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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

Do you believe we are entering the Month of May 2023? OMG!! Soon it will be time to put your babies outside if you have not done so already. I always wait till after Mother's Day for anything other than Cymbidiums, but since I no longer have these beauties, there's no issue. The Old Farmers I always dealt with through the years adhered to the adage of waiting till after the May Full Moon to plant annuals and safely put other precious plants outdoors. That day this year is Friday, May 5th ! (Seems early, but my 10-day Weather Bug app seems to support that.) So, let's get to it!!

This past Wednesday, April 26, NSOS held a most productive BOD Meeting. Financials were reported and yes, our 2023 "Come See Our Bloomers!" Show & Sale was our most successful ever. More details will be provided to members at our next meeting on Sunday, May 7th . And yes, the BOD elected to confirm our 2024 Show for March 16, 17 & 18 at the West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center once again. Many of our Chairpersons signed on to resume their responsibilities with the expected assistance of each and every one of you. Sandy Myhalik, Show Chair, will again be our NSOS Away Show Chair as well. Hooray to ALL who stepped up! We aspire to participate in the following Sister Society Shows in 2024: MOS, Cape & Island, Amherst and considering Deep Cut. Time will tell.

Our NSOS calendar of events was further enhanced with the decision to hold our Annual June Picnic at the Schecktons in Canton, our NSOS Orchid Auction in October at Camp Happy Hill, and our Holiday Party/Elections in December at the same location.

Lots of things are happening! The new NSOS logo clothing requested by members will soon be available. Karen Timko-Gelber, our Secretary, will be presenting options at our May meeting. And on May 7th at the Farmington Senior Center, NSOS will feature our own long time member Dr. Rob Dudley! **Unflasking a Flask - Adopt a Baby Orchid.**

What an opportunity to learn and to leave with a new baby orchid to nurture, compliments of NSOS!

So, plan to join us! It should be an enjoyable, hands-on event. The meeting will begin at 1 pm sharp!

See you all then!

Jeanne

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.

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.

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, 07631 April 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, 07631 April 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, 07631 April 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, 07631 April 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, 07631 April 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, 07631 April 16, 2022

Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



Cattleya purpurata, formerly in the genus *Laelia*, is without a doubt one of the most stately orchids to bloom in this season. © G. Allikas

Paphiopedilum

The *Paphiopedilum* Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum* fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.



Paphiopedilum Maudiae types may need staking for best presentation

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on *Doritis* background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season.

Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

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

AKATSUKA ORCHID GARDENS

Cultural Requirements of Miltoniopsis By James Riopelle

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but the pansy orchids have achieved for themselves a beauty and charm surpassing that of their namesake. Miltoniopsis is a genus of perhaps six species, mostly native to Colombia, which was once lumped into *Miltonia*. Three species of pansy orchids are responsible for all present-day hybrids in this genus: *Miltoniopsis vexillaria*, *Miltoniopsis roezlii* and *Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis*. These three species are still frequently called *miltonias* by many orchid growers. The major blooming season extends from spring to autumn. However, some species and hybrids may flower at other times of the year. The attractive plants are of moderate size, of sympodial growth, with thin, light green leaves, one of which crowns each growing pseudobulb. The lanceolate leaves fan up from the base of the narrow edges of the mature pseudobulbs. From within the snug inner fold of a maturing basal leaf, the inflorescence emerges as a slender, tender, budding growth to produce an arching or drooping spray of two to 10 large, flat, colorful pansy-like flowers. Although fragile looking, these lovely flowers last from 15 to 60 days on the plant; unfortunately their use as cut flowers is limited.

Temperature and Humidity While *miltoniopsis* will tolerate temperatures of 90 F and above for short periods, keep day temperatures below 80 F by either increasing the shading or providing evaporative cooling. Night temperatures of 55 to 60 F are optimal. The humidity should be moderate when the temperature is low and fairly high when the temperature is high. A humidity range from 50 to 70 percent, such as that given for *cattleyas* and *phalaenopsis*, is highly recommended.

Light Pansy orchids require about 1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles of diffused light and will grow well in the vicinity of mottled-leaved *paphiopedilums*. One alternative is to the side of a south-facing window, protected by shading. Another is to one side of fluorescent lights, preferably next to a cool wall. Increase shading when the temperatures exceed 80 F. *Miltoniopsis* leaves should be light green or light bluish green. If the leaves are dark green, increase light. If the leaves turn yellowish green, increase shading. Slightly pink leaves indicate maximum acceptable light. Red leaves are a sign of too much light.

Air Movement Brisk movement of mild air is beneficial to all Miltoniopsis. Avoid hot and cold drafts.

Watering The watering demands of pansy orchids are similar to those of thin-leaved cymbidiums. Keep them moist at all times. Inadequate water will cause leaves on new growths to crinkle in accordion-pleated fashion. However, do not let the containers stand in water. During warm weather, and bright winter days in the greenhouse, pansy orchids may require watering daily. When the humidity falls below 30 percent, mist the foliage so that leaves will dry before sunset.

Fertilizing In osmunda, a very dilute solution of an 18-18-18 water-soluble fertilizer used monthly at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon per gallon during the growing season is sufficient. Miltoniopsis are moderate feeders, and osmunda supplies some nutrients. In fir bark culture, administer 30-10-10 fertilizer weekly at the rate $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon per gallon of water. Alternate with a lower nitrogen formulation (10-30-20) every fourth application. Because pansy orchids are not deciduous, continue to fertilize them during the winter at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon per gallon, but only if the plants need water. Use a well-balanced water-soluble fertilizer incorporating desirable micronutrients (beneficial trace elements including iron and magnesium).

Potting Pansy orchids are cultivated in many ways using a wide variety of potting composts and containers. Whatever medium is chosen, it should retain some moisture and at the same time permit water to drain away quickly. Do not allow the medium to become sodden. Osmunda, with or without sphagnum, was once considered the best potting medium for Miltoniopsis. Since osmunda has become less available and more expensive, fir bark mixed with sphagnum (to retain moisture) and perlite or other granular material (to assure drainage), is now quite popular and satisfactory. Add a bit of horticultural charcoal (not from the barbecue) to "sweeten" the mix. To make a bark compost, blend three parts perlite, three parts #4 charcoal, two parts sphagnum (peat) moss and one part cracked oyster shell, with 16 parts of fine fir bark. Recently potted pansy orchids benefit from a top-dressing of live sphagnum moss. A few granules of snail bait (metaldehyde) will control bush snails. Pansy orchids should not be potted in excessively large containers. Keep them potbound. Divide Miltoniopsis when the new growing cycle begins. Accomplished growers may divide them at any time. Do not break up the tightly clustered pseudobulbs into divisions of less than three or four growths. Individual backbulbs do not propagate readily.

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: TheAOS@aos.org Website: www.aos.org

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Meeting Table



Oncda Pacific Pagan Kilauea

Julia Haverl



Chysis Limmingheli

Juan Sanchez



Vanda Suriporn PinkSacura

Catherine Scheckton



Palanopsis – Unknown

Catherine Scheckton



Vanda ign
Karen Timko



Bc Amy Wakasugi
Julia Haverl



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



