



# The Maryland Orchid Society Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Society

April 2018

Website: [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

## President's Message



Just maybe spring has decided to emerge and the "s" word is gone until next winter. We can only hope. Mother Nature has been rather fickle this year. We will have to keep an eye on the night time temperature. Once the danger of frost has past and the night temperature stays above 45-50o, we can consider moving our orchids to the outside. Mine are telling me they are anxious to get out of the house.

Thanks to all who volunteered their help in setting up and tearing down the SEPOS Show and to all who donated their plants for the exhibit.

The spring Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, from 10 AM till 4:00 PM at Woodbrook Church. Set up will begin at 8:30 AM. If you can help with this event, the whole day or part of, please contact me (410-243-3377) or Eric Wiles (410-984-2180).

The Search Committee, Joel Graham, Chairperson, Laura Sobelman and Marilyn Lauffer have been recruiting members to run for election, by the membership, for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two Directors. All of these positions becoming vacant as of June, 2018. Nominees will be reported at the April meeting. Our Bylaws provide another avenue for anyone who may want to be on the ballot for any of these positions, as follows...

con' d on page 5

### Contents:

Page 1	President's Message/Evening Events
Page 2	Show Table Winners/Judges Choice
Pages 3 - 5	MOS News & Surrounding Events
Pages 6 - 12	AOS News & Surrounding Events
Page 13	MOS Officers & Committees



## Tom Mirenda's presentation "Big Island Orchid Scene"

Tom knows he is most fortunate to have been able to return to the Hawaiian Islands (with a GREAT job) after spending almost a decade there in his youth in the 1980s. Then a Marine Biologist at the UH Manoa, Tom was a Scuba Diver and lab technician for the Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, where he spent many months diving in remote northwest Hawaiian Island locations such as the French Frigate Shoals and Midway. While living on Oahu, Tom was a lab technician by day and a rock musician by night, playing for years at the now demolished Wave Waikiki night club. During this time, Tom became enchanted with orchids and emerged from the ocean to pursue a horticultural career.

Family ties brought him back to the New York area where he took horticultural positions at the New York Botanical Garden and Brooklyn Botanic Garden before accepting the role of Estate gardener at Greentree Estate (500+ acres) in Long Island where he cultivated all types of plants, but solidified his interest in orchids with a truly world class collection that he tended there. During this time (1990s), Tom was also the floor manager of the Greater New York International Orchid Show, of the greatest in the world. Sadly, when Greentree's owner passed it was decided that the collection be sold off.

Heartbroken, Tom looked for another orchid position, and found that Smithsonian Institution was looking for some one like him. At SI, Tom expanded an already fantastic orchid collection and developed annual educational and ornamental exhibitions often 4 or 5 months in length! Hundreds of thousands, if not

con' d on page 5

# March's Show Table Winners by Tom McBride

## Novice

1. Paph. chamberlainianum - Marc Kiriou

## Home Grown

1. Paph. Mrs. Reginald Young - John Dunning
2. Tie C. Gene May X Bl. Morning Glory - Suzanne Gaertner  
Cym. Camalaria 'Mustard' - Anne Headrick
3. Tie Lc. Orglade's Grand 'Yu Chang Beauty' AM/ AOS  
Kathi Jackson  
Den. Love Memory 'Fizz' - Marilyn Lauffer

## Greenhouse

1. Slc. Minibeau - Clark Riley
2. Ddc. wenzelii - The Adamses
3. C. Blazing Sun 'NN'- Michael Moran

## Cattleya

1. Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS - Michael Moran
2. Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS - Eric Wiles
3. Tie Slc. Final Touch 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS  
Kathi Jackson  
Pot. Edith North 'Danny Adams' - Bob Johnston  
Lc. Gold Digger 'Fuchs Mandarin' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

## Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Hybrid - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Phal. (Taisuco X Chian Zen) - John Dunning  
Phal. Hybrid - Sarah Spence
3. Tie Phal. Penang Girl 'Chin Yo' - The Adamses  
Phal. Hybrid - Marilyn Lauffer

## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Mesquakie - The Adamses
2. Tie Paph. [Hsinying Anita X (Paul Parks X sanderianum)] - John Dunning  
Phrag. Giganteum - The Soykes
3. Tie Paph. Master Dragon 'Dorothy Gurney' HCC/AOS  
Joel Graham  
Paph. Heron's Faire - John Heinbokel  
Paph. malipoense - Sarah Hurdel, Gary Smith & Owen Humphrey

## Dendrobium

1. Den. Violet Yamaji - Marc Kiriou
2. Tie Den. secunum var. alba - The Adamses  
Den. Aussie Chip - Sarah Hurdel, Gary Smith & Owen Humphrey
3. Den. Micro Chip - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

## Oncidium

1. Psy. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS - Joel Graham
2. Tolu. Tequila Sunrise - Arne Schon
3. Tie Wils. Salsa 'Pacific Ruby' - John Dunning  
Wils. Feuo 'Rose Quartz' - Bob Johnston  
Mtdm. Issaku Nagata 'Volcano Queen' - Eric Wiles

## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS - Sarah Hurdel, Gary Smith & Owen Humphrey
2. Cym. Ruby Flag - John Dunning
3. Cal. Saint Aubin 'Shirley' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

## Species

1. Mgm. falcatum - The Adamses
2. Tie Phaius tankervilleae var. alba - John Dunning  
Coel. nitida - Arne Schon
3. Tie C. trianae - Michael Moran  
Jum. arachnantha - Eric Wiles

## Miniature

1. Sl. Orpetii 'Bella Vista' HCC/AOS - Clark Riley
2. Pths. cypripedioides - The Adamses
3. Sppm. breve - Marc Kiriou

## First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. (Mem. Miguel Medina X philippinense) - John Dunning

## Fragrance

1. Lc. (Melody X Persepolis) - Wanda Kuhn
2. Lc. Ida Elizabeth 'Tyler' - Clark Riley
3. Slc. Fairyland 'NN' - John Dunning



## The Judges Choice of the Evening was

Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler  
'Lenette' HCC/AOS,  
exhibited by Michael  
Moran.

Submitted by Tom McBride

con't on page 3

# Maryland Orchid Society News and Surrounding Events

con't from page 2

Thank You to our judges who were, Steve Adams, Barbara Buck and Craig Sherman.

Our show table had an incredible display of 118 beautiful flowering plants.

A special THANKS to all that make our show table such a great success. It is truly breathtaking!



**Michael Moran's White Ribbon  
(Judges Choice of the Evening)  
Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lenette'**  
(Best Plant in Show at Timonium)

How I grow Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS is quite simple. This cattleya hybrid has been with me so long I can't remember when or where I got it from. This is a standard cattleya hybrid meaning it is just about as large as they get. You could think of them as the heavy weights of the cattleya class.

In the spring when these plants are putting up new growths it goes outside (Mothers day) under 70% shade cloth. At this time the plant is fed mostly by hose waterings but it also gets rained on. This treatment goes on through the summer until about the end of September. At this time it comes into the greenhouse where it is hung up high to receive the maximum amount of sunlight.

I have to stake the heads of flowers so they don't break the stem. About the first of November watering is about once every 10 days and feeding is down to once every other watering.

Submitted by Michael Moran

## Marilyn's Corner



### New Members

Andrew and Tammy Murphy,  
Barbara Wise (Welcome Back),  
Kenny Stevenson and  
Kimberly Stevenson Parks,  
Janet Hinton

Submitted by Marilyn Lauffer  
Membership

## Dr. Clark's Corner



### Transporting Orchids in Bad Weather

If you've been growing orchids for a while, you know that they are not delicate plants, as plants go, but they can still be damaged like any other plant from extremes of cold or heat. I once killed a lovely *Ascocentrum* plant carrying it for one block on a Chicago winter day. Won't be doing that again.

Here are some tips on avoiding heat and cold damage:

1. Box your plants. That big bubble of air in the box is good for 15 minutes to half an hour in chilly or hot weather. A box with lid is even better if the orchid fits.
2. Cover your plants. Dry cleaners bags are great for larger specimens and plastic bags from the grocery are good for smaller orchids.
3. Don't leave your plants in the car for extended times in bad weather. On a cold night, a car can drop to freezing in half an hour. On a hot day, the temperature can soar well over 100°F in fifteen minutes in the sun.

Once shocked by heat or cold, orchids seldom recover. **Be observant. Be quick.** If in doubt, leave them home or put them in someone's care who will not be delayed. A dead orchid is a tragedy.

Submitted by Dr. Clark Riley - Show Table

### Why Grow Small and Miniature Orchid Plants?

I have been asked several times recently why I have removed and continue to remove large or large-growing plants from my collection. This is a good question and a fair one. Large plants do not have any particular problems except, well, they are just too big.

I have a greenhouse, but it, unfortunately, does not have an unlimited amount of space. Being an enthusiastic orchid grower, I am always acquiring more plants, all of which require their space, large or small. Bench space, floor space, hanging space have time-after-time become filled and overfilled. What to do? I could push the plants closer together, but this has obvious limitations. Maybe I could get plants that mature smaller and grow in smaller pots or baskets. *Hmm?*

Actually, I do like small growing plants better than the larger growing standards. In recent years, there has been an enormous amount of breeding towards producing compact to miniature blooming orchids of nearly every well-known genus. These hybrids are just as attractive and floriferous as the "standards", just smaller. Some of my minicatts will bloom 2-3 times per year. They are at least as colorful, if not more so. Cattleyas, phalaenopsis, phragmipediums, paphiopedilums, dendrobiums, oncidiums: these are popular genera for which there have been many different miniature clones produced. Also, small to miniature species of many genera have been made much more available to hobby growers. *Space problems solved!*

New growers, window sill growers, under lights growers (and old fogey growers) now have an enormous number of compact to miniature growers available, usually at very reasonable prices, too. They take smaller containers, less potting mix, much less space, have less weight, grow and mature more quickly. *What's not to like?* Now you may begin to see why small growing plants can be very desirable. Also, now you know why I am still in the process of removing my biggies. I will keep a few of them, but not many.

What are some of the small-growing and miniature hybrid clones that have become available recently?

Small and miniature **phalaenopsis** clones have become very common and easily obtained.

Mini- and compact **cattleyas** are becoming much more widely available.

Very small-growing and miniature **phragmipediums** are becoming available.

The same for **paphiopedilums**, though not as, widely available yet.

**Dendrobium** hybrids that grow and bloom in 3 to 4 inch pots are available from growers.

There are **oncidium** hybrids (Twinkle, for example) that stay small and compact, available.

There are also many small-growing and miniature species available. Some might be a bit more difficult to grow, but with some experience, a new grower can do well with them. I have grown many of these over the years with varying degrees of success and have many now. These generally do well in 3-4 inch pots. *So, what are the names of some of these?*

Small growing **dendrochilum** species are easy to grow in 3-4 inch pots.

All of the **Promenae** species,

**Lepanthes** species (some), many **pleurothallis** species grow easily in small pots.

**Kefersteinia** species can be gratifying on a window sill in small pots.

Some **bulbophyllum** species are small growers. These are only a tiny number of possibilities for new, curious, enthusiastic window sill growers.

The number of local growers is more restricted than in the past, but The Little Greenhouse is a very good place to start. Fishing Creek Orchids in nearby Harrisburg, Pennsylvania grows many of these plants. Woodstream Orchids, in Calvert County, has many of the small to miniature paphs and phrags. In Lancaster, PA, there is Littlebrook Orchids. At our show every year, Orchids For You, has many of the suggested plants. Mail order nurseries are easily contacted on the internet and most have a large variety of many of these small-growing plants. The MOS purchases orchids each year for the annual auction, ask that committee to buy more of these minis and compacts. Maybe someone might suggest a group visit to one or more of these nearby growers.

J&L Orchids in Connecticut specializes in small growing and mini- orchids.

Sunset Valley Orchids, California, sells premium grade minicatts at reasonable prices.

Tropical Orchid Farm, Hawaii is a very good source.

H&R Orchids, also Hawaii sells many small growing dendrobium hybrids.

Andy's Orchids, California, very large number of select "minis".

Seattle Orchids, Washington,

The AOS supplies a source listing each year, plus the magazine, ORCHIDS, has many ads.

con't on page 5

con't from page 1- Presidents Message

“Nominations from the membership at large may be made in writing by a petition signed by at least fifteen (15) voting members of the Society and delivered to the President prior to the adjournment of the monthly meeting (if any) of the Society in May following such report, or, if there is no monthly meeting in May, prior to the end of May. Nominations for all offices shall be closed at the adjournment of the May monthly meeting.”

Sometime ago, the MOS Board agreed on guidelines concerning our monthly auction and asked that the following be adhered to...

- The number of plants placed for each monthly auction is limited to 3 plants per member.
- Plants must be in bloom, groomed, and free of pests and disease.
- The total number of plants for the monthly auction is limited to 10 and is at the discretion of the Auction Chair., Aaron Webb.
- **Buyers** are asked to quietly come to the auction table as soon as possible to pay for their purchases.
- **Sellers** are asked to wait until the auction is concluded and all monies are collected before they ask to receive their pay-out.

At the discretion of Aaron Webb, pay-out checks to sellers may be sent by mail. Following these guidelines will insure that our monthly auction runs smoothly, for everyone’s benefit.

*Sarah*



con't from page 1 - April's Speaker Tom Mirenda.

millions, of visitors have enjoyed these exhibitions over Toms 17 years there.

For the past 12 years, Tom has written two monthly columns (**Tom’s Monthly Checklist and Genus of the Month**) for ORCHIDS magazine and recently (2017), along with two scientists from Kew, published **The Book of Orchids** for the University of Chicago Press which contains very intriguing and unusual information about 600 orchid species.

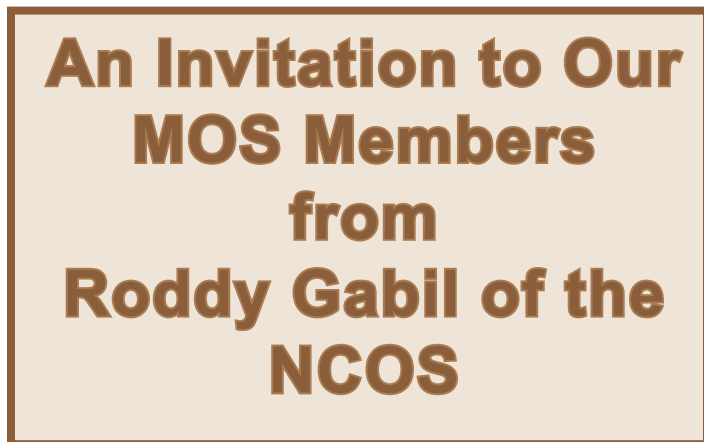
Most of all, Tom is most happy and truly proud to have returned to Hawaii as the Director of Horticulture Education and Outreach for the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden just north of Hilo. Already an exceptionally beautiful place, Toms intention is to make this garden THE Orchid Destination of the World!

con't from page 4 - David’s Corner

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT POOR QUALITY PLANTS FROM THESE INTERNET PROVIDERS. THEY WILL SEND YOU THE VERY BEST THAT THEY HAVE, EACH TIME. They place a great deal of importance on internet purchasers and will not purposefully slight them! I have never been dissatisfied with plant quality, though sometimes I think that the plant is a bit too small, not often however.

If anyone has questions about any of this, feel free to ask me (David Smith) or, Dr. Eric Wiles, Sarah Hurdel, Clark Riley, Bob Johnston, the Adams, plus others.

Submitted by David Smith - Education Hello, Sarah,



I’m reaching out to you to invite the members of MOS to our next meeting (although they are welcome at any of our meetings!), since we are having a special speaker: Martin Motes of Motes Orchids in Florida will be speaking on temperature-tolerant, low-light vandas. As you may know, Motes Orchids is one of the premier breeders and producers of vandas in the US, and it’s been years since he’s been to our area. He will be bringing plants to sell, but folks can also pre-order specific plants from him. More information on Martin, his nursery, and current plant listings can be found at [www.motesorchids.com](http://www.motesorchids.com).

The meeting will be on Monday, April 16, at 8:00 pm (doors open at 6:30). Folks should arrive at least by 7:30 pm to have time to look over the show table, visit with our members, and enjoy some snacks--and to see what plants our speaker has to offer on site. As usual, our meeting will be held at the U.S. National Arboretum (enter on R Street from Bladensburg Rd., NE, Washington, DC).

We hope to see you there!  
Regards,  
Roddy Gabel

# LOCAL AOS NEWS

**March 3, 2018**

**National Capital Judging Center:**

Sarah Hurdel's plant of Dendrobium Nano Chip 'Sweet Spots' received an 81 point Award of Merit (AM) from the American Orchid Society.



This article was to be presented in the March issue of the MOS newsletter, but it was over looked.  
(sorry Valerie & Sarah)

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Lowe  
AOS/ODC Representative





**American Orchid Society**  
Education. Conservation. Research.

# THE APRIL, 2018 AOS CORNER

From the desk of Denise Lucero,  
Vice-Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee  
([dluceroaosmembership@gmail.com](mailto:dluceroaosmembership@gmail.com)).

For newsletter editors:

Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner, in whole or in part, in their society newsletters. We encourage promotion of AOS website use by your members.

## **AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

In early March the 2018 Spring AOS Members Meeting was held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show and the Cymbidium Society of America Congress. It brought together AOS members and orchid enthusiasts from around the country for the spectacular show, lectures, vendors and AOS meetings. It's always great to get together, spend time with old friends and new, and revitalize committees. For me, it doesn't get much better than spending time immersed in everything orchid!

During this meeting a new slate of Executive Officers was installed, so make sure to read the message from our new AOS president, Susan Wedegaertner, in the April edition of Orchids magazine. We will be looking for host societies to carry on the tradition of our great spring and fall meetings. If your society would like any information about hosting an AOS meeting please send inquiries to: [Affiliated\\_Societies@aos.org](mailto:Affiliated_Societies@aos.org). We are here for your support and will work with you to make an event that is a success for all.

Also, if your society has an upcoming show you should contact HQ for all things related to publication orders. There is a discount given to Affiliates based on the number of AOS-published books ordered. (Check the website to see what's available, like Pests & Diseases, etc.)

- With a minimum order of 30 books (and up to 75) the discount offered is 40% off retail
- 76-125 discount is 45% off retail
- 125-199 discount is 50% off retail
- 200+ goes to 55% off retail.

Shipping and insurance (required for orders over \$50) is additional.

In Florida, unless tax-exempt - there will be a 6% sales tax added as well.

Another consideration for any upcoming show is to add something to engage the kids. Check out AOS. [AOS.org](http://AOS.org)/Kids' Corner/Kids' Art Projects for "Sharing Your Love of Orchids with Kids" on AOS.org. for an overview of ideas for making a Kids' Corner of your own at your next orchid show. All it takes is some crafty people, some loving volunteers and a table. The activities can all be created easily. See other articles for instructions on how to create the activities we've tested out or make up your own great activities. Please share your ideas and experiences with the education Committee at [sstubbings@comcast.net](mailto:sstubbings@comcast.net).

Thanks for all the pics that you are sending in for the Instagram feed. Our Instagram Administrator, Candace Hollinger, sends her appreciation to you all. It's wonderful to see such a variety of everything orchid that's enjoyed around the globe. Please remind your members that we would love pictures of how they grow, what's blooming now or anything they love about orchids. Please continue to send your photos and short videos to: [americanorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americanorchidsociety@gmail.com). Be sure to send a short caption explaining your photo. Also, if you are bilingual and can include your caption in English plus your other language(s)—it will help with our universal outreach.

Remember to check-in on our Facebook Group Page for Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society. Let us know how your show went and what was successful for you or what didn't quite make the mark. We always help each other by sharing. Our administrator, Chad Brinkerhuff, monitors the feed and is a great resource for all that the AOS has to offer: Keep us up to date on what's going on at your local society and let us know how we can help you.

Also, remember we have an updated List of Speakers to help you plan society meeting programs. You will now find the Affiliated Societies link on the home page under the "About Us" heading. And... Here's a link to check it all out - <http://www.aos.org/>

## **Feed Me**

From the April 2013 issue of Orchids Magazine

Prepared by the AOS Education Committee with Photographs by Greg Allikas

## **The Basics of Choosing a Fertilizer and Application**

IF THEIR OTHER REQUIREMENTS are met, orchids will grow and flower for fairly long periods without fertilizer. Witness the people in tropical areas such as South Florida who grow them mounted on trees and let nature do the rest. Indeed, that is how epiphytic orchids grow in nature. But hobbyists generally try to give their orchids more than the bare minimum so that the plants flower at or above their potential.

There are many different points of view on how to fertilize orchids and what fertilizer to use. Everyone has a favorite fertilizer or supplement. There are so many variables that how and when you fertilize depends on what kinds of orchids you grow and how and where you grow them. This article will offer a brief explanation and general guidelines on fertilizing orchids. For more specific application, join your local orchid society and ask someone there who grows the same kind of orchids as you. It is unlikely that you will kill any orchids with orchid fertilizer so following the recommendations here will provide your plants needed nutrition.

If you are a gardener you are probably familiar with the N-P-K listings on fertilizer bags. Orchid fertilizers have them too. Let's go over these three elements and see how they affect plant growth. Nitrogen (N) helps make plants green and helps them grow faster. It is the element responsible for vegetative growth (the leafy parts). Phosphorus (P) is good for root growth, disease resistance, seed and fruit growth, and especially for blooming and flowering. Potassium (K) helps with increasing root growth, drought resistance and disease resistance.

## **YOUR SOCIETY CAN EARN FREE AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS:**

Upcoming shows are a good time to encourage new membership to AOS. Affiliated societies can now earn a one-month extension of their AOS society membership for each new AOS member that they refer (note: membership renewals don't count). For now, the only way to take advantage of this program is to download and print the AOS Membership Application Form, check the box "yes" to indicate that you are a member of a local orchid society, most importantly fill in the NAME of your orchid society.

With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a FULL YEAR OF FREE AOS membership! Be sure to have membership applications with your society's name already filled in and available at your club meetings!

Remember to let your members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources at their disposal making growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful.

Digital Access To Over 350+  
past issues of Orchids magazine extending back to 1932!

## **ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!**

16-page award gallery of breath taking pictures of recently awarded orchids

## **RECENT ORCHID AWARDS PICTURES ON THE AOS WEBSITE:**

See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new "Latest Orchid Awards" page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. Free to members and nonmembers. There are three main types of fertilizers used for orchids: balanced, high nitrogen and bloom booster.

- Balanced fertilizers have been traditionally recommended for use with orchids potted in inorganic potting media such as lava rock and Aliflor, and tree fern (which has fallen out of favor due to conservation concerns). Plants mounted on cork bark or other substrates also benefit from using a balanced fertilizer.



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- Balanced fertilizers have been traditionally recommended for use with orchids potted in inorganic potting media such as lava rock and Aliflor, and tree fern (which has fallen out of favor due to conservation

concerns). Plants mounted on cork bark or other substrates also benefit from using a balanced fertilizer. An example of a balanced fertilizer would be represented by the numbers 20-20-20.

- High-nitrogen fertilizers have long been recommended for use with orchids potted in fir bark or fir bark mixes. The reason for extra nitrogen is that the bacteria that cause the bark to decay use up much of the available nitrogen, thus depleting the orchid. This practice has recently come into question. Nonetheless, using a high-nitrogen fertilizer, especially in spring at the beginning of the growing season, can promote strong vegetative growth under ideal conditions. An example of high-nitrogen fertilizer would be 30-10-10.
- Bloom or blossom-booster formulas are high in phosphorus. Typically, high-phosphorus fertilizers are applied every other week for four to six applications the season before expected bloom. For winter–spring blooming orchids, bloom booster is usually applied in the autumn. Vandaceous hybrids and other orchids that bloom throughout the year can be given bloom booster every third or fourth fertilizing. An example of a bloom booster would be 10-30-20. Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and since orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently.

### APPLICATION

How fertilizer is applied varies as much as orchids themselves. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during spring and summer and every two weeks in the autumn and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you choose, most experienced growers use ½ the label-recommended strength. Remember, in nature epiphytic orchids' roots are exposed and the only nutrients they receive are from bird and animal droppings, decaying insects and detritus. The old saying about fertilizing orchids is: Feed them weekly weakly. Fertilizer is best applied in the morning on sunny days. For mounted orchids, or orchids with exposed roots, such as vandas in empty baskets, many growers routinely first water the plants and then follow with fertilizer a half hour later. The watering before fertilizing prepares the spongy velamen of the orchid roots to better utilize the fertilizer. Orchids in pots are usually not watered first but some growers have their own techniques.

There are requirements specific to certain orchids. For instance, do not fertilize nobile-type dendrobiums after early autumn. This rule actually applies to all orchids that have decided rest periods and all deciduous orchids. Fertilizing them while in their rest period keeps them in continual growth instead of resting before producing flowers. In other words, you may get a lot of growth and no flowers.

There are also many secret recipes growers use that supposedly produce stronger plants or more flowers. Certainly, vitamins and micronutrients are as essential as the building blocks of plant growth mentioned above. Elements such as magnesium, boron, calcium, carbon and others are required for strong plant growth. All in all, although there are certain practices that are documented as being helpful, it has not been proven that supplements actually contribute to improved growth in orchids — but it probably doesn't hurt to use them.



Good cultural practices that include regular fertilizing will produce well-flowered orchids, such as this *Vanda ampullacea* (*Ascocentrum ampullaceum*)  
Grower: Greg Allikas and Kathy Figiel. Vandaceous orchids that were under fertilized (left) and received adequate fertilizer (right).



Vandaceous orchids that were under fertilized (left) and received adequate fertilizer (right).



Most experienced growers use fertilizer at ½ the label-recommended strength.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the All About Orchids tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of the monthly Corner.

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton  
Thursday, March 29th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Open to all*

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send you questions to [stillisch@cox.net](mailto:stillisch@cox.net) by Monday, March 26th.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1353064894983688963>

Judging *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* with Laura Newton  
Tuesday, April 10th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Judging Seminar*

Please join AOS accredited judge and Awards Registrar Laura Newton as she details what to look for when scoring judging *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* and its hybrids.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4407180542545159939>



*Bulbophyllum echinolabium* 'Springwater' HCC/AOS;  
Photographer: Greg Allikas

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton  
Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Open to all*

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send you questions to [stillisch@cox.net](mailto:stillisch@cox.net) by Saturday, April 21st.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7767746573645081858>

Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the seminar.

**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

**WANT TO LEARN, BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE?** The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

**THE APRIL ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE** – Our annual Judging Issue will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- Quality Never Goes Out of Style - The 2017 FCCs
- Orchids Illustrated - Lorenz Oken
- "Really Special" Orchids - The 2016 Year-End Annual Awards
- A New Species of Vanilla
- Two New Species in *Acianthera* sect. *Antilla* From Haiti
- Tales of a Student Judge
- Genus of the Month - *Miltoniopsis*



Cattleya purpurata (hort. var. rubra)  
'Shoguns Fire' FCC/AOS;  
Photographer: Glen Barfield



Miltoniopsis vexillaria var. alba 'Princess' CCM/AOS;  
Photographer: Alexey Tretyakov

**YOUR SOCIETY CAN EARN FREE AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS:**

Upcoming shows are a good time to encourage new membership to AOS. Affiliated societies can now earn a one-month extension of their AOS society membership for each new AOS member that they refer (note: membership renewals don't count). For now, the only way to take advantage of this program is to download and print the AOS Membership Application Form, check the box "yes" to indicate that you are a member of a local orchid society, most importantly fill in the NAME of your orchid society.

With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a FULL YEAR OF FREE AOS membership! Be sure to have membership applications with your society's name already filled in and available at your club meetings!

Remember to let your members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources at their disposal making growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful.

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16-page award gallery of breath taking pictures of recently awarded orchids

**RECENT ORCHID AWARDS PICTURES ON THE AOS WEBSITE:**

See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new "Latest Orchid Awards" page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. *Free to members and nonmembers.*

Let's grow together,  
Denise Lucero



Lealia anceps 'Megan Kiyome' HCC/AOS;  
Photographer: Ramon de los Santos



Respectfully submitted by Valerie Lowe  
AOS/ODC Representative

# Maryland Orchid Society Officers and Committees

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Happy Alien  
(*Calceolaria uniflora*)

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