oct. 19, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Nov. 2, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Nov. 3, 2024– Speaker = TBD Topic: TBD - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at the Farmington Senior Center. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Nov. 16, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Dec. 1, 2024– Holiday Party - This month's NSOS meeting will be held in-person at Lions Club Camp Happy Hill, 87 W Avon Rd, Unionville Ct. Masks will be optional. Refreshments will be provided. Farmington Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

Dec. 7, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Dec. 21, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631

Monthly Checklist for November and December



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel' HCC/AOS is a good example of this winter-blooming species.

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.



In the fall *Phalaenopsis* should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

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.

AKATSUKA ORCHID GARDENS

Cultural Requirements of Cymbidium

By James Rose

The most universally grown genus of orchids could be Cymbidium (sim-BID-ee-um). Ease of culture, variety of color and lasting quality of the flowers are but a few of the factors that justify its popularity. Although once raised primarily for cut-flower production, cymbidiums today are an integral part of many hobby orchid collections. Cymbidiums are often the first orchid tackled by hobbyists.

The genus consists of approximately 50 species, and many are cool growing. The majority of these originate in the highland regions of India and Burma. Other groups include the miniature species of Japan and China, popular for their small stature; the species of Australia; and species from tropical Malaysia (which are not discussed here because of their great differences in culture). Today's collections consist mainly of hybrids from the first three groups. The group(s) from which these hybrids are derived will dictate which cultural path to follow. Cymbidium hybrids possess tremendous variation in floral color and shape. Flowers are produced on upright or pendulous sprays and can be quite small or quite large. Almost any color except blue is available at nurseries, garden centers, and even supermarkets. Due to the increase in pot-plant production, prices have become competitive, making a favorable marketplace for the consumer. Best of all, cymbidium flowers last longer than almost any other member of the orchid family, with individual flowers remaining fresh for eight to 10 weeks. Though the blooming peak is early spring, it is possible to begin the flower season in October and extend it through June. Indeed, the challenge for many hybridizers is to produce cymbidiums that flower during the summer so that growers can enjoy blooms year-round. Today's new hybrids address both the disadvantages of growing cymbidiums and providing exciting new styles of flowers. The most common complaint has been that the plants tend to be too large. In answer to this, breeders have improved the quality of miniature cymbidiums and reduced the size of the foliage of standards, which are typically 3 to 4 feet tall. Bright new colors prevail – orange Cymbidium Mighty Sunsets (Wyalong Sunset x Mighty Mouse), red Cymbidium James Toya (Yowie Flame x Red Beauty) and polychromes (two or three blended colors), such as Cymbidium Kiri Te Kanawa (Tamatea x Mighty Mouse), delight collectors. Perhaps even more exciting is a new generation of miniatures, such as white Cymbidium Gladys Whitesell (Fifi x parishii) and red Cymbidium Phar Lap (Flame Hawk x madidum) that have commanded attention and awards. Advanced hybrids derived from the green Cymbidium Peter Pan (ensifolium x Miretta) extend the flowering season, add warmth tolerance and often impart fragrance.

Temperature and Humidity-Cymbidiums tolerate considerable temperature variation. Ideal day temperatures are 75o F to 80o F with night temperatures around 50o F to 55o F. Thrive to keep the heat from exceeding 90o F, but if it does, increase the humidity or invest in a swamp cooler and enclose the collection. A certain amount of warm weather can be dealt with or tolerated during the growing season, but this will often cause developing inflorescences to be deformed or drop their buds. During this time, keep day temperatures under 80 F and nights no lower than 40o F but under 60o F. Cymbidiums will tolerate a few degrees of frost, but temperatures 27o F and below cause damage to the inflorescences. A moderate differential in day/night temperatures of 20 degrees is desirable for the production of quality inflorescences. This can be difficult in areas like South Florida and Hawai'i, but there are many new warmth-tolerant hybrids available that grow and bloom in these climates. Adjust humidity to the season. Provide more than 50 percent during the growing season and less during the flowering season.

Light-This is the single most important factor to ensure robust growth and flowers.

Inadequate light or sunshine is the most common reason for failure of flowering-size plants to bloom. Provide as much light as possible without burning the leaves. The foliage should have a green, jade-color appearance rather than deep green. Except in rare cases, adequate light cannot be provided to plants grown in the home. Growth will be slower and uneven, and the constant temperature will inhibit inflorescence formation. In parts of the country where the weather in winter is extreme, grow the plants outside during spring and summer, and then move them indoors as late as possible at the first threat of frost. The spikes should be initiated by then and will progress fine under sufficient light, if kept cool. As a general rule, provide 5,000 to 6,000 foot-candles during the growing season and 2,000 to 3,000 foot-candles during the flowering season.

Air Movement -Breezy air movement reduces the occurrence of disease and invasion of insects. Hot drafts damage the buds. Where a space heater is operated at night, distance the buds from the hot air, and provide some humidity.

Watering -Water cymbidiums thoroughly to avoid the buildup of fertilizer salts.

Cymbidiums are native to monsoon areas, so they require ample water during their summer growing season. This does not mean that during the cool flower season the plants go dormant. Pot size and coarseness of the mix dictate the frequency of watering. Water once a week, more frequently during warm weather, and less often in cool or wet weather. Over watering will cause roots to rot.

Fertilizing-The ideal fertilization program is dictated by the seasons. Provide a balanced formula (20-20-20) all year long, supplementing with nitrogen in summer, to speed growth. Plants in organic mixes, such as fir bark, require more frequent fertilizing during the growing season. Apply the fertilizer one-half strength every two weeks rather than once a month. Toward the end of the growing season (June), discontinue the nitrogen supplement to promote the initiation of inflorescences.

Potting-Novices are occasionally intimidated by the thought of repotting cymbidiums. Huge plants may fill a 14-inch tub and weigh 50 pounds. A few basic rules simplify the process and transform the challenge into a task that is within the grasp of every grower. First, do not repot an entire collection at one time. Depending on how overgrown the plant is, the divisions may not bloom the following year. Second, repot them immediately after flowering ceases. This allows the plant sufficient time to develop new growths, form strong pseudobulbs and initiate flower spikes before the next bloom season. Mix formulas vary from grower to grower. California hobbyists rely on fir bark. One recipe: equal parts fine and medium grade bark with about 15 percent perlite. A porous mix is best as it is always easier to add water than it is to take it away from a sodden medium. Cymbidium divisions should be a minimum of two to three green bulbs with growths. This size should bloom the next season, providing there is a healthy root system. Start new plants from turgid backbulbs. Remove all leaves and roots and set in a cool spot until new growth begins to show, then pot. Cut roots on strong divisions back to 6 inches and remove dead roots. Tap down the mix fairly tightly. The size of the pot should accommodate three years' growth. Provide typical cymbidium conditions once repotting is complete. If divisions are not robust, keep them on the drier side with a little more warmth for a few months. Reflecting on 100 years of cymbidium growing suggests a bright future. In the approaching century, orchid enthusiasts will have available to them many bright new styles of cymbidiums. Improved plant habit, greater floriferousness and a rainbow of colors will result in compact plants covered with bright flowers lasting many months – truly a living bouquet.

Cymbidiums in the Garden

Cymbidiums make wonderful plants for the home garden in mild frost-free areas. Shelter derived from trees often provides the perfect amount of shading. Do not permit surrounding landscape plants to encroach on the orchids, blocking light or preventing adequate air movement. Check the tree canopy every few weeks to be sure that there is still ample light. Branches will have to be thinned periodically. Cultivate cymbidiums in mounded beds where the soil has been amended in order to provide proper drainage. Spread bait where snails and slugs pose a threat. Protection against frost may be necessary. Material put over the plants should not touch the leaves. With a little extra care, cymbidiums are an attractive as well as exotic addition to the appropriate garden setting.

Propagating Cymbidiums from Backbulbs

When repotting cymbidiums, the problem of what to do when the backbulb arises. These brown, leafless bulbs are not dead. Dormant vegetative growing points (called “eyes”) on the side of each bulb are capable of initiating new growth. Remove a bulb from the clump with a sterile knife or by applying a twisting motion until the bulb breaks free. Strip off the old leaf sheaths for a clean appearance, taking care not to damage any of the eyes. Label each bulb. Pot a single bulb in a small pot or, if there are several, plant them in a flat. Keep moist and protect from direct sun. Roots will emerge soon after growth begins on the back bulbs. When the new leaves are 6 to 8 inches tall, pot each bulb in a 6-inch pot. Water at the same frequency and fertilize at the same intervals as for mature cymbidiums. Once potted, the bulbs will continue to grow and usually flower within two to three years while still in the original pot. Reprinted from *Growing Orchids*, a culture handbook published by the American Orchid Society. American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156 Phone: (305) 740-2010 Fax: (305) 740-2011 Email: TheAOS@aos.org Website: www.aos.org Akatsuka Orchid Gardens * P.O. Box 220 * Volcano, Hawai'i 96785 Phone: (808)967-8234 Toll Free: 1-888-967-6669 Fax: (808) 967-714



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

North Jersey Orchid Society
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25TH Anniversary
Orchid Show and Sale
 February 16th, 17th, 18th



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Saturday March 16, 2024

12 noon - 5 pm

Sunday March 17, 2024

10 am - 4 pm



Conservation Through Knowledge



**The West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center 50 South
Main Street West Hartford, CT Wheelchair Accessible**

ATTENTION PHOTO BUFFS: On Sunday, March 18th 2024 orchid show will be open from 8 to 9:45 am for photographers only!!! Tripods will be allowed during this time. All tripods must be removed at 9:45 am. \$10 per person

