

# M ORCHID S

# ORCHID

# newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

October 2008



## president's message

**F**or October, I thought I'd provide a status report on our progress toward a few of the goals that I introduced to the Board of Trustees in July. I've been collecting potential goals and activities for several months in a document I call the "Idea List". It currently has 34 entries and still continues to grow by one or two each month. It's probably already too long to expect that we can address every item during a single term. But I'm committed to adding any worthy idea, because the more ideas we have to choose from, the greater is the likelihood that we'll realize some really notable goals.

I won't reiterate the entire list here. If you would like a copy, please email me. But here are six goals that are either already accomplished or well under way:

**Inclement Weather Policy** – In July, the Board approved an update to our inclement weather policy. In addition to changing

the timing for which a snow emergency will cause the cancellation of a meeting, the new policy also provides an Internet resource for checking when and where a snow emergency is in effect. The new policy is published in our September and October newsletters and will soon be added to our website.

**Mentoring Committee** – The Board also approved in July the formation of a special committee to undertake the creation and administration of a mentoring program. I have appointed Bill Ellis to head this committee, and I'm sure that after the auction is over in November, Bill will have more time to devote to this effort.

**Nonprofit Status** – We are greatly indebted to Lee Lundy for officially reinstating the MOS on the on-line IRS Publication 78, *Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986*. This publication lists the organizations

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## Hermann Pigors to Speak at October Meeting

**H**ermann Pigors is a professional floriculturist and founder of Oak Hill Gardens.

He began his career in floriculture at age 14 by serving a three-year apprenticeship in Germany starting in 1951. Since 1954 he has worked primarily with orchids in greenhouse firms in Germany and in Illinois since 1957.

In 1973 he bought an existing greenhouse in Dundee, Illinois and established Oak Hill Gardens. Here over 20,000 sq. ft. of greenhouses were used to grow orchids, bromeliads and tropical foliage plants for hobby, home and office use. Orchids are the main culture, being grown from seed, clones, and imports. Oak Hill Gardens employs 6 full and part-time employees to help accomplish the workload. Today the bromeliads and tropical foliage plants are mostly replaced by more orchid varieties. The next generation is operating the greenhouses, with Greg and Liese Butler leading the firm into its fourth decade.



Mr. Pigors has served as president of the Illinois Orchid Society, is an American Orchid Society judge, and served on the board of trustees of the American Orchid Society from 1980 to 1986. He also served as the president of the Mid-America Orchid Congress from 1990 to 1992.

In 2002 Hermann retired from the business to handle the laboratory with orchid propagation.

### Hermann will be taking orders for the October meeting.

Orders placed prior to the meeting will be delivered free of shipping costs at the meeting. Buy early; buy often!

Phone: (847) 428-8500

Fax: (847) 428-8527

[oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com](mailto:oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com)

[www.oakhillgardens.com](http://www.oakhillgardens.com)

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# show table-sept. 2008



*Brs. Shooting Star 'Black Gold'*  
- Suzanne Gaertner

## Novice

1. *Brs. Shooting Star 'Black Gold'* - Suzanne Gaertner
2. *Bllra. Hawaiian Glacier 'Queen Anne'* - Kathi Jackson



*Bllra. Hawaiian Glacier 'Queen Anne'*  
- Kathi Jackson

## Home Grown

1. *Den. Burana Glow 'No. 11'* - Anne Minkowski
2. Tie *Slc. Mae Hawkins 'Miya' AM/AOS* - Ernie Drohan  
*Masd. Maui Gold* - Bill Scharf
3. *Paph. Sakura Pink 'Precocious'* - Clark Riley



*Den. Burana Glow 'No. 11'*  
- Anne Minkowski



*Slc. Mae Hawkins 'Miya' AM/AOS*  
- Ernie Drohan

## Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. *Lc. Mary Ellen Carter 'Dixie Hummingbird'* - Joe Dockman
2. *Ascda. Princess Mikasa 'Blue'* - Les Kirkegaard
3. *Aer. quinquevulnerum* - Craig Taborsky



*Paph. Sakura Pink 'Precocious'*  
- Clark Riley

## Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. *Vasco. Viboon Velvet 'Perfection'* - The Adamses
2. *Milt. Hybrid* - Cy Swett



*Lc. Mary Ellen Carter 'Dixie Hummingbird'*  
- Joe Dockman

## Cattleya

1. *Lc. Mary Ellen Carter 'Dixie Hummingbird'* - Michael Moran
2. Tie *Blc. Erin Koboyashi* - Chris Zajac  
*Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii' AM/AOS* - The Adamses
3. *Lc. Mini Purple 'Candy Tuff'* - David Smith



*Ascda. Princess Mikasa 'Blue'*  
- Les Kirkegaard

## Phalaenopsis

1. *Phal. Dragon's Dazzler* - David Smith
2. *Phal. bellina* - Cy Swett
3. *Dtps. Talitha Klehm* - The Adamses



*Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii' AM/AOS*  
- The Adamses

## Oncidium

1. *Alcra. Hilo Ablaze 'HOF'* - David Smith
2. *Psy. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS* - The Lundys
3. *Onc. Sweet Sugar* - Cy Swett

# show table-sept. 2008

continued from page 2



*Lc. Mary Ellen Carter 'Dixie Hummingbird'*  
- Michael Moran

## ***Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium***

1. *Paph. Claire de Lune 'Edgar van Belle'* AM/AOS/RHS - David Smith
2. *Paph. (micranthum X Psyche)*  
- The Adamses
3. *Paph. Sacagawea's Slippers* - Clark Riley



*Phal. bellina* - Cy Swett

## **Miscellaneous Hybrids**

1. *Pna. Majestic* - Craig Sherman
2. *Den. Salaya Ministripe*  
- The Adamses
3. Tie *Masd. Samantha* - Jos Venturina  
*Sngl. Neptune* - Clark Riley

## **Species**

1. *Dendrochilum longifolium 'Loch Raven'* - Cy Swett
2. *Pths. pyterophylla* - Bill Scharf
3. Tie *Aer. odorata* - The Adamses  
*Eupha. euglossa* - Clark Riley

## **Miniature**

1. *Pths. sonderana* - David Smith
2. *Masd. Maui Gold* - Bill Scharf
3. *Sngl. Neptune* - Val Lowe



*Psy.Mendenhall 'Hildos'* FCC/AOS  
- The Lundys

## **First Bloom Seedling**

1. *Paph. Dollgoldi* - Les Kirkegaard
2. *Phal. violacea* - The Adamses
3. Tie *Paph. adductum* - Clark Riley  
*Dtps. pulcherrima* - Phuong Tran and Rich Kaste



*Pths. sonderana* - David Smith

## **Fragrance**

1. *C. Hybrid* - Norma Lynch
2. *Phal. violacea* - The Lundys
3. *Dendrochilum longifolium* - Craig Taborsky



*Masd. Maui Gold*  
- Bill Scharf



*C. Hybrid* - Norma Lynch

The Judges' Choice of the Evening was *Paphinia Majestic*, exhibited by Craig Sherman. See more about Craig's plant on page 8.



*Paphinia Majestic*

The judges were Joe Dockman, Ann Lundy and Norma Lynch. There were 95 plants on the show table!

# 2008 calendar

**Date:** 16 October  
**Time:** Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM  
**Event:** Maryland Orchid Society Meeting  
**Location:** First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210  
**Details:** [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

**Date:** 17 - 19 October  
**Event:** American Orchid Society Fall Members Meeting  
**Location:** Hotel DuPont, Wilmington, DE and Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA  
**Details:** [http://www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Members\\_Meetings&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=4485](http://www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Members_Meetings&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=4485)

**Date:** 19 October  
**Time:** Show table 1:00 PM; Meeting at 2:00 PM  
**Event:** National Capital Orchid Society Meeting  
**Location:** U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002  
**Details:** [www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us)

**Date:** 24 - 26 October  
**Event:** Susquehanna Orchid Society Show  
**Location:** Stauffers of Kissel Hill, 51 Gettysburg Pike; Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
**Details:** [www.susquehanna-orchid.org](http://www.susquehanna-orchid.org)

**Date:** 1 November  
**Time:** 12:30 PM  
**Event:** National Capital Judging Center Judging Session  
**Location:** U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002  
**Details:** [www.nationalcapitaljc.org](http://www.nationalcapitaljc.org)

**Date:** 7 - 8 November  
**Event:** Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium  
**Location:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4453 Bonney Rd, Virginia Beach, VA  
**Details:** [www.mycommunityis.com/tos/](http://www.mycommunityis.com/tos/)

**Date:** 8 November  
**Time:** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
**Event:** SEPOS Auction  
**Location:** 1601 Valley Forge Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460  
**Details:** [www.sepos.org](http://www.sepos.org)

**Date:** 16 November  
**Time:** Show table 1:00 PM; Meeting at 2:00 PM  
**Event:** National Capital Orchid Society Meeting  
**Location:** U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002  
**Details:** [www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us)

**Date:** 20 November  
**Time:** Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM  
**Event:** Maryland Orchid Society Meeting  
**Location:** First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210  
**Details:** [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

**Date:** 29 November  
**Time:** Preview 11:00 PM; Auction at 12:00 PM  
**Event:** Maryland Orchid Society Auction  
**Location:** Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department Social Hall  
**Details:** [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

**Date:** 6 December  
**Time:** 12:30 PM  
**Event:** National Capital Judging Center Judging Session  
**Location:** U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002  
**Details:** [www.nationalcapitaljc.org](http://www.nationalcapitaljc.org)

**Date:** 7 December  
**Time:** Show table 1:00 PM; Meeting at 2:00 PM; Party at 4:30 PM  
**Event:** National Capital Orchid Society Meeting  
**Location:** U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002  
**Details:** [www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us)

**Date:** 18 December  
**Time:** Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM  
**Event:** Maryland Orchid Society Meeting  
**Location:** First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210  
**Details:** [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

## show table winners 2007 - 2008

### Novice

1st Don Forester, Laura Sobelman - 15 pts.  
2nd Suzanne Gaertner - 10 pts.  
3rd Mathew Asch, Paul Biederman, Sarah Spence - 3 pts.

### Home Grown

1st Bill Scharf - 15 pts.  
2nd Mark Robbins - 8 pts.  
3rd Val Lowe - 7 pts.

### Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1st Les Kirkegaard - 18 pts.  
2nd Lou Vadorsky - 15 pts.  
3rd Joe Dockman - 7 pts.

### Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1st The Adamses - 22 pts.  
2nd Cy Swett - 15 pts.  
3rd David Smith - 10 pts.

### Cattleya

1st Les Kirkegaard - 17 pts.  
2nd The Adamses - 14 pts.  
3rd David Smith, Cy Swett, Craig Taborsky - 5 pts.

### Phalaenopsis

1st The Adamses - 18 pts.  
2nd Mark Robbins - 7 pts.  
3rd Lorie Lee-Young - 6 pts.

### Oncidium

1st Cy Swett - 16 pts.  
2nd Chris Zajac - 9 pts.  
3rd David Smith - 5 pts.

### Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1st Mark Robbins - 13 pts.  
2nd David Smith - 10 pts.  
3rd The Adamses, Cy Swett - 9 pts.

### Miscellaneous Hybrids

1st The Adamses - 11 pts.  
2nd Les Kirkegaard - 8 pts.  
3rd John Dunning - 7 pts.

### Species

1st David Smith - 20 pts.  
2nd The Adamses - 16 pts.  
3rd Bill Scharf - 9 pts.

### Miniature

1st David Smith - 19 pts.  
2nd Bill Scharf - 15 pts.  
3rd The Adamses - 11 pts.

### First Bloom Seedling

1st The Adamses - 12 pts.  
2nd The Lundys - 10 pts..  
3rd John Dunning - 6 pts.

### Fragrance

1st The Lundys - 9 pts.  
2nd Craig Taborsky - 8 pts.  
3rd David Smith, Phuong Tran and Rich Kaste, Eric Wiles, Chris Zajac - 4 pts.

Congratulations to the following members who had perfect attendance on our show table last year! Steve and Rachael Adams, Les Kirkegaard, Val Lowe, Ann and Lee Lundy, Anne Minkowski, Bill Scharf, David Smith, Bill Soyke and Cy Swett.

# Come Join Us for the Maryland Orchid Society's Annual Auction

**Saturday, November 29, 2008**

Preview: 11 AM - Noon

Auction: Noon - 4 PM

Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department Social Hall  
6680 Sykesville Road (at Freedom Ave.), Sykesville, MD 21784

## Quality orchids from:

- 🌸 The Little Greenhouse
- 🌸 Carmela Orchids
- 🌸 Tropical Orchid Farm
- 🌸 Member plant divisions and donations



## Orchid Supplies from Quarter Acre Orchids:

- 🌸 Potting Media
- 🌸 Pots
- 🌸 Humidity Trays
- 🌸 AOS calendars



## Instant Auction Table:

- 🌸 Plants priced and ready to sell



## Directions:

From Baltimore

West on I#70

Right at Exit #80 (MD#32 North)

About 8 miles to Freedom Ave.

Left, then right into parking lot

From Washington

North on I#95

Left on MD#32 West

About 24 miles to Freedom Ave.

Left, then right into parking lot

For more information or to help: Bill Ellis: **410.549.1530**  
or visit the MOS web site at [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)



# ORCHID AILMENTS: Preparing Orchids for Winter

By Susan Jones

## A Balancing Act for Beginners

**THE ONSET OF SHORTER DAYS AND** longer, colder nights heralds winter's arrival. Many factors play into keeping your orchids happy and healthy through this time — finding the right combination of variables can be tricky, especially for beginners. The phrase “proper prior planning” is appropriate here; doing so will help your orchids to reach their greatest potential and increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby.

Generally, temperatures between 50 and 80 F (10 to 27 C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100 F (38 C) or drops even into the 30s (0 C) will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold hardiness, the measure of the orchid's resistance to or ability to adjust to cold stress, should be considered when adding new orchids for your landscape or collection. The degree of cold hardiness is determined by environmental conditions, the overall health of the plant and its genetic makeup. Some species are always killed by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.

**COLD INJURY** Symptoms indicating cold damage usually become visible some days after exposure to critically low temperatures, not during the cold exposure. Cold injury includes damage from temperatures above and below freezing. Chill injury is that caused by low temperatures above freezing, and freeze injury is damage from temperatures at or below freezing. Frost damage takes place when dew freezes after it has condensed on leaf surfaces if the air temperature drops below freezing.

The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment after the exposure. Continued cool temperatures and high humidity after exposure to cold may slow the development of symptoms, while high light intensity and warm temperatures may accelerate the appearance of symptoms.

**Chilling --** Many chilling-injury symptoms are common to other stresses such as lack of water, root-rot diseases, chemical phytotoxicity, heat stress and light stress, and as such may be difficult to diagnose. General symptoms of chilling injury include surface

lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration; water-soaking in tissues, usually followed by wilting and browning; internal discoloration (browning); increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria; slower-than-normal growth (this may be difficult to identify without undamaged plants for comparison or a knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate) and accelerated rate of natural death.

**Freezing --** Symptoms of freeze injury include desiccation or burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves, and death of sections of the plant or the entire plant. Obvious symptoms may not be present until after the plant has been stressed by very warm temperatures.



Many *Paphs.* like Les Kirkegaard's *Paph. Dollgoldi*, which won first place in the First Bloom category on the MOS Sept. 2008 show table, prefer low to medium light and intermediate to warm temperatures.

**THE BASICS** Preparation for weathering winter's chills begins at the point of purchasing your orchids. Choose carefully for the growing conditions you are able to provide your plants. If you keep your home or greenhouse cool in the winter to save on heating costs, avoid the warmer-growing genera such as phalaenopsis and vanda. Instead, stick to intermediate- (most brassavolas, cattleyas, dendrobiums, epidendrums, laelias or mottled-leaved paphiopedilums) or cooler-growing (cymbidiums, masdevallias, miltonias, odontoglossums, oncidiums, plain-leaved paphiopedilums or sophronitis) orchids, depending on the conditions they will be grown under during the summer months. White or yellow vandas, as well as some dendrobiums (phalaenopsis- and antelope-types), are especially cold sensitive and do not like temperature drops below 60 F (16 C), and can be

particularly prone to losing leaves when exposed to cooler temperatures. Seedlings and immature plants, particularly those in flasks or compots, are also much more sensitive to chills than their mature counterparts.

Another consideration for growers in northern climes is the shorter day length winter brings. Many orchids need 14 hours of light every day to flower successfully. Relying on daylight alone during winter months will not provide sufficient light to induce budding. Genera with high light requirements may produce healthy green foliage but without sufficient illumination might never reward their growers with the desired flowers. For indoor and greenhouse growers in the north, supplemental lighting may be necessary for optimal plant health and flowering. Depending on the type of light source chosen, the heat generated by the lamps may help counteract cold temperatures.

When adding to an orchid collection, choosing carefully to match the conditions you are able to provide as a grower will go a long way toward keeping your orchids in optimal health through winter's gloom and chills.

Once they're comfortably situated in your collection, cultural factors to consider in keeping them happy through the winter months include less frequent watering and fertilization. It is worth the extra effort to read up on the seasonal needs of the orchids in your collection. This is especially important for the species, but hybrids will benefit from this research as well. Some enter a period of partial or full dormancy; they will require a rest period at this time of year, and could be adversely affected if they do not receive one. As temperatures drop and daylight is reduced, their growth slows down or even stops, depending on the species or hybrid. The quantities of water and fertilizer they required for spring and summer growth are no longer needed and could negatively affect the plant unless reduced accordingly. Excess water can accelerate the breakdown of organic growing media (such as pine bark and sphagnum moss) and lead to root and plant rots. A surplus of fertilizer can accumulate in the growing media until the fertilizer salts burn the orchid's root and leaf tips, and actually inhibit rather than enhance growth.

**WINDOWSILLS** Because they have less control over the quality and amount of lighting reaching their plants than under-lights growers, windowsill growers face special considerations during the winter months. The day length is shorter in the northern latitudes, so supplemental lighting may be needed for part of the day to maintain a comfortable day-night balance for the plants. At this time of year, the sun's angle is lower on the horizon and may no longer be shaded by trees that have lost their leaves for the winter. A fresh snowfall can also reflect a great deal more light than normal. A sheer curtain may be needed to protect your plants from sunburn at these times.

At night, a heavy curtain between the window and your orchids can act as an insulating barrier to help keep the nighttime temperatures from damaging sensitive tropical plants. Thermopane windows will also help — their two panes of glass separated by an air pocket are good for both orchids and heating bills in the winter time. Even sheets of bubble wrap covering the glass will help keep warmth in and winter chills out. Never allow the foliage to touch the glass; condensation can freeze on the windowpane and kill your orchid's leaves.

Good air movement will help maintain temperatures as well. A fan to circulate the air around the window helps keep temperatures uniform, and distributes and circulates heat from heaters or other sources to keep the growing area closer to the ambient temperature of the room rather than the cold outside.

**GREENHOUSES** Properly planned, a greenhouse may be constructed and oriented to minimize the effects of winter's chill on your orchids. The use of twin-walled instead of single-layered glazing materials adds insulation and reduces heat loss through the greenhouse exterior. Double-layered materials are also better able to withstand the weight of accumulated snow in the winter-time (but never allow the snow to remain on the greenhouse or it may cause damage). Attached greenhouses (those with one or more walls attached to a building), partially excavated and earthsheltered greenhouses retain heat better than freestanding models, and so cause growers less difficulty and expense to heat. Because one or more sides are opaque, attached and earth-sheltered greenhouses do not generally receive as much sunlight as a freestanding greenhouse.



Lean-to greenhouse

**Orientation** — the direction of the greenhouse roof relative to the sun's movement — allows growers to take best advantage of available light. During the cold months, to optimize winter growing conditions, an east-west orientation will allow the greatest amount of sunlight to reach your orchids through the shortest days of the year. This must be balanced with the needs of your orchids, the layout of your property, trees that might shade the greenhouse, etc. For maximum year-round exposure, a greenhouse with a north-south orientation is a better choice.

The next step is critical. Provide “backup, backup, backup and alarms,” says Jan Szyren, horticulturist and greenhouse coordinator for Michigan State University.

As Szyren notes, an alarm system is critical for notifying growers if the greenhouse temperature should fall below a certain level, as is a backup heating system. Supplemental heating need not maintain optimal temperatures, but protect the orchids from cold damage during a power outage or unusually cold temperatures. Should disaster strike and temperatures drop, try to keep your growing area above 45 F (7 C) at minimum. Gas- or diesel-powered generators, generator fuel and long, heavy duty extension cords for heating appliances and fans to distribute the heat are available at most home-improvement centers to heat your greenhouse during an emergency. Automated systems are available; manual systems are less expensive, but require that someone be on hand to operate them.

Kerosene or propane heaters are another option for supplemental heat if the power goes off, but their fumes that can damage flowers quickly, and to a lesser extent affect plants as well. In addition, these should never be used in attached greenhouses, as the fumes

are toxic to people and animals. Greenhouses in which this equipment has been used should be ventilated before being reentered.

Ann Jesup of Bristol, Connecticut adds to and emphasizes the importance of seasonal preparation — “going over the greenhouse to check for and seal any air leaks, have the alarms, furnace and heating system tested, and,” she adds, “pray that the temperatures are not going to drop (in the greenhouse, anyway ...).”

As a last resort, moving your collection or your most treasured and cold-sensitive plants indoors temporarily may be an option. While they do not provide optimal growing conditions, homes are much better equipped to keep out the cold than greenhouses. This step can make the critical difference between plant survival and plant loss, so optimal culture can be foregone for a few days until the danger of freezing passes. If your collection is too large to bring indoors in its entirety, grouping those that would be moved indoors together or marking them with a special, brightly colored, easily identifiable tag can save time and plants as temperatures drop. Plastic sheeting or tarps can protect indoor surfaces and furniture from damage from dirt and dampness that comes in with the orchids.

**TREATMENT OF PLANTS AFTER COLD STRESS** The severity of the damage to plants exposed to extreme temperatures may be influenced by their environment and handling after cold stress, as this can affect the degree of injury and rate of symptom development. Protecting plants by keeping the growing area on the cool and shaded side may also reduce heat or water stress during the recovery period. High light and temperatures, coupled with low humidity following chill injury can further stress your orchids through dehydration. Extreme water stress can develop if the chill exposure has injured the orchid's roots, disrupting water absorption. Cold injury to roots may not be evident until spring when plants are stressed by higher temperatures. Failure to initiate a spring growth flush may be the only visual symptom of winter injury, and little can be done to minimize its effects by this time. Weakened or injured plants are more susceptible to disease attack, so growers should keep an eye out for symptoms and may even use a preventative fungicide.

# know it all

This new column will feature the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In September, the award went to Craig Sherman's *Paphinia* Majestic. Following is a brief description of how Craig grows his plant:

"The photo on the left is the real orientation of the inflorescences. They crawl across the surface of the moss and are easily caught on the rim of the pot. The plant has been planted high in the pot on a mound to avoid this. The media consist of  $\frac{2}{3}$  sphagnum,  $\frac{1}{3}$  charcoal.

"I purchased this plant several years ago from Woodland Orchids in a shallow plastic mesh basket. The roots colonized only the top of the media. When I transplanted it, I inverted a mesh pot into the bottom of the pot and greatly opened the bottom of the pot for good drainage and air circulation. It did not receive any rest period and is home grown in a basement with intermediate conditions. It loves high humidity and is growing next to *Masdevallias* in medium to low light. Several bloom stalks appear randomly from the base of new growths as they develop. The flowers are short lived, 7-10 days, but appear over several months."



Photos by Craig Sherman

# president's message

from page 1

eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. To be clear, the MOS has been a 501(c)(3) organization for many years, but somehow we were incorrectly dropped from this list. Our inclusion on this list fully legitimizes our status. In addition, for those of you whose employer offers a company match for charitable donations, it will be much easier to take advantage of that benefit now. By the way, you can find Publication 78 at [www.irs.gov/app/pub-78](http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78).

**Program Evaluation** – Starting in October, we'll make available a new evaluation form to allow motivated members to critique the speakers we have at each meeting. Over time, we'll build up a collective preference profile of our membership. We'll also be able to coach prospective speakers to avoid presentation problems.

**Shed Improvement** – In July, the Board approved the creation of another special

committee to evaluate the condition of the Clarksville shed and report back with a list of recommended physical improvements. I've asked Lou Buck to spearhead this effort.

**Website Committee** – Finally, it's with great satisfaction that I report that in July the Board officially recognized the Website Committee as a standing committee of the MOS. Its previous status was that of a special committee. The direct result of this change is that our Website Chair, Clark Riley, is now allowed to vote on business brought before the Board.

Please keep the ideas coming. Don't make the mistake of thinking that your idea is too insignificant or has already been considered. Thanks for your help.

Gary

# miscellany

## November MOS Orchid Auction

Bill Ellis is accepting donations for the November 29 orchid auction. Please contact him at [billellis@ellislist.com](mailto:billellis@ellislist.com)

## Speaker Hosts Needed

The MOS needs members to host MOS speakers while they are in town. Please contact Gary Smith at [garysmith@qis.net](mailto:garysmith@qis.net) if you are interested.

## Membership Renewal

In July, Marilyn Lauffer, the MOS Membership Chair, snail mailed membership renewal reminders. If you have not done so already, please make checks payable to the Maryland Orchid Society and send back your renewal forms to:

Maryland Orchid Society  
P.O. Box 5651  
Baltimore, MD 21210

or give them to Marilyn at the October meeting.

## Inclement Weather Policy

If a snow emergency is declared or in effect in either Baltimore City or Baltimore County as of noon or later on the day of our meeting, the scheduled meeting will be cancelled. Snow emergencies lifted before noon will not cancel a meeting. Refer to the Maryland Coordinated Highway Action Response Team (CHART) website ([http://www.chart.state.md.us/StormInfo/snow\\_emergency\\_plans.asp](http://www.chart.state.md.us/StormInfo/snow_emergency_plans.asp)) for the latest snow emergency information.

We will distribute an email message to members confirming a cancellation as soon as it is known. Information may also be posted on the MOS website.



# FOURTH ANNUAL MERRITT HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

*Presented by an alliance of his orchid friends in Virginia in conjunction with the American Orchid Society*

**November 7 & 8, 2008**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel  
4453 Bonney Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia**

**Preview Party: Friday, November 7, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**7:00 PM - Ron McHatton, PhD, "Sex in the Greenhouse"  
8:00 PM - David Mellard - "Terrestrial Orchids"**

**Symposium: Saturday, November 8, 8:45 AM – 5:30 PM  
Plants to be entered for AOS Judging by 10:00 AM**

**Welcome: 8:45 AM – Rob Griesbach, Moderator  
9:00 - 10:30 AM - John Odom, Odom's Orchids, "43 Years of Growing Cattleyas"  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Frank Smith, Krull Smith Orchids,  
"Appreciating Modern Paphiopedilum Hybrids"**

**Buffet Lunch (included in registration) and plant sales 12:00- 1:30 PM & 4:30 - 5:30 PM.  
Speakers & additional vendors featuring various genera will participate in the sales area.**

**1:30 - 3:00 PM - Stephen Champlin, Floralia Orchids, "Overview of Brazilian Species"  
3:00 – 4:30 PM - Panel Discussion and Judging Results  
4:30 - 5:30 PM - Plant Sales**

**Symposium Registration (includes buffet lunch): \$40.00  
Preview Party (heavy hors d'oeuvres): \$30.00  
Combination Symposium & Preview Party: \$65.00**

**Crowne Plaza: \$89.00 room rate for Huntington Symposium**

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**Early Registration suggested due to limited space**

**First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Additional Registrant(s) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Email \_\_\_\_\_**

**Preview Party Only**       **Symposium Only**       **Both Preview Party and Symposium**

**\*\* We prefer to forward confirmation and additional symposium information by Email**

**Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Visa or Mastercard# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please make checks payable to Huntington Memorial Symposium  
Return to: Dot Pierce, 917 Beryl Avenue, Virginia Beach, Va. 23464  
Symposium: pierce.db@verizon.net**

**Crowne Plaza – For \$89.00 room rate ask for Huntington Symposium. Phone: 757-473-1700  
For additional information go to: [www.mycommunityis.com/tos/](http://www.mycommunityis.com/tos/)**

# ORCHID AILMENTS: Preparing Orchids for Winter continued from page 5

**AFTER THE FACT** If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, don't assume that they are goners. Treat the plant as though it has just been repotted — avoid direct sunlight and high temperatures, keep the medium moist and give them a weak solution of liquid plant food with a full complement of minor elements. When you see the beginnings of new growth sprouting, apply a very light dose of fertilizer and continue with your weekly liquid food program.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

## References

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*Susan Jones was the assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446.*

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## SEPOS AUCTION



**Saturday, November 8th, 2008  
10am to 4pm**

**OVER 200 Plants**

to be auctioned

Martha Washington Building at Freedoms Foundation  
1601 Valley Forge Road (Route 23), Phoenixville, PA 19460

Cash • Checks • Visa / MasterCard Accepted

Please visit our website for more information about our auction.

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

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