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ORCHID

newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

April 2008



president's message

Once again, the end of March was almost as busy as the beginning of the month as we participated in our third Away Show of the season by putting up a generously sized "25 sq. ft." display at Longwood Gardens for the SEPOS Show on Thursday, March 27. We owe Valerie Lowe and her helpers a round of applause for another terrific exhibit! Be sure to see her article in this newsletter.

April will be another busy month for MOS. Our quarterly Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. at Marilyn Lauffer's.

Then, on Saturday, April 12 we will be conducting a Workshop for novice orchid growers from 10 am to 2 p.m. at St. David's Church on Roland Ave. in Roland Park (a mile south of our monthly meeting site). Eric Wiles has been putting the Workshop together and Tom McBride, Mark Robbins, Valerie Lowe, Clark Riley and David Smith will be our speakers for the Workshop. If you would like to attend the Workshop, call me ASAP to sign up!

The following week, on Thursday, April 17 we will have our April meeting with David McAdoo speaking on Native Orchids (see below).

Ann

April is National Orchid Month go buy more orchids

In 2001, April was designated National Orchid Month by the American Orchid Society to celebrate its 80-year anniversary and to increase awareness of the popular hobby of growing orchids. More people than ever are growing orchids; they have become the second most popular potted plants after Poinsettias. (See more of Susan Taylor's Trivia on page 6.)

David McAdoo, co-founder and President of the Native Orchid Conference, Inc., will be speaking in April

This month we welcome David McAdoo, co-founder and President of the Native Orchid Conference, Inc., who will be speaking on "Wild Orchids of Maryland and the Eastern United States". Mr. McAdoo is a photographer of native orchids and a co-author of "An annotated catalogue and distribution account of the Kentucky Orchidaceae" (1978). As a preview to his talk you can see some of his pictures on the website of the NC Native Plant Society at http://www.ncwildflower.org/plants/native_orchids.htm.



Mr. McAdoo flew helicopters in Vietnam and then worked for Corning Glass Works/Tyco in a variety of manufacturing and business positions. He has lived in a number of states and two foreign countries but has been in North Carolina since 1987. He is active in the Triad Orchid Society in Greensboro, NC and is a past President of the Society. He is also a board member of the North Carolina Native Plant Society.

IN
THIS
ISSUE



Show Table March 2008

Awesome Orchid Workshop is April 12



SEPOS at Longwood Gardens

A Mishmash of Ant Remedies

show table > march 2008

Photo by Beng Light



Phrag. Jason Fischer - Don Forester

Novice

1. Phrag. Jason Fischer - Don Forester
2. Paph. *hirsutissimum* - Suzanne Gaertner
3. Bak. Truth 'Silver Chalice' - Laura Sobelman



Den. *atrovioleaceum* - Bill Ellis

Home Grown

1. Den. *atrovioleaceum* - Bill Ellis
2. Tie Phaius Dan Rosenberg - Clark Riley
Cym. *canaliculatum* - Val Lowe
3. Tie Bif. *harrisoniae* 'Ruth' AM/AOS - The Lundys
Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS - Edith Goldman



Bif. *harrisoniae* 'Ruth' AM/AOS - The Lundys

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. Slc. Rosemary Clooney 'Nanae' AM/AOS - Barbara Buck
2. Phrag. Jason Fischer - Les Kirkegaard

Photo by Beng Light



Slc. Rosemary Clooney 'Nanae' AM/AOS - Barbara Buck

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Neost. Lou Sneary - The Adamases
2. Den. *nobile* 'Merlin' - Cy Swett
3. Pths. *beluosum* - David Smith

Cattleya

1. Epi. *stamfordianum* - The Adamases
2. Lc. Mildred Rives 'Orchidglade' AM/AOS - Les Kirkegaard
3. Epi. Pacific Ember - Chris Zajac

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Brother Little Amaglad - The Adamases
2. Phal. Hybrid - Bill Soyke
3. Phal. (Tropical Fantasy X *equestris*) - Chris Zajac



Phal. (Tropical Fantasy X *equestris*) - Chris Zajac

Oncidium

1. Brs. Rex 'Sakata' - Cy Swett
2. Ham. Golden Harry - Chris Zajac
3. Onc. Twinkle - Nancy Duggan

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Spiderman - The Adamases
2. Tie Paph. Ma Belle - Cy Swett
Paph. Berenice - The Lundys
3. Phrag. Bouley Bay - Barbara Buck

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Masd. Copper Angel - The Adamases
2. Den. Red Emperor 'Prince' - Cy Swett
3. Den. Nora Tokunaga - Eric Wiles

Species

1. Den. *nobile* var. *alba* - Cy Swett
2. Tie Asctm. *christensonianum* - The Adamases
Masd. *wagneriana* - Bill Scharf
3. Stenorrhynchus *speciosum* - Clark Riley

Miniature

1. Dendrochilum *curranii* - David Smith
2. Bapt. *echinata* - Cy Swett
3. Sarc. *ceciliae* - The Adamases

First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. (Sweet Dreams X Carmen Coll) - The Adamases
2. Sarc. *speciosa* X Pelexia sp. - Val Lowe
3. Paph. (Conco-*bellatulum* X Lemon Hart) - Les Kirkegaard



C. Margaret Degenhardt 'Saturn' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

Fragrance

1. C. Margaret Degenhardt 'Saturn' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
2. Trpla. *suavis* - Bill Soyke

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Epi. *stamfordianum*, exhibited by The Adamases. The judges were Sarah Spence, Lee Lundy and Marilyn Lauffer. There were 114 plants on the show table!

Epi. *stamfordianum* - The Adamases



Photo by Beng Light

ORCHID WORKSHOP

YOU'RE INVITED

The Maryland Orchid Society is presenting a workshop on orchid growing, culture and care.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. David's Church,
4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210.

There will be demonstrations, discussions, hands-on training in repotting, media, and growing techniques.

To reserve a space, call 410-366-9365 or send your check for \$15 (includes lunch) to MOS, P.O.Box 5651, Baltimore, MD 21210.



Maryland Orchid Society Exhibit Receives First Place in Its Class at Longwood SEPOS Show

In spite of last minute organization, the Maryland Orchid Society Exhibit received First Place in its class. Thanks to the generous donation of plant material by Steve and Rachael Adams, Valerie Lowe, Ann and Lee Lundy, Chris Zajak, David Smith, Cyrus Swett, Eric Wiles, and The Little Greenhouse (TLG) as well as the artistic design by the Adamses, the exhibit was installed after work hours, instead of taking all day like last year. Gary Smith got up there early and set up the backdrops as well as acted as recorder for all the plant entries during the evening. Eric Wiles helped moss pots, cover back drops, and make sure all the plants were labeled. We were finished by 10 pm.

During ribbon judging the next day, plants in the exhibit received several 1st place ribbons as well as two Best of Blues. At the end of AOS judging, the Adams' plant of *Oncidium* (*Onc.*) Baby Joy 'Riversend' was upgraded from a High Class Certificate (HCC) to an Award of Merit and The Little Greenhouse plant of *Rodricidium* (*Rdcdm*) Orchidom Fire Glow received an HCC. The rest of the judging results are listed below.



Photo courtesy of Valerie Lowe

The Adamses, Lundys, and Gary Smith helped to dismantle the exhibit.

Valerie Lowe, Away Shows Chair

Plant	Owner	Award
<i>Bctm.</i> Little Dragon 'Carmela', HCC/AOS	Adams	3rd
<i>Blc.</i> Greenwich 'Elmhurst', AM/AOS	Adams	1st
<i>Den. atrovioleaceum</i>	Adams	1st
<i>Dtps.</i> Yun Pin Lady	Adams	1st
<i>Epi. stamfordianum</i>	Adams	1st
<i>Neostylis</i> Lou Sneary	Adams	2nd
<i>Onc.</i> Baby Joy 'Riversend', HCC/AOS	Adams	1st
<i>Paph.</i> Julius	Adams	1st
<i>Phal.</i> Cassandra 'Ann Marie'	Adams	2nd
<i>Phal.</i> Cassandra 'Harford', HCC/AOS	Adams	1st
<i>Phal.</i> Newberry Parfait 'Picottee', AM/AOS	Adams	1st, Best of Blues
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	Lowe	2nd
<i>Habenaria repens</i>	Lowe	Honorable Mention
<i>Paph.</i> Henrietta Fujiwara	Lowe	3rd
<i>Paph. primulinum v. purpurascens</i>	Lowe	Honorable Mention
<i>Coelogyne nitida</i>	Lundy	3rd
<i>Paph. Berenice</i>	Lundy	2nd
<i>Paph. hirsutissimum v. esquirolei</i> 'Goodwood', AM/AOS	Lundy	2nd
<i>Masd.</i> Copper Angel 'Highland', AM/AOS	TLG	2nd
<i>Paph. delenatii</i> 'Loch Raven'	TLG	1st
<i>Rdcdm.</i> Orchidom Fire Glow	TLG	1st, Best of Blues
<i>Den. nobile</i> var. <i>alba</i>	Swett	1st
<i>Paph.</i> (<i>tonsum</i> x <i>S. Gratrix</i>)	Wiles	3rd
<i>Platystele stenostachya</i>	Wiles	3rd
<i>Phal.</i> Join Angel	Wilkins	1st

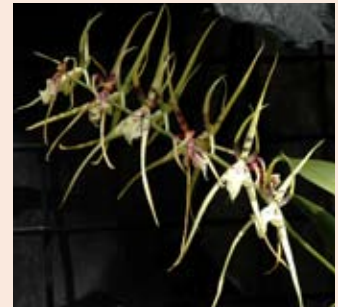
Southeastern PA Show at Longwood Gardens



Wall of orchids above the lecture hall doorway



V. Trevor Rathbone 'Banjong'



Not an orchid

I Don't Mind the Ants But They Kill My Plants

(Subtitled: Ants in My Pants Won't Make Me Dance)

A scourge of ants recently took up residence in my basement orchid growing habitat on a stormy winter night. This foreboding was not lost on me. They pulled up their little moving vans and set up house in a Sharry Baby and proceeded to claim the rest of the plants for their neighborhood. The perfect setting for any happy family—the room is bright, breezy, warm and moist with fungus gnat eggs and tiny plant lice to smorgasbord on. I tried traps, sprays and pleading pathetically with them to no avail. For the ant traps to work I needed to cover every nano-inch of my growing area. When I saw them haul off a few of my smaller plants on their backs I knew I needed to get serious.



Some say ants in and of themselves aren't necessarily a big orchid problem. In fact, I read online in the Biotropica article *Dispersal of the Orchid Dendrobium insigne by the Ant Iridomyrmex cordatus in Papua New Guinea*¹ that a small group of specialized epiphytes in New Guinea depend on ants for dispersal. Dispersal of what I'm not sure because I understood only about three other words in the 4-page article. Any way, I decided to do some research and find out how other people keep ants away from their plants and hopefully *way* outside. The following are opinions, suggestions and recipes for ridding orchid collections of ants. (No endorsements disclaimer here...) I hope these are helpful in sending your ants to the great anthill in the sky. I say to the ants, "Bon appétit."

David Smith

David Smith, one of our MOS education gurus says, "I have found that those cheap little ant baits in the low black plastic container are very effective in getting rid of ants. I do not try to spray any of the ants with insecticide, just find the main trail and place several of the baits along the trail and beside the affected plant. It takes several days but eventually they are gone."

Marilyn Lauffer, MOS Membership Chair

I had used the little black square traps on my outside tables, but with all the rain we had, the ants persisted.

Last year, I just did not mess with ant deterrents on the outside tables, but the day before I was bringing them back in the house in the fall, I used a great product called Terro liquid ant bait. It comes in a bottle at Home Depot and looks like clear, sticky syrup. I put a small piece of plastic (from a cut up margarine or Cool whip container) on the top of each plant and then put about 1/4-1/2 tsp. of the Terro bait on the plastic. Within about a half hour, the ants came out of the potting media onto the plastic to eat the bait. Supposedly, they carry the food back to their nest and kill themselves and lots of others. By the next morning, there were no signs of living ants. I left the plastic pieces and a few drops more

bait on the top of the pots and brought them into the house. I had very little problems with ants over the winter season.

The Terro also comes in pre-filled traps which are great for putting on windowsills and the like, but for lots of pots, it's much more economical to use the bottle of liquid.

Within the last few weeks, I copied down a list of ant deterrents I saw on TV (I think the source was DIY or HGTV, but I'm not sure). It listed coffee grounds, peppermint, citrus oil, cinnamon, and red pepper as all being ant deterrents. I may try some of those on the outside tables this summer. I think Borax is also good.

Susan Jones

Susan Jones' article, "Home Remedies" in the January 2005 issue of *Orchids Magazine* suggests: When dealing with ants, remember they are attracted to the sugary honeydew excretion of other pest insects and commercially prepared sugar-based ant baits. A homemade syrup of boric acid powder, sugar and water placed throughout the growing area will draw ants. They will eat the poison and take it back to the queen. This should remove the ant colony within a few days. This option is not safe for use in an area accessible to children or pets.

Replacing the potting medium can eliminate pests' eggs and crawlers. Mollusks, ants, sow and pill bugs and even roaches hide in pots, and media that is breaking down not only attracts pests like sow and pill bugs, but is a danger to the overall health of the plant's root system as well.

From "Dorothy" online on the Orchid Board

- White vinegar in a spray bottle
- cucumber peels
- Anti ant plants - peppermint, spearmint, oregano, bay leaf, garlic, pennyroyal or a combination of eucalyptus leaves (you can get at a flower shop) and whole cloves (supermarket spice section) or a sprinkle of cinnamon or black pepper or red pepper flakes or cayenne
- Mix orange or grapefruit juice, water and liquid soap together (equal parts) and spray the area.

(This one for the sadist in you):

- Make a syrup of 1/2 cup sugar, 1/4 cup water, 2 teaspoons borax. Cook until smooth and well blended. Let cool. Put in old jar lids where you see the ants coming in (near windows/doors). They bring it back to their nests ... it makes them very thirsty and when they drink water they explode ... same effect happens with cornmeal.
- Ants won't step on or over powdered charcoal, bone meal, talcum powder or chalk. Sprinkle these around your plants.

¹ David H. Benzing, Mark A. Clements
Biotropica, Vol. 23, No. 4, Part B (Dec., 1991), pp. 604-607
doi:10.2307/2388399
Association of Tropical Biological and Conservation

Another from Orchid Board

Ants can be a problem, especially when moving your orchids back inside in the fall. Orange Guard, a citric acid product, is a good way to eliminate these pests. However, if they are down in the mix, you will need to drench the pot with an insecticide or repot the plant.

From the Napa Valley Orchid Society web site

Ants are a threat to your orchids. Yes, it is a major annoyance when ants boil out of a pot in protest when you water 'their' orchid, but ants are more of a problem than a simple annoyance.

Ants bring with them both aphids and mealy bugs. Ants will actually carry them around and place them on your plants. You cannot get rid of mealy bugs and aphids without first getting rid of ants.

There are good products readily available for ants. The ants among the orchids are the sweet eating variety. Put out lots of ant stakes and traps. I put out a new batch twice a year.

Posted by eileen on Garden web

Before I poured anything into the soil, I'd want to know that the plant will tolerate it. I had ants living in one of my orchids, and I just took it outside, dumped the pot, washed the heck out of the roots, and put the plant in a fresh pot. Then I came back with boiling water and scalded all the eggs, larvae, and pupae off the old pot. The pot cleaned up fine; I'll use it again someday. The ants are wandering around outside, where they are welcome to make a home. There is no remains of their scent trail on the plant - it's in a different pot, and there's no dirt in the old pot. No poisons used, and the plant is fine - blooming now.

Susan Taylor's Trivia

BellaOnline's Orchids Editor (<http://www.bellaonline.com/site/Orchids>)

Trivia - World's Largest Orchid

The largest orchid is generally agreed to be *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. It can weigh up to 2,000 pounds or 900 kilograms and is reputed to produce up to 10,000 flowers on a mature plant in nature. The pseudobulbs reach 10 feet or 3 meters in height with leaves along the full length. The species is found in Malaysia, the Solomon Islands, Sumatra, the Philippines, Papua and New Guinea.

Trivia - World's Smallest Orchid

The smallest orchid is *Platystele jungermannioides* which has flowers only half a millimeter or one-hundredth of an inch in diameter. The entire plant is only about a quarter of an inch or half a centimeter tall. They grow naturally in the cloud forests in Central America, principally in Costa Rica. The flower, when viewed through a magnifying glass, is a pale greenish color with a purple lip.



Actual size: >>>>>>> ■

Photo from the Monteverde Costa Rica Orchid Garden web site

Posted by ifraser from Garden web

Water your plants with weak coffee (no milk or sugar!) and/or sprinkle the compost with some coffee grounds. I'm not sure why this works. It also works with decaff coffee so it isn't the caffeine. You can also put the grounds in any nests you find in the soil.

From How to Grow Orchids web site:

<http://www.how-to-grow-orchid.com/orchid-disease.htm>

There are a few merely bothersome pests whose appearance need occasion no alarm, although the grower may wish to be rid of them. Ants and fruit flies are the most common members of this category.

Many growers dislike ants. In the jungle ants have friendly relations with orchids—stinging ants often prevent human desecration of the plants—but in the greenhouse and home ants are unsightly and unnecessary.

They have never been proved guilty of damaging orchids, but as sometimes they live in cooperation with the mealy bug and may assist aphids, it is just as well to prevent their entrance into the greenhouse.

Ant-proofing outside the house is the safest and simplest method of dealing with them. Fruit flies are often found in the greenhouse.

When it comes to orchid disease, they feed on decomposing Osmunda and, although at times difficult to distinguish from the scale fly, they do no harm. Routine spray will dispose of them.

calendar

MOS Orchid Workshop

April 12, 2008 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

\$15 includes delicious lunch

St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210

Info.: 410.366.9365

Next General Meeting

April 17, 2008

7:00 p.m. Show table set up

8:00 p.m. Meeting begins

7:15 p.m. Education Corner

8:15 p.m. Program begins

7:30 p.m. Judging begins

The Maryland Orchid Society meets at the First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore MD. Please bring in your flowering orchids for the show table!

National Capitol Judging Center

May 3, 2008 Noon

National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC.

Sue Burgess, Program Director

Next MOS Board Meeting

April 10, 2008 at 7:30 pm. Marilyn's house.

Food will be served at 6:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Central Pennsylvania Annual Orchid Seminar

AUGUST 10, 2008

7:30 am – conclusion

Harrisburg, PA

SPEAKERS:

- Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will speak on *Catasetinae* culture and the current Awards standards
- Steve Shiflett from Floradise Orchids will give us some tips on *Vanda* culture both in the home and in the greenhouse.
- John Dunkleberger, an accredited AOS judge will give us an update on Miniature *Cymbidiums*, their breeding and culture as well as recent awards
- Leon Glicenstein of Hoosier Orchids will delight us with jewel orchids

VENDORS:

- Sunset Valley Orchids
- Floradise Orchids
- Hoosier Orchids
- John Dunkleberger
- New Earth Orchids

AOS JUDGING

Please remit check to:
Central PA Orchid Seminar
PO Box 1726
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Registration, including lunch is \$30 until June 30, 2008,
\$35 until July 31, \$40 until meeting day.

Maryland Orchid Society

Officers

President

Ann Lundy
410-366-9365
annlundy@verizon.net

Vice-President

Gary Smith
410-374-5811
garysmith@qis.net

Treasurer

David Smith
410-526-0179
fpsakes1@aol.com

Controller

Lee Lundy
410-366-9365
llundy@TydingsLaw.com

Secretary

Lori Lee-Young
410-833-6845
scuubadive@verizon.net

Past President

Barry Woolf
410-879-1654
Woolfphoto1@comcast.net

Directors

Aaron Webb
410-235-4062
awebb71574@aol.com

Eric Wiles
410-635-6023
winvet88@yahoo.com

Committees

Auction
Bill Ellis
410-549-1530
billellis@ellislist.com

Aaron Webb
410-235-4062
awebb71574@aol.com

Awary Shows

Valerie Lowe
410-335-3522
vlowe@bcpl.net

Education/Activities

Eric Wiles
410-635-6023
winvet88@yahoo.com

Show

Bill Scharf
717-244-3695
willworks@hughes.net

Sunshine

Hilda Sukman
410-332-1532
hrks1931@msn.com

House

Bill Soyke
410-444-5465
Wsoyke@comcast.net

Library

Anne Minkowski
410-323-3020
saskakempa@verizon.net

Membership

Marilyn Lauffer
jmlauffer@verizon.net

Newsletter

Laura Sobelman
410.363.1040
Sobelman@Comcast.net

Program

Ann Lundy
Refreshments
Barbara Buck
410-551-9374
BarbaraBuck@comcast.net

Show Table

Thomas McBride
410-661-4748
orchidudes@aol.com

Hospitality

Yuko Ota
410-277-0677
yota@som.umaryland.edu

AOS Representative

Bill Ellis
410-549-1530
billellis@ellislist.com

Webmaster

Clark Riley
410-591-9201
DrRiley@aol.com

Visit us on the Web at www.marylandorchids.org
Maryland Orchid Society
P.O. Box 5651 • Baltimore, MD 21210