

# MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID newsletter

News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

September 2013



## president's message

Hello!

Yes! Another long hot summer has passed us by and the new season for activity long-awaited by the Maryland Orchid Society is upon us. So it's time to get down to business!

What have you been doing all summer with your plants? Are you ready to bring them into a meeting for all to see? Have you started repotting them? Have you debugged, fertilized and moved them from one location to another in your home? Or, are you waiting to be inspired and educated by the year's upcoming speakers. Whatever it is you have done or haven't done doesn't matter right now. What's important is that you join in the fun and camaraderie of the society. The time is now to catch up with your friends and acquaintances at the meetings to share in our

common interest—growing and learning more about this very interesting subject, the simple yet complex orchid.

I invite you personally to join in the upcoming activities and make new orchid friends. Looking ahead, there are so many things to be a part of, each one imparting its own sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Setting up shows and engaging in the repotting clinics, social events or committees, bring us all closer to each other in the society.

As President I look forward to seeing all of you at our September meeting and those to follow. Bring your plants, bring your questions, bring your knowledge for all to share and benefit from.

*Eric*

## Tom McBride Speaks at September Meeting

**T**om McBride, our Show Table Chair, is an AOS judge and one of our local orchid gurus, growing and selling award-winning orchids and hardy tropical plants commercially at The Little Greenhouse for more than 35 years. As one of our long-standing members, he has been a pillar of our society and shared his enthusiasm and knowledge of orchids since joining MOS in 1979.

In September, Tom delivers his traditional and much anticipated summary of last year's show table results and participation winners from 2012-2013. Tom keeps track of ribbon winners for each class, as well as every member who places a plant on the show table each month, loans plants for MOS or away show exhibits, and/or puts in an exhibit at our annual show. Ribbons count toward monetary

awards, while loans and exhibits count toward points for free plants. For every three plant loans or exhibits, members will have the opportunity to pick out a seedling orchid plant of their choice from the many different species and hybrids Tom provides at the September meeting. Tom will distribute monetary awards for the first, second and third place winners of each class.



Tom at the 2013 MOS show.

This meeting always whets our appetites for growing more, bigger or better plants and starts our new orchid season with an enthusiastic scramble for new plants to add to our collections. Tom will also talk about what the

Show Table judges look for each month and how to improve your chances of winning a ribbon.

**INSIDE** 2 June Show Table  
3 June Judges' Choice by Les Kirkegaard

5 "A Day Among the Flowers" by Chip and Cathy Hiebler  
8 Local AOS News

# june 2013 show table winners by Tom McBride

Photos by Sarah Hurdel

## Novice

1. Phal. Hybrid - The Hallameyers
2. Phal. Hybrid - Amanda Gallegos

## Home Grown

1. Phrag. Bel Croute (right)- The Lundys
2. Tie Grcym. Lovely Melody - John Dunning  
Phal. Hybrid (below)- Suzanne Gaertner  
Lc. Love Fantasy 'Sweet Dreams' - Sarah Spence
3. Phrag. (Sorcerer's Apprentice x *lindleyanum*) - Valerie Lowe



## Greenhouse

1. Lyc. Jason 'Hall's Classic' AM/AOS - Jos Venturina
2. Pot. Lisa Taylor Gallis - David Smith
3. Tie Paph. Susan Booth - Joanna Hager  
Paph. Susan Booth - Lou Vadorsky

## Cattleya

1. Epi. floribundum X Enc. *linearifolioses* - Bob Johnston
2. Blc. Yu Red Pearl 'Red Dragonfly' - Clark Riley
3. C. Lucky Gem 'Sarah' AM/AOS - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith



## Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Brother Spring Dancer (column 1, bottom)- Mark Robbins
2. Tie Phal. Sand Star - John Dunning  
Phal.(New Candy X Brother Love Rosa) - Les Kirkegaard
3. Tie Phal. *tetraspsis* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith  
Phal. *chibae* - David Smith



## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Dollgoldi - Les Kirkegaard
2. Tie Paph. (Deperle X Muriel Constance) (above)- John Dunning  
Paph. Susan Booth - Joanna Hager  
Paph. [Gratrix X (Double Grey X Monica)] - Owen Humphrey
3. Tie Paph. *hirsutissimum* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith  
Phrag. Eric Young - Laura Sobelman

## Oncidium

1. Psy. Mem. Bill Carter - Mary Chiu
2. Tie Odcdm. Wildcat 'Red Star' - Bob Johnston  
Onc. Pacific Sunrise 'Hakalau' - Eric Wiles
3. Onc. Hybrid - The Soykes

## Dendrobium

1. Den. *auriculatum* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
2. Den. Andre Millar - Laura Sobelman
3. Den. *wardianum* - Clark Riley



## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Tie V. Manuel Torres - John Dunning  
Coel. *burfordiensis* - Jos. Venturina
2. Zygolum Louisendorf (column 2, bottom)- The Soykes



## Species

1. Pths. *grobyi* - David Smith
2. Tie Paph. *lowii* - Joanna Hager  
Lip. *nervosa* (above)- Bob Travers
3. Tie *Ceratostylis rubra* - Jos Venturina  
Onc. *phymatochilum* (below)- Eric Wiles



## Miniature

1. Pths. *tribuloides* - David Smith
2. Neof. *falcata* 'Hisui' - Eric Wiles
3. Tie Cirr. *tingabarinum* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith  
Ang. *didieri* - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

## First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. (Sander's Pride X Susan Booth) - John Dunning
2. Paph. Harold Koopowitz - Les Kirkegaard
3. Paph. Paul Parks - Clark Riley

## Fragrance

1. Mps. Robert Jackson 'Wild Thing' - The Dagostins

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Paph. Dollgoldi exhibited by Les Kirkegaard. See page 3 for details on how Les grows this beautiful plant. The judges were Suzanne Gaertner, Joanna Hager and Valerie Lowe. There were an incredible 106 beautiful plants displayed on our show table.

The judges choice Dolligold specimen came into my possession as seedling flask from the In-Clone Laboratory in Taiwan. It was purchased at the Paph Forum in Washington, D.C. more than a dozen years ago from a speaker from that company. Dolligold is a cross between Paph. *rothschildianum* and Paph. *armeniacum*.

In the beginning the tiny plants suffered through my experiments with hydroponics. Somehow the plants survived for a couple of years of that treatment before I moved on to bark formulations. Not only was I experimenting with the growth media, I was also working on developing plant food designed to feed both the plant and media microbes. Somehow, most of the seedlings survived, and then began to flourish. Now my plants are grown on an inexpensive mix of pine bark and cypress mulches in various stages of decay. The objective is to make a formulation where a diverse population of soil microbes can immediately begin to slowly grow and



Photos by Sarah Hurdel

continue growing over many months. I also grow my Dolligold plants under fluorescent lights.

During outgrowth, I feed strategically by adding orchid food to the irrigation water. The orchid food supplements plant minerals with a full range of organic food nutrients. Interested readers can find more on its composition on my web site, [grow-orchid-grow.com](http://grow-orchid-grow.com). The orchid food seems to have a slight bit of plant hormone activity that stimulates plants to initiate multiple shoots simultaneously. Through some fortunate combination of repotting

and feeding, I managed to trigger a plant with multiple shoots to send up 4 flower spikes simultaneously. (Usually plants send up flower spikes sequentially.)

The judges choice has good company. A sibling plant purchased by Valerie Lowe was awarded an AM/AOS by the National Capitol Orchid Society a couple of weeks earlier.

On a personal note, the specimen Dolligold reached its peak a few days before my wife and I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary. We feel so blessed.



# ORCHID AUCTION

MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

SAME GREAT LOCATION

**Saturday, November 9, 2013**

**American Legion Dewey Lowman Post 109**  
1610 Old Sulphur Spring Road, Halethorpe, MD 21227

**Preview 11:00 AM / Auction 12:00 to 4:00 PM**

♥ Hundreds of orchids in bud or bloom from respected local and nationally recognized growers. Plus pre-priced "instant auction" plants, and supplies from Quarter Acre Orchids.

♥ Lunch and a full line of refreshments available on site.

♥ Free admission and registration.

Contact Aaron Webb, 410-419-1312 or Sarah Spence, 410-243-3377 for information or visit [www.MarylandOrchids.org](http://www.MarylandOrchids.org)

# Come Support the MOS Orchid Auction!

The huge success of last year's auction has prompted us to use the same location this year. **We are hoping that everyone will support this year's auction as volunteers, bidders and with plant donations. The event is fun and educational, with beautiful and unusual orchids for bargain prices from a variety of sources!**

**Saturday, November 9, 2013**  
American Legion Dewey Lowman  
Post 109  
610 Old Sulphur Spring Road  
Halethorpe, MD

Post 109 is near the intersection of Interstate #95 and the Baltimore Beltway (Interstate #695), providing ready access for our Baltimore area members and our Washington, D.C. area orchid customers.

For directions and more information about Dewey Lowman Post 109 visit <http://www.americanlegionpost109.org>

For more information, to donate plants or other orchid-related materials, or to help with the auction, contact **Aaron Webb** at 410-419-1312 or **Sarah Spence** at 410-243-3377.



# A Day Among the Flowers Cathy & Chip Hiebler

On June 22nd, several members visited the Howard Peter Rawlings Conservatory at Druid Hill Park, on a field trip organized by Laura Sobelman. For those that don't know, the Rawlings Conservatory is the second oldest glass conservatory in the United States, exceeded only by the Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco. The Rawlings Conservatory was first opened in 1888 and underwent a major renovation in 2004. The building is breathtaking upon first view as you come around Druid Park Drive. It was designed by George Frederick, the same architect that designed Baltimore's City Hall. It's a masterpiece of glass and steel and a wonder to look at.



Photos by Chip Hiebler

After meeting in the lobby and buying several plants that were for sale there (we truly are obsessed) the group met our guide, George. He gave us a brief history of the building and then took us to our first stop, the Orchid Room. The room is aptly named and filled with specimens, most in full bloom. Within minutes of entering the Orchid Room, its silence was quickly replaced by 'oohs' and 'ahhs' along with the whirs and clicks of cameras.

After we had filled ourselves with the delight of orchids we proceeded into the Palm House, an outstanding example of the architecture of the Victorian era. With its 150 foot high ceiling, and countless



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

windows, it is easily one of the most beautiful, in addition to being the original portion of the Conservatory. It too is filled with specimens from around the world, and some

of the largest palms I've ever seen, all thriving in their perfectly tropical indoor environment.

George expertly guided us through the other areas of the Conservatory, that included the Mediterranean Room filled with olive trees, various citrus trees, oleander and herbs. The smell alone is enticing and draws you in to walk along the stone pathway and listen to the gently flowing fountains. The pathway led us to the Tropical Room. Here we found ginger, guava, coffee and gardenia plants and trees, along with birds of paradise and anthuriums, which many people, including myself, mistakenly thought only came in red. George also told us that they are unique in that they contain both male and female flowers on the same plant.



Photo by Chip Hiebler

Finally, George led us into the Desert room, aptly named for its display of hundreds of different cacti, not to mention its arid environment. Aaron, Owen and I looked longingly for a water fountain but found none. What we found instead was one of the most unusual and impressive plants in the entire collection; the blue agave, which happened to be in spike at the time. As orchid enthusiasts, in spike means several inches to perhaps a foot of inflorescence. Nothing could have prepared us for the agave, whose spike reached well over 25 feet. So high in fact, that glass had to be removed from the ceiling. This agave takes 30 years to bloom, blooms only once, then dies. It was a true privilege and a once in a



Photo by Sarah Hurdel



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

lifetime experience to see it firsthand. I felt a tinge of sadness thinking how much tequila we could have gotten out of that cactus.

[Editors note: There were actually two Centennial Cacti spiking and blooming at the same time. A wonderful visit but sad to see the two 50-year-old agave, in a freak of timing, decide after 50 years to flower then die at the same time. Like an old married couple, I guess one decided if its best friend was to leave this earth, she couldn't live without him. The good news is that they left lots of "pups" to carry on their legacy.]

George returned us back to the lobby again indicating the end of our tour of the Conservatory. But thanks to Laura, our day was not yet complete. In the lobby we met Alice Hisley, who is the manager of the Cylburn greenhouses. As we would later learn the greenhouses at the Cylburn Arboretum grow and store all of the plants and flowers for the City.

We all piled into our cars and fearlessly (?) followed Aaron to the Cylburn Arboretum. The arboretum itself is a large garden with a vast collection of trees, shrubs and flowers in a naturalist setting that covers some 200 acres. Also on the grounds is the Cylburn Mansion, a beautiful stone structure built in the 1860's and also designed by George Frederick. But what we came to see were the Cylburn Greenhouses.

continued on next page

We met Alice and she led us into the greenhouses. This was by far the largest collection of greenhouses I had ever seen. There were at least eight separate greenhouse buildings, each several hundred feet long! Gary Smith pointed out that they were built by Lord & Burnham, a noted manufacturer of greenhouses throughout the country. Alice added that the greenhouses were built sometime in the 60's. They're not open to the public, so thanks to Laura and Alice we were getting a private look at a truly amazing collection of buildings.



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

Alice led us into the greenhouse building that she was most proud of, the orchid greenhouse. She had every reason to be proud. Alice told us there were approximately 3,000 orchid plants that were being cared for at Cylburn. She added that she rotates the plants on exhibit at the Conservatory from this collection. She was incredibly generous with information on her tried and true growing techniques. Included in the discussion Alice shared her current experimental growing methods and invited us to check back with her about every six months to get current success (or not) with these experiments.

Meeting Alice was an unforgettable encounter. She is truly a treasure. Like many of our own members with considerable experience, Alice is extremely knowledgeable about growing orchids and more than happy to share that knowledge. Many thanks go to Laura Sobelman for arranging this memorable outing.

Alice also mentioned that they are always looking for volunteers to help care for the orchids. Anyone interested in helping out and to get more details should email Melissa Grim at [Melissa.grim@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Melissa.grim@baltimorecity.gov).



Photo by Chip Hiebler



Photo by Sarah Hurdel



All other photos by Laura Sobelman



Photo by Sarah Hurdel



## education corner

David Smith, MOS Education Chair, has arranged a *tentative* Education Corner for the upcoming year. Here is the proposed schedule.

### September

Attendees introduce themselves  
What do you grow and for how long?  
How do you grow?  
What are the orchids that you like best?  
How long have you been a member of MOS?  
Any photographs to show.

### October

Paphs and phrags.  
John Dunning

### November

Vandaceous orchids.  
Eric Wiles

### December

Christmas Party.  
No Education Corner

### January

Staking and grooming for exhibit.  
Sarah Hurdel

### February

Annual Show Discussion  
Valerie Lowe  
exhibits  
show participation  
clerking for judging

### March

Spring Show Critique.  
Bill Scharf

### April

Oncidiums and Hybrids.  
Ann Lundy

### May

Growing Spaces and Areas.  
Marilyn Lauffer

### June

Growing Mini species and Mounting Orchids.  
David Smith

## orchid digest corner

July 12, 2013

To all our affiliated societies,

As you are no doubt aware the *Orchid Digest* has a special issue at the end of each year. The subject for this year is the genus *Phalaenopsis*. It will contain in-depth articles on culture and breeding with emphasis on species and their contributions to hybrids. This issue will be illustrated with the superb photography for which the *Digest* is renowned.

What is less known is that the *Orchid Digest* is a non-profit 501c(3) organization and the editorial staff is all volunteer and works without compensation. The cost of the special issue is only partially covered by the yearly membership dues. The *Digest* needs to raise over \$5,000 to pay for the additional color. The only way we can continue to produce our world leading publication is with your financial assistance. Some societies support us every year without our asking and we are extremely grateful. Please support us with whatever amount you feel comfortable giving. The *Digest* will appreciate any help. Send your donations to our mailing address: Orchid Digest, PO Box 6966, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607.

The *Digest* will publish a listing of donors by category. Patrons donate \$1000 or more; Sponsors between \$250 and \$999; Donors between \$100 and \$249; Friends less than \$100. Gifts can be made in memory of, or to honor specific people. Donations are tax-exempt. Both the donor and honoree names will be listed in the *Orchid Digest*. Donations received before September 1, in order to be recognized in this special issue. Donations arriving after that date will be recognized in the following issue.

Thank you,

Sandra Svoboda  
Editor-in-Chief, Orchid Digest.



Marilyn Lauffer and Norma Lynch

## Membership Renewal

In August, Marilyn Lauffer, MOS Membership Chair, snail-mailed membership renewal reminders. If you have not done so already, please renew your membership. Make your check payable to the Maryland Orchid Society and send it back with your renewal forms to:

Maryland Orchid Society  
P.O. Box 5651  
Baltimore, MD 21210

Or give them to Marilyn at the September meeting.

## Member Update and Miscellaneous

There were 53 members at the June meeting.

There were three door prizes awarded in June: a *Dendrochilum wenzelii* 'Barbara' ccm/aos won by Norma Lynch, a *Dendrochilum wenzelii* 'Jeff's Red Wheat' CCM/AOS given to Janice Mazur and an Enc. *tampensis* var. *alba* 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS awarded to Laura Sobelman.

Photos by Valerie Lowe unless noted otherwise

**August 3: National Capital Judging Center**



David Smith's plant of *Promenea stapelioides* 'Sarah Hurdel' (above) was awarded an 80 point Award of Merit (AM).

Sarah Hurdel's plant of *Paphiopedilum Magical Venus* 'Hampstead' was awarded an 81 point Award of Merit (AM).



**September 7: National Capital Judging Center**

Owen Humphrey's plant of *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima v. champorensis* 'Pixie' (above) received a 78 point Highly Commended Certificate (HCC).

Sarah Hurdel's plant of *Catasetum Karen Armstrong* 'Owen' received a 76 point HCC. Her plant of *Ctt. Secret Love* 'Hsinying' received a 77 point HCC.

David Smith's plant of *Dendrochilum abortum* 'Kim Reece' received a Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR). His plant of *Acianthera sonderiana* 'Turnberry' (column 2, top) was awarded a 93 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence. This plant has previously received two other cultural awards and was featured in an article in the AOS magazine *Orchids*.



During this judging session, the National Capital Judging Center selected its nominations for the National Awards. Jos Venturina's plant of *Dendrobium spectabile* 'Tickle', AM/AOS was nominated for the Kodama award. His plant of *Oncidium Twinkle* 'Fragrancy Fantasy', CCE/AOS (below) was nominated for the Butterworth Award. The Little Greenhouse's plant of *Phalaenopsis Krull's Red Hot* 'Harford's Sunrise', AM/AOS was nominated for



Photo by James Osen



*Phalaenopsis Krull's Red Hot* 'Harford's Sunrise', AM/AOS

the Hager Award. David Smith's plant of *Angraecum distichum* 'Aubert Wines', CCE/AOS was nominated for the Hillerman Award. Good luck to all of you.

**Don't Miss These Exciting MOS Speakers!**

Deborah Dade has a thrilling speaker line-up planned for MOS' 2013-2014 monthly meetings. Following is a list of confirmed speakers for 2013-2014:

September 2013: Tom McBride, The Little Greenhouse, Baltimore, MD

October 2013: Paul Sheetz, JustPat Orchids

November 2013: Cordelia Head, J&L Orchids

January 2014: Stephen Male, Fishing Creek Orchids

May 2014: Linda Thorne, Seagrove Orchids, Seagrove, NC

Plans are complete for the AOS Members and Trustees meeting being held in Coral Gables, Florida, November 14-16, 2013. Registration is open for the show and sale at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). Reservations for the hotel may be made directly through the Courtyard Miami Coconut Grove hotel site ([CourtyardMiamiCoconutGrove.com](http://CourtyardMiamiCoconutGrove.com)). Be sure to mention American Orchid Society to get the special rates (if still available). Speakers will be Dr. Kait W. Tan, CEO, Gardens by the Bay Singapore; Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids and Mr. Munekazu Ejiri, Director & Judge of Japan Orchid Growers Association (JOGA). All of the lectures, the show and most of the meetings will be held on the premises of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. Entrance to the Gardens will be part of the registration cost.

Fall Show season is gearing up. Just a reminder that AOS offers liability insurance to affiliated societies which on an annual basis can cover multiple shows a society may have during the course of the year. For more information, contact AOS headquarters at [TheAOS.org](http://TheAOS.org) and an application form can be sent to you. In addition, there are AOS documents available on the website for use at the shows: cultural information, uniform show schedule, judging request form and AOS membership forms (in color or black and white). These documents are available to download and print out to use at your shows and meetings. The members' only section of the website has more detailed cultural information as well. AOS also provides a free listing on their calendar of all AOS society events if you provide the information with enough lead time.

Call for Nominations: Board of Trustees of the American Orchid Society. AOS is seeking nominations for members of the Board of Trustees. Members may nominate any member in good standing, including themselves. All nominations will be evaluated by the Nominating Committee and a slate will be mailed, in accordance with the by-laws, prior to the

election at the Members' Meeting in the spring of 2013. If you are interested in pursuing a nomination, see the website for more information regarding qualifications, expertise they are looking for and requirements and forward the nomination

(with biography) to [Nominating\\_Committee@aos.org](mailto:Nominating_Committee@aos.org). You may also mail it into headquarters.

Lynn Fuller, Chair  
Affiliated Societies Committee

*Susquehanna  
Orchid Society*

*30<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
Show*

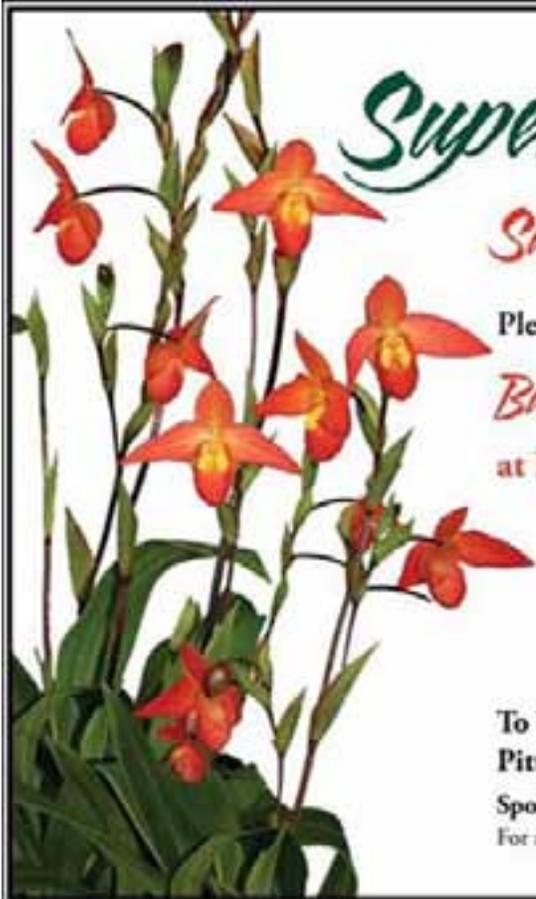
*"The Art of Orchids"*

*October  
4 - 6  
2013*

*Ware Center  
42 North  
Prince Street  
Lancaster PA*

*Artwork by Freiman Stoltzfus*

**For more information: [www.susquehanna-orchid.org](http://www.susquehanna-orchid.org)**



# Super Slipper Celebration

Saturday, October 5, 2013

Please join us to honor Barbara Tisherman with the naming of the  
*Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection*  
at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

### Featuring:

- Slipper Orchid Speakers
- Super Slipper Sales
- Tours of Phipps Conservatory
- Plus food, fun and the Phragmipaphium Phollies

To be held at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213.

Sponsored by the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania.

For more information and registration, visit [OSWP.org](http://OSWP.org) or call Richard Raiff at 412.344.5969.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.marylandorchids.org)  
Maryland Orchid Society  
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