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ORCHID

newsletter



A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

December 2007

president's message

This month's meeting on December 20 is our annual holiday party — with tables of orchids in bloom — and more tables full of delicious food. Barbara Buck is coordinating the food for the party and would be delighted to have donations of entrees, salads or desserts. Let her know what you are bringing at 410-551-9374.

There is no speaker scheduled this month so it is a good time to chat with others and learn about the plants on the Show Table, buy plants at the auction and buy the beautiful AOS 2008

calendars for presents! We will have 20 calendars available at the meeting. I will also have forms for ordering blue denim orchid shirts (ready by the January meeting). In addition, Marilyn Lauffer will have the 2007-2008 MOS Membership Directory ready for you to pick up. We will also have the results of the Auction on November 24th and the announcement of the theme for the 2008 MOS Orchid Show on March 7-9, 2008. So come one and all, bring a friend and enjoy the party!

Ann Lundy

Awesome Auction Astounds Attendees

This year was the first for the MOS Orchid Auction at a new location: the social hall of the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Station on MD Route #32. The hall turned out to be a good choice — it was comfortable, had good lighting, and was big enough to accommodate the over 500 orchids, the 88 registered bidders, and the 35 volunteers who ran the auction. When an activity moves to a new location, there is always a risk of decreased participation, especially in the first year. We are pleased that the decrease in buyers this year was only about 12 percent.

A total of 212 lots were sold in the Regular Auction, and 347 lots were sold at a fixed price in the Instant Auction, about the same as last year. The average purchase by successful bidders decreased by about 30 percent — with more orchids going for less, there were a lot of great deals at this auction! The vagaries of current economic trends may be partly to blame.

For the first time this year, we tracked orchid lots won by bidders on computer, so that an itemized list of lots purchased could be printed out, with prices and a total. MOS VP (and database guru) Gary Smith masterminded this improvement, and implemented it with Dan Williamson's help.

This year, in addition to our experienced auctioneers, to whom we owe our most sincere gratitude — Bob Marshall, Ken Meier, Les Werner, and Bill Soyke — we were helped by rookie auctioneer Steve Adams, with color commentary by his very knowledgeable wife, Rachael.

Overall, this year's auction can be considered a real success. A hearty "Thank You" to all the volunteers who made this year's Auction a success. (See photos on page 3). In addition to those already mentioned, they included:

Lou and Barbara Buck
Mary Chiu
Ernie Drohan
Nancy Duggan
Blair Farrand and Jane Kelly
Don Forester
Suzanne Gaertner
Edith Goldman
Marilyn Lauffer
Valerie Lowe
Ann and Lee Lundy

Yuko Ota
Clark Riley
Jo Ann Russo
David and Margaret Smith
Laura Sobelman
Cyrus Swett
Aaron Webb
Becky Weiler
Eric Wiles
Chris Zajac and son, Lenny

Thank you all, again,
Bill Ellis, Auction Chair

IN
THIS
ISSUE



November Show Table Results

Awesome Auction Astounds Attendees—photos



Psychopsis Q&A—Roots Gone Bad

Orchids of Peru Trip Scheduled

show table > nov. 2007

Photos by Beng Light



Den. Lin-An-Min - Suzanne Gaertner

Novice

1. Den. Mini Nagasaka - Laura Sobelman
2. Den. Lin-An-Min - Suzanne Gaertner
3. Onc. Hybrid - Sarah Spence



Phrag. Sedenii 'Roseum' - Marilyn Lauffer

Home Grown

1. Phrag. Sedenii 'Roseum' - Marilyn Lauffer
2. Tie C. Hybrid - Bill Scharf
Paph. *spicerianum* - Nancy Duggan
3. Vuyl. Michelle Renfield 'Pacific Blue Skies' - Dan Williamson

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. Blc. George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS - Joe Dockman
2. Colm. Wildcat 'Doris' AM/AOS - Les Kirkegaard
3. C. Chocolate Drop 'Nok' - Craig Taborsky



Blc. George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS - Joe Dockman



Colm. Wildcat 'Doris' AM/AOS - Les Kirkegaard



C. Chocolate Drop 'Nok' - Craig Taborsky

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Ascda. Princess Mikasa - The Adamases
2. B. Little Stars - Cy Swett



Bark. *skinneri* - Dr. Eric Wiles

Cattleya

1. Bc. Donna Kimura 'Paradise Tami' AM/AOS - Les Kirkegaard
2. B. Little Stars - The Adamases
3. Bark. *skinneri* - Dr. Eric Wiles

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. *bellina* 'Chin Ho' - The Adamases
2. Phal. (Achy Breaky Heart X Fifi) - Mark Robbins
3. Phal. *bellina* - Cy Swett

Oncidium

1. Onc. *carthagenensis* - Dr. Eric Wiles
2. Brs. Santa Ynez 'Harford' - Dan Williamson
3. Dgmra. Hani 'Star of Unicorn' AM/AOS - Chris Zajac



Phal. (Achy Breaky Heart X Fifi) - Mark Robbins



Brs. Santa Ynez 'Harford' - Dan Williamson

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. *lantha* Stage 'TomCat' - Mark Robbins
2. Paph. Ernest Read - David Smith
3. Tie Paph. *Maudiae* '1972' - Clark Riley
Phrag. *longifolium* var. *gracile* - Val Lowe

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Neost. Lou Sneary 'Colorful Blue' - The Adamases
2. Mok. Walter Ounae 'White' - Cy Swett
3. Masd. Maui Gold - Bill Scharf

Species

1. Ang. *distichum* - David Smith
2. Den. *laevifolium* - Bill Scharf
3. Bulb. *unitubum* - The Adamases



Den. *aberrans* - Bill Ellis
Photo by Laura

Miniature

1. Epi. *porpax* var. *album* 'Harford' CHM/AOS - Bill Scharf
2. Pths. *allenii* - The Adamases
3. Den. *aberrans* - Bill Ellis

First Bloom Seedling

1. Epi. *pseudepidendrum* - The Adamases
2. Onc. Mem. Bill Carter - The Lundys

Fragrance

1. Dendrochilum *glumaceum* - The Lundys
2. Dar. Charm 'Pacific Blue' - Craig Taborsky
3. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS - Cy Swett



Ang. *distichum* - David Smith

The Judges' Choice of the Evening was Ang. *distichum*, exhibited by David Smith. The judges were Gene Trump, Gary Smith and Hilda Sukman. There were 80 plants on the show table.

Awesome Auction Astounds Attendees



Q&A

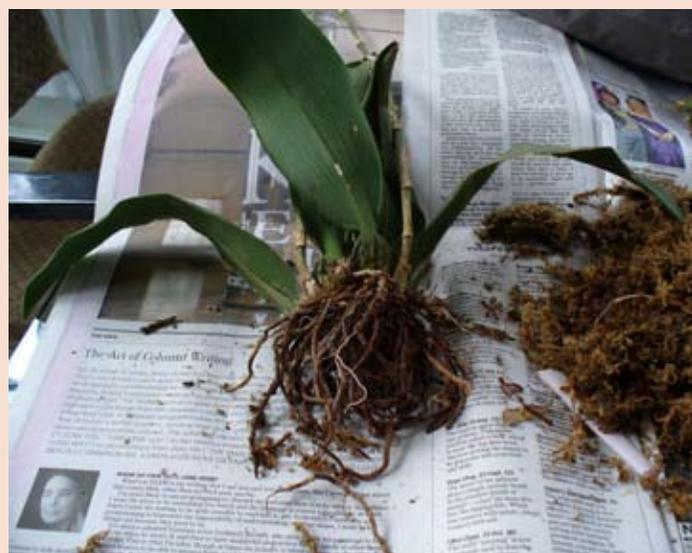
The *MOS Newsletter* team offers a column including answers to any questions you might have about orchids. If you have questions regarding orchid care, culture or just general questions please email Laura Sobelman and she will forward it to our “experts” who will give you suggestions. Even better if you have a photo illustrating the question.

This month’s question is from a woman who purchased a “rescue” *Psychopsis* from an instant auction table at this year’s MOS auction. The plant was in need of an orchid doctor. The roots had gone bad, kicking over alley trash cans and spray painting mail boxes. Since so many members responded with advice, she’s probably now sorry she asked.

Roots gone bad

Q. When I bought an *Oncidium papilio* (*Psychopsis*) at the MOS auction I knew ahead of time it would need a little TLC. I unpotted it and the roots were rotten from over watering but I’d like to resurrect the plant since it is one of my favorites. I already have one that blooms once a month that has two spikes and has another coming out. Do you think that using Rootone will help the situation? Included is a picture of the plant. Also, I don’t have any ideas about what kind of medium to put it in since it is wrapped in moss. Should I use the same medium?

A1. I have had some success in getting new roots on *Paphs.* by wrapping the base of the plant in a small amount of damp sphagnum moss and enclosing it in a plastic baggie (which I blow air into and then seal) and placing it in a warm place with indirect light. The air in the bag needs to be “replaced” every week or two for best results but it has worked for me. I would think that you should be able to get roots if the pseudobulb(s) are viable ... Tom McBride of the Little Greenhouse (410-661-4748) may be the Maryland Orchid Society’s most knowledgeable propagator and might be able to suggest other ways to get new roots on your plant.
Ann Lundy
President, MOS



A2. *Oncidium papilio* is now *Psychopsis papilio*. It grows as an epiphyte, so it should be repotted in an open mix like medium to coarse fir bark. Although it grows in a wet environment during May through December (8.8-11.5 inches of rain/month), it experiences a dry period (1.3 – 3.0 inches) during January through March, and ramps back up in April (5.6 inches). The overwatering may have occurred during the winter period early this year. It is recommended that the roots be allowed to dry quickly, and that the medium be somewhat dry between waterings, but not dry out completely. Tom McBride, of The Little Greenhouse, recommends cutting off the spike to remove any unnecessary stress on the plant while it is growing new roots. Using Rootone and moist sphagnum in a plastic bag sounds good to me, too, to induce new roots.
Ref – Baker & Baker, *Orchid Species Culture: Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance*, 2006 (from MOS library)
Bill Ellis

See more on *Psychopsis* culture on next page.



Correction

In last month’s newsletter the photo of Edith Goldman’s Miltonia Hybrid was incorrectly identified as Bill Ellis’ *Milt. santanaei*. Our bad.

Oncidium Papilio (Psychopsis) Culture

Reprinted with permission from the Carter and Holmes website— <http://www.carterandholmes.com/oncindpapcare.html>
800-873-7086

Oncidium papilio (Psychopsis) and its hybrids have a few preferences that when met will increase the strength of the plants and give you more flowers of higher quality.

You should use a media that drains well with ingredients like tree fern and charcoal that help “open up” the mix. The roots on these plants will not tolerate sour conditions, but the plants do not like to be repotted frequently. Using a rapidly draining mix will add to the length of time you can keep the plants in the same container. When you do repot, do so in the spring when new roots appear. This may come at the same time as new spikes. Removing spikes when repotting will allow the plant to use more of its energy to get established in its new container.

After removing the plant from its container, soaking it in a solution of Superthrive, Dyna-Grow KLN or another root growth stimulant for a few hours and then allowing it to dry somewhat for a couple of weeks out of mix before repotting it should help initiate sufficient new root growth. During this period the plant should be misted on clear, sunny mornings, but not watered otherwise.

When you repot, take care to get the crown of the plant just below the potting mix line so that the roots emerge into the mix, not into the air. The plant should be firmly settled into the mix so that it does not “wobble” at all. Go light on the watering until new roots reach about one inch in length.

One reason for watering so lightly at the repotting stage is that these oncidiums can be lost rather quickly to fungal or bacterial infections, both of which are inhibited by dryer conditions. Take care not to break the surface of emerging leaves when repotting, as



this gives easy access to the open tissue for troublesome spores. Any lesions should be quickly treated with your fungicide/bactericide to prevent infection.

Good air movement is essential to help your plants dry faster between watering and will also help to prevent the stale, humid atmosphere in which dangerous pathogens thrive. High humidity in the air is especially beneficial, but makes good air movement even more important. If the air is humid, you will have to water a bit less frequently, but do not think of humid air as a substitute for water to the roots when the mix dries out.

Oncidium papilio (Psychopsis) and its hybrids grow and flower well for us in quite a range of light. We grow them with both Phalaenopsis and Cattleya hybrids and have good growth and flowering in both the low and the high light greenhouses. When growing in lower light, it is more important to keep a watch on the roots to be sure they are not staying wet.

We have found that potting in hard tree fern pots does work well, as the plants can remain in these pots for years undisturbed. Clay pots also work well but plants in clay pots may need to be watered somewhat more frequently than those in plastic pots. Very warm temperatures (90+ degrees) will dry any mix out fast, but should be avoided.

Fertilize most heavily when in growth, and heavier when growing in brighter light, but do take care to keep fertilizer deposits from gathering in the crease of emerging growths. Use whatever fertilizer you use on your other orchids, but remember that less nitrogen will be needed when growing with less fir bark in the mix.

The Maryland Orchid Society Show is March 7-9, 2008

We are quickly approaching the Holiday Season which means the 2008 Spring Show is inching closer. As always, what makes the Show a success is the help we get from the membership. That help can take many forms, from helping to set up the staging, working in the sales area during the Show, boxing plants, checking plants, answering questions from orchid shoppers, to helping knock down the Show when it's over and many things in between. Consider clerking during Judging. It's a great way to hear first hand how AOS judges assess exhibits and individual plants as well. Everyone who helps at Judging is treated to brunch by the Omelette Queen and everyone who helps at the Show will receive a gift from the Society.

Of course what makes the Show a show are the exhibits. Display your orchids by entering individual plants in Grower's Choice, to a 100 square foot exhibit and all sizes in between. You can join with a friend or group and put in a joint exhibit as well.

There is a lot of time to form new friendships with other orchid growers from around the area and to expand your friendships within the Society.

If you plan to sponsor an Award again this year, please see Lorie Lee Young and have your payment in by the January meeting. Due to an increase in the production cost of the Awards, we need to increase the sponsorship to \$45.00 for 2008. If you have questions regarding sponsoring an Award ask Lorie or Bill Scharf.

The Show Committee is now selecting a Show theme. If you have ideas, please email your thoughts to bscharf@mskpartners.com

Look for sign up sheets at the next meeting and plan on helping, you'll be glad you did.

Thanks,
Bill Scharf, MOS Show Chairman



Orchids of Peru

Visit Peru with the ACEER Foundation

Explore the Cloud Forests of the Andes

See the Machu Picchu Citadel

Visit Alfredo Manrique's Nurseries in Lima

Workshop April 5-14, 2008

led by John Salventi of Parkside Orchids

For more information: www.aceer.org or call Marguerite Gould, Director of Operations, ACEER Foundation

610-738-0477

calendar

Next General Meeting

December 20, 2007

7:00 p.m. Show table set up

7:15 p.m. Education Corner

7:30 p.m. Judging begins

8:00 p.m. Meeting begins

8:15 p.m. Program begins

The Maryland Orchid Society meets at the First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore MD. Please bring in your flowering orchids for the show table! This is also our annual holiday party. Woo-ha!

National Capitol Judging Center

Jan. 5, 2008 1:00 pm

National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC. Sue Burgess, Program Director

Next MOS Board Meeting

January 10, 2008 at 7:30 pm.

Food will be served at 6:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Maryland Orchid Society

Officers

President

Ann Lundy
410-366-9365
annlundy@verizon.net

Vice-President

Gary Smith
410-374-5811
garysmith@qis.net

Treasurer

David Smith
410-526-0179
fpsakes1@aol.com

Controller

Lee Lundy
410-366-9365
llundy@TydingsLaw.com

Secretary

Lori Lee-Young
410-833-6845
scuubadive@verizon.net

Past President

Barry Woolf
410-879-1654
Woolfphoto1@comcast.net

Directors

Aaron Webb
410-235-4062
awebb71574@aol.com

Eric Wiles
410-635-6023
winvet88@yahoo.com

Committees

Auction
Bill Ellis
410-549-1530
billellis@ellislist.com

Aaron Webb
410-235-4062
awebb71574@aol.com

Away Shows

Valerie Lowe
410-335-3522
vlowe@bcpl.net

Education/Activities

Eric Wiles
410-635-6023
winvet88@yahoo.com

Show

Bill Scharf
717-244-3695
bscharf@mskpartners.com

Sunshine

Hilda Sukman
410-332-1532
hrks1931@msn.com

House

Bill Soyke
410-444-5465
Wsoyke@comcast.net

Library

Anne Minkowski
410-323-3020
saskakempa@verizon.net

Membership

Marilyn Lauffer
jmlauffer@verizon.net

Newsletter

Laura Sobelman
410.363.1040
Sobelman@Comcast.net

Program

Ann Lundy
Refreshments
Barbara Buck
410-551-9374
BarbaraBuck@comcast.net

Show Table

Thomas McBride
410-661-4748
Tamcbr1de@aol.com

Hospitality

Yuko Ota
410-277-0677
yora@som.umaryland.edu

AOS Representative

Bill Ellis
410-549-1530
billellis@ellislist.com

Webmaster

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

Visit us on the Web at www.marylandorchids.org
Maryland Orchid Society
P.O. Box 5651 • Baltimore, MD 21210