

Cape and Island Orchid Society

(Affiliated with American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest Corp)



June Newsletter

Notice of Annual Business Meeting

12:30 PM – June 11, 2023

St. David's Episcopal Church

205 Old Main St.

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Multifloral Paphs

Tim Culbertson



Paphiopedilum rothschildianum, AOS award photo

Although Tim teaches middle school kids for a living, one of his passions has always been plants. He began growing orchids as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which his collection numbers nearly 3000.

While he loves finding old, rare stepping stones in paph breeding, he also does a little hybridizing of his own, and finds growing up his own babies is a blast. He is the youngest accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and has served in various capacities with various orchid societies in California and on the East Coast. He loves meeting other people who like orchids too, and doing so often finds him traveling to shows, vendors, and peoples' greenhouses to see the latest and greatest in new hybrids and to get the best orchid gossip. He likes to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, he has worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids, and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium. In short, he really like plants.

Enjoy a buffet-style brunch! Members with last names starting A-K are encouraged to bring something savory to share and those with last names starting L-Z are encouraged to bring something sweet.

Tim will share a presentation on multifloral paphs, one of his favorite groups of orchids. Tim states “I’m so excited to present on these – they are commanding and beautiful flowers! Of all the paphs, these grow best in mixed collections with Cattleyas and other high-light orchids, and as such are great plants for intermediate conditions and higher light.” He will identify some of the important species in the backgrounds of modern multifloral paph hybrids, and discuss some hybrids likely encountered when shopping for this group. By the end of this presentation, we will have a new appreciation of their beautiful flowers and ease-of-growth, and will much better able to select plants that best fit our growing conditions.

In addition, Tim will have plants for sale.

As always visitors are welcome, you are encouraged to bring blooming plants for the show table and we will have raffle plants available.

Announcements

June is our annual business meeting during which we will elect officers.

The Nominating Committee has put forth the following candidates for leadership of the Society:

Co-Presidents	Marsha Fredricks and Brian Leib
Vice President	Michele Wolf
Secretary	Lee Dresher
Publicity	<i>Are you interested?</i>
Directors	Mike Lincoln and Tina Balog
Show Chair	Tina Balog
Newsletter	Bob Findlay
Correspondent & AOS representative	Bob Findlay
Treasurer	Dayle Carrol-Teal
Webmasters	Brian Leib and Bob Findlay
Membership	Christine Hight
Monthly Program Chair	Millard Hennessee

Thanks to everyone for their willingness to serve. Nominations from the membership for any and all positions are open until the vote is called at the annual meeting. Officer terms run concurrent with the Society’s fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Healthy plants wanted for the raffle table. If you have unwanted plants you can always donate them to the raffle table – if you are going to bring plants please email Tina Balog at dglover@whoi.edu so we can coordinate the number of

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society plants we offer. Thank you to Bruce & Olga Hausser for their recent donation of plants.

Upcoming Events

Meetings:

July, August – summer break

September 10th – annual cookout

October 15th – Still working on a speaker, ***but note date change.***

November 12th – J&L orchids

December 10th – Annual Auction and Winter Solstice Party

This will likely be the last newsletter until meetings resume in the fall.

Shows:

I'm guessing that the Massachusetts Orchid Society Fall show will be the next.

January 17–21, 2024, ***2024 CAIOS Annual show.***

Judging:

Sat, June 3, 10am – 3pm - Northeast Judging Center - Boylston Site. *Website -*

<https://www.facebook.com/AOSNortheastJudging>; *email -*

northeastjudgingcenter@gmail.com

Past events

May's meeting was our annual potting workshop and was held at 4 different members homes (Tina Balog, Tom Gregg, Mike Lincoln and Bob Findlay).

Millard Hennessee joined Bob and brought supplies to mount orchids. On average 8 members each showed up at upper Cape sites and 3 members showed up at the lower cape sites. Hosts demonstrated potting techniques for members that brought plants. Members were treated to tours of the hosts' growing area. Thanks to the hosts and everyone who participated.

Observations While Repotting Phragmipediums By Millard Hennessee

This article is not meant to be a primer on repotting, rather it is my observations aimed at improving my culture after growing my favorite genera over the previous two years. To set the stage, 1 ½ years ago I moved my orchid collection from a basement room growing under HID lighting to a new, updated, in-house growing area with state-of-the-art LED lighting. I also repotted most of

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my orchids in a mix that would reflect more accurately how I care for my plants. This included fine and medium fir bark, charcoal, growstone and Aliflor. I used clay and plastic pots, with and without small net pots in the center bottom of the pot so that I could better evaluate the root growth under these conditions.

Eighteen months after this initial move, I began the repotting, knowing I should be repotting the orchids every year and that life gets in the way. I attempted to observe which pot types and the presence/absence of small net pots proved best under my conditions, so that I could adjust my potting mix and technique with the goal of improving growth and flowering potential. This article concentrates on *Phragmipedium*'s, because this is the genera that I experimented with the most. I was nervous about repotting them at this time, as a number of them are in spike and/or blooming, but the articles I read and blogs I follow said not to overly worry. Besides, I had the time now. Some random observations first: Repotting in your basement creates an unbelievable mess; When you think you have enough repotting mix prepared, you do not; Wet repotting media is extremely heavy; Now is the perfect time to remove dead plant material from your plants, but be aware that new growths are at the base of the pseudobulbs so be extremely careful; It is a great time to observe for any pests or diseases, as you are handling each plant.

My individual observations of plants reflect that a plant repotted 2 ½ years ago rather than 1 ½ years ago results in more dirt than bark at the central interior portion of the pot. There was no root growth in this area and the roots surrounding this rotted media were not as robust as those repotted 1½ years ago. Clay pots produced roots throughout the media, but they were generally small in diameter.

This was observed across several hybrids. Roots located at the bottom of the pot were dryer than higher in the pot. The roots were not firmly adhered to the side of the pot. Pots with small net pots in the center bottom of the pot produced the greatest number of roots with larger diameter and showed minimal root rot. Roots did not penetrate the interior of the net pots

Plastic pots produced larger, and an increased number of roots throughout the interior of the pot. However, the central portion of the pot produced a great number of dead roots and the potting media was the most degraded. Net pots in the central portion of the pots reduced the number of dead roots and

degraded media. No roots penetrated the interior of the net pot. Roots were firmly adhered to the sides of the pots in all instances and these were not pried loose when repotting.



Root growth after 18 months in plastic pot

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My conclusions for growing Phragmipediums in the future in my basement under LED lighting in my present mix, with my present care are to repot them in less than 2 years' time. This minimizes degradation of the media. Air at the roots is imperative for better root growth. Using net pots in plastic pots or air-cone pots will maximize the amount of air getting to the central portion of the root mass. With my watering regimen, plastic pots are more conducive to better root growth than clay pots, as clay pots result in more rapid evaporative drying, not one of the Phragmipediums' cultural requirements. So, for now, I will be repotting in plastic pots with a net pod in the central portion of the pot or using air cone pots. I will be repotting in 1-year and plan to reevaluate this portion of my culture at that time.

CAIOS Board of Directors 2022-2023

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Webmasters	Brian Leib	<i>as above</i>	
	Bob Findlay	<i>as above</i>	
Membership	Christine Hight	508.349.3225	christine.hight01@gmail.com
Monthly Program Chair	Millard Hennessee	617.763.3276	podiver@hotmail.com



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