

March 2023

Issue 113 Volume 16

NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY

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2008 - 2023

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A note from our President

Hi Everyone,

After 7 days with our 5-year-old Grandson, it's amazing I have the energy to proceed! 😊 He was such a delight and both Tom & I are so grateful for the opportunity to spend this extra quality time with this amazing little man!

OMG, can you believe that March is only a couple of days away!!

Ladies and Gentlemen, IT IS SHOW TIME for NSOS!

Our "Come See Our Bloomers!" Show & Sale is less than 3 weeks away. After 3 years of pandemic postponement, it is time for some excitement, dedication, and rewards!

Thanks to the Show Committee and Show Chair, Sandy Myhalik, NSOS is on its way to a very special weekend. March 18 and 19 are destined to be our biggest fundraiser activity this year. BUT, ALL HANDS MUST BE ON DECK to bring this 3 day activity to fruition! Every NSOS Member can assist in some way to make this Show our very BEST ever.

Please attend our next Sunday's NSOS Meeting on 3/5 at the Farmington Senior Center. Doors open at 12 noon for set-up and 1:30 pm for the start of the business meeting. Sandy and Ginna Plude, our own AOS Judge, will describe and share the necessary details of the "behind the scene" activities and needs. Your presence is very much appreciated to lend a hand for the cohesiveness to NSOS that is needed to create this fabulous event. We have done it many times before and we will do it better and bigger this time around with your COLLECTIVE HELP and PARTICIPATION! This Society is OURS/YOURS, so join us on Sunday!

Some BIG thanks need to be extended to our members who participated in the set-up and take down of the NSOS Orchid Display at the New Hampshire and Amherst Shows in the month of February. NSOS and Sandy Myhalik, our Away Show Chair, was blessed with the assistance of Barbara Putko, Ginna Plude and Juan Sanchez for the set-up in NH, with take down by Rob Dudley, Lori Macgowan and Alan Stauch. Amherst was set-up by Sandy, Barbara and Ginna with take down by Peggy Schwetz and Karen Timko. KUDOS to Each of You and THANKS So Very Much!! Our NSOS participation in our Sister Society Shows ensures their participation in ours.

AND Lori Macgowan, our Hospitality and Membership Chair did seek out and received a \$25 gift certificate to Big Y Foods in West Hartford. This will be used to purchase some of the food NSOS will be providing at our Show for Vendors, Artisans, and members.

Have a great week! And may the snow gods keep their distance from Connecticut during St. Patrick's weekend!!

Jeanne

NUTMEG STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MENTOR LIST 2013

Joe Hertz	Under lights and Windowsill growing All species	860-233-5505	jhertz1015@aol.com	Call/e-mail anytime
Jeanne McDermott	Windowsill growing: Phals, Paphs, Brassia, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Miltoniopsis & mixed genera		jtmcdermott@comcast.net	
Sandy Myhalik	Phalaenopsis	860-677-0504	myhalik@comcast.net	
Jay Presbie	Growing under lights All species	860-651-3155	jpresbie@gmail.com	Call/e-mail anytime
John Sziklas	Paphiopedilums Phragmepediums Cattleyas	860-658-2908		Call anytime
Lydia Pan	All Genera		markandlydia5357@icloud.com	Call or email

NSOS now has a mentor list and would like to add more folks going forward. We are looking for people that are willing to answer questions on something that you are familiar with pertaining to orchids. You do not have to be an expert, just able to help someone who has a question in your area of knowledge. We all have areas that we feel comfortable in that would be of great assistance to someone just starting out. If you wish to be added to our NSOS Mentor List, please send me a note: johndeered1923@gmail.com

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.

Check our website for Photos of the show setup for New Hampshire and Amherst

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.

Mar. 4, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Mar. 5, 2023– Speaker = Ginna & Sandy Topic = “Come See Our Bloomers!” Show & Sale 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

Apr. 15, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

Mar. 18 - 19, 2023– "COME SEE OUR BLOOMERS" SHOW AND SALE - West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 So. Main St., West Hartford, Ct 06107

Mar. 18, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

Apr. 1, 2023 - AOS Judging Center Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Classroom C, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505

Apr. 2, 2023– Speaker = Karen Timko - 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. 15, 2023 - AOS Judging Center - Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, at 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood NJ, 07631April 16, 2022

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, 07631April 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, 07631April 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, 07631April 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, 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. 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, 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

AKATSUKA ORCHID GARDENS

Cultural Requirements of *Masdevallia* By Marguerite Webb

The Genus *Masdevallia* (maz de-VAL-lee-a) is enjoying renewed popularity. Avidly sought by the Victorians in the middle to late 1800's, *masdevallias* are once again in the spotlight. This was stimulated by the discovery of new species since the early 1980's and by the production of lovely new *Masdevallia* hybrids. Approximately 365 species and 250 registered hybrids entice hobbyists. Startling arrays of exotic and whimsical flowers are colored vibrant-to-subtle hues. The tufted plants range in height from 1 to 12 inches, but the majority are compact, affording the grower maximum use of limited space. Two Spanish botanists, Ruiz and Pavon, described the genus about 200 years ago after they found *Masdevallia uniflora* in the mountains of Peru. They dedicated their discovery to a friend and fellow botanist, Dr. Jose Masdevall. *Masdevallias* are distributed from southern Mexico to southern Brazil, with the greatest concentration in the Andean cloud forests of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. They occupy a surprising range of elevations, with species occurring from sea level to about 13,200 feet. *Masdevallias* are epiphytes without pseudobulbs and usually grow on mossy branches or trunks on the shaded lower parts of trees. These cloud-forest inhabitants are frequently bathed in moisture and dried by soft breezes. Although some of the high-elevation species require a cool environment, the majority of the species occurs at a moderate elevation of about 6,000 to 6,500 feet and tolerates greater diversity in temperatures. *Masdevallia* is the showiest and most popular genus in the subtribe *Pleurothallidinae*, which also includes the genera *Pleurothallis* and *Dracula*. The sepals are the most conspicuous and most diverse part of the flower. They are usually fused to some degree to form an open cup or occasionally a tube. The apices, or sepaline tails (caudae), are often elongated and are responsible for creating the characteristic appearance of a *Masdevallia* flower.

Temperature and Humidity-The need for cool temperatures is the primary reason masdevallias are sometimes considered difficult. But many of the species and the majority of the hybrids respond positively to intermediate conditions. Temperature guidelines: Warm growers: winter night – 55 to 65 F; summer day – 75 to 85 F. Intermediate growers: winter night – 51 to 60 F; summer day – 70 to 80 F. Cool growers: winter night – 50 to 55F; summer day – 65 to 78 F. Masdevallias need a minimum 10 to 15-degree differential between day and night. This drop at night is important in the summer. Provide a substantially lower night temperature to minimize heat stress from temperatures in excess of maximum recommendations. High humidity (nearly 100 percent) also helps offset the ill effects of hot summer days. Relative humidity should rise with the temperature. Because masdevallias are cloud-forest inhabitants, a relative humidity ranging from a minimum of 70 percent to nearly 100 percent is recommended.

Air Movement -Air movement is important in the culture of all orchids but, because of temperature and humidity requirements, it is particularly vital in effective masdevallia culture. Adequate air movement reduces leaf temperature, aids in evaporation (thus increasing humidity), and helps reduce the likelihood of fungal and bacterial problems. The air movement should be strong enough to provide a fresh atmosphere, allow for drying of potting media and leaves, and help maintain an even temperature.

Light-Masdevallias usually grow in relatively shaded areas in the forest. In cultivation, about 1,000 to 1,400 footcandles of light is adequate. The leaf color should be medium to light green. Too much light quickly produces yellow leaves; too little light will result in dark green elongated foliage and poor flowering. Many masdevallias will fit on the windowsill or under lights.

Watering-Because masdevallias are relatively small plants potted in small pots, it is necessary to water often. Frequency depends on time of year and type of container and medium, usually ranging from two to three times a week in the summer to about once a week in the winter. Keep the medium moist but not sopping wet. Flush water through pots to ensure thorough wetting. Overwatering does not make up for lack of humidity and will cause root rot.

Fertilizing-Masdevallias are not heavy feeders. Apply one-half strength of a balanced fertilizer once or twice a month. Overfeeding may cause leaf-tip burn.

Potting-Choice of potting media is a matter of grower preference and dependent on cultural conditions. Masdevallias need a mix that is free-draining yet moisture retentive. Mixtures containing fine fir bark, medium-grade tree fern, osmunda and/or New Zealand sphagnum moss are widely used. Plastic pots retain the moisture in the potting medium longer than clay pots and for that reason, plastic is often preferred. Repot masdevallias when the potting mix begins to deteriorate, on or about every two years. Early spring is the ideal time for repotting because plants re-establish quickly before the onslaught of summer heat. It is best not to disturb masdevallias during the summer. Pot masdevallias so the plants will not wobble when watered. It is important that the crown of the plant is positioned level or slightly above the surface of the media, never below. Some masdevallias have a pendent inflorescence or climbing growth habits. Mount these on a slab. Tree fern is probably the best support; it will retain some moisture. Place a cushion of osmunda or New Zealand sphagnum moss around the roots and tie the plants in position with monofilament or a similar thread. Mounted plants require more frequent watering, perhaps once a day.

Reprinted from *Growing Orchids*, a culture handbook published by the American Orchid Society. American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10901 Old Cutler

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Monthly Checklist for March and April

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.



Cymbidium Magic Mountain photographed at Longwood
Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold..



Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold. Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.



Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit'

AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids.

Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

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



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

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Call: 860-677-0504

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Saturday, March 18, 2023

12 noon - 5 pm

Sunday, March 19, 2023

10 am - 4 pm

Vendors

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Artisans

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Center Street Soap Company

My Eggspertise

Roger's Creative Originals

Sarongs from Bali

Mathilde Duffy Cards

Skyspyders Pottery

The Olive Oil Factory

The Proud Peacock

Trinkits to Treasures



**The West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center 50 South Main
Street West Hartford, CT Handicapped Accessible
(Parking Validation Provided for Adjacent Lot Only)**

ATTENTION PHOTO BUFFS: On Sunday, March 19, 2023, 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.

