



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

March 2020 Newsletter

Sunday March 8, 2020 – 12:30 p.m.

Speaker Bob Findlay

Orchid Viruses

What they are and how to avoid transmission

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.)

March 8, 2020: Orchid Viruses by Bob Findlay. I will be giving a short presentation on orchid viruses, what they are and how to avoid transmission within an orchid collection followed by a hands-on demonstration of how to test your orchids for the two most common viruses. CAIOS has purchased 25 Agdia test kits (at a 50% discount) and encourages everyone to bring an orchid to test (if there are any leftover we will offer these to members at cost). Since 4 of 6 orchids from the Ring collection tested to date were positive for virus, these plants would make good candidates for testing.

After seeing the results, we will assess if there is enough interest for a bulk purchase by CAIOS of test kits.

Normal pricing is:

5 strips and buffer filled bags	\$52.00	(\$10.40 per kit)
25 strips and buffer filled bags	\$144.00	(\$5.76 per kit)

(Yes, they are darn proud of their product)

The volume discount kicks in at 250 kits:

- 10-19 ISK (250-475 tests): 7% discount
- 20-49 ISK (500-1,225 tests): 8% discount
- 50 or more ISK (1,250 or more tests): 10% discount

Even if we don't make the 250 kits, for members with small collections (less than 25 plants) it would be economical to pitch in on a group purchase of 25 strips

April Meeting: Date change – Our April meeting will be held April 19, 2020 since our normal meeting date is Easter this year. Our guest speaker will be Carri Raven-Riemann from The orchidPhile. A list of plants she will have for sale will be posted on our website around the end of March.

Raffle and Member Show Table: Members are encouraged to bring any plant they wish to show and have the best available expert discuss them with audience participation, all questions answered. As an incentive, each show plant will receive a Raffle ticket for orchid plants. Another raffle will be for purchased tickets only.

Refreshments for March Meeting: Members A-M please provide a plate, or bowl of munchies to share. Beverages will be provided.

If you have a picture of your winner, from our show or any of the upcoming shows, feel free to forward so I may post on our website and/or in an upcoming newsletter.

“All That Orchid Jazz”- Additional pictures



Orchids Questions – Answers – Helpful Hints

Dendrobium moniliforme – Japanese Stone Orchid This plant is an intermediate grower. In the spring and summer, day-time temperature should be 65° to 85° F during the day, with a 10° to 15° difference at night. During winter months, day temperatures can be below 60° F, night temperatures down to 40° F – 50° F. Dendrobium moniliforme blooms primarily from late winter through summer. The inflorescence has one or two flowers, and may have several inflorescences per cane. The fragrant and long-lasting flowers may be white, cream, yellow, green, pink or bright magenta.



Light: Prefers bright light levels, (2500 – 3500 foot-candles). If you are growing under fluorescent lights, keep the plants about 6" from the tubes. Under high-intensity lamps, grow approximately 4 feet from the fixture. This plant can be grown on windowsills, given an east, south, or west exposure. Plants may be grown outdoors in the summer with filtered sunlight. Many varieties of this orchid have variegated leaves, and brighter light will help bring out the color.

Humidity: 40-60 percent. Use humidity trays or a small room humidifier when growing on windowsills.

Water: Use clean water, such as rainwater, distilled or reverse osmosis water if possible. Flush the plant regularly, especially if using municipal or well water. Never use artificially softened water. Let the plants dry out between watering. Use ample water in spring and summer while the plants are in active growth and in flower, reducing quantities during cooler winter days.

Fertilizer: Use a balanced fertilizer year-round, preferably urea-free. If using rain, distilled or reverse osmosis water, add some municipal or well water to supply the necessary calcium and magnesium. Fertilize very lightly every other watering during the growing season, once a month during the winter.

Repotting: This plant is preferably done in the spring and early summer, every two to three years. Either clay, plastic, or net pots, or wood baskets will work. Sphagnum - using a good-quality, long-fibered sphagnum moss, place the root ball over a small amount of moss. Wrap the root ball securely in sphagnum moss, so that the plant does not wobble. Don't wrap too tightly, or the water will tend to run off. Keep the base of the plant a little higher than the rim of the pot. Dendrobiums look nice when planted in smaller, narrow bonsai pots, or special Dendrobium pots. When growing in a basket, line the basket with a thin layer of sphagnum or coconut fiber to keep the mix from falling through the slats. Plants may also be mounted on cork or tree fern plaques, or on wood branches like oak, sassafras, etc. You can mount the plants with a little sphagnum to help keep them moist.



Cattleya: The Cattleya alliance is a widely varied group. The Genus includes Cattleya, Brassavola, Laelia, Sophronitis, Broughtonia, Epidendrums and Encyclias, as well as others. In addition, there are multiple genera such as Potinara, Hawkinsara, Iwanagara, and Brassolaeliocattleya. The following are general guidelines. It is highly recommended you research for more specific growing information for your individual orchid.

Light: is the most important factor in growing and flowering cattleyas. Bright light to some sun (3,000 to 5,000 foot-candles) should be given to the plants, with no direct sun in the middle of the day. Leaves should be a medium green color; a darker green color indicates too little sun.

Humidity: should be 50 to 80 percent. This can be provided by placing the plants on trays of gravel, only partially filled with water so that the plants do not sit in the water. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist.

Water: Watering is based on several factors: size and type of the vessel, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need more constant moisture. If in doubt, it's best to wait a day or two until watering. Plants in active growth need more water than plants that are resting. Water below 50 F may injure plants.

Fertilizer: on a regular schedule. It is recommended if your plants are in fir bark, a high-nitrogen (such as 30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, should be used. Otherwise, use a balanced fertilizer. When in active growth, plants need fertilizer at least every two weeks, and when not actively growing, once a month. You may also fertilize with every watering at one-quarter the recommended dilution. To prevent the buildup of fertilizer salts a thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended.

Temperature: The ideal day temperature is 75-85 degrees F., while the ideal night temperature is 60-65 degrees F. A 15- to 20-degree differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants.

Repotting: Potting is necessary when the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot or the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after two to three years). It is best to repot just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, after flowering or in the spring. Mature cattleyas are usually potted in coarser potting material than are seedlings. Until a plant has at least six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, three to five pseudobulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for approximately two years of growth before crowding the pot. Pile mix against one side of the pot and cut off any dead roots. Spread the firm, live roots over the pile, with the cut rhizome against the side of the pot. Fill the pot with medium, working it around the roots. Pack firmly and stake if necessary. Keep the plant humid, shaded and dry at the roots until new root growth is seen. (AOS recommendations)



Cleisocentron merrillianum- A member has requested care information for this plant. I have found conflicting information. The ISOPE website lists this as a cool to cold growing orchid. However, two growers indicate this is a cool to intermediate growing plant with a range of 40F-95F, but favors cool temperatures. Other growing conditions: Light – bright indirect light; Water – keep moist but allow to dry between waterings; Fertilize – lightly every third watering; and Flowering – blue flowers Winter through Spring. If you have any information on the proper growing environment please email webmaster@caios.org or OakH35@yahoo.com so I can advise the member and post an update in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you.

American Orchid Society Webinars: (some require AOS membership)

American Orchid Society Greenhouse Chats – There is now a listing of topics discussed during each previous Greenhouse Chat. You should also be able to locate the specific Greenhouse Chat, with information you are looking for, if you do a general search on the AOS website. ALL GREENHOUSE CHAT webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future reference



March 19, 2020. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AOS Webinar Greenhouse Chat.** Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, presents 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. You may submit your questions in advance to greenhousechat@aos.org. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org

March 31, 2020. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AOS Webinar “A Junior Orchid Show”**, Barbara Schmidt on how to involve kids in orchids. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org.

April 23, 2020. 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AOS Webinar Greenhouse Chat**. Presenter Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, and accredited AOS judge, presents 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. You may submit your questions in advance to greenhousechat@aos.org. Please see the website for additional information and registration. www.aos.org

Upcoming Events:

March 8, 2020 CAIOS Meeting 12:30 p.m. Bob Findlay will demonstrate virus testing of orchid plants. Members can bring 1 plant for free testing. Additional tests will be available at cost. Please sign up at the February meeting to give us an idea of how many plant test strips to order. **If you are unable to attend the February meeting and interested in the virus test strips, please contact Tina at 508-540-5006.**

March 21-22, 2020 Nutmeg Orchid Society Show and Sale, The West Hartford Meeting and Conference Center, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT Saturday 12 noon – 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Additional information please see www.nutmegorchids.org. If you are interested in helping and have plants please let Tina know 508-540-5006

March 27-29, 2020: New Hampshire Orchid Society’s Annual Orchid Show and Sale, “A Bounty of Orchids”, The Falls Event Center, La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Manchester, 21 Front St, Manchester, NH. Friday -1p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and; Sunday – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please see their website for additional information www.nhorchids.org. CAIOS will have a display at this show and will be looking forward to you providing your blooming orchids. If you are interested in helping please let a Board member know.

April 4-5, 2020 Connecticut Orchid Society Show, Saturday, April 4th (12pm-5pm) and Sunday, April 5th (10am-4pm). The location is the Bristol Senior Center at 240 Stafford Avenue, in Bristol, Connecticut.

April 5-7, 2020 SEPOS Show and Sale, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, Hall “E” Friday 12 noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission \$12, pre-purchase online \$9.00. Additional information available on their website www.sepos.org

April 10-April 12, 2020, 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 19, 2020 CAIOS Meeting – 12:30 p.m. One Week later than normal **There will be NO MEETING on EASTER SUNDAY**. Speaker will be Carri Raven-Riemann from The orchidPhile. She will have plants for sale

April 15-19, 2020 AOS Spring Members Meeting will be hosted by the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center and held at Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront Promenade, 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, California, 95814. See website for full details www.aos.org.

May 10, 2020 CAIOS Meeting Potting Workshop

June 14, 2020 CAIOS Meeting 12:30 p.m.-Last meeting until September. Our speaker will be Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids



Do you have a good plant? **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. Meeting will take place beginning at 10:30 AM with announcements, then an educational program beginning around 11 AM. Plants for judging, as always, should be delivered by noon; judging will start no later than 1 PM. 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

A **memorial mass and celebration of life** for longtime member of CAIOS and avid orchid enthusiast Edward Bonacci will be held on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 11:00 AM at St. Joan of Arc Church, 61 Canal Road, Orleans with reception to follow at Nickerson Funeral Home, 77 Eldredge Park Way, Orleans. For online condolences, please visit www.nickersonfunerals.com.



CAIOS Membership – New and Renewal Reminder Payment was due January 2020

Membership dues annually starting in January 2020 - \$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: Christine Hight, 46 Springline Drive, Wellfleet, MA 02667 (Or -- return to any CAIOS Officer at meetings)

Announcements: **Please check the caios.org website for last minute CAIOS news.** Unexpected meeting cancellation or location change will be posted if necessary. www.caios.org (Especially important during the winter months) A monthly listing 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! [#caiosbloomers](https://www.facebook.com/caiosbloomers)

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

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Motto: Orchids grow **Wild** where CAIOS reigns

