



ORCHID newsletter

News and information from the Maryland Orchid Society

December 2024



President's Message



Here we are in the middle of the holiday season. A little reflection on November, a fabulous month for the Maryland Orchid Society, with three events. The Smithsonian field trip was enthusiastically attended, and we

can look forward to a slide show at our December meeting. Followed by our successful annual Auction, then our monthly meeting with a thoroughly engaging presentation by Tim Culbertson on Encyclias of Mexico and Beyond. It was a treat to have Tom McBride join us for the evening. Lastly we look forward to our family celebrations of Thanksgiving.

A few highlights from our auction

Best Auction to date based on gross revenue!

97 bidders/buyers were registered and 95 making purchases. For almost the whole auction all the chairs were occupied. Purchased plants all yielded highest profit margins to date.

MOS members donated incredible quality plants this year both for auction and instant sales.

The instant sales opened at 11:30 am and 75-80 % were sold before the auction started at noon. MOS members Bob

Johnston and Arne Schon both had individual plants yield over \$100, with Arne having the highest single yield of the auction. David Smith was the highest donor this year with donations of 38 plants yielding over \$900 for the society.

You may ask 'what is the value of the Show Table award plants we receive each September'? There were three plants unclaimed and donated to the auction. These three together yielded \$155 for the society.

Our December meeting will be on the 19th and is our annual holiday party. We will have our show table and auction. The library will be open; members should seek this out and take advantage of one of the best Society Libraries. Education corner will take a break in keeping with the holiday celebrations. Kathi Jackson is coordinating the food for the party and would be delighted to have donations of entrees, side dishes, salads or desserts. Let her know what you are bringing at refreshments@marylandorchids.org.

Looking forward to January, our outreach exhibit will occur at the Rawlings Conservatory starting January 10, 2025 coordinated by Activities chair John Heinbokel. The monthly meeting will be held the following Thursday January 16, 2025. Our speaker will be MOS's own Chris Zajac speaking on Dendrobiums.

See you at the party and enjoy the Holidays.



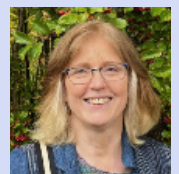
Chris Zajac

MOS Meeting December 19, 2024 Submitted by Kathi Jackson, Refreshment Chair

Our December meeting on the 19th is our annual Holiday Party. MOS will supply several trays of sandwiches. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish (appetizer, main, side or dessert) to share.

Please send an e-mail to me at refreshments@marylandorchids.org with what you plan to bring, so I have an idea of what will be coming in. Thanks so much!

MOS Welcomes the following new members...



Kathleen Spicer and her daughters, Kourtney and Kristen

Jill Allen
Membership Chair

November 2024 Show Table

Novice

1. No Entry

Homegrown

1. Hab. Flamingo 'Rubenesque' AM/AOS - Bob Travers
2. Zygo. Blue Hawaii - Mai Conaway
3. Tie: Rlc. Sunnystate's Spring Dawn 'Volcano Queen' - Luis Molina
Bst. Tarantula 'Sweet Orange' - Diane Elam

Greenhouse

1. Onc. Tsiku Marguerite 'Memoria Mark O. Robbins' CCE/AOS - Jos Venturina
2. V. (Lou Sneary x *vietnamica*)x V. *falcata* - Eric Wiles
3. Slc. Mini Apricot x Rth. Rubescence - Clark Riley

Cattleya

1. Epc. Don Herman 'Gold Digger' - Eric Wiles
2. Tie: Rlc. Love Triangle 'Yasui Takasaki' - Bob Johnston
Lc. Mini Purple - Chris Zajac
3. Tie: Rlc. Pink Powder Puff - Jos Venturina
Grc. Black Comet 'Norrisville' AM/AOS - Bob Travers

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Smiley Katherine 'Wilson #2' - Robin Neukam
2. Phal. Little Gem Stripes - Amanda Gallegos
3. Phal. Sogo Pony - Chris Zajac

Paphiopedilum

1. Paph. Iona - Robin Neukam
2. Phrag. Andean Fire - Laura Sobelman
3. Tie: Paph. Barb Hella - Brenda Logan
Phrag. Nichole Tower - Chris Zajac
Paph. Hawaiian Tea 'Susan J' AM/AOS - Bob Travers

Dendrobium

1. Den. Burana Scarlet 'No. 9' - Chris Zajac
2. Den. Aussie's Pixie - Bob Travers
3. Den. Thames Blue - Brenda Logan

Oncidium

1. Bllra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS - Chris Zajac
2. Tie: Onc. Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop' - Bob Johnston
Wils. Opalescent 'On the Edge' - Luis Molina
Brat. Shelob 'Okika' - Robin Neukam
3. Tie: Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS - Maria and Norm Zickhur
Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS - Mai Conaway
Onc. Volcano Hula Halua 'Prayoon' - Brenda Logan

Miscellaneous Hybrid

1. Neost. Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' - Fay Citerone
2. V. Siriporn Pink 'Soft Pink' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Tie: Zygo. (Arthur Elle x Blue Blazes) - Mai Conaway
Cycd. Taiwan Gold 'Orange' - Brenda Logan

Species

1. Gur. *boweringiana* - Jos Venturina
2. Tie: Pmcpa. *spicata* - Bob Travers
Stelis *morganii* - David Smith
3. Tie: C. *jenmanii* - Bob Johnston
Hab. *rhodocheila* - Clark Riley

Minature

1. C. Pink Pearl - David Smith
2. Tie: Epi. *porpax* - Brenda Logan
Tricho. *pumilum* - Brandt Braunschweig

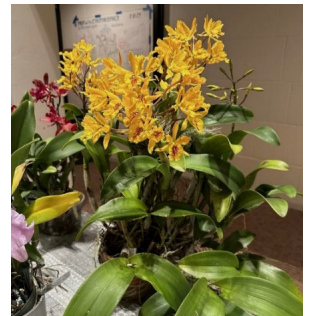
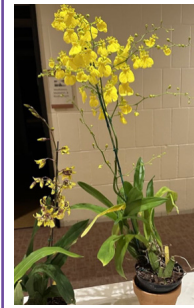
First Bloom

1. Phrag. (Sorcerer's Apprentice x Estelle Getty) - Joel Graham
2. Milt. Robert Travers - Bob Travers

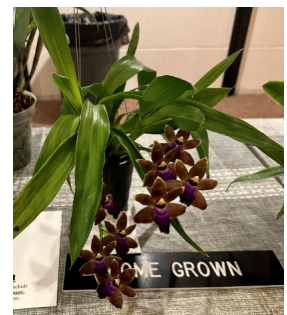
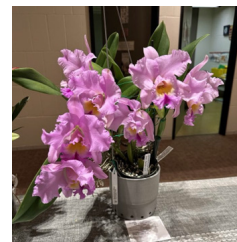
Fragrance

1. C. hybrid - Eric Wiles
2. Blc. (Prada Green Deluxe x Erin Kobayashi) - Bob Johnston
3. Max. tenuifolia 'Yamada' AM/AOS - Bob Travers

Wow MOS, keep up the good growing! This show table was spectacular for sheer flower power and plant quality. We had 87 blooming plants on the tables, I think we are ready to make a play for 100 at the December meeting so don't hold back next month! The Judges' choice for the evening was Onc. Tsiku Marguerite 'Memoria Mark O. Robbins' CCE/AOS brought in by Jos Venturina. (See next page for Jos' write-up. This plant was quite special for having dozens of large flower spikes in full bloom, in addition to being named for our late friend. The judges for the evening were Kathi Jackson, Barbara Pralle and Eric Wiles. Exhibitors not mentioned above were Jill Allen, Courtney and Kevin Bounds, Pauline Brisset, John Heinbokel, Kathi Jackson, Joy Marlowe and Sarah Spence.



Tricho. *pumilum*



Judges Choice: *Oncidium* Tsiku Marguerite 'Memoria Mark O. Robbins' CCE/AOS

Some time in 2018 we went to North Jersey Orchid Show and Sale (Rutgers University) to shop for orchids when I saw this specimen size plant from a vendor from California. This plant was potted into 4" plastic pot, cheap tag price and with multiple growths. I grabbed and bought this plant and hoped for the best. Well, after years of caring; tons of inflorescences appeared late last year. Then, I brought it to the National Capital Judging Center and received 91 points for cultural award. I gave this plant a clonal name in memory of one of our members, Mark Robbins.

Jos Venturina



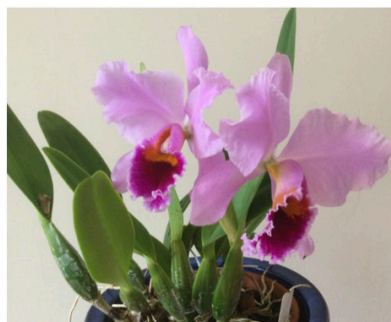
Virtual Show Table November 21, 2024 18 blooming plants from 8 exhibitors



Phragmipedium (longifolium v. gracile x Estelle Getty)
Bob Travers



Angraecum Lemforde White Beauty
Wanda Kuhn

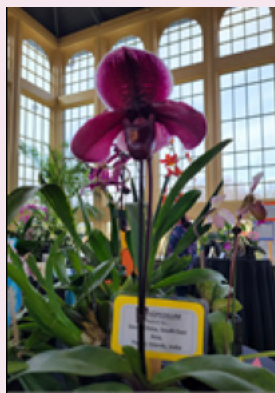


Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit'
Marilyn Lauffer

Rawlings Conservatory Show:

Our annual collaborative orchid exhibition is scheduled for January 10 – 12, 2025, with set-up on Thursday, January 9. This is a great opportunity to practice plant grooming for the show season, to reach out to non-MOS orchid enthusiasts in the community and earn another Show Table Point for the season. We'll be talking more about this at the Holiday Party and provide sign-up opportunities for plant contributions and staffing the exhibit.

Plants can be dropped off at the Conservatory beginning around 9am on Thursday (if you want to deliver before that, be sure to talk to John Heinbokel, activities@marylandorchids.org to make arrangements). Help in setting up the display on Thursday will be welcome and staffing is needed during 5 shifts: Friday, 11am -3pm; Saturday, 10am – 1pm or 1pm – 4pm; and Sunday,



10am – 1pm or 1pm – 4pm. Plan to come by after 3:30 on Sunday to retrieve your plants or make arrangements with a member to pick them up for you. This is a wonderful outreach to the community and loads of fun being able to talk to other not-yet-MOS-members about these fascinating flowers. Talk to any member who's participated in the past! Rawlings Conservatory: 3100 Swan Dr. in Druid Hill Park Baltimore, Md. 21217

<https://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/rawlingsconservatory>, or stop by and see our beautiful display and the conservatory's orchid room.

Submitted by John Heinbokel, Activities Chair

Photo Credit: Maria Zickuhr

A Memorable Visit to the Smithsonian Orchid Greenhouses

Submitted by Joy Marlowe, MOS Director



On November 1st, 19 members of the Maryland Orchid Society gathered in Suitland, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C., for a unique opportunity to explore the Smithsonian Orchid Greenhouses. Our engaging, hour-long tour was led by Justin Kondrat, Lead Horticulturist of the Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Collection. Sarah Hedeane, who is the Living Collections manager for Smithsonian Gardens and president of the National Capital Orchid Society also joined us for the tour.

The Orchid Collection, founded in 1974 thanks to a generous bequest from Marjorie Merriweather Post, has flourished over the years to include approximately 4,000 plants within 15,000 square feet of greenhouse space. This facility plays a vital role in supplying plants for exhibitions in various Smithsonian museums and gardens located on and around the National Mall.

We were all awe-inspired by the stunning specimens on display, each member having their own favorites. I think we were all amazed with the 6-foot tall *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*. I was delighted to connect the insights shared by our October guest speaker, Art Chadwick, when Justin pointed out the blooming cattleyas in their First Lady's collection.

One aspect that impressed us was the meticulous documentation for each orchid. Every plant is assigned a permanent metal tag featuring an identification number and barcode, enabling staff to track details regarding care, growth, blooming, and movement directly within their computer system.

To prevent diseases caused by insects, fungi, bacteria, and viruses, the Smithsonian follows rigorous sterile management practices and regularly releases environmentally friendly pests. Staff members utilize clean, recyclable gloves, sterile tools, and sanitized surfaces when grooming or repotting plants, ensuring that every plant receives quality care.

Humidity levels in the greenhouses are carefully controlled between 55% and 75% (with 75% at night and lower during the day). They use a state-of-the-art pressurized air droplet system, complemented by continuously running fans. When watering plants, the water temperature is maintained at around 73°F and the pH balance is kept between 6 and 6.5. Justin explained that each plant is watered by running water through the pot for about 10 seconds, followed by a dose of 10-20% diluted plant food. To ensure optimal health, plants are typically repotted every two years.

A flagging system is employed to highlight plants needing specific attention—whether for repotting, photography, pest management, or evacuation during emergencies. Justin also described their sophisticated water-cooling system and the sanitary protocols for transporting plants for public exhibitions. Each specimen travels in its own “protective bubble”, ensuring the highest level of care and cleanliness.

Additionally, the Smithsonian is actively working to digitally document each variety in their collection. For a closer look, visit their 3D archive at the Smithsonian 3D Archive.

https://3d.si.edu/explore?edan_local=&edan_q=orchids&

It's important to note that the Smithsonian allows only one guest tour each year. So a heartfelt thank you goes to John Heinbokel and Fay Citrone for organizing this unique experience for our group.

If you missed our tour, don't worry—you can still enjoy a recorded “Virtual Tour of the Smithsonian Gardens' Orchid Collection” at YouTube Virtual Tour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c402J6lz8kI>

See more photos on next page



Photos by Jill Allen,
 Laura Sobelman,
 and Fay Citerone

Education Corner Schedule and Topics

Introduction to the Education Committee submitted by Chris Zajac

Any MOS member may volunteer to present a topic with basic, practical content for the novice grower: a 15-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. Topic suggestions welcome! **Presenters needed! Please volunteer!**

Your Education Committee: Chris Zajac or Arne Schon.
 The education corner runs approximately 7:15 to 7:45 p.m.
 January 16, 2025 'How to Bloom Orchids' Marc Kiriou
 February 20, 2025 'Fertilizing Orchids' Arne Schon
 March 20, 2025 'How to Grow Cattleyas'. Bob Johnston

Smithsonian Greenhouse Tour Slide Show!
 Submitted by Fay Citerone, Program Chair
**Send your pictures by Wednesday,
 December 18th to Fay Citerone at
 Fay.Citerone@gmail.com**

MOS Calendar 2024-2025

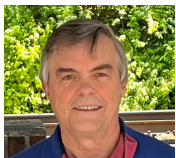
December 19, 2024 – Monthly Meeting/Holiday Party
January 10-12, 2025 – Rawlings Conservatory Show (Show Table Points Awarded to Participants)
Jan 9 Set Up (plants & volunteers needed)
January 16, 2025 – Monthly Meeting
January 31- Feb 2, 2025- Susquehanna OS Show (Show Table Points Awarded to Orchid Loaners)
Jan 29 – Set-up (Plants and Designers Needed)
February 2 – Tear-down
February 6, 2025 – Board of Trustees Meeting: Zoom 7PM
February 8, 2025 – NCOS Paph Forum
44th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum | National Capital Orchid Society (ncos.us)
February 20, 2025 – Monthly Meeting
March 7-9, 2025 – MOS Annual Show & Sale (Show Table Points Awarded to Participants)
4 (Tu) - Staging set-up (volunteers needed)
5 (Wed) – Set-up exhibits
6 (Th) – AOS Judging; Preview sale 3-6 PM (clerking volunteers needed)
7 – 9 (Fr-Su) – Show open to public (hospitality volunteers needed)
9 (Su) –Tear Down 6 PM (volunteers needed)

March 20, 2025 – Monthly Meeting
April 4-6, 2025 – SEPOS Show (Show Table Points Awarded to Participants)
April 3 – Set-up (Plants and Designers Needed)
April 6 – Tear-Down
April 2025 TBD – MOS Spring Workshop
April 17, 2025– Monthly Meeting
May 15, 2025 – Monthly Meeting
June 19, 2025 – Monthly Meeting
July 2025 TBD – Board of Trustees Meeting
July or August 2025 TBD – MOS Picnic
August - Sept 2025 TBD – Exhibit at Maryland State Fair (Show Table Points Awarded to Participants)
Sept 18, 2025 – NCOS Annual Show (Show Table Points Awarded to Participants) Set-up 9/18/2025, Tear Down 9/21/2025 Homestead Gardens (Plants and Designers Needed)
Sept 25, 2025 – Monthly Meeting [Changed due to conflict with NCOS Set-up]

Clark's Corner

How Much is an Orchid Worth?

In many hobbies — stamps, coins, comic books, and baseball cards come to mind — there are organizations or companies that publish respected catalogs listing the value of the treasures of their respective hobbies. Not so orchids.



For one thing, the same orchid variety or clone is seldom available from hundreds of dealers — nurseries in this case — as with stamps, etc. Orchids are living entities. While the same qualities of rarity, condition, and interest apply, orchids can be propagated, even

cloned to increase their quantities, thus decreasing their rarity. In the old days before cloning, a highly desirable and awarded clone might yield ONE division every few years, we can propagate many of our genera by cloning. A clone that might have fetch \$500 – \$1,000 in the 1950s or 1960s can now be had as a meristem-propagated plant for \$20–\$40.

On the other hand, a very rare terrestrial species may cost very little IF you can find it. Specialized interest yields limited market.

We just participated in one of the most valuable means of valuating orchids: auctions. In our spectacularly successful auction just completed, plants went for \$20 on the low side to \$150 on the high. Auctions, including in-person and online such as eBay. In the end, an orchid is worth what you are willing to pay for it.

Clark Riley

Miscellaneous Meeting Information. by Vincent Russo, Hospitality Chair

There were 48 attendees in person at the November meeting.



Door prizes:

1. Bulbophyllum Phalaenopsis (Source: Jos Venturina)
2. Enc. Cynthia 'Ruben's' x Enc. Cashen's Brown Sugar 'A Go Go' HCC/AOS (Source: Tim Culbertson)
3. Enc. Moonlight Fireflies 'Dawn of Dance' AM/AOS x Enc. Roughly Profuse 'SVO' (Source: Tim Culbertson)

Door Prize winners:

1. Louis Molina
2. Jonas Miller
3. John Heinbokel

Auction Plants:

1. Cattlianthe 'Miracle of Mine'
2. Paph. FC Puddle 'Superbum'
3. Slc. Ginny Champion

Auction Winners:

1. Pauline Brissett
2. Bill Franke
3. Jill Allen

Going, Going, Gone! A Message from Aaron Webb, Auction Chair and Bob Travers, President

Our Annual Auction was a wonderful day of Orchid Community fun sharing, imagining, helping, contributing, and a way of expanding our collections with new plants or replacing plants we have lost. The 2024 Auction is the new 1st place in Gross Revenue.

We had amazing member support in volunteering and plant donations!

Thank you to all our member volunteers who helped auction day and donated plants from their personal collections to make the auction a success: Chris Zajac, Bob Johnston, Monica Sparber, Robin Neukam, Diane Elam, Tom McBride, Sarah Spence, John Heinbokel, Bob & Susan Travers, Ellie Martin, Arne Schon, Fay Citerone, Barbara Pralle, Brenda Logan, Jos Venturina, Aaron Webb, Jill Allen, Mai Conaway, Valerie Lowe & Bob Marshall,

Laura Sobelman, Marc Kiriou, Eric Wiles, Clark Riley, Joy Marlowe, Ernie Drohan, Kathi Jackson, Wanda & Alex Kuhn, Joel Graham, Vincent Russo, Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith, Suzanne Gaertner, Marilyn Lauffer, Lauren Lankford, Amanda Gallegos, Courtney Bounds.

Thank you to Jos for providing lunch to the volunteers, our fabulous auctioneers Clark Riley, Bob Marshall, and Mai Conaway as a first-time auctioneer and Gary Smith for his 'Orchid Auction Database' to provide you with some statistics: 97 registered bidders, 100 plants purchased from Carmela, Lehua and Hausermann, 23 members donated 300 plants.

The Auction is our main fundraiser that supports our ability to pay for our meeting space, speakers, show table awards and snacks to name a few of our expenses.



Valerie



David
'Show Me the Money'

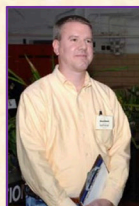


Paper Recording Sales

2006 Auction Flashback



Vice President & Auction Mainstay
Gary Smith



Aaron, Laura, Clark



Auctioneers, Bob Marshall, Ken Meier, Les Werner, and Bill Soyke



Ellicott City Armory

AOS Corner

LOCAL AOS NEWS: National Capital Judging Center (NCJC) National Capital Judging Center
The NCJC will be meeting on January 4, 2025 at the Saint James United Methodist Church located at 12470 Old Frederick Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104. There will be an Education Session with Dr. Robert Griesbach presenting his 'New' Genetics talk starting at 11 am. AOS Judging will start at noon. Everyone is welcome to come, whether you have plants you want considered for an American Orchid Society Award or not.

AOS Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Thu, Jan 2, 2025 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhousechat@aos.org by December 31, 2024.

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2249987161372257630>



Submitted by Valerie Lowe, AOS Representative

World Slipper Orchid Conference

Don't miss the early registration fee!

December 15th is fast approaching!

Time flies!

It will be here sooner than you think!

Join us for

The World Slipper Orchid Conference

January 17-19, 2025

World Slipper Orchid Conference includes eight great speakers, two dinners & a lunch!

Visit Hilo Orchid Farm's Open House Sunday, January 19th. Slipper orchids and many others will be available for viewing and sale.

Members: \$275.00 BY 12/15/2004

\$325.00 AFTER 12/15/2024

The beautiful Grand Naniloa Hotel in Hilo, Hawai'i has given us a limited number of rooms at an amazing rate!

Grand Naniloa Hotel. Hilo, Hawai'i

808.969.3333

Use Group Code: OD2 or reference World Slipper Orchid Conference

There will be AOS Judging 2:00 PM on Friday, 1/7/25.

Register for some good old-fashioned in-person fun celebrating orchids and friends in a place that feels like summer, even in the middle of January!

REGISTER NOW!!

<https://www.orchiddigest.org/events>

Scheduled Speakers:

Chu Xuan Canh (Vietnam): *Paphiopedilum* species as they grow in Vietnam.

Frank Cervera (USA): The *Phragmipediums* of Brazil.

Elizabeth Chen (Taiwan): *Paphiopedilum* breeding at Cocoa Orchid Farm.

Tim Culbertson (USA): Important Early Complex Paphs: Impacts on Modern Hybrids.

Olaf Gruss (Germany): News of the genus *Paphiopedilum*.

Olaf Gruss (Germany): The species *Paph. rungsurianum* and *P. thaianum* and their hybrids.

Marc Hachadourian (USA)

Harold Koopowitz (USA): Some aspects of the biology and evolution of *Paphiopedilum*.

Alessandro Valenza (Italy): Modern *Phragmipedium* hybrids and their future.

Maryland Orchid Society

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., 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. 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 26th day of each month.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Visit us on the Web at www.marylandorchids.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Orchid Society Facebook</p> <p>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), borrowing privileges from the MOS Library, monthly guest speakers, local judging, door prizes, plant auctions and more!</p>	HOUSE Clark Riley 410-591-9201 DrRiley@aol.com Bob Johnston	SUNSHINE Pat Schiavi 410-456-7399 sunshine@marylandorchids.org <i>backup open</i>
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