



The Maryland Orchid Society Newsletter

December 2021

Website: www.marylandorchids.org

President's Letter for December



I certainly have mixed emotions about the past year that's winding up (down?), as we move through December. COVID has changed the rules of the game for us, but the various Holidays are upon us and that's a reason for celebration. AND we just recently learned that our 'Happy Valentines Day' exhibit at the February 2020 NCOS Show has been nationally recognized by the AOS as the best exhibit of the year (Yippee!)! There's a story about that later in the Newsletter.

So, now to focus on the immediate future:

1) Don't forget the annual sale at The Little Greenhouse (see flyer later in this Newsletter).

2) Our next meeting (December 16) will be our Holiday Party. We're going to take a stab at refreshments but try to keep stuff 'untouched by human hands' as much as we can. If you'd like to contribute, please do, but let Barbara Buck (barbarabuck2015@comcast.net) know and plan for how to share without bare hands dipping into common containers. We'll also have a Members' Sales Table as a fundraiser for the MOS. You can see a brief blurb on that, as well, later in this Newsletter. And of course there'll be a wonderful Show Table with an option for folks to enter virtually, if you can't attend in person. Pics for that virtual show table should be submitted as usual at least one day before the meeting to Fay Citerone (Fay.Citerone@gmail.com). Masks will be required at the church.

3) We'll be collaborating with the Rawlings Conservatory on a weekend orchid exhibition, Jan 13 -16, 2022. We'll have sign-up sheets at the December meeting for plant contributions and for volunteers to staff the display and answer questions about orchids and/or the MOS. If you won't be at the Holiday Party but want to participate in the exhibition, please let John Heinbokel (jheinbokel@hotmail.com) know.

4) And last, but certainly not least: in February we will start a three month push to mount our own Show and Sale (March 8 - 13, 2022) and participate in our three traditional away shows (Susquehanna, NCOS, and SEPOS). That Calendar is presented later in the Newsletter.

I hope to see you all at at least one of these events! If not, I wish you joyous holidays, safety and good health, and beautiful orchids. Thanks for being part of this community!

John Heinbokel

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MOS December's Show Table Results

Novice

1. Bc. Jairak 'Fire Star' - Nicole Allen
2. Onc. Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy' - Arman Siddiqui

Home Grown

1. Ascda. Brighton Gold - Fay Citerone
2. Tie Bc. (Oconee X Dennis Kone) - Bob Johnston
Phrag. (lindleyanum X schlimii) - Aaron Webb
3. Epi. Pacific Girl - Bob Travers

Greenhouse

1. C. Penang - Jos Venturina
2. Rl. Digbyano-Purpurata - Clark Riley

Cattleya

1. Lc. Molly Tyler - Jos Venturina
2. Bc. Gladys Oumae 'Roy' HCC/AOS - Bob Johnston
3. Tie Bc. Greenwich 'Elmhurst' AM/AOS - Kathi Jackson
Dial. Snowflake - Bob Travers
Bc. Golden Chieftan 'Akuki' - Chris Zajac

Phalaenopsis

No Entries

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. gratixianum - Joel Graham
2. Phrag. (ecuadorensis X lindleyi) - Bob Travers
3. Tie Paph. Hybrid - Danielle Gent
Paph. Screaming Eagle 'TomCat' AM/AOS - Clark Riley

Dendrobium

1. Den. Marianne Bates 'Harford' - Brenda Logan
2. Den. Hybrid - John Heinbokel
3. Den. rigidum - Chris Zajac

Oncidium

1. Onc. Witches Jewel 'Ivory Lips' - Wanda Kuhn
2. Tie Onc. chaculatum - John Heinbokel
Dgmra. Winter Wonderland - Bob Johnston

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Neost. Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' - Fay Citerone
2. Tie Ctsm. (Frilly Doris X tigrinum) - Joel Graham
Z. Jumpin Jack 'Kalapana' HCC/AOS - Bob Travers
3. Tie Fdk. After Dark 'Sunset Valley' - Aaron Webb
Zns. Blue Bird - Chris Zajac

Species

1. Aer. odorata - Bob Johnston
2. Paph. sukhakulii - Joel Graham

Miniature

1. S. cernua - Brenda Logan

First Bloom Seedling

No Entries

Fragrance

1. Onc. Sharry Baby - Bob Johnston

The Judges Choice of the Evening

Neost. Lou Sneary 'Bluebird', exhibited by Fay Citerone.

Thank You to our judges who were Kathi Jackson, Sarah Spence and Norm Zickhur.

Our show table had an incredible display of 50 beautiful flowering plants.

A special THANKS to all that make our show table such a great success,



Maryland Orchid Society News and Related Events



The Little Greenhouse
Orchids

Holiday Sale!

Exclusively for members of
The Maryland Orchid Society

Take **20% off** all plants purchased from
December 11 through December 24, 2021.

Due to COVID-19, we will not host
our annual Open House. So, pay your
MOS membership and shop at your leisure
and take advantage of this special offer.

MEMBERS' PLANT SALES

To help relieve some of the consequences of canceling the November auction, the Board of Trustees in late September, 2021 chose to open two upcoming meetings to the sale of members' plants. As would have been the case with the auction, all proceeds of these sales will go to MOS. Plant donors will be eligible for tax deductions for charitable contributions.

Keep in mind that plants in bloom are the most desirable; non-blooming plants will be easier to sell if the donor can provide a photo of it in bloom. As with the Show Table, we ask that all plants be healthy, disease- and pest-free, and as accurately labeled as possible. At both meetings, any plant that does not sell will need to go home with the donor.

1. **OCTOBER** monthly meeting has gone by. Over \$800 was raised for MOS. Thanks!
2. **DECEMBER** monthly meeting: This is our traditional holiday party with no outside speaker. All members will be able to contribute plants. Please contribute any plants you think are good candidates for sale. You are welcome to suggest a price (or a minimum price for silent auction specimens) or allow Joel Graham and his minions to set a reasonable price. Please arrive with your plants as early as possible to the Holiday Party, so the set-up and pricing can be completed in a timely manner.

Miscellany

An Every-Once-in-Awhile Item of Potential Interest to the MOS Membership

Have you run into a resource that provides some useful information or just an oddity related to our passion for orchids? Please share that discovery with your friends and colleagues of the MOS. Please submit your findings to John Heinbokel (jheinbokel@hotmail.com), for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

Miscellany is on vacation this month. We'll try to revive it, as we move into the New Year



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Coming Attractions: Maryland Orchid Society

December 11 – 24, 2021

Little Greenhouse MOS Members' Sale (20% off)

December 16, 2021

MOS Monthly Meeting: Holiday Party!

Members' Sale Table (checks or cash); Show Table; Virtual Show Table; Refreshments Table

January 13 – 16, 2022

Rawlings Conservatory/MOS Collaborative Orchid Exhibit (Baltimore, MD)

Plant Donations and Volunteer Staffing Needed

February 2 – 6, 2022

Susquehanna Orchid Society Annual Show (Hershey, PA)

Plant Donations and Volunteers to Set Up and Take Down MOS Exhibit

February 16 – 21, 2022

National Capital Orchid Society Annual Show (Davidsonville, MD)

Plant Donations and Volunteers to Set Up and Take Down MOS Exhibit

March 8 – 13, 2022

Maryland Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale (Timonium, MD)

**Plant Donations; Volunteers to Set Up/Take Down Staging, Clerk for AOS Judges,
& Assist at Show**

Dates TBD

Maryland Orchid Society Annual Public Workshop

Our one day (Saturday) outreach to local wannabe orchid growers. MOS volunteers needed.

April 6 – 10, 2022

Southeast Pennsylvania Orchid Society Annual Show (Philadelphia area, PA)

Plant Donations and Volunteers to Set Up and Take Down MOS Exhibit

January – June, 2022 (3rd Thursday each month)

MOS Monthly Meetings - Hybrid as long as possible, virtual only, if necessary

CONGRATULATIONS TO US !! GOOD NEWS FROM THE AOS !

MOS was recently notified by the AOS that the 'Happy Valentine's Day' display that we entered in the NCOS Annual Show in February 2020 (our last away show before COVID descended on us) has earned the Walter Off Exhibit Award for 2020. Most of the elaboration below is taken from the original MOS Newsletter (March 2020) that discussed our exhibit at that show and from the AOS email that informed us of the prize.



Mostly from the AOS award notification:

Each year the American Orchid Society now honors 23 exhibitors with our year-end Special Annual Awards. It is our distinct honor to advise you that your 2020 AOS award to 'Happy Valentine's Day' SC-ST/AOS has been selected to receive the 2020 WALTER OFF EXHIBIT AWARD.

The Walter Off Exhibit Award is given to an AOS Show Trophy Award, Silver Certificate or Gold Certificate or Educational Award which is recognized as the most outstanding example of these types of awards given at an AOS sanctioned orchid show awarded during the previous calendar year. The Award shall be determined based upon the submissions of photograph(s) from each judging center of its nomination for the award. This award was established in the fall of 2017 and endowed by donations to honor Walter Off, exhibitor and teacher of exhibition.

The awards will be presented at our Town Hall Meeting on Saturday April 9, 2022 during the AOS Spring Members' Meeting and Centennial Celebration, at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. [The Walter Off Exhibit Award includes a commemorative plaque and a cash prize (depending on the financial performance of the award endowment at the end of the year).]

All of the 2020 Special Awards ... will also be featured in an article in the April 2022 issue of *Orchids (The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society)*.

It is exhibitors like you who make our organization as great as it is, and we thank you for your participation in our judging process. ... Once again, congratulations!

As is the case with so much of what we do as the MOS, this success is recognition of the broad-based collaborative effort we devote to our activities. That's illustrated by the following from the the March 2020 Newsletter:

Thanks to the design help of Marc Kiriou and the physical help of Robert and Susan Travers, Al and Wanda Kuhn, Clark Riley, Daniel Woodburn and the generous donation of plants from Fay Citerone, Suzanne Gaertner, Teena and Randy Hallameyer, John Heinbokel, Sarah Hurdel, Robert Johnston, Marc Kiriou, Al and Wanda Kuhn, Marilyn Lauffer, Valerie Lowe, Michael Moran, Sally Over, Mark Robbins, Laura Sobelman, Sarah Spence, Clark Riley, David Smith, Robert Travers, Eric Wiles, Daniel Woodburn, Barry Woolf and The Little Greenhouse, the Maryland Orchid Society installed a 50+ sq. ft. exhibit which received First place in its class, the Best Society Exhibit in the Show, the Best Exhibit in Show and the AOS Show Trophy. Our exhibit also received an **86 point Silver Certificate from the AOS.**

[Thanks are also due to] Fay Citerone, John Heinbokel, Sarah Hurdel, Sally Over, Clark Riley, Robert and Susan Travers, and Eric Wiles and Tammy Grub for helping to tear down the exhibit, getting it packed up, and transported home.

Please accept my thanks to all who contributed! As we begin to move back into the show circuit next spring, we have a high standard to maintain. I hope this helps to provide a little push of incentive, as we step back into those competitive arenas.

John Heinbokel
November 2021



2021 DECEMBER AOS Corner – for [Affiliated Societies](#)

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications. We encourage use of the [AOS website](#) by all members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENTLY RECOGNIZED AFFILIATES

The Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award (DASSA)

This prestigious award is given to an affiliate in recognition of sustained, outstanding contributions in areas of service and support in the field of orchidology.



We called for DASSA nominations back in June. Thank you everyone for your submissions. We were pleased to get a diverse group of submissions from the Caribbean to Canada and across the USA. Each society in their own way has supported and fulfilled the mission of the AOS as demonstrated by their submissions. The nominations were reviewed by the Affiliated Societies Committee and submitted to the AOS Board of Trustees.

The original plan was to recognize our affiliates in person, at the Centennial Celebration Town Hall, at the AOS Members Meeting, held this fall. We were a bit disappointed when it was announced that the fall meeting was to be virtual, as this stubborn pandemic continues to upend our best laid plans.

DASSA recognition was given to all six of the societies that submitted their nominations at the virtual Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, October 30. They were announced by AOS President, Robert Fuchs. If you didn't have a chance to attend, the Town Hall meeting is posted on the [AOS webinars page](#). The winners were also recognized in our Affiliated Societies Facebook Group immediately following the AOS Virtual Meeting. The six awarded societies will be included in the special Centennial booklet available at the Spring AOS Members Meeting. Each Society will receive also a commemorative DASSA plaque.

- Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
- San Francisco Orchid Society
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society
- Southern Ontario Orchid Society
- St. Croix Orchid Society
- Tampa Bay Orchid Society

Congratulations all! Keep up the good works!

Whether a society is large or small, celebrating their 5th anniversary or their 50th anniversary, we encourage our affiliates to review your society lifetime accomplishments and submit a [DASSA nomination](#) to be considered for AOS recognition.

IMPORTANT: RENEW YOUR Society Affiliation
Are you EXPIRED? OVERDUE? DISBANDED? UNSURE?

We realize that many of our societies have not regularly met in person during these challenging times. We want to stay connected. The best way to do that is to make certain that your [society membership](#) is up to date.

To continue receiving the AOS Corner and all of the benefits of being an Affiliated Society, your society must be current on their membership. Have you recently changed leadership in your society? New AOS Representative? New President? New Newsletter Editor? We also must receive your [updated Affiliate information](#).

*Individual society membership and AOS Membership are not the same.
Although affiliated, each requires separate membership dues and benefits may vary.*

Sign-up new AOS members

EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY

Affiliated Societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member they recruit. If you start now, with twelve new AOS members, your Affiliated Society can obtain a FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership!

NOTICE: For new individual members who sign up on the AOS website, please email sandra@aos.org within thirty days of joining and advise your Affiliated Society name and your membership number so extension credits can be added to the account. Be sure and advise new members to note their society affiliation in the comments section on the printed membership form (or call the main office with your society name).

HOW TO GET A SHOW or EVENT ANNOUNCED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE AND ON THE AOS WEBSITE

We NEED Your Complete Information for EVENT Listings
in ORCHIDS Magazine and on the AOS Website

It all starts with an application. This form must be filled out completely for all events that you wish to be published in ORCHIDS magazine and on the AOS website, whether or not there is AOS judging.

If you need AOS Judging at your event, a completed application is required. Your application must be signed by the Judging Center Chair before it is sent to the office. Your Judging Center Chair may choose to send the signed application to the office via email to match with your electronic or postal mailed application. Alternately, you may need to check with your judging center for any other processing requirements.

If you choose not to have AOS judging, you still need to complete all of the information at the top of the form. When you come to the judging information fill in NO JUDGING in the section under Judging Center Responsible.

Send completed application by email to theaos@aos.org or by USPS to the P.O. Box on the top of the form.

Sign-up new AOS members

EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY

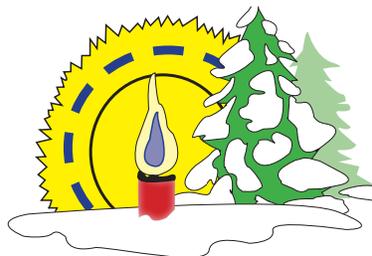
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Send completed application by email to theaos@aos.org or by USPS to the P.O. Box on the top of the form.



WE NEED COMPLETE INFORMATION TO PROCESS YOUR EVENT



AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY
 PO Box 565477
 Miami, FL 33256-5477
 Phone: (305) 740-2010
 Fax: (305) 747-7154

Postal
Mailing
Address

Application for AOS-Sanctioned Show/Event
Current AOS Membership for Society and AOS Rep are required for AOS Show Approval

Sponsoring Affiliated Society _____
 Society AOS Member No. _____ Exp Date _____

Society's AOS Representative _____
 Rep AOS Member No. _____ Exp Date _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Name of Show _____
 Show Location/Venue _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Show Dates _____ Date of AOS Judging _____
 Show Times _____ Judging Time _____

Show/Event Chair _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Judging Center responsible for AOS Judging _____
 AOS Show Judging Chair (for your show) _____

Fill out with **NO JUDGING** for non-judged event

Names of at least four (4) other Certified Judges who have consented to serve, of which three (3) are accredited
 Certified Judge Name _____ Certified Judge Name _____
 Certified Judge Name _____ Certified Judge Name _____

Name of photographer who has consented to serve: _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Note: Cost of award photography is the responsibility of the host society, not the exhibitor

Applicant Name _____ Date _____
 Judging Center Chair Approval _____ Date _____

Are you requesting an AOS Show Trophy? Yes No

Note: Please note that AOS Show Trophies will be delivered in person by Judging Center on the scheduled day of judging

AOS SHOW FEES
Due at least two (2) months prior to the show

Judging/Processing Fees (waived for outreach judging) \$60.00
 AOS Show Trophy (if requested) \$70.00

I have paid online under Order No. _____
 I enclose my check or money order made payable (US Funds) through a US Bank to: American Orchid Society
 Charge my credit card: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Cardholder Name (Please Print) _____
 Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ CVV Code _____
 Cardholder Signature _____ Total \$ _____

← Were it all starts. Use this form for all events, wether AOS judged or not.

Once processed, your application information appears in ORCHIDS magazine and on the AOS website Calendar

"Orchids Under the Dome," Buffalo & Erie Co. Botanical Gardens, 2033 South Park Ave., Buffalo, NY. Contact: Diana Lipowicz, 716-476-7008, dlipowicz@eriedomem.com

19-21—Alabama Orchid Society Show and Sale, Atlanta Botanic Garden, 1345 Peachwood Ave NE, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Deery Lantz, 770-862-6973, @delaquinn@albogardens.net

12—Orchid Growers Guild's "Orchid Quest," Orchid Botanical Gardens, 3330 Alwood Ave, Madison, WI. Contact: Terri Kowalczyk, 608-992-7906, lindsay@orbogardens.com

18—New England Judging Center Annual Auction, First Presbyterian Church, 14 Hanover Road, East Hanover, NJ. Contact: Wayne Wiggand, 781-856-1632, wiggand@necan.org for details.

25-27—New Hampshire Orchid Society's "A Beauty of Orchids," The Event Center at the Courtyard Marriott, 2300 Southwood Drive, Nashville, TN. Contact: Beverly Campbell, 615-540-8195, bccampbe013@comcast.net



Madison Orchid Growers Guild "Orchid Quest"

February 5, 2022

Contact: Terri Kowalczyk (305) 740-7165, wiggand@necan.org

Location: Orchid Botanical Gardens, 3330 Alwood Ave, Madison, WI 53724



Madison Orchid Growers Guild "Orchid Quest" is being held February 5th, 2022 at the Orchid Botanical Gardens, 3330 Alwood Ave, Madison, WI 53724.

Judging is being held on February 5, 2022 at 7:30 AM.

Don't forget to contact theaos@aos.org and ask for a promotional show package for your show or event (membership forms, flyers, and some copies of ORCHIDS magazine). These items can be placed on your membership or welcome table. Please give the office at least four weeks advance notice to allow adequate time for shipping. Remember to ask your local judging center chair to bring the AOS banner and the cloth table cover to dress up the table. If your event plans should change or get cancelled for any reason, please notify the main office as soon as possible to update online calendars.

GET MORE PUBLICITY FOR YOUR ORCHID SHOW or EVENT

50% Discount for AOS Affiliates on print advertising in ORCHIDS magazine. Distribution to over 10,000 members online or in print! Check out the [regular advertising rate card](#) and calculate your savings. If you would like additional advertising in ORCHIDS or on the AOS website, contact Kevin Hall, 785-865-9143. Please be mindful of submission deadline dates to assure your ad is placed in a timely manner. khall@allenpress.com
Attention: ORCHID GROWERS

Everyone is pleased to see society members share their plants on the show and tell bloom table at society meetings each month. Some societies have AOS judges in their midst and they review the plants that have been brought in. Many of those entries are AOS award worthy. Individual growers are encouraged to exhibit their orchids for review at an AOS judging center and enter them for judging in local shows. You are most welcome to come and observe the judging process with or without a plant entry. Judging centers are open to the public.

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Where is your nearest [AOS Judging Center?](#)

The AOS's judging system is comprised of 26 Centers encompassing 34 sites throughout the United States and Canada. Many of the Judging Centers have links to their local websites on the [Orchid Awards & Judging](#) page of the AOS website.

These Centers provide opportunities to have plants judged on specified monthly dates. The Centers also provide judging service to AOS sanctioned shows here and abroad. Center activities are open to visitors who wish to see the service to AOS sanctioned shows here and abroad. Center activities are open to visitors who wish to see the judging process in person or bring their plants to be evaluated. Meeting dates, times, places and contact information are published each month in ORCHIDS magazine as well as on the AOS website [Events Calendar](#).

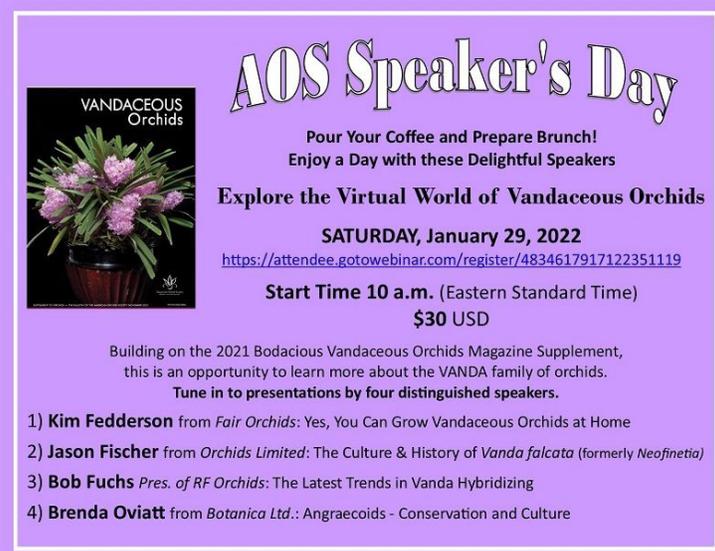
Orchid plants may be submitted for judging using the following guidelines. All orchid plants or cut flowers submitted at a monthly judging session are candidates for an award. Plants must be entered in the most presentable condition possible.

Judging Center plant entries may be submitted by the owner in person or by someone else on his/her behalf. The exhibitor completes a single sheet entry form for each plant entered for judging. After an entry number is assigned and annotated on the form by the Judging Center Clerk, the exhibitor places the [entry form](#) with the plant on the display table.



The image shows a 'JUDGING ENTRY FORM' from the American Orchid Society. It includes fields for Place, Date, Entry #, Name of Plant, Clonal Name, Parentage, and Comments. There is also a section for 'Previous Awards received by this plant' and a checkbox for 'Has plant been submitted previously for AOS judging of the same inflorescence? YES NO '. A small note at the bottom states: 'All entries are subject to Rules and Regulations as outlined in the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition, published by the American Orchid Society.'

NEW FOR THE NEW YEAR! Put This On Your 2022 Calendar
[REGISTER HERE](#)



AOS Speaker's Day
Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch!
Enjoy a Day with these Delightful Speakers
Explore the Virtual World of Vandaceous Orchids
SATURDAY, January 29, 2022
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4834617917122351119>
Start Time 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)
\$30 USD
Building on the 2021 Bodacious Vandaceous Orchids Magazine Supplement, this is an opportunity to learn more about the VANDA family of orchids.
Tune in to presentations by four distinguished speakers.
1) **Kim Fedderson** from *Fair Orchids*: Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids at Home
2) **Jason Fischer** from *Orchids Limited*: The Culture & History of *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinetia*)
3) **Bob Fuchs** Pres. of *RF Orchids*: The Latest Trends in Vanda Hybridizing
4) **Brenda Oviatt** from *Botanica Ltd.*: Angraecoids - Conservation and Culture

During the Holiday Break - Catch Up On Recorded Webinars
[REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

Webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.
GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.
Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,
Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.
NEW WEBINARS COMING IN JANUARY 2022

Webinars - On Demand!

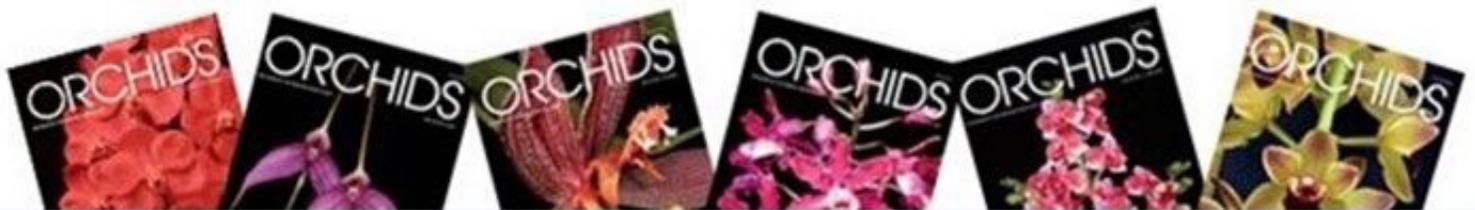
REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>



Sign on to the AOS Website
Watch Recorded Webinars Any Time

Topic	Greenhouse Chats	Species and Hybrids	Culture	Pests and Diseases	Judging
Feature	Greenhouse Chat Webinars are indexed by topic	Learn about well known and unknown orchids	Learn about best care practices in your orchid collection	Understand what's bugging your collection and control tips	Sit in and learn the judging aspect along with criteria to grant an award

NEW WEBINARS COMING IN JANUARY 2022



ORCHIDS
 The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society

CONTENTS

December 2014 Volume 83 Number 12

TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST

Reprint **December: The Month of Gifts**

By Thomas Mirenda

They say it is better to give than to receive, but I am not so sure that is entirely true. Sure, seeing the joy and satisfaction on a loved one's face as they unwrap that perfect present you hand selected and lovingly wrapped for them can be an absolutely sublime pleasure. But it can be equally sublime to be on the receiving end of the transaction too. Gifts are not always material things. All of us have been blessed with unique combinations of talents and abilities that are ours alone, bestowed upon us by some benign force. We have also all been given our own unique sorrows, burdens and insecurities by forces that seem random, unfair and arbitrary. Yes, gifts are not always all that pleasant to get, and often involve dutiful responsibility and conscientious effort to preserve and protect them once received. At the Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Collection, we are occasionally entrusted with legacy collections. These often consist of beloved, pampered plants that were carefully nurtured by someone's loving care for many decades. Thirty-year old specimen plants can be really magnificent and such extravagant gifts make our collection even more special. But having such plants entrusted to us is

a serious responsibility. It is our stability and commitment to collection excellence that allows people to have enough confidence to gift us with such outstanding treasures. Indeed, it is truly wonderful to “receive.”

GIVE ME A BREAK With the shortest daylengths of the year coming up this month, many orchids need a serious rest at this time. Deciduous orchids such as catasetums, lycastes, nobile dendrobiums, habenarias and several others require extremely dry conditions in winter and can be seriously harmed by over exposure to water. Once a plant shuts down its metabolism for the season, a soaking will most likely make that plant rot away. Even plants that retain their leaves, such as cattleyas, oncidiums and phalaenopsis are still growing more slowly or gearing up to bloom and do not require nearly the amount of food and water they did in the spring and summer seasons.

GIMME SHELTER In temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere, most orchids are being sheltered from the cold in greenhouses, light rooms and windowsills. Tropical orchids would not survive outdoors in colder climates. It is imperative that your growing area be well insulated from cold. Check to be sure there are no cold drafts or greenhouse cracks and that heaters, cold-alarms and circulating fans are in good working order. A little attention to winterizing your set up now can prevent serious heartbreak when the extreme cold weather hits.

GIVE AND STAKE Cymbidiums and phalaenopsis have been elongating their spikes this month and are starting to bud up nicely. As the buds fatten, spikes need additional support, or they will sag or even become pendent. This might be attractive on a mounted or hanging-basket plant, but virtually all potted orchid plants should have their spikes supported with a stake. Always try to do this before the flowers open or they might be angled funny. There is nothing more disconcerting than facing an orchid where the flower is sideways, or worse, upside down, because it was staked too late.

GIMME SOME LOVIN’ This may sound a little crazy, but over the years, I have noticed that orchids can pick up on my mood. When I am distraught, so are they! They simply do not grow as well. When they all get the same care, and I am just going through the motions, they muddle along with me, but do not really thrive. However, when I admire and appreciate them all as individuals and take the time to enjoy and learn about each plant’s individuality, it is then that my greatest growing successes come my way. I believe the plants can sense when they are truly admired and appreciated. If you give them that simple act of commitment and love, they will pay you back with the greatest gift of all, their spectacular flowers.

— Tom Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center ([email: biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)) ORCHIDS Magazine (aos.org)

To receive a FREE digital sample of ORCHIDS magazine click here



Centennial Celebration at the Spring Members Meeting

Make plans now to attend this once in a lifetime event. Come meet and mingle with other orchid enthusiasts that support the mission of the AOS, April 06-09, 2022. Meet the office staff. Come hear what is happening in the AOS. Learn about the people who volunteer their time to this passion we all love. All AOS members are invited to attend committee and board meetings. Sit in on a **committee meeting**. Commit to a committee! Become a new volunteer! It’s peak season in South Florida. Don’t wait to book your [accommodations!](#) Explore the historic Biltmore hotel in Coral Gables. [Register now](#)

We Are Your National Volunteers Let us Know What We Can Do For You

Valued Members and Volunteers

An organization is only as good as its members. The AOS is deeply indebted to the many talented and dedicated volunteers who give their time and service to encourage a widespread interest in orchids. They advance the mission of the AOS more than they will ever know. *Please contact any of us if you would like to join our committee.*

Affiliated Societies Committee

affiliated_societies@aos.org
Denise Lucero, Chair
Chad Brinkerhuff, Lois Dauelsberg, Edna Hamilton, Eileen Hector (vice-chair), Candace Hollinger, Donna Petitt, Graham Ramsey, Alex Rodriguez
Staff liaison: Naya Marcano

If you would like to spotlight an issue or share news with other affiliated societies, we welcome your input. Let us know what you would like to see in this newsletter! If there is something within your society that is working extremely well – let’s share it here. If there is something you could use help with – let us know. By chance, another affiliate may be able to offer a solution, or want to try something you have achieved. Your contributions are critical to bringing fresh, timely content to this publication each month. Please send your questions, solutions, and submissions for the AOS Corner to eileenh@aos.org or askmasc@verizon.net



***Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner!
May all your holiday celebrations be joyful!***

Eileen Hector

AOS Corner - Affiliated Societies Newsletter Editor

American Orchid Society | PO Box 565477 | Miami FL 33256-5477
Telephone: 305-740-2010 | FAX: 305-747-7154

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*Away Shows
and
AOS
Representative
Valerie Lowe*



happy holidays

*From The Newsletter Crew
John, Sarah, Laura, Clark, and Barbara*

Maryland Orchid Society Officers and Committees

Officers

PRESIDENT

John Heinbokel 410-517-1460
heinbokel@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Laura Sobelman 410-615-2445
lmsobes@gmail.com

TREASURER

John Dunning 443-687-6878
princetiger@gmail.com

SECRETARY

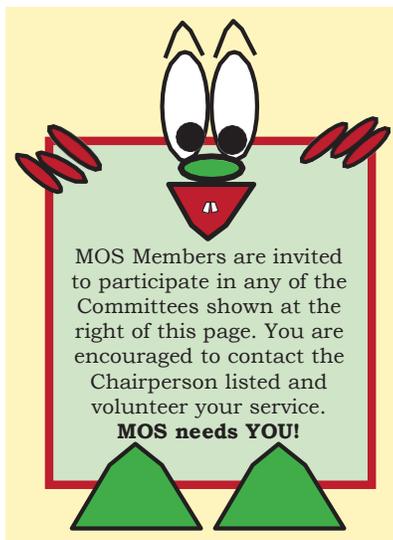
Ellie Martin 410-647-6796
2elliemartin@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Sarah Spence 443-570-3495
slspence@live.com

DIRECTOR

Diane Elam 240-793-9981
dianeelam@yahoo.com
Brenda Logan 443-687-6272
bllogan8@comcast.net



Committees

AOS/ODC REPRESENTATIVE

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

AUCTION

Aaron Webb 410-419-1312
awebb71574@aol.com
Sarah Spence

AWAY SHOWS

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

EDUCATION and ACTIVITIES

Eric Wiles (Activities) 410-984-2180
winvet88@yahoo.com
Sarah Spence
David Smith (Education)
410-526-0179
fpsakes1@aol.com

HOSPITALITY

Margaret Smith 410-526-0179
fpsakes1@aol.com
Teena Hallameyer
Brenda Logan

HOUSE

Marc Kiriou 443-509-0084
gothiclord01@yahoo.com
Ernie Drohan
Bob Johnston
Randy Hallameyer
Clark Riley

LIBRARY

Wanda Kuhn 410-286-3868
kuhnwa@verizon.net
Suzanne Gaertner

MEMBERSHIP

Sarah Spence 410-243-3377
slspence@live.com
Laura Sobelman

NEWSLETTER

Barbara Buck 443-371-7596
barbarabuck2015@comcast.net
Laura Sobelman
Sarah Spence

PROGRAM

Fay Citerone 443-326-8541
fay.citerone@gmail.com
John Heinbokel

REFRESHMENTS

Barbara Buck 443-371-7596
barbarabuck2015@comcast.net
Teena Hallameyer
Brenda Logan

SHOW

Marc Kiriou 443-509-0084
gothiclord01@yahoo.com
Valerie Lowe
Sarah Spence

SHOW TABLE

Thomas McBride 410-661-4748
orchidudes@aol.com
Joel Graham
Bob Travers
Clark Riley

SOCIAL MEDIA

Joel Graham 814-441-2090
jegmicrobe@gmail.com

SUNSHINE

Pat Schiavi 410-526 6544
paschiavi@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

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

The MOS meets at the Woodbrook Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212, the third Thursday of each month, September through June. The Show Table setup begins at 7:00 p.m. followed by judging at 7:30 p.m. The Education Corner and Library open at 7:15 p.m. The program commences at 8:00 p.m. and adjourns at approximately 9:30 p.m.