



**“Miniatures: Honey I Shrunk the Orchids”**

**Speaker Dr. Kristen Uthus of  
New World Orchids**

**April 9, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.**

**THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE CAPE COD FAIRGROUNDS**  
1220 Nathan Ellis Hwy, (Rt. 151) East Falmouth MA 02536 (White fences on North side of Hwy.)

**April's Meeting:** Dr. Kristen Uthus studied both plant and animal ecology and evolution at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the Ohio State University (OSU). She then taught biology and ecology at several colleges including VCU, OSU, University of Michigan, and Eastern Michigan University. The daughter of a plant fanatic, Kristen has been growing orchids for over 20 years, sometimes more and sometimes less seriously. In April 2013, however, she began working with Dr. Glenn Lehr, the previous owner of New World Orchids, one of the first people to introduce Japanese orchids to the American market. After a short time, he offered her the business, and she fulfilled a lifelong dream of making orchids a full-time commitment by purchasing NWO from Dr. Lehr in January 2014.

Although she enjoys growing many varieties of orchids and other plants, miniatures remain her passion—the weirder the better. New World Orchids specializes in Japanese species including *Neofinetia falcata*, *Dendrobium moniliforme*, and *Sederia japonica* as well as Asian Cymbidium species, but her miniature selection has been expanding to include other small species including Pleurothallids, Bulbophyllums, and Angraecums. Although not ever entirely up to date, you can check out some of NWO's offerings at [www.newworldorchids.com](http://www.newworldorchids.com).

**Miniatures: Honey I Shrunk the Orchids** Eventually everyone runs out of room for more orchids—unless they're really small. While their size intimidates some people, miniatures are just as tough as their larger relatives. What makes them so appealing is their variety of form in addition to flower; they are just plain cute! The fact that they take up so little space means that you can have a lot of different kinds of orchids in a limited area.

Dr. Uthus and New World Orchids is **offering a 10% discount for any plant in stock ordered no later than April 1, 2017 to be delivered to our meeting.** You must let them know you are order for the CAIOS meeting. New World Orchids specialize in orchids from Japan, as well as other orchids.

**Upcoming Meetings: May 14 2017:** Potting Workshop. Once again this is the opportunity to repot a number of your plants with help from more experienced growers. Each member can pot and have potted a reasonable number of plants. Expect to get your hands dirty and dress warmly as needed for this outdoor (under the tent) affair. Bring boxes to carry your plants home in; crumpled newspaper in box will reduce tip over and careful labeling will prevent LOLAS and lost value.

## CONDOLENCES

CAIOS sends their condolences to the family of Vitor DeRosa. He was in a horrific car accident and died at the hospital in Florida. Pictured - Victor at the Hunnewell Greenhouses in Wellesley with the final remnants of his once huge orchid collection. He was well loved and will be missed by us old timers who appreciate all that he did for all of us.

For directions and to sign the online Guest Book please visit [www.everettfuneral.com](http://www.everettfuneral.com)





**CAIOS thanks the Phillips for all of their work and the time they spent at the Nutmeg Show and providing the results and photos!**

A complete listing with photos will be posted on our website.

**The CAIOS Display at the Nutmeg Orchid Show featured 12 plants and received 10 awards. Here are the results:**

**Orchid Society Display – 3rd Place Yellow Ribbon**

**Congratulations to Dick and Eleanor Phillips on all their awarded orchids!**

**CAIOS**

Best Specimen Species – 1st Place Blue Ribbon

B. amazonica x C. Harrisoniana R. Phillips

Best Cattleya Alliance – 1st Place Blue Ribbon

B. amazonica x C. Harrisoniana R. Phillips

Oncidium Alliance – 1st Place Blue Ribbon

Crytochilum superbians R. Phillips

Dendrobium, Antelope – 1st Place Blue Ribbon

Dendrobium Asian Youth Games 09 R. Phillips

Brassia Alliance - 1st Place Blue Ribbon

Brassia Rex R. Phillips



Phalaenopsis, Yellow – 1st Place Blue Ribbon

Phal Brother E. Phillips

Angraecum Alliance – 2nd Place Yellow Ribbon

Jumellea aracantha R. Phillips

Phalaenopsis, White – 3rd Place Yellow Ribbon

Phal. Cygnus ‘Ono-2’ R. Phillips

Phalaenopsis, Pink – 3rd Place Yellow Ribbon

Phal Sogo Grape Y/N E. Phillips



**Raffle and Member Show Table:** Members should bring any plants they wish to show 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 April meeting would **Members A-M** please bring a plate, or bowl of munchies to share. Beverages will be provided!

**Orchids Questions – Answers – Helpful Hints** Please see our website [www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org) for helpful information. Did you get a new plant and need care information? Let me know. If you have any additional comments or suggestions for our members you would like to share please feel free to contact me at [webmaster@caios.org](mailto:webmaster@caios.org) , [OakH35@yahoo.com](mailto:OakH35@yahoo.com) or see me at one of the meetings.

**Fertilizing your Orchids:** If you grow a mixed variety of orchid species, the fertilizing needs of your plants may vary considerably. The general **rule of thumb** — applying a balanced fertilizer weekly, weakly — is a good starting point. Too much or too strong fertilizer can burn orchid leaves and roots. Many growers recommend that plants be pre-watered with plain water and left to sit a few minutes until the medium is completely damp. Then go back and use your fertilized water. This helps reduce salt buildup and the possibility of root burn.

Fertilizer can be applied weekly to biweekly at half or even a quarter of the strength recommended by its manufacturer. When in doubt, use a more diluted solution and observe the results on your plants. If you believe the diluted solution to be insufficient, the amount of fertilizer may be adjusted upward with fewer repercussions than initially burning the plant through over-fertilization.

There are many high-quality fertilizers available. Fertilizer you use should include a balance of the three main elements: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) (the percentage of each element usually appears on the label in numeric form, such as “7-7-7”; the remaining percentage is composed of inert ingredients), and ideally micronutrients as well.

Most Vandaceous orchids do best with copious amounts of fertilizer, and during growth may benefit from dilute applications of fertilizer as often as twice a week. Pleurothallids, on the other hand, do not require nearly the same quantity of nutrients, and may be better off with a biweekly schedule. In addition, any orchid will require more nutrients during periods of active growth, less during periods of slower grow and possibly none during dormancy

### **Fertilizer burn symptoms**

Lack of root growth may indicate an unhealthy concentration of mineral salts in the medium, on up to full fertilizer burn. If this is suspected, decant the plant and check its roots. Dead root tips, brown roots or salt crust on the potting medium surface are signs of trouble. In later stages, brown leaf tips may appear, indicating burned roots. Leaves, and eventually pseudobulbs on sympodial orchids, can become yellow. If allowed to continue, fertilizer burn will eventually kill the plant

Salt from added fertilizer may accumulate over a period of time. Salt buildup looks like whitish to brownish crusts on the medium and around the pot, and can be a sign of over-fertilizing. If allowed to remain, those salts will negatively impact the health of your plant. Fertilizer salts, burn and kill orchids, especially in more sensitive species like Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Pleurothallids and Bulbophyllums.

Many of you have sent questions regarding what pots to use for re-potting your orchids. The information below has been gathered from numerous resources including American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest.

**Orchid Repotting and Things to Consider:** The first step is deciding what works best for you (pots, baskets, mounting), when considering your growing conditions and your orchid’s natural requirements?

**Plastic or Clay Pots?** Plastic pots are cheap and they tend to retain more water, and may keep roots warmer in cool climates. Clay pots breathe and are heavier than plasticpot, clay pots may keep roots cooler in warm climates.

**Clear or Opaque Plastic Pots?** Clear pots allow you to observe your potting mix, helping you to determine when you need to water, and assess the health of your plant's roots as well as allowing roots to photosynthesize while in the pot. One negative is the algae, weeds and ferns that are encouraged to grow in clear pots.

**Do Clay Pots Have to be Orchid Pots?** Clay orchid pots used to have large slats on the side to improve drainage and allow more aeration around the roots. The old fashioned deep slatted orchid pots are great for orchids if you can find them as the shallow bulb pots with multiple large holes in the pot sidewalls. Unable to find good orchid pots, you can simulate the conditions in non-orchid pots by using a porous inorganic potting medium like lava rock or by placing a net pot or adding Styrofoam peanuts at the bottom of your pot to increase aeration around the roots.

**Pot Shape?** The shape of the pot is a very important consideration. The three basic pot shapes are the 1) standard pot, which is taller than it is wide; 2) the azalea pot, which is about as tall as it is wide; and 3) the bulb pot, which is much wider than it is tall. For most orchids, the azalea or bulb pot is preferable, although you can cheat with a standard pot by placing Styrofoam peanuts or the like at the bottom of the pot to simulate the conditions found in shallower pots. There are always exceptions like Paphiopedilums and Cymbidiums which prefer an ultra-tall pot, perhaps one that is two or three times taller than it is wide.

**Decorative or Glazed Pots?** It may be preferable to pot your orchids in a utilitarian pot and drop it inside the decorative pot for presentation. Be careful with decorative pots without drainage holes so as not to let the roots stand in water.

**Orchid Potting Considerations:** Selecting the proper pot to house your orchid for the next two or three years is just as important as the potting mix you use. Once you've got your plant cleaned up and ready to repot, choose a pot based on the plant's root mass and ability to fill up the pot over the next two years.

**Selecting the Proper Sized Pot:** Orchids tend to prefer being somewhat underpotted. There are two basic rules to use when you are selecting a pot for an orchid: 1) Root Mass is much more important than the amount of foliage in determining the size of the pot to choose. Once you remove the orchid out of its old pot, clean off the old potting medium and dead or decaying roots, you then select a pot that will accommodate the roots without them being overly cramped and twisted. Allow for Two Years Growth. The general rule of thumb when repotting orchids is "use a pot that will accommodate at least 2 years of growth before the orchid needs to be transferred into another container." For a sympodial orchid, this means you'll have to consider how closely the canes or pseudobulbs grow together. As a rule, if you put the oldest part of the plant against the edge of the pot, the youngest part of the plant should be in about the middle of the pot with another half of the pot to grow into.

**Potting Considerations for Different Types of Orchids:** General rules to the specific potting issues for common orchids you may grow.

**Phalaenopsis:** Almost all Phalaenopsis will be repotted into either a 4 or 6 inch azalea pot; you will almost never use a pot larger than 6 inches for a Phalaenopsis. It's important to assess the root mass of the Phalaenopsis and choose a pot which will comfortably accommodate the trimmed roots. You can move a phal that was in a 6 inch pot down to a 4 inch pot if the root mass is small.

**Cattleya Alliance:** Cattleya pots will vary in the type, size and shape of pots. Cattleyas with closely spaced pseudobulbs (like those with nodosa or bowringiana in the genetic background) will enjoy being tightly packed in the pot. Cattleyas with more sprawling rhizomes (like those with walkeriana or digbyana in the genetic background) will require larger pots. You'll decide whether to use a bulb pot; azalea pot or standard pot based on the root mass left once you have cut off the old growths and trimmed the roots. With Cattleyas, the most important things to remember are: 1) A Cattleya will only bloom on new growth so you retain old growths for only two reasons, either for the food and water reserves retained in the old pseudobulbs or for the hope that a new lead will develop from a blind eye on an older pseudobulb; 2) You need a minimum of 3 and preferably 5 pseudobulbs for a Cattleya to have sufficient reserves to undergo repotting without a long period of transplant shock.

**Dendrobiums:** Always use a pot that appears to be a little too small for a dendrobium. If you look at how closely the canes grow together and assume your plant will stay in that same pot for 2 or 3 years, you can appreciate how it will thrive in that almost too small pot. You will generally use azalea or bulb pots and a fairly inorganic mix because their roots don't like to be disturbed.

**Oncidium Alliance:** Oncidiums are not too particular about their potting mix or type pot. After you have trimmed up the plant and given its roots a haircut, select a pot size suitable for the remaining root mass.

**Paphiopedilums:** Paphiopedilums prefer tall and slender pots. They grow fine in plastic pots and thrive in clay pots as well. Select pot size based on root mass once you've cleaned up your plant. Don't be afraid to go down in pot size if the roots were not vigorously growing in the old pot.

**Cymbidiums:** Cymbidiums like any pot that is well drained and has more depth than width. The roots tend to go straight down in a lot of the species and shallow pots slow down growth. When selecting a pot for a cymbidiums with more than one bulb, choose one which will allow for two years growth, or leave about two inches in clearance around the plant.

If you have anything to share with the membership regarding your experience, send me an e-mail ([OakH35@yahoo.com](mailto:OakH35@yahoo.com) or [webmaster@caios.org](mailto:webmaster@caios.org) ). If you don't have internet access feel free to write your information and give it to me at one of the meetings.

## **Members Corner:**

**Website update:** We are still experiencing some issues with our website. One of the main things still not working is our calendar. A year's worth of posting has been lost and so far I have been unable to enter or re-enter any of the information. I am hoping that the issues will be corrected soon. Several vendors have been running "Specials" and that information is posted under our Event Calendar and Spotlight Vendor Tab on our website with their contact information.

**Membership Dues:** **A reminder that yearly membership dues were owed in January.**

**Newsletters:** Have you missed a newsletter? All members should have their monthly newsletter no later than 7 days prior to our meeting. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail ([OakH35@yahoo.com](mailto:OakH35@yahoo.com) or [webmaster@caios.org](mailto:webmaster@caios.org)) so I may try to determine and correct the problem. Our website [www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org) is frequently updated with meeting, show and other late breaking news which is not available at press time. I encourage all members to check our website frequently. Is there anything the membership would like to see added or changed to the Newsletter? I'd love to hear your suggestions!

**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 2018. 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:** (last minute events and sales also posted on [www.CAIOS.org](http://www.CAIOS.org) )

**March 31-April 2, 2017,** 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Lyman Estate Greenhouses, 185 Lyman St., Waltham, MA. Hundreds of orchid plants are for sale, including many hard-to-find varieties. Varieties on display and for sale include Cattleyas, Laelias, Oncidiums, Paphiopedilums, Phalaenopsis, and many more. Staff available to offer expert advice. Please call 617-994-5913 for more information.

**April 8, 2017.** A&P Orchids Spring Open House and Sale, 110 Peters Rd., Swansea, MA on Saturday, from 10:30AM-4:30PM. On that day only, Dr. Mustafa will be presenting a talk on the finer points of growing in Infini-Mix: 5 years+ experience of culturing in Infini-Mix and understanding the important details for success. The presentation starts promptly at 9:30AM and ends at about 10:30AM. The Open House sale begins after the presentation concludes.

**American Orchid Society Webinars:** (some require AOS membership)

**April 5, 2017.** 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Virus Testing and Identification.** Janet Lamborn of Agdia discusses the various types of viruses that can affect your orchids and how to test for them. . Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is open to AOS members only. Please see the website for additional information and registration. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).



**April 18, 2017.** 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p. m **Greenhouse Chat.** Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, holds a Q&A session on how to grow and care for your orchids. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is open to AOS members and non-members. If you have questions, please submit them by April 16th to stillisch@cox.net. Please see the website for additional information and registration. Available to everyone.. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

**May 11, 2017.** 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Orchid Aquarium/Terrarium Culture.** Daniel Geiger, Ph.D. Curator of Malacology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, California as he presents a fascinating talk on raising orchids in confined spaces, terrariums and aquariums .Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. The webinar is open to AOS members only. Please see the website for additional information and registration. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

**January 27 & 28, 2018 CAIOS Show dates**

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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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**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 10:30 a.m., plants for judging must be in place by noon. Free, just say "Orchid Judging" at gate. Bourne Bridge - Rt. 25 to I-495 N to Exit 24, I-290 West to Church St. (Northborough/ Boylston). Go Right or North 3.5 miles straight to entrance on Rt. Church St. becomes Central St. then French Dr. 1h 30 min from Cape Cod Canal. Good Restaurant or brown bag or deli sandwich at Farmstand just off Rt. 290.

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**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](mailto: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