



# The Maryland Orchid Society Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Society

March 2019

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

## The Vice President's Message



Dear Orchidphiles,  
A million "thank yous" to everyone who made the SOS Show a great success. Your hard work and creativity won the MOS "the AOS Show Trophy with a score of 86 points which should also be a silver certificate. Best society display and best in show,"

according to Marc Kiriou, MOS member extraordinaire.

As this is published, the MOS Show will be in full swing. Thank you in advance to all those people who helped, provided plants, created displays, volunteered, and generally made themselves available to spread the orchid obsession to the public, as well as the wonderful vendors and their gorgeous plants. More to come in the April newsletter and at the April meeting.

Speaking (or writing) of the April meeting, we are changing the date of the meeting so the Woodbrook Baptist Church can celebrate Maundy Thursday. The new date is April 25, the fourth Thursday in April.

Please join us for the MOS Orchid Workshop April 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Woodbrook Baptist Church. Bring your friends, bring your relatives, bring some strangers. You don't have to be an MOS member to attend the fascinating demonstrations and lectures, and hands-on repotting in the afternoon. Each attendee may bring one plant to repot with the help of our expert growers. The cost is \$20, which includes a scrumptious lunch. RSVP to Sarah Spence.

Grow long and prosper, and may the orchids be with you.

*Laura*

## March's Speaker Mark Werther

**Mark Werther** is the owner of Sentinel Orchids in Radnor, PA, and will be speaking on "Orchid Management."

Mark has been involved with orchids since he began growing them at age 16 in 1960. Expanding to a commercial focus, he founded Sentinel Orchids in 1987. Sentinel Orchids (open by appointment in Radnor, PA) has recently changed emphasis to concentrate on collection plants with selected divisions available to interested customers. Sentinel Orchids also provides orchid collection evaluation, including desirability and condition analysis, monetary evaluation, and methodologies of growing. Mark has received over 150 AOS awards, 15 of which are in the Broughtonia complex and 18 with Slc. Tiny Titan.

In addition to commercial growing, Mark is a professional architect, registered to practice in PA and NJ; greenhouse design is part of that practice. He has also been an accredited AOS judge since 1987. He currently serves as Chairman of Mid-Atlantic Regional Judging and has Chaired Judge's Training at the Mid-Atlantic Center in Philadelphia. He is a Past President of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society and serves as the Co-Chair of their Show Table Judging Committee.

Mark has spoken extensively and on diverse topics to orchid societies across the country and into Canada. He will join MOS for our March 2019 meeting.

### ORCHID MANAGEMENT:

Mark will present a survey of many aspects of orchid growing resulting from 60 years of growing that are not often spoken about and sometimes avoided.

He will be discussing viruses and the implications and doing at least one test; reviewing mixes; understanding the relationship of saturation of mix to potting mass and technique; the latest use of Cypress and results; small pot growing; choosing your potting equipment/implements; choosing the right pots, baskets, and mounts and how to alter them for best results; changes in fertilizers and growth organics; strategies in selection/purchasing/value/trading; Florida Hawaiian Syndrome; and finally, but not least: it's not your fault.

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# February's 2019 Show Table Winners by Tom McBride

## Novice

1. Phal. Hybrid - Debbie Lippincott
2. Phal. Hybrid - Lindy Reef

## Home Grown

1. Cym. Hybrid - Marilyn Lauffer
2. Tie Slc. Final Touch 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS - Kathi Jackson  
B. Little Stars - Arne Schon  
Stsc. Vanguard 'Fireball' JC/AOS - Anne Headrick
3. Phrag. Grande 'Upperco' HCC/AOS - Bob Travers

## Greenhouse

1. Paph. Mesquakie - The Adamses
2. C. Tutankhamen 'Pop' - David Smith
3. Coel. cristata 'Suwada' - Clark Riley

## Cattleya

1. Epi. stamfordianum - The Adamses
2. Tie Slc. Hazel Bold 'Apricot Glow' HCC/AOS - Bob Johnston  
Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS - Michael Moran
3. Tie Blc. Zul 'Bill Williams' - Marilyn Lauffer  
Lc. Trick or Treat - Arne Schon

## Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Paiho Lucky Stripe - John Dunning
2. Tie Phal. Ching Ann Diamond 'Alisun' - The Adamses  
Phal Little Emperor - Ben Sims  
Phal. Hybrid - The Soykes
3. Tie Phal. amabilis - Joel Graham  
Phal. Hybrid - John Heinbokel  
Phal. Hybrid - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Mount Toro - The Adamses
2. Tie Paph. Isabel Booth 'Sandry #1' - John Dunning  
Phrag. Fritz Schomburg - Joel Graham  
Paph. delenatii - Marc Kiriou
3. Tie Paph. glaucophyllum - Laura Sobelman  
Paph. Hawaiian Tea - Bob Travers

## Dendrobium

1. Den. Violet Yamaji 'Puanani' - Marc Kiriou
2. Den. (Green Mist X Andrae Millar) - Bob Johnston
3. Den. macrophyllum - The Adamses

## Oncidium

1. Hwra. Mini-primi 'Harford' - Marc Kiriou
2. Wils. Golden Afternoon 'Rich Yellow' - Bob Johnston
3. Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS - Sarah Spence

## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Ang. Alabaster 'Williamsburg' - Bob Johnston
2. Lyc. Shoalhaven - David Smith
3. Lyc. Chiltern Hundreds '#1' - Mai Conaway

## Species

1. Ptst. curta - Clark Riley
2. Tie Rhy. gigantea - Arne Schon  
Trgl. cirrhifera - David Smith  
Rhy. gigantea - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Tie Max. costaricensis - Bob Johnston  
Sppm. brave - Marc Kiriou  
Sngl. longifolium - Bob Travers

## Miniature

1. Rest. ligiae - Marc Kiriou
2. Sppm. ovulare - The Adamses
3. Den. lichenastrum var. prenticei - Bob Johnston

## First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. fairieanum - Marc Kiriou
2. Phrag. (Saint Ouen X andreetae) - Chris Bauer
3. Hoc. Shih Wei Diamond - Michael Moran

## Fragrance

1. Pot. (Hisako Akatuka X Shining Lady) - Bob Johnston

## The Judges Choice of the Evening

was a Epi. stamfordianum, exhibited The Adamses.

**Thank You** to our judges who were, Teena Hallamayer, Bill Soyke and Aaron Webb.

Our show table had an incredible display of 98 beautiful flowering plants.

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

Submitted by  
Tom McBride -  
Show Table



# Maryland Orchid Society News and Surrounding Events

cont'd from page 1

## MOS Future Speakers:

April: Roddy Gabel, NCOS; Spiders, Donkeys, and Flying Ducks - The Orchids of Southwest Australia

May: Mary Jo Gilsdorf, Delaware Orchid Society & AOS Judge (rescheduled from November); Trials and Tribulations: Growing Tips from a Judge

June: Nancy Mountford, NCOS & MOS; Big-Lipped Phalaenopsis

Submitted by John Heinbokel - Program

## David's Corner



### March's Education Corner

#### Tonight.

General topic will be internet sources of plant and culture info. Then some internet sources of plants that I have used, then, examining the AOS website. Details tonight.

Submitted by David Smith -  
Education Corner



## Dr. Clark's Corner



## The -"est" Orchid

With 30,000+ species, there are extremes:

**Smallest:** A Platystele from Ecuador. Flowers only 2 mm wide!

**Largest flower:** Paphiopedilum sanderianum. *Petals 1 yard +*. Note: 500 flowers of the Platystele could fit on one petal of this lady slipper.

**Northernmost orchid:** Perhaps Dactylorhiza aristata. Lives above the Arctic *circle* in Alaska and Siberia.

**Southernmost orchid:** The dog orchid, Codonorchis. *Tierra del Fuego and islands south of Chile*.

**Largest orchid by mass:** Grammatophyllum speciosum.

One plant in the Singapore Botanic Garden weighed over a ton!



**Favorite orchid:** up to you. Grown by members of the Maryland Orchid Society for sure!

Submitted by Dr. Clark Riley - Show Table



# The Maryland Orchid Society Calendar 2019

March 5-10, 2019 – Annual Spring Show  
and Sale

March 5 – Set-up staging

March 6 – Set-up exhibits

March 7 – AOS Judging; Preview  
Sale 3-6 PM

March 8, 9, 10 – Show opens to public

March 21, 2019 – Monthly Meeting

April 4, 2019 – SEPOS Show Set up

April 13, 2019 – Spring Workshop

April 18, 2019 – Monthly Meeting

April 25, 2019 – Board Meeting

May 16, 2019 – Monthly Meeting

June 20, 2019 – Monthly Meeting

Submitted by Joan Roderick - President

## **Please note change in submission dates for the MOS Newsletter.**

All articles for the monthly Newsletter must be submitted to Barbara Buck (barbarabuck2015@comcast.net) by the first Sunday of each month as follows.

For March Newsletter by March 3

For April Newsletter by April 7

For May Newsletter by May 5

For June Newsletter by June 2

Submitted by The Board

**NOTE:** April meeting has been re-scheduled to  
Thursday, April 25, 2019!

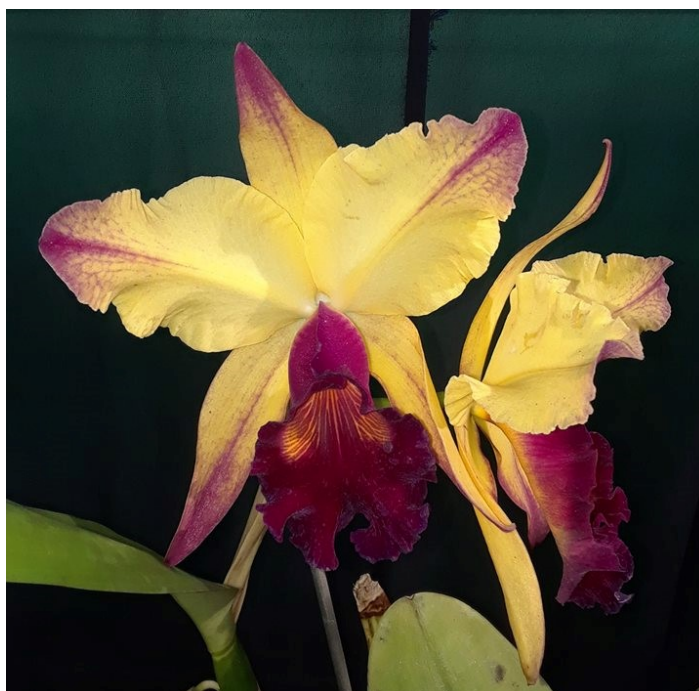
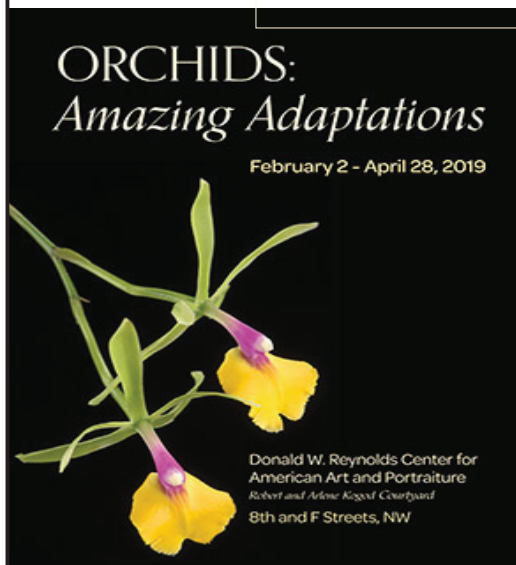


Photo by Aaron Spence

# Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Exhibition

What's up at the  
Smithsonian  
Gardens?



## Orchid Exhibition: *Orchids: Amazing Adaptations*

February 2 - April 28, 2019

in the

Kogod Courtyard Orchids

Amazing Adaptations Escape the winter cold and step into a floral oasis in the Kogod Courtyard with *Orchids: Amazing Adaptations*. A joint collaboration with Smithsonian Gardens, United States Botanic Garden, SAAM, and National Portrait Gallery, this installation fills the courtyard with hundreds of orchids of stunning variety. The installation showcases how orchids have adapted to their many different environments, and can be found on every single continent except Antarctica.

*Orchids: Amazing Adaptations* is part of *Habitat*, a Smithsonian Gardens-wide exhibition exploring the importance of habitats and how we can help protect them. *Habitat* is the first in a series of changing exhibitions connecting all of Smithsonian Gardens' spaces with a single theme. From 2019 to 2020, *Habitat* will feature a variety of indoor and outdoor displays, exhibits, and educational programs.

## Orchid Workshop

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

Saturday, April 13, 2019

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

at Woodbrook baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane,  
Baltimore, MD 21212

Demonstrations, hands on training in repotting, media, and growing techniques.

You may bring **one** plant for repotting.

Admission is **\$20.00** per person: includes lunch and supplies;

For more details call (410) 243-3377

**RSVP by April 10, 2019**

--- Cut here and return lower portion with your payment ---

Make your check payable to Maryland Orchid Society and mail to 4506 Keswick Rd. Baltimore, MD 21210

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# MOS at the Susquehanna Orchid Show



Before Judging



After Judging

# MARYLAND EXHIBIT AT THE SUSQUEHANNA ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

Thanks to the excellent design of Marc Kiriou and the help of Fay Citterone, Joel Graham, Sarah Hurdel, Clark Riley, and Robert and Susan Travers, Wendy Kuhn and the generous donation of plants from Sarah Hurdel, Kathi Jackson, Bob Johnston, Marc Kiriou, Al and Wanda Kuhn, Valerie Lowe, Sarah Spence, Clark Riley, David Smith, Robert Travers, Eric Wiles, Chris Zajac, and The Little Greenhouse, the Maryland Orchid Society installed a 50 sq. ft. exhibit which received First place in its class, the Best Society, the Best Exhibit in Show (AOS Show Trophy), and a Silver Certificate from the AOS. Other ribbons/awards received are:

PLANT	AWARD	OWNER
Phal. Grahamii	1 <sup>st</sup>	Joel Graham
Phrag. Boulder River 'Zelda Graham'	1 <sup>st</sup> , HCC/AOS	"
Baptidium Little Dragon 'Carmela', HCC/AOS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Den. Victoria Pinky 'Lovely Mina', HCC/AOS	1 <sup>st</sup> , Best Dendrobium	Sarah Hurdel
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry', FCC/AOS	1st	"
Paph. victoria-reginae	3rd	"
Lc. Orlade's Grand 'Yu Chang Beauty', AM/AOS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kathi Jackson
Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Apricot Glow', HCC/AOS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Epicanthe Volcano Trick 'Fireball', AM/AOS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bob Johnston
Dendrobium (Andree Miller x Green Mist)	HM	"
Scaphosepalum breve	1 <sup>st</sup>	Marc Kiriou
Paph. Fanaticum	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Paph. Boroburdur 'Loch Raven', AM/AOS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Dendrobium Starburst Vista	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Phal. Taida Kings Caroline 'Taida Little Zebra', AM/AOS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wanda Kuhn
Epidendrum magnolia	HM	Clark Riley
Paph. villosum	3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Smith
Pleuro. nuda	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Dendrochilum formosanum	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Dendrochilum stenophyllum	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Phal. Liu's Cute Angel	1st	Sarah Spence
Phal. Spencil	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Paph. lawrenceanum 'Berenice', AM/AOS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Little Greenhouse
Blc. Malworth 'Orglade', FCC/AOS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Onc. Midas 'Willow Pond'	1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob and Susan Travers
Dialaelia Snowflake	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Paph. Hawaiian Tea	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Phal. Aphrodite	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Zygo. Jumpin Jack 'Kalapana', HCC/AOS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Denia ophrydis	HM	"

Laelia anceps	1 <sup>st</sup>	Eric Wiles
Lycaste Leo 'Knob Creek'	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Cym. goeringii 'Liam Ban'	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Paph. Rosy Dawn 'Pinkie'	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Schomburgkia crispa	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Paph. Toni Semple 'Diana Candy Crush', HCC/AOS	1 <sup>st</sup>	Chris Zajac
Paph. Fairly Sauced	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Dendrobium (Big Alex x Hisako Haraguchi)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Brassavola nodosa	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Dendrobium Andree Miller	HM	"

I would like to thank Sarah Hurdel, Marc Kiriou, Clark Riley, Gary Smith, Robert and Susan Travers, and Eric Wiles for helping to tear down the exhibit, getting it packed up, and transported home.

AOS/ODC News items are submitted by our AOS/ODC Representative - Valerie Lowe



## *The Member's Spotlight*

### MOS Group Perlite Buy

By Bob Travers

It has been about a year since I have brought Perlite to a MOS meeting for sale. I received several inquiries at the Christmas meeting, so I will again coordinate a group purchase of Orchid Screen Perlite for MOS Members. I will repackage and provide in smaller size bags. Prices include transportation and handling and **deliveries will be brought to the MOS Meetings.**

The Perlite is sourced direct from the manufacturer Pennsylvania Perlite, and is offered in 4 cubic foot bags. They have a Standard Screen for Orchids which yields a particle size of 3/8" to 1/2". The pictures below are from a previous purchase. This falls between a Grade #3 and #4 and is a significantly larger particle size than you will find at garden centers or the big box stores. Usually this is ordered through orchid supply companies and would incur additional shipping charges.

Repackaged sizes and prices (Note price increase passed on from Penn Perlite)

- One gallon Bag      \$4.00
- Two Gallon Bag     \$6.00
- Five Gallon Bag    \$11.00
- 4 Cu. Ft. Bag        \$28.00

**Please respond to Bob Travers anytime,** with your order request. Payment accepted at the meeting your Perlite is delivered.

Contact Bob Travers  
email [subobtrav@zoominternet.net](mailto:subobtrav@zoominternet.net)  
or phone 410-557-9901.





# National Capital Orchid Society

*Supporting Orchid Culture and Conservation since 1947*

([www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us))

## *Our Annual Orchid Auction*

*Gorgeous Orchids: Save The Date*



*Plan to join us, Over 300 rare and unusual blooming or near blooming size from well-known growers coast to coast as well as private collections. Pictures of all orchid flowers will be projected.*

**When:** Saturday March 30, 2019, 10am-3pm

**Where:** North Chevy Chase Christian Church

8814 Kensington Parkway

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Auction Viewing: 10-11 am

Auction Begins at 11 am

**Checks/Visa/MasterCard/Discover/Cash accepted**

**Food Available for Purchase!**

# The AOS Orchid Society News and Surrounding Events

## AOS ORCHID-GRAM

[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

### Support the AOS

Renew

Donate

#### Your Membership ID

Looking for your Membership ID so you can get your special discounts and benefits?

We will be happy to provide both your Membership ID and a printable version of your Membership Card via email! Just give us a call or send us an email, and we will gladly send you a copy upon request!

#### Orchidist's Word of the Month tuberoid (TEW-ber-oyd):

A thickened root resembling a tuber, as those found in many terrestrial orchids.



#### Looking for Orchids?

Find vendors of orchid plants, seedlings, supplies, greenhouses, fertilizers, watering equipment, potting mixes, lighting setups and other orchid-related products in our online Orchid Source Directory!

#### Looking to visit a garden?

AOS Members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide. See a list of participating gardens near you!

#### March issue of ORCHIDS

The March issue of *ORCHIDS* is now in the mail to current print members. All Current AOS members can [log in to read it online now](#).

Depending on where you live, it may not feel like it but summer is not far off. In anticipation of this, Nile Dusdieker discusses the pergola he and his wife built that houses many of their plants out-of-doors during the Iowa summer.

Fred Clarke introduces us to two stunning new genera in the *Zygopetalum* Alliance; *Maxthompsonara* and *Nottara* and Barbara Schmidt introduces us to *Vanilla planifolia*.

Tara Luna reports to us on her work in conservation of western North American cyripediums - work partially supported by an AOS Conservation Grant and Rudolf Jenny discusses *Cypripedium guttatum* and Johann Amman, an early 18th century Swiss botanist.

Rounding out our March issue, Leon Glicenstein reports on a new hybrid of *Habenaria janellehayneiana*.

Read up on all these topics and more in this month's issue of *ORCHIDS* magazine!

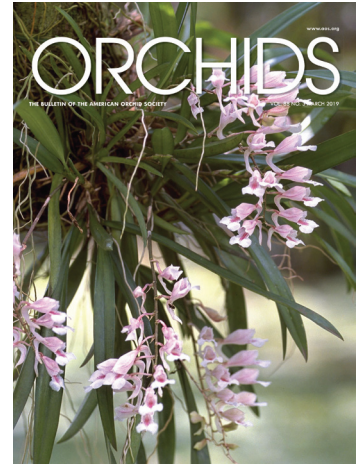
#### Special Announcement - Greenhouse Chat Index Project Completed



We are pleased to announce the completion of the Greenhouse Chat index project. The idea is simple enough. When you click on LEARN MORE on any recorded greenhouse chat webinar, you will now see a time stamped table of contents that you can browse for topics that interest you. So, if you missed a chat, or could not remember the chat where a specific topic of interest to you was discussed, you can quickly zero in on what you want to see, and skip directly to that section when you view the recording.

These webinars are such a great asset to our membership and we encourage you to take advantage of them.

Also, of note is that the indexes are integrated into the search capabilities of [aos.org](http://aos.org). so, you can expect to see Greenhouse Chats in the list of search results. For example, if you search on MSU (because you are interested in MSU fertilizer) you will notice that is discussed in 2 chats; June 2018 and February 2015.



## Don't miss these webinars in March



Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

**Choosing the Best Plants** - How do you buy the best plant for your collection? Join Lois Cinert, an AOS Judge, in learning how to recognize a good orchid. *Member Exclusive webinar.*



Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

**Greenhouse Chat** - Join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchids. *Open to all.*

### **The 2019 Spring Members Meeting is almost here!**

There is still time to register for the Spring Members Meeting in San Diego! We have a full schedule of activities and fabulous speakers planned, in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Society show "Orchid Treasures".



**Give a gift membership.**

A great gift for the orchid lover in your life!

March Issue of ORCHIDS





# Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



**THE MARCH 2019 AOS CORNER** – From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee ([Affiliated Societies@AOS.org](mailto:Affiliated_Societies@AOS.org)).

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**

It's time again that the Trustees of the American Orchid Society and its Standing Committees will meet at the AOS Spring 2019 Members Meeting. The meeting is being held March 20th- 24th, 2019 in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Society Spring Show in beautiful San Diego, California. You can expect great weather, miles of sandy beaches, and major attractions, so you won't regret adding a few days onto your trip to enjoy this laid back ocean side destination. Meeting activities will be held at the Hilton Mission Valley and the show will be at the Scottish Rites Center. You're going to find Distinguished Orchid Speakers along with a Premier Orchid Show & Vendor Sales that are not to be missed. Everyone's welcome to join us on Thursday, the 21st, at the Affiliated Societies Committee Meeting where you can share activities and voice the concerns of your local Society and don't forget the Live Auction and Gala Banquet on Saturday night. We definitely hope to see you.

Register now! <http://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings.aspx>

## **From an affiliate perspective, what should I expect to gain for my society at an AOS meeting?**

As an AOS Affiliated Societies (AS) Representative you will be introduced to all the AOS Members Meeting event has to offer. You will be invited to participate in the committee meeting to share your ideas and thoughts about what the AOS has to offer that most benefits your society, as well as suggest where we might consider doing more.

We offer a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Many of us on the committee often serve as affiliate reps for our own local societies. Our goal is to exchange ideas and share knowledge and experiences to make our orchid shows, fund raisers and educational programs the best they can be for our societies and their members.

It's an opportunity to brainstorm ways of attracting new members and we take that role seriously. We want to see all of our affiliates succeed and help grow the interest in orchids for many generations to come.

Please reach out to Deb Bodei, Chair at [Dbodei@aos.org](mailto:Dbodei@aos.org) or [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org) if you are planning on attending the meeting in San Diego or if you are just thinking about it and want to know more. We look forward to meeting our friends and fellow affiliates.

Make sure to check out AOS President Susan Wedegaertner's message in March's issue of ORCHIDS magazine where she tells us about the Governance Committee, chaired by Jean Hollebhone, and their responsibilities to assure we comply with not-for-profit laws. Aided by Judy Baily, Cheryl Erins, Harry Gallis MD, James Heilig PhD, Theresa Kennedy and Taylor Slaughter, this committee is very busy and welcomes your ideas and suggestions to enhance and improve offerings to our membership. You can reach them at [governance\\_committee@aos.org](mailto:governance_committee@aos.org). You'll also get to learn a little about two individuals many of us look for and follow each month in ORCHIDS, Terry & Sue Bottoms and about a recent recognition they were awarded.

We're always looking for ideas to bring kids into the world of orchids. While planning your next orchid show don't forget to check out the AOS Kids Corner for ideas. Here's the link to the main page: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/kids-corner.aspx>. See other articles for instructions on how to create 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 again 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 pics 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. The response has been great, many thanks to all of you who added pics of show banners. We can all learn from what has been successful for other societies. Let us know how your show went, and what was successful for you, or what didn't quite make the mark. 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.

Don't forget to check out the NEW 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/>

## **CULTURAL**

We hope you find this article prepared by the AOS Education Committee useful. Originally published in ORCHIDS Magazine March 2013.

### **Give Me Some Air**

Combining Humidity with Air that Feels Light and Is Constantly Moving Benefits Plants

During the 19th-century Orchidmania craze that swept Europe, thousands of orchids would die in dry, heated "stoves," as the orchid greenhouses were called. It is surprising that any survived and it was only the sheer numbers being ripped from the jungles at that time that allowed a hobby to be born. These early orchid hobbyists had little first-hand knowledge of where or how orchids grew and the plants often arrived in Europe unaccompanied by the person who collected them. The notion was that epiphytic orchids grew in dank and steamy tropical jungles. There certainly are orchids that come from sea level forests close to the equator, but even in those places there is open air movement, the subject we will cover here.

Humidity and air movement are qualities of the air that surround your orchids, and you. Although there are genera-specific requirements for more or less humidity, most tropical epiphytic orchids require 50–70 percent humidity. Less than 40 percent humidity can cause plants to grow poorly or at best, less than optimum. Plants transpire moisture through stomata, tiny pores on the leaves. If the humidity of the growing environment is too low, orchid plants will transpire water faster than they can take it up through the roots and become desiccated. Roots and potting media will also dry out quicker when a plant is kept in a dehydrated state. Watering more frequently is not a solution for dehydration and leads to root problems because of rapid decay of the medium.

If you grow orchids in a greenhouse it is most likely properly equipped to provide an acceptable range of humidity. Evaporative coolers are an excellent means of adding humidity and keeping temperatures cooler in summer. If you grow orchids in the home, you have more of a challenge to maintain proper humidity. Winter heating and summer air conditioning both dry the air significantly. For just a few plants there is a classic solution that may be somewhat limited in its effectiveness, but is easy and provides some humidity. Fill a shallow tray (such as an aluminum oven liner) with pebbles, and then add water to just below the tops of the pebbles. Set your orchid pots on the pebbles. Refill the tray every few days as needed (if algae builds up, empty the pebbles into a colander in the sink and rinse with diluted bleach, then plenty of clean water and then return to the tray). This works well if you are growing just a few orchids on a windowsill. Misting can also help, but the water evaporates so quickly that the benefits do not last long. If you have a larger collection that you perhaps grow on a plant stand or cart, an inexpensive humidifier can be bought for slightly more than the cost of a couple of orchid plants. Look for one with a large reservoir that does not need frequent refilling. Specific orchid-growing setups such as orchidariums, terrariums, Wardian cases and many under-lights setups in basements all will provide ample humidity.

If you were to visit the habitat of an epiphytic orchid such as *Cattleya mossiae*, you would discover a setting totally contrary to the Victorian perception mentioned in the first paragraph. You would be in the Venezuelan mountains at an elevation of about 3,000–4,500 feet (915–1,370 m) and the cattleyas would be growing in the canopy of the trees above you. Air constantly flows up the mountains and the tops of the trees sway in the breeze. Many of our favorite orchids come from this kind of airy environment.

Optimum conditions for cultivating orchids are often described with the words "buoyant atmosphere." What that describes is air that feels light and is constantly moving. Primarily, a buoyant atmosphere provides a constantly fresh supply of carbon dioxide to the trees and the orchids in them. Green plants convert carbon dioxide and water into food compounds (such as glucose) and oxygen through the process called photosynthesis. Air that is constantly moving provides other benefits, such as eliminating pockets of extreme temperatures and moderating the temperature of both air and leaves. An adequately ventilated orchid growing space discourages fungal infections by hastening the evaporation of standing water. The surest way to discourage the flower-damaging fungus *Botrytis cinerea* is to increase air movement.

Providing orchids with air movement is one of the easiest things to achieve. If you are growing a few orchids on a windowsill, merely open the window a few inches any time the outside temperature is above 50 F (10 C). If you have a grow cart of orchids, one or two 6- or 8- inch (15- or 20-cm) muffin fans will do the trick. Turn them on low and aim them above

while most commercial greenhouses offer fan options. If yours does not, buy one or two 24-inch (60 cm) box fans, depending on the size of your structure.

As you have probably gathered, if the setting feels comfortable to you, your orchids will like it too.

## 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.

### **Choosing the Best Plants with Lois Cinert**

Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Open to all*

**Shop like a judge!** How do you buy the best orchid for your collection? Please join Lois Cinert, A credited AOS Judge, to find out. Lois will tell you what judges look for when determining a “best” plant for their own collection to help you grow your own collection.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/179671234511895299>

### **American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton**

Tuesday, March 26th, 2019 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Open to all*

**Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer,** as he answers your questions about all things orchid. He will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by Sunday, March 24th. Remember to include pictures.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1217234533193976065>

**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 MARCH ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:**

- The New Refugium Botanicum - TBD
- Form and Function: Those Vining Orchids by Thomas Mirenda
- For the Novice: Repotting - Wet or Dry? by Sue Bottom
- Orchids Illustrated - Rodriguezia by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
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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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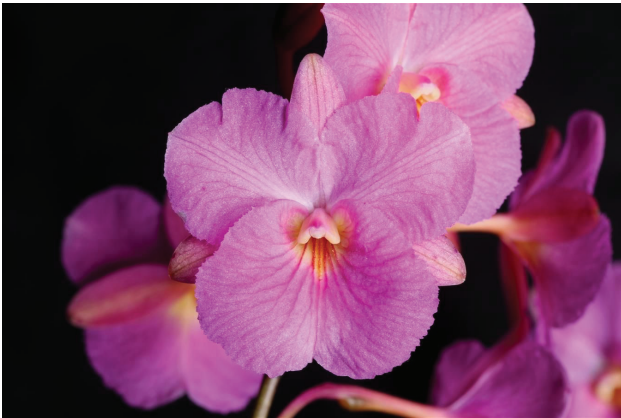
16-page award gallery of breath taking pictures of recently awarded orchids.



*Paphiopedilum* Franz Glanz 'Monster' FCC/AOS;  
Photographer: Ramon de los Santos

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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 non-members.



*Broughtonia sanguinea* 'Elizabeth Hamilton' AM/AOS;  
Photographer: Claude Hamilton

Let's grow together,  
Denise Lucero

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Submitted by Valerie Lowe - AOS/ODC Representative

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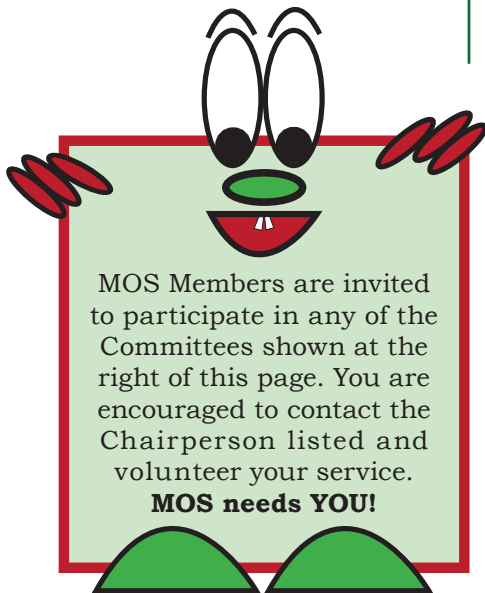
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