



The Cape and Islands Orchid Society
Affiliated with the American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest Corp.

March 2016 Newsletter

“Nature v. Nurture – A Discussion on AOS Cultural Awards”
Speaker- Joanna Eckstrom

March 13, 2016 at 12:30 pm

March Meeting: *Nature v. Nurture- A Discussion on AOS Cultural Awards* CAIOS welcomes back Joanna Eckstrom. When we think about ‘Nature,’ we’re talking about what a specimen does (or doesn’t do) in its natural habitat. ‘Nurture’ is all about what a grower can do to bring out the very best in a plant. Scoring of the plant includes the size and condition of plant, floriferousness and condition of blooms. Cultural Awards are granted to the grower. Please feel free to bring your specimen plants.

Last Month’s Meeting: Thank you, Jean Stefanik for a very informative program. Members learned how most native orchids are very rare, and will grow only in very specialized micro-habitats, and only a very few can be propagated and grown in garden settings. Orchid species are perennials, and bloom at different times throughout the season from May through October. Conservation is of utmost importance in preserving not only the variety of species but also the genetic diversity of those which still exist. Jean also shared some of the perils (bears and bikers) she’s encountered while looking for native orchids. Additional information on native orchids can be found at <http://www.nativeorchidconference.info>. You will also find information on the upcoming Native Orchid Conference, August 1-4, 2016 in Benson, Arizona.

Upcoming Meeting: April 9, 2016 – Presentation by Margarite Webb

Thank you to everyone who sent their wonderful pictures of our show! They will be posted on our website. If you attend any show and take pictures or have other orchid photos you would like to share with members, please feel free to forward to either OakH35@yahoo.com or webmaster@caios.org. Thank you.

Raffle and Member Show Table: Members should bring any plants they wish to show at the March meeting and have the best available expert discuss them with audience participation, all questions kindly answered. As an incentive, each plant shown will receive a Raffle ticket for orchid plants. Another raffle will be for purchased tickets only. The Society appreciates donated plants for raffles, we just request that your donations are healthy and pest free.

Refreshments: For the March meeting would **Members N-Z** please bring a plate, or bowl of munchies to share. Beverages will be provided! Thank you to the members who supplied a wonderful array of goodies last month.

Orchids Questions – Answers – Helpful Hints

Why are my orchid leaves leathery and wrinkled?: There are several reasons and without seeing or knowing what type of orchid you are referring to a general response is all that can be provided. The problem with the leaves may be a lack of water. You need to determine why the plant is not getting enough water. Take a look at the roots of the plant. If they seem healthy (white or green) and are plump and your potting medium is in good shape, it could be from under watering. It could also be normal dormancy of your plant depending upon what it is.

If you find the plant has no roots or very poor roots the problem could be from one or more of the following: overwatering, deterioration of the potting medium or a recently repotted plant. Overwatering leads to the demise of many more orchids than under watering. Constant wetness will cause the roots to rot, which leaves the plant without a means for taking up nourishment which then causes the leaves to droop and will eventually kill the plant. The classic advice is to water the day before the plant dries out.

To stimulate new roots raise the humidity around the plant and reduce the amount of water you were giving the plant. Some sources also recommend using a rooting hormone on the roots, (some say it



is not necessary to use the rooting hormone) then repot in pre-dampened fresh medium and don't water for 1-2 days. Then water once and put into a clear plastic box with vents at the top and a tray below to hold potting material or use an empty aquarium with damp sphagnum moss or pebbles on the bottom to add to humidity. This should be located in a shady spot. At this point some resources suggest having a grow mat set for about 70 degrees under the plastic box or aquarium, other find it's not necessary. Water the potting material only when it is dry, and keep the gravel or moss in the bottom damp. The increased humidity should reduce the stress on the plant and stimulate the growth of new roots which may take a few months.

If you can bring your plant to the next meeting one of the expert growers should be able to give you more specific advice.

Caring for an orchid subjected to unusually cold weather. Basically it is the same as trying to stimulate new root growth, without the use of the rooting hormone or grow mat. It is recommended that you increase the humidity around the plant, place it in a low light environment, water plant only when dry, but maintain the moisture at the lower stones or moss as long as the pot does not sit in water. It is also recommended for many orchids that you do not fertilize for 4-6 weeks and then resume at a weaker level of fertilizer at first and gradually increasing.

Question for the membership: Are you a successful Vanda grower? If so would you please contact me at OakH35@yahoo.com. Thank you.

You're not a public speaker and have a hint or experience you would like to share with the members? Feel free to write an article to submit to me for publication in our newsletter and/or our website. Have you acquired a new plant and you need some advice? Please continue to contact me via e-mail (OakH35@yahoo.com) (or see me at one of the monthly meetings) with your questions, hints or something you would like to share with the members. All of your questions answered in upcoming newsletters.

Members Corner:

Final Reminder: Yearly membership dues for 2016 – 2017 (new or renewal) were due January 1, 2016. Please see the form at the end of the newsletter.

Members – Please let us know if you are not receiving your electronic or snail mail newsletter so we can verify your contact information.

Pre-Show plant orders. orchidPhile's March plant list is posted on our website. If you plan to Nutmeg State Orchid Show to take place on Saturday & Sunday, March 19 & 20, 2016. All Pre-Orders for this particular show should be placed by this coming Thursday, March 3 at the very latest because they are leaving to judge the Taiwan International Orchid Show on March 4. Please do not send any Pre-Orders after that date or they might be lost in cyberspace while they're out of the country! They will be returning to the nursery on March 16 but cannot guarantee they will have time to set aside any additional Pre-Orders since it will be just two short days to pull sales & exhibit plants, pack, leave and set up for the Nutmeg Show in West Hartford, CT.

Vendors occasionally have last minute specials which we don't know about in time to put into the newsletter. I encourage you to periodically check our vendor spotlight area on our website, and/or follow us on Facebook for updated information.

We also maintain an event calendar on our website where you will find up to date event information.



If there a new plant or supply vendor you've found please let us know so we can share the information with the membership. We are always looking for new professional resources.

Our current VP in charge of programs is still interested in additional ideas for programs and speakers. If there is a topic you would like to see presented at a meeting, if you have experienced a presenter we have not seen and think they would good for us, OR if you have a topic YOU would be willing to present to the group (There are a lot of expert growers in this society—don't be shy) please contact me at busywomance@comcast.net or call my home phone: 508-694-6279. This is your society—help make our monthly meetings informative and interesting! Thank you. Marsha Fredericks.

Annual Election: Are you interested in offering your expertise to CAIOS? Our annual election of officers is a few months away, but it's not too early to start thinking about nominees or letting us know you are interested. We are also looking for members willing to take on the responsibility of publicity; theme and display design for our show in January 2017. Please contact Marsha or another Board member to let them know your area of interest and they can also provide you with specific information regarding the positions.

Upcoming Events:

(CAIOS display at NH Show February 2016 at right)

CAIOS participates in several shows throughout the year. Our displays at these shows are a whole lot smaller than what we do in January for our show, and are easily managed by one or two people. The more members we have who are comfortable with setting up a display, the better. Anyone with the basic knowledge, sufficient transportation, and a free Thursday can help set up a display at any one of the smaller regional shows. *If you are interested in helping at the Nutmeg State Annual Show in Hartford March 18-20, 2016, please contact Tina (508-540-5006) or Tom (508-540-2054).*



March 19- 20, 2016: Nutmeg State Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show and Sale, West Hartford Meeting and Conference Center, 50 Main St., West Hartford, CT. Saturday 12 noon – 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission \$10 Let Tina and Tom know if you have plants to show.

April 1-3, 2016 Connecticut Orchid Society SEPOS bus trip.

April 1-3, 2016 SEPOS Show and Sale, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, Friday 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission \$7, pre-purchase online \$5.00. The 2016 Flower Show theme, Explore America, will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service with acres of gardens, floral displays and adventure experiences. Explore the natural, historic, cultural, and monumental beauty of the national parks through the eyes of the world's greatest floral and garden designers. Additional information available on their website www.sepos.org

Open House:

March 5, 2016 Marlow Orchids Winter Open House Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 2272 Scottsville Road, Scottsville, NY. Please see their website www.marloworchids.com for additional information.

March 3-5, 2016 Carter and Holmes Open House 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 629 State Road, Newberry, SC. Specials include 25% off orchids including items from their new Spring eCatalog (800) 873-7086. Please see their website www.carterandholmes.com for additional information.

American Orchid Society Webinars: (some require AOS membership)

March 1, 2016. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Greenhouse Chat.** Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, will hold a Q&A session on orchid culture. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is free for everyone. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org.

March 29, 2016. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Growing Under Lights** Author Steven Frowine, will discuss how to grow orchids with modest light requirements under artificial lights. He will focus on newer fluorescent lights. Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchids), slipper orchids, and most miniature orchids grow well under lights. Steve has been growing under lights for over 50 Years. This webinar is for everyone. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org.

April 7, 2016. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Greenhouse Chat.** Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, will hold a Q&A session on orchid culture. Advanced Registration (space is limited)

required. The webinar is free for everyone. Submit your questions by April 5, 2016. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org.

April 20, 2016. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. *Paphiopedium fairrianum* Theresa Hill, owner of Hillview Gardens in Oregon, will discuss the history and breeding trends of this delightful species. This webinar is for AOS Members Only. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org

Do you have a good plant? American Orchid Society Judging: Judging takes place at the **Tower Hill Botanic Gardens of Worcester**, 11 French Dr., Classroom C, Boylston, MA on the first Saturday of the month. Monthly program is at 11AM, plants for judging must be in place by noon. Free, just say “Orchid Judging” at gate. Take I-495 N to Church St in Northborough. Take exit 24 from I-290 W, Church St Go Rt 3.5 mi. Central St, nearly to end, Sign on Right,. Approx.90 min. from Cape Cod Canal.

Sampling of February Meeting Show Table

Great looking plants!



Announcements: Please check the caios.org website for last minute CAIOS news. Unexpected meeting cancellation will be posted if necessary. A monthly calendar of events and meetings can now be found on our website in addition to culture sheets; last minute orchid sales and helpful hints to assist your growing. We also post information on our Facebook page, stop by and “like” us and become our “friend”, then post pictures of your amazing plants!

Please e-mail webmaster@caios.org with any additions or corrections.

Please advise the senior editor of any e-mail and address changes so you don't miss your newsletter and late breaking news!

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Motto: Orchids grow *Wild* where CAIOS reigns

Annual Membership: New and Renewal

Looking for a gift suggestion? Why not give a year membership to CAIOS!

FINAL NOTICE-Dues were due in January!

Membership dues annually starting in January 2016 - \$20.00
Each additional member at same address is only \$10.00 more.
Forms are also available at meetings



Please mail this form along with a check payable to CAIOS to:
Tom Gregg
26 Pond Road
Falmouth, MA 02332-5206
(Or -- return to any CAIOS Officer at meetings)

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone*: _____ Cellphone*: _____

Email**: _____

(*Use for Newsletter and any correspondence, late breaking news, faster, saves CAIOS postage and color will look better)

Newsletter preference: (Please check one) Email: _____ Snail Mail: _____

*Optional

Please advise the senior editor of any e-mail and address changes so you don't miss your newsletter and late breaking news!

