

March 2024

Issue 123 Volume 18

NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY

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**AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ORCHID
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501 (c) (3) non-for-profit organization

2008 - 2024

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Presidents Message

IT'S SHOW TIME!!

It's time to really get into gear for our March show and all that it entails. It takes the proverbial village to make a society show work and I hope that you all will take an active involvement in its success. Our March 3 rd meeting will focus on preparation for your bloomers, display design tips, as well as an overview of the show plant registration process. Whether you have 1 or 100 hundred plants, all are beautiful and worth sharing with fellow enthusiasts and the general public.

Please consider signing up, if you have not done so already, for one or more of the teams needed to make our show work. Sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting.

It's time to get excited!!

Ginna

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

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 Barbara Putko, our Treasurer.

2024 Schedule of Meetings & Events

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: Beginner 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. 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 = ." 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

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



AKATSUKA ORCHID GARDENS

Cultural Requirements of Odontoglossum By Wally Thomas and Barbara Thomas

ew lovelier sights exist than a spray of lacy multihued odontoglossums arching out from the lush green foliage. About 175 species of Odontoglossum (o-don-toh-GLOSS-um) hail from the high, cool elevations of the Andes. Closely related genera, with similar cultural needs, occur in Mexico, and Central and South America. Consequently, these orchids thrive and are most popular in those areas that can most easily provide cool moist growing conditions. A number of intergeneric hybrids involving odontoglossum have been created. These combine Odontoglossum with such genera as Brassia (Odontobrassia), Miltonia (Odontonia), Cochlioda (Odontioda) and Oncidium (Odontocidium). Often these hybrids produce flowers closely resembling the shapes and colors seen in odontoglossums, yet the plants will thrive under much warmer conditions than will purebred odontoglossums. Odontoglossums, similar in habit to miltonias, are sympodial: bright green leaves arise from oval-and-somewhat-flattened pseudobulbs. The main inflorescence emerges from under the protection of the largest basal side leaf. A second spike may come from the other side of the pseudobulb. There are usually eight to fifteen flowers along the inflorescence, which may branch on species cultivated under ideal conditions. Late autumn and spring are the main blooming times, but hybrids may flower year round. The blooms remain on the plants for several weeks, and, when cut and floated in a shallow bowl of water, last particularly well.

Temperature and Humidity Night temperatures of 52 to 55 F and day temperatures of 65 to 70 F are ideal. However, plants in prime condition will tolerate a wider range, from a low of 45 F to a high of 90 F, for several days. High temperatures tend to prevent the flowers from opening properly, particularly the lip of *Odontoglossum crispum*. Evaporative coolers installed in greenhouses in warm climates increase the chances of raising odontoglossums successfully. To maintain cool and humid conditions in the greenhouse, water under the benches most mornings and, on bright days, water the leaves (but just enough so that they will be dry by nightfall). This scheme is one way to prevent red spider mites, a microscopic culprit that damages foliage and flowers. A humidity of 65 percent is ideal, but odontoglossums are surprisingly tolerant of moderately lower or higher levels.

Light Odontoglossums require between 1,500 and 2,000 foot-candles of light. The maximum light permissible results in faint red streaks in the leaves. They may be raised in maximum light, which results in improved flower substance, when provided with cool temperatures and plenty of air movement. In the house, an east-facing window is best. During the frost-free months, set odontoglossums outside in a breezy spot with full open light but no direct sunlight.

Air Movement Odontoglossums thrive in an atmosphere that is fresh and buoyant from the use of fans, ventilation and misting.

Watering The frequency of watering depends on the potting mix and ventilation. Odontoglossums require lots of moisture when rooted in a free-draining mix, but expect decreased vigor if the mix is allowed to remain soggy. Periodically, collect rain water and use it to rinse fertilizer salts that accumulate in the mix. Excess fertilizer causes leaf tips to brown.

Fertilizing Nourish odontoglossums in bark mixes with 20-20-20 fertilizer diluted to one-quarter to one-half of the recommended strength. However, this fertilizer contains neither calcium, magnesium nor sulfur, making it necessary to add these elements where water is soft. Fertilize three of every four waterings, then apply plain water the fourth time.

Potting Bark mixes continue to be the standard potting media for odontoglossums. One mix consists of one part coarse sand, one part coarse shredded peat, one part perlite and four parts fine bark. When an 8-inch pot is used as the measuring cup for these ingredients, add a small handful each of bone meal and dolomitic lime to the total. Begin with the mix employed by the successful growers of local orchid societies. Repot specimens raised in bark every 12 to 18 months, before the chips decompose, stay too wet and possibly harm the health of the roots. The best time to repot is when the new growth emerges after flowering, which is mainly in the spring but sometimes in the fall. Once beyond the seedling stage, it is essential that the rhizome be cut and examined for rot, which appears as black and/or reddish areas. Flame sterilize the cutting tool – pruning shears, a knife or single-edged razor blade – between each cut. When clear white shows in the rhizome, flame the broad blade of the shears and hold it against the raw surface to sear it closed. Remove old shriveled bulbs and any dead or unhealthy roots. Invert a small pot in the center bottom of the pot in which the odontoglossum will be planted. Hold the plant so that the base of the rhizome is about ½ inch below the rim of the outer pot. Position the plant so that there is room for at least one new growth in front. Ladle in the mix, jiggling the larger pot between handfuls. Fill the pot to the rim; the pseudobulbs should be slightly buried. Thoroughly soak the medium after 24 hours. Odontoglossums can be grown with great success in rockwool. One successful mix is 90 percent medium grade absorbent rockwool and 10 percent perlite. Fill the container so the medium remains loose around the roots (but not so the plant moves around in the container). Another alternative is perlite, which has been soaked in a tub to get rid of the fine dust. Position the plant in the container and fill the vessel with the perlite. Then spread a ½ inch-thick layer of pea gravel over the inert medium. The Kord 8-inch saucerless baskets are excellent for this technique, since they provide a reservoir for bottom fertilization through capillary action. They are particularly suitable for windowsill growing. It is easy to pot in perlite and repotting is only required when the plant outgrows the container. Most importantly, over-watering is unlikely. When experimenting with rockwool and perlite, try only a few plants for the first six months. Hydroponic complete fertilizer management is required (but not difficult) and the results are outstanding. 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

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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

“COME SEE OUR BLOOMERS!”

NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE



Beautiful Orchids from all over the world will be displayed by our Hobbyists, Commercial Growers and Orchid Societies

Exhibits - Orchid & Supply Vendors

Related Arts & Crafts

Door Prizes!

Admission is \$10 children 12 & under free

Cash or Check

Public Invited and Welcomed!

Call: 860-677-0504

Email: myhalik@comcast.net

Visit: www.nutmegorchids.org

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



MID-HUDSON ORCHID SOCIETY

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Spring 2024

Saturday, April 13, 2024 11am – 4pm

Wallkill View Farm Market and Garden Center
 15 Route 299 West, New Paltz, NY 12561
 Located in the large greenhouse to the left of the market



Free Admission!

Multiple vendors will have a large assortment of different Orchids and Orchid supplies available.

2 pm - Orchid Potting Demonstration and Clinic

Beautiful display of gorgeous blooming Orchids

MHOS members will be available to answer any of your orchid care questions. Stop by our Membership table.

Raffles!



Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society (AOS)

www.mhorchidsociety.com

For further information, please email Brenda L. Decker, MHOS President at president@mhorchidsociety.com

