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newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

December 2008



president's message

Well, we're nearing the end of another calendar year. These days always zoom by for me, like neutrinos unimpeded by any obstacle they encounter. I feel like I spend weeks trying to get ahead of work, so I can take a few days off from work, with the expectation of having to spend additional weeks getting caught up with work when all is done. Layer on the shortening days, the shopping frenzy, and inclement weather, and it would be easy to feel like we're just along for the ride.

But I'd like to linger for a few moments on the holiday just past, Thanksgiving Day, and offer my thanks for a few things. First, I propose a general thanks to the trustees of the MOS. With their help and partnership, it's been a pleasure serving as your president during the past six months.

Second, I'd like to call out Bill Ellis for his work on our annual auction. As I write this column, the dust is still settling, but it looks like another profitable year. I would also like to thank all of the member donors, volunteers, and bidders that showed up on auction day. I don't think I've seen so many members (both new

and old) participate so effectively in support of the auction. Volunteerism is a big deal to me, and your response was great. Third, I'd like to thank Eric Wiles and Valerie Lowe for their work in organizing our recent trip to the National Capital Judging Center (NCJC). We sent down a small but eager delegation that hovered around the judging tables and asked a number of questions. Thanks also to Gordon Slaymaker, Robert Griesback, and the rest of the judging team for making us feel so welcome.

Finally (and I say this with great trepidation that I've forgotten someone), I wish to acknowledge the dedication of Laura Sobelman, our newsletter editor. Not only does she manage to publish this respected, monthly newsletter, but she allows me to flout deadlines with scarcely a complaint.

Thanks everyone. Looking ahead, I hope your holidays are happy ones, and I look forward to continuing my association with such fine people in the coming new year.

Gary

Congratulations to Jos Venturina and Maria Santos

Jos Venturina's and Maria Santos' plants received impressive awards at the monthly regional AOS judging in D.C. on Saturday, December 6. The following awards were given to them:

Jos Venturina

Dendrobium Stephen Batchelor 'Venturina', CCM, 81 points
Scaphysepalum decorum 'Venturina', CCM, 81 points
Scaphysepalum gibberosum 'Venturina', CCM, 80 points

Maria Santos

Paphinia Majestic 'Myck Santos', AM, 87 points,

Don't Miss the Party

Don't miss this year's holiday party on December 18. Eric Wiles will be cat juggling again this year and Laura and Hilda will do their world-famous latke dance. Margaret Smith will be handing out free raffles tickets for the sleigh (reindeer not included).

If you would like to help, get rid of a fruitcake and we're not talking about one of your relatives, or bring something else to the party, please contact Barbara Buck at barbarabuck@comcast.net or 410-551-9374.



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November Judges' Choice: Jos Venturina's *Den.* Stephen Batchelor

Fishing Creek Orchids Open House

show table - nov. 2008

by Tom McBride

Novice

1. *Onc.* Sweet Sugar 'Kalandar'
- Kathi Jackson
2. *Phal.* Baldan's Kaleidoscope
'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS
- Janice Mazur
3. *Ludisia discolor* - Judi von Mehlem

Home Grown

1. *Lc.* Molly Tyler - Ernie Drohan
2. Tie *Den.* Waianae Valley
'Ruffles' - Marilyn Lauffer
Onc. Sweet Sugar - Clark Riley
3. *Stenosarcus Vanguard* - Val Lowe

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. *Den.* Stephen Batchelor
- Jos Venturina
2. *C.* Chocolate Drop - Barbara Buck
3. *Dor. pulcherrima* - Eric Wiles

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. *Neost.* Lou Sneary 'Colorful Blue' -
The Adamses
2. *Zygo.* Red Vale 'Fire Kiss'
- Cy Swett
3. *Bark.* Erika - David Smith

Cattleya

1. *Epi. ciliare* - Michael Moran
2. *Blc.* Greenwich 'Elmhurst'
- The Adamses
3. Tie *Blc.* Angel Love 'Pink Panther'
- Barbara Buck
Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Debbie' AM/
AOS - Clark Riley

Phalaenopsis

1. *Dtps.* (Taisuco Fireball X Leopard
Prince) - Kathi Jackson
2. *Dtps.* Asahi - Clark Riley
3. *Phal.* Carmen - Anne Minkowski

Oncidium

1. *Alcra.* Hilo Ablaze 'HOF'
- Don Forester
2. *Onc.* Midas 'Valleyfield'
- The Adamses
3. *Psy.* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS
- The Lundys

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. *Paph.* (*malipoense* X *armeniicum*)
- Jos Venturina

2. Tie *Paph.* (*primulinum* X Yosemite
Moon) - Don Forester
Paph. spicerianum
- Les Kirkegaard
3. *Paph. spicerianum* - Nancy Duggan

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. *Ren.* Nancy Chandler 'Red Dragon'
HCC/AOS - The Adamses
2. *Gptm.* Giant - Jos Venturina
3. *Masd.* Maui Jewel - Bill Scharf

Species

1. *Ang. distichum* - David Smith
2. Tie *Max. sophronitis* - Jos Venturina
Den. glomeratum - The Adamses
3. Tie *Stan. species* - Eric Wiles
Jum. comorensis - Bill Scharf

Miniature

1. *Epi. porpax* - The Adamses
2. Tie *Masd. imposter* - Bill Scharf
Masd. striatella - Jos Venturina
3. *Lep. costaricensis* - David Smith

First Bloom Seedling

1. *Paph. vietnamense* 'Anna'
- Clark Riley
2. *Paph.* Jade Dragon - The Lundys
3. *Soph. brevipedunculata*
- David Smith

Fragrance

1. *Onc.* Sharry Baby 'Sweet
Fragrance' AM/AOS - Phuong Tran
& Rich Kaste
2. *Zygo.* Syd Monkhouse
- Les Kirkegaard
3. *Dendrochilum glumaceum*
- The Lundys

The Judges Choice of the evening was *Den.* Stephen Batchelor, exhibited by Jos Venturina. The judges were Ernie Drohan, Bill Ellis and Cy Swett. There were 100 plants on the show table!

calendar

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

MOS HOLIDAY PARTY. DON'T MISS IT!

Date: 3 January
Event: National Capital Judging Center Judging Session
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM
Details: www.nationalcapitaljc.org

Date: 15 January
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting
Location: First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue,
Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org

Date: 7 February
Event: National Capital Judging Center Judging Session
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM
Details: www.nationalcapitaljc.org

Date: 19 February
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting
Location: First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org



This Year's Auction is a Success!

Despite the gloomy economic situation the nation is experiencing, area orchid growers came to our Annual MOS Orchid Auction with money in hand. They bid in our Regular Auction and new Silent Auction, and bought from our Instant Auction. We auctioned off about 240 orchids mostly in bloom, and sold about 300 orchids outright. We had one more bidder than last year and had sales comparable to last year.

Our MOS volunteers turnout was fantastic – one of the best we have ever had – and everyone had a good idea of just what needed to be done. A special thanks goes to Bob Marshall, a very effective auctioneer who really kept bidders excited. Bob's wife, Valerie Lowe, also earned our special appreciation for her quick showing of photos of orchids on which we were bidding. Ann Lundy worked very hard to get all of our donated orchids priced and labeled, Ernie Drohan took control of the boxing area, and our President, Gary Smith, did purchase data entry and tally as fast as his hands could type. Our



Newsletter editor, Laura Sobelman, took lots of pictures, with help from Beng Light. The orchids we received from Carmela Orchids, Tropical Orchid Farm, and especially The Little Greenhouse, were excellent quality. Tom McBride and Gary Krause of the Little Greenhouse also provided MOS volunteers with fragrant orchid corsages that were way cool! Thanks, guys! And, thanks to everyone

else who helped – there were too many to mention by name – you made our Auction a success!

Four MOS members deserve a different kind of thanks – Beng Light, Joan Roderick, Marie Soutar, and Blair Farrand were among the top ten bidders in the auction. Their support is really appreciated.

Bill Ellis
Auction Chair

[more auction photos on next page]





This new column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In November, Jos Venturina's *Den*. Stephen Batchelor was awarded the honor. Following is Jos' description of how he grows his plant:



“I purchased *Dendrobium* Stephen Batchelor from Nguyen Orchids at one of the MOS annual Show and Sale. It's at least 11 years old now because I was still living in an apartment when I bought the plant which, at that time had five to six canes and a few flowers. It

grew sporadically over the years, having survived two accidental “gassings,” a brief period of “water intoxication,” and five years of benign neglect – testaments to its hardiness! Blooming had also been intermittent albeit incremental when it did, up until this year when it suddenly took off after being re-potted this summer. And yes, it's true: I tried coaxing the buds to open by baking the plant in 90-degree temperature in the greenhouse in a vain attempt to loan it for the SOS Show this October, succeeding only in placing two *Masdevallias* in DNR (do not resuscitate) status.

Dendrobium Stephen Batchelor has been potted in different media over the past years, from bark and Styrofoam peanuts to coconut chips with Perlite, to the present formula of a few coco chips and a majority of rubber mulch. It has resided on the upper level of a two-tier shelving system in the greenhouse which is oriented north – a grievous error I know, but I was in a hurry to put up the greenhouse in 1998 (lest all my plants perish on the concrete slab) and didn't pay attention to the sun's movement over my backyard. Temperatures in the summer range from 80 to 100 degrees and 55 – 65 in the winter. Humidity stays at 60 – 70% most of the year, with a drop to about 50% during the cold months. It receives thorough filtered-watering daily during warm months, and every other day or every two days in the winter. This is in addition to the drip and misting systems in place in the greenhouse. I use Miracle-Gro 15-30-15 or fish emulsion to fertilize once a week during warm months, then a balanced fertilizer once a month in the winter. The only persistent pest has been slugs which do not seem to respond to Sluggo pellets any more. (Tried the beer, too – didn't work for me.) I've recently taken to wrapping inflorescences of any budding/spiking plant that can accommodate it in small coils of copper wire (talk about tedious work!), and setting *Masdevallias* on copper-clad printed circuit boards – we shall see. My plant is in dire need of a new pot, and will get one when the last flowers fade which, because of its *alexandrae* and *johnsoniae* parentage, thankfully will not be for a few more weeks.”

2009 Show Update

Greetings MOS members,

Now that we have concluded another successful MOS auction it's time to turn our attention to the next major MOS event. Before I do though, I'd like to offer my thanks to Bill Ellis for a job well done and to all the members who volunteered their time and effort to make the auction work.

It's time to seriously begin thinking about our next major event, the 2009 MOS Show and Sale. The Show committee continues to make progress as we inch closer to March 2009.



David Smith's *Paph. micranthum* 'Turnberry'

If you have suggestions for the Show Theme, please e-mail me at willworks@hughes.net by year's end as we will be announcing the Show Theme in January. The Exhibitor Packet spelling out rules, regulations and exhibiting opportunities will be released in January as well. There are a number of changes, revisions and improvements being finalized by the committee to be included in the Packet.

As usual, the Show will feature a variety of commercial as well as participating Orchid Society exhibits. We will also need as many MOS Member exhibits as possible, so start planning now! Remember you don't need to exhibit alone; partner with a friend or two or three.

Photo by Jim Winner



We will again be looking to show off your creative talents in the Art Exhibit portion of the Show. It's a big space and we want to fill it with your fresh, new work.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and happy Holiday

Season. I look forward to seeing you at next week's Holiday party. You don't want to miss Laura and Hilda do the latke dance, it's something to see.

Happy Growing!

Bill Scharf

MOS Vice President & Show Chairman

FISHING CREEK ORCHIDS

830 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717-599-5390)

OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 12,13 and 14, 2008
Friday thru Sunday 10am - 5pm

EXTENSIVE VARIETY OF ORCHIDS FOR SALE

- * Significant discount on select plants
- * Divisions of choice and awarded plants
- * Potting supplies
- * Original art by Geri Male
- * Refreshments

Take this opportunity to see a unique and rare orchid collection.
Enhance your own collection with unusual specimens.

DIRECTIONS: From Harrisburg: Take route 322 west; exit at Route 443 (Fishing Creek); turn right at stop sign; proceed 1.3 miles (830 mail box); turn left 15 yards beyond the yellow NO PASSING sign into the driveway. Park along driveway.



For Sale

One new 400 watt halide light in bubble wrap, used ballast, and hood with glass. Frame to hang same. \$100.00 for all.

Call Hilda Sukman at 410-332-1532.

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