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newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

SPECIAL SHOW ISSUE 2007



president's message

This special Show issue of the newsletter brings you pictures of judging, exhibits, the sales area and some of our wonderful volunteers as well as results of the AOS judging and a brief list of major award winners. It was a strenuous week on a hard floor with questionable weather for the first few days but, in the end, we all survived, the weather cooperated for the three days the show was open to the public and we all had a good time. The vendors said that they really enjoyed the show (and the pizzas Friday and Saturday night), the public was awed by the beautiful displays and all of the orchids for sale—and our sales were excellent.

Sunday night our set-up crew took down all of the backdrops for the displays, removed the plastic from the tables, put away the sales area equipment and supplies and then took almost everything to the storage shed before heading home. To these staunch men with pickup trucks and/or strong backs who worked late to quickly get everything put away until next year, we owe a heartfelt round of applause!

And to all of our members who worked at the Show and helped to make it the best Show ever — THANK YOU for a job well done!

Ann Lundy

A Blooming Success!

It was a bit of an ominous start to the Show week as the temperatures dropped and the snow came on Wednesday— set-up day. It didn't seem to dampen any spirits though, as the day went off without a hitch. As it turned out, that would be the theme for the entire weekend.



from the looks on peoples faces and the compliments I heard all weekend long, from buyers and vendors alike.

That is not something to be taken for granted, however, and I do not. The smooth weekend would not have been possible without the enormous amount of help and support we had from the MOS membership. I cannot possibly thank those who helped at the Show enough, because without you there would not have been a Show. Please see a complete list of the show committee and volunteers on page 7.

I want to thank the Show committee again for putting in all the long hours of planning, while never losing sight of our goal—to produce a Show that the first time buyer, beginner, novice and expert grower will enjoy taking part in. I think we achieved that,

It was a fast paced, fun weekend from the time the doors opened Friday morning, until the “Show is now closed” announcement Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. and even a little beyond that with last minute shoppers. We were all exhausted and ready to go as we loaded the last of the staging Sunday night. Personally, I left Sunday night with the same thought I had Friday and Saturday night. We are lucky to have such a great group of people in the Maryland Orchid Society to make a Show like this one possible.

Thank You!

Bill Scharf
Maryland Orchid Society, Show Chairman

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AOS awards show 2007

Following is a listing of the AOS awards given at our show with comments in parentheses.

Paph. druryi 'Marriott Monarch'
AM (87 points) exhibited by Marriott Orchids. (This was a very unusual clone, suspected to be a 4N polyploid — possibly even a chimera, because the polyploidy was induced using colchicine. Except for the color pattern, it didn't even look like a *druryi*. Rob Griesback suggested that Hadley self the flower immediately, because if it turns out to be a chimera, the next flowering my revert to the 2N form.)

Paph. malipoense 'Spider's Lair'
AM (83 points) exhibited by Marriott Orchids. (This was a very large first bloom. Very impressive.)

Phal. Taisuco Day 'Brennan's Orchids'
HCC/AOS - CCM (87 points) exhibited by Brennan's Orchids. (You'd have to go to Japan or Taiwan to see a *Phal.* this large. Some of the flowers suffered cold damage and were fading as the morning progressed. This prompted the judges to pull Jim Osen over to immediately photograph the plant while in the display.)



Phal. Taisuco Day 'Brennan's Orchids'

Paph. Psyche 'Quantum Leap'
FCC (90 points) exhibited by Marriott Orchids. (It's interesting to see a primary cross garner such high points.)

Paph. Assiniboine 'Maybrook'
AM (84 points) exhibited by Marriott Orchids

Paph. Legacy's Child 'Rebirth'
AM (80 points) exhibited by Marriott Orchids

Paph. liemianum 'Elk Creek'
HCC (78 points), CCM (82 points) exhibited by Woodstream Orchids. (One flower quality award for the plant, and one cultural award for the grower.)



Paph. liemianum 'Elk Creek'

- Gary Smith

What Do They Mean? American Orchid Society Judging Awards

Initials such as AM/AOS and JC/AOS following orchid names indicate awards bestowed by the judges of the American Orchid Society to worthy flowers and plants. Below is a key to these abbreviations seen in publications of the AOS.

AD (Award of Distinction) and AQ (Award of Quality) These two awards for hybridizing in orchids recognize worthy new trends and improved quality respectively.

AM (Award of Merit) A flower scoring 80 to 89 points on a scale of 100 points. This flower-quality award is a fine though lesser achievement than the FCC.

CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition) Awarded to rare and unusual species with educational interest.

CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) This award further distinguishes growers of plants that exhibit an extreme degree of skill in cultivation, having received 90 points or more on the scale that has been used for the Certificate of Merit Award (CCM).

CCM (Certificate of Merit Award) The beginning orchid grower may hope to attain this award because the award, rather than designating an individual flower of high quality, recognizes the grower and not the plant. The award may be given more than once if the plant continues to thrive and increase in both size and number of flowers.

CHM (Certificate of Horticulture Merit) Awarded to a well-grown and well-flowered species or natural hybrid with characteristics that contribute to the horticultural aspects of orchidology.

FCC (First Class Certificate) The highest flower-quality award, given by AOS judges to flowers scoring 90 or more points on a scale of 100 points.

HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) The HCC is granted to a flower scoring 75 to 79 points, which is not enough to merit an AM. The majority of awarded orchids receive this award, which implies that, while the flower being judged is outstanding, there is room for improvement.

JC (Judges Commendation) Given to orchids for distinctive characteristics that the AOS judges, by an affirmative vote of at least 75 percent, feel should be recognized, but cannot be scored in customary ways.

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show a phenomenal success

The 2007 MOS show was a megahit thanks to the volunteers who were paramount to the show's success, the remarkable exhibits and the high-quality vendors. Judges were overheard gleefully expounding about the outstanding quality of plants exhibited, while volunteers bustled to record the judges' observations and place ribbons on the winners. Check-out lines were long, with few breaks for the intrepid volunteers, and buyers walked away in droves, laden with their purchased treasures. The following photos capture the energy of the show.



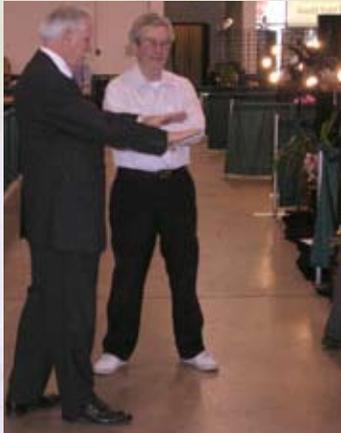
David Smith's exhibit won first place in the 9 sq.ft. tabletop category.



Linda Kennedy



Hanna and William Jardel and Bill Soyke won first place for 6 sq.ft. tabletop.



Bill Bannon, head clerk at NCJC, shows Cyrus Swett how to levitate plants.



NCOS display. Photo byf Barry Woolf.



Nancy Duggan, Bill Ellis, Hilda Sukman and Bill Scharf



Barry Woolf's Vanda Manuvaclee 'Sky' FCC/OST won second place in the Vanda Alliance Division I Hobbyist category and first place in the Division II Grower's Choice Class 1H.



Nancy Duggan and Bill Schar

Steve and Rachael Adams' exhibit



Valerie Lowe's exhibit won second in the 9 sq. ft. tabletop category.



Martha Hopkins, volunteer extraordinaire



Megaclinium *falcatum* from Fishing Creek Orchids won best plant in show



Shoppers stormed sales tables like a Filene's bridal sale.



Valerie Lowe and Paula Bannon



S/c. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'





Gongora *escobariana*. Photo courtesy of Barry Woolf.



SOS display. Photo courtesy of Barry Woolf.



Fishing Creek Orchids display. Photo courtesy of Barry Woolf.



Eric Wiles' *Masd. yungasensis* won first place in the Pleurothallid Hobbyist and Species categories. Photo by Sarah Hurdel.



Orchid enthusiasts peruse the Little Greenhouse's sale table.



Masdevallia (*peristeria* x Prince Charming). Photo by Barry Woolf.



Cyrus Swett's exhibit won the blue ribbon for best 15 sq. ft. exhibit. Photo by Barry Woolf.



Sarah Hurdel's photo won first place in the black and white photography category.



Cyrus Swett's Dendrobium Christmas Chime 'Asuka' won the Best Dendrobium Hobbyist Award. Photo by Barry Woolf.



Arbec Orchids' display. Photo courtesy of Barry Woolf.



Woodstream Orchids's Paph. Night Music 'Cool Jazz' won second place in the Paphiopedilum Hybrid-red category. Photo by Barry Woolf.

named awards

CATEGORY	AWARD	PLANT	EXHIBITOR
BEST PLANT IN CATTLEYA ALLIANCE – HOBBYIST	The Bud Hammond Memorial Award.	Blc Yellow Buttons 'Vi'	Steve/Rachael Adams
BEST PLANT IN CATTLEYA ALLIANCE – COMMERCIAL	The Swett Award.	Lc Drumbeat 'Heritage' AM/AOS	Sea Grove Orchids
BEST LAELIINAE IN SHOW	The George W. Murray Memorial Award	Dialaelia Snowflake 'Carney'	Cyrus Swett
BEST EPIDENDRUM IN SHOW	The Wiles/Holdridge Award.	Epi melanoporphreum	Woodstream Orchids
BEST PLANT IN PHALAEOPSIS ALLIANCE – HOBBYIST	The Little Greenhouse Award	Phal Wedding Promenade	National Capitol Orchid Society
BEST PLANT IN PHALAEOPSIS ALLIANCE – COMMERCIAL	The Gary Smith Award	Phal Taisuco Day 'Brennan's Orchids'	Brennan's Orchids
BEST PHALAEOPSIS IN SHOW	The Gary Smith Award	Phal Taisuco Day 'Brennan's Orchids'	Brennan's Orchids
BEST PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES – HOBBYIST	The Howard King Memorial Award	Paph Julius	SEPOS
BEST PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRID – HOBBYIST	The Geis Award	Paph lowii x sib	SEPOS
BEST PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES – COMMERCIAL	The Sifleet Award.	Paph liemianum	Woodstream Orchids
BEST PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRID – COMMERCIAL	The Travers Award.	Paph Invincible 'Spread Eagle' CCM/AOS	Woodstream Orchids
BEST PHRAGMIPEDIUM IN SHOW.	The Memorial Anne Woods Lowe Award	Phrag wallisii 'Harford' FCC/AOS	The Little Greenhouse
BEST OF CYPRIPEDIUM ALLIANCE IN SHOW	The Ota Award	Paph liemianum 'Elk Creek'	Woodstream Orchids
BEST PLANT IN DENDROBIUM ALLIANCE – HOBBYIST	The Jos A.Venturina Award	Dendrobium Christmas Chime 'Asuka'	Cyrus Swett
BEST PLANT IN DENDROBIUM ALLIANCE – COMMERCIAL	The Bill Ellis Memorial Award	Dendrobium tetragonum	The Little Greenhouse
BEST PLANT IN VANDA ALLIANCE	The Mrs. Benigna Venturina Memorial Award	Aerangis citrate	Fishing Creek Orchids
BEST PLANT IN ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE – HOBBYIST	The Prevas Award	Odontocidium Wildcat 'Bobcat'	Susquehanna Orchid Society
BEST PLANT IN ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE – COMMERCIAL	The Dorothy Powell Kelt Memorial Award	Dgmra Hani 'Star of Unicorn'	Orchids 4 You
BEST CYMBIDIUM IN SHOW	The Adams Award	Cymbidium Minuet	National Capitol Orchid Society
BEST MASDEVALLIA IN SHOW	The Scharf Award	Masdevallia (peristeria x Prince Charming)	Centerpeace Orchids
BEST PLEUROTHALLID IN SHOW	The Scharf Award	Masdevallia (peristeria x Prince Charming)	Centerpeace Orchids
BEST PLANT IN BULBOPHYLLUM ALLIANCE	The Smith Award	Magaclinium falcatum	Fishing Creek Orchids
BEST SPECIES – HOBBYIST	The John Gardner Memorial Award	Masd yungaensis	Eric Wiles
BEST SPECIES – COMMERCIAL	The Clark Riley Award	Megaclinium falcatum	Fishing Creek Orchids
BEST MINIATURE IN SHOW – HOBBYIST	The Pete Lynch Memorial Award	Pleurothallis blaisdellii	Barry Woolf
BEST MINIATURE IN SHOW	The Margaret Smith Award	Maxillaria juergensii	The Little Greenhouse
BEST PLANT IN GROWER'S CHOICE (DIVISION II. CLASSES 1A – 1M)	The Lee Sheubrooks Memorial Award.	Cymbidium Lipper Leo	Shirley Tighe
BEST FIRST BLOOM SEEDLING IN SHOW	The Jack L. Robbins Memorial Award	Paphiopedilum druryi 'Monarch'	Marriott Orchids
BEST FIRST-TIME HOBBYIST EXHIBIT	The Sam and Eve Woolf Memorial Award.		PAT KELT
BEST TABLE-TOP EXHIBIT (Div II. Class 4E, 4F, 4G)	The W. Pitts Riley Memorial Award.		DAVID SMITH
BEST HOBBYIST EXHIBIT	The Buck Award		STEVE/RACHAEL ADAMS
BEST PLANT IN SHOW	The Huntington Award	Megaclinium falcatum	Fishing Creek Orchids
BEST SPECIMEN PLANT IN SHOW	The Smith Award	Phal Taisuco Day 'Brennan's Orchids'	Brennan's Orchids
BEST INTERPRETATION OF SHOW THEME	The Lundy Award		Virginia Orchid Society

A Fondness for Judging Day

Judging Day is my favorite day of the entire show. It is a punctuation point between two sentences. It marks the end of two days of labor and set-up, a time where enthusiasm and energy levels are still at their highest. It follows a day when you can feel the creative side of everyone's efforts in the air as each installs his/her exhibit. It's fun to watch the building of each exhibit, but it's even more satisfying to see the final results. Of course by the end of installation day (actually night), a lot of the excitement is waning. It takes the dawn of a fresh morning to bring it back. Arrive early enough and you can stroll leisurely down the aisles and appreciate each exhibit one-on-one, knowing that this is the only time in the entire six days that the exhibits will be at their peak, at their freshest.

Judging Day also transitions us for the next three days of hard work when the show will be open to the public. The grind of dealing with the hardcore, the simply curious, and the occasional vacuous patron hasn't happened yet. There has been no need yet to solve problems, stroke egos, or deal with complaints. Don't misunderstand me; there's a lot of fun to be had while the show is open. But let's be honest, Friday, that first day, begins a countdown in all our minds that we know will end on Sunday. The energy of Judging Day is completely positive and anticipatory.

Except for the tired feet and, this year, the chapped lips brought about by the previous two days of set-up, working Judging Day is a sheer delight for me. I've often wondered why I'm so drawn to the judging process. First of all, it's a celebratory day. A day when the toil and creative channeling of our members are rewarded with ribbons, awards, and often high praise. It's a chance to see in a single sweep of the eyes what each member values in his/her orchid addiction and to be present as his/her personal standards are endorsed.

I also very much enjoy working within individual clerking teams. Most of the task-oriented activities within the society require weeks of planning, meetings, and mental, if not physical, hard work. It's refreshing to come together for a single day, work as a successful team, and be able to appreciate the fruits of our labors. I also relish the opportunities to mentor and be mentored. It's one of the few open forums that we have for exchanging knowledge within our membership, and I highly recommend that everyone take advantage of the opportunity.

Judging Day is also an opportunity to work shoulder-to-shoulder with AOS judges. Individual personalities aside, you have to admire their willingness to invest seven or more years of their lives just to become an accredited judge. Beyond that, most



Dendrobium Pixie Princess from Arbec Orchids

of them have devoted additional years, sometimes decades, serving in that capacity on behalf of the orchid community. There are two great reservoirs of orchid knowledge in the world, one being the breeder/grower and the other the judge. Often the two are embodied in the same person.

Finally, Judging Day gives me a chance to serve. Sometimes it's difficult to know where your help is needed or if what you're doing is in fact helpful. There are no ambiguities on Judging Day. Everyone has a job, and except for a few key roles (e.g., judging coordinator, judges, head clerks) it doesn't matter much if you don't know everything. You know that if you're present on Judging Day, you're unequivocally serving the society.

~ Gary Smith

Show Committee

Bill Scharf, *Show Chair*
Barbara and Lou Buck
Hilda Sukman
Ann and Lee Lundy
David and Margaret Smith
Gary Smith
Joe Dockman
Cyrus Swett
Bill Ellis
Bill Soyke
Eric Wiles
Lorie Lee-Young

Volunteers

Lou Buck
Nancy Duggan
Anne Minkowski
JoAnn Russo
Clarke Riley
Hilda Sukman
Maryilyn Lauffer
Harriet Quaudt
Ann Lundy
Lee Lundy
David Smith
Margaret Smith
Gary Smith
Bill Scharf
Joe Dockman
Cyrus Swett
Edith Goldman
Joan Forester
Don Forester

John Roeme
Aaron Webb
Laura Sobelman
Chris Zajac
Martha Hopkins
Bill Ellis
Mary Chiu
Mark Robbins
Bill Soyke
Eric Wiles
Rebecca Weiler
Sarah Hurdel
Lorie Lee-Young
Phong Tran
Peter Robinson
Rachael Adams
Steve Adams

Judging Clerks

Joe Dockman
Lorie Lee-Young
Gary Smith
Bill Bannon (not a member of MOS)
Paul Biederman
Marilyn Lauffer
Cyrus Swett
Ann Lundy
Bill Ellis
Howard Eskildson (new MOS member)
Laura Sobelman (special duties clerk)
Aaron Webb (was committed, but jury duty pulled him away and he was unable to clerk)

(We apologize to anyone who volunteered at the Show and is not listed above.)

Keys to Good Exhibit Design

At this year's MOS show, judges Frank and Taylor Slaughter and Linda Kennedy discussed the criteria they consider in design of an exhibit. By definition their choice is not subjective and includes a long list of elements required for properly awarding the exhibit. Following are just a few of the many exhibits the judges mentioned as having qualities they look for in an exhibit.

Other important aspects are **balance and placement of plants**, how they are organized and the scale of the plants in relationship to each other. There should be a subtle variety in the size and height of adjacent plants but also broad range of sizes from the smallest to the largest plant. The exhibit should not seem flat. As mentioned previously, good usage of space is key. Plants should be placed evenly throughout, not crowded or clumped in the middle of the space.



Photo by Barry Woolf.



How well the **theme** of the show is represented is essential. Linda Kennedy mentioned the above exhibit as a good example of use of this year's theme — "Orchids Around the World." Other examples of use of theme are also shown here. The theme elements should not overpower the plants.

Extremely important in design of an exhibit is the **line and flow** of the exhibit accentuated by the rhythm of colors used throughout the display. The above display was cited as a wonderful example of most things considered for a good exhibit. Subtle, softer colors or colors of the same hue create a more lyrical flow, helping the eye pass naturally and more easily through the exhibit.

In this exhibit the grouping of the similar colors gently draw one's eyes upward and from left to right.

Another good example of flow is in this display where one's eyes rest on the cat and the pebble path draws the eyes to the plants, which are nicely organized and show good use of space.



Pat Kelt's won the best first time exhibitor.
Photo by Barry Woolf.



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