



ORCHID *newsletter*



News and information from the Maryland Orchid Society

June 2024

******* Please note: We will not be meeting via Zoom during June's meeting! *******

President's Message

Moving on! Moving ahead!!

Four years ago, when our monthly meetings were canceled and our Officers' elections postponed due to COVID, being in a place to put these words to paper (or text to screen) seemed far too far in the future to be credible. But here we are: I am writing and at least a couple of you, I hope, are reading my last (of 39) President's Message before I move on from that role. And, as much as I'd like to be profound and articulate and amaze you with my insights, there's really only one simple message that needs to be conveyed:

THANK YOU! We've moved through that challenge. Membership is strong and growing; the plants we grow and display are abundant, diverse, and beautiful; and

our finances feel solid. I'd love to take credit for all that good stuff, but that credit belongs elsewhere. I've been so fortunate in my colleagues here in MOS! -- fellow officers who made the nitty-gritty administrative details work smoothly; committee chairs and active committee members who guided our diverse and challenging program of activities; and, of course, the membership as a whole, who are always there to volunteer time and energy, who contribute plants and pot-luck munchies, who grow and share wonderful plants; and who challenge and encourage each other to step up and do better. All that makes the President's job incredibly rewarding and relatively easy. Again, Thank YOU!

If the MOS is going to continue growing and improving, however, my successor as President is going to need you all to keep on keeping on as active and contributing members, committee chairs, and board members! If we all give Bob Travers the same level of support that I received, MOS will continue to move ahead, grow, and improve. Please join me in pledging to make that happen!

As always One last time: stay safe and healthy, grow beautiful orchids, and share them with us.

John Heinbokel
May 30, 2024



Our June Speaker is Greg Griffis

Greg Griffis first became aware of orchids in 2009. He first heard about them through a college friend, who had always admired orchids. Studying at West Chester University, from which he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Music Education, put him in close proximity to Longwood Gardens. He attended the 2010 Longwood Orchid Show where he purchased his first orchid.



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Novice

1. No Entry

Homegrown

1. *Encyclia tampensis* - Dave Smith
2. Tie Masd. Redwing 'Sugar Hill' - Robin Neukam
Mltnps. Andrea West - Amanda Gallegos
3. Tie C. Rubin 'Loch Raven' - Gary Smith
Onc. ampliatum - Kathi Jackson

Greenhouse

1. *L. purpurata* (var. *concolor* x v. *suavissima*) - Jos Venturina
2. Cda. Louis Posey - Clark Riley

Cattleya

1. Rlc. Volcana Spring 'Volcano Queen' - Luis Molina
2. Tie. C. Louise Georgiana - Chris Zajac
L. purpurata (*vinicolor* x *atropurpurea*) - Bob Johnston
3. Tie. Lc. Busg Bev 'Blue Jewel' AM/AOS - Wanda Kuhn
Enc. Noid 'Donavan Collection' - John Heinbokel

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Green Apples - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Phal. Little Gem Stripes - Amanda Gallegos
Phal. Norman's Elusive Butterfly - Marc Kiriou
3. Phal. Nola Bel - Laura Sobelman

Paphiopedilum

1. Phrag. Geralda 'Harford' - Robin Neukam
2. Tie Phrag. Grande 'Upperco' HCC/AOS - Chris Zajac
Paph. Hawaiian Tea 'Susan J' AM/AOS - Bob Travers
3. Paph. (Yang-Ji Apple x Hung Sheng General) - Clark Riley

Dendrobium

1. *Den. amabile* - Jos Venturina
2. Den. Love Memory 'Fizz' - Wanda Kuhn

Oncidium

1. Mltnps. Breathless 'Brilliant' - Luis Molina
2. Onc. Jiaho Queen 'Jiaho' - Jos Venturina
3. Tol. Orchidom Roman - Fay Citerone

Miscellaneous

1. V. Dragon's Throat - Arne Schon
2. Prra. Thai After Glow - Brenda Logan
3. Lyc. Lemon Twist - Mai Conaway

Species

1. *Enc. citrina* - Arne Schon
2. *Ble. striata* - Chris Zajac
3. Tie *Dmd. stenopetala* - Bob Travers
Die. ophrydis - Maria & Norm Zickhur
Sarc. sceptroides - Fay Citerone

Miniature

1. Neo. hybrid - Phuong Tran and Rich Kaste
2. *Phal. parishii* - Arne Schon
3. Tie Tol. Variegata - Robin Neukam
Phal. Evarise Blue Angel 'Purple Halo' - Sarah. L. Spence

First Bloom

1. Phrag. (*longifolium* x Estelle Getty) - Joel Graham
2. *Paph. liemianum* - Marc Kiriou

Fragrance

1. *Neo. falcata* - Phuong Tran and Rich Kaste
2. *Rl. digbyana* 'Mrs Chase' - Wanda Kuhn
3. Lc. Loog Tone 'African Beauty' - Bob Johnston

Wow! A stunning, diverse and well grown show table for late in the season. You make this show table what it is, and we are grateful. We had 75 blooming plants on the show table, several of them spectacular specimen plants. **The Judges' choice for the evening went to the spectacular *L. purpurata* with 23 large and perfectly presented flowers brought in by Jos Venturina.** Judges for the evening were Marc Kiriou, Sarah Spence and Gary Smith. Other exhibitors not mentioned above were Diane Elam, Bill Franke, Kathi Jackson, Vincent Russo, David Smith, Aaron Webb, and Eric Wiles.



The Royal Horticultural Society: Registering interest

Recent additions to the RHS Orchid Register that have grabbed the Registrar's attention.



Sarah Hurdell is now internationally famous for her work in Habenaria orchids! Pectabenaria Ambrosia is her first registered hybrid. She named it for the ambrosia salad dessert that shares a similar color palette. I think the orchid is more appealing.

Pectabenaria Ambrosia is a cross between Habenaria Erich's Pink Thing and Pecteilis *hawkesiana*.

- Gary Smith



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MISCELLANY

An Every-Once-in-a-While (Monthly?) 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.

So Soon After Mothers' Day ...

It's been 'common knowledge' for a long time that fungal symbiosis can be a critical factor in nurturing newly germinated 'dust seeds' of many orchids. What is just now coming to light, however, is the role played by the parent (mother) orchids in that support role. A recent study from Great Britain (<https://phys.org/news/2024-05-orchid-nurture-seedlings-underground-fungal.html>) expands our understanding of that symbiotic network. Apparently, at least for the U.K.'s Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), it's not just the fungi providing the nutrition to the young protocorms. Adult plants were documented passing along newly produced organic material (food) to the fungal network for delivery to the young orchids.

The original full article, published in *New Phytologist*, can be found at <https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nph.19810>.

Submitted by John Heinbokel, May 30, 2024



Credit: John Haggard, Hardy Orchid Society

Local AOS News

May 4, 2024: National Capital Judging Center

Jos Venturina's plant of *Dendrobium auriculatum* 'Memoria Gary D. Krause' received an 80 point Award of Merit (AM) from the American Orchid Society.



Dendrobium auriculatum 'Memoria Gary D. Krause'

Jason Gebbia's plant of *Guaricattonia Sadie Rainn* 'North Cascades' received an 85 point AM. His *Phragmipedium* hybrid of (*besseae* x *Asendorf Rose*) received an 82 point AM.



Guaricattonia Sadie Rainn 'North Cascades'

National Capital Judging Center (NCJC)

The NCJC will be meeting on July 13, 2024 at the Saint James United Methodist Church located at 12470 Old Frederick Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104. Judging starts at noon. Everyone is welcome to come, whether you have plants you want considered for an American Orchid Society Award or not.



Phragmipedium (*besseae* x *Asendorf Rose*)

SILENT AUCTION June 20, 2024

A generous person has donated the following plants that will be available for sale as a silent auction at our monthly meeting on June 20th. All proceeds benefit the Maryland Orchid Society!



Platycerium coronarium (spore)



Platycerium elephantotis



Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis

Coming Attractions: June 2024 -

We'll be putting together a full calendar for 2024-25 which should be appearing in the September Newsletter. In the meantime, since our chances to communicate will be reduced for the next couple months, here are some things to keep in mind over the summer:

July 6: Monthly Judging Session. NCJC (National Capital Judging Center) - St. James United Methodist Church – 10:30 – 4:30 (12470 Old Frederick Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104).

July 18: Summer ZOOM Show Table #1. Entries in the summer Show Tables don't count toward award plants in September, but it's a great chance to check in with your friends and brag a bit about your plants that otherwise would be unappreciated.

July 25: MOS Board of Trustees. The Board Meeting will be held at Woodbrook Church, the hall will open at 6:30 pm and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00. All Officers and Committee Chairs are expected to attend in person. This is a working session but as always all members are welcome to attend, contact Bob Travers if you plan to attend. Lite fare and water will be provided for the board members. A key deliverable for the July 25 Board Meeting will be the Budget for Fiscal year September 2024 to August 2025.

July 27: Annual MOS Picnic! Mid-afternoon into evening on Saturday at Eric Wiles' farm in Westminster. Burgers, hot dogs, soda and water will be provided; other sides are solicited from those attending. Specific time and rain-check options will be forthcoming.

August 3: Monthly Judging Session. NCJC - St. James United Methodist Church – 10:30 – 4:30 (12470 Old Frederick Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104).

August 15: Summer ZOOM Show Table #2. Just like the one in July, but think of it as a dry-run for the State Fair (next).

August 18 or 19 - : Maryland State Fair. MOS sponsors and judges an orchid show each year at the State Fair in Timonium (<https://marylandstatefair.com/open-class-farm-garden/>). It's a place to show off, recruit members, publicize our Auction, and your best chance to win cash prizes to go with your ribbons! Classes for experienced growers: J88 Orchid, any variety*; J89 Phalaenopsis*; J90 Cattleya*; J91 Lady Slipper; J92 Dendrobium; J93 Oncidium; J94 Most Fragrant (*also available for Novice Growers). Registration and set-up: Sunday, August 18, 2024, from 3PM to 8PM; and Monday, August 19, 2024, from 9AM to 7PM. Plant retrieval, TBD.

September 7: Monthly Judging Session. NCJC - St. James United Methodist Church – 10:30 – 4:30 (12470 Old Frederick Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104).

September 19: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting: 'Show Table Awards.'

September 28: NCOS Annual Auction.

TBD: Shed repair. See article submitted by Bob Travers elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Fall – Advance Notices:

November 16: MOS Annual Auction. Yes it's a long way in the future, but planning and prepping your plant contributions is best started well in advance. Again, Bob Travers offers some guidance in this Newsletter.

NCOS Annual Show: Scuttlebutt has it that our NCOS friends and neighbors are exploring options for returning their annual show to the Fall. That's still a work in progress for them, but HEADS-UP! We may be calling for plant contributions and volunteer display builders at a new time this Fall!

Submitted by John Heinbokel & Bob Travers, June 1, 2024.



Chimp



Help needed: Call for helpers for Summer 2024 MOS Shed Repair



The above picture on the left is from the January 2010 MOS Newsletter the last time the Shed had some tender loving care, the pictures on the right are today's condition. The shed is located at 12940 Triadelphia Mill Road, Clarksville, Md. 21029. The shed is used for storage of MOS Show, Auction, Away Show and past events supplies. We are grateful to Danny Adams, a MOS Life Member, for providing us with the space for our shed free of charge for probably 20 years.

On May 3rd John Heinbokel, Bob and Susan Travers, and Marc Kiriou met at the shed to evaluate the shed condition. We determined there are necessary repairs to be accomplished this summer and are calling for volunteers to help. At this time, we don't have a date but if you would like to participate, please text Bob Travers 410-336-3873 and you will be added to the will call list as we set a date. Most likely we will schedule for weekend work. There may be a call for a mid-week materials delivery, we will have to move materials into the shed before work begins.

What's the work?

The left side of the shed has some lower T1-11 panel rot issues, as does the back wall. These will be repaneled. The front wall with the double doors needs reframing and squaring. The right wall is in good shape and needs preparation for repainting. The whole shed will need repainting. The roof needs to be replaced and the replacement of one water damaged decking panel. The window in the back needs reframing. The good news is the floor is in good condition.

Skills needed; Basic home owner maintenance skills, Hammering, Measuring, Sawing, Sanding, Painting, Group Lifting, Clean up after, Enjoy group participation.

Tools needed; There is electricity available. If you have some electric or battery powered tools that may be useful, please include them in your text to Bob. Does anyone have a roofing shingle ripping tool? Personal hand tools are welcome, just label them so they go home with you. Tools: Paint Brushes/Rollers/Pans/Scrapers/ ladders (6')/ Hammers/Screw Drivers/ Sawhorses/nail gun/staple gun/ radial saw/ tape measure/pencils/paper/squares/tarps/ trash haul away/shingle remover tool/ nail clean up magnet/easy up for shade/folding chairs, water, food, Trash Haul Away Plan.

Cost: We are still pricing materials; however, we are anticipating about \$1500. This Shed Maintenance is an unbudgeted activity for the Society, and we will accept Directed Donations to help offset this expense. Donations to the Maryland Orchid Society are Tax Deductible.

Submitted by Bob Travers

How do these pictures relate to your orchid summertime?



The first picture is David Smith demonstrating repotting an orchid at one of our spring workshops. Many of us are repotting our orchids in earnest to beat the summer heat. Some plants will be potted up so they may grow to become beautiful specimens and future MOS and AOS award winners. Others are ready to be divided. The next two pictures are from a November MOS Annual Auction and are included to ask you to consider potting some divisions for donation to the **MOS Annual Auction Nov 16, 2024**. We welcome donations of plants that are named and those that have been awarded – these will raise the most money. NOIDs are also welcome. The annual auction is the primary revenue maker for funding our MOS activities, including the fundamentals of meeting hall donation, speaker fees, refreshments, promotion, etc. Your donations are tax deductible.

Oh, by the way, a few things to remember as you are repotting.

- Use clean or new pots.
- Use sterilized or single use cutting devices.
- Always put labels back in your plant's pot where the name is known. If you don't know the name, still make a label with the genera and color. Pre-make your labels if dividing so they are ready when you are done potting.
- Take and save digital photos of your plants in bloom and name the photo file with the plant name. This comes in handy when you lose a label. If the plant blooms this summer, you can submit the picture for the July or August Zoom meeting Virtual Show Table (VST). Sorry there are no exhibitor points in July and August VST. These pictures can be used to make picture labels for plants donated to the MOS auction. More on this in the fall.

Happy Growing and Potting!

Submitted by Bob Travers



Cooking Orchids in Your Car and Other Hazards of Summer

Though the public often pictures orchids as heat-loving plants, we know they often prefer the same pleasant temperatures we like — year round. As with us humans, summer conditions can be rough on orchids, even deadly.

Car transport: You've just picked up a beautiful box of orchids at your favorite orchid nursery or shop and are on your way home. But you need to stop at the grocery for just a couple of items. **DANGER!** The temperature of a closed car can soar to 150° F in a matter of minutes out in the sun. You may return to an ugly box of dead orchids. Put off that grocery trip or leave the car open and attended.

Sunshine: Your beautiful box is safely home and you know those Cattleyas and Catasetums enjoy bright light, so you check out the sun porch. **DANGER!** Cattleyas, Catasetums, and Habenarias do like bright light, even full sun, but they must adjust to the higher light, producing the leaf colors and structures to cope with the heavy light. Bring them out slowly, cover them with cheesecloth for a few weeks, and mist them frequently at first.

Outdoor violence: You were listening in the Maryland Orchid Society programs about how orchids thrive with a summer outdoors, so you've set up the deck for your plants. **DANGER!** Without some planning, your plants are at the mercy of the forces of nature. Heavy winds, thunderstorms, and marauding animals (dogs and cats, we're talking about *you!*) can knock the pots over, breaking the pots and the plants and exposing them to drying out. Have some barriers around your summering area and consider setting your plastic potted plants in terra cotta ("clay") pots for stability.

Summer is a great time for your plants if you take a few precautions. They'll bloom better and bigger after their summer vacation.

Clark Riley

Our June Speaker is Greg Griffis continued from page 1

One plant quickly became twenty or so, and before long he was hooked. In 2010 he visited Parkside Orchid Nursery for the first time, and by Summer 2011 he was working part time for Tom Purviance and John Salventi. He studied under their tutelage while working for them, and when they sold the nursery in 2012, he was hired by the new owners as the Grower and Manager of Parkside Orchid Nursery. He managed Parkside for one year, before leaving to grow orchids in Hawaii.

In Hawaii he worked for Hilo Orchid Farm for more than a year, spending a large amount of time working with *Paphiopedilum*, as well as Intergeneric *Oncidiinae*, and *Miltoniopsis*. At the beginning of 2015, Greg began working as the orchid grower at Longwood Gardens.

Since his arrival at Longwood, the orchid collection has grown and changed significantly. He has been a part of

developing a collection of terrestrial orchids from across the globe, and has initiated a number of breeding programs. Among these are breeding lines in the *Habenariinae*, *Cattleya Alliance*, *Intergeneric Oncidiinae*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Masdevallia*, *Disa*, and more. The *Disa* program achieved its first successes with the registration of three new hybrids in 2021, *Disa Longwood Renaissance Horizon*, *Disa Longwood Dawning Ever New*, and *Disa Longwood Advancing Excellence*.

Greg continues to work on improving and expanding the collection, as well as networking with great growers and hybridizers across the country. He also has authored a number of written works, and has participated in a number of video interviews as well.

In an era of unprecedented growth, along with the opening of the Reimagined Orchid

House at Longwood, the future of the orchid collection is open wide and the possibilities for innovation are endless!



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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.

We invite articles, notices, etc., for inclusion in our newsletter. The deadline for inclusion is the first day 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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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 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 p.m. and adjourns at approximately 9:30 p.m. Members may also attend via Zoom.