

April 2023

Issue 114 Volume 16

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NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY



AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY



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2008 - 2023

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A note from our President

OMG! What a difference a BEAUTIFUL and SUCCESSFUL Show makes! Our "Come See Our Bloomers!" Show & Sale attracted a record crowd and yielded 61 *new members* to date! HOORAY!! CONGRATULATIONS to all members, each of you, who made this Show our BEST NSOS SHOW EVER!!

KUDOS must be extended to our Show Chair, Sandy Myhalik. She did not do this alone, and the NSOS display was extraordinaire! Her guidance, coordination, and hard work really paid off. THANK YOU! Much Thanks also go out to our Facility Manager & Treasurer, Tom Mierzejewski; Alan Stauch, VP & Publicity Chair; Lori Macgowan, Hospitality & Membership Chair; Troy & Ann Jordan for Admissions; and Ginna Plude, our Orchid/Registrar and AOS Judge. And to ALL members who volunteered their time to help set up, take down, man the kitchen, work the admissions table, sign-up new members, and all members who brought in their orchids for the display. A special thanks to Steve Calderon whose guidance & coordination brought all the contents of the NSOS Storage Shed to and from the facility. Walter & Harriet Doehr, your cooking and baking brought smiles to everyone who were so lucky to partake and enjoy. And to Marc Kronenberg and Lydia Pan, thank you for assisting wherever necessary! Barbara Putko, the bloomers you created for NSOS will be part of future shows for sure! I could go on & on, however, THANK YOU ALL!! Each of your efforts contributed to this master project. NSOS shined because you cared enough to participate. Now, we must look forward to 2024! Hope your enthusiasm continues to bloom.

Our next meeting on Sunday, April 2 is important for all members, new and seasoned! NSOS plans to welcome all our new members with a very special speaker: Karen Timko-Gelber, our own NSOS Secretary and Past President. Her topic: "Orchid Basics" is geared to the novice grower. Please plan to join us at the Farmington Senior Center. More info will follow via Society emails.

Happy Growing

Jeanne

NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2013

Joe Hertz	Under lights and Windowsill growing All species	860-233-5505	jhertz1015@aol.com	Call/e- mail anytime
Jeanne McDermott	Windowsill growing: Phals, Paphs, Brassia, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera		jtmcdermott@comcast.net	
Sandy Myhalik	Phalaenopsis	860-677-0504	myhalik@comcast.net	
Jay Presbie	Growing under lights All species	860-651-3155	jpresbie@gmail.com	Call/e- mail anytime
John Sziklas	Paphiopedilums Phragmepediums Cattleyas	860-658-2908		Call anytime
Lydia Pan	All Genera		markandlydia5357@icloud.com	Call or email

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

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.

Check our website for Photos of NSOS show



2023 Schedule of Meetings & Events

Due to COVID 19 all NSOS meetings are subject to change as situations warrant. Please check our website for updates.

Apr. 1, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Apr. 2, 2023– Speaker = Karen Timko - Topic: - Orchid Basics- 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. 15, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

May 6, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

May 7, 2023– Speaker = Rob Dudley - Topic - Unflasking a Flask - Adopt a Baby Orchid- 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 15, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

June 3,2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

June 4, 2023– 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 17, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

July 1, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

July 15, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

Aug. 5, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Aug. 19, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

Sept. 2, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Sept. 10, 2023– Speaker = Beth Davis - Waldor Orchids - Topic - Part II - Repotting Demonstration- 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. 16, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

Oct 1, 2023– 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.7, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Oct. 21, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

Nov. 4, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Nov. 5, 2023– 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. 18, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

Dec. 3, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Dec. 3, 2023– Holiday Party and Elections - 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. 16, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

AKATSUKA ORCHID GARDENS

Cultural Requirements of Phalaenopsis By George Vasquez

MOTH ORCHIDS, OR PHALAEENOPSIS (fail-eh-NOP-sis), are some of the most rewarding orchids for the beginner. Their cultural needs are easily met, with or without a greenhouse. Large mature plants can bloom for three months at a time and, in some cases, bloom twice a year. Phalaenopsis species range from Asia to the Philippines to New Guinea and parts of Australia. Here the weather is constantly warm and generally provides a humid environment. Among the approximately 50 species are epiphytes (growing on trees) and lithophytes (growing on rocks). Taxonomists divide the genus into several sections, but the two important sections are Euphalaenopsis and Stauroglottis. Members of Euphalaenopsis have long, arching inflorescences petals much broader than the sepals and are roundish in outline (Phalaenopsis amabilis, Phalaenopsis schilleriana). They usually flower in winter and spring. Section Stauroglottis is composed of species that bloom primarily in the summer. The sepals are usually as broad as the petals, and the flowers are smaller and somewhat star-shaped (Phalaenopsis violacea, Phalaenopsis amboinensis). Hybridizers are creating new colors in all categories, including the standard –sized phalaenopsis and the miniature multifloras, the latter being characterized by masses of smaller flowers on branching inflorescences.

Meeting these goals satisfies the needs of greenhouse growers, who cultivate larger plants, and the windowsill orchidist, who prefers the smaller types. Phalaenopsis lack pseudobulbs (such as cattleyas and encyclias have) which store water and aid the plants during natural water shortages. They are monopodial and store water only in the leaves. Phalaenopsis receive a great deal of air movement and moisture in their natural habitats and respond favorably when these conditions are duplicated in cultivation.

Temperature and Humidity Although phalaenopsis will grow at temperatures between 60 F and 90 F, the optimum maximum is 68 F at night and 85 F during the day. However, plants perform reasonably well at temperatures of 64 F during the night and at warmer day temperatures. Commercial growers realize that bottom heat is the best source of heat for plants; it warms the pots so the plants grow faster. In the greenhouse, lay inexpensive propagating mats on the benches. These heat the pots and, therefore, warm the plants to a proper temperature, without wasting energy heating the air. Relative humidity should be 70 percent during the day and 50 percent at night. When night temperatures drop, the relative humidity increases. The easiest way to provide adequate humidity in a home is to fill a plastic or glass tray with gravel or small rocks, and maintain a layer of water in the bottom of the tray. Place the container on the gravel or stones; make sure the bottom of the pot does not touch the liquid. Water evaporating from the tray will bathe the orchid in humidity. Choose a tray approximately the diameter of the orchid's leaf spread to concentrate humidity around the plant.

Air Movement Reliable air movement prevents fungi and bacteria from settling on plants, and will also eliminate spotting of the flowers due to high humidity. Constant cross ventilation is sufficient. However, if a home or apartment must be closed – especially when one is departing for a day or two in warm weather – operate a fan constantly. In a greenhouse, it is important to have air movement 24 hours a day, because relative humidity increases as the night temperature drops and because of the area and size to be ventilated.

Light Provide phalaenopsis with approximately 1,000 foot-candles of light for superior growth. Never allow direct sunlight to reach these orchids. Smaller seedlings require more exact light conditions; strive to maintain the 1,000 foot-candle mark for them. Older and more mature plants are stronger and more tolerant of varying light intensities. Phalaenopsis can bloom and grow when exposed to light intensities ranging from as low as 800 to as high as 1,800 foot-candles. However, they do not continue to grow

optimally when they are stressed, receive inadequate light or their other cultural needs are not met. An eastern exposure is ideal for phalaenopsis on the windowsill. It is important that the plants are exposed to filtered light, but never direct sunlight. In the winter, phalaenopsis need 12 hours of light, and in the summer, 14 hours of light. If this is unavailable in the home or apartment, supplement the light source with artificial lights. Morning or afternoon light alone is inadequate for proper growth.

Watering Typical phalaenopsis grown in a pot under an average day temperature of 80 F will dry out about every five to seven days, depending on whether the vessel is clay or plastic and the type of medium used. It is important to understand that the roots of the phalaenopsis adhere to the potting medium, and the plant absorbs its water directly from the bark. Thoroughly drench the medium once a week. If the weather is extremely overcast, the medium may not dry out in that time. During the intense heat of summer, the plants can dry out a day or so earlier. Many phalaenopsis growers maintain that the roots should be kept evenly moist, with only a slight drying out time. Small seedlings in 3 and 4-inch pots dry faster, and, therefore, should be watered at shorter intervals. Adjust the watering schedule accordingly.

Water in the morning on a sunny day to allow any water that collects in the crown of the leaves to evaporate. Many beginners kill plants because too much water is left in the crown overnight; this causes crown rot. When it is absolutely necessary to water on an overcast day, be sure to examine the plants later and remove any excess water. Either tilt the plant to remove excess water or absorb the fluid with a piece of cloth or tissue.

Fertilizing Give a dilute balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) to seedlings. Once the plant has bloomed, it should receive a high-nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-10) twice a month, or approximately, at every other watering. Avoid applying high-nitrogen fertilizers to small, unflowered seedlings. Although the application of the extra nitrogen promotes faster growth, the plant will not be any stronger and it will bloom accordingly. Fertilizing at every other watering should eliminate a buildup of minerals because the regular application of plain water every other week flushes out any accumulation of fertilizer salts.

Potting Good drainage is essential regardless of the environment, medium and whether the plants are raised in container or on plaques. The majority of phalaenopsis grown in the United States by commercial houses are rooted in fir bark. Generally, small seedlings require a finer bark (1/8 to 1/4 inch) and larger mature plants a medium grade (1/2 to 5/8 inch). Repot phalaenopsis when the plants' foliage is dry; the medium should be moist. To the bark, add a small percentage of coarse sifted peat and equal amounts of perlite (or sponge rock) and charcoal. The additives should be the same size as the bark. Phalaenopsis potted in medium-size bark mixtures need to be repotted at 14 to 18-month intervals because the bark eventually decomposes. By then, the plant will have outgrown the pot. The better quality fir bark (clean bark without any wood in it) can last two years, and the plant will actually outgrow the pot before the bark breaks down. Reprinted from *Growing Orchids*, a culture handbook published by the American Orchid Society. To receive a free colorful brochure about this wonderful hobby and to learn more about growing orchids, contact the 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: The AOS@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

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

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

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.



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.





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

