



Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2023 Issue

January 2023 President's Message

Happy Holidays!

It was so nice to see your faces at our annual holiday party! Much thanks to Tobie, aided by Sheila and Kathy! The room looked lovely and very festive. Thanks to Joan and David for the delicious main dish. The meat was cooked perfectly and obviously very tasty. We ate it all! As I looked around I missed faces from our past gatherings and welcome new members. Our club is not just surviving but thriving with members old and new. Our club participated in the NJOS orchid show January 13-15. Great Team effort by all CJOS members for their help, especially Shirley Li for her design work with the assistance of Bol. Thank you Tobie for all the initial Prep Work. Also, thanks to George Guzikowski, Jeff Tyron, and Paul Skalka for their help with transporting plants and display materials.

Happy Growing!
Anne Skalka

New Meeting Location 6:30

(Meeting will start at 7:00PM)

**Trinity Church, 33 Mercer St, Princeton, NJ
08540-6893. See pages 16-19 to help you
locate the new meeting site**



Orchid of the Month

**Vanda Trevor
Rathbone**

Joe Thomas

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Directions**

New Meeting Location
Trinity Church 33 Mercer St,
Princeton, NJ 08540-6893

May: TBA

June: TBA

Meetings and Events 2023

Arrive at 6:30.

Meeting will start at 7:00PM

Meetings are held the **Third Thursday** of the month.

October: Greg Griffis
Achieving Orchid Excellence

Nov: Kim Feddersen
Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids

Dec: Holiday Party

Jan: David Off (Waldor Orchids)

Feb: TBA

March: TBA

April: TBA

Officers and Committees:

President - Anne Skalka

Vice President – Jaymie Santiago

Treasurer/Membership – Michelle Thomas

Corresponding/Recording Secretary -Tobie Parnett

Editor Newsletter - Ed Frankel
CJOSnewsletter@gmail.com

George Wallace – Web Master

Jeff Tyron – CJOs Photographer

Details (Maps and Pictures) of New Meeting Location on Pages 16-19

CJOS Members Show Table

Cattleya

**1. BLC Pink Empress
Jim Murtha**



**2. BLC Chia Lin
Jim Murtha**



**3. B Venosa x B Nodosa
Jim Murtha**

Dendrobium/Oncidium

1. Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite
Shirley Li



2. Oncidium Twinkle Pinky
Shirley Li

3. Den NOID
Yuliya Brona



Paphs/Phrags

**1. Paph Enzan Fruit Hsiao
x Paph Spicerianum
Joe Thomas**



**2. Paph Doctor Toot
Shirley Li**

Vanda/Phals

**1. Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset
Joe Thomas**



**2. Vanda Paki
Jeff Tyron**



**3. Phal Kuntrarti 'rarashati'
Michelle Thomas**

Other

1. Spathoglottis NOID
John Bryan



Species



1. Oncidium sotoanum
Shirley Li

2. Masdevallia dunstervillei
John Bryan



Orchid of the Month

Vanda Trevor Rathbone
Joe Thomas



Important Show Table information!

A document is attached to the email which sends this newsletter. Now you can fill out your show table card at home. This will save you time and you can hopefully print better (more legibly) for the judges to read and record.

How Do You Grow?

Each month, I would like to show a members growing methods/conditions. Please send me pictures of your growing conditions (summer/winter) CJOSNewsletter@gmail.com. Let's see some pictures of your growing space.

North Jersey Orchid Society 2023 Show

January 13-15 2023

CJOS Display at NJOS

Thank you, Anne Skalka for coordinating and overseeing the display.



Deep Cut Orchid Society 24th Annual Orchid Show February 3rd-5th, 2023

Dearborn Market

2170 Route 35 South, Holmdel, NJ

Fri-Sat 9am to 6pm

Sun 9am to 4:30pm



FREE admission, free parking, food on premises

Exquisite Orchid Displays, FREE lectures

AOS Judging Friday, Feb 3rd



Participating Orchid Vendors

Dearborn Market

Ecuagenera

Fair Orchids

J&L Orchids

Main Street Orchids

Orchid Classics

Silva Orchids

Waldor Orchids

White Plains Orchids

Woodstream Orchids



deepcutorchidsociety.org/show

CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

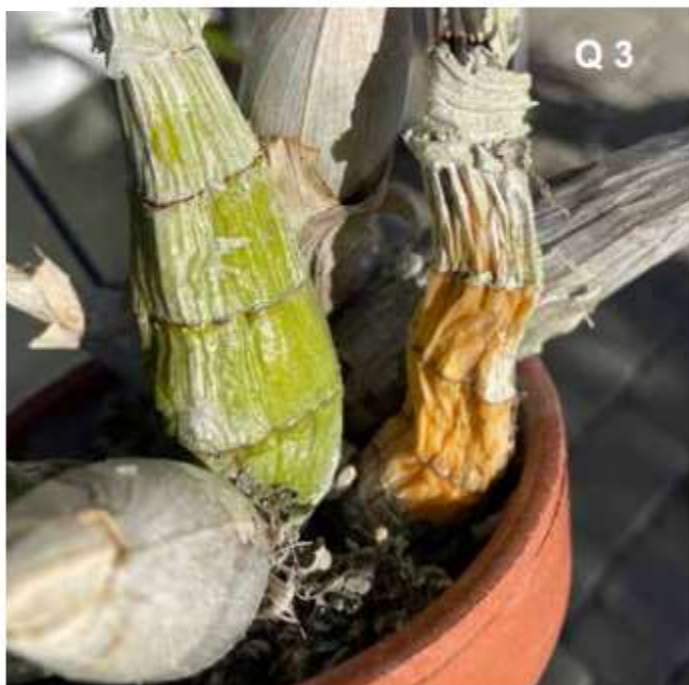
by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. The leaves on this phalaenopsis orchid are turning yellow. Is that normal? I water it once a week. Thanks for any advice you can give.

A1 It's not abnormal to lose a bottom leaf on a phal, even two, if it happens slowly and they just drop off. But, this looks like it's happening quickly and you're losing the bottom two leaves plus another pretty quickly, so that suggests there's a problem. The leaves are also yellowing from the stem outward, suggesting a problem with the central crown. You better knock it out of the pot and check the roots. You may find the crown is disintegrating, in which case the plant is probably a goner, or you may find the roots are in rough shape, in which case you may be able to rehab it. Send a pic of the plant once you've knocked it out of the pot. Barbara sent pics, the roots looked good but the crown was rotting, probably collar rot, also known as Southern Blight, so the last rites were administered.

Q2 I'm doing winter prep and a couple of my catasetum have yellow sort of mushy shoots. Should I just cut them off? I'm afraid of leaving them until spring for fear the others will get infected.

A2 I cut away any rotten back bulbs. It is some sort of rot.





Winter Light Levels

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

This month includes the shortest day of the year and a time when the sun is at its lowest angle. Even here in Florida, the shade cloth is totally off my greenhouse and has been for two months.

For the past month or so some rearranging of orchids was necessary to maximize growth and avoid

potential leaf burn. Jewel Orchids were moved into corners previously occupied by phals and other lower light-loving orchids because this area had become very shady. Jewel Orchid's leaves actually develop better color under lower light, making them better exhibition plants for the upcoming winter orchid shows. Conversely, other orchids located in places that did not receive direct light are now feeling the direct rays of the sun through one side of the greenhouse. While they did not burn, leaves on some phals were yellowed indicating more light than they might like.

This same phenomenon, i.e., light coming from a new direction, is a good reason for those windowsill growers to examine their orchids as well for both excess light and too little light. While temperatures here in Florida are not likely to cause cold damage close to windows, it can be a concern further north or if windows are poorly insulated. Typically, damage is not significant enough to cause plant death, but can cause flower buds to drop.

One group of hobbyists does not have to worry about light angle or windows: under-light growers. They have another issue however, a need to alter day length to simulate the winter solstice. Many orchids depend not on the length of day, but on the change in day length. It will be equally important to begin increasing day length in January as this is the cue for the orchids to initiate some part of their life cycle.

The first phal flowers should be opening this month if you were successful at initiating spikes with cool nights a few months ago. Multifloral paphs with mature growths are putting up spikes now too. They appreciate a little more light than most other paphs and may also need to be moved into a better location.

These paphs are also initiating new growths. While a reduction in watering and fertilizing is warranted for both of these groups of orchids, do not stop altogether. If you water weakly, weekly, maintain the same fertilizer level. The reduction in watering will automatically reduce the total quantity of fertilizer you apply.



It is always surprising to see high light, hot loving vandas not only growing, but putting up flower spikes in winter. They seem to handle cool nights in the mid to upper 50s with no impact as long as the day temperature warms into the upper 70s or 80s. Over the years, I have noticed that these warm loving orchids continue their growth with new leaves and roots until there is an extended cold period with little light to warm the greenhouse during the day. I continue my regular fertilizing of vandas until I notice new, green root tips disappearing. Only then do I stop weekly fertilizing and do not fertilize again until they show new root growth.

Mostly, this time of year is a great time to relax and enjoy the myriads of species and hybrids that flower this time of year. If you are lucky, Santa might even bring you a gift certificate to your favorite orchid nursery.



Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from December 2009.

Shooting Stars and Everlastings

by Ken Slump, courtesy of the American Orchid Society

It is interesting to consider how long any flower should or could last if it is not cut from the plant. Certainly, the stems, roots and foliage of most plants are much more durable than their flowers. When you think of such temperate plants as the tulip, crabapple or rose, perhaps a week at peak bloom is all you can hope for, or maybe 10 days if the weather is favorable.

Of course, the effective life of any particular blossom or inflorescence varies considerably throughout the plant kingdom. The range may be demonstrated by familiar examples, such as the daylily (*Hemerocallis* cultivars), with blossoms that last for only a day or so, to the straw flower (*Helichrysum* species), which produces flowers with vivid bracts that effectively retain their color indefinitely when dried.

It is probably safe to say that most of the orchids popular with hobbyists produce flowers that are at their most beautiful stage for a week or perhaps two. Yet orchid

flowers show considerable diversity in floral life as well. While none may be quite so durable as the straw flower, some orchids produce flowers that are effective for weeks or even months, while others, as does the daylily, last just a day.

A couple of orchid genera quickly come to mind when one considers flowers of particularly brief duration. Even though their flowers are fleeting, both enjoy popularity. The Cattleya alliance genus *Sobralia* is a prime example. There are about 100 species described. The plants are mostly terrestrial and are native to tropical regions in Central and South America. Their canelike stems typically mass into a shrubby habit. Among the species, plant stature varies from 2 or 3 feet in height to some that tower 9 to 12 feet tall.

Many *Sobralia* species produce flowers that are large, showy and colorful. For a few years, I have been trying to cultivate a half dozen species in the landscape of my subtropical garden in South Florida. Even though it would be a stretch to say that they have thrived, a couple of them produced a number of blossoms this past summer. *Sobralia decora* has performed the best. My cultivar has



Stanhoepa Lydia Bush

Continued from page 8

a pale violet-pink coloration rather different from others I have seen. I was particularly pleased when my *Sobralia leucoxantha* flowered. Its large white flowers are accented by bright yellow in the throat of the lip and, indeed, are reminiscent of a white cattleya. Both of these species' flowers last just a day, but each inflorescence produces a succession of them.

Sobralias generally do best in semi-shaded intermediate conditions. They need to be kept moist in the root zone, which may be my primary difficulty with them, as my soil is sandy. I am considering moving the ones I have back to pots. Friends have told me that they have had good success growing them here in a mix formulated for terrestrial orchids.

Stanhopea is another genus of evanescent orchids. What they lack in floral longevity, however, is more than compensated by their floral intrigue. There are more than 50 species that range from Mexico to Brazil. They are epiphytic and most will thrive in intermediate conditions. Open wire baskets, lined with sphagnum, suit them best, as many inflorescences are produced basally and project downward. The flowers of *stanhopeas* must be seen to be believed. They are among the most amazing of all orchids and defy description. Most last but a day or two, and many are fragrant. Nearly any of the species makes a worthy horticultural subject and every orchid grower should try at least one. For me, the bold coloration and large flowers of *Stanhopea tigrina* are hard to beat.

When it comes to floral longevity, few orchids can outperform contemporary *phalaenopsis* hybrids. I have enjoyed some for more than three months. That is not to imply that each flower lasts that long; however, from the time the first flowers open until the last of an inflorescence fades can easily span most of a season. Indeed, the human eye, which seems to thrive on fresh images, can begin to tire of such long-lasting flowers before they are spent.

The *Dendrobium* branch of the orchid family also includes some with durable blossoms. Interestingly, some of the longest lasting are the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* types from Section *Phalaenanthus* that today are generally considered varieties of the *Dendrobium bigibbum* complex. The parent species are found in New Guinea and Australia and their flowers resemble small *phalaenopsis* blooms. Flower color varies from purple to pink and white. Horticulturally, they require bright light, warm conditions and a dry winter rest. Keep them tightly potted or grow them on slabs. Most of their inflorescences are beautiful for easily a month or more.

Another group of *dendrobiums* with long-lasting flowers is Section *Latouria*. This clan includes about 50 species ranging from the Philippines to Samoa, the majority of which are found in New Guinea. Many have closely spaced



spindle- or club-shaped pseudobulbs with the foliage and flowers produced near their ends. The flowers of some of the larger-flowered species within this group tend to be nodding and they often have petals that are twisted. In recent years, selective breeding has produced considerable improvement in both flower form and carriage. Many of the hybrids are tolerant of a variety of conditions so long as the light is filtered and the plants are kept somewhat moist. Flowers are said to last six to 10 weeks or more on many of them. The hybrid *Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga* (*atroviolaceum* X *Johnsoniae*) is a good example.

But it is not just genetics that makes a flower long lasting or not. Nutritional and environmental conditions affect floral longevity as well. Excessively hot and dry conditions will usually shorten flower life. Somewhat cooler, humid environments will generally encourage blossoms to last a few days longer. A plant that is nutritionally deprived will often produce short-lived flowers, if it flowers at all. This was brought home to me with my plant of *Vanda Pachara Delight* (*Karulea* x *Gordon Dillon*).

I do not grow many *vandas* because I tend to lack the time and dedication needed to provide the daily watering and regular fertilization that makes them thrive. My *V. Pachara Delight* was a gift a few years ago and seems to be a game little plant as it regularly produced a spray of five or six dark violet flowers that lasted about 10 days, despite my neglect. Last spring, I resolved to take better care of the plant and upped my commitment to its moisture and nutritional needs. The change was dramatic. The plant began to develop sturdier roots and more of them. Its last flowering produced an inflorescence of nine blossoms that were beautiful for about three weeks.

Perhaps some day, through botanical gene therapy, we can have a *stanhopea* flower that lasts as long as a *phalaenopsis*. Until then, look after the environmental and nutritional needs of your orchids as well as you can, so that the flowers they produce will last as long as possible.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in December 2009 (Vol.78:12, pp.692-693).



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.



Upcoming Webinars



DRACULA.....Whimsical Monsters of the Orchid World

Tom Etheridge



Thursday, March 16th, 2023
8:30 PM EDT

Join Tom Etheridge, AOS judge and former trustee and officer, as he takes us through the mysterious world of Draculas. See why they are named "Dracula."



The Culture Grid: A simplified Approach to Cultural Diversity in Orchids

Catherine Higgins



Tuesday, February 28th, 2023
8:30 PM EDT

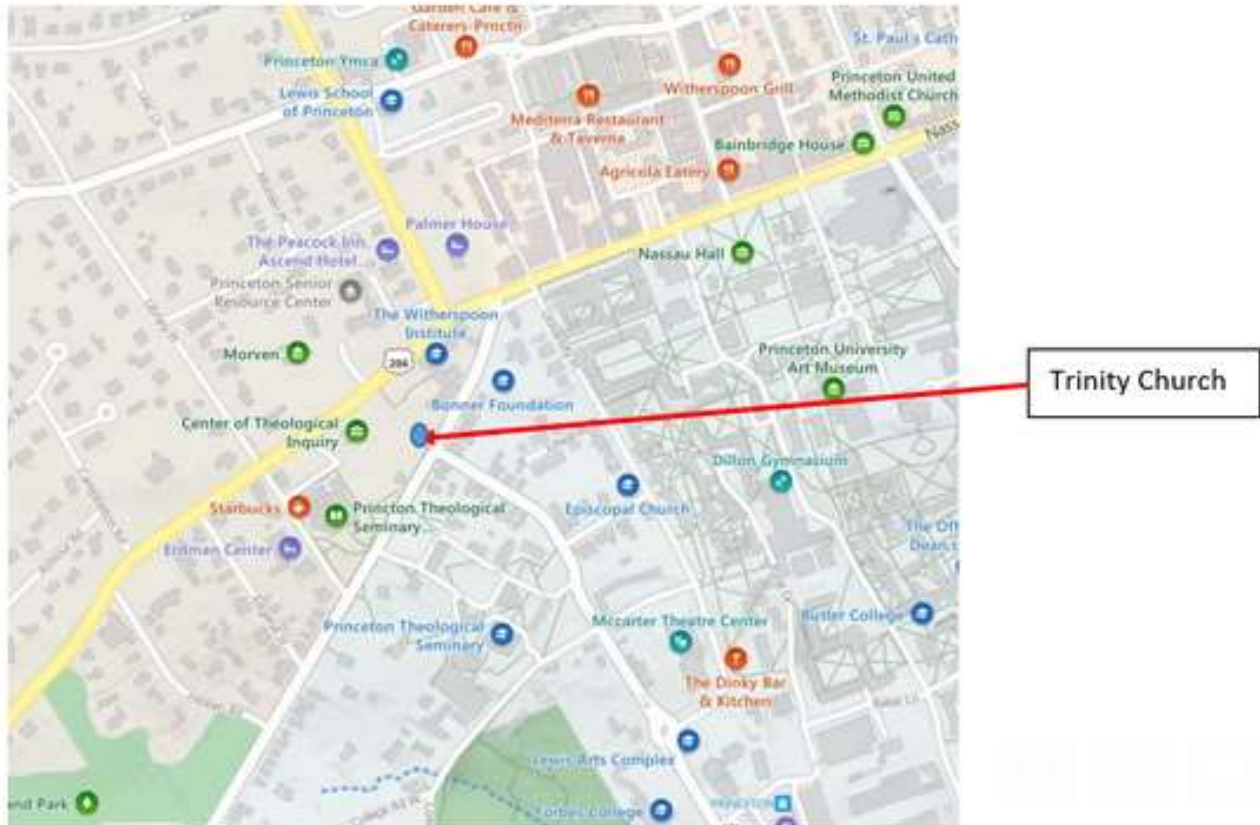
Join Catherine Higgins, AOS judge and AOS Trustee, to hear about an interesting way to consider all the diverse cultural requirements and diversity in orchids.

Go to [AOS.org](https://www.aos.org) for information on orchid culture and care. While you are visting their site, please join AOS. Support this worthy organization.

New Meeting Location

Trinity Church 33 Mercer St, Princeton, NJ 08540-6893 (using 47 Mercer St for GPS may pinpoint the parking lot better)

Here are some map locations and pictures (next few pages) to help find the new location. Here is one of the easiest ways to pin point the new meeting location: It is almost directly opposite Alexander Rd. Since it will probably be dark, I have included a few night time pictures of the meeting location.





Church Entrance

Church Parking Lot



Church Entrance

Night Time pictures of meeting location



This view is looking south on Mercer St (away from downtown Princeton) note the crosswalk just before the entrance to the Parking lot.



This view is looking north on Mercer St (toward downtown Princeton)



This view is in the parking lot facing toward the meeting entrance door.



This view is the door (the one that is brightly lit, straight ahead) for the meeting entrance