

June 2023

Issue 116 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

June is an important and very busy month with many activities happening: Birthdays, Graduations, Weddings, putting your orchids outside to enjoy the heat and humidity, and of course PICNICS, Concerts, and other celebrations. The NEXT NSOS Meeting is our Picnic Social on Saturday, June 24th with Rain date on Sunday the 25th at the beautiful home of Frank and Catherine Scheckton in Canton, CT. Plans are for a friendly gathering of members, great food, extensive camaraderie, retrieval of NSOS logo clothing, and sharing in an amazing fundraiser table. If you wish to attend and have not yet responded, please do so by June 19 as noted in the Picnic Flyer. Simply contact Lori Macgowan (860) 916-6151 or lorimacgowan22@gmail.com soon. We hope to see many of you there!

More good news: this week, NSOS received a Lifetime Family Membership from a Farmington orchid enthusiast who happens to have attended our March "Come See Our Bloomers" Show & Sale. Please extend a warm welcome to Mark & Mary Wendell. Mark has grown orchids for over 40+ years, now retired, and feels it is time to join a local orchid organization. So look forward to meeting both Mark & Mary at our picnic if a family outing does not conflict. Your official name badges are waiting for your retrieval!

Your Board of Directors will next meet on Wednesday, August 16th to plan for our October Orchid Auction, December Elections, Holiday Party, and other business. And, due to the Labor Day Holiday, our September Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 10th with the return of Beth Davis from Waldor Orchids by popular demand! Beth's topic: Part II — Repotting Demonstration and Orchid Culture. Beth is a cornucopia of orchid growing tips and information. Do plan to join us then if you cannot attend our Picnic. That September Meeting will take place at the Senior Center in Farmington...and of course, Beth will bring Orchids to Sell as well.

Hope to see many of you at the Scheckton's on the 24th of June. Stay well and enjoy your Bloomers!

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

June 24, 2023– Member Picnic – The picnic will be held at the home of Catherine & Frank Scheckton @ 12:30 pm – 5 pm

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. 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. 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. 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

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 Psychopsis By Richard A. Fulford

Psychopsis with 38 chromosomes and two pollinia grow epiphytically in wet rainforest and also dry upland forest. The pseudobulbs are tightly clustered, oval, oblong and almost round, very compressed, wrinkled, often dull red. The leaves are solitary and erect. Inflorescences are normally solitary per bulb, jointed and arched, arising from the base out of a sheath, producing a succession of flowers which last approx. 10 days, variable in color and size from inflorescence to inflorescence and from blooming to blooming. Never cut the inflorescence until it is obviously spent as old inflorescences will continue to produce flowers for many years.

The narrow, upright attenuated dorsal sepal and petals are dull to vibrant red-brown often with a narrow yellow picotee or with a few yellow transverse stripes. The broad, often down swept lateral sepals are canary yellow heavily marked with irregular transverse red-brown bars. The large lip is three-lobed with a large canary yellow center, bordered by a redbrown band. In addition to the normally pigmented forms, pure yellow forms devoid of the red pigment also exist. Flowering occurs at intervals throughout the entire year and well grown plants will have many inflorescences with more than one flower per inflorescence.

In their native habitat Psychopsis prefer the trunks and branches of trees where they dry out quickly although they do not like to dry out completely and do not require a rest period. Psychopsis are intolerant of stale conditions at their roots and benefit from annual repotting, especially in bark mixes. The roots of these plants are fine and subject to salt burn if the potting medium is not regularly flushed with pure water. Because of their fat pseudobulbs, cultural problems can go undetected until significant damage has been done.

Temperature: Approx. 60oF at night to 90oF during the day.

Light: 1800 to 3000 foot-candles. Under brighter light conditions, flowers will be smaller, less intensely colored and tend to be more reflexed. Conversely, under shadier conditions few, flatter, more intensely colored flowers are produced.

Watering & Humidity-They prefer moist conditions but should be allowed to nearly dry out between waterings. High humidity, as much as 85% is appreciated. These plants must be given good air movement.

Fertilizing: Apply a balanced fertilizer, half strength once per week but flush the medium often.

Potting: Spagnum moss in clay pots or slabs. They do not like a stale mix



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

