March Meeting (New Winter time = 12:30 PM to help travelers and finish earlier)

March 9 Meeting: Sarcochilus: Jewels of Spring

Tim Culbertson’s presentation will focus on the genus Sarcochilus, a beautiful, easy-to-grow, group of Australian orchids very suitable for windowsill and under-lights growing, and in the midst of a tremendous revolution in hybridizing for color and form. A & P Orchids in Swansea has recently imported a number of flasks of these plants. Tim will discuss some of their parents and directions these new seedlings can offer. He will be bringing some Sarcos for sale as well.

In addition to being a CAIOS member and an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, 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 1000. 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 has had numerous experiences with professional growers in California and on the East Coast, which has helped him tremendously. 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. He is often 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.

Welcome New Members!

Refreshments: Goodies provided by MEMBERS H - N PLEASE!

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.

Thank you Tina & Allison for the wonderful Tips and Tricks you shared last month. We all learned how Phalaenopsis are easier to grow out of moss; not to use ice cubes to water your plants; and light and water requirements. They also discussed the importance of sterilization of your tools when working with your plants and the different potting media and fertilizers best suited for your orchids. There was an abundance of information and they answered your individual questions. You will find additional information on our website www.caios.org

CAIOS still needs a treasurer. ☺ ☺

Newsletter: From Tom our Senior (co)Editor: Please advise the senior editor of any e-mail and address changes so you don’t miss your newsletter! Membership list available. DUES!!!! Are now!

The Orchiata Bark caper is still on. Available in the 2 middle sizes: Power 3/8” -1/2 “, suits young and mature orchids, AND Power+ =1/2”-3/4” , suits mature orchids; $25 a bag of 1.4 cu ft.; Tom at 508 540-2054 tf.gregg@verizon.net

They are finally here your “Cooking CAIOS” cookbooks! Thank you again to all of the members that contributed their special recipes and Nimtuk’s major contribution of wonderful collection! The cookbooks will be available

Orchids Questions – Answers – Helpful Hints

Quarantining Plants: This month a member asked, “What is the best way to quarantine new plants?” There are a few different opinions as to how long to keep your plants separated (in another room) from others which ranges from 2-4 weeks.
while you watch the plant for signs of bugs, fungus or virus. Don’t assume that there is no problem bugs, etc. just because you’ve acquired a new plant from a reputable source. Always isolate your new plants and keep a watchful eye on them. Treat them when necessary to combat any problems you discover.

I welcome your e-mails, snail mail or talking to you at the meetings. You may contact me via e-mail (OakH35@yahoo.com) (or see me at one of the monthly meetings) with your questions, hints or with the members which may be added in subsequent newsletters and/or on our website www.caios.org. -- Lynne Schaffer

**March Checklist:** AOS monthly suggestions:

**Pleurothallids:** If plants are not in flower, the next excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh now will allow enough time for your plants to become weather arrives.

**Cattleya:** The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support.

Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

**Cymbidium:** Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

**General Hints:** Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water. Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the lookout for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

**Upcoming Events:**

**March 12-16, 2014:** Boston Flower Show at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston - "Romance in the Garden". The Massachusetts Orchid Society plans to display there and may ask us for plants. Keep tuned.

**March 15-16, 2014:** Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show and Sale “Come See Our Bloomers”
West Hartford Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT – Open to Public Saturday 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Do you have a plant or plants to contribute for the CAIOS display? Marsha Fredericks will lead the CAIOS pack there, helpers welcome! Contact Marsha 508-694-6279 or e-mail busywomancc@comcast.net Set up is Friday PM, Judge Sat AM

**GOT a good plant? **American Orchid Society Judging on first Saturdays at the TOWER HILL BOTANICAL GARDEN, West Boylston, MA, near Worcester. 10:30 AM - student or judges’ presentations. Serious, but often a lot of laughs. Lunch is Brown bag or deli sandwich (nearby farm stand) or good on-site cafe with view. Afternoon, see/join AOS judging. Learn to speak orchid! ? Sled the rolling hills!- 495N to 290W, off at Churchill St., Go Rt 3.5 mi., nearly to end, Sign on Rt, Free, just say “Orchid Judging” at gate. (11 French Drive, Boylston, MA 01505 - 508 869-6111) <90 min. from CC Canal, Easy drive.

**CAIOS Events:** [NOTE: As ever, our Society and the New England area Societies owe a great debt to the AOS Judges who through snow and distance, have given of their expertise and friendship to make our shows so much of what they are. Thank You!]

**New Hampshire Orchid Society Show**-The event went off with a hitch, a big snowstorm on set-up day but, forewarned, Yr Ed/Pres. went up 1 day early and had a long leisurely time to create an “Orchid Affair”. I used a little sign “The Path to your Heart” in a bark/twig pathway(Yes, it was a bit corny!), leading to a huge purple heart, pierced by a silver arrow. The rest was color wheel and depth, and we won the Orchid Digest Award for best Amateur display! Thank You to plant loaners Joyce Young, Tina Balog, Lee Drescher and Peter Cochrane. It looks like Dr. Joyce got 2 Blues for her great Nobile Hybrid Dendrobiums. – Awards list when available. Tom Greg
Second Warning: The March meeting is at 12:30 PM, NOT 1:30 PM

The Amherst Orchid Society Show 2014 went off without a hitch; no snow or rain to impede our set up. I had the help of Cathy Frewore, expert labeler and judging tag placer. Our Publicity person Joan Kozar provided transport for orchids and props. Together we created a wonderful container display using three small statues of mythical creatures. Tom's big green Cymbidium (Eaglewood 'Kana') received best Cym. in show and he received a Clay Trout Pot as an award. Thank you Dr. Tom, Mike Lincoln and Alison Arrout for letting me borrow your plants Dr. Joyce contributed several lovely plants as well and attended the show both days sitting by our display answering questions. Kelley Grinnan and her Mom helped pack and stuff my car full of orchids for the return trip on a nice warm Sunday afternoon - can't beat that for luck. Thank you all for your help with the Amherst Show! --- Tina


Second Warning: The March meeting is at 12:30 PM, NOT 1:30 PM

Annual Membership: New and Renewal Pay, or orchid depression may set in!

Membership dues annually, starting in Jan. 2014 = $20.00
Each additional member at same address is only $10.00 more.
Please mail this form along with a check payable to CAIOS to:
Tom Gregg
26 Pond Road
Falmouth, MA 02332-5206
(Or -- return to any CAIOS Officer at meetings)

Name(s): ________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________

Telephone*: ________________________________ Cellphone*: ________________________________

Email*: __________________________ Email*: __________________________

Snail Mail*: __________________________

Newsletter preference: (Please check one)

**Use for Newsletter and any correspondence, late breaking news, faster, saves CAIOS postage and color will look better)

**Optional