



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

April 2015 Newsletter

“Japanese Orchids”-

Neofinetia falcata, Dendrobium moniliforme and Sedirea japonica
Speaker – Dr. Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids

April 12, 2015 at 12:30

THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE CAPE COD FAIRGROUNDS

1220 Nathan Ellis Hwy, (Rt. 151) East Falmouth MA 02536 (White fences on North side of

Highway)

Last Month’s Meeting: Thank you Joanna Eckstrom for your very informative discussion on *Brassavola nodosa* and hybrids. Members learned some valuable information and tips.

April Meeting: Dr. Kristen Uthus from *New World Orchids* will speak on Japanese orchids *Neofinetia falcata*, *Dendrobium moniliforme* and *Sedirea japonica*. Kristen has a PhD in plant ecology, a passion for orchids and hopes to make more people aware of the beauty of Japanese orchids and the ease with which they are grown. In addition to the plant listings on newworldorchids.com, she will have additional plants after from the Tokyo Grand Prix.

New World Orchids is offering a **Pre-Order discount of 10% and the deadline was April 3, 2015.** (Can try!) Also **please indicate that your order is for CAIOS so they will be delivered to the meeting.** Extensive list (more than 10 pages) of plants is available on their website.



You can place your pre-order with Kristen and check availability of plants at <https://newworldorchids.com>

Refreshments: Goodies provided by **MEMBERS A-I PLEASE!** Coffee and tea provided

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.

Orchids Questions – Answers – Helpful Hints

The following are answers to your recent questions. Please continue to send your questions, helpful hints or articles which will be featured in our newsletters, our website, or upcoming programs covering your topics. Our website www.caios.org now has some AOS culture sheets posted under “Helpful Hints”.



“Water and My Orchids”:

Here are some general rules for watering your orchids:

The potting material should never be soggy. Generally you water once a week but there are several factors you need to consider and adjustments made for your individual conditions and plants. Small pots (5” or less) need more frequent watering than large pots (6” or more). Different potting materials and different size potting materials will dry at different rates. Clay pots will evaporate more water than plastic pots and, dry faster than plastic pots. Conditions are different from room to room. If you move your plants, observe them to see if your watering needs adjustment. Plants in decorative containers (china pot or decorative basket) will most likely slow down the evaporation of water and plants will stay wet longer. Temperatures, light air conditioning and heating will affect how fast the potting material dries out. Be ready to adjust your watering habits as the season changes, especially from spring to summer and from fall to winter.

No matter how careful you are when watering, some water may and will get in between leaves or new growth. If water stays there overnight, when temperatures become cooler, it may promote the growth of bacteria and fungi that may kill your orchids or the new growth of your orchids. Wipe any water that splashed on the leaves or in between the leaves. AOS recently held a free webinar, Pests and Diseases part 2 - Orchid Diseases, which discussed the correlation between improper watering and the growth of bacteria and fungi. The very informative webinar is approximately 1 hour long and available on AOS website for both AOS members and non-members.



Watering early in the day is recommended. Greenhouses growers seem to suggest you stop watering at 2 PM in the summer, at 12 noon in the winter and at 1 PM in the spring and fall.

Many growers recommend you water your plants with room temperature or lukewarm water as a difference of 10 degrees or more between the temperature of the water and the room temperature may cause injuries to the plants. **No Ice cubes!**

Water from the top till the water runs freely through the drainage holes or immerse the plant in water up to 1/2” or so below the rim and let it absorb water for 10 minutes or so.

Be careful with water that is softened. There are 2 basic products for softening water: salt and potassium chloride. Salt adds sodium to the water and, over the long term, this can be deadly to your plants. Potassium chloride will not harm the plants.

Most orchid sources recommend a PH between 5.5 and 6.5 for orchids after adding nutrients and / or other additives.

“Humidity and My Orchids”

Most orchids require 60 % to 80 % humidity. These humidity levels are necessary for the plants. In the summer the natural humidity is usually sufficient to meet the needs of your plants, except on bright, sunny, dry days. Air conditioning in the summer and artificial heat in the winter may dry the air well below the need of your orchids and may cause your orchids to lose their buds and even their leaves in just a few days. If your humidity levels are consistently low, consider buying a humidifier. A cool mist humidifier will help considerably in maintaining the health of your plants. However, if you use one make sure the mist does not blow directly on your plants as this will eventually wet them and promote bacteria and fungus growth that may well kill your plants.

Another way of increasing humidity is by setting your plants on trays filled with pebbles or gravel and with water, as long as the plants are not in contact with the water. For this to be effective the trays must be wide enough so that the leaves of your plants are over the tray (from where the humidity will raise). Different sources believe a tray for a single plant will not be of much help as the little humidity rising from it will disperse very fast. They recommend you have a dozen or more plants grouped together as they will create a micro climate with higher levels of humidity.

“Bud Drop”

There are several things which can cause bud drop. Here is a list of reasons from the American Orchid Society why buds fall off before flowering:



1. Under or over watering.
2. Temperature extremes and rapid temperature changes (heating vents, air conditioning blowing directly on the plant).
3. Fumes from natural gas leaks, paint, other chemicals.
4. Ethylene - high producers are apple, avocado, peach, pear, plum, melons, figs, and tomatoes.
5. Low humidity.
6. Genetics.
7. Aphids, thrips and some mites.
8. Changing growing location. It is suggested that if you want to change a plant's location, wait until the flower opens first.

You will need to consider your individual environment to determine which of the above may be causing your problem.

When Growing Under Artificial Light: It is important with many orchid varieties to provide light only as long as day light, or about equal hours, in order to initiate flower buds at the proper season. Lights should not be used to extend day length, since this may prevent blooming.

Light requirements vary depending on genera and variety.

Very light shade or High light (4,000-8,000 foot-candles) is needed for varieties like Vanda, Cymbidium, Brassavola, Laelia, and some Epidendrum.

Medium shade or Medium light (2,000-3,000 foot-candles) is needed for varieties like Cattleya, Dendrobium, most Epidendrum, Oncidium, Stanhopea, Lycaste and Cycnoches.

Heavy shade or Low light (900-1,500 foot-candles) is needed for plants like small Orchid Seedlings, Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum, Odontoglossum, Miltonia, and Brassia.

How to Grow Leptotes Bicolor: Flowers generally in winter and spring months, flowers will emerge from the pseudobulbs base. This plant will do well on slabs if you have high humidity conditions. Fragrant.

Temperature: Cool to Intermediate. 98F high to 45F.low High humidity

Light: This plant prefers medium to high light, (1500 to 2500 foot candles). When growing at windowsills, eastern or southern exposure is ideal. When growing under fluorescent lights, grow 8 to 16 inches from the tubes.

Water: Water as the mix approaches dryness but do not allow the mix to become completely dry between watering. When growing on slabs, mist daily or soak the slab in a bucket of water for a short period of time.

Feeding: Fertilize every time you water if plants are planted in bark. Be sure to flush the mix with clear water once per month to prevent fertilizer salt build up. For plants in moss or mounted on slabs feed every third or 4th watering as the moss holds a lot of nutrients. Fertilize every other watering in the summer and every third watering in the winter.



Spring Housekeeping for Your Orchids

Now is a good time to check your plants and identify which ones are not performing well for you and not happy with your conditions. If you have a plant that is growing but never bloomed you should check to see if you are providing the proper conditions, light, humidity, etc.

Make a checklist of plants you will need to repot so you will not miss any which should be done. Take an inventory of all the materials you will need to repot. Will you need more pots in the correct size, mounting media, fertilizer, and something to fight pests on your plants? It's much easier to re-pot and care for your orchids when you have everything you need.

Cymbidium: As new growth appears increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Watch for aphids, slugs and snails.

Paphiopedilum: Increase light levels should provide emerging spikes with the strength they need to grow strong and straight. Check the crowns of your plants for both buds and insects.

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.

Do you have a hint or experience you would like to share with the members? 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:

Do you have something to sell or trade or of interested to share with other members? Let us know and we will add it to the next newsletter. (Pres Tom or Ed. Lynn Schaeffer, e-mails below)

Check our website www.caios.org or our Facebook page frequently for last minute news and events. A Calendar of Events is updated frequently on our website. Please make sure you "refresh" your browser to enable you to see updated information.

**Don't forget your yearly membership dues. Renew now before it's too late!
New and Renewal form below.**

Upcoming Events:

March 28-29, 2015: The Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show and Sale is scheduled for Saturday from 12 noon - 5 PM and Sunday from 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission \$7 children under 12 free. Held at the West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center in West Hartford, CT. Call 860-677-5381 Additional information www.nutmegorchids.org

April 10 - 12, 2015: Spring Orchid Sale at the Lyman Estate Greenhouses 185 Lyman St, Waltham, MA. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. Hundreds of orchid plants, including hard-to-find varieties of Cattleyas, Laelias, Paphiopedilum and Phalaenopsis. Their gardening experts will help you choose the right plant. Additional information see www.historicnewengland.org or call 617-994-5913

April 11, 2015: Ocean State Orchid Society Annual Orchid Auction, Preview 9:30 a.m. Auction 10:00 a.m. A varied and unique selection of fine orchids will be offered. There will also be a display of blooming orchids from the collections of the members, as well as knowledgeable growers who will talk about the plants in the display and answer questions regarding orchid care and culture. Public is invited. North Kingstown Community Center, 30 Beach Street, Wickford, RI. Additional information available on their website www.oceanstateorchidsociety.org.

April 14, 2015: American Orchid Society Webinar Cattleya lueddemanniana Presenter - Greg Allikas 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.. Registration required at www.aos.org. Some but not all webinars will require AOS membership.

April 24-26, 2015: Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society (SEPOS) International Annual Show and Sale at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. International Orchid Show will transform the Academy into a spectacular world of orchids. For three days only, the luscious fragrance of thousands of orchids from all over the globe will fill the Academy's diorama halls. Colorful orchids arranged in stunning displays and brought to their prize-worthy peaks will delight orchid experts and novices alike. Friday 12-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
For additional information call 215-299-1167 or www.sepos.org

June 1-5, 2015: The Native Orchid Conference. The conference dates of June 1-4 were selected for maximum viewing of the white form of *Cypripedium acaule* to be seen in flower. Presentations will be on June 1st (Monday) and 3rd with field trips on the 2nd and 4th. There are optional field trips on Saturday, May 30 and Friday, June 5th You MUST register to attend the conference; and registration is limited! For more information our website www.caios.org

June 6, 2015: Piping Rock Open House, Picnic and Guest Speakers Along with our popular Annual Open House Event, they will have two guest vendors/speakers. Piping Rock Orchids, 2270 Cook Rd, Galway, NY Please visit their website for additional information www.pipingrockorchids.com

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 at 1:00PM on the first Saturday of the month. 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 Rt., <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.** We also post information on our Facebook page, stop by and "like" us and become our "friend". Please e-mail webmaster@caios.org with any additions or corrections you may have.



Think Spring!

Annual Membership: New and Renewal

LAST CHANCE to RENEW!

Membership dues were payable in January 2015 - \$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 02540

(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!

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Motto: Orchids grow **WILD** where CAIOS reigns!