



# Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

June 2020 Issue

## June 2020 President's Message

Tonight we had a June CJOS "get together" with 16 participants. We would have had more but downed trees limited with loss of power limited the attendance. We all had a fine time showing our blooming orchids and chatting. All in all it was a great hour.

Our CJOS issue in the winter now seems to be of such miniscule importance compared to the COVID pandemic and the recent massive protests occurring all over the country. Life used to be much simpler. Now all is in chaos and I believe will never be the same again.

Luckily we have our orchids and the great pleasure they provide to all of us. Everyone on the chat was so happy to share their orchid triumphs. I certainly hope that soon we will not have to meet virtually but in person even if we still have to continue social distancing. I am hopeful that we might be able to have our annual CJOS picnic in July or August. We will just have to wait and see how things evolve.

As I mentioned in previous communications the discussion of the proposed new bylaws will have to wait until we can have a formal meeting, whenever that is. It appears that I will remain your president for several more months. It has been a pleasure to serve you and I will continue to do my best for CJOS during these difficult times.

**Editors note:** Please think about helping our fellow orchid growers and suppliers. Check

with other CJOS members to get their insights of their experience with growers that they have purchased plants and supplies.

**From May 2020 AOS Magazine Author/designer  
Segey Skoropad**

**The Art of Orchids Jewelry: Part 1  
Joan and David got a mention for their Mitoniopsis**



**"[6] Miltoniopsis Joan Rosenfeld 'April Waterfall'  
AM/AOS exhibited by Joan and David Rosenfeld in  
April 2017"**

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## Meetings and Events 2019-2020

Meetings, 7:00pm, are held the first Wednesday of the month at the at the Johnson Education Center (D&R Greenway Land Trust) One Preservation Place Princeton, NJ 08540

**Sept:** Ed Weber: Topic TBA

**Oct** Wayne Hollenbach Topic TBA

**Nov:** Richard Ho: Mounting orchids and their Care.

**Dec:** Holiday Party

**Jan:** David Off of Waldor Orchids

**Feb:** Bayard Saraduke

**March:** David Rosenfeld **WHO WERE THESE GUYS: 19TH CENTURY ORCHID PERSONALITIES.**

## **Apr: Meeting Canceled: D&R Greenway Building Closed**

Event will be rescheduled if possible - Potting party / panel discussion.

**May: ?**

**June: ?**

## Officers and Committee's:

President -David Rosenfeld  
[orchiddoc@comcast.net](mailto:orchiddoc@comcast.net)

Vice President -TBA

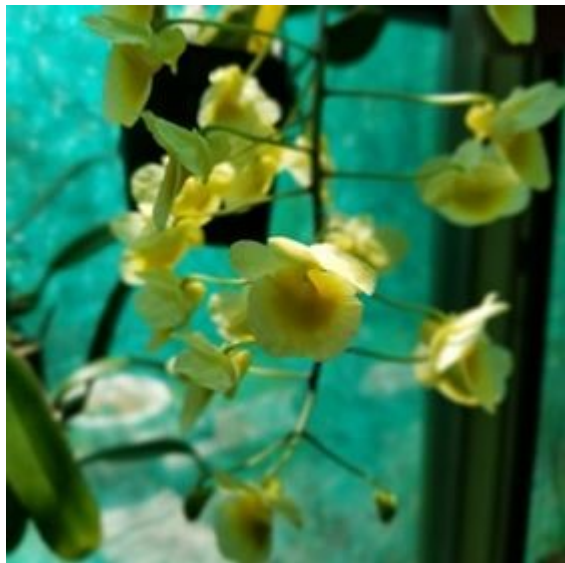
Treasurer/Secretary -Anne Skalka  
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Refreshments – Joy Gabriel  
[joy.a.gabriel76@gmail.com](mailto:joy.a.gabriel76@gmail.com)

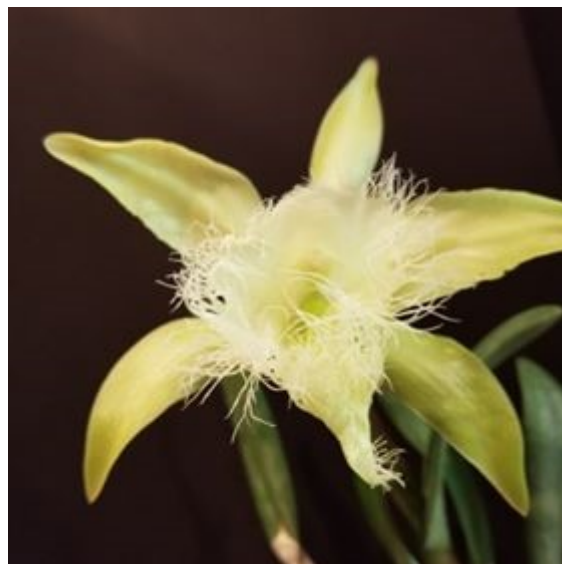
Editor Newsletter- Ed Frankel  
[Edsharkf@yahoo.com](mailto:Edsharkf@yahoo.com)

# Members Show Table

Anne Skalka



D. Aggregatum



digbyana



paph.roth crown 3 x sanderianum # 9



Purpurata Carnea



**Xiang Li**



**Milt Point des Pas**



**Phal stuartiana tipo**



**Phrag Hanne Popow**

**Renee Jolley**



**Paph Yi-Yang Twinkling Stars x  
Paph Enzan Red Hunting**

**Roz Greenberg**



**Paph fairia**



**Paph wardii fumaJ.P. x  
ablum SU 5172 Mrs White**



## David Carrick



**Bifrenaria Harrisoniae**



**Cat. Everett Dirksen**



**Iwanagaza Apple Blossom**



**Oncda Hula Halau 'Volcano Queen'**



**Pot. Golden Circle "OPRL" x Lc Tokyo Magic '6-1' AM AOS**



**Group of Phal NOID's**

## Ed and Pam Frankel

Hardy  
Terrestrial  
Orchid  
Bletilla



Pot. HSINYING PINK DOLL 'HSINYING'

## David and Joan Rosenfeld



*L. purpurata* (v. *striata* 'Doraci' HCC x v. *flamea* 'Jean' AM)



**Jeff Tryon**



Leptodes bicolor



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## LONGWOOD GARDENS



### Online Courses

*Students from across the globe can take online courses through Longwood Gardens!*



#### Everything About Orchids

Now—January 19, 2021

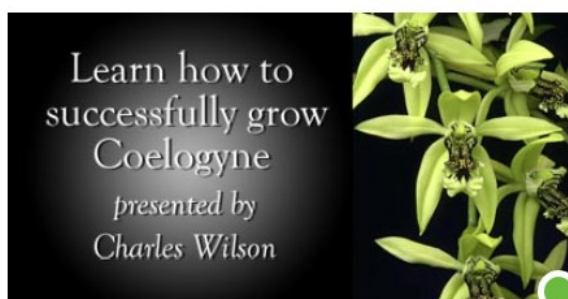
Free Online Course. Learn about our collection and enjoy orchids in your own home.

<https://longwoodgardens.org/events-performances/events/everything-about-orchids-online-open-class>





## Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members



### Coelogyne culture

Charles Wilson



Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020  
8:30pm EDT



### Greenhouse Chat July 2020

Ron McHatton



Tuesday, July 14th, 2020  
8:30pm EDT

**Please support the American Orchid Society (AOS)**  
**Become a member there are so many benefits and you are supporting**  
**a great cause.**

**JOIN at AOS.ORG**

**Go to their website and see all the valuable information the Society**  
**provides**

### **How Do You Grow?**

Each month, I would like to show a member's growing methods/conditions. We started with ours. Please send me pictures of your growing conditions (summer/winter) [edsharkf@yahoo.com](mailto:edsharkf@yahoo.com) No submission this month. Let's get some pictures of your growing space

# The following is reprinted from the St Augustine Orchid Society

## CULTIVATION

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### Summer Begins

by Courtney Hackney

Summer officially arrives later this month along with the longest day and the most intense sunlight. Even the most sun loving Orchids now need protection from the midday radiation. Heat and light also mean that plants are using more water and growing at rates not seen for many months. No

matter what kind of Orchids you grow, now is the time to increase water and fertilizer.

Most Cattleyas have new growths developing. Be careful as you apply fertilizer not to overuse Nitrogen, as it will lead to weak growth that is susceptible to rots later on. What is a high N fertilizer. Generally, if the first number in a fertilizer formula is the highest of the three it is considered high N. For most fertilizers, the first number is deceptive because it describes total Nitrogen instead of useable N. If the formula says 30-10-10, the implication is that there is three times the available N compared to the second, which is Phosphorus. If, however, the N is composed mostly of Urea, then the number is lower because Urea is not directly available to Orchids and only becomes available if bacteria associated with the media convert it to other forms.

In the past, fertilizers I have used with even numbers have led to poor growth because they actually contained little available Nitrogen. Look for fertilizers that contain either Nitrate or Ammonia, as these are directly available to Orchids. The most important point is not to use fertilizers in concentrations too high and to flush thoroughly once a month, especially in the summer. Use fertilizer weakly, weekly for best growth.

Repotting can be safely done for most Orchid genera with the exception of a few tricky species. The ideal time to repot is always when plants are growing so that they will be re-established with fully functional root systems when fall arrives. Some Orchids flower in summer, leaving novices questioning if they should repot. A healthy plant can be repotted while flowering and may need to be repotted then. *Cattleya bicolor* is usually in bloom when it begins to grow new roots. This and most other bifoliate Cattleyas must be repotted when they get new roots, even if in flower.

Last year, I had several Paphs in flower when repotting was done. Several were repotted while in flower and others left in the pot and were repotted when they finished blooming. A third group was left in the pot and a teaspoon

of lime added on the surface of the media. The first two groups were similar in growth and flowering a year later, while the last was clearly harmed by being left an additional six months in the same media. Different media may yield different results, but clearly repotting when in flower did no harm.

Vandas and similar genera are in their glory now with high temperature and humidity. Several years ago, I discovered that *Rhynchostylis* species and hybrids close to these species preferred to be shaded more than their vandaceous cousins during the heat of the summer. Other cool loving genera can also stand more heat if light levels are reduced.

Spider mites have ceased to be a problem unless you grow inside where air conditioners reduce humidity. Unfortunately, scale, mealybugs, and other pests reproduce rapidly and need to be controlled. Rusts (related to fungi) affect a few genera of Orchids and appear on thin-leaved orchids such as members of the *Catasetum* group. It can be controlled with sprays, but is less of a problem if good air circulation and water low in solids are provided. It is important to address problems quickly this time of year as pests multiply rapidly along with your Orchids.

Orchid growers, like many others, are interested in using less pesticides and continually looking for natural ways to control pests. Greenhouses contain an array of insects and other animals, some of which are pests and others that are simply enjoying greenhouse conditions. The presence of frogs and toads suggests that there is an adequate food supply of insects. Are pill bugs an important pest? What about roaches? Most insects have some potential to cause damage and must be watched, but the presence of a greenhouse totally free of animal life is more disturbing than the pests themselves. The trick is to find that happy medium.

Almost every year a "new" treatment emerges that is theoretically less harmful to the environment. One year it was light oil, the next Neem oil and so on. The introduction of each new product initiates a flush of excitement that becomes tempered with reality within a year or so. Each new product seems to work well under certain circumstances, but none has proven to be the "magic bullet" that will solve all orchid growers problems. No matter what new product comes along, the best approach is to maintain healthy conditions with good air circulation, adequate spacing, appropriate humidity, and constant vigilance.

*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 June 2002.*

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## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

**Q1.** I have several paphs that are doing well except for a few. The upper plant seems healthy but the lower part had some past problems. Should I cut off weak leaves and plant deeper in the pot?



**A1.** Follow your instincts. The older part of the plant looks tired, cut away damaged leaves and degraded roots below the soil line, and yes deeper in the pot. Clean up the plant, spray the stem with a root stimulator, let it dry and then repot. Think about your potting mix, are all your paphs in the same mix and if not, do some do better in one mix or another? Jim Krull at Krull Smith told me to add like 5% ProMix into the mix for more water retention. Courtney also top dresses with Dolomite.

**Q2.** Do these little orange crawling creatures look familiar? They are an infestation.



**A2.** Those are aphids. I get them on my garden plants, particularly the milkweed. In the garden I would just knock them off with a spray from the hose, but on my orchids I'd be tempted to spray with isopropyl alcohol or one of the pesticides. The problem with aphids is that they can have broods of 60 to 100 offspring every day, so they can be present in enormous numbers. I would suspect that there is some plant in your garden that is infested, and some have just moved over to the tender new growth on the catasetum. Search out the mother lode and destroy!

**Q3.** I made this basket to repot my stanhopea, and I was thinking metal baskets may be a better (and cheaper) alternative to the usual wood baskets for my other basketed orchids, with a liner for containing the medium, of course. Is there any downside to doing that?



**A3.** If there is a problem, I don't know about it. That is what I use for stanhopeas. I put the stanhopeas on a thin layer of sphagnum moss with no liner. If you use a coarse media, you can use a thin layer of coconut fiber, but be careful using the coconut liners they sell for wire baskets cause there is a thin layer of plastic in the middle that will prevent the blooms from emerging through the bottom of the basket. Barney Greer's book *The Astonishing Stanhopeas* says some of the Aussie growers even use four sheets of newspaper as the liner.



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## The Usual Suspects – Common Orchid Pests

by Sue Bottom

Certain plants just seem to be prone to attack by certain pests. If you grow cattleyas, you battle scale infestations. Grammatophyllums are mite magnets. This article highlights the most common pests and their favorite orchids, along with some tips for eliminating them.

**Scale on Cattleyas.** Every cattleya grower has to be on the lookout for scale, particularly the white Boisduval scale. Mature males are cottony white masses while the mature females lay their eggs under whitish circular shields. The crawlers are the nymph state that emerge from under the shield until they find their new home.

The females love to find hiding places on the plant so they can attach themselves and suck the sap and vitality out of the plant. The leaf axil and base of the pseudobulb are favorite hiding places. They can grow and multiply unseen under the papery sheaths until they do such damage that the tissue becomes chlorotic and ultimately necrotic and dies. They can ruin the developing eyes on new growths.

Vigilance is critical to catching the problem early. If you see yellowing on leaves and pseudobulbs, start investigating. Pull down the papery sheath on your cattleyas and look underneath. Look at the undersides of leaves with chlorotic spotting. If you find scale, prepare for war.

If you have just a few plants, you can water jet away the majority of the scale with a hose end sprayer set on flat. Then get to work with some isopropyl alcohol and a Q-tip to wipe away what remains. Some growers mix up a home brew concoction of 1 part isopropyl alcohol, 1 part Formula 409 or Fantastik cleaning solution and 2 parts water and spray that on their orchids. There are also some pesticides available at nurseries and big box stores that can be used, like Malathion or one of the products containing the active ingredient Imidacloprid. Imidacloprid products can be applied as a drench, poured through the pot with your fertilizer, where it is absorbed through the roots to protect the plant from the inside out. All of these techniques will require reapplication several times at two week intervals.

If you grow many cattleyas and really want to eradicate scale from your collection, invest in the broad spectrum pesticide Safari and the insect growth regulator Distance. Safari will kill the live adult scale and Distance will prevent any juveniles that survive the Safari from maturing. You may have to reapply this combo at 6 month intervals, but your cattleyas will thank you with a profusion of blooms.

Of course, there are other types of scale, including the soft brown scale that often appears on phalaenopsis and phalaenopsis flowers, or the armored scale that can appear on different varieties of orchids. If you see an

unusual raised spot on your orchids, try rubbing it off with a soft cloth or Q-tip. If you confirm that it is one of the scale insects, your treatment options are the same as for the troublesome Boisduval scale on cattleyas.

**Mealybugs on Phals and Paphs.** Mealybugs are close relatives of scale that seem to gravitate to hiding places on phals and paphs. They can be found at the junction of the leaf and stem, crawling up the inflorescence, on flowers and even on the roots. They are very difficult to eradicate once they are in your growing area. If they have infested the roots, remove the plant from the pot, spray the roots and repot in fresh media. The treatment options are basically the same as scale. You will have the greatest success with systemic products that protect the plant from the inside out, in that mealybugs find obscure crevices difficult to reach with pesticides. Mealybugs will attack other genera of orchids, not to mention many of your landscape plants. During the growing season, mealybugs seem to come into the greenhouse from the outside environment and settle on the tender new cattleya growths.

**Mites and the Mite Magnets.** Mites seem to gravitate to certain types of orchids, Grammatophyllums, Dendrobiums, Catasetums and many of the thin leaved orchids. There are several kinds of mites, the most common being red spider mites that typically feed on the underside of the leaves. A hand lens may be needed to see the mites as small, red to brown pests scurrying around on leaf undersides. The upper surface of a damaged leaf may have a silvery sheen that eventually becomes sunken and turns brown. Leaves may be streaked, stippled or spotted due to lack of chlorophyll. A diagnostic test is rubbing a white Kleenex along the leaf undersides, and finding reddish brown splashes from the mites.

Mites are not insects, they are members of the arachnid family, so insecticides are ineffective. There are home cures, typically involving some combination of water, dish soap and isopropyl alcohol or water and vegetable or light summer oil. Effective miticides for ornamental use include those containing the active ingredients abamectin (Avid), bifenthrin (Talstar) and fluvalinate (Mavrik).

There are also the less common flat or false spider mites in the Tenuipalpidae family that often feed on the upper surfaces of leaves creating a pock-marked appearance from empty and collapsed leaf cells. Flat mite feeding on thin leaves, especially the underside, is similar to the stippling caused by spider mites, but there is no webbing. Broad mites in the Tarsonemidae family are microscopic in size and the initial symptom is chlorotic discoloration. These types of mites seem to gravitate to Phalaenopsis. They are virtually impossible to see and only certain miticides are effective against them.



**Demon Thrips.** Unlike the other pests that seem to have favorite host plants, thrips are indiscriminate feeders, attracted to the tender new leaves, buds and flowers of your orchids as well as landscape plants, like gardenias, citrus, roses, vegetables and flowering plants. Infested buds can become dried and blast, flowers can be deformed with burnt or water soaked spots, leaves can be stippled and roots girdled.

Thrips are the most difficult to control of all the pests because they can fly from plant to plant and hide within flower parts making them hard to see or reach with pesticides. Orchids and landscape plants can be sprayed with pesticides like Orthene or Malathion and the stronger

chemicals like Talstar, Avid or imidacloprid products. Conserve is another alternative that can be sprayed directly on the flower, as can Orthene. If you are prone to thrips, you can just spray the buds and flowers twice a week using a pump up sprayer or spray bottle.

Except possibly for thrips, preventative spraying for your typical orchid pests is unnecessary. Learn to recognize the sign of damage they cause to your plants. Keep a loupe or magnifier handy in your growing area. If you see something that doesn't look right, inspect the plant, looking at both sides of the leaf. If you find a problem, treat it quickly using your poison of choice, and never forget to protect yourself from the chemicals you keep in your arsenal.



*The area in and under the leaf axil and the area under the papery sheath are favorite hiding places for scale.*



*If you see chlorotic spotting on the upper leaf surface, your first reaction should be to turn the leaf over.*



*You can see the scale on the leaf undersides, at the exact location of the chlorotic spotting on the upper surfaces.*



*Mealybugs dine on roots too, beware!*



*Mealybugs feeding on tender Psychopsis flower.*



*Red spider mites are much easier to see if you are looking through a microscope.*



*Characteristic stippling on dendrobium leaf lower surface from red spider mite.*



*It is easier to see the thrips damage where the leaf is burned than the many thrips crawling around on this flower.*



*Thrips have been feeding on these flower buds ruining them before they have a chance to open.*