

# ORCHID *newsletter*



News and information for Maryland Orchid Society members

January 2015

## *president's message*

Lo...the cold, dreary, short days of winter are upon us brightened only by our orchids that are in bloom. In general, those winter blooming orchids are Brassavola, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Encyclia, Ludisia, Odontoglossum, Oncidium, and Paphiopedilum.<sup>1</sup> Of course, there are the “odd balls” that don’t know any better and bloom anyway or, stubbornly, don’t bloom at all! We anxiously await those that are now energizing, watching for “spikes”, hoping they will be ablaze in time for display in our March MOS show. We learn patience and we are not disappointed.

A Happy New Year to all and best wishes for a year of successful orchid growing!

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.repotme.com/orchid-care/Orchid-Bloom-Times.html>

*Sarah*

## Ring in the New Year with January's Speaker Linda Wilhelm

Linda Wilhelm started growing orchids in 1980 after a vacation in Florida with her mother. Already intrigued by orchids, she finally bought a small cattleya seedling, not knowing at the time that it would take seven or eight years to get a bloom. It was the beginning of an addiction. After meeting Rolf in 1985, the addiction became severe when he too got involved with orchids.

When the hobby got out of hand and developed into a serious passion for both Linda and Rolf, they started their business Woodland Orchids. They specialize in breeding warm tolerant Oncidiinae (several of their new hybrids have received awards from the AOS), compact cattleyas and also line breed a number of different species and have made some wonderful Stanhopea hybrids. An Accredited Judge with the AOS, Linda is very active in the judging

program, having served in various positions with the Carolinas Judging Center including the job of the Training Coordinator, 5 years as the Chair of the Center and six years as a Trustee for the American Orchid Society. She enjoys being involved in shows outside her region, including offshore shows in the islands. “It offers such an opportunity to see a different variety of orchids as well as an opportunity to extend my group of friends.”

Linda is a frequent guest speaker at orchid societies all over the US and has spoken outside the US at places such as Brazil, Trinidad, Barbados and Guatemala. Linda is bringing plants to sell. Pre-orders are welcome from all societies with a 15% discount off of the website price at [www.woodlandorchids.com](http://www.woodlandorchids.com)

## *upcoming events*

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

The next monthly MOS meeting will be held January 15, 2015.

### **BOARD MEETING**

The next board of trustees meeting is January 22 at the home of Sarah Spence. All members are welcome to attend. Please let Sarah know if you are attending.

### **MOS ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE**

It's never too early to start thinking about the Maryland Orchid Society Show and Sale so start dolling your orchids up now. We'll need lots of help and just as importantly we'll need you and your best exhibit friends to put in another beautiful exhibit.

Here are the dates for your calendar:

Wednesday March 4 - Install your exhibit

Thursday, March 5 - AOS Judging and Preview Party and Sale

Friday-Sunday, March 6-8, Show open to the public. More on this in next month's newsletter.

For more information or to help in any way, contact Bill Scharf at [bill@thewillworksgroup.com](mailto:bill@thewillworksgroup.com) or Joan Roderick at [jomarod@verizon.net](mailto:jomarod@verizon.net)

### **MONTHLY SPEAKER**

April's speaker will be Dave Off of Waldor Orchids.



**Novice**

1. Cym. Hybrid (above)-  
Anne Headrick
2. *C. walkeriana* var. *alba* X *L. anceps*  
(below)- Wanda Kuhn
3. Paph. Presidential Magic -  
The Zickuhrs



**Home Grown**

1. Blc. Young Kong 'Sun #16' -  
Wanda Kuhn
2. Onc. Tsiku Marguerite 'HOF #1' -  
Marilyn Lauffer
3. Tie Blc. Hausermann's Holiday  
'Christmas' AM/AOS-  
Bob Johnston  
*C. (Guatemalensis* var. *alba* X  
*harrisoniae* var. *alba*)-  
Gregg Custis

**Greenhouse**

1. *L. gouldiana* - Clark Riley
2. *C. percivilliana* - Craig Taborsky
3. Tie *C. praestans* - David Smith  
*C. Porcia* 'Cannizaro' FCC/AOS  
- Eric Wiles



**Cattleya**

1. Blc. Petite Srars - The Soykes
2. Tie Bc. Maikai 'Maiyumi' (above)-  
The Adamses  
Blc. George King 'Southern  
Cross' AM/AOS - Wanda Kuhn
3. Tie Lc. Dinard 'Blue Heaven' AM/  
AOS - Bob Johnston  
Lc. (Final Blue X Royal Purple) -  
Aaron Webb  
Pot. Mem. Shirley Moore  
'Newberry' - Eric Wiles

**Phalaenopsis**

1. Phal. Hybrid - The Soykes
2. Phal. Chain Xen Queen 'JB10'-  
John Dunning
3. Tie Phal. Orange Love -  
The Dagostins  
Phal. Hybrid - David Smith



**Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium**

1. Paph. Orchilla 'Chilton' FCC/AOS -  
Mark Robbins
2. Tie Paph. Hsinying Alien (above)-  
Joel Graham  
Phrag. Belle Hogue Point -  
The Soykes
3. Tie Paph. (Supersuk X Raisin Pie) -  
Owen Humphrey  
Paph. Stillwater Hollow -  
David Smith  
Phrag. Les Dirouilles -  
Eric Wiles

**Oncidium**

1. Brsdm. Fangtastic Bob Henley  
'Kaim Bay' - Deborah Dade
2. Odcdm. Wildcat #13 - Norma Lynch
3. Tie Bllra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'  
AM/AOS - Bob Travers  
Onc. Tsiku Marguerite -  
Eric Wiles



**Dendrobium**

1. Den. *bullenianum* - The Adamses
2. Tie Den. *rigidum* - Sarah Hurdel &  
Gary Smith  
Den. Yellow Song 'Canary' -  
Sarah Spence
2. Tie Den. Wonder Nishii -  
Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste  
Den. Nida Stripe (above)-  
Chris Zajac



**Miscellaneous Hybrids**

1. Cyc. Jean E. Monnier 'Marty' HCC/  
AOS (above)- John Dunning
2. Masd. Joyce Stewart - Clark Riley
3. Zga. Adelaide Meadows -  
Aaron Webb

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### Species

1. Bulb. *blumei* - The Adamses
2. Tie C. *wittigiana* - David Smith  
Epi. *criniferum* - Eric Wiles
3. Coel. *mossiae* - Bob Travers

### Miniature

1. Nla. *pulchela* - Eric Wiles
2. Tie Lep. Jmcalso - Valerie Lowe  
Ob. *japonica* - David Smith
3. Bulb. *lasiochilum* - Bob Johnston

### First Bloom Seedling

1. Sl. Minipet (column 2)- Clark Riley
2. Phal. [(Liz Greelees X Golden Day)  
X Sunline] - The Adamses
3. Paph. (Olympic Mountain X  
GreenValeriee) - John Dunning



### Fragrance

1. Blc. Pink Sherbert - Bob Johnston
2. Lc. Melody Fair 'Carole' HCC/AOS -  
John Dunning
3. Tie Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy'  
- Laura Sobelman  
Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet  
Fragrance' AM/AOS - Craig  
Taborsky

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Blc. Petite Stars (below), exhibited by the Soykes. Thank you to our judges who were, Kathi Jackson, Bill Scharf and Laura Sobelman. Our show table had an incredible display of 131 beautiful flowering plants.



## clark's corner

# Odontioda Mont du Ouaisne

Odontioda Mont du Ouaisne is a complex Odontoglossum hybrid from the breeding program of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation in Jersey, Channel Islands. This plant was acquired at the National Capitol Orchid Society meeting at which Chris Purver, curator of the Foundation spoke on their culture. The great-great-grandparents of the Odontiodas include primarily Odontoglossum crispum (Lindl. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 15: 256. 1845) and Cochlioda noezliana (Mast. ex L. Linden) Rolfe 1891. They and the other species in the ancestry of this hybrid are denizens of the cold misty foothills of the Andes. Legend has it that Mrs. DuPont of Longwood wanted them after a visit to Scotland, where they do quite well. Her gardener in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania let her know that it was too hot in the summer there to grow them and thus the garden got true air-conditioned greenhouses. This legend inspired me to



air-condition half of my well-insulated greenhouse and the hybrids do indeed grow well in that environment. Loose, well drained mix, maximum day temperature

75°F, maximum night temperature 60°F, minimum 50°F year round. Very bright light.

# Light Up Your Laelias

It was during a conversation with Bill Scharf that I realized I am missing a crucial piece of equipment needed in growing more robust orchids, so I purchased a light meter and did research online to get a general sense of light required to have my orchids thrive. I am sharing with you information from the Oregon Orchid Society's website. (<http://oregonorchidsociety.org/cultivation>)

You want to make your orchids happy. The first thing you need to know is that EVERY PLANT, orchids included, is a weed somewhere! Your goal in growing orchids should be to give each plant the conditions it would get where it is a weed. The obvious problem with this is that where most orchids grow the habitat is

very different from your porch or your living room – so some accommodations must be made to give your orchids the proper habitat. If your orchids are given conditions that make them happy, you will have far less problems with disease and a much higher chance of blooming.

Since orchids are such a diverse family, the question of “how do you grow an orchid?” cannot be answered simply, but once you know how to grow the specific orchid(s) you have, or at least the type of orchid you have, the rest is easy!

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Alliance	Common Orchids	Temp.	Light*	Water	Tip
<b>Vandaceous (Except Phalaenopsis)</b>	Vanda, Neofinitia, Aereses, Arangis, Rhynchostylis	65°F-85°F	5000-8000 Footcandles	High humidity (daily misting) weekly watering	Do not get water in the leaf axils
<b>Vandaceous (Phalaenopsis)</b>	Phalaenopsis, Doritis	65°F-85°F	2000-2500 Footcandles	Slightly dry between weekly waterings	Do not get water in the leaf axils
<b>Cypripedium (Slipper Orchids)</b>	Pahpiopedilum, Phragmapedium (also Cypripedium)	58°F-85°F	2500-3500 Footcandles	Dry slightly between weekly waterings	Cyps grow temperate, Paphs & Phrags are tropical - temperatures reflect the latter
<b>Cattleya</b>	Cattleya, Laelia, Epidendrum, Brassavola, Encyclia	55°F-85°F	3500-5000 Footcandles	Totally dry between weekly waterings	Overwatering will rot the roots
<b>Oncidium</b>	Brassia, Miltonia, Odontoglossum, Oncidium, Psychopsis, Tolumnia	58°F-85°F	3500-4500 Footcandles	Totally dry between weekly waterings	Overwatering will rot the roots
<b>Cymbidium</b>	Cymbidium, Ansellia	45°F-80°F	4500-7500 Footcandles	Moderately dry between weekly waterings	Cool (40°F) fall temps will set the bloom
<b>Dendrobium</b>	Dendrobium, Epigeneum	50°F-80°F	4000-5000 Footcandles	Totally dry between weekly waterings	Many need cool (55°F) & dry winter to bloom
<b>Pleurothallid</b>	Dracula, Masdevallia, Pleurothallis, Restrepia, Stelis	50°F-75°F	1500-2500 Footcandles	Keep moist (but not wet)	Air movement to avoid fungus
<b>Bulbophyllum</b>	Bulbophyllum, Cirrhopetalum	62°F-85°F	2500-3500 Footcandles	Keep evenly moist (only allow slight dry)	Grows best in shallow pots

\*Footcandles (fc) are a measurement of light intensity that can be read with a light meter or you can use this guide to get a general idea of your light intensity – hold your hand half-way between the light and a white piece of paper and observe the shadow it casts to tell the footcandle reading at the paper:

500fc=reading light

1500fc=well lit room with no shadows

2500fc=light room with fuzzy shadow cast

3500fc=dark shadow cast with fuzzy edges

5000+fc=dark shadow with clear edge

The January 2015 AOS Corner- From the desk of Laura Newton, Membership and Affiliated Societies Chair

Happy New Year!

I find the webinars to be one of the best benefits to AOS membership!

Our webinars for the next two months:

January 22, 2015, 8:30 PM EST  
Ron McHatton will present The Orchids of Madagascar: The Land that Time Forgot.

Madagascar is a world hot-spot for orchids. Orchids are the largest family of flowering plants on the island, almost 1000 species make up some 10% of Madagascar's flora; 90% of them are endemic.. They occur in almost every habitat, from coastal and montane forests to cold mountain tops and dry spiny forest. Join Ron McHatton, Director of Education, and learn about this amazing land and its orchids, including Darwin's orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale*.

February 25, 2015, 8:30 PM EST  
Harry Gallis, Accredited AOS Judge and Board of Trustees Vice President will present Demystifying AOS Judging: What are those Judges Looking For? Dr. Harry Gallis has been growing orchids since 1980, and currently has about 380 plants. The largest groups are cattleyas, phalaenopsis, and dendrobiums, the latter being his current passion. His plants have received 41 AOS awards and, says Harry, "I very much enjoy growing plants for shows and awards." He entered the AOS judging program in 1991, and is an Accredited Judge and Past Chair of the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro, NC. In 1999, he was asked to take on the position of national training coordinator for AOS judges. He served as Chair of the Judging Committee for two years. Harry knows lots about judging; getting plants awarded, and will help us all understand what the judges want and how we might get one of those awards.



If you are already an AOS member, sign up for the webinars today on our website [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). If you are not yet a member, now is the time to become one and start enjoying all the many benefits of membership!

In the January 2015 issue of *Orchids*, there are plenty of wonderful articles chock-full of great information. Here are some of my favorites:

- Broughtonia by Thomas Mirenda explores the beauty of this Jamaican genus, with their bright colors and full form.
- Growing Phalaenopsis by Sue Bottom, is an in-depth look at what can go wrong and how to fix things. It will answer a lot of the questions that I get asked about this genus.

### Newsletter Submissions

Content for the MOS Newsletter for the 2015 fiscal year is due at the end of the first full week of each month. The following dates are the deadlines for submitting content to the newsletter editor. Please submit your information to [sobelman1@verizon.net](mailto:sobelman1@verizon.net).

February 7, 2015; Meeting date 2/19  
March 7, 2015; Meeting date 3/19  
April 4, 2015; Meeting date 4/16  
May 9, 2015; Meeting date 5/21  
June 6, 2015; Meeting date 6/18

- A New Form of *Cattleya dowiana* and the Taxonomy of its Color Variation, is a fascinating look at this highly-treasured species. I personally am entranced by the rosita form.
- Great Ideas "Telephone wire loops to support Phalaenopsis spikes" teaches us an easy and inexpensive way to help our Phalaenopsis look their best.

On the website ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)) under the All about Orchids tab you can find Orchids A to Z, which is your definitive source for concise information on orchid genera. Full descriptions and culture requirements, provided by experts, hand-picked for their knowledge of select genera. Photos of choice species in each genus are shown with large-size pop-ups for detailed view. Culture requirements are presented in an easy to understand "recipe-style" format. Just one more reason to join the AOS.

Let's grow together,

Laura Newton

## Member Update

There were 55 members at the December meeting.

MOS welcomes new members Anthony Kameen and Anna Mevs-Oh.

## education corner

Don't miss January's education corner when Bill Soyke will be speaking and answering questions about growing and blooming Phalaenopsis.

# 37th Annual NCOS Orchid Auction

**WHO:** National Capital Orchid Society: [www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us)

**WHERE:** Held at Behnke Nursery, 11300 Baltimore Ave.,  
Beltsville, MD, 20705

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 8, 2015

**TIMES:** 10 am to 3 pm (Preview: 10, Auction: 11 to 3)

**ALSO:** FREE admission, open to the public; over 300 hundred blooming orchids from world-renowned growers coast to coast; food vendor; Plants, Horticulture, Family Activities  
VISA/MasterCard/Discover cards and checks gladly accepted!

**Further information:** Nancy Burns at [nburnsva@gmail.com](mailto:nburnsva@gmail.com).

National Capital Orchid Society  
Supporting Orchid Culture and Conservation Since 1947~~

# Light Up Your Laelias Continued from page 4

## STEP 1: KNOW YOUR ORCHID!

With thousands of orchid species and thousands of hybrids this may sound like a daunting task. But there are actually only a handful of orchid alliances into which the vast majority of orchids fall. Knowing what growing conditions the alliance requires is oftentimes all you need to concern yourself with. Here's a brief overview:

## STEP 2: KNOW THE BEST GROWING MEDIUM

To meet these different growing conditions orchid hobbyists have developed multiple options for growing media. What needs to be kept in mind is that there is a balance

between the media you use and the space you have. If you have a dry space, your media should hold more water (for orchids that want that) but more humid spaces would have different media.

Some media options for orchids include: Bark, Sphagnum Moss, Pumice, Charcoal, Cork Mount, Tree Fern, Coconut Chips, Hanging Basket...

## STEP 3: KNOW YOUR GROWING SPACE

While the diversity of orchids' growing habits may come across as confusing, the good thing about it is that virtually every growing space can accommodate some

type of orchid. If you want to be a successful orchid grower you should take an honest assessment of your growing space and only acquire orchids that will thrive in that space. If you want to make the effort to change your growing space to accommodate certain orchid types you may need to set up grow lights, increase humidity or maybe even get a greenhouse – but if you can be rewarded with blooming orchids isn't it worth it?

## STEP 4: ENJOY!

Unlike most plants, orchids prefer neglect over doting. Sit back and ENJOY!

# 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 the end of the first full week of each 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, Valerieuable 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](http://www.marylandorchids.org)  
Maryland Orchid Society  
P.O. Box 5651  
Baltimore, MD 21210

The MOS meets at the Woodbrook Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212, the third Thursday of each month, September through June. The Show Table setup begins at 7:00 p.m. followed by judging at 7:30 p.m. The Education Corner and Library open at 7:15 p.m. The program commences at 8:00 p.m. and adjourns at approximately 9:30 p.m.