

MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

ORCHID

newsletter



News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

June 2011

president's message

Window Dressing!

As I began my term as president, one of my personal goals was to find ways to help new members become successful orchid growers and to keep them interested in the Society.

I had this idea several months ago to begin writing a series of articles on orchids that make great window-grown plants, but have not had the opportunity to put the idea down in words until now. Like many new orchid growers, I began growing my collection in the windows of my home. Also, like many new growers I quickly discovered that not all the plants I like are suited for windowsill culture. That can be very frustrating and costly for a new grower. My idea with this article is to share my information about one of the plants I continue to grow in a window, a plant that I consider a perfect



candidate to brighten your window — *Ascofinetia* 'Cherry Blossom'.

This plant has taken the best qualities from both of its parents, *Ascocentrum* ampullaceum, and *Neofinetia falcata*. *Ascf.* 'Cherry Blossom' is a compact growing plant that likes warm to intermediate temperatures and bright light. I have grown it now for about 8 years and the plant is still only 8-10 inches in diameter. It has done well for me in a south facing window during the winter months with daytime temps around 70 on sunny days and night

time temps falling to around 60 or even a little below. I grow it on
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Chaz Smith Talks About Rupicolous Laelias and Their Cultivation

As a native of Carlisle, Pa., I've been interested in plants for as long as I can remember. From growing houseplants with divisions from my grandmother, to clearing a weedy outcropping in the yard to make a rock garden, I've always enjoyed planting things and watching them grow. I remember seeing my first orchid in a nursery, and marveling about how such an odd looking plant could grow without any dirt. It wasn't until about 20 years later that I purchased my first little orchid from Lowes, and proceeded to bring it to the brink of death. I was so intrigued with the odd little dendrobium's looks, that I forgot to learn of its cultural requirements. But that started the 'bug,' and it wasn't long before orchids of many shapes and sizes began residing on a small windowsill. With each new orchid came more knowledge,

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Chaz Smith at the SOS Show last year.
Photo by Clark Riley

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Novice

1. Dtps. Leopard Prince - Janice Mazur
2. Enc. *cochleata* - Linda Hagan
3. Phal. Hybrid - Chip Hiebler

Home Grown

1. Mps. Patricia Marie Linares - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Phrag. Bel Croute - The Lundys
Paph. Bel Royal - John Dunning
3. Tie Phal. Nobby's Candy - Sarah Hurdel
Phrag. *longifolium var. gracile* - Val Lowe

Greenhouse

1. Bulb. *makoyanum* - David Smith
2. Paph. Susan Booth - Lou Vadorsky
3. Tie Max. *tenuifolia* - Cy Swett
V. (Madeleine McCartney X *sanderiana*) - The Adamses

Cattleya

1. C. *skinneri var. alba* - Eric Wiles
2. L. *purpurata var. sanguinea* 'Vermelha de Santa Lidia' - David Smith
3. C. *schilleriana var. coerulea* 'Loch Raven' - The Adamses

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. *lueddemanniana* - The Adamses
2. Phal. Hybrid - Wendy Keene
3. Tie Phal. Akatsuka Splash - Sarah Hurdel
Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS - Cy Swett

Oncidium

1. Brs. Edvah Loo 'Nishida' AM/AOS - Jamie Riegel & Erin Hunt
2. Tie Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant' - The Dagostins
Mex. *ghiesbrectiana* - David Smith
3. Tie Brs. Spiders Gold 'Caruso' AM/AOS - Linda Hagan
Psy. *papilio* - Anne Minkowski

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Lady Isabel - The Adamses
2. Paph. Chi Hua Dancer - John Dunning
3. Tie Phrag. Hybrid - Chris Zajac
Paph. Song of Love - Lou Vadorsky

Dendrobium

1. Den. Gatton Sunray - The Lundys
2. Den. Green Lantern - Michael Moran
3. Den. *hercoglossum* - The Adamses

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Ascda. Suksamrun Sunshine - Cy Swett
2. Rhy. *coelesis* X Chrstn. *vietnamica* - Gary Smith
3. Zygo. Hybrid - John Dunning

Species

1. Brs. *brachiata* - Michael Moran
2. Tie Pths. *croca* - David Smith
Cms. *philippinense* - Bill Scharf
3. Tie C. *skinneri* 'Casa Luna' AM/AOS - Barbara Buck
Ctsm. *cernuum* - Les Kirkegaard

Miniature

1. Phal. *parishii* - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Pths. *mathildae* - David Smith
Ascf. Cherry Blossom - Eric Wiles
3. Neof. *falcata* 'Gojyo Fukurin' - The Adamses

First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. Chi Hua Dancer - John Dunning
2. Paph. Ho Chi Minh - The Lundys
3. Phrag. Tara - Bill Soyke

Fragrance

1. Sed. *japonica* - David Smith
2. Max. *tenuifolia* - Eric Wiles

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Brs. *brachiata*, exhibited by Michael Moran. The judges were Gary Smith, Mary Chui and Jamie Riegel. There were 139 beautiful plants displayed on our show table this month!

Members-Only Repotting Clinic is June 25, 2011

The Maryland Orchid Society is having a members-only Repotting Event on Saturday, June 25, between 2:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. at David and Margaret Smith's house. (It is usually held outside so bring a hat and sunscreen.) This event is hands-on and is designed to help beginner and novice members learn to repot their own plants.

Admission to the event is \$5.00 (payable at the door) and will include light refreshments and potting media for the first repotted plant. There will be a \$3.00 charge for each repotted plant or division after that. Members are encouraged to bring their own pots for potting. Should a member not have a plant available for repotting and still desire to participate, we will have some overgrown plants in need of

repotting. You can get the experience of dividing and repotting, and take home the potted division for your collection.

Space for this event is limited, so be sure to sign up by June 18. Call between 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday to sign up. Phone 410-848-1682 (Dr. Wiles' office) or contact him via e-mail: winvet88@yahoo.com.

SHORE ORCHID FESTIVAL

Held at Silva Orchids



Friday, June 10 - Sunday, June 12, 2011 • 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Guests to include

- Andy's Orchids
- Brennan Orchids
- Cal-Orchid
- Canaima Orchids
- Celebrate Orchids
- Creative Hydroponics
- Fishing Creek
- J&L Orchids
- Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies
- Little Brook Orchids
- Lois Duffin Orchids
- Main Street Orchids
- Oakhill Gardens
- Orchid Phile
- Orchids Limited
- Parkside Orchids
- Piping Rock
- Silva Orchids
- Stony Brook Orchids
- Suwada Orchid Nursery
- Waldor Orchids



Bus & van groups welcome

Easy access from major highways

Free orchid workshops on Saturday & Sunday for beginners & experienced growers

Food vendors on site • Free parking • Rain or shine • All activities tented

635 Wayside Rd. • Neptune, NJ • 732-922-2635

Visit our website for more information www.silvaorchids.com

Fertilizer 101: What and How to Feed Your Orchids

By Sarah Hurdel

In order to get the most out of your plants, it's important to know the basics about fertilizer — so you are able to figure out what routine works best for your plants and conditions. Just like watering and potting media — over time we find methods and materials which work best for us — but may not work for someone else. (A cymbidium grower using a bark media will not use the same fertilizer routine as someone growing masdevallias in sphagnum moss.)

On the whole, orchids are not considered heavy feeders. However, once we remove them from their natural habitats, hybridize and try to coax them into full bloom, their needs change based on how we grow them, and what we are trying to achieve. In nature, Epiphytic orchids get their nutrients from rainwater, decomposing organic matter collected near the roots, and the occasional bird dropping. Terrestrial orchids are in a more nutrient rich environment, and tend to have more specific micronutrient requirements.

A good starting point is weekly, weakly — it is always better to under-fertilize than over-fertilize. I am convinced that more orchids are done in by fertilizer salt buildup than we realize. More of a good thing is not better!

N-P-K: Three Essential Plant Nutrients

10-10-10 = an example of a balanced fertilizer containing 10% of the following

Nitrogen - Essential for plant growth, will stimulate new top growth. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizer after repotting or on stressed plants. Deficient plants will be stunted and possibly shed older leaves. Balance of nitrogen is important — if too much top growth is stimulated without an adequate root system, the plant will be vulnerable to pests and disease.

Phosphorus - Promotes root growth and bloom. Deficient plants may appear dark green and show poor growth

(K)Potassium - Necessary for overall plant health. Deficient plants will show poor growth

What to use?

A complete fertilizer containing micronutrients — but preferably without urea. Most fertilizers marketed for orchids are Urea-free. (Nitrogen derived from urea is not as available to orchids than other sources of nitrogen.) Formulas containing urea will not kill your plants, however more of this type of fertilizer is required — resulting in faster buildup of salts.

Supplement with organic fertilizer, such as fish/seaweed or containing humic and/or fulvic acid (humic acid can help keep fertilizer salts from building up and also aids in the uptake of nutrients) It is very difficult, if not impossible to overfertilize with these products when applied per the instructions, and though they contain less NPK — they provide lots of micronutrients which are important as well — and my plants seem to appreciate.

Granular fertilizers — designed for use in soil or soil-less mixes, not for bark or open mixes used for orchids. For terrestrial orchids grown in a peat based mix, this may be an option.

What you choose can depend on:

Water Quality/Source

If using rainwater or reverse osmosis, consider using a formula for pure water, or supplementing with a Cal-mag fertilizer. Fertilizer is not the only source of salts. If your well water has a high mineral content, consider flushing pots with rainwater several times a month to avoid salt buildup.

Potting media

Plants potted in bark will need a higher nitrogen fertilizer than those potted in inorganic media. (the decomposition of the bark makes some of the nitrogen unavailable to the plant).

Plants potted in sphagnum moss will need to be fertilized less often, fertilizer salts will cause sphagnum to break down more quickly.



What I use — and recommend:

- Neptunes Harvest Fish and Seaweed
- TurfPro brand OrchidPro (is not the same as Dynagrow's Orchid Pro)
- Michigan State University (MSU) orchid fertilizer for Pure/RO water

When to use it?

- When plants are in active growth.
- Weekly/Weakly — Orchids will get the most benefit from frequent, dilute solutions of fertilizer
- NOT after repotting or during rest or periods of stress (high or low temps — dehydration)

Active growth/Rest period

Most orchid plants rest at some point during the year - after a flush of blooms, after new growths have matured, during cool weather, or may even require an extended dry rest period with no fertilizer.

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How to apply?

A collection with just a few plants can be fertilized with a watering can, but using that method for larger collections is wasteful. I use a pump sprayer to apply the fertilizer, which I apply just enough to moisten the media. This also helps to prevent excess fertilizer collecting in the humidity trays — which will create conditions for algae growth.

Foliar feeding

Orchids can also absorb some nutrients through their foliage. I have come across a few sources which recommend foliar applications, but don't feel comfortable recommending this myself. I try to avoid buildup of residue on the leaves, as clean leaves are much easier to monitor for pest/disease issues. Also, in order for the nutrients to be absorbed, the leaves would need to remain wet for an extended period of time....also something I try to avoid, especially with plants prone to crown rot and bacterial infections.

IMPORTANT!

Avoid fertilizing when media is dry. Dry media will absorb and concentrate salts as it dries, causing fertilizer burn.

Always follow instructions, some fertilizers (particularly organic types) cannot be premixed and stored.

Consider using half to one quarter of the amount recommended

Keep in mind -

Salt buildup

Some plants are more sensitive to salt buildup in the media, and require dilute or less frequent applications. (Pleurothallid, Paphiopedilum, Bulbophyllum)

Symptoms

- A white or brown crusting on the media or pot
- Black root tips
- Leaf tip die-back

Flush pots immediately, and thoroughly — seriously consider repotting into fresh media and new pot. To avoid salt buildup, flush pots a few times a month.

How to flush pots - water until media is thoroughly moist — wait one hour and fill pot with water twice to flush out excess salts.

Roots

Be sure that plants have developed an adequate root system before encouraging bloom or vigorous top growth with fertilizers. A plant with no leaves and good roots will generally recover from stress better than a plant with no roots and lots of lush green leaves!

local aos news By Valerie Lowe

May 21: National Capital Judging Center in conjunction with the annual Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society show at State College, PA

David Smith's plant of *Laelia sincorana* 'Turnberry' (center column) received an 83 point Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM).

June 4: National Capital Judging Center

Jamie Riegel's plant of *Paphiopedilum* Bel Royal 'Memoria Jimmy Riegel' (column 3) received a 78 point Highly Commended Certificate (HCC).

At the semi-annual business meeting held this month, the National Capital Judging Center selected their nominations for this year's AOS Specialty awards. After perusing all of the awards granted in 2010, the Center chose two plants grown by members of the Maryland Orchid Society for their nominations:

- For the Carlyle A. Luer Pleurothallid Award: Bill Scharf's plant of *Porroglossum nutibara* 'Willy's', CCM/AOS
- For the Benjamin Kodama Dendrobium Alliance Award: The Little Greenhouse's plant of *Dendrobium laevifolium* v. *albescens* 'Loch Raven', CHM/AOS

When the Judging Committee of the American Orchid Society meets in the fall, they will select the winners of each of these Special Awards. The results will be published in *Orchids* Magazine.



Photo by William Bannon



Photo by Jamie Riegel

Swamp Vacation: Walk Through Water, Muck Reveals Real Everglades

By Colleen Mastony, Chicago *Tribune* Newspapers

Stabbing my walking stick into the muck and sliding my feet forward, I waded into the swamp, one eye on the lookout for alligators, the other trying to spot the elusive orchids that draw so many people to South Florida's Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, a 100-square-mile state park that is home to one of the largest concentrations of native orchids in North America.

Towering trees formed a dense tropical canopy. Sunlight filtered through the branches. The vegetation was so thick and uniform — a crosshatch of vines and palms — that it seemed to barely part before closing in behind us.

My first thought when wading into the cool, clear water: Was this a mistake? I had persuaded my husband to spend a weekend in the Everglades, arguing that we could have a nice vacation in what is, effectively, a swamp.

From the comfort of home, it had seemed like a good idea. We would take a canoe trip in Big Cypress National Preserve, with its expansive cypress forest; explore Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, a chain of mangrove islands on the southwest coast, and — the highlight of the trip — take a swamp walk in the Fakahatchee, dubbed the “Amazon of North America” and made famous by the best-selling book “The Orchid Thief” by Susan Orlean.

But now, as I sloshed into the water, I had second thoughts. Would I be able to do this?

A guidebook listed alligators and venomous snakes as “special concerns,” something I hadn't thought about when I booked the trip. “Be aware that cottonmouth moccasins are abundant in the Fakahatchee Swamp. It is wise to step with caution,” the book warned. “Cottonmouth moccasins are belligerent, meaning they often hold their ground

when approached (they don't ‘attack’ people), and they are well camouflaged. Stepping on one and being bitten is a serious medical emergency.”

“Great vacation,” my husband cracked sarcastically, as I read aloud from the guidebook.

Before we waded into the swamp, we'd been having a decent time. We'd driven out the day before from Miami. All along the Tamiami Trail, a two-lane highway that runs east-west from Miami to Naples along the northern edge of the Everglades National Park, we marveled at the scores of alligators sunning themselves by the side of the road. We took a canoe trip and paddled through mangrove tunnels. On a motor boat tour along the coast, two dolphins jumped and played in our boat's wake.

That picture-perfect Florida wildlife experience (Alligators, check. Dolphins, check.) would have been enough for most people. But I wanted to see the real Everglades and to achieve that, I was convinced I needed to wade into the swamp.

Through Friends of the Fakahatchee, a nonprofit group that leads canoe trips and weekly walking tours, I connected with Bill Mesce, 63, a Vietnam veteran in Army fatigues and a safari hat who drove us in his 1968 Belgian military jeep on an old logging road into the interior of the preserve.

About five miles down the road, flanked on both sides by junglelike growth, he pulled over, helped us out of the jeep and walked us down a planked path that, leading into the dense thicket of vines and fallen trees, turned into dirt path, which turned into a flooded path, which eventually disappeared completely, so that we found ourselves plunging into thigh-deep water.



That was just about the time I started to get nervous.

Mesce explained how to stake our walking sticks into the ground for balance and then slowly slide one foot forward at a time, so as not to step into a hole or, worse, on an alligator. “They're more afraid of you, than you are of them,” he called over his shoulder, as he logged forward.

As we tromped along behind him, I was surprised to feel my fear give way. Except for the occasional call of the birds and the sounds of the water around us, the swamp was quiet. The water was clean and clear. Mesce claimed that you could drink it, though I wouldn't have tried it myself.

If you looked closely, you could see that the water was moving slowly south; Mesce explained that the flow was what's known as the “River of Grass,” a slow-moving river that flows southward, and forms the basis for the Everglades ecosystem.

True, it was a swamp. But it was hard not to be charmed by its strange, wild beauty.

Two hours into our hike, Mesce excitedly pointed to a tiny green root structure clinging to the bark of a tree.

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“This is the orchid that makes us famous,” he said. “This is the ghost orchid.” Mesce spoke with an awed reverence, as he described the plant that is so rare that its location is a secret.

Ghost orchids get their name because they have no leaves, only roots, and when they bloom, their flower seems to float in midair. To me, the ghost — which was not blooming — looked like a shriveled shoelace or a green piece of yarn. Unimpressive, to say the least.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

But nearby, two gray security cameras attached to trees pointed toward the federally protected plant, capturing images of anyone who came too near. We felt a certain thrill with just being able to get close to such a rare, revered plant, and we took pictures of each other, smiling and pointing to its little green root.

We saw other orchids that day: ribbon orchids, jingle bell orchids and butterfly

orchids. Those that were in bloom

produced flowers so tiny and delicate that half the fun was just spotting them.

As we neared the end of our walk, I began thinking about returning to the Fakahatchee, maybe during the peak of orchid blooming season, between November and December. Mesce nodded and said plenty of visitors have the same reaction.

“It’s a wonderful place,” he said. “The more you learn about it, the more you want to explore. People call it the Fakahabit. If you catch it, you have to come back.”

Science Spotlight: Nature and the Competition to Survive

International Day for Biological Diversity was Sunday, May 22! The Smithsonian Institution’s Web site features highlights of its scientific research in the fields of anthropology, astrophysics, conservation biology, geology, materials science, paleontology and zoology.

Recently the site featured a rare, endangered orchid that inhabits the hollows of Virginia, surviving only in collaboration with a particular type of fungus and a particular type of tree. Scientists want to save the orchid, known as the small-whorled pogonia, but first they have to find it. The small-whorled pogonia is found in 15 states but often there are only one or two populations in each state.¹

Although widely distributed—the small-whorled pogonia is found in eastern states and Ontario, Canada—populations are typically small with less than 20 plants. It has been extirpated from Missouri, New York, Vermont, and Maryland.

The small-whorled pogonia has a single grayish-green stem that grows about 10 inches tall when in flower and about 14 inches when bearing fruit. The plant is named for the whorl of five or six leaves near the top of the stem and beneath the



All orchids require fungi at some point in their lives, but the small-whorled pogonia requires it always. It is a parasite on the fungus, which itself has a symbiotic relationship with certain trees. Thus, in a sense the pogonia is a parasite on both the fungus and the tree. Courtesy of Sabir Ben-Ahmed

flower. The leaves are grayish-green, somewhat oblong and 1 to 3.5 inches long. The single or paired greenish-yellow flowers are about 0.5 to 1 inch long and appear in May or June. The fruit, an upright ellipsoid capsule, appears later in the year.

This orchid grows in older hardwood stands of beech, birch, maple, oak, and hickory that have an open understory. Sometimes it grows in stands of softwoods such as hemlock. It prefers acidic soils with a thick layer of dead leaves, often on slopes near small streams.

The small-whorled pogonia flowers from mid-May to mid-June, with the flowers lasting only a few days to a week. It may not flower every year but when it does

flower, one or two flowers are produced per plant. If pollinated, a capsule forms that contains several thousand minute seeds. The pogonia appears to self-pollinate by mechanical processes. The flower lacks both nectar guides and fragrance and insect pollination has not been observed.

The primary threat to the small-whorled pogonia is the past and continuing loss of populations when their habitat is developed for urban expansion. Some forestry practices eliminate habitat. Also, habitat may be degraded or individual plants lost because of recreational activities and trampling.

¹ From the Smithsonian Institution’s Web site. For more information, visit <http://smithsonianianscience.org/2011/05/the-small-whorled-pogonia/>

² From the US Fish and Wildlife Service. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/plants/smallwhorledpogoniafs.html>



Isotria medeoloides is considered a threatened species. Courtesy of A. Mark Hudson

Society Certifies Swett's Service

At the 19 May 2011 monthly meeting, at the request of MOS President Bill Scharf, Gary Smith rose to address the membership. The following is a transcript of what was said.

“I think a common complaint among former presidents, such as myself, is the realization that work was left unfinished at the end of one's term of office. I've had several such disappointments, but high among them was my wish to have done more on the subject of member recognition. At some point, months before the end of my term, I approached the Board of Trustees with my desire to use a newly available award to confer upon one of our long-time members. The Board approved the motion, and I was left with the task of executing on that decision. I stand before you tonight to finally—and happily—complete that work.

May I ask Cyrus Swett to please come forward...I'd like to read the following paragraph which accompanies this award and which will be published in a future issue of the Orchid Digest magazine:

The Maryland Orchid Society is pleased to present its first Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence to Cyrus Swett for his many years of dedicated service to the society. A member since 1988, Cyrus has continuously volunteered his time and supported the MOS in many ways. He served for nearly a decade as its Auction Chair starting in the mid-1990s and then for years later provided year-round care for the orchid orphans collected for the auction. Cyrus has held several elected offices, serving first as Treasurer, then as Vice President, and finally as President

from 2000 to 2002. Being both knowledgeable and approachable, Cyrus has taught many members over the years about orchids and their culture. The MOS is very appreciative of Cyrus' contributions and looks forward to his continued good work. ”

Postscript: The Diamond Award of Excellence is one of many tools available to the Recognition Committee, whose charter is to vet recommendations from members for special recognition of other members for their contribution to the society. If you think the work of an MOS member is worthy of an official acknowledgement or if you'd like to volunteer to work on the committee, please contact Eric Wiles.

AOS is on the Move

At the members meeting held in April, it was announced that all members with e-mail addresses would receive an invitation in early May to explore the AOS web site that has been under development which also included the new Orchids Plus program and to provide feedback. During that time, both web sites will run simultaneously. When the new site is made active you'll notice a new, fresh look to the AOS web site. Its more than a cosmetic change. Along with upgrades and added material, the new Orchids Plus program will be available. If you are a current subscriber to AQ+, you will need to re-register in the new program. AOS also anticipates a 'social network' component to the web site and it is currently under development.

In addition, at the Members meeting, the Board of Trustees announced that a

committee has been formed to assess the future strategic partners for the AOS. Possible strategic partners are Huntington Gardens in California, Fairchild Botanical Garden in Florida and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. The current AOS property in Delray is under contract for purchase and the potential purchaser is going through some local zoning change requirements. It is anticipated that sale will be completed in the last quarter of 2011.

The traditional Affiliated Societies breakfast was well attended. We had a conversation of what the AOS means to the affiliated societies and what can the societies do to further promote the AOS. The AOS reps present at the meeting asked for more communication between the AOS and the affiliated societies. The Affiliated Societies Committee members

will be reaching out to the societies throughout the upcoming months with the goal of getting all the contact information corrected and updated.

Does your society have any special members that they would like to recognize? If so, AOS can provide Certificates of Appreciation for your society to use in recognizing them for their outstanding achievements or contributions. If you have a need for these certificates or if you have any questions or concerns regarding the AOS in general, please feel to contact me through affiliated_societies@aos.org.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

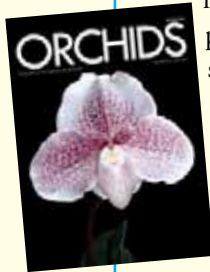
Please Return Your Books!

The MOS library contains an extensive collection of books and periodicals that have been acquired over many years of thoughtful planning. It represents a unique and valuable benefit to all members, and we strongly encourage its use. As published in our annual Membership Roster, members may check out items during our monthly meetings and are expected to return them at the following meeting. (Please review the Roster for additional relevant procedures.) This ensures that availability of material is maximized for all interested readers. Arrangements may be made for

exceptions to this rule by contacting our librarian Norma Lynch.

In the next several weeks, Norma plans to inventory the library's accessions to produce a fresh list, reorganize the shelves, and—sadly—identify missing items. If you have library items currently checked out, please bring them to the next meeting, so that they may be counted. If you can't attend the next meeting, please contact Norma to confirm that you are still in possession of these items.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Web Resources for Orchid Enrichment

At the May meeting, Clark Riley shared his extensive knowledge of the wealth of resources available to orchid lovers, thanks to the information age. Following are some of the Web sites he recommends:

Royal Horticulture Society hybrid search

<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>

10,000+ species illustrated and referenced

<http://www.orchidspecies.com/>

The Kew Database, "Official" names and citations

<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>

The International Plant Names Index (IPNI)

<http://www.ipni.org/>

The Orchid Mall, source for orchids

<http://www.orchidmall.com/>

eBay

<http://www.ebay.com/>

The Master Search Engine, Google

<http://www.google.com/>

Google Earth

<http://earth.google.com/>

The American Orchid Society

<http://www.aos.org/>

The Maryland Orchid Society

<http://www.mdorchids.org/>

Clark Riley's *Cypripediums* site

<http://www.cyps.us>



Cypripedium pubescens 'Vigrous' for Clark Riley's Web site. <http://www.cyps.us>

President's Message

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the dry side all year around but particularly in the winter when it likes to be drier. During the warmer months I move this plant along with most of my warmer growing plants outside. They summer under, but at the outer edge of my back porch. The brighter growing plants, including *Ascf.* 'Cherry Blossom', hang on the outside of the porch, getting an hour or two of full morning sun. I fertilize all my plants with a weakened solution, ¼ - ½ strength every week. This plant reliably blooms every spring with several clusters of bright pink flowers that last up to four weeks. I grow mine potted in a loose fir bark mix that drains well and allows good air circulation around the roots. These can be grown mounted as well.

If you're a new grower looking for an easy to grow plant that will dress up your window, *Ascf.* 'Cherry Blossom' is a great choice.

I encourage any growers in the society to send an article in about your favorite window orchid. Share you knowledge and help the new growers in the Maryland Orchid Society get a good start.

My first year as president has been an enjoyable experience. Thanks to the Board, Committee Chairs and their committees for your support and hard work. I know that there are areas we can improve, but I'm proud of what we accomplished this year and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

I wish a good summer for everyone.

Happy Growing!

Bill

Next Board Meeting

The next MOS board of directors meeting is July 28 at the home of David and Margaret Smith. All members are welcome to attend. Please get involved in your local orchid society.

Meeting Attendance

There were 55 members at the May meeting.

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and more adaptations and expansions to my growing area. Soon, I wanted to grow every species, and was setting up grow rooms, and terrariums to cater to their specific requirements. I've grown on everything from a windowsill to terrariums to a small greenhouse; under florescent, HID, or natural light. My collection has included most of the common, and some of the not-so-common genera. I've made pollinations, and grown plants from flask, seeing the whole lifecycle. Having grown orchids for a bit over 15 years now, I seem to have settled on the rupicolous Laelias as my favorite group as they seem to do well in my natural conditions, and are just plain 'neat.'

My degree is in Electrical Engineering from Lehigh, but my interests are more diverse, including orchids, stained glass, and woodworking with lumber I've milled. I now live in Carlisle, Pa., with my wife Gina and two sons. I grow orchids in a basement sunroom in the winter, and under shade cloth in the summer. ☺

Chaz Smith will be selling plants at the meeting.

maryland orchid society

Officers

President

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

Vice-President

Eric Wiles
410-984-2180
winvet88@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Patti Kelt
410-727-0327
pkelt@comcast.net

Controllor

Mary Chiu
301-498-3083
igone02@verizon.net

Secretary

Sarah Spence
410-243-3377
slspence@comcast.net

Past President

Gary Smith
410-349-7112
orchid.impaired@gmail.com

Directors

Joan Roderick
410-992-1811
jomarod@verizon.net

Laura Sobelman
410-363-1040
Sobelman1@verizon.net

Committees

Auction

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

Awaty Shows

Valerie Lowe
410-599-2923
vlowe14@comcast.net

Education/Activities

Eric Wiles
410-984-2180
winvet88@yahoo.com

Show

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

Joan Roderick
410-992-1811
jomarod@verizon.net

Sunshine

Janice Mazur
410-381-5694
janice.mazur@gmail.com

House

Jamie Riegel
410-370-8659
jtriegel3@gmail.com

Library

Norma Lynch
410-531-3220
nlynch@comcast.net

Membership

Marilyn Lauffer
jmlauffer@verizon.net

Newsletter

Laura Sobelman
410-363-1040
Sobelman1@verizon.net

Program

Sue Spicer
410-451-4578
suespicer@sociologist.com

Refreshments

Barbara Buck
410-551-9374
BarbaraBuck@comcast.net

Show Table

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

Hospitality

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

AOS and ODC Representative

Valerie Lowe
410-599-2923
vlowe14@comcast.net

Webmaster

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

The *MOS Newsletter*, published monthly by the Maryland Orchid Society September through June, shares the latest news of our orchid community. Please submit your comments to sobelman1@verizon.net

We invite articles, notices, etc. for inclusion in our newsletter. The deadline for inclusion is first Sunday of the month.

Contributors: Sarah Hurdel, Norma Lynch, Tom McBride, Clark Riley, Bill Scharf, Chaz Smith, Gary Smith, Sue Spicer, Laura Sobelman

The MOS brings together people interested in orchids to promote and encourage orchid culture, preservation, education, propagation, hybridization, and all other orchid-related activities of interest to its members. Benefits of membership include a subscription to the Newsletter (e-mail and web), voting rights, borrowing privileges from the MOS Library, monthly guest speakers, local judging, valuable door prizes, and much, much, more!

If you are interested in orchid culture and would like to meet others with similar interests, we cordially invite you to join the ranks of Marylanders already enjoying the benefits of membership in the Maryland Orchid Society.

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