

MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

ORCHID

newsletter



News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

May 2011

president's message

Mentoring Works!

I am “growing proof” of how well the MOS Mentoring Program works. That’s right, even someone with nearly 12 years of orchid growing experience needs a little helpful advice sometimes.

About 5 years ago I purchased a small division of *Dendrobium aggregatum* from one of our vendors. I really had no idea of how to grow this plant or whether I had the conditions for this orchid species. However, like many orchid growers I didn’t let that stop me. I was so drawn to the beautiful buttery yellow flowers that I couldn’t leave it on the table. I brought it home, did some research and found the plant did best in very bright, warm conditions. I knew the warm temperatures could be a challenge and that my only hope would be the upstairs bathroom window, already crowded with several cattleyas and



other dendrobiums. However, what proved to be the biggest challenge was the “winter rest”. I have found the term “winter rest” to have several meanings, depending on who is asked, and seems to be somewhat specific to the species. I did what I thought was right and the plant limped along for 2-3 years without a single flower. I nearly gave up, thinking I just can’t give this beauty what it needs to thrive and bloom. Then a couple years ago Bill Ellis brought in a beautifully grown *Dendrobium aggregatum* about the size of mine. His plant was covered with brilliant yellow flowers. Again, I was hooked. I spoke to Bill (now an MOS Mentor) after the meeting about how he grew this plant. As it turns out, I wasn’t that far off with the exception of one thing, and it’s a big thing with this species— the winter rest. My timing was way off. I

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May 19 Clark Riley Talks About Using Today’s Tools to Enrich Your Orchid World

Clark Riley has been growing orchids continuously since 1957. In those days, about the only links between Baltimore and the rest of the orchid world were the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, the *Orchid Review*, and the Annual AOS meetings. Postal shipping of plants, paid for by check or money order, was the only way to receive them from afar. Meristem propagation did not exist. There were about a hundred books available.



Today, the information age has provided a cornucopia of knowledge. Finding that special plant takes minutes, not months. Shipping is in days, not weeks. Books, articles, and sites number

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It is with profound sadness that we mourn the passing of Pat Fulton, an MOS member and friend. Pat was very active in the society, volunteering for many events—our annual auctions and shows, always with a smile and positive attitude. Our hearts and deepest sympathy go out to his wife Carolyn and his family. He will be tremendously missed.

Bill Scharf, MOS President

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Special thanks to Sarah Hurdel for the beautiful photos below of last month's show table plants!



Novice

1. Phal. Hybrid (above) - Janice Mazur
2. Epi. Hybrid - Gregg Custis

Home Grown

1. Phal. Blond Beauty - The Dagostins
2. Tie C. Lucky Gem 'Sarah' AM/AOS (below)- Gary Smith
Phrag. Penn's Creek Cascade - Val Lowe
3. C. Hybrid - Marilyn Lauffer



Greenhouse

1. Pths. *teaguei* (below) - David Smith
2. C. *skinneri* var. *alba* - Michael Moran
3. Ascda. Hybrid (top center) Cy Swett



Photo by Laura Sobelman



Cattleya

1. C. *skinneri* 'Casa Luna' AM/AOS (below) - Michael Moran
2. Tie Slc. Rosemary Clooney 'Nanae' AM/HOS - Cy Swett
Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS - Jamie Riegel & Erin Hunt
3. Tie C. *skinneri* 'Casa Luna' AM/AOS - The Lundys
C. *skinneri* 'Heiti Jacobs' FCC/AOS - David Smith



Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. *honghenesis* - David Smith
2. Tie Phal. Ever Spring Gentle 'De Leon's Pastel' - John Dunning
Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS - Cy Swett
3. Tie Phal. Akatsuka Splash - Sarah Hurdel
Phal. Hybrid - Laura Sobelman
Phal. Hybrid - Bill Soyke

Oncidium

1. Onc. Twinkle 'Red Fantasy' (top, third column) - Owen Humphrey
2. Milt. *flavescens* - Eric Wiles
3. Tie Bak. Everglades Hunter 'Swamp Buggy' HCC/AOS - Jamie Riegel & Erin Hunt
Brs. Hybrid - Cy Swett



Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. *philippinense* 'Harford's Ribbons' (above)- Mark Robbins
2. Paph. *hirsutissimum* var. *esquirolei* 'Goodwood' AM/AOS - The Lundys
3. Paph. Bel Royal (below) - John Dunning



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Special thanks to Sarah Hurdel for the beautiful photos below of last month's show table plants!

Dendrobium

1. Den. *chrysotoxum* 'Hillwood' - Jos Venturina
2. Den. *harveyanum* - David Smith
3. Den. Nestor - The Lundys



Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Lhta. Golden Speck (bottom, first column) - Aaron Webb
2. Asc. Cherry Blossom - Bill Scharf
3. Stsc. Vanguard 'Fireball' JC/AOS - Joan Roderick

Species

1. Pho. *chinensis* - David Smith
2. Tie Den. *chrysotoxum* 'Hillwood' - Michael Moran
Masd. *infracta* - Bill Scharf
3. Arpo. *gigantea* - Cy Swett

Miniature

1. Ste. *species* - Eric Wiles
2. Tie Lept. *bicolor* - Cy Swett
Pths. *species* - Bill Scharf
3. Sns. *gemmata* - David Smith

First Bloom Seedling

1. Phrag. Tara - Bill Soyke
2. Paph. *hookerae* var. *volonteanum* (top, third column) - Jamie Riegel & Erin Hunt
3. Paph. *delenatii* - The Lundys



Fragrance

1. Sed. *japonica* - David Smith
2. C. Margaret Degenhart 'Saturn' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Neost. Lou Sneary - Owen Humphrey

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Den. *chrysotoxum* 'Hillwood', exhibited by Jos Venturina. The judges were Chris Zajac, Michael Moran and Norma Lynch. There were 122 beautiful plants displayed on our show table this month!

may's judges' choice

May's Judges' Choice award went to Jos Venturina's *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*. Here is how Jos grows his plant:

D*endrobium chrysotoxum* is a callista-type dendrobium that is native to Southeast Asian countries. I purchased my dendrobium *chrysotoxum* plant from Mr. Bud Hammond 13 years ago. Growing dendrobium *chrysotoxum* and getting it to bloom is not that difficult, as long as one keeps in mind its background and therefore, its culture. Southeast Asia has two major seasons, rainy and dry. This means that, in general, dendrobiums from this region require a dry season to produce flowers.

I water and fertilize this plant from May through October. When the new growths have matured, I start tapering off the watering regimen over the succeeding weeks then stop altogether in wintertime. Don't be scared, the plant will not die. The



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

plant is in its resting/dormancy period. The temperature inside the greenhouse in the winter can get down to 50 degrees F at night, with a daytime high of 70 degrees (+/-). Usually, flower spikes start emerging sometime in March or April, depending on temperature. I then resume watering, but only give it what I call "a little sip," meaning I water it just enough to keep it

alive and for the roots to dry quickly. It doesn't get drenched because I don't want it to drink too much that it could spur cane growth. I want the plant to concentrate on flowering, not growing. Once blooming is over I resume regular watering.

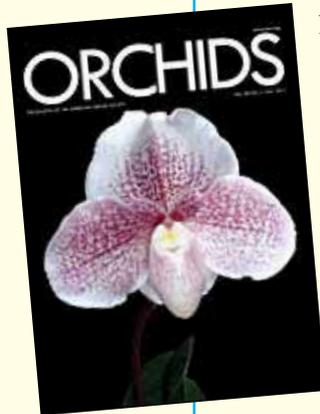
I do not re-pot my dendrobiums regularly. In my experience, this dendrobium doesn't like to be repotted unless the potting medium is deteriorating or the plant gets too big for the pot to support it. I have repotted this plant 3 times since receiving it from Mr. Hammond and, in its current condition, it is due for one.

mos workshop



Please Return Your Books!

The MOS library contains an extensive collection of books and periodicals that have been acquired over many years of thoughtful planning. It represents a unique and valuable benefit to all members, and we strongly encourage its use. As published in our annual Membership Roster, members may check out items during our monthly meetings and are expected to return them at the following meeting. (Please review the Roster for additional relevant procedures.) This ensures that availability of material is maximized for



all interested readers. Arrangements may be made for exceptions to this rule by contacting our librarian Norma Lynch.

In the next several weeks, Norma plans to inventory the library's accessions to produce a fresh list, reorganize the shelves, and—sadly—identify missing items. If you have library items currently checked out, please bring them to the next meeting, so that they may be counted. If you can't attend the next meeting, please contact Norma to confirm that you are still in possession of these items.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Monthly Meeting Attendance

There were 54 members at the April meeting.



Photo by James Osen

Another Orchids Celebrity

Congratulations to Bill Scharf for the mention and photo of his *Paph. spicerianum* 'St. Albans' AM/AOS in the May issue of *Orchids Magazine*.

Members-Only Repotting Clinic June 25, 2011

The Maryland Orchid Society is having a members-only Repotting Event on Saturday, June 25, between 2:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. at David and Margaret Smith's house. (It is usually held outside so bring a hat and sunscreen.) This event is hands-on and is designed to help beginner and novice members learn to repot their own plants.

Admission to the event is \$5.00 (payable at the door) and will include light refreshments and potting media for the first repotted plant. There will be a \$3.00 charge for each repotted plant or division after that. Members are encouraged to bring their own pots for potting. Should a member not have a plant available for repotting and still desire to participate, we will have some overgrown plants in need of repotting. You can get the experience of

dividing and repotting, and take home the potted division for your collection.

Space for this event is limited, so be sure to sign up by June 18. Call between 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday to sign up. Phone 410-848-1682 (Dr. Wiles' office) or contact us via e-mail: winvet88@yahoo.com.

Thank you and we hope to see you there!



David Smith gives tips on the best way to repot a Cattleya.

education corner

Sarah Hurdell is presenting at this month's Education Corner. Her topic is "Fertilizer 101 - What and How to Feed Your Orchids".

What's Eating Your Orchids? A Home Grower's Approach to Orchid Pest Control

by Sarah Hurdel

At the April workshop, Sarah gave an extremely informative presentation about orchid pests. I asked her for the bullet points so we could recap it in our monthly newsletter. I found her talk very helpful. For those of you who had a chance to enjoy her talk (or even if you didn't have the chance), here is a review of her presentation.

I have a collection of over 200 plants and have had experience with all of the pests I'll talk about today. I'd like to share what has worked for me, instead of listing a number of things that I've heard might or should work. There are many ways to approach the issue; by all means research and find the method that works best for you.

I'd like to cover:

- The challenges of the home grower
- Methods of prevention
- How to ID insect and mite pests
- Methods of control (What works for me)
- Where to find good information

Challenges of the Home Grower

"I feel your pain."

- Health and comfort of non-plant household members
 - Chemical odors
 - Messy application
 - HEALTH! It may not kill you, however...
- Less than optimal conditions for cultivation.
 - Dry air
 - Not enough light
 - Heat buildup from artificial light
 - Insufficient air circulation

Benefits vs. Greenhouse

- Likely to notice problems sooner
- More sleep on sub-freezing winter nights
- Conditions are more stable
- Collection size stays manageable

Prevention

- Check plants often (wear your glasses)
 - Isolate new plants
 - Know your plants
 - High or low light? More water or less? Find out what they want.
 - Unhappy plant = pest/disease magnet

- Keep plants clean
 - Remove old blooms, dried sheaths and stems
 - Remove damaged older leaves
 - Wipe accumulated dust from leaves

Something's Wrong?

- Pick up plants and inspect carefully
 - The base and undersides of leaves
 - If leaves are dull and shriveled, check roots
- Keep isopropyl alcohol and Q-tips handy for small spot treatments
- Isolate any infested plants
- Clean leaves
- Consider repotting plants with recurrent infestations
- Diagnose and Treat ASAP!!



sarracenia.com

Mealy Bugs

- You'll notice – white cottony masses which move when disturbed
- No plant preference, can be found on any part including roots.
- Usually congregate at base of leaves, under dried sheaths and back of blooms.
- Will move when disturbed.
- Can also be associated with ants.

Brown Scale

- You'll notice – clusters of soft, smooth raised oval spots on leaves, leaf base, and pseudobulbs.
- Have only a thin shell which is easily penetrated by treatments (Unlike Boisduval Scale)
- Lifecycle



Brown scale photo reprinted from the NOVEMBER 2001 issue of *Orchids* — The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society. Copyright American Orchid Society — www.aos.org

- Eggs are laid within the adult female's protective shell
- Eggs hatch and are now mobile "crawlers"
- Crawlers pupate
- Males emerge with wings (sole purpose is to mate)
- Females develop the waxy shell
- Control by
 - Wiping leaves with rubbing alcohol or Hydrogen Peroxide
 - Easily controlled by soaps or oils, if thoroughly applied.

Boisduval Scale

- You'll notice - Pale, hard, raised, oyster shell-like spots, with associated white masses.
- Lifecycle
 - Eggs are laid within the adult females protective shell
 - Eggs hatch and are now mobile "crawlers"
 - Crawlers pupate
 - Males (photo below) emerge and congregate into cottony masses, which can be confused with Mealy bugs



Reprinted from the NOVEMBER 2001 issue of *Orchids*

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- Females (right) develop the hard, waxy shell

- **Only vulnerable to pesticides during crawler stage**

- **Important to physically**

remove any scale

after treatment, eggs hidden under scale coverings can hatch and re-infest the plant



South Dakota State University

Aphids

- **You'll notice**—"Honeydew" secretions, clusters of various sized green, yellow and sometimes dark colored soft bodied insects with visible legs. Usually on new growths, blooms and buds.

- **Control by**

- Spray with soaps or oils, follow directions for treatment intervals

- Spraying with plain water, a strong coarse stream can help when light infestation is first noticed

Orchid and Phalaenopsis Mites

- **You'll notice** – Silver speckling on leaves, general decline of plant with no apparent cause

- **Multiply quickly, difficult to control and very small.**

- **Control by**

- Watering with strong coarse spray.

- Orchid and Phal mites are NOT insects, therefore insecticides not labeled for mites are ineffective

- Heavy, repeated applications of Ultra Fine oil can be effective\

- Treat neighboring plants, or entire collection if plants are crowded



Small Mites

- **You'll notice** –Webs with tiny insects, yellowing and stippling of leaves.
- **Thrive in warm, dry conditions**
- **Can multiply rapidly**
- **Easily controlled by raising humidity, lowering temperature and treating thoroughly with soaps or oils.**
- **Treat neighboring plants as a precaution**



sarawaklens.com

Snails

- **You'll notice**—Missing, hollowed out root tips and damage to new growths
- **Most active at night**
- **Seem to have plant preferences**
- **Bark media seems to attract them**
- **Immerse pot in water (or entire plant if mounted), to draw out snails**
- **Snail and slug baits have not been effective**
- **Leave ¼" slices of potato on top of media over night to attract snails, remove and discard in the morning**
- **Pick and squash as you see them**

Fungus Gnats

- **You will notice** – Clouds of little black gnats when plants are disturbed and larvae in waterlogged media when repotting.

What to worry about –

- Not the gnats, but the larvae.
 - Usually seen in plants potted in decaying media with poor drainage.
 - The larvae feed on rotting organic materials (speeding up breakdown of potting media), plant roots, and leaves touching the media.
 - A sign that conditions are too wet.

- **Control by**

- Great excuse to buy carnivorous plants!

- Mosquito dunks for livestock water tanks can be soaked and watered into plants.

- Yellow sticky traps will catch the adults, and help monitor their population



My toolbox

- **Yellow sticky traps**
- **Rubbing Alcohol and Q-tips (may cause damage to thin leaved orchids and blooms)**
- **Dr. Bronners Magic Peppermint Soap**
- **Insecticidal soap**
- **Ultra-fine Horticultural oil – (NOT DORMANT OIL)**
- **Neem oil – 100% neem oil recommended**
- **Imidicloprid (or Merit)**
- **Distance (an insect growth regulator)**
- **Snail extractors (I use a curved tip hemostat, tweezers also work)**

Words of Advice

- **Regardless of which methods you use, keep in mind that**
 - **Most treatments will need to be applied thoroughly and more than once**
 - **Rotate chemical treatments**
 - **Know your pests. Don't Panic!**
 - **ALWAYS read the entire label regarding application of the product!**
 - **Most treatments applied directly to blooms will damage them, use caution**
 - **Thin leaved plants can be more sensitive to oil, soap and alcohol treatments. Again, use caution!**

Where to find more info

American Orchid Society Website
www.aos.org

Extension/University websites

Internet Orchid Forums:
www.orchidboard.com
www.slipperorchidforum.com
www.orchidgeeks.com
www.gardenweb.com

Your local Orchid Society!

Keep Your Orchid Experience Going Through The Summer

As many of the societies take a summer hiatus, here are some suggestions to help keep your orchid experience going through the summer. As an example, as you are repotting (either individually or as a society), perhaps you could solicit the assistance of new members of your society, give them some hands on experience and share divisions with them...a win-win for everyone. Visit commercial orchid firms listed on the AOS web site and in the Orchid Source Directory (I've heard of some members who keep theirs in their car so they can check while traveling on whose nearby). As you are planning your summer vacations or outing take advantage of reciprocal garden admissions AOS members enjoy. Use some hot lazy summer days exploring the members only

section of the AOS web site...lots of hidden nuggets to enrich your orchid journey and improve growing or spark a new or renewed interest in a particular variety. Check out some of the summer orchid events (listed in Orchids as well as on the AOS website — keep checking for new additions) including Redland Orchid Festival, Shore Orchid Festival, Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Fair, Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day, Houston Orchid Society Summer Workshop or Phalaenopsis Symposium.

As I write this, I'm preparing to go to the Spring AOS meeting in Shreveport, La. The Affiliated Societies Committee will be holding its committee meeting as well as its traditional Affiliated Societies breakfast.

I'll do a brief report next month on those meetings as well as forward along any information from the Trustees meeting. I would like to also remind all affiliated society representatives to let us know when any changes take place in any contact information for your society including, but not limited to the AOS Representative (who also must be a member of AOS), any newsletter editor and the President. Current e-mail and snail mail information would be appreciated. You can send that information to affiliated_societies@aos.org.

Have a wonderful month.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Maryland Orchid Society Mentors

Rachael and Steve Adams

43 Watson Way, Northeast, MD 21901
410-287-0149
atriversend@comcast.net
Orchid Growing Environment: 15 x 20 foot greenhouse
Orchid Favorites: Grow about 1000 species and hybrids of all kinds
Orchid Growing Experience: 9 years

Bill Ellis

6012 Snowdens Run Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784
410-549-1530 (home); 443-520-8809 (cell)
billellis@ellislist.com
Orchid Growing Environment:
Cold weather- indoor 4 x 4 x 8 foot Wardian case with T5, T8, & T12 fluorescent lights over tubs of water
Warm weather- screened outdoor enclosure under translucent roof
Orchid Favorites: Grows about 50 orchids, mostly species, including Dendrobiums, Lycastes, Cattleyas, Laelias, & Phalaenopsis
Orchid Growing Experience: 10 years



Bill Scharf

7768 Fulton School Road, Felton, PA 17322
717-244-3695
willworks@hughes.net
Orchid Growing Environment:
Cold weather – indoors, under lights and in windows; two 400 W metal halide lights and fluorescent T8 lights; intermediate to cool growing area in basement, and warm growing area upstairs; humidifier in all areas
Warm weather - half of orchids (especially warm growers) are moved outdoors
Orchid Favorites: Grows about 150 species and hybrids, especially Masdevallias, Pleurothallids, Miltoniopsis, wide variety of other genera and grexes
Orchid Growing Experience: 12 years

David Smith

1952 Turnberry Court, Finksburg, MD 21048
410-526-0179
fpsakes1@aol.com
Orchid Growing Environment: 16 x 21 foot lean-to partly-below-ground greenhouse
Orchid Favorites: Grows about 800 orchids, mostly species, including miniatures; Dendrochilums, Pleurothallids, Paphiopedilums, miniature Phalaenopsis
Orchid Growing Experience: 30 years

Eric Wiles

1201 Cherrytown Road, Westminster, MD 21158
410-346-7366 (home); 410-984-2180 (cell); 410-848-1682 (office)
winvet88@yahoo.com
Orchid Growing Environment:
Cold weather – 16 x 16 foot greenhouse attached to house
Warm weather - Greenhouse and outdoors (hanging from tree limbs)
Orchid Favorites: Grows about 500 hybrids and species of all types
Orchid Growing Experience: 10 years

President's Message

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needed to start in mid October and run through November and even into December with the rest. That did the trick, as you can see by the photo. Thanks Bill!

My point to this article is to encourage you to use the MOS Mentors. Ask us questions, get our advice, and test our knowledge. If we don't know the answer, we'll find out together. Bill Ellis has included a list of MOS Mentors in this issue on page 8. Keep in mind that you do not necessarily have to pick just one person to be your mentor. While establishing an agreement with just one Mentor may work for some, we understand it may not be the ideal situation for everyone. So feel free to mix and match Mentors with your questions.

I strongly believe in the Mentoring Program and know personally that it works. We are here to help you become a better orchid grower. Don't hesitate to approach us and ask us specifics on your plant. Your success with your orchid could be just one question away.

Happy Growing!

Bill

Clark Riley

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in the tens of thousands. At times, this flood of knowledge can seem overwhelming.

Join us Thursday evening as Clark applies half a century of experience determining what matters and what doesn't. Explore the simplest and most effective skills using the Society's library, search engines, geography programs, and even eBay! We'll try to have a hook-up to the Internet to demonstrate how to remove the fear factor from using the web and open the vast treasures of the orchid world's knowledge. Whether your favorite tool is a computer, a book, an iPad or Android, or pencil and paper, you'll be glad you came.

Clark will bring a selection of plants from his collection for sale including Baltimore born and bred species and hybrids.

New MOS Members

The following new members have joined the MOS. Please welcome them warmly at the next meeting.

**Marquessa Black
Bridget and Rick Ludwig
Amanda Shaffer**

maryland orchid society

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The *MOS Newsletter*, published monthly by the Maryland Orchid Society September through June, shares the latest news of our orchid community. Please submit your comments to sobelman1@verizon.net

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

Contributors: Bill Ellis, Sarah Hurdell, Norma Lynch, Bill Scharf, Gary Smith, Sue Spicer, Laura Sobelman, Eric Wiles

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, valuable 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
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