

December 2023

Issue 120 Volume 16

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# NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY



AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY



501 (c) (3) non-for-profit organization

# 2008 - 2023

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## Presidents Message

**OMG! Cannot believe that this is my FINAL President's Message!**  
The last 2 years have flown by with much activity, growth, and success for our Society. NSOS now thrives with 180 members. It was just in February 2023 that we had only 123 members...that's a gain of 57 members in 9 months! Hooray for us!

My gratitude goes out to our current Board of Directors for all their support and hard work. KUDOS go out to VP, Alan Stauch; Treasurer, Tom Mierzejewski (my husband); Secretary, Karen Timko-Gelber; Director & Webmaster, Walter Doehr; Director, Barbara Putko; Director/Membership & Hospitality Chair, Lori Macgown. This TEAM made NSOS stronger and wiser. And to many others like Sandy Myhalik, Show Chair/Away Show Chair, and Ginna Plude, AOS Representative for your invaluable contributions. But most of all, NSOS thanks our members for sticking with us, believing in us, contributing to our fundraiser tables, attending our activities, etc., etc.

As they say, "it takes a village!"

Looking forward to our December 3rd Holiday Party/Elections. 71 members & guests are expected, our largest group ever! And of course, it will be the time to pass on the baton to our new "to be elected" Board of Directors! We all wish you well and promise to support you going forward in 2024/25.

Here's to the good health and success of NSOS!! Cheers to you all! Let's hope NSOS continues to have lots of FUN and Learn Plenty about our favorite orchids as we move forward.

All my BEST!  
Jeanne

## TREASURER'S REPORT

NSOS financial data is available to members upon request. Send your inquiries to our Treasurer, Tom Mierzejewski: [tommajeski@comcast.net](mailto: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

**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**

## 2024 Schedule of Meetings & Events

**Jan. 6, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505**

**Jan. 7, 2024– Speaker = Kim Feddersen of Fair Orchids will be our speaker and his topic is: "Cymbidiums - an overview of the more important species, hybrid types and cultural requirements." - 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**

**Jan. 20, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631**

**Jan. 20 - 21, 2024 - Cape & Island Orchid Society Show & Sale**

**Feb. 3, 2024 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505**

**Feb. 4, 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**

**Feb. 17, 2024 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631**

**Feb. 25 - 26, 2024 - Amherst Orchid Society Show & Sale**

**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 = 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**

**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: 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**

**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 = 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**

**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**

## Monthly Checklist for November and December

### Cattleya

**Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.**

**The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).**

**Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.**

## Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



*Cymbidium ensifolium* produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.

## Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

## Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

## Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

## Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.





*Neofinetia falcata* will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.

## Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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

## AKATSUKA ORCHID GARDENS

### Spathoglottis plicata (Ground Terrestrial Orchid)

**Spathoglottis plicata** is a terrestrial orchid sometimes called the ground or garden orchid. They are great garden plants and are easy to grow making them a good orchid to start with for beginners. They come in a wide variety of colors from purple to white and orange. They are tropical orchids and will not survive frost. This type of orchid is terrestrial, which means they do well planted in garden landscapes but can also be grown in pots.

**Light:** They like lots of light; full sun to light shade. Direct sunlight for some of the day (morning sun is good). But just to be safe, don't leave them in direct sunlight all day! They also appreciate a fair amount of humidity; 60-70% is ideal.

**Water:** These ground orchids like to be kept moist especially in the growing season. Let them dry out a fair amount between watering. Do not overwater; they can get root rot.

**Temperature:** Tropical temperatures, and about a minimum of 60 degrees at night. They should generally be kept in the 75-90 degree range. They will not live in frost and should be kept out of freezing temperatures. If grown in warm climates, they will bloom year-round. In cooler climates, with cool but not freezing winters, they may go dormant.

**Soil:** Use a potting mix for terrestrial orchids. Don't use all dirt as they don't like to be completely compacted. They like some organic material – a garden loam with some added peat should do well. Always be sure drainage is sufficient.

**Fertilizer:** These orchids need regular fertilization. A combination of high nitrogen liquid fertilizer and a slow release blend works well.

**Propagation:** You can propagate through division. Separate plants at the base in sections and replant in potting mix either in a pot or the ground. Make sure to give the new plants enough space for their roots to fully develop. They require especially high nutrient levels in the time after initial propagation.

P.O. Box 220, Volcano, Hawai'i 96785 Phone: 808-967-8234 Fax: 808-967-7140



## Robert Hirnyk Memorial Library

	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
<b>1</b>	Book of Orchids	Withner, Dr. Carl
<b>2</b>	Botanical Orchids and How to Grow Them	Kramer, Jack
<b>3</b>	Complete Guide to Maine's Orchids	Kenan, Philip E.
<b>4</b>	Exotic Orchids -- Successful Indoor Gardening	Rittershausen, Wilma
<b>5</b>	Expanding Your Orchid Collection	Rentoul, J. N.
<b>6</b>	Field Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Europe	Williams, John & Andrew
<b>7</b>	Flowers of the Amazon Forest	Mee, Margaret
<b>8</b>	Forgotten Orchids of Alexandra Brun	Cribb, Philip
<b>9</b>	International Book of Orchids	Hunt, P. Francis
<b>10</b>	Miniature Orchids	McQueen, Jim and Barbara
<b>11</b>	Orchid Genera Illustrated	Sheehan, Tom and Marion
<b>12</b>	Orchids	Black, Peter McKenzie
<b>13</b>	Orchids	Menzies, David
<b>14</b>	Orchids -- A Guide to Cultivation	Cribb, Dr. Philip & Bales, Chris
<b>15</b>	Orchids -- Natural History & Classification	Dressler, Robert L.
<b>16</b>	Orchids -- Wonders of Nature	Kijima, Takashi
<b>17</b>	Orchids at Kew	Stewart, Joyce
<b>18</b>	Orchids from Seed	Thompson, P.A.
<b>19</b>	Orchids of Africa	Stewart, Joyce & Hennessey, Esme F.
<b>20</b>	Orchids of Asia	Eng Soon, Teoh
<b>21</b>	Slipper Orchids	Hennessey, Esme F. & Hedge Tessa A.
<b>22</b>	Southern African Epiphytic Orchids	Ball, John S.
<b>23</b>	The Specialist Orchid Grower	Rentoul, J. N.
<b>24</b>	Wild Orchids of Britain and Europe	Davies, Paul and Jenne
<b>25</b>	Orchid Pests and Diseases Guide	American orchid Society
<b>26</b>	Growing Orchids Guide	American orchid Society
<b>27</b>	Understanding Orchids	Cullina, William

North Jersey Orchid Society  
Rutgers University SEBS  
Floriculture and Teaching Greenhouse  
Annual Show & Sale  
January 12-14, 2024

Friday Noon – 5 PM, Saturday 10  
AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

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**25<sup>TH</sup>** ANNIVERSARY  
**Orchid Show and Sale**  
February 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>



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