

September 2023

Issue 117 Volume 16

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2008 - 2023

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A note from our President

Do you believe the summer is already OVER! OMG!! Certainly hope that the last few months have been kind to you and yours, and have brought you lots of enjoyment, fun, and many orchid blossoms! 🌸🌸

September is a short and busy month due to the Labor Day Weekend. Our distinguished Speaker on the 10 is returning by popular demand. Beth Davis, a Principal of the Waldor Orchids dynasty of New Jersey, will be with us once again to share her many years of orchid expertise and experience. Beth is a dynamic Speaker who I guarantee will keep your attention. She will also bring wonderful orchids to sell.

Please join us on Sunday – doors open at noon for set-up and 12:30 pm for general admission at the Farmington Senior Center. Refreshments will be available.

The Meeting will begin at 1 pm with some NSOS Business News. Plans are in progress for a wonderful Fundraiser Table.

Lots more will be shared at the Meeting regarding our August BOD Meeting, December Elections, and March 2024 “Come See Our Bloomers” Show & Sale.

Hope to see you on Sunday.

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

Sept. 10, 2023– Speaker = Beth Davis - Waldor Orchids - Topic - "Introduction to Waldor Orchids" and "Demonstrations on repotting, grooming, staking and propagating orchids". - 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, 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. 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 September and October

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.



Cycnoches chlorochilon, the green swan orchid.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.



Dendrobium Burana Stripe is a popular and easy phalaenopsis-type hybrid.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Rhynchostele bictoniensis

Both *Rhynchostele bictoniensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum*, *Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in Odcdm. Bittersweet and Odm. bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.



Rossioglossum grande shows off its large, dramatic flowers.

Rossioglossum grande

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

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

AKATSUKA ORCHID GARDENS

Cultural Requirements for Zygopetalum

Zygopetalums are among the easiest of the orchids to grow outdoors in southern California and are perfect companions for cymbidiums. Zygopetalums grow best under partial shade-partial sun conditions. Zygopetalums can tolerate considerable summer heat and winter chill without damage. Many growers leave their plants outdoors all year long. Temperatures up to 100 degrees F for short periods will not harm the plants although buds may drop on some susceptible plants. Buds and flowers may be damaged if the temperature drops to 29 degrees F but the leaves and bulbs can usually withstand 29 degrees F under shade cloth for a few hours. For temperatures lower than this, some protection will be required.

Light - Adequate light is the most important factor to grow and flower zygopetalums well. The plants grow best with 3000 to 4000 or more foot candles of light intensity as measured with a light meter. 55% to 63% shade cloth overhead provides this light intensity under most conditions. Plants grown outdoors will generally be a little more compact and will have tougher leaves than they will when grown indoors. During the summer, the leaves should be a yellowish green, not a deep green. Plants grown in too much shade will usually be a lush green and will often not flower well. Providing additional shade after the flowers open will hold the color and increase the flower life as well. If you provide extra shade for the flowers, remember to remove it when the flowers fall so that the plant will grow best for next year.

Watering - Zygopetalums like lots of water and prefer to be constantly moist, but not soggy wet. During the growing season, water at least once a week, more often in warmer or drier locations. The amount of water will depend on the potting mix and the water quality. Rain water or demineralized water will give the best results. Open or porous mixes needing more water than a heavy dense mix that retains a lot of water. Water thoroughly so that water runs through the pot and out the bottom. On hot days, the plants benefit from overhead misting or sprinkling to lower the temperature and increase the humidity in the growing area. During the winter, zygopetalums need less water, but should never be allowed to dry out completely. Watering every 2 or 3 weeks may be adequate, even with no rain.

Feeding and Fertilizer - Zygopetalums are moderate feeders and will do well with the same fertilizer growers use for cymbidiums. Many growers use a high nitrogen fertilizer during the growing season (February to August) and a low nitrogen fertilizer during the blooming season and winter. Others get satisfactory results with a balanced fertilizer all year long.

Pests and Diseases - The giant white fly and scale are the two most persistent zygopetalum plant pests with snails and slugs as the principal flower threats. The giant white fly can be controlled with an insecticidal soap. Wipe off as much of the colony as possible, then spray the underside of the leaves well. Scale in the leaf axils can be a persistent problem that is hard to eradicate and the use of a good systemic insecticide may be required. Slugs and snails may be controlled with the available snail and slug baits, or with a big foot and a flashlight at night. Do not use an insecticidal soap or an insecticide spray on zygopetalum buds. We have seen severe deformation of buds and flowers as a result. In general, any insecticide should be applied during a cool, shady time of day such as early morning to minimize any potential reaction. Zygopetalums are relatively resistant to bacterial and fungal diseases. Bacterial and fungal diseases may be a problem under wet and crowded conditions. Adequate spacing of plants on the bench and watering early enough in the day so that the plants can dry out before dark is the best prevention. Zygopetalums can be susceptible to the common orchid viruses. Always sterilize tools and the work area before dividing or repotting each plant, and use disposable rubber gloves or wash hands thoroughly after each plant.

Potting and Dividing - Zygopetalums like a slightly acid potting mix that provides good drainage. Most growers use a fine orchid bark mix with 20% sponge-rock or perlite added. Sand, coarse peat and redwood bark or shavings may be added to improve the water retention in inland locations. Zygopetalums generally need to be repotted about every three years under normal conditions. Zygopetalums should be repotted just after the old blooms have fallen off. If the old mix is broken down, the plant should be repotted as soon as possible to minimize root rot. Broken down mix tends to hold too much water and will reduce the air movement around the roots which often causes the older roots to die back. Vigorous plants will often outgrow the pot before the mix starts to break down.

Care After Repotting - After dividing and repotting, the plants should be placed in an area with heavier shade than normal, and should be kept cool and slightly on the dry side for several weeks. This encourages the growth of new roots into the new medium. Water the repotted plants after a day or so in the new mix, and water the first time with a dilute solution of Physan or Naccosan, which is a bactericide and fungicide, to help reduce the likelihood of fungal or bacterial disease in the newly repotted plant.

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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

Don't miss out on the biggest orchid auction event of the year!

Saturday, September 23rd – Registration and plant preview 11:30am, bidding starts at 12noon. The auction runs from 12-4pm.

Register early for a \$5 credit toward your auction plants. (Early registration cut off 9/21). Register here deepcutorchidsociety.org/auction



The graphic features a large, vibrant orange and yellow orchid flower in the center. To the left, there are three circular inset images showing different orchid varieties: a purple one, a pink one, and a green one. In the top left corner, there is a logo for the 'DEEP CUT ORCHID SOCIETY' featuring a butterfly. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of white and dark brown backgrounds.

ORCHID AUCTION

The area's biggest orchid plant auction is back and better than ever!

Over 200 plants sourced from the BEST nurseries!
Plants for beginners and hobbyists!!
Free Refreshments!!!
Free Parking!!!!

Sept 23rd 2023
12pm-4pm (preview and registration 11:30am)

deepcutorchidsociety.org/auction

Middletown Public Library
55 New Monmouth Rd, Middletown Township, NJ 07748

This year is shaping up to be one of our best auctions in a very long time. We have a great location this year at the [Middletown Public Library Community room](#). There is plenty of free parking, and it's just 1.3 miles from the Middletown Train Station for those coming by public transportation. (That's just a 5-minute Uber ride.)

The plant list will be published on our [website](#) approximately two weeks before the auction. We are sourcing plants from the finest orchid nurseries in the world! Confirmed nurseries so far include Sunset Valley Orchids (SVO), RF Orchids, Lehua Orchids, Orchid Eros, Chadwick Orchids with more to be announced. We will also have some amazing divisions and specimens donated from the top growers in our club. You really don't want to miss this one.

There will be a limited number of remote bidding slots available if you can't make it in person. Contact deepcutorchids@gmail.com for more information. Shipping costs for remote bidders will apply if applicable.

