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newsletter



A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

January 2010

president's message

In the January issue of *Orchids* magazine Harry Gallis, MD authored a short essay titled *Why Orchid Societies?* In it he gently posits the question, "What have you done for the AOS or your local society lately?" It's easy to imagine that most—probably nearly all—of us are fairly out of touch with the day-to-day administration and operations of the AOS. It's an international organization after all, run by people that we largely don't know and may never have a chance to meet. And short of attending semiannual member meetings, signing up for a job, or becoming an accredited judge (Dr. Gallis is a trustee, Publications Committee member, and a judge), it's easy to see only the façade created by *Orchids* each month. So in short, I'm sympathetic with the author's plea for interaction and volunteerism on that grand scale.

But is the question applicable at the local level? I used to think so. Well to be honest, it isn't an irrelevant question. It never

hurts to drum up volunteers, especially for a big event like the annual auction or show. But what I've come to realize is that a local society like MOS survives and thrives relative to a different set of factors than a big organization like AOS. It's more direct, more interactive, more personal, and easier to reach people. Sure, we lose a few members each year. We surmise that they didn't find what they were looking for when they signed up 12 months earlier. But something keeps the majority of members engaged enough to re-up each year.

That said, don't think for a moment that I or any of the leaders of the MOS take for granted that membership is automatic. It's a constant effort that manages (hopefully) to deliver the benefits that entice members, both tenured and new. However the point I'm trying to make is that members never seem more satisfied than when they're interacting with other members. That means

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Panel Discussion at January's Meeting

Last April, leads for external speakers didn't pan out so we decided to experiment with a panel discussion. Several experienced members readily jumped in to lend a hand and your feedback was overwhelmingly positive. So, we're repeating the event for January. Our panelists this time will be Ann Lundy, Eric Wiles, and Mark Robbins. Following a short introduction from each panelist, the floor will be open to your questions. To help ensure that your question is addressed, please submit your question to Sue Spicer (suespicer@sociologist.com) prior to the meeting. Note that while the agenda is open, light-handed facilitation will keep the topics varied and relevant to the widest possible audience. We hope you find this program as enjoyable and informative as last year.

Important March 2010 Meeting Change Notice

We've had the unprecedented bad luck to be bumped from our regularly scheduled third Thursday meeting date in March 2010. Instead of Thursday, 18 March we will be meeting on the evening of Tuesday, 23 March. Please mark your calendars.

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show table-dec. 2009

by Tom McBride



Novice

1. Den. Nora Tokunaga (above)- Charlotte Grahe
2. Phal. Hybrid - Sarah Hurdel
3. Pot. Shin Shang Diamond 'Tai-Young #1' (below)- Frank Dagostin



Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. Cym. Chen's Ruby 'Mem. Lonnie Riegel' AM/AOS - Jamie Riegel
2. Onc. Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy' - Jos Venturina
3. Phrag. Sedenii 'Candidulum' (below)- Lou Vadorsky



Cattleya

1. B. Little Stars - The Adamses
2. Tie Bc. Spotted Clown 'Goodwood' (below)- The Lundys
3. C. Porcia 'Cannizaro' FCC/AOS (below)- Eric Wiles



Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Hybrid (above)- Bill Soyke
2. Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS (see photo on page 5) - Janice Mazur
3. Phal. *amabilis* - The Adamses



Home Grown

1. Paph. *gratrixianum* (above)- Bill Scharf
2. Den. Hybrid - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Tie Paph. Robinianum (top of column 2)- Val Lowe
Hknsa. Sogo Doll - Bill Ellis



Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Rhy. *gigantea* var. *alba* (above)- The Adamses
2. Lc. (Sheila Compton X Tokyo Magic) (top of column 3)- David Smith
3. Den. *glomeratum* - Cy Swett



3. Lc. Sheila Compton 'Touch of Class' (below) - Barbara Buck



Oncidium

1. Onc. Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy' CCE/AOS - Jos Venturina
2. Tie Burr. Eurostar (above)- David Smith
Odcdm. Lorraine's 14th WOC 'Hawaii' (see top of column 1 on next page)- Eric Wiles
3. Onc. Tsiku Marguerite - Cy Swett



continued on next page



Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Mem. Larry Heuer (below)- The Adamses



2. Paph. Michael Koopowitz (below) - Mark Robbins
3. Tie Paph. *wardii* 'Valleyfield's' (top of column 2)- Jamie Riegel
Paph. Sun and Surf- David Smith



Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Ctsm. Wychee's Bumble Bee 'Wendy's' (above)- Wendy Keene
2. Ascda. Wirat 'Motes Goldpiece' HCC/AOS (below)- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. V. Robert's Delight 'Tanya' - Jos Venturina



Species

1. Den. *nobile* (above)- Bill Ellis
2. Coel. *massengeana* - Eric Wiles
3. Pths. species - David Smith



Miniature

1. Den. *rigida* - The Adamses
2. Sppm. *manningii* - Jos Venturina
3. Tie Med. *decoratum* (above)- Bill Scharf
Onc. *cheiroporum* - David Smith



First Bloom Seedling

1. Den. [Tie-Dye x (Rutherford Sunspot X Aussie Treat)] - The Adamses
2. Paph. Chiu Hua Dancer - Val Lowe
3. Phrag. (*kovachii* X Don Wimber) (above) - Clark Riley



Fragrance

1. Blc. Chia Lin 'New City' AM/AOS (above)- John Dunning
2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Ang. *sesquipedale* (below) - Bill Ellis



The Judges Choice of the Evening, Cym. Chen's Ruby 'Mem. Lonnie Riegel' AM/AOS (below), was exhibited by Jamie Riegel. The judges were Val Lowe, Becky Wiles and Jamie Riegel. See page 6 for more on Jamie's amazing plant.



There were a record number of fabulous plants, 155, on the show table!

2010 MOS Spring Show: Start Preparing Now!

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season. The new year has begun and with it we as a society turn our attention to the quickly approaching 2010 Maryland Orchid Society Show. The Show committee has been busy planning and organizing for several months and as we head into 2010 we invite you to get involved in your Show. I say "your Show" intentionally, as it is yours, the Society's Show. There are many opportunities for you to be involved.



The 2009 Color Photography, Second Place winner was Sarah Hurdel.

Consider helping set up the staging, clerking on judging day (which allows you to work side by side with AOS judges), working in the sales area, giving a tour, helping out at the MOS/AOS Hospitality table, or welcoming Show goers as they enter the hall. Sue Spicer will need help hanging the art portion of

the Show. Joan Roderick will need help organizing the Preview Party as well if you can not assist at the Show. As you can see there are many different ways to be involved. I can assure you that it's a great experience. You will not be disappointed.

The Show committee strives not only to improve the Show each year, but to keep the Society's best interests in mind at all times. In order to save paper, and the expense of printing and mailing the Exhibitor Packet to the membership, this year you will again be able to download the Exhibitor Packet pdf from the MOS Web site. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the information included and come prepared to next Thursday's meeting with questions. There are many ways to exhibit your plants at the Show, from arranging three blooming orchids to a full exhibit staged from the floor.

The Show has been so successful because of you, members who are very willing and eager to help. In fact, the Show would not be possible without you. Consider the many ways



The Hobbyist Exhibit, 3 Blooming Orchids Table-Top, First Place winner was Nancy Duggan.



Cyrus Swett's 50 Sq. ft. exhibit from the 2009 show won many prestigious awards.

you can get involved with the Show and sign up to help at Thursday's meeting.

Thanks very much,
Bill Scharf
MOS Show Chair
MOS Vice President

Best of Show Awards

There are several Best of Show Awards still available for sponsorship for the 2010 Show. Sponsor one or as many as you want. We are holding the cost at \$35.00 to sponsor these unique glass awards and you are able to name the award as well. It can be named after you, a friend or a memorial award honoring someone important to you. This is a great opportunity to make the Show better and recognize a job well done by a fellow orchid grower. Contact Bill Scharf if you are interested or have questions. willworks@hughes.net.



Best of Show Awards Available:

- Best Angraecum Alliance in Show
- Best Dendrobium Alliance in Show
- Best Dendrochilum in Show
- Best Miscellaneous Genera in Show
- Best Oncidium Alliance in Show



Smallest orchid in the world found by accident

(well it is only 2 mm wide) By DAILY MAIL REPORTER. December 1, 2009

Botanists who have just discovered a new flower in Ecuador can be forgiven for having missed it until now. The world's smallest orchid is just 2.1 mm wide, with transparent petals that are just one cell thick. It comes from the *Platystele* genus, which is made up of mostly miniature plants.

American scientist Lou Jost found the tiny flower by accident among the roots of a larger plant that he had collected from the Cerro Candelaria reserve in the eastern Andes.

He said: 'I saw that down among the roots was a tiny little plant that I realised was more interesting than the bigger orchid. 'Looking at the flower is often the best way to be able to identify which species of orchid you're got hold of — and can tell you whether you're looking at an unknown species or not.'

It is the 60th new orchid that Dr Jost has discovered in the past decade. He works



The cream-coloured orchid measures only 2.1mm across and the petals are so thin they are transparent

for Ecuador's EcoMinga Foundation, which created the reserve in partnership with the World Land Trust in Britain.

'It is an exciting feeling to find a new species,' he said. 'People think everything has been discovered but there's much more.'

More than 1,000 orchid species have been unearthed in the South American country in the last 100 years as new roads have opened up more remote regions.

Dr Jost's most exciting find was a group of 28 types of orchids from the *teagueia* genus in a mountainous area near Banos, Ecuador.

The group was previously thought to have only six species.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1232106/Smallest-orchid-world-accident-2mm-wide.html#ixzz0ZnUkc7Fl>

local aos news

by Valerie Lowe

January 2: National Capital Judging Center

Valerie Lowe's plant of *Paphiopedilum* (*Paph.*) Lefty Kei 'Maxa's First' received an 81 point Award of Merit (AM).

Other Society members' plants were also represented at this judging session. Janice Mazur brought in a beautifully grown and flowered *Phalaenopsis* (*Phal.*) Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' which already had an AM from the American

Orchid Society (AOS). Although this plant was staked to present it at its best, the plant was not considered by the judging team to be better than when it received its' previous award.

Jamie Riegel had a *Paph. spicerianum* on the judging table. The plant was well grown and had a lovely flower, but since it did not meet current AOS judging standards, it did not receive an award.



Janice Mazur's *Phalaenopsis* Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure'

Extreme Makeover: Shed Edition

Once again we would like to thank Lou Buck and his conscripts for repairing and painting the MOS storage shed in Clarksville. Before settling on the final paint scheme, Lou experimented with three additional options. Can you guess which one made the grade? (Photos and retouch courtesy of Sarah Hurdel.)



dec. judges' choice

This column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In December Jamie Riegel's Cymbidium Chen's Ruby was awarded the honor. Following, Jamie tells how he grows his plant:

I purchased this Cymbidium Chen's Ruby from The Little Greenhouse several years ago. It was only a three-growth plant in a 6" nursery pot from what I remember. It grew steadily over the years, blooming faithfully around Christmas each year. This one also has to be the easiest of all my Cymbidiums to bloom. It has been potted in the same type media over the past years, the multi-purpose mix from The Little Greenhouse. All I added was some heavy stones to the bottom of the pot to add weight. It resides outside from spring to fall, where it gets full morning sun and some shade from the hot afternoon

sun. Temperatures in the summer range from 80 to 100 degrees for most of the summer. I leave it outside until mid October, or when I see the flower inflorescences beginning to emerge. It comes into the greenhouse where the spikes finish developing. Before I had the greenhouse I would sit it on my dining room table, where it would get plenty of sun through two east-facing windows. It receives thorough filtered-watering daily, and is fed a balanced Osmocote time-release fertilizer.



Photo by Jim Osen

Monthly Checklist for January and February



Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, *Lycaste*, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.



Valerie Lowe's Paph. Chiu Hua Dancer won a second place ribbon in the First Bloom Seedling category on the December show table.

Paphiopedilum

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.



Steve and Rachael Adams' Phal. *amabilis* won third place in the Phalaenopsis category on the December show table.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not re-pot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some re-potting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

The AOS and MOS thank Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Reprinted from the AOS Web site (www.aos.org)

President's Message

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New Members

Please welcome new MOS members JoAnn Lancaster and Roy Bogan at the next meeting.

Fifty five members attended the December meeting and holiday party. No dancing on tables this year (Hilda very disappointed) because the tables were filled to the max with blooming plants—155 awesome orchids!

Lucky Orchid Boy Switches to Ponies

Each month it meets, the MOS issues to members a free raffle ticket for a door prize. In December Owen, the son of Sarah Hurdel, won the free door prize which was an *Odontocidium Sunlight 'HOF'*.



Gary

that the main plea of a local society should be how can we make it more personal as well as interpersonal, rather than how can you as members help the society. Once members are engaged, volunteerism isn't such a big deal anymore, because it flows more naturally from a desire to be more engaged.

I write this month's message as I work with Bill Scharf and Valerie Lowe on the schedule of classes and awards for the 2010 show. We review it each year and tweak it as necessary based upon what we learned last year. You might not think it, but it takes many hours with lots of conferring and compromise to hammer out the final list. Still it's a job that I love to do and would hate to give up. Yet it's also a job that I would gladly teach to anyone that is interested. For me, the engagement is the thing. For the new year, I hope that you find at least a few MOS activities as fun and appealing as this one is for me.

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