



Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

November 2025

President's Message

Dear members

It's been a bit of a rocky start to the year, but it was wonderful to see those members who came out for our plant swap and general meeting. Your presence and enthusiasm remind us why our society is so special — a group of people brought together by a shared love of orchids and the joy of learning from one another.

We have a few exciting things coming up! Our next meeting will feature a virtual presentation from **Nicholas Rust** on *Habenaria Orchids*, and as always, we'll have our plant table and plenty of time to share growing tips and experiences. We're also happy to welcome **TAIDA Orchids**, who will be attending the meeting to sell orchids!

I also want to assure everyone that your concerns have **not** fallen on deaf ears — we're working on bringing back **raffle plants**. In addition, our **annual holiday party** is just around the corner, and we'll be looking for volunteers to help plan and make it another memorable evening.

As we move forward, we're continuing to make small adjustments to how we run our meetings to ensure they remain engaging and enjoyable for everyone. Teamwork and participation are what keep our society thriving, so if you have ideas for future programs, events, or ways to improve, please don't hesitate to reach out. **Please consider volunteering to help by chairing events, signing up to bring refreshments, assisting with shows, or lending a hand wherever you can — every bit of help makes a difference.**

We'd also love for members to **volunteer to give presentations** — it's a great way to share what

you've learned, showcase your growing experiences, and get feedback from your fellow orchid enthusiasts. Whether it's a short talk or a full presentation, your knowledge helps all of us grow together as a society.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, dedication, and passion for orchids. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Warm regards,

Chris Bevins

President, Central Jersey Orchid Society



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Meeting Location

Trinity Church 33 Mercer St,
Princeton, NJ 08540-6893

May: TBA

June: CJOS Picnic

Meetings and Events 2023

Arrive at 6:30.

Meeting will start at 7:00PM

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

November: Nicholas Rust (**RustyExotics**)
on **Habenaria Orchids**

December 2024: Holiday Party

January: TBA

February: TBA

March: TBA

April: TBA

Officers and Committees:

President – Chris Bevins

Vice President – George Wallace

Treasurer/Membership – Matt Pagano

**Corresponding/Recording
Secretary** – Danielle Gordon

Editor Newsletter - Ed Frankel

CJOSnewsletter@gmail.com

Web Master – George Wallace

CJOS Photographer – Jeff Tyron

November CJOS Speaker

Nicholas Rust (RustyExotics**)**

RustyExotics Orchids (REO) was founded in 2019 by avid orchid grower and hybridizer, Nicholas Rust. His goal was to provide the public with high quality, unique orchids from his own hybridization program, and that is exactly what we do! He gives special attention to each and every plant out of flask, ensuring only the best, healthiest plants make it to his shelves. He also pays special attention to floral quality by using only exceptional and distinctive cultivars to create his own crosses. All this ensures His plants will not only grow well but will bloom well, too!

He specializes in terrestrial orchids, especially those in the subtribe Habenariinae.

From AOS Website:

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Vanda falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



Upcoming Webinars



Greenhouse Culture and Technology

Manny Aybar



Wednesday, November 12th, 2025
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EDT EST

Greenhouse growing is popular with Orchid Enthusiasts. Come listen to Manny Aybar, an accredited judge in Texas, talk about what it is like growing in a greenhouse, the smart ways to place plants, and all the technology available to help you be a better grower!



Greenhouse Chat January 2026

Ron McHatton



Thursday, January 8th, 2026
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST EST

Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhousechat@aos.org by January 5, 2026.

Go to AOS.org for Webinar links and information on orchid culture and care. While you are visting their site, please join AOS. Support this worthy organization.

I had to steal this and update to an Orchid theme

