

ORCHID *newsletter*



News and information for Maryland Orchid Society members

May 2019

president's message

Dear MOS members,

Due to my ongoing health issues with no end in sight, I feel the time has come for me to officially step down from the position of President of the Maryland Orchid Society. I am also stepping down from the position of Show Chair. Once again, due to health issues but I also feel the Show needs new ideas and new leadership to bring the Show to the next level. I will be available to assist with the transition and questions anyone might have (just be advised it might take me a few days to reply to your call or email). The only pressing issue for the Show right now is finding another vendor.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and dedication to the MOS over the past nine months. I look forward to the day

I can once again attend our monthly meetings.

Sincerely,
Joan Roderick

Editors Note: The MOS is grateful to Joan for all her hard work and love she has put into her tenure as President and Show Chair. Sarah Spence will now take on the President's position, with Laura Sobelman as Vice President. Marc Kiriou has volunteered to be Show Chair.

Additionally, Janice Mazur is resigning as Sunshine Chair and the MOS thanks her for all of her hard work. Pat Schiavi, a relatively new MOS member, has graciously accepted the position.

upcoming events

MONTHLY MEETING

The next monthly MOS meeting will be held June 20, 2016.

BOARD MEETING

The next board of trustees meeting is in July at the home of David and Margaret Smith. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30. All members are welcome to attend. Please let the Smiths know if you are attending and if you would like to bring a dish or drink.

MOS PICNIC

The MOS picnic will be held Aug. 4 at the home of Ken and Suzanne Gaertner. RSVP to Suzanne (410-531-6672) if you will be attending and what food or drink you will bring to share. Bring your own beer and/or wine.

This Month's Speaker is Marc Kiriou

Marc Kiriou is a relatively recent convert to the orchid passion of which many of us MOS members have been infected. He's been growing orchids for about four years and in that time has actively participated in our show table as well as home and away shows, has applied to enter AOS judging training, serves as a Director of the MOS, and has recently agreed to chair the MOS Show Committee. His growing skills and enthusiasm also extend to carnivorous plants. In his spare time, Marc, a U.S. Army veteran, serves as the Security Director for a private company in Baltimore.



Marc has graciously agreed, on relatively short notice, to step in for our originally

scheduled speaker, Mary Jo Gilsdorf, who had a business conflict and had to reschedule (currently on our calendar for October 2019).

Marc, who does much of his growing under artificial lights, will be presenting on understanding the basic properties of light and how they relate to orchid growth. We expect him to bring some plants from his collection (orchids and carnivores) for sale at the meeting.

MOS Future Speakers:

June: Nancy Mountford, NCOS & MOS; "Big-Lipped Phalaenopsis"

John Heinbokel
Program Chair

Library

If you have checked out MOS library books, please return them to the MOS library by the June meeting.

Wanda Kuhn
Library Chair

Member Update

MOS is glad to welcome new member Danielle Gent. Please greet her warmly with our secret handshake when you see her.

clark's corner

by Clark Riley

Mutant Orchids We Love

Often in nature, a mutation is bad, sometimes fatal. But we humans are fascinated by some mutations. A classic example would be the white or 'alba' varieties of many of our favorite pink and purple orchids.

Pigments called anthocyanins — Greek for "flower-blue", produce the pinks and purples of orchids. These pink and purple pigments are important for attracting pollinators in the wild, but are not essential for the life of the plant.

If a genetic disturbance causes the loss of the enzyme that makes the pigments, then the flower will appear normal except for pink or purple. These mutations are often one in a million or more rare. Given that we humans are fascinated by the rare and unusual, the white varieties are often cultivated and protected, whereas in the wild they would eventually disappear.

Note that while the anthocyanins are not essential, the flavonoids responsible for yellows are essential. Thus, you will not find white varieties of yellow-flowered species. Some orchids are bright red or orange resulting from a combination of anthocyanins and flavonoids. Mutations may take out the anthocyanin pigment production, leaving behind the yellow form of the species, a mutation.

Illustrated are the normal and alba forms of *Encyclia adenocaula*, one of my favorite Mexican species.



Perlite and Medium Charcoal offering

By Bob Travers

I will offer Orchid Screened Perlite for MOS members. I will repackage and provide in smaller size bags. Prices include transportation and handling and deliveries will be brought to the MOS Meetings.

Repackaged sizes and prices (Note price increase passed on from Penn Perilite)

One gallon Bag	\$4.00
Two Gallon Bag	\$6.00
Five Gallon Bag	\$11.00
4 Cu. Ft. Bag	\$28.00

Additionally I have a limited quantity of Medium Charcoal from Harry Gaffney (their #3 grade), as mentioned in Mark Werther's talk in March. I have repackaged it into 2 and 5 pound bags.

Two Pound Bag	\$6.00
Five Pound Bag	\$12.00

Please respond to Bob Travers anytime, with your order request. Payment accepted at the meeting your Perlite is delivered.

Contact Bob Travers. Email: subobtrav@zoominternet.net or phone 410-557-9901.

SEPOS Another Successful Show



Joel Graham and Sarah Hurdel were only two of the many devoted and hard-working MOS members who spent long hours creating this stunning display for the SEPOS Show. Thank you, everyone who helped or donated plants.

Photo by Susan Travers

education corner

The Education Corner for May will consider more of the information from the AOS website, which has an almost unending number of selections. The selections will be those available for nonmembers (nonsubscribers) of the AOS. If necessary, this will be continued into June.

For June or maybe September, the Ed Corner will begin to consider the vocabulary of orchiddom as used and detailed in the AOS journal, *Orchids*, plus other aspects of orchids.

David Smith

April Judges' Choice: *Angraecum sesquipedale*

by Bob Travers

General information



Angraecum sesquipedale is an *Angraecum* species endemic to the Madagascar. They originate at low elevations, and they typically grow as epiphytes on the most-exposed parts of tree trunks, on trees at the fringe of forests; in cultivation, this means they want to dry out quickly and receive plenty of breeze, such as from a fan. They also get frequent rainfall in nature, so in cultivation, water frequently. You can either mount on a slab of bark or grow them in a coarse potting mix such as large pieces of fir bark, so they can dry rapidly; then water often, such as daily.

These plants are monopodial and can get quite large; roughly 3 feet high is typical. They have few roots, but they tend to be quite thick, and grip the supporting tree bark quite strongly. They hate to have their roots disturbed,

so repot these orchids infrequently using a very coarse potting mix.

They like intermediate to high light, 2000-3000 footcandles or a bit higher. *Cattleya* light usually works well, but you might have to go a bit less if there's sunburn. *Phalaenopsis* light is not enough.

They prefer relatively high humidity of 50-70%, especially since the root system should be exposed enough that it dries quickly. (The thick velamen on the roots will absorb moisture from the air.)

Temperatures should be intermediate to high, 70-80°F (21-27C), cooling by 10-15°F (6-8C) at night.

I bought my *Angraecum sesquipedale* as a young plant in a 3 inch pot most likely in the early 1990's. It was several years before being rewarded with its first bloom. We took the plant to our first AOS Judging. We received encouragement that the flower was of good quality and we should continue to grow it up and bring it back after it reached its potential.

Being native to Madagascar this suggests a strong requirement for high light levels. My success did not come until I could support the light requirement. My whole orchid collection winters in the basement under lights and summers outside in a shade stand at about 70% shade. During the winter of 2014 we had made major modification to the growing area in the basement to improve light availability. This area is now under a triple bank of 6 tube High Bay T8 fluorescent lights that come on at 4pm and off at 8am.



Over the past 12 months we have been rewarded with three sets of blooming. First pictured to the left was July 30, 2018 while my collection summered outside. We had 8 flowers on 3 spikes. *Angraecum sesquipedale* is described as having long lived flowers, however for me that is not the case. As you can see two of the flowers are already fading and more faded before we could take it back to AOS judging. Our second bloom was at the typical time on January 1, 2019. The latest was for this past months meeting.

Please say a prayer for this plant as I need to repot this summer due to deteriorating media.



Submitted by Bob Travers – MOS Member

maryland orchid society

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Newsletter News

Esteemed newsletter editor Barbara Buck and her husband Lou are in the process of moving so Laura Sobelman is producing the May and June newsletters. If you have questions or content, please email lmsobes@gmail.com

The *MOS Newsletter*, published monthly by the Maryland Orchid Society September through June, shares the latest news of our orchid community.

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, 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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