



ORCHID newsletter



News and information from the Maryland Orchid Society

June 2023

President's Message

Endings!

I looked back in our files to last year's letter at this time and found the same heading! Normally I avoid repetition (at least when I identify it!), but this time I'm inclined to go with it – at least for the heading. First, it certainly eases the creative strain of coming up with something novel. But it's really only the heading that stays the same this time. 2022 – 23 was a fundamentally different year than its predecessor, and we can all be thankful for that. We got back into the habit of live meetings and returned to a full slate of special events with the resumption of our fall auction. We can also be proud, since those positive changes were the result of the hard work of many of you – officers and committee chairs to be sure, but also the membership who participated so vigorously throughout the year! Thank you!



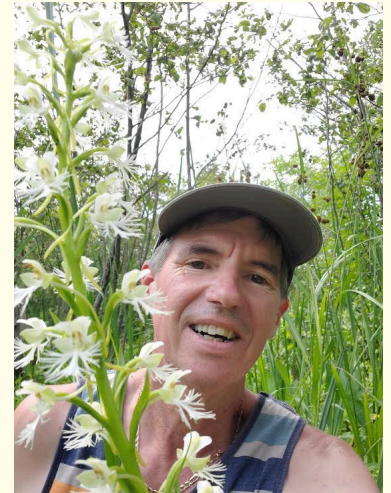
Following our June meeting (see Fay's description of our speaker and his topic at the right in this newsletter) things will be slowing down a bit during the heat of summer – but not totally into hibernation. The Board of Trustees will be meeting at the Smiths' home on July 27th; all members are welcome to participate. We'll be meeting virtually in July and August to share news and pics of our blooming beauties. And our show season will kick off with the Maryland State Fair late in August (see the first announcement of that on a following page). And of course from the business perspective we will begin soliciting membership renewals as the summer winds down. So you all will have a (well deserved) rest, but we won't totally disappear.

As always: Stay safe and healthy; grow beautiful orchids, and share them with us!

John Heinbokel
June 1, 2023

Our June Speaker is Fred Bess

Fred Bess got his start growing orchids from an early age, thanks to his grandmother. By trade, he is a certified arborist and horticulturist. In addition to flasking, Fred has a passion for the rare, hard to grow, and weird! His collection includes such things as *Dendrophylax* (the Ghost Orchid), a nice collection of *Disa* species and hybrids, carnivorous plants, and one of the world's most endangered conifers, *Torreya taxifolia*. All his plants and the conifers are found at his suburban Cleveland, Ohio, home.



Fred pictured with an Eastern Prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) count he assists with every summer.

Fred's talk will be on Chilean orchids: While tropical South America has thousands of species and 100s of genera of orchids, Chile and temperate South America were left behind. There are only 8 Genera and an undetermined number of species in Chile. This group of orchids are just now getting their time in the spotlight and being studied. We will discuss the different Genera found in Chile - their habitats, quirks, culture and viability as potted plants. Let's visit the spine of South America and learn about the native orchids of Chile!

Novice

1. Phal. Noid - Barbara Pralle
2. Phal. Noid - Bill Franke

Homegrown

1. *C. walkeriana* - Arne Schön
2. Tie Max. *tenuifolia* 'Yamada' AM/AOS - Kathi Jackson
Ctism. Frilly Doris x Ctism. Dana's Bird of Paradise
- Wanda Kuhn
3. Tie Paph. Jade Dragon - Bob Travers
Paph. *rothschildianum* x Paph. Shin-Yi Edward - Mai Conaway

Greenhouse

1. Lc. Nolabel - Clark Riley

Cattleya

1. Pcv. Key Lime Stars - Clark Riley
2. Enc. Rioclarensis - Bob Johnston
3. *C. Norman's Bay* 'Low' - Mai Conaway

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Noid - Bill Franke
2. Tie Phal. Yu Pin Fireworks - Clark Riley
Phal. Huar Ji Fancy 'Taida Red Jewel' - Jill Allen
Phal. Galore - Maria and Norm Zickhur
3. Tie Phal. Sogo Yeulin 'Coffee' - Fay Citerone
Phal. Liu Cute Angel - John Heinbokel

Paphiopedilum

1. Paph. *philippinense* x *rothschildianum* - John Dunning
2. Tie Paph. Iantha Stage 'TomCat' - Joel Graham
Paph. Wossner Blackwings - Mai Conaway
3. Tie Paph. *rothschildianum* - Clark Riley
Phrag. Nicolle Tower - Chris Zajac

Dendrobium

1. Den. Spring Dream 'Apollon' - Fay Citerone
2. Den. *antennatum* - Chris Zajac
3. Den. Hsinying Sweetscent x Den. *rhodopterygium*
- Brenda Logan

Oncidium

1. Onc. Sherry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' - Bob Travers
2. Cda. Lois Posey - Clark Riley

Miscellaneous

1. Euph. Mem. Alexis Pardo - Joel Graham
2. Lyc. Lemon Twist - Mai Conaway

Species

1. Paph. *philippinense* 'Khairul Bariah' AM/AOS - Arne Schön
2. Srgt. *sceptrodes* - Fay Citerone
3. *C. percivilliana* 'Summit' FCC/AOS - Bob Travers

Miniature

1. Slc. Beau's Apricot Gem AM/AOS - Bob Travers

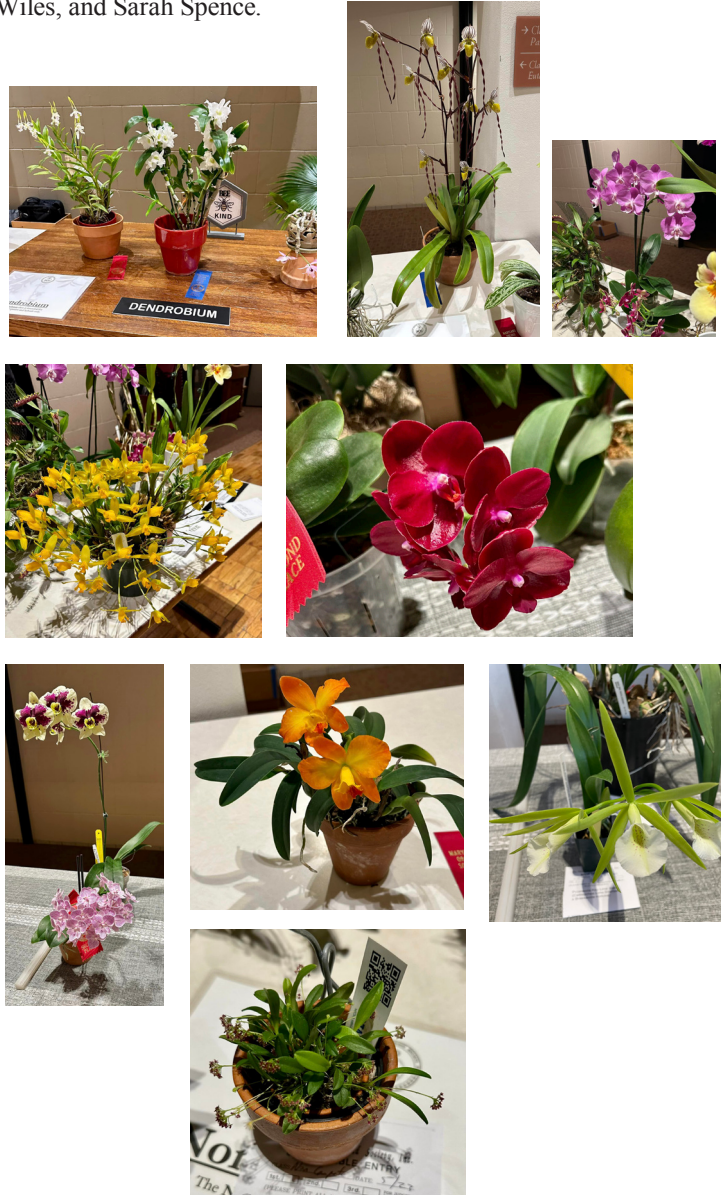
First Bloom

1. Paph. Spider Edward x Paph. *rothschildianum* - John Dunning
2. Paph. Helenae x Petula's Grace - Joel Graham
3. *V. tessellata* x *V. Motes Ruby Pixie* - Arne Schön

Fragrance

1. Max. *tenuifolia* 'Green Valley' AM/AOS - Wanda Kuhn
2. Blc. Jennifer Off 'Joan' HCC/AOS - Bob Johnston
3. Max. *tenuifolia* - Chris Zajac

Thank you to all who helped make this spectacular show table come together, please keep up the good growing. We had a total of 61 blooming plants on the show table. The Judges Choice went to the spectacular Paphiopedilum *philippinense* 'Khairul Bariah' AM/AOS, brought in by Arne Schön. The judges were Bob Johnston, Jill Allen, and Susan Travers. An extremely well bloomed *Lycaste aromatica* brought in by David Smith arrived late but deserves mention as it set a high standard for the rest of us to aim for. Exhibitors not already mentioned above were Aaron Webb, Eric Wiles, and Sarah Spence.



Growing Orchids From Seed

How do you add plants to your collection? Most of us add plants by buying them. Duh! Whether from The Little Greenhouse, Woodstream Orchids, Waldor, or LittleBrook in person, vendors at our many shows or auctions, or specialty nurseries online, most of what we add are mature plants or husky seedlings/mericlones.

But, what about growing from seed? Because of their specialized seed characteristics, orchids can be a challenge to grow reliably from seed.

Orchid seeds are exquisitely designed for wind distribution. Each seed consists of a tiny ball of a few cells housed in a fluffy seed coat. The seeds can float on the wind for miles, sometimes even between continents! One of the advantages of this strategy is that the plants can be widely distributed. The downside is that there is nothing within the seed to promote germination and growth once they land on the ground or tree. In nature, they may find a comfortable spot with a friendly fungus to establish a partnership for the future. This is a really iffy arrangement and part of the reason that orchids are NOWHERE the dominant flora.

In the human orchid world, we get around this low-yield strategy by putting the seed onto a perfect growing media, typically an agar gel with the exact mineral and sugar combinations needed. This would make it easy to grow huge numbers of seedlings, EXCEPT that ever-present molds and bacterial love the same media and will outgrow the orchids by a hundredfold. So, we have to do seed sowing in laboratory conditions where the seed are surface sterilized with harsh chemicals and then sown in a sterile environment. This requires specialized equipment and enclosures. Still, with the right equipment and training, one can propagate hundreds or thousands of plants from a single seed pod.



So, when you get that husky seedling, spare a thankful thought to the people behind the process of getting from seed to plants.

Clark Riley

WEBINAR – Orchids of Maryland and the Eastern Shore

Monday, July 31, 2023

7:00 – 8:30 pm EST

\$5 per person

Orchids aren't just limited to rainforests and tropical islands; we have dozens of native species of orchids in Maryland as well! While Lady's Slipper species get all the glory, Lady's Tresses' and Cranefly Orchids are just as beautiful. Join us for a conversation with Julianne McGuinness about native Maryland orchids as well as orchids you might find here on the Eastern Shore! Julianne is the Program Development Coordinator for the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC). NAOCC is a coalition of organizations dedicated to conserving the diverse orchid heritage of the U.S. and Canada. Based at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and co-founded with the U.S. Botanic Garden, it also includes the National Zoological Park, the National Museum of Natural History, and Smithsonian Gardens among other collaborators.

REGISTER AT: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E356186&id=117>

Harrison Jackson
Teacher Naturalist and Outreach Coordinator
410-822-4903

Pickering Creek Audubon Center
11450 Audubon Ln.
Easton, MD
pickeringcreek.org

An Every-Once-in-a-While (Monthly?) Item of Potential Interest to the MOS Membership

Have you run into a resource that provides some useful information or just an oddity related to our passion for orchids? Please share that discovery with your friends and colleagues of the MOS. Please submit your findings to John Heinbokel (jheinbokel@hotmail.com), for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

Dogs and Orchids: A Match Made in ... Arizona? New Jersey?

We all know that some of our membership make room in their homes not just for a variety of orchids, but with one or more dogs that certainly share a place in their hearts. But in addition to being treasured family members, dogs are taking on a valuable role in orchid conservation efforts! This first came to my attention as an article in a recent North American Orchid Conservation Center Newsletter (<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/NAOCC-News-September-2022.html?soid=1127551335665&aid=oR9PQrC0oJI> scroll down a bit to get to the doggy part). Similar takes on that story can be found in other places as well:

<https://www.nynjtc.org/news/conservation-dogs-sniff-out-endangered-orchids>

<https://www.axios.com/local/phoenix/2022/10/11/dogs-helping-researchers-find-endangered-orchids-arizona>

And yes, we know some of you are ‘cat-people.’ We’ll be happy to present other stories highlighting our feline friends. Feel free to suggest where to find such accounts to share in future newsletters.

END-OF-YEAR BONUS: Monica Sparber recently emailed me the following link. I thought you all might enjoy it as well, even if a couple non-orchids managed to sneak in:

Subject: Funny Rare Orchids - Nature Jokes – YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN0jcz70_gY

Submitted by John Heinbokel, May 30, 2023



Scent dog Muon alerts a researcher during an expedition in southern Arizona this summer. Photo: Eirini Pajak



How do These Pictures Relate to Your Orchid Summer Time?

The MOS Acadian Supply order is being placed, and will soon be delivered. The first picture is our 2021 order delivered and staged for pickup. Soon you will be resupplied and repotting in earnest to beat the summer heat. Some plants will be potted up so they may grow to become beautiful specimens and future MOS and AOS award winners. Others will be ready to divide. The next two pictures are from last November's MOS Annual Auction and are included to ask you to consider potting some divisions for donation to the MOS Auction. We welcome donations of plants that are named and those that have been awarded – these will raise the most money.

This auction is the primary revenue maker for funding our MOS activities, including the fundamentals of hall rental, speaker fees, refreshments, promotion, etc. Your donations are tax deductible.

Oh, by the way, a few things to remember as you are repotting.

- Use clean or new pots.
- Use sterilized or single-use cutting devices.
- Always put labels back in your plant's pot where the name is known. Pre-make your labels if dividing so they are ready when you are done potting.

- Take and save digital photos of your plants in bloom and name the photo file with the plant name. If the plant blooms this summer, you can submit the picture for the July or August Zoom meeting virtual show table. These pictures can be used to make picture labels for plants donated to the MOS auction, more on this in the fall.

Happy Potting!
Submitted by Bob Travers

MOS 2023 Calendar

June 15, 2023 – Monthly Meeting

July 20, 2023 – Virtual Show Table

July 27, 2023 – Board of Trustees Meeting (David and Margaret Smith's home)

July – August 2023 – Annual Picnic (Date and Place still TBD)

August 17, 2023 – Virtual Show Table

August 20 – September 11, 2023 – Maryland State Fair

September 21, 2023 – Monthly Meeting (Annual Show Table Review/Awards)

October 19, 2023 – Monthly Meeting

November 11, 2023 – Annual Auction

November 16, 2023 – Monthly Meeting

December 21, 2023 – Monthly Meeting (Holiday Party)

Local AOS News

July 8, 2023, Monthly meeting of the National Capital Judging Center

The monthly meeting of the National Capital Judging Center will be held at the Saint James United Methodist Church (12470 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104) starting at noon.

MOS Member Update

MOS Welcomes New Member
Heidi Carrens



Sarah L. Spence,
Membership Chair

2023 Maryland State Fair Timonium Fairgrounds

August 20 – September 11

The first Show Table event of each year is our sponsored and judged orchid exhibition at the Maryland State Fair in Timonium. Entries are accepted in several taxonomic and ‘other’ categories; entrants will self-identify as ‘novice’ or ‘experienced’ (most MOS members are assumed to be ‘experienced’). Ribbon judging is performed by MOS members and winners receive those ribbons in addition to cash prizes. It is also the first Show Table event of the year; entrants receive a show table participation point just as if the State Fair were one of our monthly meetings or an AOS-sanctioned show.

More details will be provided as the summer proceeds, but mark you calendars now:

Entries accepted at the Fairgrounds: Sunday, August 20th 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.;

Monday, August, 21st 9 a.m. – 7 pm.

Entries can be retrieved: Wednesday, August 30th 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Monday, September 11th 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Clark’s fern, which was the size of a VW bus, won a second place at the 2014 Maryland State Fair. (Not an orchid.)



Also not orchids.



These ARE orchids (and Kathi). Photos courtesy of Kathi Jackson.



Clark, Sarah, and Aaron at last year’s fair. Photos courtesy of Sarah Spence.



Maryland Orchid Society

Officers

PRESIDENT

John Heinbokel
410-517-1460
marylandorchid.pres@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Travers
410-557-9901
410-336-3873
marylandorchid.vp@gmail.com

TREASURER

Brenda Logan
443-687-6272
marylandorchidtreasurer@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Diane Elam
301-831-7026
240-793-9981
dianeelam@yahoo.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Sarah Spence
443-570-3495
slspence@live.com

DIRECTORS

Chris Zajac
410-529-9281
410-274-2473
chriszajac84#comcast.net
Kathi Jackson
410-733-9339
Kjackson730@msm.com

The *MOS Newsletter*, published monthly by the Maryland Orchid Society September through June, shares the latest news of our orchid community.

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

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, 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 50097
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Committees

AOS/ODC REPRESENTATIVE

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

AUCTION

Aaron Webb
410-419-1312
awebb71574@aol.com

AWAY SHOWS

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

EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Open. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

HOSPITALITY

Margaret Smith
410-526-0179
fpsakes1@aol.com
Teena Hallameyer
Brenda Logan

HOUSE

Marc Kiriou
443-509-0084
gothiclord01@yahoo.com
Ernie Drohan
Bob Johnston
Randy Hallameyer
Clark Riley

LIBRARY

Wanda Kuhn
410-286-3868
kuhnwa@verizon.net
Suzanne Gaertner

MEMBERSHIP

Sarah Spence
443-570-3495
slspence@live.com
Laura Sobelman

NEWSLETTER

Laura Sobelman
lmsobes@gmail.com
Sarah Spence
John Heinbokel

PROGRAM

Fay Citerone
443-326-8541
fay.citerone@gmail.com
John Heinbokel

REFRESHMENTS

Danielle Gent
808-753-9807
danielle.gent@yahoo.com
Teena Hallameyer
Brenda Logan
Diane Elam

SHOW

Marc Kiriou
443-509-0084
gothiclord01@yahoo.com
Valerie Lowe
Laura Sobelman

SHOW TABLE

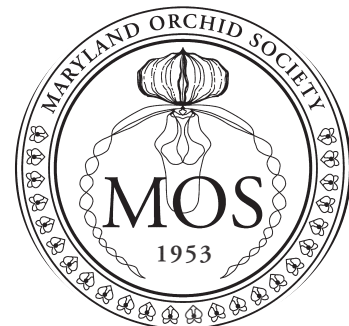
Joel Graham
814-441-2090
jegmicrobe@gmail.com

SUNSHINE

Pat Schiavi
410-526-6544
paschiavi@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

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



The MOS meets at the Woodbrook Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212, the third Thursday of each month, September through June. The Show Table setup begins at 7 p.m. followed by judging at 7:30 p.m. The Education Corner and Library open at 7:15 p.m. The program commences at 8 p.m. and adjourns at approximately 9:30 p.m. Members may also attend via Zoom.