

MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

ORCHID

newsletter

News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

December 2012



president's message

'Tis the season to be jolly! It's time for mistletoe and holly.

At this time of the year, people are feeling down because the weather is cold and frightful; they long for chestnuts roasting on an open fire instead of Jack Frost nipping at their noses. They want to bring joy to the world and peace on Earth, or simply be home for the holidays. Children listen for silver bells and wait to see if Santa Claus is coming to town so they can catch a glimpse of Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer. Still, more children are playing with dreidels that they made out of clay.

So what will you do this holiday season? Take a walk in a marshmallow world? Sing "Feliz Navidad?" Go a wassailing? I for one look to give the gift of good cheer, one that I hope will

last throughout the year. So God rest ye merry gentlemen and God bless us everyone!

I wrote this before the news of the tragedy in Connecticut. I was giddy then and in the holiday spirit, but feel more sombre now. My only wish today is for Peace for all the world and the fellowship shared with friends and family. If you love someone let them know, hold them close to your heart and celebrate this season together. Peace to you all and may God's blessings be upon you in the new year.

Eric

A Season of Giving... and Getting

At the December meeting, our traditional Holiday Party, we will again be having a member Plant Swap and Sale. Each member can bring up to five plants to sell, trade or simply give away to other members or guests. The plants for the Swap and Sale are NOT to be in bloom since blooming plants are still part of the (expanded) December monthly auction (see below for details). We plan to use the kitchen space in which to hold the plants as the hall will be filled with delicious treats for the party. Please clearly identify your plants with your name to avoid confusion. MOS is simply supplying a forum for this activity and is not responsible for or involved in any of the transactions. It's purely a member to member or guest activity.

As part of the Holiday Plant Swap and Sale we will expand the monthly auction as well. We are removing, only for this December meeting, the limit on the number of blooming plants

one can bring to the monthly auction. It's a good time of year for plants to be coming in bloom, so hopefully you'll have a division or two to sell at the auction. This is a great opportunity to sell those blooming divisions and just as great an opportunity to add to your collection.

Bill Scharf,
Show Chair

There's no Education Corner or speaker in December, just the holiday party. Come enjoy the sumptuous feast (feel free to bring food or beverage to share) and don't forget to pick up your MOS rosters.

INSIDE 2 November Show Table
3 Judges' Choices for October and November: Jos Venturina's Masd. Aquarius and Catt. Portia 'Cannizaro'

4 Orchid Preservation
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november 2012 show table winners by Tom McBride

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



Novice

1. *Acampe papillosa* (above)- Chip Hiebler
2. Tie Phal. Hybrid (below)- Amanda Gallegos
Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puinani' AM/AOS -
The Hallameyers



Home Grown

1. Odcdm. Wildcat - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
2. Tie V. Pachara Delight 'Pachara' AM/AOS
- Joan Roderick
Phal. *tetraspis* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary
Smith
3. Paph. Michael Koopowitz (above)
- Valerie Lowe

Greenhouse

1. C. Portia 'Cannizaro' FCC/AOS -
Jos Venturina
2. *Stenoglottis longifolia* (below)
- David Smith
3. Onc. (Taka X Gower Ramsey) -
Craig Taborsky



Cattleya

1. Blc. Erin Kobayashi X B. *nodosa* -
Chris Zajac
2. Tie Pot. Caesar's Head 'Carolina Autumn' -
Bob Johnston
Lc. Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS -
Craig Taborsky
3. Tie Pot. Ah Chung Yoyo 'Little Gold Fish' -
Janice Mazur
Soph. *brevipedunculata* (above)
- David Smith
C. Saengsri Fantasy 'Sato' - Eric Wiles

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Yungoh Gelb Canary - The Adamases
2. Phal. Hybrid - The Soykes
3. Phal. Nobby's Amy - Gary Smith & Sarah
Hurdel



Oncidium

1. Bllra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS
(above)- The Soykes
2. Tie Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puinani' AM/AOS -
Gary Smith & Sarah Hurdel
Onc. Sharry Baby - Eric Wiles
3. Tie Psy. Mendenhall 'Yellow Butterfly' -
Owen Humphrey
Bllra. Tropic Lily 'Chocolate Drop' -
Chris Zajac

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Transvaal - Bob Travers
2. Tie Paph. *tonsum* - Owen Humphrey
Paph. (Barbie Playmate X Nulight) -
Sue Spicer
3. Tie Paph. (In-Charm Greenery X Stone
Lovely) - Bob Johnston
Paph. *barbigerum* f. *album* 'Yunnan
Jade' - Clark Riley

Dendrobium

1. Den. Stephen Batchelor - The Adamases
2. Den. Hybrid - Amanda Gallegos
3. Tie Den. Mingle's Sapphire
- David Smith
Den. Hybrid - The Soykes



Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Cyd. Wine Delight 'JEM' FCC/AOS (above)-
Eric Wiles
2. Tie Ascda. Tokunga 'Sunshine' (below)-
Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
Ascda. Princess Mikasa
- Gary Smith & Sarah Hurdel
3. Tie Hab. Regneri 'Indiana Rose' - Clark Riley
Cnths. Amazing - Sue Spicer



Species

1. Pths. species - Gary Smith & Sarah Hurdel
2. Lip. *assamica* - David Smith
3. Pths. *species* - Eric Wiles

Miniature

1. Lep. *astrophora* 'Stalky' - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Bulb. *saltatorium* - The Adamases
Har. *retrocalla* - Sue Spicer
3. Plat. *repens* - David Smith

First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. *villosum* - Bob Johnston
2. Phrag. Jason Fischer - The Lundys
3. Phal. *violacea* - The Adamases

Fragrance

1. C. Clear Morn 'Awakening' - Norma Lynch
2. B. Jimminey Cricket - Jos Venturina
3. Blc. Owen Holmes 'Encore' - Craig Taborsky

The Judges Choice of the Evening was C. Portia 'Cannizaro' FCC/AOS, exhibited by Jos Venturina. (See page 3 for more.) The judges were Frank Dagostin, Sue Spicer and Sarah Spence. There were an incredible 103 beautiful plants displayed on our show table this month.

october judges' choice

Masdevallia Aquarius By Jos Venturina

Masdevallia Aquarius is a primary hybrid between *Masdevallia constricta* and *Masdevallia davisii*. I purchased my plant from Parkside Orchids 3 years ago. It was a blooming size plant with numerous yellow flowers in a 4-inch pot.

Masdevallias are, for the most part, cool growers and are often found in mountainous cloud forests with high humidity. For the past 2 years, this plant has been growing in my greenhouse. However, during peak summer months the greenhouse temperature can go up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. No matter how much humidity it gets, this plant loses so many leaves because of temperature stress. This year, I decided to convert my 75-gallon salt-water aquarium into an orchid terrarium and moved the



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

Masdevallia into it. This terrarium is located in the basement, receiving a constant temperature of 75 degrees during daytime in the summer and around 65 degrees at night. Rainwater fills the lowest quarter of the tank, while constant water circulation provides humidity. An ultrasonic fogger has been added to supplement the water pump and keeps the

humidity between 60%-80%. The water temperature is being kept at 70 degrees using a 300-watt aquarium heater. The light sources are composed of the four original 65 watts Coralife aquarium fluorescent daylights (rated 10,000 Kelvin), and a combination of LED grow lights and 3-watt blue and red high-intensity LEDs. A small 12-volt muffin fan circulates air inside the tank. Mechanical timers control all of these electrical gadgets. I water once a day in the morning before going to work, using rainwater. The synergy of light, constant temperature and humidity has had a positive impact on my *Masdevallia Aquarius*. I now have a total of 18 plants growing in the terrarium, mostly cool-growing plants.

november judges' choice

Cattleya Portia 'Cannizaro', AM/RHS, FCC/AOS By Jos Venturina

Cattleya Portia 'Cannizaro' is a primary hybrid between *Cattleya bowringiana* x *Cattleya labiata* and was registered in 1987 by James Veitch & Son. The specimen I brought to the November meeting is one of six divisions I made from the original plant that I purchased from Spring Hill Gardens (Hanover, PA) 15 years ago.

I grow this plant in my greenhouse along with other cattleyas. It is a very hardy and vigorous plant, and multiplies like weeds. It's been attacked by various predators and has survived several near-death experiences. This plant stays in the greenhouse year round. It blooms every other year in late fall, with multiple flower spikes. It receives a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) from spring through fall. During the summer months, the greenhouse



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

temperatures go as high as 100 degrees (daytime) and down to 80 degrees (evening); in winter it is around 80 degrees during the day and 60 degrees in the evening. This plant is watered every day during summer and every other day in winter. Drip-system watering is controlled by a mechanical timer, supplemented by an overhead misting system. This is the one plant that I can truly say is low maintenance.

Holiday
Orchid
Sale

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UF researcher exploring plant preservation method that could help endangered species

Filed under Agriculture, Business, Economic Impact, Florida, Research on Tuesday, December 4, 2012.

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A University of Florida scientist is researching a method to freeze and preserve orchid seeds, and besides aiding producers, it might also give endangered plants a better chance at survival.

Wagner Vendrame, an associate professor of environmental horticulture with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, is trying to improve a technique known as cryopreservation, in which living cells or tissues are frozen in liquid nitrogen at minus 321 degrees Fahrenheit for later use. So far, his results from cryopreserving orchid seeds have been promising.

The Florida orchid industry generated more than \$43 million in sales in 2011. It produces orchids for both the specialty and mass market using hybrid plants that can be cultivated and are thus not in danger of extinction as many orchid species are.

By freezing seeds, orchid breeders can store them for later use if they have space constraints and are only able to germinate a portion of their seed stock, said Vendrame, who is based at UF's Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead. Freezing could also enable scientists to store endangered plants for future studies and restoration efforts.

"It could be a good means of preserving other types of plants that might be disappearing from the face of Earth," Vendrame said.

There are more than 30,000 species of orchids in the world, and Florida is home to 99 of them — the largest number of naturally occurring orchid species in the United States.

Of the native orchid species in Florida, more than half are either threatened or endangered, including the ghost orchid that was made famous with the book "The Orchid Thief" and the 2002 film "Adaptation," starring Nicolas Cage and Meryl Streep.

Overcollection and habitat loss are often the biggest threats to wild orchids.

In a study, published in the current issue of the journal *Scientia Horticulturae*, Vendrame's team used hybrid orchid seeds to evaluate two cryoprotectants, Supercool X1000 and phloroglucinol. These compounds are added to solutions used for pretreating living tissues before being frozen. Cryoprotectants are similar to antifreeze and minimize freezing damage to tissues by preventing the formation of ice crystals within cells.

The team treated one group of seeds in a solution containing Supercool X1000, another with a solution containing phloroglucinol, and a control group where the solution had no cryoprotectant added. After being frozen for 24 hours, scientists removed the seeds from the liquid nitrogen, thawed them and tried to sprout or germinate them. Successful germination meant a seed had survived freezing.

Adding Supercool X1000 to the pretreatment solution only increased seed germination by about 1 percent more than the solution alone. But adding phloroglucinol increased seed germination by nearly 30 percent.

Altogether, about 79 percent of the seeds treated with phloroglucinol germinated. So it's pretty significant," Vendrame said. "These are excellent results."



Dendrophylax lindenii or ghost orchid.

The study is one of the few that has looked at phloroglucinol, which is extracted from brown algae, as a cryoprotectant for plants, he said.

Guillermo Salazar, a UF/IFAS Florida Yards and Neighborhoods extension agent in Miami-Dade County, is an orchid enthusiast who has studied the plants under Vendrame.

He attributes the fascination with orchids to their uniqueness and diversity.

"There are thousands of different species with diverse shapes, colors and scents," Salazar said. "And they can be found in a variety of ecosystems, from growing on cliffs to in trees and beside rivers. It just really makes them interesting, and you want to experience them all."

He said there are some orchid species that have disappeared completely and others that can only be viewed in private collections.

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UF researcher exploring plant preservation method that could help endangered species

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"If we could have the possibility to preserve a particular species that is endangered, then future generations would have the ability to enjoy them as well," said Salazar.

In addition to Vendrame, study authors also included Renato F. Galdiano and Eliana G.M. Lemos with the Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho in Jaboticabal, Brazil and Ricardo T. Faria with Universidade Estadual de Londrina in Londrina, Brazil.

For more information: <http://news.ufl.edu/2012/12/04/frozen-orchids/>

Credits

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Photo by Jos Venturina. Touched up by Valerie Lowe

local aos news

December 1, National Capital Judging Center :

Jos Venturina's plant of *Oncidium Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy'* received a 93 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE).

See Your Name in Glass

You still have time to Sponsor an Award for the 2013 Maryland Orchid Society Show and see your name in glass. There are a number of Awards available for you as an MOS member to sponsor. These beautiful glass awards are distributed and displayed with the winning plant or exhibit for the duration of the Show. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the Society and the MOS Show. If you have any questions or would like to be a sponsor, please see me, Bill Scharf, MOS Show Chair or see Judi von Mehlem. Following is the current list of available awards to sponsor.

Best Educational Exhibit
Best Lycaste Alliance in Show
Best Miscellaneous Genera in Show
Best Commercial Cattleya Alliance
Best Commercial Paphiopedilum Species
Best Commercial Phragmipedium
Best Commercial Dendrobium Alliance

Best Commercial Epidendrum Alliance
Best Hobbyist Epidendrum Alliance
Best Commercial Miniature
Best Commercial Miscellaneous Genera
Best Hobbyist Miscellaneous Genera
Best Commercial Oncidium Alliance
Best Commercial Phalaenopsis Alliance
Best Commercial Pleurothallid Alliance
Most Pleasing Fragrance

New Members

The MOS would like to welcome Benjamin Sims as a new MOS member.

Prepare to Partay

Mark your calendars, save the date! The MOS holiday party is December 20. Always a wild time, the party will be exciting as Chip Heibler promises to dress up as Rudolph. Consider bringing a covered dish (of food) or some other food-related consumable to the party. If you'd like to contribute to the holiday party, contact Barbara Buck at 410-551-9374 or barbarabuck@comcast.net. Also, don't forget to pick up your 2012 - 2013 Member Roster at the meeting.



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.

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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