



president's message

An Indoor Month

Greetings to all!

The winter is moving fast and we find ourselves half way through February already. The month of February has certainly transitioned to a different kind of time of year as I have grown my orchid collection. This is wonderful month to accomplish those indoor tasks as the weather outside is not normally conducive to outdoor activities, unless of course you're a skier, snow boarder etc. This year has been somewhat of an exception and I don't think any of us are complaining as heating costs continue to rise.

If you're a believer in our good friend Punxsutawney Phil here in PA we can look forward to six more weeks of winter. I think I just heard a collective groan from the membership. Six more weeks isn't necessarily bad. How so you say?

Well I have been using February as a great month to repot my orchids that are in need of repotting. They are all in good strong growth at this point, getting ready for spring and blooming. So now is the perfect time to see to those indoor chores – namely

repotting those orchids that need it. There are of course other chores as well that will keep your plants happy. Cut off old inflorescence, remove dead leaves and flowers, clean your grow space, organize pots – and have a happier spring when those freshly repotted plants reward us with beautiful blooms.

Just a reminder about our Show, which is approaching quickly.

Tuesday, March 6 – Set-up staging

Wednesday, March 7 – Exhibitor Set-up

**Thursday, March 8 – AOS Flower and Exhibit Judging,
MOS Banquet**

Friday, March 9 – Show opens to the public. 10 am – 6 pm

Saturday, March 10 – Show open to the public. 10 am – 9 pm

Sunday, March 11 - Show open to the public. 10 am – 6 pm

Please keep these dates in mind as we'll need as much help as we can get. The Show is our largest and most work intensive activity of the year. It is a perfect opportunity to support the Society through your volunteer efforts as well as attend the Banquet and purchase plants at the Show. It is critical that we have a good turn

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Our February Speaker is Valerie Lowe

Valerie Lowe has been an MOS member since 1990, holding numerous offices and committee positions, including back-to-back terms as President from 1996 to 1999. Valerie is perhaps best known as our Away Show Chair, a job that incredibly she has served for most of her tenure with MOS. In October, the MOS Board elected Valerie to life membership.



Valerie is also an accredited AOS judge and for many years has served as Judging Chair at our annual show. AOS judges serve a critical role in both ribbon and AOS judging. And so given that our show is right around the corner, we've asked Valerie to deliver a talk on what judges are looking for when they evaluate orchids.

january 2012 show table by Tom McBride

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

Novice

1. Phal. Sogo Vivien - Cindy Smith
2. C. Hybrid - Carolyn Fulton
3. Bllra. Tahoma Glacier 'Sweet Sugar' AM/AOS - Chip Hiebler



Home Grown

1. Cym. Lady Sarah 'Strawberry Milk' (left) - The Lundys
2. Tie Paph. Easter 'Tom Cat' - Marilyn Lauffer Max. *sanguinea*- Bill Scharf
3. Goodyera *hispid*a (below)- Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith



Greenhouse

1. Den. *spectabile* 'Tickle' CCM/AOS - Jos Venturina
2. Tie Slc. Alvin Beggman - David Smith
Slc. Shin Shang Diamond 'Tai-Young #1' - Barbara Buck
3. Fdk. After Dark 'Sunset Valley Orchids' FCC/AOS - Michael Moran



Cattleya

1. Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Lillian Pitta' AM/AOS - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Bc. Maikai 'Louise' AM/AOS - Barbara Buck
C. perciviliana (above) - Michael Moran
3. Tie Bc. Spotted Clown 'Goodwood' - The Lundys
Lc. (Sheila Compton X Tokyo Magic) - David Smith

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. (Minho Princess X *sanderiana* var. *alba*) - John Dunning
2. Tie Phal. pallens 'Harford' - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
Phal. Pincing Memoristopher 'Best' - Barbara Buck
3. Phal. Hybrid - Janice Mazur



Oncidium

1. Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings' (above) - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Wils. Kolibri 'Red' - Eric Wiles
Onc. Lambaba 'Cutey' - John Dunning
3. Tie Onc. Sharry Baby - The Dagostins
Odcdm. Wild Willey 'Wonka' - Sarah Spence



Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. *fairieanum* var. *album*- John Dunning
2. Tie Paph. Mem. Larry Heuer (above) - David Smith
Paph. Ho Chi Minh (below) - Owen Humphrey
Paph. *venustum* var. *measureianum* 'Jamie's Green Martian' HCC/AOS (top right column) - The Riegels
3. Tie Paph. (Peter Black X Divisadero) - John Dunning
Paph. *lowii*- Clark Riley
Phrag. Hybrid - Janice Mazur



Dendrobium

1. Den. *nobile* 'Merlin' (above)- Eric Wiles
2. Tie Den. Hybrid - Chris Zajac
Den. White Grace 'Sato' - John Dunning
3. Tie Den. Pam Tajima - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
Den. Nora Tokunaga - Cy Swett

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Rhv. Asure 'Cascade' AM/AOS - Les Kirkegaard
2. Phcal. Kryptonite 'Ursula' - John Dunning
3. Tie Ascda. Motes Goldpiece 'Wirat' HCC/AOS (below)- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
Masd. Cassiope 'Alexa' HCC/AOS - Bill Scharf



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



Species

1. Ang. *sesquipedale* (above)- Michael Moran
2. Tie Er. *striata*- David Smith
- Lyc. *fimbriata* (middle column)- Bill Ellis
3. Ddc. *cobbianum*- Cy Swett

Miniature

1. Sl. Iron Clad 'Carney' - Bill Scharf
2. Epi. *conopseum* - David Smith
3. Tie Epi. *polybulbon*- Eric Wiles
- Epi. *polybulbon*- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste



First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. (Todd Clark X Alma Gavaert) - Lou Vadorsky
2. Phrag. (*ricterii* X Pink Panther) - Gary Smith & Sarah Hurdel
3. Pot. (Ah Chung Yo Yo X Little Gold Fish) - Janice Mazur

Fragrance

1. B. Little Stars - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Ang. Crestwood 'Tomorrow Star' - The Lundys
- Ang. *sesquipedale*- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. My. *trachychlamys*- David Smith

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Den. *spectabile* 'Tickle' CCM/AOS, exhibited by Jos Venturina. (See below for how Jos grows his 'Tickle'.) The judges were Rob Griesbach, Janice Mazur and Barbara Buck. There were an incredible 153 beautiful plants displayed on our show table this month!

january 2012 judges' choice

Dendrobium *spectabile*, a species endemic in New Guinea, has unusual, long-lasting, honey-scented flowers. It is relatively easy to grow.

We bought our plant in 2009 from Waldor Orchids when they had an Open House sale. At that time, the plant was not in bloom and had eight mature canes and at least five old growths. It was not in the best of shape when we purchased it, but looked healthy enough. The plant originally came from Tropical Orchid Farm (TOF).

This plant was originally potted in sphagnum moss and since I have had no luck using sphagnum moss in my current greenhouse conditions, I replaced it with well-draining fir bark as soon as I got it home. Generally, I only use sphagnum



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

moss on mounted plants, not in potted plants. In addition to changing the media, I also cut away some of the old, central canes to create space for new growths there. Since then, the plant took off. It spent the past two summers outside the greenhouse, under aluminum shade cloth, to get 50% sunlight. It stayed outside from May through October. I watered it daily

and fertilized heavily using manure tea (yes, animal manure) and Better-Gro High-Nitrogen orchid fertilizer. The plant multiplied like weeds, grew taller and wider, attaining its present size in a short period of time.

Before the winter weather set in, I moved this plant back to the greenhouse, reduced watering and stopped the fertilizer. Once the nighttime greenhouse temperature goes down to 55 degrees, this plant, along with my other dendrobiums, initiates flower spikes. It is at this point that grooming is best done. Grooming the plant by pruning, staking and cleaning optimizes presentation, with the final product ready for display.

Jos Venturina

member spotlight

Joan Roderick placed this beautiful *Paph. venustum* on the show table in December. I asked her how she grew her plant so successfully.

I've always loved *venustum* for the pattern, color and texture of the flower. I grow it in my foyer on the bottom shelf of an old wooden tea cart. On the bottom of the top shelf I installed an LED light used as under counter illumination in kitchens. I keep my Paphs there until the spike is pretty tall and the

bud is full. I then put them on a shelf (still in the foyer) and place a goose neck floor lamp (cheap from Ikea) with a cfl 75w, in front of them so the flower opens face forward. Water when almost dry. I bought this one a Parkside Orchids.

-Joan



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

2012 MOS Nominating Committee

As you can imagine there are a multitude of duties to handle as President of the MOS. I have very much enjoyed the position, working with so many talented people.

One of the duties as current president is to appoint and publish the names of the members that have volunteered to be part of the Nominating Committee. Following is the list of those members that have agreed to be part of this important committee.

Valerie Lowe
Joan Roderick
Chip Hiebler

This committee will be working over the next two months to establish the nominees for each officer position, other than immediate past President.

I would like to thank these members for agreeing to be on the committee. I very much appreciate their efforts.

Bill Scharf
MOS President

calendar

Note the following events:

- NCOS Auction – 11 February 2012.
- NCOS Paph Forum – 18 February 2012
- MOS Show - 4-11 March 2012.
- Philadelphia Flower Show – 4-11 March 2012.
- 2012 SEPOS / Longwood Gardens International Orchid Show & Sale March 23rd, 24th, & 25th, 2012

For more events visit:
https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York&gsessionid=OK

Stay Tuned for These Upcoming Speakers

The following are tentatively scheduled as MOS speakers:

March	Panel Presentation
April	Ruben Sauleda Ruben In Orchids (Goulds, FL)
May	Mark Werther Sentinel Orchids (Radnor, PA)
June	Erich Michel Michel Orchid Nursery (Mooresville, IN)
September	Tom McBride Show Table Results

New Members

The MOS would like to welcome new members Charles Smith and Alexander Smith-Burden.

Members Count

According to Owen there were 48 members at the January meeting.

member spotlight

Celebrate

SARAH SPENCE:

Cultivating Greenhouse Beauty and Classroom Confidence

Visitors to the BCCC greenhouse, high atop the Liberty Campus Life Sciences Building, may find themselves suddenly craving a candy bar. That's because whenever a certain orchid on the premises is in bloom, it smells exactly like chocolate! In fact, that very plant, known as the *Oncidium 'Sharry Baby'* orchid, won second place in the fragrance category of a local orchid competition. Sarah Spence, BCCC professor of natural and physical sciences, entered the specimen and brought home her first prize from the Maryland Orchid Society (MOS) in 2004.

Since then, the good professor has made quite a habit of winning awards in MOS competitions. She won the society's best first-time hobbyist award in 2008 and its best interpretation of show theme award in 2011, along with first, second and third place ribbons for specific plants. Sarah's prize record is all the more impressive considering her interest in orchids began just eight years ago.

"I went to the home and garden show of 2004 at the



My reward is seeing them blossom, grow and thrive.

Maryland State Fairgrounds and just happened upon the orchid exhibit and competition," she explains, "and the plants were amazing!" Shortly after, a friend who was moving to a smaller place asked the professor to adopt her orchids, all 18 of them! Sarah took them in and is now nurturing 62 orchids in her home, proving—as she points out—that growing orchids is not "just the hobby of the rich and famous."

The professor further observes that orchids are not nearly as exotic as most people think. "In fact, they're the most prolific plant on the planet, growing in almost every climate, including Maryland's. The most common variety here is called the Lady Slipper." Nor are orchids as difficult to care for as is widely believed, she says. "It just takes patience, and don't over-water them," she advises. "You don't want to expose them to too much

heat from direct sunlight. Just feel their leaves, and if they're too warm, move the plant. It might also help to have a little fan nearby to keep the air moving."

Sarah is now an active member (and secretary) of the Maryland Orchid Society, exchanging plants with fellow members and engaging in the organization's monthly competitions. She is proudest of her most recent award from last year's annual competition, the one for best interpretation of show theme. Her winning entry for the theme of Orchids: a Symphony of Color was a display consisting of nine plants artfully arranged with sheet music and a conductor's baton.

It's no surprise that this passion for orchids finds its way into Sarah's classroom and lab, where she sometimes uses her plants to heighten student interest in science research. That's not the only connection she finds between teaching students and growing orchids. "In both cases, I have to apply my knowledge of science and give plenty of attention and care, especially to the ones that are struggling. My reward is seeing them blossom, grow and thrive."

National Capital Orchid Society Paphiopedilum Forum

February 18, 2012

Behnke Nurseries, 11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

(301) 937-1100

<http://behnkes.com/website/>

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

The 32nd annual Paph Forum will feature internationally-renowned speakers, an unparalleled selection of Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium plants for sale by leading vendors, a show table featuring hundreds of slippers in bloom, ribbons and trophies for outstanding show plants, door prizes, American Orchid Society judging, and a silent auction to benefit The Slipper Orchid Alliance (SOA).

To donate selected and awarded plants and other items to SOA for their silent auction, please contact Barbara Tisherman at btisherman@aol.com. The auction is concurrent with the Paph Forum.

Please visit the NCOS website for further details regarding the 2012 Program and Schedule, Plant Exhibition Guidelines and Plant Entry Form, and further Meeting Registration Information. <http://www.ncos.us/ncos>

Speakers:

Dr. Holger Perner – China
Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology - Sichuan, China
“Paphiopedilum Species from China”

Arnold J. Klehm – Illinois
Klehm Growers
“Complex Paphiopedilums”

Eric Sauer – Ohio
River Valley Orchids
“Phragmipediums”

Bryan Ramsay – Maryland
National Capital AOS Judging Center
“Overview of Recent Slipper Awards”



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

Confirmed Vendors: Cove Corporation, MD; Floradise Orchids, VA; Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology, China; Klehm Growers, IL; Marriott Orchids, NC; Orchid Enterprise, VA; Orchidview Orchids, SC; Parkside Orchids, PA; River Valley Orchids, OH; Woodstream Orchids, MD.

(NCOS Member Plant Sales) Members current on 2012 dues and pre-registered for the Forum may sell slipper orchids.

Pre-registration is required. The entry fee of \$50.00 includes lunch and a door prize ticket. Participation is limited to the first 140 registrants!

AOS Exhibit at 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show

We are pleased to announce that the American Orchid Society is once again staging an exhibit at the Philadelphia International Flower Show to be held March 4 - 11, 2012 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The PIFS theme this year is Islands of Aloha – Hawaii. All who participated last year feel the 2011 AOS Exhibit was a tremendous success in awards, promoting AOS (procuring new members) and promoting the hobby of orchids in general. This is your exhibit. We are asking again for your assistance

Michael Bowell of Create A Scene is our designer again this year. In addition, the AOS Exhibit theme and description is:

“Sharing in the Spirit of Aloha” A tropical retreat awaits visitors where they can see, touch and smell the beauty of Orchid flowers ‘up close and personal’. American Orchid Society members share their plants, knowledge and expertise to all who wish to learn about these exotic beauties. AOS members from around the country are involved in the staging and staffing of this interactive exhibit with the goal of spreading their infectious enthusiasm to all who will listen. Features include artistic compositions of potted and mounted specimens of exotic species, old and modern hybrids along with a supporting cast of rare and exotic tropical plants. Miniature orchids in terrariums shall enamor with their delicate forms, brilliant colors and architectural detail. Ongoing demonstrations shall further the AOS goals of supporting Orchid Culture, Education and Conservation.

Generally our needs are:

Blooming orchids. Last year the plants belonging to individuals were the highlight of the exhibit. Visitors were simply amazed that the beautiful flowers were grown by folks just like them! Providing plants will also give you an opportunity to have your plants AOS judged. Last year there were several plants in the exhibit garnering AOS awards, in addition, the exhibit won 2 Peoples’ Choice Awards and the Best Society Exhibit.

Volunteers. For everything from helping with set up, meet and greet and to take down the exhibit the last Sunday evening, Maintenance of the exhibit prior to opening each morning.

Demonstrations. This year there will be demonstrations on orchid care. In that, we are looking for assistance in procuring and coordinating that process. We are looking for ideas for these demos as well getting the people and materials needed to make them successful.

The Flower Show opens on Saturday afternoon, March 3 to PHS members and then to the public on Sunday, March 4 with hours of 8:00 am – 9:30 pm; Monday - Friday, March 5-9: 10:00 am - 9:30 pm; Saturday, March 10; 8:00 am - 9:30 pm; and Sunday, March 11; 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

This call to volunteer is being forwarded to the affiliated societies including the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and DC. We would appreciate your announcing this at your upcoming meetings, asking if anyone is interested in volunteering, that they get in touch with us as soon as possible. This is an opportunity for a free admission to the show.

More specifically we need volunteers for:

- Exhibit set up on Tuesday, February 28 during the hours 11 am through 4 pm;
- Exhibit set up on Wednesday, February 29 hours during the 10 am through 4 pm
- Exhibit set up on Thursday, March 1 during the hours 9 am through 6 pm
- Exhibit set up on Friday, March 2 during the hours 9 am through 6 pm
- Exhibit Maintenance from Sunday, March 3 through Sunday, March 11 during hours 6 am to 9 am
- Volunteers for Exhibit take down on Sunday, March 11 during the hours 6 pm through 11:30 pm
- Greeters and AOS Volunteers Sunday and Saturday, March 4 and 10 during the hours 8 am through 9:30 pm
- Greeters and AOS Volunteers Monday through Friday, March 5 to 9 during the hours 10am through 9:30 pm
- Greeters and AOS Volunteers Sunday, March 11 during the hours 8 am through 5 pm
- Presenters for DEMO Area at booth - during the hours 8 am through 6 pm

Important to Note:

Show passes will be made available for all those who volunteer – we ask that a commitment of 3-4 hours be made for the greeters and AOS volunteers. Special passes will be given to those for set up and take down as well as the maintenance.

Any plants for the Exhibit may be delivered to Michael by Thursday, March 1st. We need names of plants for ID and label purposes by March 1st.

You may send them to Michael at 2148 Bodine Rd. Malvern, Pa 19355-8617 or the earlier the better or delivered directly to exhibit at Flower Show on Friday, March 2nd (if possible, it would be helpful if you let us know what you are bringing beforehand).

We are also looking for miniatures, pleurothallids, etc. to exhibit in Wardian Cases and terrariums. We have some empty or partially planted terrariums and one large Wardian case available. We are also looking for completed terrariums to display as is. If you are interested in helping out, please reply to us at the email addresses below. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the Flower Show! Feel free to contact one of us for more information.

Lynn Fuller, Affiliated Societies Committee Chair, AOS – coordinating volunteer schedule
302-438-7699
mlfuller@comcast.net

Barbara Noe, Membership Committee Chair, AOS – coordinating volunteer schedule
celebrateorchids@aol.com
804-852-3453

Michael Bowell, Create a Scene – coordinating exhibit design, execution and procurement
mwb@createascene.com (Preferred)
484.238.7412

Tim Brooks, Exhibit Coordinator
TimCBrooks@aol.com
859-533-7809

A Year in the Life by Chip Hiebler

I've had a love of orchids since I was young, always admiring them from a distance, never thinking I could raise them without a greenhouse. That all changed in May 2010, when for my 28th wedding anniversary I gave my wife Cathy a gift of Calvin Klein "Euphoria" that included a mail in certificate for an orchid. (Orchids are the traditional gift for the 28th anniversary) My Phalaenopsis arrived in bloom and I cared for it as most novices do; with absolutely no skills, abilities or knowledge of what I was doing.

Fast forward to March 2011 when I first heard of MOS. Cathy read about the annual orchid show and asked if I wanted to go, to which I emphatically answered "yes!" We entered the hall and were overwhelmed with the displays and the magnitude of the orchids on display and on sale. I was like the veritable kid in a candy store. As we were walking around admiring the various displays we heard an announcement that there would be a lecture on the basics of growing orchids in 15 minutes. We made our way to the lecture area where we were introduced to Dr. Clark Riley. I was admittedly intimidated at first when Clark told us of his extensive orchid collection and the dedicated growing area in his house complete with lighting and drainage systems. However, Clark assured and convinced me that I could grow orchids with no practical experience, at home under normal conditions using tap water. Having heard that, it was just a short, wide-eyed walk over to the vendor area where I immediately increased my orchid collection with a Psychopsis and a Brassia. At the time, I didn't know, but the gentleman that collected my money was Bill Scharf. He invited us to consider joining the Maryland Orchid Society and sent us over to meet Sue Spicer who signed us up without hesitation after a short but effective and convincing sales pitch.

I am definitely not a joiner, don't normally participate in clubs and organizations, and didn't expect much when I attended my



first MOS meeting. What I found was not a group of orchid enthusiasts, but a group of orchid experts! I was amazed by the contents of the show table, the lecture on finding rare and exotic orchids on Ebay by Clark Riley and the friendliness of the members, like Marilyn Lauffer who welcomed us openly. That meeting was followed by our attending the Spring repotting event, where I found out about pests from Sarah Hurdel, learned about Jewel Orchids from Valerie Lowe, found out that a blowtorch is a necessary tool to growing orchids from David Smith and learned that the decorative clay pot and soil I had transferred that first Phalaenopsis into was eventually going to kill it.

Since those first events, I have become an active member of MOS and my lonely Phalaenopsis is now surrounded by eighteen or so companions of various varieties that share the sunroom we recently added on the back of our house. We even went so far as to have the contractor build extra wide windowsills to accommodate my growing collection. We've attended and enjoyed the monthly meetings, participated in and won awards on the show table, attended another repotting event led by Dr. Eric Wiles at David and Margaret Smith's home and discovered The Little Greenhouse at Tom

McBride and Gary Krause's open house. I think it's fair to say I've completely joined MOS and that it was one of the smartest things I've done recently.

After a year of my new found addiction to orchids, one thing continues to amaze and impress me. I have never met or been associated with a group of people that have such a broad range of expertise and are so willing to freely share it at a moment's notice. The past twelve months have been a gratifying time and truly a learning experience for me, and I look forward to many more years of association with MOS. My sincerest thanks goes out to all of the members for sharing your vast knowledge, your genuine friendship and for giving so generously of yourselves. You have truly made this a rewarding and memorable year in the life of this orchid enthusiast.

President's Message From page 1

out from our Society. Be sure to put it on your calendar and support the Society. Please sign up using the sign-up sheets at the February meeting or contact me to sign up. willworks@hughes.net

It is extremely important that we get as much help as possible, so please consider being part of this very exciting event.

Happy Growing,

Bill

Al's Greenhouse Field Trip January 28 photos by Sarah Hurdel



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: Chip Hiebler, Sarah Hurdel, Tom McBride, Joan Roderick, Bill Scharf, Gary Smith, Laura Sobelman, Sarah Spence, Jos Venturina

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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