



## Newsletter

December 2018

Volume LVIII Issue III

The First, Original Orchid Society in Connecticut

Affiliated with The American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest

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## Next Meeting

Wednesday December 12th, 2018  
Farmington Senior Center  
321 New Britain Ave, Unionville, CT

6:30 pm.: Doors open. Socializing.  
Come early and help set up.  
7:30 pm: Business meeting.  
8:00 pm: Featured speaker and/or  
presentation.

Please bring a snack for the  
refreshments table!  
Don't forget to bring your blooming  
plants for the show table!

For notice of last-minute cancellations,  
visit our website: [www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org)

## Featured Event

Holiday Potluck and  
Elections

Bring a food dish to share  
and a plant for the show  
table. Get to know your  
fellow orchid lovers.

## President's Message

Hello!

'Tis the season. I am sure all of your holiday preparations and activities are under way. Take a breather from all the running around, Wed Dec 12 th in Farmington. We will be having our annual pot luck meeting. Note: food will be available from 6:30 on. Hostess Karen Kuziel will be organizing so please give her a call at 203 710 5114. I heard that the Orchid Santa may stop by with a mystery gift for all members paid for 2019.

Don't forget to keep an eye on your plants as many are starting to spike and may need staking. With show season rapidly approaching you will want to have the plants prepared.

We will also be holding our annual elections. I am told we currently have an open director position on the board. We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions so consider joining.

Coming in January is the Cape & Island show. We will need volunteers for set up/ and or take down. I know several of you enjoy the Cape in the off season. This is your chance to get away unwind from the holidays plus have a little orchid fun.

Rebecca is working on the newsletter content and would really appreciate any feed back or suggestions of what you would like to see less or more of. She is doing a great job.

See you with your favorite dish on the 12th.Cheryl

### Upcoming Events

#### December 1

AOS Judging at Tower Hill Boylston, MA

#### December 15

AOS Judging at Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
Morristown, NJ

#### January 18

North Jersey Show and Sale New Brunswick, NJ

### Upcoming AOS Webinars

All webinars from 8:30-9:30PM EST  
Registration at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

#### Dec 12: Vanda Judging With Fuchs

What makes a great Vanda?

#### Jan 10: Cattleya Species Culture

Finally, a sensible guide for growing cattleyas!

#### Jan 29: Greenhouse Chat

# DID YOU RENEUE YOUR MEMEBERSHIP?

As a thank you,  
you could receive  
a small gift at our  
December  
meeting.

## DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again! Annual dues are due in December. To continue your membership, please pay \$20 per person or \$25 per family.

Your membership fees go towards events and speakers.

Don't forget our extensive library of orchid books!

Soon, this newsletter will be hidden on our website so only up-to-date members may access it.



## Your Origin Story

How did you come to grow orchids? Everyone has a story. Some are more interesting or involved than others. What's your story? Share it here! No need to disclose how many orchids have gone to the compost pile (it's a lot: it always is).

## Orchids in the News

Coleman's Coral Root: [here](#)

## October Show Table

Culture is as noted: C- cool I-Intermediate W-Warm; G- Greenhouse WS- windowsill L- Lights

Cattleya Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Cattleya Chocolate Drop 'Makuu Lemon Drop'	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Cattleya dormaniana	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Cattleya Eximia var. coerulea 'Sea God'	D. Tognalli	i, ws
Cattleya Hardyana aurea 'Clement Moore'	G. McGeough	l, g
Cattleya hybrid ig.	T. Gargano	w, g
Cattleya jenmanii 'AMC' x self	G. McGeough	i, g
Cattleya Minerva	T. Gargano	w,g
Cycnoches Martha Clarke	M. Sabolcik	l, g
Cymbidium Alice Williams	T. Russell	i, l
Dendrobium (Aussie Chip x rhodostictum)	C. Allen	i, l
Dendrobium (Aussie Parade x fleckeri)	T. Russell	l,l
Laelia hybrid ig.	T. Gargano	w, g
Masdevallia roseola	C. Mizak	i, g
Maxillaria lindleyana	C. Mizak	i, g
Oncidium California Merlot 'Golden Gate' AM/AOS syn. Odontioda	G. McGeough	C, l
Oncidium California Sunset 'Orange Crush' syn. Odontioda	G. McGeough	C, l
Oncidium Tahitian Dancer	C. Allen	l,g
Oncidium Wildcat 'Green Valley'	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Oncostele Eye Candy 'Pinkie' syn. Wilsonara	C. Allen	l,g
Paphiopedilum hybrid ig. #1	T. Gargano	w, g
Paphiopedilum hybrid ig. #2	T. Gargano	w, g
Paphiopedilum (Tombola x Ravenstart)	J. Richards	c, l
Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset	T. Gargano	w, g
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Stippled Sunset syn. Potinara	M. Sabolcik	i, g
Rhynchovola David Sander (Brassovola cucullata 'Purity' x Rhyncholaelia digbyana 'Mrs. Chase' AM/AOS)	D. Tognalli	l,ws
Vanda hybrid ig.	T. Gargano	w, g





*Cattleya Eximia* var. *coerulea* 'Sea God'



*Oncidium Tahitian Dancer*



*Vanda* hybrid ig.

### **Your Opinion Matters**

Is there something in the newsletter you'd like to see? Is it an article you've written? Is there something you wish you didn't see in the newsletter? Which section do you read first? Which do you skip?

This is YOUR newsletter! Let us know!



*Rhynchovola David Sander*



*Paphiopedilum*



*Rhyncholaeliocattleya Stippled Sunset*



*Cattleya Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'*



*Cycnoches Martha Clarke*



*Paphiopedilum*  
(Tombola x Ravenstart)



*Cattleya Chocolate Drop*  
*'Makuu Lemon Drop'*



*Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset*



*Dendrobium (Aussie Parade x fleckeri)*



*Masdevallia roseola*



*Cattleya Hardyana aurea*  
*'Clement Moore'*



*Paphiopedilum*



*Paphiopedilum*



*Cattleya jenmanii* 'AMC' x self



*Cattleya*



*Oncidium California Merlot*  
'Golden Gate' AM/AOS



*Maxillaria lindleyana*



## November Meeting Minutes – Nov 14, 2018

### Orchid Growing Mistakes and How to Fix Them

Our speaker for November was Clark Riley. He has been growing orchids since the 1950s, and his first orchid was a yellow lady slipper (*Cyp. pubescens.*) We have some recommendations for orchid growers. He thinks we should visit nurseries, such as Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, and glean information from the American Orchid Society and even Facebook. The notion that orchids are hard to grow, according to him, came from the folks at places like Downton Abbey and are based on outdated information. Orchids should not be grown in dark overheated conditions! (as the Victorian stove houses.) The oldest orchid in cultivation is an *Oncidium* from the 1840s. He cited 10 mistakes made by orchid growers. The 10th is not labeling plants properly. He recommends using a laser printer, perhaps most practical for those who have thousands of orchids, as he does. 9th is not setting seed on special orchids that cannot be replaced easily. He mentioned a *Selenipedium* he tried that has 40 slippers on each spike. 8th is not treating your orchids to a summer vacation outside. Rain water has carbon dioxide, and should be slightly acidic, which helps, as well as the day to night temperature differential. 7th is worrying too much about fertilizers. Orchids naturally come from a low fertilizer environment, although he does advocate for using calcium and magnesium as a supplement. (Peters Cal-Mag.) 6th is not repotting often enough. He thinks that orchids should have relatively small pots. 5th is letting the bugs go on eating too long. Apparently, the new IGR Distance is effective against boisduval scale. 4th is not enough light. Newer plant lights, such as T8s or LEDs, are effective and less costly to run. 3rd is not enough air, since orchids ideally need air movement. 2nd is water quality, since very hard water can be detrimental. Overwatering also kills many orchids, of course. 1st of all is not growing the orchid that you love! Another interesting thing that he noted what is the cultural of *Cyp. acaule*, our native pink lady slipper. It has been successfully grown on a rotted pine log, and watered with 1 tablespoon of vinegar per gallon! Clearly acidity is the key.

## ELECTIONS!!

*Who's up for election?*

**President:** Cheryl Mizak

**Vice President:** Rebecca Schwartz

**Treasurer:** Dave Tognalli

**Recording Secretary:** Carla Koch

**Board Member at Large:** Sue Kennedy

**Board Member at Large:** Karen Kuziel

**Board Member at Large:** OPEN

**We are still looking for someone to take on an additional Board Member at Large position on the board. Anyone interested please contact Dave Tognalli at 860-521-7249 or [dtog54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtog54@sbcglobal.net) before the December meeting.**

# Orchid Stories

## Survival of the Trickiest, Part 1



**Left:** Hinged lip of *Bulbophyllumlobbii* 'Kathy's Gold' (arrow).

**Right:** The lip tips and dumps the fly against the column. Photos by Larry Kuekes.

Many orchids have evolved mechanisms to improve their chances of getting pollinated. One of the trickiest – and most ingenious – is the hinged lip of the *Bulbophyllum*.

*Bulbophyllum* is the largest genus of orchids, with over 2000 species. They all have a couple of things in common. First, they're pollinated by flies, not bees or other insects. In order to attract flies, many *Bulbophyllums* produce a fragrance like rotting meat, which is disgusting to us, but delightful to flies who think they've found a dead animal. Luckily for us, not all *Bulbophyllums* stink, since some flies are attracted to other fragrances. For example, a *Bulbophyllum* might smell like ripe fruit to attract fruit flies.

After their fragrance, awful or otherwise, has attracted the fly to the vicinity of the flower, the *Bulbophyllum* has another trick up its sleeve to ensure it gets pollinated. All *Bulbophyllums* have a hinged lip. That is, the lip is attached so it can tip back and forth like a see-saw (first photo). Some *Bulbophyllum* lips move in the slightest breeze. The lip is positioned so it's an attractive landing pad for the fly. But when the fly lands on it, the lip tips back and dumps the fly against the column (second photo).

Recall that all orchids have a structure called a column that combines the male part of the flower (the pollinia, or clumps of pollen) and the female part (the stigma). In all other flowers these are separate, but in orchids they're joined together, with the pollinia on top and the stigma underneath, separated by a membrane so the flower doesn't pollinate itself.

When the fly is dumped against the column, a little sticky pad attached to the pollinia sticks to the fly. The lip tips back and the fly flies away with the pollinia stuck to it.

But flies are not very bright. So the fly is likely to try its luck again with another flower of the same species. Let's say this second flower has already had its pollinia removed (by another fly). Then the protective membrane will have dried up and fallen off, and the extremely sticky surface of the stigma is exposed. Our not-so-bright fly again lands on the lip, which tips back and dumps the fly against the column. The pollinia that the fly was unwittingly carrying now stick to the stigma, pollinating the orchid.

What does the fly get out of this? No food, no nectar, nothing. Some orchids do produce nectar to reward pollinators, but many other orchids just deceive their pollinators by promising a reward and not delivering it. They've been doing this for millions of years.

It's survival of the trickiest.

Larry Kuekes

## Mentor List

The following COS members are available to answer your culture questions and help you with any orchid growing problems you may have.

**Judy Becker** [judybecker40@att.net](mailto:judybecker40@att.net) (860) 824-0561  
(8:00--8:00 pm) Greenhouse growing methods: Wide variety of species & hybrids

**Sam Hinckley** [samuelhinckley@comcast.net](mailto:samuelhinckley@comcast.net) (860) 688-0943  
(After 7:30 pm) Windowsill growing methods: Species & hybrids

**Glenn McGeough** [mcgeough7@gmail.com](mailto:mcgeough7@gmail.com) (203) 482-3973  
Specializing in Cattleyas.

**Jeffrey Richards** [jeffrey.richards@snet.net](mailto:jeffrey.richards@snet.net)  
Greenhouse growing methods: Specializing in Paphiopedilums.

**Sharon Smith Delisle** [sharonsmithdelisle@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonsmithdelisle@hotmail.com)  
Under lights & windowsill growing methods: Bulbophylums, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Paphiopedilums, Miltoniopsis, & mixed genera.

**David Tognalli** [dtog54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtog54@sbcglobal.net) (860) 521-7249 (Contact evenings & weekends)  
Windowsill & outdoor growing methods: Warm growers, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, & mixed genera.

Connecticut Orchid Society is an incorporated non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1959. Please consider making a charitable contribution to COS.

Most donations made to COS are tax deductible.



## COS Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone interested in orchids. Members join the Society by payment of annual dues. Memberships may be individual, student, family, life, or honorary. Honorary membership is for life and is made by nomination of the Board of Directors and majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting. Annual membership includes electronic delivery of the newsletter. The newsletter is published each month except July and August.

**COS Membership Dues:** \$20/yr. Individual \$25/yr. Family

\$200 Individual or \$250 Family Lifetime Membership (never pay dues again!) Visit [www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org) to apply for/renew membership. We accept Paypal.

Contact Membership Chairperson Mary Rampone at [COSMembership@earthlink.net](mailto:COSMembership@earthlink.net) for details.

## 2018 Connecticut Orchid Society Officers & Posts

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## Connecticut Orchid Society Mission Statement

The Connecticut Orchid Society is an incorporated, non-profit association for the preservation and extension of knowledge concerning the conservation, ecology, science, cultivation, hybridization, appreciation and uses of orchids; and to carry on such activities as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate such purposes.