



MOS Newsletter

News and Information from the Maryland Orchid Society

February 2026



Presidents Message

Despite the cold and snow in January, MOS successfully completed our Rawlings exhibition. and members turned out for January monthly meeting The meeting turnout was great in person, and we also had large Zoom participation. And excellent show table considering subfreezing temperatures.

The Maryland Orchid Society Board of Trustees met in January with highlights later in this issue.

February turns full focus on preparing for our MOS Show in March. Did you read the article "Thinking about MOS Show Exhibit" in the January issue, then "go for it".

For the February meeting Marc Kiriou will provide show details encourage registration, volunteer sign up, and Valerie Lowe will present our program.

Maryland Orchid Society Election Season

The Election Season is a biennial (even years) activity that helps to ensure that we're staying on a fresh and creative path to excellence. Our Bylaw's define the process we're entering in detail. Maryland Orchid Society 2025 Bylaw's available [HERE](#)!

The Nominating Committee consists of Brenda Logan, Jill Allen, and Todd Jackson. They have until April to provide us a slate of nominees. At that point (through our May meeting), members may petition to have additional names added for consideration.

At our June meeting we will elect our officers for the next two years. Please plan to attend the June meeting. The new Officers will take over at the conclusion of the June meeting. The retiring officers will continue to support transition.

The Nominating Committee is charged with identifying a slate of nominees for election of officers for the Society, each of whom shall be a voting member of the Society. The Nominating Committee should interview each officer who has not reached term limitations for consideration of continuance.

Your society's' elected officer positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and at least 2 directors maximum of 4. For this election cycle the current Treasurer and Secretary are term limited and new nominees need to be identified. The nominating committee must identify a nominee for each position for election or reelection and may at their discretion identify multiple candidates for a position.

Your role is simple, but critical, at this point. Work with the Nominating Committee to assure the best possible candidates for those offices: Do you think a particular incumbent has done a fine job and should continue in office? Is there an MOS member with the skills and commitment to serve us well in one of those positions? Would you like to be considered for one of the offices? Make your thoughts and recommendations known to a member of the nominating Committee; sooner is better than later!

February 19, 2026 Program Speaker Valerie Lowe

DESIGNING AND INSTALLING ORCHID EXHIBITS - IT'S FUN AND REWARDING



I started growing orchids in 1989, after a kitchen remodel in a new house.

I was talked into joining the Maryland Orchid Society (MOS) by the proprietors of the Little Greenhouse and they also convinced me to enter an exhibit in the March, 1990, MOS orchid show.

After receiving several 'BEST OF' ribbons for my exhibit, the president of the Society asked me to be the Away Shows Chair.

I have put in 3-4 MOS exhibits every year since then for the past 35 years, garnering several AOS Show Trophies and Orchid Digest Awards, sometimes both for the same exhibit.

I became a Student of the American Orchid Society Judging Program at the National Capital Judging Center in 1995 and was promoted to Accredited Judge in 2002. I have served as Vice-Chair (2013-2017; 2023-current) and Chair (2018-2022) of the Center. I also acted as Registrar for the 1996 American Orchid Society Trustees meeting held in Downtown Baltimore and co-hosted by the Maryland Orchid Society and the National Capital Orchid Society.

I hope my years of experience installing orchid exhibits as well as judging them will encourage others to exhibit in their local Society show. It can be both fun and rewarding.

NOTICE: [CHART - Snow Emergency Plans](#)

If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Baltimore County or City the in-person meeting will be cancelled. A Zoom link is provided in the Meeting Announcement. You can still earn a show table point by submitting pictures to the VST Coordinator

<p align="center">Have Fun! BE A SHOW VOLUNTEER See Marc for Sign Up Sheet</p>		<p align="center">Staging Set Up March 3 9AM- 12PM</p>		<p align="center">Set Up Your Exhibit March 4 9AM-4PM</p>	
	<p align="center">Judging Clerk March 5 9AM-1PM</p>		<p align="center">Make Boxes March 6-8 SHOW HOURS</p>		<p align="center">Man Hospitality March 6-8 SHOW HOURS</p>

<p>Mar 3-8 Mar 3 (Tu) - Staging set-up (volunteers needed) Mar 4 (Wed) – Set-up exhibits Mar 5 (Th) AOS Judging; (clerking volunteers needed) Mar 5 (Th) 3-6 PM MOS Members Preview & Orchid Sale Your chance to have 1st choice vendors orchids! Mar 6 – 8 (Fr-Su) – Show open to public (hospitality volunteers needed) Mar 8 (Su) –Tear Down 6 PM (volunteers needed)</p>	<p align="center">Maryland Orchid Society Show & Sale Timonium Fairgrounds</p> <p align="center">Volunteers and Member Exhibits Needed</p>	<p align="center">MOS Show Chair Contact Marc Kiriou gothiclord01@yahoo.com</p>
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Reserve a Exhibit Space

March 4 (Wed)	Exhibit Set-up 9 AM- 5PM (Registration by 4 PM <i>No Exceptions or your plants/exhibit will not be judged</i>)
March 8 (Sunday)	Exhibit Tear Down 6 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Hobbyist(s) Exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/> Five Orchids Arranged for Effect (Up to 9 Sq Ft) <input type="checkbox"/> Small Table-Top (Up to 9 Sq Ft) <input type="checkbox"/> Large Table-Top (Up to 24 Sq Ft) <input type="checkbox"/> Small Floor (Up to 40-SqFt) <input type="checkbox"/> Large Floor (Greater than 40-SqFt)

- Tabletop Exhibits (Covered and Skirted Tables with Black Wire Gridwall Provided)
- Floor Exhibits (Black Wire Gridwall Backdrop Provided)
- Exhibitors must make their own plant labels and supply their own label wire, display lighting, extension cords and sheet moss.

Check item if needed Electrical Access (*exhibitor must supply lights and extension cords*)

Exhibitor(s) Name(s)	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Email	

Please return by March 1, 2026 to: Marc Kiriou, Show Chair
1916 Robinwood Rd. Baltimore, MD 21222 443-509-0084 gothiclord01@yahoo.com

Calendar of events

February 19 MOS Monthly Meeting
Mar 3-8 MOS Show @ Timonium Fairgrounds
March 19 MOS Monthly Meeting
Mar 26—29 SEPOS Away Show
Mar 26 – Set-up Mar 29– Tear-down
Mar 27- Judging Clerks Wanted! Contact Bill Keating keatingwr@aol.com 610-639-2343
Contact Valerie Lowe vlowe14@comcast.net
April 11 Spring Workshop
April 16 MOS Monthly Meeting

April 25 NCOS Annual Auction & Sale
May 14 Board Meeting Zoom
May 21 MOS Monthly Meeting
June 18 MOS Monthly Meeting
July 16, 2026– Summer ZOOM Show Table #1
July 23 2026 Board Meeting In Person
July/August, 2026– Picnic, State Fair **TBD**
Aug 20, 2026– Summer ZOOM Show Table #2
Sept 18-20, 2026 NCOS Show & Sale
Sept 24, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Do You Have a Harlequin?

By Gary R. Smith

Introduction

As we approach another spring orchid show season, there are things we can do to help ensure our plants are at their best and judged well against the competition. We might boost fertilizer or slightly increase temperatures to push a plant to peak a little earlier than it might otherwise have done on its own. Or we might lower temperatures to retard growth enough to still be in good condition for that show that's just a bit too far away. Certainly, we need to prune and groom plants to look their sharpest. And many a ribbon has been won or lost solely on how well a plant is staked.

These are all recognizable actions we take without much thought. Actions that affect how we grow our orchids. But here's an idea that perhaps is less obvious: Do you know what you're growing? Sometimes you need advance knowledge of orchid taxonomy, or of a plant's growth or floral presentation, or even of its breeding to ensure success at a show. Entering a plant in the wrong class can wreck your chances.

This article is specifically about one class that's in the MOS Show and is often included in other regional shows: Harlequin *Phalaenopsis*.

I was prompted to write this article during ribbon judging at the 2025 MOS Show. I overheard a judging team comment "Here's one" and "Here's another one" and "What should we do about this one". They had discovered that many harlequin *Phalaenopsis* had not been entered in the class dedicated to them.

Normally, it's left to the discretion of the judging team to decide if they want to go to the trouble to move entries to or from classes. Hearing their dilemma and sensing an opportunity (i.e., this article), I made a rare intervention and asked them to move all mis-entered harlequins into the correct class. **The result is that the Harlequin *Phalaenopsis* class swelled from ten entries registered the day before to 19 by the time the judging team was done.** It suggested to me that either some of our members don't know what a harlequin *Phalaenopsis* is, or that some harlequin *Phalaenopsis* may be difficult to identify. I suspect both statements are true. The remainder of this article discusses what Harlequin *Phalaenopsis* are in the hope of improving both conditions.

A Definition

A harlequin *Phalaenopsis* has flowers with a range of distinct patterns on a usually white or light-colored background (but sometimes with brighter yellow or pink). In the classic form, the overlaid pattern consists of asymmetrical or irregular, often overlapping fuchsia, maroon, or red-purple spots or blotches. When heavily pigmented, some flowers may have an undulating or puckered surface caused by the thick pigment-containing tissue. These types of flowers are unmistakable and easy to identify as harlequin.

Unfortunately, random spots and blotches are hallmarks of just one type of harlequin *Phalaenopsis*. Many generations of breeding have occurred since the 1980s and produced not only some stunning flowers but also ones that are sometimes difficult to pin down as being harlequin.

Linda Thorne (2004), an AOS judge and once regular orchid vendor at MOS shows, describes three types, a categorization that works as well today as it did more than two decades ago. The first—she calls "clowns"—are the "ancestral" type described above. The second type is "marbled". These have a finely veined or marbled overlay pattern expanding out from the center of the flower or sometimes just near the outer margins of the flower segments. And the third type is "fringed". The flower segments are not actually fringed at the edge. Rather they have zones of dark color near the outer edges. These zones can vary from a diffuse halo to more definite color patterns overlaying the outer third of the segments.

Origin Story

Harlequin *Phalaenopsis* breeding springs from an accident in the lab—the tissue culture lab, that is. Vegetative tissue culture (also called “mericlone”) is a popular technique for cloning many plants, creating hundreds of perfect copies of the original plant in a single stroke. But every so often a tissue-cultured plant does something unusual; it mutates¹.

Brother Orchid Nursery (in Taiwan) crossed *Phalaenopsis* Misty Green and *Phalaenopsis* Liu Tuen-Shen, seeking to produce an improved spotted pattern on a yellow flower (Chadwick, 2017). The hybrid (or more accurately, grex) was registered in 1983 as *Phalaenopsis* Golden Peoker (Lin, 2014; Royal Horticultural Society, 1983). One of the best offspring from the cross, given the clonal name “Brother”, is a white flower (in contrast to its pale-yellow parents) with fine fuchsia spots and stippling and some broken concentric rings near the center of the flower. Despite its critical role in future harlequin breeding, it has only received a single AOS award, an AM/AOS at the 1991 St. Thomas and St. John Orchid Society Show. This is because, despite being the progenitor of harlequin breeding, it isn’t a harlequin itself. It’s just a finely spotted flower, which wasn’t uncommon at the time.

It was only when “Brother” was put into tissue culture that things got interesting. About 300 plants were produced, of which at least one came out a little peculiar; although, this wasn’t evident until it bloomed.

The oddball was acquired by Ever Spring Orchid Nursery (then also in Taiwan), who after blooming it, recognized they had something unique, gave it the new clonal name “Ever-Spring”, and set about cloning it. Probably to everyone’s surprise, some of those clones differed even more radically from the original unexpected flower. From the roughly 1000 plants produced, 40% of the flowers looked like their ‘Brother’ predecessor (i.e., spotted but not harlequin), 30% looked like ‘Ever-Spring’ (recognizable as harlequin), and 30% produced flowers with the now classic asymmetrical maroon spots and blotches. One of these was given the clonal name “BL”.

Three clones of *Phalaenopsis* Golden Peoker were eventually exhibited at the 1996 South Taiwan Orchid Show and awarded a JC/AOS (to the ‘Ever-Spring’ clone), an HCC/AOS (to ‘S.J.’), and an AM/AOS (to ‘Nan-Cho’). (Note that Lin (2014) refers to the original Ever Spring clone as ‘ES’ rather than ‘Ever-Spring’ as recorded by AOS.) According to the award descriptions, the ‘S.J.’ and ‘Nan-Cho’ clones derived (through additional tissue culture propagation) from the ‘Ever-Spring’ clone (American Orchid Society, 2026). The “BL” clone, which was also an “Ever-Spring” derivative, was awarded an HCC/AOS at the 1998 Orchid Society of Alberta Show.

But this was only the beginning. The mutated *Phalaenopsis* Golden Peoker plants began a harlequin breeding sensation. By the end of the 1990s, *Phalaenopsis* Golden Peoker was a parent of or in the background of 139 registered grexes (Orchidex, 2026). As of today, there are an incredible 5,183 grexes², a testament to the broad appeal and boundless potential of harlequin breeding, now 45 years old and still going strong.

But Where Does the Name Come From?

One could easily believe that giving a cool name like “harlequin” to what in the 1980s was a new breeding line was a stroke of marketing genius. But perhaps surprisingly, the name “harlequin” can’t be attributed to any single person.

An Internet search on the word “harlequin” invariably produces a list of references to a recurring character in Italian theater going back to the sixteenth century (Wikimedia, 2025). The Harlequin character usually wears a costume with a brightly colored, repeating diamond pattern. Dig a little further and one finds simple statements claiming that this costume inspired the name for these *Phalaenopsis*. I’ve always found it odd that a diamond pattern, often depicted with multiple colors, so easily produced the name of a new breeding line without a champion to promote the name. Even if I cross my eyes, I have a tough time accepting this explanation.

On the other hand, here’s what I recently discovered about the harlequin pattern: It’s a term that’s been used for decades to describe coat and skin patterns in dogs, cats, rabbits, toads, fish, and insects—you name it. When used in this context “harlequin” means a pattern of irregular dark blotches on an otherwise light background. With this new (to me) information, it’s now quite understandable why the term was readily adopted for this obviously similar pattern on *Phalaenopsis* and didn’t require an ardent promoter to make it happen. The fact that the previous usage of the term for animal coat patterns may have originated from Italian theater I leave to someone else to fixate upon. I still don’t see it.

Visual Gallery

I stated in my introduction that my inspiration for this article derived from the troubles the *Phalaenopsis* ribbon judging team encountered at the 2025 MOS Show. So, to bring things full circle, here are photographs of each entry. Except in one case, I have neither plant names nor exhibitor names; however, I've done my best to guess plant names for those registered with a good one. Nevertheless, it's my hope that exhibitors will recognize their flowers and be better prepared for the 2026 show, which will continue to carry a Harlequin *Phalaenopsis* class.



Figure 1. A classic spotted pattern.



Figure 4. *Phalaenopsis* Taida's King Caroline 'Taida's Little Zebra' with stripey spots.



Figure 2. Decidedly irregular spots.



Figure 5. And still more stripey spots on *Phalaenopsis* Lioulin Claire.



Figure 3. Spots somewhat aligned into stripes on *Phalaenopsis* Tropic Ocelot.



Figure 6. Creamy flowers overlaid with pink overlaid with dark stripey spots.



Figure 7. Spots in a zonal pattern around petal margins on *Phalaenopsis* OX Luna Rosa.



Figure 10. Spots coalesced to nearly cover flower segments.



Figure 8. A modern harlequin with centrally clustered spots and a big lip.



Figure 11. Coalesced spots with a pink center.



Figure 9. Reminiscent of the original "Brother" clone but with much more intense spotting. This is *Phalaenopsis* Raymond Burr 'Fiji Sunset'.



Figure 12. Coalesced spots with just a bit of white background remaining.



Figure 13. Coalesced spots nearly covering the entire flower.



Figure 16. Purple pink overlaid with spots.



Figure 14. A fully red harlequin in *Phalaenopsis* OX Black Face.



Figure 17. A white flower with pink overlay and dark spots dripping from the edges.



Figure 15. Spots, marbling, and fringe all in one flower. This is *Phalaenopsis* Brother Sandra 'Splash'.

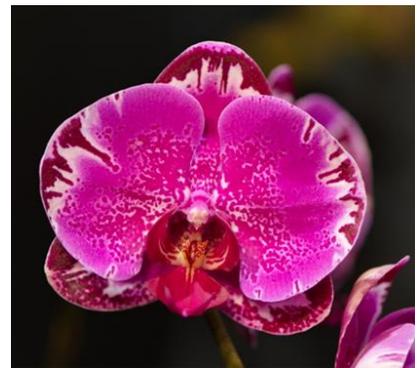


Figure 18. A nearly solid pink with dark, dripping fringes. This is *Phalaenopsis* OX Firebird, a parent of *Phalaenopsis* Miki Crystal in Figure 19.



Figure 19. A white flower overlaid with delicate pink and dark fringed edges. This is likely *Phalaenopsis* Miki Crystal.

Footnotes

¹The exact mutation in harlequin *Phalaenopsis* is caused by the insertion of a copy of the Harlequin Orchid Retrotransposon 1 (HORT1) gene into the promoter region of the *Phalaenopsis equestris* Myeloblastosis 11 (PeMYB11) transcription factor gene (Hsu et al., 2019). I was originally planning to include a summary of the genetics in this article, but that pool has no shallow end. Suffice to say that PeMYB11 is one of many proteins that regulate anthocyanin production in *Phalaenopsis*, and when the HORT1 retrotransposon gets inserted into its gene, things go a little crazy with flower pigmentation.

²In the few days between drafting and finalizing this article, the number of registered grexes containing *Phalaenopsis* Golden Peoker increased from 5,179 to 5,183. Still going strong.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to AOS judge Rob Griesbach for willingly going along with my suggestion to identify and judge all harlequin *Phalaenopsis* in the 2025 MOS Show. AOS judges receive no compensation for their work at shows, aside from a decent meal if they're lucky, so I appreciate his indulgence.

Also, thanks to Tony Plasters who after a full day of photographing AOS award winners at the 2025 show graciously agreed to photograph the 19 harlequin *Phalaenopsis* that Rob's judging team found.

References

- American Orchid Society. (2026). *Phalaenopsis Golder Peoker*. OrchidPro. <https://op.aos.org/>
- Chadwick, A. (2017, May 1). *Harlequin Phalaenopsis*. <https://chadwickorchids.com/content/harlequin-phalaenopsis>
- Hsu, C.-C., Su, C.-J., Jeng, M.-F., Chen, W.-H., & Chen, H.-H. (2019). A HORT1 Retrotransposon Insertion in the PeMYB11 Promoter Causes Harlequin/Black Flowers in *Phalaenopsis* Orchids. *Plant Physiology*, 180(3), 1535–1548. <https://doi.org/10.1104/pp.19.00205>
- Lin, Y.-Y. (2014, October 22). *Phalaenopsis Harlequin Breeding – Past, Present and Future*. [http://gntos.org/files/djc/Submitted_Homework/Karl_Varian/2021/Phalaenopsis Golden Peoker-IPA.pdf](http://gntos.org/files/djc/Submitted_Homework/Karl_Varian/2021/Phalaenopsis_Golden_Peoker-IPA.pdf) (archived)
- Orchidex. (2026, January 13). *Phalaenopsis Golden Peoker*. <https://orchidex.org/phalaenopsis/golden-peoker/53287>
- Royal Horticultural Society. (1983, January 1). *Phalaenopsis Golden Peoker*. The International Orchid Register. <https://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchiddetails.asp?ID=53287>
- Wikimedia. (2025). *Harlequin*. <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Harlequin&oldid=1328305369>



MOS Welcomes the following new members.

Jill Allen, Membership Chair

Anita Bemis-Dougherty
Carolyn Lagomarsino



Miscellaneous Meeting Information

Vincent Russo, Hospitality Chair

There were 35 in attendance in person and 18 on Zoom at the January Meeting.

Door prize:

1. Blc. Fritz Nicholas 'Swing Dance'

Door Prize winner:

1. Brenda Logan

Auction Plants:

1. Slc Red Chili 'Fines' Sl Minipet
2. Den. Sweet Pink
3. Phaicalanthe Kryptonite
4. Slc World Vacation 5th Ave
5. Oberonia *ensifformis*

Auction Winners:

1. Courtney Bounds
2. Kathleen Spicer
3. Courtney Bounds
4. Brenda Logan
5. Courtney Bounds



Education Corner Schedule & Topics

Education Committee,
Chris Zajac or Arne Schon

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

and A session. Topic suggestions welcome!

The education corner runs 7:15 to 7:45 p.m.

Feb 19 presenter Chris Zajac.

Diseased Orchids: Dots, Spots, Splotches, Rots, and Chlorosis. Members can bring their problem orchid in for hopefully helpful advice.

March 19 presenter Larry Desiano.

All About Orchid Media.

April 16 presenter Sarah Spence.

Are We There Yet? Preparing Orchids For Outdoors Vacation



An unanticipated tribute discovered in the January 2026 AOS 'Orchids' Bulletin

By Bob Travers

The January 2026 Orchids has a wonderful article **Breeding with the Pescatoria Alliance** by **Tim Culbertson**.

This is Tim's second article on this Group

which was first published in 2024. If you will recollect, Tim gave MOS a great presentation on Encyclias in November of 2024. I encourage all to read this article, it is an outstanding walkthrough of the topic and a good section on growing the alliance. If you are not yet an AOS member you can read the article in our library copy.

While reading the article I discovered a truly heartfelt tribute to Baltimore's The Little Greenhouse, Gary Krause and Tom McBride.

Tim on behalf of MOS, Thank you for the recognition of some of the important contributions Gary and Tom have participated in and now shared with the greater orchid world.

The following is a paraphrased excerpt from the article **Breeding with the Pescatoria Alliance** with Tim's permission.

Tim's earliest orchid mentors were Tom McBride and Gary Krause at the little Greenhouse outside Baltimore. I spent hours there when I was young, enjoying an incredible mixed collection of orchids, especially in the cold Maryland winters, where the greenhouse was a tropical refuge from the chill outdoors. Gary was a difficult person to please and demanded my closest attention and the best work. A smile from him was meaningful. He was the best kind of mentor and insisted on rapid growth in understanding of orchids, and most importantly, recognizing problems with plants and correcting them. He passed away in 2023. In their wonderfully mixed collection, Tom and Gary managed to have some spectacular species and hybrids of the *Pescatoria* Alliance, including a beautiful awarded *Pescatoria dayana* 'Harford' AM/AOS that had grown into an incredible specimen. As a judge, Tom befriended John Dunkelberger, a grower and judge from Southern Pennsylvania....

John Dunkelberger remade both *Kfz. Ash Trees* and *Kfz. SUA Mena*. This set of *Kefersteinia* represents the largest group of breeding in this genus in the United States. Thankfully, Tom and Gary maintained some of these hybrids for nearly 20 years; it has been incredibly interesting to grow, flower and evaluate them over the last decade or so. I got my first plant of *Kfz. Ash Trees* 'Stunning' from the Little Greenhouse in 2010, specifically with a mind to cross it with *Pes. Alice Hopkins*. To me, *Kfz. Ash Trees* could help miniaturize the large *pescatorias*..... I Registered *Kfz. Gary Krause* (*Ash trees* 'Stunning' X *Wzc. Candida* 'Osides's Sweet' in 2023....To conclude the article there is a two-page spread of 11 photos of the *Kefericzella* Gary Krause.



***Kefericzella*
Ash Trees O'Side's Stunning**

Rawlings Conservatory Show

Thanks to all our members who loaned their beautiful orchids to display and staffed our hospitality station. Eighteen members donated a total of 40 plants and at least four members signed up for each 'shift'. Although the 'snowmageddon' cancelled plans for Sunday our community outreach to the public was a success.

FYI: you may notice **Harlequin *Phalaenopsis!***

By John Heinbokel, Activities Chair





AOS Corner Submitted by Valerie Lowe, AOS Representative

LOCAL AOS NEWS



The NCJC meets at the Saint James United Methodist Church, 12470 Old Frederick Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104. 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. Judging is open to the public, and we invite anyone to bring their plants in to be judged.

- **February 1– SOS Outreach Judging, Bethany Village**
- **February 7 – NCJC – St. James United Methodist Church**
- **February 27 – VOS show, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**
- **March 5 – MOS Show in the Cow Palace of the Timonium Fairgrounds**
- **March 7 – NCJC - St. James United Methodist Church**
- **March 21– CPOS show, State College, PA**



[Home | 24th WOC 2026](#)

24thWOC



Germany 2026
24th World Orchid Conference
26-29 March 2026 Dresden



Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY: www.aos.org/webinars
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.
 Register now and view on your time schedule.
 Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	Feb. 10, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 12, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Mar. 03, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Special Selections
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 07	Happy Roots Happy Orchids Get to the root of the matter to help you grow healthy orchids. How to create the ideal orchid root ecosystem.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 28	All About Pests and Diseases Identify them and how to manage them. Filter Pests & Diseases from the recorded FULL INDEX category.
Presenter	Ron McHatten AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Orchid grower with success in various environments	Ron McHatten AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	AOS Chief Education and Science Officer, and Agdia Rep.

Webinar announcements are posted on the AOS website,
 on Facebook and Instagram,
 and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Use the
 widget
 display
 filter



[Introduction to Everything Orchids | Longwood Gardens](#)

Introduction to Everything Orchids [Register](#) Register by February 1, 2026

Online Horticulture and Gardening Class

February 5, 2026 6:00–7:00 pm Fee: \$12

This class is intended as an adult learning experience. Find out more about our Join this beginner-friendly webinar and immerse yourself in the fascinating world of orchids—with Vice President of the American Orchid Society and the Chair of the Education Committee Barb Schmidt.

Things to Do, click here for more [Orchid Digest](#) | [Membership](#) | [Growing Orchids](#)

Orchid Digest Webinar: Growing Specimen Plants
Tue Feb 17th 8:30pm - 9:30pm

Orchid Digest Webinar: Join Sandra Svoboda, Orchid Digest Editor, and view some amazing specimen-sized orchids and get hints on how to grow them. Tuesday, February 1, 2026 at 8:30 PM EDT.

Link for registration:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/638821104888119382>.

Deep Cut Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show
Fri Feb 20th 12:00pm - Sun 22nd 4:00pm

The Deep Cut Orchid Society Show is being held February 20 - 22, 2026 at the Dearborn Market, 2170 State Route 35, Holmdel, NJ 07733. Show times: Fri: 12-6, Sat: 9-6, Sun: 9-4.

The Virginia Orchid Society's "Symphony of Orchids"
Fri Feb 27th 9:00am - Sun Mar 1st 3:00pm

The Virginia Orchid Society's "Symphony of Orchids" is being held February 27 - March 1, 2026 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Ave, Richmond, VA 23228. Friday 9 – 5, Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9 -3.

Maryland Orchid Society Show and Sale
Fri Mar 6th 10:00am - Sun 8th 6:00pm

The Maryland Orchid Society Show and Sale is being held March 6 - 8, 2026, at the Maryland State Fairgrounds Cow Palace, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD 21093. Show times: Friday – 10:00 to 6:00, Saturday – 10:00 to 7:00, Sunday – 10 to 6:00.

New Hampshire Orchid Society's "Orchids Gone Wild!"
Fri Mar 6th 1:00pm - Sun 8th 4:00pm

The New Hampshire Orchid Society's "Orchids Gone Wild!" is being held March 6 - 8, 2026, at the Courtyard at Marriott, 2200 Southwood Drive, Nashua, NH 03063. Show Times: Friday 1 – 5, Saturday 8 – 5, Sunday 8-4

Novice

1. Bllra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' - Kathleen Spicer

Homegrown

1. Den. Mini Snowflake x Nilda - Luis Molina
2. Tie: Angcm. *sesquipedale* - Marilyn Lauffer
Bc. Maikai 'Spotted Star' - Kathi Jackson
3. Tie: Phal. Pale Pink Blush - Bob Travers
Paph. Doll's Kobold - Aaron Webb

Greenhouse

1. Slc. Tutankamen 'Pops' - Dr. Eric Wiles
2. Cym. Enzan Delight 'Fluorish' - Clark Riley

Cattleya

1. Bc. Maikai 'Mayumi' - Eric Wiles
2. Tie: Env. Pikpik - Chris Zajak
Gur. *guatemalensis* - Bob Travers
3. Ctt. Fairyland - Luis Molina

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Mituo Obsidian 'Neptune' - Wangqu Liu
2. Tie: Phal. Noid - Amanda Gallegos
Phal. Halequin - Joy Marlowe
3. Phal. Fancy Freckles - Chris Zajak

Paphiopedilum

1. Paph. *spicerianum* - Marilyn Lauffer
2. Tie: Phrag. Cardinale - Eric Wiles
Phrag. Grouville - Chris Zajak

Dendrobium

1. Den. speciosum v. capricornicum - Eric Wiles
2. Tie: Den. Hawaiian Delight 'Puanani' - Luis Molina
Den. Canal Boat - Chris Zajak
3. Den. *tetragonum* - David Smith

Oncidium

1. Bllra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' - Luis Molina
2. Onc. Catante 'Orange Kiss' - Chris Zajak
3. Btcm. Hwuluduen 'Chameleon' - Eric Wiles

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Cym. Sara Jean 'Ice Cascade' - Eric Wiles
2. V. Ashleigh Elizabeth Johnson - Brenda Logan
3. Bulbo. *micholitzii* x *arfakianum* - David Smith

Species

1. Ddc. *luzonense* - David Smith
2. Strs. *speciosum* - Kathi Jackson
3. Tie: Anct. *roxburgii* 'Milky Way' - Amanda Gallegos
W. *amazonica* - Jill Allen

Miniature

1. Den. Aussie Hi-lo 'Red Yellow' - Wangqu Liu
2. Ob. *setigera* - David Smith
3. Tie: Epi. Little Miss Sunshine - Brenda Logan
Den. *bellatulum* - Chis Zajac

First Bloom

1. C. *maxima coerulea* - Joel Graham
2. Phal. schilleriana - Courtney Bounds
3. Milt. Robert Travers - Bob Travers

Fragrance

1. Phal. Mituo Obsidian 'Three Headed Dog' - Wangqu Liu

Take a deep breath and exhale pride at the dedication of MOS! It was desperately cold, but you showed up! Despite the weather and unusual timing of the meeting we had 24 exhibitors and 67 blooming plants on the show table! **Our judges' choice for the evening went to a spectacular Beallara Marfitch 'Howards Dream' brought in by Luis Molina.** Our judges for the evening were Jill Allen, Wangqu Liu and Laura Sobelman and some extra help from Karen Blandford and Eric Wiles. As always, it was greatly appreciated to have decisive and quick judges. Please volunteer for judging next month regardless of your experience level, we love have new and different viewpoints.



Nominations for 'Leadership and Service Awards' 2026 Now Being Accepted

Restrictions

- Previous awardees of Leadership or Service are not eligible to receive the same award multiple times.
- Currently elected Officers are not eligible.
- Life Members are not eligible.
- Current Committee Chairs may not be nominated unless for recognition is outside the scope of their committee.

Please submit form to the President president@marylandorchids.org or Secretary secretary@marylandorchids.org by the close of the May Monthly meeting.

Maryland Orchid Society, Inc. Nomination Form: Leadership and Service Awards 2026		
Leadership	Nominee	Why does this person deserves recognition for Leadership?
Society Member Deserving Recognition within the Society		
Service	Nominee	Why does this person deserves recognition for Service?
Society Member Deserving Recognition within the Society		
Return your Nomination to the Secretary or President by the May Monthly Meeting or before so that recognition can be considered before and awarded at the September Monthly Meeting.		
Member submitting Nomination		

Board of Trustees Report to Members January 15, 2026 Board Meeting

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the voting Officers and Board Committee Chairs were present along with the majority of Operating Committee Chairs and 6 society members at large. • The minutes from the October 23, 2025 board meeting were approved. • Treasure's Report included Statement of Activity Sept 1, 2025 thru January 13, 2026 and Financial Position as of January 13, 2026. • Completed old business was reviewed. • Nominating Committee for 2026 Elections Appointed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations for Mar 3-8 MOS Show @ Timonium Fairgrounds were discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are still in need of vendors. ○ You all stepped up and Award Sponsors have been secured. ○ Ribbon order has been placed. ○ We are looking into renting the gridwall backdrops from the fairgrounds to save on the cost of transporting and hiring man power to move and return ours from the shed. ○ We have been informed by International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) they are ceasing operations by the end of the year 2025, so there will be no IPA award in 2026. • Finance Committee Report recommendations to implement Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Job Descriptions have been approved and will be implemented in a slow build. • Leadership and Service Awards were approved with restrictions. \$25 cash award. • Lively discussions ensued concerning 'Member Plant Sales', 'Orchid Questions' management and 'Member Surveys' all under further investigation |
|---|---|

Virtual Show Table January 29: 9 Exhibitors, 20 Plants submitted by Mai Conaway



Paphiopedilum Gisela Utz
Todd Jackson



Blc. Jewel-Glo 'Hagardon'
Wanda Kuhn



Paphiopedilum *primulinum album*
Mai Conaway



Phalaenopsis *schilleriana*
Judith Shapiro Adamson

MOS Newsletter

Published 10 months per year September through June.
Articles due the 26th of the month. Contributions welcome.
Comments? newsletter@marylandorchids.org

MOS MEETINGS 3rd Thursday of the Month

Woodbrook Church • 25 Stevenson Lane • Baltimore, MD 21212

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.

Officers and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT	Bob Travers president@marylandorchids.org
VICE PRESIDENT	Marc Kiriou vicepresident@marylandorchids.org
SECRETARY	Diane Elam secretary@marylandorchids.org
TREASURER	Brenda Logan treasurer@marylandorchids.org
PAST PRESIDENT	John Heinbokel
DIRECTORS	Joy Marlowe director1@marylandorchids.org Robin Neukam director2@marylandorchids.org
ACTIVITIES	John Heinbokel activities@marylandorchids.org Robin Neukam
AUCTION	Aaron Webb auction@marylandorchids.org <i>backup open</i>
AOS/ODC Representative	Valerie Lowe <i>backup open</i>
AWAY SHOWS	Valerie Lowe <i>backup open</i>
EDUCATION	Chris Zajac Arne Schon
HOSPITALITY	Vincent Russo hospitality@marylandorchids.org <i>backup open</i>
HOUSE	Clark Riley Bob Johnston

LIBRARY	Wanda Kuhn Chris Zajac
MEMBERSHIP	Jill Allen membership@marylandorchids.org Sarah Spence
NEWSLETTER	Susan Travers newsletter@marylandorchids.org Laura Sobelman, editor John Heinbokel
PROGRAM	Fay Citerone program@marylandorchids.org <i>backup open</i>
REFRESHMENTS	Kathi Jackson refreshments@marylandorchids.org Brenda Logan, Diane Elam, Marilyn Lauffer
SHOW	Marc Kiriou Valerie Lowe, Laura Sobelman, Larry Desiano show@marylandorchids.org
SHOW TABLE	Joel Graham <i>backup open</i>
SOCIAL MEDIA Representative	Joel Graham Susan Travers
SUNSHINE	Pat Schiavi sunshine@marylandorchids.org Joy Marlowe
Website Technology Communication Chair	Clark Riley info@marylandorchids.org <i>backup open</i>

MOS Needs You!
Please Volunteer to help on a Committee
a Committee

www.marylandorchids.org

[Maryland Orchid Society | Facebook](#)

In case you are wondering what we do and would like to help.

Show Table: 5 hours per month, 10 hours to prepare for September show table participation plant & cash awards

- Enforce show table rules for conducting a monthly show table
- Selection and coaching of judges.
- Verification of plant eligibility prior to judging.
- Recording of results.
- Review of results for all members.
- Following each monthly meeting, coordinate with Newsletter Editor to publish results in the following month's newsletter.
- Prior to the September monthly meeting, tabulate results of all show table exhibitors for the past season. Procure sufficient plants for the participation awards and cash for the ribbon awards. At the September meeting, announce results of cumulative ribbon and participation awards for the past season.
- Submit annual Show Table budgets to Board of Trustees