



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

April 2016 Newsletter

“Growing Miniature Orchids”
Speaker- Marguerite Webb of J & L Orchids
April 10, 2016 at 12:30 pm

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 Meeting: *Growing Miniature Orchids* CAIOS welcomes Marguerite Webb of J & L Orchids. Their specialty areas are growing unusual species, miniatures, masdevallias, draculas and other pleurothallidinae. These plants are suitable for terrariums and small spaces (window sills and narrow shelves) wherever orchid growing conditions are right. She will have plants for sale, so if you missed her at our show or any of the other area shows this winter, you will have an opportunity to purchase plants at the meeting.



Last Month's Meeting: Thank you, Joanna Eckstrom for a very informative program on nurturing our plants to become specimen plants. Members learned that AOS defines a “specimen” as a single plant having numerous growths, a common root system in addition to being a vigorous grower; multi-floral with vibrantly colored flowers; and the plant must grow in all directions. She provided tips on re-potting and care of your plant (importance of good grooming; proper staking and cleanliness of the leaves) over the approximate 5-8 years of growing needed to have a fairly good specimen. Those that attended the meeting had the opportunity to see 2 “specimen” plants members are currently growing.

Upcoming Meeting: Please note date change May 15, 2016 (as May 8th is Mother's Day) – Our speakers will be Doug and Terri Kennedy from Canada who will present a program on Coelogynes and Dendrochilum.

Due to a request from several members, when possible, our speakers are providing a handout of their presentation. We hope you have found the information to be useful.

Preparation and Show Results

CAIOS participates in several shows throughout the year. Our displays at these shows are a whole lot smaller 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 time can help set up a display at any one of the smaller regional shows.



Tina preparing CAIOS display for Nutmeg Show



Display packed and ready to transport to show

Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show March 19-20, 2016 as reported by Tom Gregg and pictures by Alan and Christine Hight:

“The Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show exhibit in West Hartford CT, was created by Tina Balog and transported and set up by Alan & Christine Hight. It won second prize for Society Exhibits.

A host of ribbons including a spectacular Iwanagara Apple Blossom from Dick & Ellie Phillips Best Cattleya Alliance, Best large Specimen AND Best Plant in Show. Bill Golden garnered a first for Cattleya Alliance Plant with *Leptotes bohnkiana* about as small (4") as the Phillips' plant was huge(2 ½ feet). Other ribbons for Tina, T Gregg and possibly others which I haven't been told of.”



Great job Alan, Christine and Tina!



Amherst Orchid Society Show February 20-21, 2016

BEST ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE IN SHOW	Oncostele Midnight Miracles 'Masai Red'	Tom
Tina Balog	Cymbidium Hybrid	1st place
	Dendrobium Nobile Hybrid	3rd place
	Paphiopedilum Toni Semple	1st place
	Paphiopedilum Toni Semple	2nd place
	Wilsonara Petit Port 'Woolsey' x Geneva Red 'Rosie'	3rd place
Tom Gregg	Cymbidium Massachusetts Sunset 'Massachusetts'	2nd place
	Odcdm Cherry Fudge 'Seth'	3rd place
	Odm Serendipity 'Hobart'	1st place
	Oncidium Jungle Monarch 'Pacific Pride'	3rd place
	Oncostele Midnight Miracles 'Masai Red'	1st place

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 April 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. We now have a page on the website displaying the blooming plants members bring for our monthly show table. You will find it under “Member Pages”.

Refreshments: For the March meeting would **Members A-M** 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

Catasetum: have a distinctive growth and rest period (dormancy). It is important to maintain constant moisture and fertilize regularly when the plants are in active growth. This is essential to optimizing the development of new growth. Little or no water is needed when the plants are dormant as the pseudobulbs store enough moisture and nutrients to survive the dormancy.

Watering Early Spring – You will see the start of new growth. It is important to wait until the new roots are established to begin watering. Many growers emphasis waiting until you should let the new roots grow to an approximate length of 3-5” before you begin watering. Once the new roots are sufficiently developed the plants will rapidly develop their new pseudobulbs. There is a surprising amount of growth that occurs in these 3-4 months, often the plants will double their size. Due to this, the plants require constant moisture and regular fertilization. In most cases, watering may be need 2 or 3 times a week. A balanced fertilizer at full strength is suitable for this rapid growth period.



In the late autumn, after flowering, the plants will begin to enter the dormancy phase. The first signs are the yellowing and browning off of the leaves, this is when you stop fertilizing and reduce watering by ½ and when most leaves are yellow/brown and have dropped off cease watering altogether. The general rule to follow is: by the 15 th of November stop fertilization and reduce watering by ½. Most leaves should have yellowed or fallen off by the 1 st of January, however, if the plants still have leaves all irrigation should be stopped at this time.

Light: Catasetinae like light levels comparable to Cattleyas at about 2500-4000 foot candles. However, the plants are widely adaptable and do well with light levels as low as 1500 fc and as high as 5000 fc. For optimal growth a Southern exposure or a location where the plants will receive plenty of bright, filtered light is suggested.

Temperature: provide warm temperatures, 75-80°F (24-27C) during the day, dropping 10-15°F (6-8C) at night.

Humidity: They like humidity of 50-70%.

Fertilizer: When in active growth, regularly use one teaspoon of your favorite fertilizer per gallon of water.



Oncidium: Easy to grow and long lasting sprays of small, distinct flowers which often have unique color combinations and a pleasant fragrance. They will typically bloom once a year and can be grown in the home, as well as in a sheltered area in the garden. Many growers have found that once the plant gets acclimated to a certain location, they tend to stay the healthiest when left in one spot.

Light: prefer bright light, much the same as you would give a Cattleya (from 1500 to 4000 foot-candles). The leaves should be bright green as opposed to dark green or reddish green. Reddish green indicates too much light; dark green indicates not enough light.

Temperature: Most Oncidiums and their hybrids like intermediate conditions. Ideal temperatures 75-85 degree highs (day) and 55 –65 degree lows (night) but most grow and bloom well in homes with 70-85 degree highs (day) and 55-75 degree lows (night).

Water: Oncidiums should become moderately dry between watering. Generally, they require more water while the new shoot is growing and less once the bulb has formed. Take care to keep water out of the new growth at the base of the plant. Never allow the bottom of the pot to stand in water. Never use artificially softened water.

Fertilize: your plants as least once a month. It is recommended to use high growth 20-10-20 year round and cutting back to half strength when plants are not developing new leaves is recommended.

Humidity: Oncidiums require a minimum of 40-50% humidity in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Humidity should be increased with higher temperatures. The ideal humidity is between 55% and 75%, with as much ventilation or air movement as possible without any cold drafts.

Potting: It is recommended that Oncidium be repotted at least every 12-24 months. As a general rule, repot them when the new shoot is two to three inches tall or when new roots appear. Remove the old mix from the roots and any dead roots should be removed. If dividing, keep the divisions in clumps of three to five mature bulbs. Medium to fine fir bark is preferred. The base of the new growth should be potted at ½” (no deeper) into the fresh bark. Keep mix barely damp until you see the new roots penetrating the bark, and then resume normal watering.

Reminder: Keep watching your plants for any unwelcomed visitors and show them the door as quickly as possible! Check the CAIOS website or previous newsletters on how to rid your plants of pests. You will also now find some AOS culture care sheets on our website.

This is also the time of year to start inspecting your plants to determine what re-potting supplies you will need, ex. Larger pot and potting media.

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:

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

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, event calendar and/or follow us on Facebook for updated information.

Our event calendar on our website is updated frequently with new sales and 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. She's been busy filling your requests. Now is the time to contact her if there is a topic you would like to see presented at a meeting, OR if you have a topic YOU would be willing to present to the group. Our show table is a testament to the wonderful growers CAIOS has. We would love for you to share your growing secrets with the other members! Please contact Marsha Fredericks at busywomance@comcast.net or call her home phone: 508-694-6279. Thank you.



Annual Election: Are you interested in offering your expertise to CAIOS? Our annual election of officers is coming up, and time 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:



April 1-3, 2016 Connecticut Orchid Society SEPOS bus trip. If you go to the SEPOS show we would like to hear from you about the show and send any pictures you take to share with CAIOS members.

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

April 8-10, 2016 Lyman Estate Greenhouses. Friday to Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 185 Lyman St., Waltham, MA. Shop their selection of hundreds of orchid plants, including Cattleyas, Laelias, Paphiopedilums, and Phalaenopsis. Species and hybrid plants that are budded and blooming are available. Let their gardening experts help you choose the right plants for your home. Please call 617-994-5913 for more information.

Plant Auction:

April 9, 2016 Ocean State Orchid Society's Special Orchid Auction Preview Saturday 9:30 a.m. Auction 10:00 a.m. at North Kingstown Community Center, 30 Beach Street, Wickford, RI, Orchids are from an extensive collection of a member moving out of State. Plants are exceptional many having won awards. Cash or check only. See their website for additional information www.oceanstateorchidsociety.org. A preliminary plant list will also be available on the CAIOS website.

American Orchid Society Webinars: (some require AOS membership)

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 fairrieanum** 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.

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.

Sampling of March Meeting Show Table

Great looking plants!



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