



Important March 2010 Meeting Change Notice

In March, our regularly scheduled third Thursday meeting will be held on Tuesday, 23 March. Please mark your calendars.

president's message

Well, the 2010 Show and Sale is one for the history books. As usual, it was a long six days, but despite the physical exhaustion and mental fuzziness, it was a great event.

Some highlights:

- Despite a flat tire on the rental trailer, the Tuesday staging set-up was one of the quickest and most efficient yet. The work was essentially complete by 4:30 PM.
- The software used for registering orchids and recording judging results worked flawlessly. We completed data entry by 4:00 PM on Thursday. Usually it takes until the next day to catch up.

- The Preview Party was exceptionally well attended, quashing concerns that this activity was a dinosaur headed for extinction.
- Several vendors apparently had record sales.
- We picked up 14 new members—a record for sure.
- We had unusually high interest in the April Workshop.

Unfortunately, there were a couple items we wish to improve upon:

- Wednesday's exhibit installation was a dreadfully long day. Plus more exhibitors than last year did little or nothing to register their orchids ahead of time.

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Zoe Smith to Speak at the March Meeting

Zoe Smith, our speaker for March, will speak on "Orchid Conservation in Australia and America: shared survival strategies in unique environments."

Zoe is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. She completed her PhD dissertation in 2006 at the University of Melbourne, Australia, investigating the biology and reintroduction of threatened terrestrial orchids. During this time, she was also employed as an Orchid Research Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, assisting with a national Banksia award-winning program to propagate threatened orchids for reintroduction. She has since



Zoe Smith doing field work on the Maryland Eastern Shore.

undertaken employment as an Environmental Consultant, intern at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology.

Her research will investigate the evolutionary relationships of terrestrial orchids in the genus *Platanthera* and their associated mycorrhizal fungi. Newly developed techniques will be used to investigate whether enzyme activity in orchid mycorrhizal fungi is influenced by fungal evolutionary relationships or habitat variables, to determine which fungi are best for different orchid species under different environmental conditions. Investigations of

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show table-feb. 2010

by Tom McBride



Novice

1. Phal. Brother Green
Bamboo (above)- Janice Mazur
2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet
Fragrance' AM/AOS (below)- Kathi
Jackson
3. Paph. Baldan's Kaleidoscope
'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS - The
Dagostins



Home Grown

1. Masd. Morning Glory - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Paph. (Alma Gavaert X Todd
Clark) - The Lundys
Phrag. Penns Creek Cascade
(above)- Val Lowe
3. Tie Den. Nora Tokunaga - Mark
Robbins
Dtps. King Shaing's Beauty
(below) - Ernie Drohan



Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' AD/
CSA (above)- Jamie Riegel
2. Paph. Saint Swithin (below) - Don
Forester
3. Paph. Pinocchio (see photo on
page 5)- Sue Spicer



Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Den. *kingianum* 'Beni Otomi' - David
Smith
2. Rl. *glauca* 'River's End' FCC/AOS -
The Adamses
3. Den. *nobile* 'Merlin' (below)- Cy
Swett



Cattleya

1. Epi. *stamfordianum* - The Adamses
2. Pot. Fort Fortune X Blc. Small
Fortune (above)- David Smith
3. Tie Lc. Gold Digger 'Fuch's
Mandarin' (below)- The Lundys
Blc. Bouton D'Or 'Foxcraft' -
Hilda Sukman



Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. *schilleriana* 'Summer'
- The Adamses
2. Tie Phal. (Joyful Windsong X Zuma
Pixie) (above)- Chryss Mavrides
Phal. Hinamatsuri 'Blushing
Bride' AM/AOS- Joan Roderick
3. Tie Phal. Hybrid - Bill Soyke
Dtps. Plum Rose X Phal.
equestris - Chris Zajac
Phal. Amy Jean 'Addison Trail'
HCC/AOS - Clark Riley

show table-feb. 2010



Oncidium

1. Brsdm. Hybrid (above)- Chris Zajac
2. Dgmra. Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy' (below)- Sarah Hurdel
3. Colm. Wildcat 'Mountain View' - Sarah Spence



Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Jerry Lee Fischer (top middle column)- Mark Robbins
2. Tie Paph. (*spicerianum* X Stone Lovely) - The Lundys
Paph. *delenatii* - The Adamses
Paph. Fumi's Delight - Cy Swett
3. Tie Paph. Raisin Pie - David Smith
Paph. *malipoense* - Eric Wiles



Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Cym. Hybrid (above)- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
2. Tie Cym. Dorothy Stockstill 'Forgotten Fruits' (below)- David Smith
Ascda. Tokunaga 'Sunshine' - Cy Swett
3. Tie Den. Yellow Chinsai 'Little Joe' HCC/AOS - Eric Wiles
Cym. Red Beauty 'Gypsy Fire' - Jamie Riegel



Species

1. Asctm. *christensonianum* - The Adamses
2. Tie Ddc. *wenzelii* - David Smith
Masd. *infracta* - Bill Scharf
3. Tie Lus. *discolor* var. *dawsoniana* - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste



Miniature

1. Pths. *pyterophylla* CHM/AOS (above)- Bill Scharf
2. Lpths. *astrophora* 'Stalky' CBM/AOS - David Smith
3. Aergs. *fastuosa* - Eric Wiles

First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. Michael Koopowitz - Jamie Riegel
2. Paph. (Genevieve Booth X *adductum*) - Val Lowe
3. Phal. [(Salu Spots X Brother Lawrence) X First Knight] - Mark Robbins

Fragrance

1. B. Little Stars - Chris Zajac
2. Coel. *lawrenceianum* 'Ernie' CBM/AOS - Bill Soyke
3. C. *maxima* - Sarah Spence

The Judges Choice of the Evening, Epi. *stamfordianum*, was exhibited by The Adamses. See page 4 for Rachael's article about how she and Steve grow this plant.

The judges were Don Forester, Bill Soyke and Sarah Spence. **There were 133 fabulous plants on the show table this month!**

the judges' choice: feb. 2010

This column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In February, Steve and Rachael Adams' *Epi. stamfordianum* was awarded the honor. Following is Rachael's description of how they grow their plant:

“ *Epidendrum stamfordianum* is found throughout southern Mexico, Central America and northern South America and prefers warm to hot growing conditions. There are multiple color forms, including the green and white alba and pink rosea forms as well as the 'tipo' or typical color form. It is a tough epiphyte, and in my experience is not a fast grower when young and doesn't seem to care for being disturbed. However, once it gets up to a reasonable size, it grows quickly enough. It is listed as having varying blooming seasons, though all of mine bloom within a couple weeks of each other, generally beginning in late February through mid-March. Our show table plant is the tipo color form and was a gift from a fellow orchid society member a few years back. It had already thoroughly encased its pot with roots and I was concerned about the damage it would cause to try to repot it, so I left it to continue its march around the pot. The first winter with us was spent in the garage while the greenhouse was under construction. It showed no signs of growth until May, when it was relocated to its new home, a bright, warm corner of the just-completed greenhouse, at which time an explosion of new growths and roots appeared. Its first

blooming for us was the following March. Now, each year brings an even greater profusion of somewhat unpleasantly fragrant blooms.



In general care, *Epidendrum stamfordianum* is quite easy. It likes relatively bright light and grows well near my *Laelia purpuratas* and other *Cattleya* relatives. While it is recommended by some to give it a winter rest, I don't give it any particularly special care in the winter. I do however cut back on both water and fertilizer for all plants during the winter months. From the spring through fall it is watered more frequently and fertilized 3 out of every 4 waterings. In the summer watering may be as frequent as 3 times per week depending on the weather, while in winter it is often reduced to once every 10 days. I also grow two other color forms of *Epi. stamfordianum*, but this is by far my favorite.

There may be a clonal name on this plant, however, any tag it once held has been lost to the impenetrable tangle of roots encasing the pots upon which it resides.”

AOS Corner: Why Do You Grow Orchids?

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from a new orchid grower who is blind. The caller was looking for audio information on growing orchids and so they contacted the American Orchid Society. I had a couple of CDs handy so I sent them to her. Guess what – there was no audio on them – oops! So then I found a VHS tape on eBay about growing orchids under lights. That worked better but there is still a lot of information that is shown and not described. So I am looking for someone who will tape (micro cassette) orchid education programs given at their society and send them to her. If you would consider helping please let me know at affiliated_societies@aos.org Her name is LaVonne, lives in Bismarck, N.D. and she grows hibiscus as well as succulents. LaVonne also has a few orchids, a phalaenopsis and a dendrobium.



the plants she currently grows but now wants something more challenging. LaVonne and I have had some great telephone conversations about orchids, she described how she feels a plant to determine if something is a keiki or a new growth. I told her about fragrant orchids, miniature orchids and orchids with fuzzy stems she might want to consider. LaVonne had no idea there were so many types of orchids out there. Now she really wants a *Brassavola nodosa* and a *Paphiopedilum Pinocchio* but she has to wait for warmer weather. To me this is what orchid societies are all about – orchid people helping other orchid people become better orchid growers. I am constantly amazed at the pleasure our orchids give us in one way or another.

Become a Great Orchid Grower – Support your local Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society.

Carol Holdren

AOS Trustee, AOS Affiliated Society Committee Chair

As I was looking for audio material people kept asking me, “Why would a blind person want to grow orchids?” So I asked LaVonne. Can you guess the answer? For the challenge! She enjoys

monthly checklist for march and april

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group — bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* — is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the



Paph. Pinocchio- Sue Spicer

time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially

difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

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Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging — even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.



Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



education corner

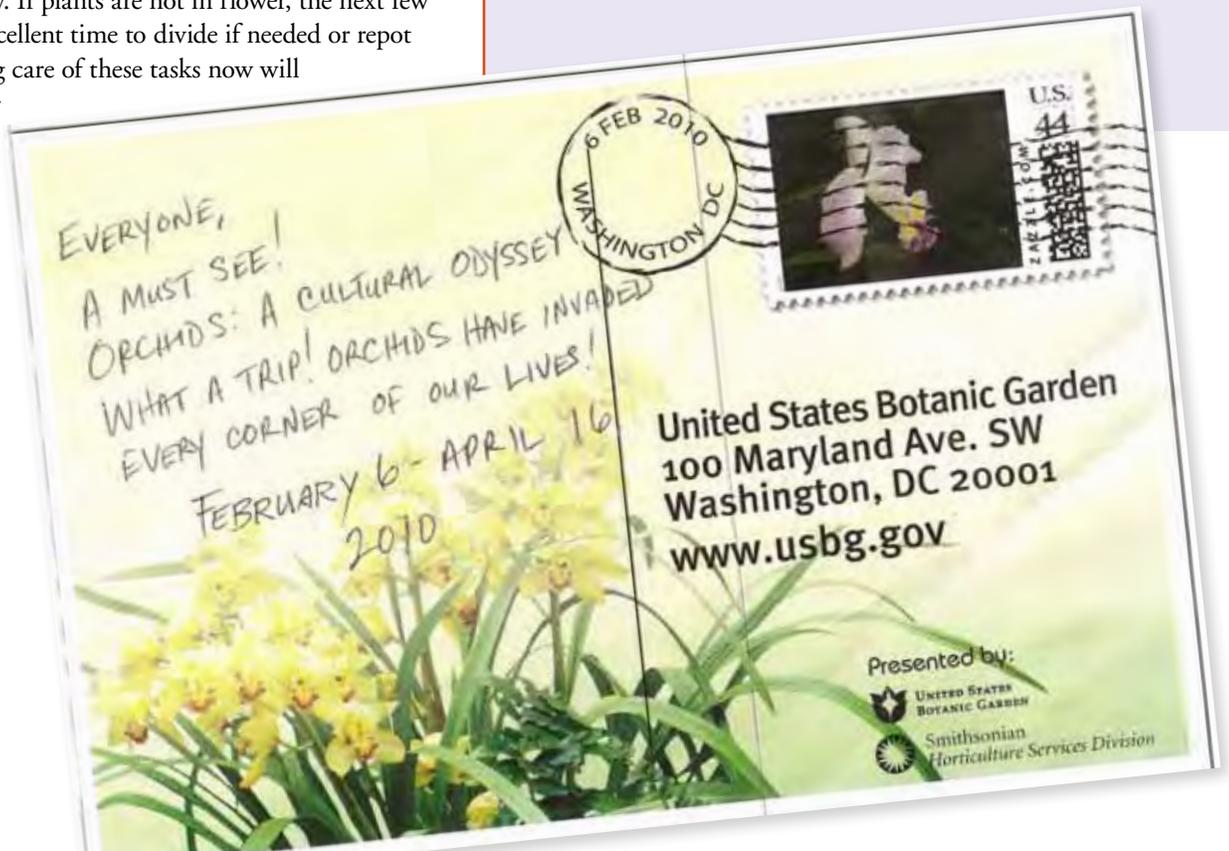
During February's Education Corner, Barbara Buck demonstrated how to repot Cattleyas, answered questions and gave tips on how to help your Cattleyas thrive.

new members

The MOS would like to welcome the following new members, many of whom signed up at the show.

Ed and Nan Shul
Charlotte and Craig Storti
Geraldine Frank
Susan Tanger
Linda and Glenn Hagan
(Dr.) Scott Glazier and
Mrs. Janet Glazier
Champe and Mary Jo
McCulloch

Dawn Penney and William
Nolan
David Boersma
John Burgess
Bruce Burgess
Pat Handy
Celia and Darren Weaver
Thom Stroschein
Sharon and James Smith



SEPOS Needs Volunteers at Longwood Gardens Show

Gail Sklar of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society is looking for volunteers with sturdy feet to clerk during the morning judging at the SEPOS Show at Longwood Gardens on March 26, 2010. The judging will commence at 8:30 am. Free parking and a continental breakfast along with lunch will be provided. The bonus is a wonderful experience and a wealth of knowledge from the judges. If you would like to help, please e-mail Gail at gjsklar@comcast.net.



Mark Robbins' Den. Big Alex

Steve Adams Wins Monthly Door Prize

Each month it meets, the MOS issues to members a free raffle ticket for a door prize. In February, Steve Adams won a Phal. Brother



Heather 'Nuclear'. It was registered in 1997 (Brother orchid nursery) and is a cross of Brother Delight x Carmela's Spots and has an AM/AOS.

President Appoints Nominating Committee

Pursuant to Section 2 of the MOS Bylaws, the president has appointed Donald Forester, Laura Sobelman, Christopher Zajac to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The job of the Nominating Committee is to recommend and report at the April monthly meeting a slate of candidates for the seven officer positions. The positions are President, Vice President, Controller, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Directors. Each officer holds office for a two-year term. Any member interested in standing for one of these positions should contact the committee with questions.

local aos news

by Valerie Lowe

March 6: National Capital Judging Center

None of our Society members submitted plants to be judged, probably due to the NCOS auction, which was held at the same time.

Follow-up from November 7: NCOS Show, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)

The Little Greenhouse had a plant awarded at the National Capital Orchid Society Show that was unregistered. That meant that the award was provisional, essentially unofficial, until the plant was registered. Since Tom McBride acquired the plant from Carter and Holmes in N.C., he called down there to see if the plant had been registered. On February 17, he finally got an answer: Carter and Holmes would register the plant as Blc. Newberry Classic. The award will now be processed by AOS and be published in AQPlus as Blc. Newberry Classic 'Harford'.

March 11: Maryland Orchid Society Show

The Little Greenhouse's exhibit not only received the AOS Show Trophy for the Best Exhibit in the show, but also received an AOS Gold Certificate. The Gold Certificate is awarded to the exhibit that receives 90 points or more when the Show Trophy Ballots are counted. Congratulations!!!!

Mark Robbins loaned a Paph. Jerry Lee Fischer to Ann Lundy's exhibit. It was considered by the AOS judging team and awarded an Award of Merit (AM).

President's Message continued from page 1

- Preliminary analysis indicates that proceeds from the show are down compared to last year. The ray of sunshine here is that it is highly likely that the show was still a profitable venture for the MOS.

Pros and cons aside, the most important message I want to convey is my gratitude to every member that volunteered his or her time at the show. The show is your show. We couldn't make it happen without your support. And it wouldn't be any fun without seeing your smiling faces. Thank you!

Gary

calendar of events

Don't Miss Any Important Orchid-related Events!

For more society- and orchid-related events go to:

http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York

You might need to copy and paste the link into your Web browser.

Zoe Smith continued from page 1

enzymatic activity in fungal taxa associating with *Platanthera* species could reveal why this genus and most other photosynthetic orchids associate with two narrow taxonomic groups of distantly related fungi. Understanding the ecology of partner choice in mycorrhizas provides important information for maintaining these essential interactions and their ecosystem functions in the face of environmental change.

She enjoys discussing her research and her intimate experiences with the Australian landscape, including the following findings: "Fly net hats are not dorky when you're trying to measure tiny orchid flowers with two hands; you can never cover enough places to avoid getting sunburnt, scratched, bitten or soaking wet. Cows licking cars is not an urban myth, dust really gets everywhere, jumping spiders really get everywhere, and finding a tiny new orchid seedling is always amazing."

Sue Spicer
Program Chair

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