



The Fairfield County Orchid Association

June 2008

Newsletter

June Meeting:

The June FCOA meeting will be held at the Westport Public Library – **McManus Room (Lower Level)** on Thursday, June 19, at 7:00 PM.

Website:

www.orchidsct.com

Meeting Schedule:

Meetings are held every other month at the Westport Public Library, 20 Jesup Road, unless noted.

Donation:

A two-dollar donation is welcome at each meeting.

Culture Corner:

Have a question or a problem with your orchid? Ask a pro at our Culture Corner table.

Display Table:

Come and display your orchids. Photos are also welcome if your orchid is not in bloom.

Raffle:

Have any orchids that you would like to donate? We would like to raffle them off at our meeting. Take a chance to win an orchid!

Contact Information:

For more information about the FCOA call:

Dennis Horvath at (203) 847-1268
or
Ben Esselink at (203) 222-1694

June Meeting Location:

We will be holding our meeting in the **McManus Room (Lower Level)**, where we normally meet, not the Seminar Room.

Dick Orr, one of our FCOA members, will give a presentation about his trip collecting orchids in Peru. Dick, who has been growing orchids for more than 30 years, has made numerous trips gathering orchids in many South American countries.

We hope you will be able to come to this meeting to see how orchids actually grow.

April Meeting:

“PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR ORCHIDS” was the topic of our April meeting. Dennis Horvath gave a presentation showing how easy it is to take pictures, with a digital camera, of orchids while they are in bloom. Taking pictures of your orchids is a wonderful way to view them throughout the year, and even show them to family and friends

Future Meetings of the FCOA:

August 21, and October 23. (Both meetings will be held in the McManus Room at the Westport Library.)

J & L Summer Sale:

J and L Orchids will be holding their “Annual Summer Sale” June 27-July 6, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day at their greenhouse at 20 Sherwood Road, Easton, Connecticut (Merritt Parkway, Exit 46). There will be a 15% discount off all stock. Guest vendors Cal-Orchids of Santa Barbara, CA and Orchidophile from Stamford, CT will be there the first weekend.

FCOA Board Position Opening - Secretary:

We still have the position of FCOA Secretary open. This position consists of writing the newsletter every two months and updating member lists. Dennis Horvath will train and mentor you with writing and editing the newsletter. Contact Ben Esselink or Dennis Horvath if you are interested.

Orchid Collector's Database:

If you would like a CD copy of the shareware program that FCOA member, Steve Gorin developed, where you can organize your orchid collection easily, they will be available to members at our June meeting.

Other News:

The Friends of the Farmington Library will be holding their 2008 Garden Tour on Saturday, June 14, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be 7 private houses on the tour, including the home of Sandy Myhakik, a member of the Connecticut Orchid Society, where you can view her orchid room and garden. Sandy teaches orchid classes for the University of Connecticut's master gardener program and her collection consists of over 100 orchids.

Tickets: \$20 in advance, and \$25 day of the tour. Luncheon: \$10 at the Stanley-Whitman House.

For more information call: (860) 673-6791 or (860) 677-6866.

FCOA Board:

JOIN OUR BOARD – WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT.

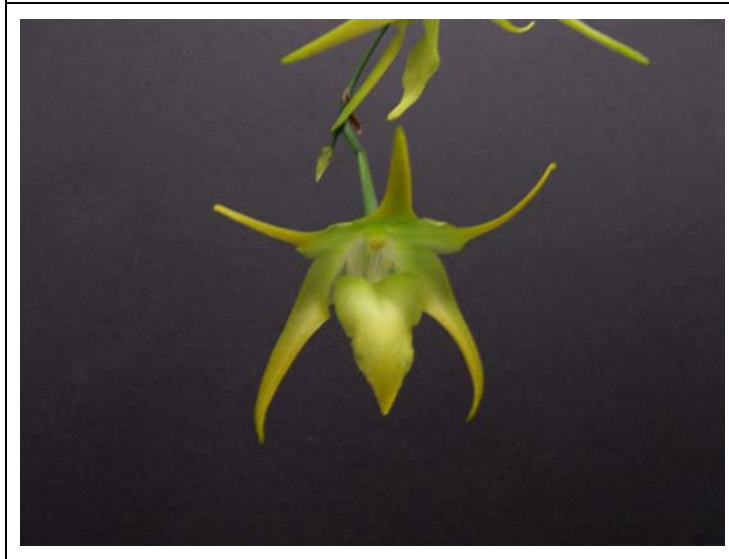


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Some Images from the May Meeting





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PAPHIOPEDILUM: Lady Slipper Orchid

Pronounced: paff-ee-oh-PED-ih-lum



Paph. White King 'Dianne' HCC AOS

Healthy Paphiopedilum start with healthy roots:

- Pot in a fine medium. Fir bark mixtures are best, with 0.5 to 1.0 cm chunks of bark, perlite and charcoal.
- Repot when medium starts to decompose or new growths have reached the edge of the pot. Check for decomposition yearly, on newly purchased plants or if leaves are limp.
- Remove old medium if it is loose and any rotting roots (dark and soft to touch); choose a plastic pot that will only just hold the roots of the plant and center plant in new pot.
- Paphiopedilum require a basic (rather than acidic) mix. This is achieved with extra calcium. If your water does not have a high calcium content, top dress the medium with dolomite lime or crushed oyster shell and replace when it has disappeared.
- Roots should be slightly moist at all times. Water when medium has begun to dry but while it is still damp. Water thoroughly, with a volume of water at least equal to that of the pot.
- Do not use water softened in salt consuming water softeners. Despite the need for extra calcium, low mineral water is preferred, such as naturally soft water or rainwater. If hard water is used, water very heavily to flush minerals.



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- Avoid leaving water standing in the crown of the plant as this can lead to fatal rot.
- Fertilize weakly and frequently with a balanced fertilizer. One-eighth to one-quarter strength recommended by manufacturer for houseplants every week in spring and summer and every two weeks in autumn and winter.

Healthy leaves produce more and bigger flowers:

- Medium light levels are appropriate. Leaves should be a medium green, usually not yellowish (too much light) or dark green (too little light). They should be firm, not long and floppy (more light needed).
- Two to three hours of sunshine on a windowsill (East or West) or 15-30cm under a four tube fluorescent fixture.
- Leaves should be firm; if soft and desiccated, check roots for rot, and repot if necessary. High humidity (such as enclosing the plant in a plastic bag) will aid recovery if most or all of roots lost, but be careful of rot.
- Paphiopedilum do best with 60-70% humidity but when mature will grow and bloom, although more slowly in lower humidity. High humidity is particularly desirable to form new roots, which may not grow properly in low humidity situations. Use humidifier to raise humidity – humidity pans and misting minimally effective. Enclosing plant growing areas is effective but ensure fresh air and air movement to avoid mold and rot.
- Grow Paphiopedilum in intermediate temperatures with 14°C minimum winter nights and 29°C summer day maximum. Ensure 6-12°C day/night difference to aid flower formation.

Asian lady slippers usually bloom annually and the flowers last for several weeks:

- Maintain plant orientation while spike is growing for best display.
- Some types require slightly different conditions
- Complex type: Plain green foliage, large round flowers. Medium size plants. Standard conditions.
- Maudiae type: Dark green mottled foliage. Easiest to grow, small plant, warmer temperatures and lower light.
- Multifloral type: Plain green foliage. Harder to grow, large plant, warmer temperatures and high light.
- Brachypetalum: Dark green mottled foliage, bird's egg flowers. Harder to grow, small plant, warmer temperatures, low light, more coarse medium and much calcium.
- Chinese types: Mottled foliage. Small plants, standard conditions, coarser medium. The species *delenatii* does not require a basic medium.