



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

September 2015 Newsletter

## **“Understanding Dendrobiums”**

**October 11, 2015 at 12:30**

**Speaker – Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids**

### **Special Offer on Pre-ordered Plants**

**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.)

**October’s Meeting:** Alan Koch will be returning this October. He owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya’s. His presentation this year will be, **“Understanding Dendrobiums”**. The Dendrobium alliance has one of the most diverse genera in the orchid world. There are about 1,200 individual species, and they grow in all manner of climates, from hot, wet lowlands to high-altitude, colder mountains. There are some deciduous and some hold onto their leaves all year round. You will learn successful strategies to grow all dendrobiums. Mark your calendar so you don’t miss his presentation this year!

**Special Offer:** Gold Country Orchids is offering a 20% discount on all pre-orders (**MUST be ordered by October 3, 2015**) Free freight as Alan will deliver when he comes to speak October 11, 2015. To be able to take advantage of this you need to do the following:

Under discount enter the following code: **GCOD** (case sensitive)

Under shipping enter: **ship to a society**

Under comments enter the name of society we are to bring your plants: **CAIOS Oct. 11, 2015**



You may pre-order from their **Limited Availability List** and **2 Inch Availability List** (see enclosed or at [www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org))

Please see the limited availability list which also qualifies for the 20% discount and free freight. You can email in your order or call it in. This can be paid for by paypal account via their email address at [gcorchids@aol.com](mailto:gcorchids@aol.com), with your credit card if you phone in your order.

At the present time **they prefer you email or phone in your order**. Gold Country Orchids, 390 Big Ben Road, Lincoln CA 95648 Phone: 916-645-8600 <http://www.goldcountryorchids.com>

**Last Month’s Meeting:** We had a diverse selection of plants at our Auction last month. Members and visitors went home with great additions to their collection. *Thank you* to the plant donors Wendy Oliver, of Frosty Hollow; Dick Phillips; Tina Balog; and Tom Gregg. *Thank you* to everyone for supporting CAIOS as we netted over \$1200.

**Election Results:** We held our election of the new Board members at the September meeting. The following members have been elected to fill the corresponding positions for CAIOS 2015-2016.

#### **New CAIOS Board Members 2015-2016:**

President:	Tina Balog	Director:	Jo Mayzel
Vice President:	Marsha Frederick	Director:	Tom Gregg
Secretary:	Cathy Fewore	Treasure and AOS Representative:	Tom Gregg
Newsletter and Webmaster:	Lynn Schaeffer		

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## Upcoming Meetings:

**November 8, 2015:** We are happy to announce **Jean Stefanik** has been rescheduled to speak on *Native New Zealand Orchids*. This time we don't expect any snow to force the cancellation of her presentation. So mark your calendar for another presentation you will not want to miss!

**December 13, 2015: Annual Solstice Party and Auction:** We celebrate the Winter Solstice with a festive gathering of members enjoying the culinary delights provided by each member. There is also an auction of blooming plants you can use as gifts for others or yourself.

**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.

**Refreshments:** For the October meeting would **Members N-Z** please bring a plate, or bowl of munchies to share. (Last month's offerings were awesome!--Thank you to everyone who responded to the call!) Beverages will be provided!

## 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, on our website, or upcoming programs covering your suggested topics. Several members acquired new plants at last month's auction and requested culture information which you will find below. Other members have inquired about what they need to do when they bring their plants indoor after they have enjoyed the warmth of summer outside. Please see our website [www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org) for "*Prepare for Winter*" article posted under "Helpful Hints".

**Intergeneric hybrids** consist of several different genera that can be crossed together to create new "man made" intergeneric orchids. Cochlioda, Miltonia, Odontoglossum, Oncidium and Ada are some of the genera that are commonly used. The result of these hybrids creates new names. An example of some common intergeneric names are Vuylstekeara (Vuyl.), Colmanara (Colm.), Odontonia and Adaglossum. Intergeneric orchids have a wide variety of shapes and colors. Most intergenerics can bloom twice a year, producing several flowers from a multi-branched flower spike. Flowers generally last for about 2 months. Below is general care information for your Intergeneric Hybrids:

**Light:** Intergeneric hybrids are composed of several different genera, and they can tolerate a wide range of light. It is recommended for best results, (as a general rule of thumb) to provide low to medium light (1000-2000 footcandles). Most Intergeneric plants will develop black spots on the leaves if they receive too much light. They grow well under artificial lights. Several growers indicate L.E.D. Grow Lights are a great way to provide artificial light to your orchids.

**Humidity:** 50% or higher is ideal. Humidity is not top priority for Intergeneric orchids. However, healthier growths generally develop with higher humidity.

**Water:** Water when the media just approaches dryness which is approximately every 5-7 days depending upon your individual environment. A way to check for moisture is by sticking a wooden pencil into the mix about 3"-4". Check the wooden end once you pull it out. If it is dark in color, the mix is still wet and you should wait a day or two.

Oncidiums prefer clean water without a lot of mineral content and best when you use distilled, reverse osmosis or rainwater.





**Fertilizer:** Most recommend you fertilize every time you water, all year round using 20-10-20 Ureafree for municipal or well water. Use at the rate of ½ teaspoon per gallon.

**Repotting:** Growers have found Intergeneric plants do well in regular orchid bark medium. They also enjoy growing in New Zealand sphagnum moss when they are in smaller pots.

**Temperature:** Recommended ideal night temperature (fall, winter, and spring months) is 60°-64° Fahrenheit and ideal daytime temperature is 70°-85°F. Summer temperatures are generally a few degrees warmer.

**Pholidota chinensis:** I have found very little information regarding the culture and care of this orchid. If any CAIOS member has experience with this orchid or care information I would greatly appreciate it if you would forward the information to me at [OakH35@yahoo.com](mailto:OakH35@yahoo.com) so I can provide the information to the membership in an upcoming newsletter. Below is general care information located on the AOS website:

**Light:** Filtered diffuse light, no direct sun.

**Humidity & Water:** Maintain even moisture and high humidity. Constant air movement is also important.

**Fertilizer:** Half-strength balanced fertilizer during the growing cycle, once a week. Twice a month during the cooler months

**Darrin Norton from Mountain Orchids in Vermont says** -“It grows best intermediate and not too wet, not too dry. Although not as warm preferring, it should respond to Phal-like conditions, with the exception of maybe a tad brighter and cooler nights.”



**Ansellia africana** is a species native throughout the African continent. This orchid is easy to grow and flower as long as you have ample light. The flowers are long lasting and most have a musky fragrance. This plant typically flowers in the spring to summer months with sprays of one inch clear yellow flowers that last for two to three months

**Light:** Prefers medium to high light from 2,500 to 5,000 foot candles. A south exposure is best during winter months. Keep the plant in bright light during winter months to ensure good flower production for the spring and summer months

**Humidity:** 50% or higher is ideal. These plants love humidity in the summer months but will tolerate drier conditions in the winter. The use of humidity trays or humidifiers is very beneficial.

**Water:** Water as the media approaches dryness but do not allow the mix to become completely dry between watering particularly when the plant is actively growing or flowering. This plant can tolerate drier conditions at the roots during winter. Keep an eye on the tall canes and if they begin to shrivel water more frequently.

**Fertilizer:** Fertilize every other watering in the summer and every third watering in the winter.

**Repotting:** Recommended to repot this plant just after flowering when the new growths are emerging at the base. Keep somewhat drier at the roots for the first month after repotting. Using medium grade bark mix and clay pots is recommended by growers for best results.

**Growing Phalaenopsis – What can go wrong?** The January 2015 issue of Orchids magazine had this very informative article by Sue Bottom with pictures by Terry Bottom. Sue has granted her permission for CAIOS to redistribute this article to CAIOS members. Since the article is several pages long it will be posted on our website [www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org) under the “Helpful Hints” tab.

**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:

**JANUARY 21-24, 2016 CAIOS ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW** – Mark your calendar for next year's show dates.

Sign-up sheets coming soon! Start to consider now how you can help make the 2016 show another success. If you have any suggestion, please contact any of the Board members.

## Upcoming Events:

**October 16-18, 2015: Orchid Harvest.** Presented by the Connecticut Orchid Society, 51 Valley Rd, (off Route 139), North Branford, CT Friday 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.- Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please see their website for additional information and plant registration forms. [www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org). CAIOS be attending this show. **If you have a blooming plant which can be used for our display please bring it with you to the meeting so Tina or Tom can take it to Connecticut on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** You may also drop off any blooming orchid to Tom no later than Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions, would like to help or need additional information please contact Tina (508-540-5006) or Tom (508-540-2054).



**October 23-25, 2015: Fall Orchid Sale Lyman Estate Greenhouses.** 185 Lyman Street, Waltham, MA . Hundreds of orchid plants are for sale, including many hard-to-find varieties. Visit the greenhouses and enjoy gorgeous floral colors, shapes, and scents. Among the many varieties on display and for sale are Cattleyas, Laelias, Oncidiums, Paphiopedilums, and Phalaenopsis.. For additional information please call 781-891-1985.

**November 6-8, 2015: World of Orchids** Massachusetts Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale, Mahoney's Garden Center, 242 Cambridge Street, Winchester, MA. Friday 1p.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please see their website for additional information [www.massorchid.org](http://www.massorchid.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 contact Tina (508-540-5006) or Tom (508-540-2054).

**February 12-16, 2016: Blizzard of Orchids** New Hampshire Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show and Sale, Courtyard Marriott Nashua, off Everett Turnpike Exit 8. 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](http://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 contact Tina (508-540-5006) or Tom (508-540-2054).

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

**October 7, 2015.** Time to be announced **Semi-hydro; growing orchids without fir bark** presenter Ray Barkalow. Advanced Registration (space is limited) required and this webinar is for AOS members only!. Please see the website for additional information and registration. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)



**“Cooking CAIOS”** cookbooks! A wonderful collection of CAIOS member’s recipe’s!  
 The cookbooks will be available for purchase (\$15.00) at the meeting.  
 The holidays are coming and this is a great gift suggestion.



**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](http://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](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