



*president's message*

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Greetings to everyone.

It is hard to believe that another year has zoomed past. The blur of days, weeks and months passing by is mind boggling sometimes. Here we are at my favorite time of year, a time when we are all looking for just the right gift for that special someone, a time when we gather with family and friends to relax and enjoy the season.

This month's MOS meeting is no different. This meeting offers a brief respite from the hectic shopping and busy Holiday schedules. Come to the meeting and relax. Enjoy the incredible food selection and good friends of the Maryland Orchid Society. Take some time this month to introduce yourself to a new member or guest and make them feel at home as part of the MOS family. It's a great time to make new acquaintances or catch up with longtime friends.

Remember that we expand the December monthly auction, removing the limit on the number of blooming plants each member can bring to put up for auction. A perfect opportunity to get that special someone a beautiful blooming orchid... or spoil yourself, after all, it is the Holiday Season.

Bring friends and family, enjoy the gathering, good food and friendship of our Maryland Orchid Society.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all,

*Bill*

## *calendar*

In addition to The Little Greenhouse Open House this month, note the following events:

- Woodstream Orchids – 14-15 January 2012
- NCOS Auction – 11 February 2012.
- NCOS Paph Forum – 18 February 2012
- MOS Show - 4-11 March 2012.
- Philadelphia Flower Show – 4-11 March 2012.

For more events visit:

[https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New\\_York&gsessionid=OK](https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York&gsessionid=OK)

## Don't Forget the December Holiday Party



Dust off your favorite dreidel or Rudolf costume, it's time for the annual MOS holiday party. Winner of the best costume award gets to take all the plants on the show table home. Also 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](mailto:barbarabuck@comcast.net). Also, don't forget to pick up your 2011 - 2012 Member Roster at the meeting.

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

**Novice**

No Awards Granted



**Home Grown**

1. Gram. *scriptum* (above)- John Dunning
2. Lc. Love Fantasy 'Sweet Dreams' (below)- Sarah Spence



3. Tie Paph. [*spicerianum* X (Jolly Green Gem X Valwin)] - Owen Humphrey  
Paph. Pinocchio - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith



**Greenhouse**

1. Paph. Ernest Read (above)- David Smith
2. Tie Paph. *spicerianum* - Lou Vadorsky  
Ascda. Hybrid - Les Kirkegaard
3. Fdk. After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' FCC/AOS - Jos Venturina



**Cattleya**

1. Bc. Merrily Marison 'Larry' - John Dunning
2. Bc. George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS (above)- Chris Zajac
3. Bc. Glenn Maidment 'Aranbeem' - Barbara Buck

**Phalaenopsis**

1. Phal. *amboinensis* 'Nicole' AM/AOS - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
2. Dtps. Taida Salu - John Dunning
3. Phal. Hybrid - Sarah Spence

**Oncidium**

1. Btcm. Little Dragon 'Carmela' - David Smith
2. Onc. Sweet Sixteen 'Prepossessing' - Joan Roderick
3. Tie Onc. Lambaba 'Cutey' - Sarah Spence  
Psy. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS - Laura Sobelman



**Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium**

1. Paph. *spicerianum* (above)- Michael Moran
2. Paph. Whitemoor 'Norriton' FCC/AOS - David Smith

3. Tie Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara - Owen Humphrey  
Paph. (Pat Roland X *spicerianum*) - Les Kirkegaard  
Paph. Maudiae Hybrid - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste



**Dendrobium**

1. Den. Mini Snowflakes (above)- Charlotte Grahe
2. Den. Roy Tokunaga - Norma Lynch
3. Den. Pam Tajimi - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith



**Miscellaneous Hybrids**

1. Cirr. Louis Sander - David Smith
2. Tie Cygd. Wine Delight 'JEM' FCC/AOS (above)- Jos Venturina  
V. (Manuvadee X *coerulea*) - John Dunning
3. Tie Cym. Nagalex Hatsune - The Lundys  
Cym. Osborn - Cy Swett

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

**Species**

- 1. Pths. *marthae* - David Smith
- 2. Cym. *dayanum* - John Dunning
- 3. My. *serripetalus-scandens* - Bill Scharf



**Miniature**

- 1. Isa. *virginalis* - David Smith
- 2. Sl. Iron Clad 'Carney' (first column)- Bill Scharf
- 3. Tie Pol. *galeata* - Cy Swett  
Hal. *retrocalla* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith

**First Bloom Seedling**

- 1. Paph. Gina Short (below)- John Dunning



- 2. Phal. (*lamelligera X bellina*) - Gary Smith & Sarah Hurdel

**Fragrance**

- 1. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' - Laura Sobelman
- 2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS - The Riegels
- 3. Tie Zygo. (*mackyii X Titantic*) - Cy Swett  
Neost. Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' - Owen Humphrey

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Pths. *marthae*, exhibited by David Smith. (See page 8 for how David grows his wonderful plant.) The judges were Frank Dagostin, Ann Lundy and Cy Swett. There were 107 beautiful plants displayed on our show table this month!

## Don't Miss The Little Greenhouse's Open House!



**When:** Saturday, December 17, 2011

**Time:** 9 am - 5 pm

**Where:** 9845 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234



The Little Greenhouse is holding an open house for MOS members.

Come take a tour of the facilities, get answers to orchid-related questions and see spectacular plants.

Shop for the holidays! Members receive a 20% discount and there will be other specials offered, too.

If you are not an MOS member but would like to become one, membership applications will available as well.

The Little Greenhouse is also giving away a \$50 gift certificate, but you must attend the open house and be a member to win.

For more information:

**410.661.4748**



# MOS 2011 Annual Orchid Auction

The latest MOS auction was a real success, based on sales, member participation as volunteers and bidders, and in the quality of the orchids we received from The Little Greenhouse, Carmela Orchids, Tropical Orchid Farm, and H&R Nurseries. There were less registered bidders than last year, but this year's bidders tended to stay for the duration, and keep bidding. They seemed to have figured out that lots of good buys were available with a little patience in bidding.

We helped our library make room for new books by selling quite a few older periodicals for bargain prices (at the end, free!). Our volunteers really have their procedures down pat, with few hitches. Gary Smith worked in close proximity to the boxing area to achieve a very low error rate in bidders' purchase tallies. Sarah Hurdel did a great job as a Valerie Lowe slide show stand-in. Ernie Drohan ran a very smooth boxing operation, with the help of Chris Zajac and Lou Buck. Greg Custis and David Smith shuttled orchids, Ann Lundy priced donations, Barbara Buck and Norma Lynch recorded, Dr. Eric Wiles bid on a lot of orchids, Margaret Smith did signs and kept David's bidding reasonable, and I shuffled around looking busy. Everybody who helped did a great job – thanks to all, including those whom I forgot to name.

Mark Robbins was our biggest donor — lots of nice plants and a big bundle of Orchids magazines. He won the \$25 gift certificate to Al's Orchid Greenhouse in Leesburg.

Last but not at all least, our auctioneers were heroes dealing with a tough bargain-hunting crowd. Thanks so much to Les Werner, Dr. Clark Riley, and Dr. Eric Wiles. We would have been lost without you!



# MOS Auction



# MOS Exhibit at the October National Capital Orchid Society Show

Thanks to the gracious loan of plants from S. & R. Adams, F. Dagostin, S. Gaertner, O. Humphrey, S. Hurdel, R. Johnston, M. Lauffer, V. Lowe, A. Lundy, J. Mazur, N. Lynch, J. Riegel, D. Smith, G. Smith, S. Spence, T. Staub, E. Wiles, B. Woolf, C. Zajac, and The Little Greenhouse., The Maryland Orchid Society was awarded the Orchid Digest Award for Best Amateur Exhibit

in Show. Also, many thanks to G. Custis, S. Hurdel, J. Riegel, T. Staub, and E. Wiles for helping me to install the exhibit and S. Hurdel, J. Riegel, and G. Smith to take down the exhibit.

Valerie Lowe

<b>First Place Ribbons</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Rlc. Samantha Duncan	D. Smith
Goodyera <i>schlechtendaliana</i>	G. Smith
Paph. <i>liemianum</i>	Sarah Hurdel
Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice	V. Lowe
Brs. Datacosa 'Coos Bay', AM/AOS	The Little Greenhouse
Den. <i>laevifolium</i>	The Little Greenhouse
Dockrilla <i>rigida</i>	"
Epidendrum <i>difforme</i>	The Little Greenhouse
Aer. Punchinello	B. Woolf
Blc. Rustic Spots	"

<b>Second Place Ribbon</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Den. Stephen Batchelor	S & R Adams
Bllra Tahoma Glacier 'Green Valley'	F. Dagostin
Psychopsis hybrid	M. Lauffer
Habenaria <i>rhodocheila</i>	A. Lundy
Ctt. Secret Love 'Hsinying'	G. Smith
Dockrilla <i>rigida</i>	The Little Greenhouse
Phal. Nobby's Amy	E. Wiles
Cattleya <i>bowringiana</i>	B. Woolf
Lyc. Jason 'Hall's Classic', AM/AOS	"
Stelis <i>oxypetala</i>	"
Ludisia <i>discolor v. alba</i>	C. Zajac
Bllra Marfitch 'Howard's Dream', AM/AOS	B. Woolf
Sigmatostalix <i>radicans</i> 'Petie Prince'	"

<b>Third Place Ribbons</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Rdza. <i>venusta</i>	S & R Adams
Bllra Tropic Tom 'Pale Face'	J. Dunning
Cattleya Lucky Gem 'Sarah' AM/AOS	G. Smith
Ceratostylis <i>incognita</i>	Sarah Hurdel
Coel. Bird in Flight	"
Goodyera <i>rotundifolia</i>	G. Smith
Phal. <i>pantherina</i>	Sarah Hurdel
Paph. (Hsinying Glory x <i>charlesworthii</i> )	A. Lundy
Paph. <i>primulinum v. purpurescens</i>	V. Lowe
Spiranthes <i>cernua</i>	D. Smith
Phal. Brother Oconee 'Maria Teresa'	G. Smith
Masd. Maui Gold	The Little Greenhouse
Paph. <i>gratixianum</i> 'Cedarcrest', HCC/AOS	The Little Greenhouse
Gastrochilus <i>dasyogon</i>	E. Wiles



<b>First Place Ribbons</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Cattleya <i>Brabantiae</i>	B. Woolf
Brassavola <i>grandiflora</i>	"
Stelis <i>oxypetala</i>	"
Phrag. Noirmont	C. Zajac
<b>Honorable Mention</b>	
Den. <i>laevifolium</i>	The Little Greenhouse
<b>Best Amateur-grown Phalaenopsis</b>	
Phal. <i>pantherina</i>	S. Hurdel
<b>Best Miniature Plant in Show</b>	
Dockrilla <i>rigida</i>	The Little Greenhouse
<b>Best Open Competition Oncidium Alliance</b>	
Brassia Datacosa 'Coos Bay', AM/AOS	The Little Greenhouse
<b>Best Open Competition Miniature Plant</b>	
Dockrilla <i>rigida</i>	The Little Greenhouse
<b>Best Amateur Grown Miniature Plant</b>	
Stelis <i>oxypetala</i>	B. Woolf
<b>Best Miniature Cattleya Alliance-Hybrid</b>	
Rlc. Samantha Duncan	D. Smith

# Orchid inDIGESTion

EMERSON CHARLES

Fringe benefits! This is probably one of the most important advantages we think of in connection with our vocation. There may be occasions that the value of these compensations can equal or surpass the "salary."

There is no hobby, in my estimation, that can come close to growing orchids, with so many advantages. Of course, the challenge of maintaining a good collection is very rewarding. The very fact that the different genera require varied conditions, leads us to study and teaches us to have patience.

Fortunate is the hobbyist, like myself, that has a mate (in my case my dear wife, Ruby) that shares and is enthusiastic about the same fun activity. Many times, when we have a problem of any kind, we "lose" ourselves in the greenhouse and, mysteriously, the problem disappears, never showing up to haunt us again.

Without a doubt, the very most valuable asset that orchid growing has brought us is friendship. The hobby is, for some unknown reason, the common interest that removes all obstacles, real or imagined, to a fine relationship with almost everyone infected with "orchiditis." Some of our very valued friends, I know, must make sacrifices in order to have funds to buy a moderately priced plant that they have wishes for and there are some that could buy a collection, much better than ours, and hardly notice the expenditure on their bank statement. Put us all together and we have one "heluva" time. It is very satisfying to hear Dr. "Horticulture" tell Mr. "Fungrower" that he has learned something from their discussions and vice versa.

When visiting a foreign country, we have found that there is an immediate friendship established because of our common interest that is not, in any way, affected by differences in race, religious beliefs, politics or language. As a matter of fact, we have spent hours with growers, in an orchid growing area and the only conversation was done by "sign language" and the names of plants. The result was extremely interesting to us and, we hope, our friends. We do have one language in common, "Orchidese."

It is rewarding to share your plants with friends and to exchange a favorite that "you will not sell at any price" for one that they "would never let out of their hands."

The telephone companies have really benefited from our hobby. Never before orchids, even when I was in the manufacturing business, have I had the telephone bills that I now enjoy (enjoy?). Likewise, never have I received telephone calls from all over the U.S. and, would you believe, England, Asia, South Africa and Australia for any reason,

until now, and the calls are usually to discuss whatever is in blossom or something equally as important.

My poor old camera collection . . . starting with a "Brownie" box camera and the usual "travel" cameras, we now find we must have "Macro" lenses, tripods, proper backgrounds, correct lighting and favorite film. Is this a "fringe benefit"? It surely is! Maybe the box cameras were good enough for pictures of our children but surely not sophisticated enough to photograph that fine toothed, green ribbed staminode in the unusual "whatinitis." Anything that can create the many "side interests" in both the very young and the very old must be a blessing that more people deserve.

It would take pages to tell of experiences that have been rewarding in connection with our hobby . . . now grown to hobbies . . . book collecting, picture masses, flower arrangements, correspondence, travel, and on and on, with each day bringing a new challenge and an old problem solved. Lucky us!

## *aos corner*

With the holidays approaching I thought I could offer some suggestions for gifts for the orchid enthusiast in your lives.

- A gift of membership in the American Orchid Society is a great gift for anyone who may not already a member, or a renewal of their membership. To order a gift membership, contact AOS Headquarters 561-404-2050.
- Access to OrchidsPlus (the web-based AOS awards program also known as AQPlus). For non-members, please call Pam at 561-404-2050 or send AOS a check to Pam's attention and AOS can set up a subscription to AQPlus offline.
- The 2012 AOS Calendar is now available and is available with a 10% discount AOS Members with free shipping. The new calendar is a 14-month calendar and loaded with fabulous orchid photographs.
- Many of the AOS published books are also located in the Store on the AOS website and would make a great gift.
- Support your local orchid vendors or those in the Orchid Source Directory. Many of these vendors support local societies' fundraising efforts, it is a great time to support their businesses in return. In addition, any of them have holiday specials.

Lynn Fuller, Chair  
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

# *judges' choice: pleurothallis marthae*

The November Judge's Choice, *Pleurothallis marthae* (syn. *Acronia marthae*), was purchased at the November 2006

Thanksgiving weekend auction of the Maryland Orchid Society as a small plant in a 3" pot. *P. marthae*, while under my care, has been a consistently good grower, *i.e.*, not fussy about its growing conditions. It receives moderately bright light, between phalaenopsis and Cattleya brightness, intermediate winter night temperatures which are usually about 54° F, and summer daytime temperatures around 84° and 86° F. Its potting medium, a bark-peat moss-perlite mix, is kept moist and with regular misting the relative humidity remains high. Light fertilization every third or fourth watering and good, constant air movement complete its growing regime. This plant blooms heavily during the late fall, but usually blooms lightly at various times through the year

*Pleurothallis marthae* has been repotted every two years, each time being moved into a larger pot, until it is now in a 10" bulb pan.

At this time, I don't think that *P. marthae* will be moved into a larger container because it is large enough. Due to its size, it is obviously not a candidate for windowsill growing or an otherwise limited growing space, so for a hobby grower this poses a major problem. However, for someone able to provide the required space and humidity it can be an easy and worthwhile plant.

David Smith



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

## New Members

The MOS would like to welcome new members David Grant, Ellie Martin, Sandy Bertamini, Greg Kelly and Tammi Staub.

## Members Count

According to Margaret there were 50 members at the November meeting.

# *maryland orchid society*

### Officers

#### President

Bill Scharf  
410-244-3695  
[willworks@hughes.net](mailto:willworks@hughes.net)

#### Vice-President

Eric Wiles  
410-984-2180  
[winvet88@yahoo.com](mailto:winvet88@yahoo.com)

#### Treasurer

Patti Kelt  
410-727-0327  
[pkelt@comcast.net](mailto:pkelt@comcast.net)

#### Controller

Mary Chiu  
301-498-3083  
[igone02@verizon.net](mailto:igone02@verizon.net)

#### Secretary

Sarah Spence  
410-243-3377  
[sspence@comcast.net](mailto:sspence@comcast.net)

#### Past President

Gary Smith  
410-349-7112  
[orchid.impaired@gmail.com](mailto:orchid.impaired@gmail.com)

### Directors

Joan Roderick  
410-992-1811  
[jomarod@verizon.net](mailto:jomarod@verizon.net)

Laura Sobelman  
410-363-1040  
[Sobelman1@verizon.net](mailto:Sobelman1@verizon.net)

### Committees

**Auction**  
Bill Ellis  
410-549-1530  
[billellis@ellislist.com](mailto:billellis@ellislist.com)

**Away Shows**  
Valerie Lowe  
410-599-2923  
[vlowe14@comcast.net](mailto:vlowe14@comcast.net)

**Education/Activities**  
Eric Wiles  
410-984-2180  
[winvet88@yahoo.com](mailto:winvet88@yahoo.com)

**Show**  
Bill Scharf  
717-244-3695  
[willworks@hughes.net](mailto:willworks@hughes.net)

Joan Roderick  
410-992-1811  
[jomarod@verizon.net](mailto:jomarod@verizon.net)

### Sunshine

Janice Mazur  
410-381-5694  
[janice.mazur@gmail.com](mailto:janice.mazur@gmail.com)

### House

Jamie Riegel  
410-370-8659  
[jtriegel3@gmail.com](mailto:jtriegel3@gmail.com)

### Library

Norma Lynch  
410-531-3220  
[nlynch@comcast.net](mailto:nlynch@comcast.net)

### Membership

Marilyn Lauffer  
[jmlauffer@verizon.net](mailto:jmlauffer@verizon.net)

### Newsletter

Laura Sobelman  
410-363-1040  
[Sobelman1@verizon.net](mailto:Sobelman1@verizon.net)

### Program

Gary Smith  
410-349-7112  
[orchid.impaired@gmail.com](mailto:orchid.impaired@gmail.com)

### Refreshments

Barbara Buck  
410-551-9374  
[BarbaraBuck@comcast.net](mailto:BarbaraBuck@comcast.net)

### Show Table

Thomas McBride  
410-661-4748  
[orchidudes@aol.com](mailto:orchidudes@aol.com)

### Hospitality

Margaret Smith  
410-526-0179  
[fpsakes1@aol.com](mailto:fpsakes1@aol.com)

### AOS and ODC Representative

Valerie Lowe  
410-599-2923  
[vlowe14@comcast.net](mailto:vlowe14@comcast.net)

### Webmaster

Clark Riley  
410-591-9201  
[DrRiley@aol.com](mailto:DrRiley@aol.com)

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](mailto: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 Hurdel, Valerie Lowe, Norma Lynch, Tom McBride, Bill Scharf, Gary Smith, Laura Sobelman

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](http://www.marylandorchids.org)  
Maryland Orchid Society  
P.O. Box 5651  
Baltimore, MD 21210