

M ORCHID S

ORCHID

newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

February 2010



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

If you attended the January general meeting, you heard us announce that MOS is providing a donation to the American Orchid Society. In November, our AOS Representative, Valerie Lowe, received an unusual letter from the AOS. It was a request for financial assistance.

Most of us who are AOS members have read multiple accounts describing the difficult economic situation in which the AOS currently finds itself. They've let paid staff go, drastically cut their budget, and nearly closed the gardens at the Delray Beach headquarters among other things. In 2009, donations were down to their lowest point since the early 1990s and membership

plunged again after finally leveling off in 2008 following several declining years. It's easy to find people that are indifferent to this situation or outright boastful with their I-told-you-sos. I have to admit that on a bad day I too can be critical of a number of aspects of the AOS. *Orchids* magazine seems to get skinnier every month and the website, while somewhat improved, is still atrocious in places.

Ah, but it's all too easy to dwell on the negative. If the AOS is guilty of over-extending itself during tough economic times, it

continued on page 6

Philip Seaton of OSSSU to Speak at February Meeting

Philip Seaton, Project Manager for the Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use (OSSSU), Seed Conservation Department at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, will be the speaker at the next MOS meeting.

Professor Seaton is a research biologist and, previous to working at Kew, spent 30+ years teaching at a college. During that time he became an amateur orchid grower and is interested in all things related to orchids. His biology research degree and interest in orchids lead into work on orchid seed storage, hence his present employment as Project Manager for Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use, a Darwin Initiative project aimed at setting up a global network of orchid seed banks.

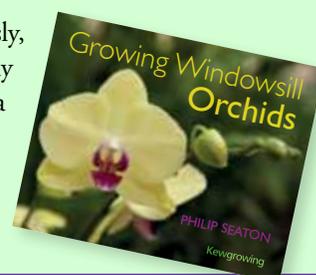
Phil is a previous editor of the *Orchid Review* (the world's oldest orchid journal still in print) and has written probably 100 or more



Photo from Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship Web site

scientific and popular papers. He wrote the practical guide *Growing Orchids from Seed* with Margaret Ramsay a few years ago, and has just written *Growing Windowsill Orchids* which is due to be published this month. He is currently writing a book about *Hardy Orchids* with a number of co-authors.

"Over the last few years I have been very fortunate in being able to travel the world looking at orchids ... so my talk will include bits about Madagascar, South Africa, China, Thailand, Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia ... I'm looking forward to hearing it! Seriously, I do enjoy giving talks and sharing my good fortune with my audience. I'm a lucky lad, and have spoken about orchid conservation around the world," Phil Says.



INSIDE

2
4

January Show Table

"Orchids: A Feast for the Senses" Preview Party

5
5

President Appoints Nominating Committee

January Judges' Choice



Novice

1. Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS - Janice Mazur
2. Den. Mini Snowflakes (above) - Charlotte Grahe
3. Paph. (Spotglen X Duncan York) (below)- Gregg Custis



Home Grown

1. Den. *aberrans* - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Paph. (*primulinum* X Yosemite Moon) (below - The Lundys Den. Big Alex - Mark Robbins
3. Tie Dtps. Minho Princess X Phal. Rothschildiana - Aaron Webb
Den. *nobile* 'Benjamin Princess' - Chris Zajac



Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. Neogyna (syn. Coel.) *gardneriana* - Jos Venturina
2. Lc. Amethystella (above) - Craig Taborsky
3. Onc. Gower Ramsey 'Sunkist' - Sue Spicer

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Ang. *distichum* - David Smith
2. Slc. Tutankhamen 'Pop' - The Adamses
3. Ctsm. Dragon's Treasure 'Gilberto' AM/AOS (below) - Eric Wiles



Cattleya

1. Lc. Trick or Treat - The Adamses
2. Tie Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Debbie' AM/AOS - The Lundys
Pot. Fort Fortune X Blc. Small Fortune (below) - David Smith
3. Tie Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Fireball' (top right) - Sue Spicer
C. intermedia var. *coerulea* 'Desert Storm' AM/AOS - Bill Ellis



Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Brother Glory 'Long Fong' - The Adamses
2. Phal. Hybrid - Bill Soyke
3. Phal. (Taisuco Daisy X *amabilis*) (above)- Aaron Webb

Oncidium

1. Blira. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS - Eric Wiles
2. Blira. Vashon X Onc. *ornithorychum* (below) - Sarah Spence
3. Tie Onc. Mem. Harold Starkey 'Bold Gold' HCC/AOS - Clark Riley
Onc. Gower Ramsey 'Sunkist' - Sue Spicer



show table-jan. 2009



Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Transvaal 'Dark Mountain'
HCC/AOS - Mark Robbins
2. Tie Paph. *venustum* var. *album*
(above) - Jamie Riegel
Paph. Hsinying Alien - Laura Sobelman
3. Tie Paph. (*philippinense* X Emerald)
- Sarah Hurdel
Paph. Shin-Yi's Pride - Val Lowe



Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Ascda. Wirat 'Motes Goldpiece'
HCC/AOS (above) - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
2. Tie Den. Dream 'Ace'
- The Adamses
Lyc. *Lucianii* - Eric Wiles
3. Tie Den. Nora Tokunaga
- Charlotte Grahe
Lyc. Shoalhaven - David Smith
Cym. Dorothy Stockstill
'Forgotten Fruit' - Sue Spicer



Species

1. Den. *crepidiferum* - Eric Wiles
2. Tie Comp. *macroplectron* - David Smith
Asctm. *christensonianum*
(above) - The Adamses
3. Tie Sed. *japonica* (below)
- Laura Sobelman
Strs. Glicenstein - The Lundys



Miniature

1. Aergs. *fastuosa* (above) - Bill Scharf
2. L. *lundii* - The Adamses
3. Onc. *cheirophorum* - David Smith

First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. (Genevieve Booth X *adductum*) (top right) - Val Lowe
2. Tie Paph. *gratrixianum*
- Jamie Riegel
Paph. Coro Oro - Mark Robbins
3. Paph. (*wardii* X Laser)
- The Adamses



Fragrance

1. Rl. *glauca* - Craig Taborsky
2. Z. Syd Monkhouse - Eric Wiles
3. Bc. George King 'Serendipity'
(above) - Norma Lynch

The Judges Choice of the Evening ,
Neogyne (syn. *Coel.*) *gardneriana*,
was exhibited by Jos Venturina. The
judges were Ann Lundy, Janice Mazur
and Chryss Mavrides. **There were
152 fabulous plants on the show
table this month!**

See page 5 for more about Jos' plant.



SENSES

THE MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

Cordially Invites Members, Friends & Family to the 2010 Preview Party and Sale.

*Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 pm in Horticulture Hall at the
Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland.*

*Menu will Include: an Assortment of Appetizers, Choice of Entrée, Vegetable and Salad,
Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Soda. BYOB optional.*

PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 1 to BILL SCHARF
7768 Fulton School Road, Felton, Pa. 17322

(cut here)

YES! I/WE PLAN to ATTEND

*Please enclose this reservation slip and your check to the Maryland Orchid Society
and return by March 1, 2010 to Bill Scharf.*

NAME _____

NUMBER of MEMBER RESERVATIONS, \$25.00 each _____

NUMBER of NON-MEMBER RESERVATIONS, \$30.00 each _____

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

New Members

Please welcome new MOS members Janene Gerling-Dunsmore and Nathan Dunsmore at the next meeting.

Fifty five members attended the January meeting.

Bill Scharf Wins Monthly Door Prize

Each month it meets, the MOS issues to members a free raffle ticket for a door prize. In January, Bill Scharf won the free door prize, which was a *Doritaenopsis Sin Yuan Golden Beauty*.



President Appoints Nominating Committee

Pursuant to Section 2 of the MOS Bylaws, the president has appointed the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee:

- Donald Forester
- Laura Sobelman
- Christopher Zajac

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.

the judges' choice: jan. 2010

This column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In January, Jos Venturina's Coel. gardneri was awarded the honor. Following is Jos' description of how he grows his plant:



“This plant keeps blooming on time every year! Fourteen years ago, we went to Arbec Orchids located in Bowie, Md., to shop for orchids. We purchased a couple of plants and one of them is this *Coelogyne gardneri*. The plant was in a 6" plastic pot, with five or six growths and blooming with fragrant white flowers.

This plant is grown alongside other orchids in the greenhouse. It receives water every day in the summer time and every other day in the winter. Fertilizer is applied after the flowers die off in the winter, using a high nitrogen formulation. In October, I switch to a bloom-booster formula. The day temperature it receives during summer is around 80 to 100 degrees F, and 60 to 70 degrees F during winter. The plant receives light in the range of 1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles. During the summer months, the plant spends time outside of the greenhouse in indirect sun.

As far as I can remember, this plant has been repotted thrice already, the latest being last year. It was transplanted from a 12" plastic pot to 12" teak basket. I use fir bark as the potting medium.”

President's Message

continued from page 1

must also be observed that many benefits trickle down to us on both a societal and individual level. To name a few:

- Discounts on shopping and on admission to more than 200 botanical gardens nationwide.
- On-line information about orchids, societies, and orchid events.
- *Orchids* magazine. Yes, despite my earlier criticism, there's a lot to be enjoyed and learned from this publication.
- A world-class volunteer judging system. Thanks to the AOS, high quality plants get recognized, documented, and popularized. One can only imagine the odd personal tastes that individual breeders might impose upon an eager public in lieu of the standards upheld by the AOS. Additionally, accredited judges donate countless hours to participate in regional activities like our annual show.

But getting back to the AOS letter: The letter was brought before the MOS Board of Trustees at its 14 January meeting where a decision was made to donate \$1000 to the AOS. This is no small sum and emphasizes the importance that your leaders place on keeping the AOS viable and relevant.

The letter additionally suggested other ways that affiliated societies like MOS might creatively support the AOS. Indeed, this was a point of much discussion at the Board meeting. While the Board felt that an initial outright gift was appropriate, the consensus was that any additional donations should be commensurate with our members' interest. Is the AOS important to you? We'd like to hear your ideas.

Gary

local aos news

by Valerie Lowe

February 6: National Capital Judging Center

Regional judging was cancelled due to bad weather.

Maryland Orchid Society

Officers

President

Gary Smith
410-349-7112
orchid.impaired@gmail.com

Vice-President

Bill Scharf
717-244-3695
willworks@hughes.net

Treasurer

Patti Kelt
410-727-0327
pkelt@comcast.net

Controller

Lee Lundy
410-366-9365
llundy@TydingsLaw.com

Secretary

Sarah Spence
410-243-3377
slspence@comcast.net

Past President

Ann Lundy
410-366-9365
annlundy@verizon.net

Directors

Steve Adams
410-287-0149
atriversend@comcast.net

Don Forester
410-877-3764
dforester@towson.edu

Committees

Auction
Bill Ellis
410-549-1530
billellis@ellislist.com

Away Shows

Valerie Lowe
410-599-2923
vlowe14@comcast.net

Education/Activities

Eric Wiles
410-635-6023
winvet88@yahoo.com

Show

Bill Scharf
717-244-3695
willworks@hughes.net

Sunshine

Hilda Sukman
410-332-1532
hrlks@mac.com

House

Bill Soyke
410-444-5465
Wsoyke@comcast.net

Library

Norma Lynch
410-531-3220
nlynch@comcast.net

Membership

Marilyn Lauffer
jmlauffer@verizon.net

Newsletter

Laura Sobelman
410-363-1040
Sobelman1@verizon.net

Program

Sue Spicer
suespicer@sociologist.com
410-451-4578

Refreshments

Barbara Buck
410-551-9374
BarbaraBuck@comcast.net

Show Table

Thomas McBride
410-661-4748
orchidudes@aol.com

Hospitality

Margaret Smith
410-526-0179
fpsakes1@aol.com

AOS Representative

Valerie Lowe
410-599-2923
vlowe14@comcast.net

Webmaster

Clark Riley
410-591-9201
DrRiley@aol.com

Visit us on the Web at www.marylandorchids.org
Maryland Orchid Society
P.O. Box 5651 • Baltimore, MD 21210