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newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

March 2009



president's message

As I write this month's column, the show has just ended and our faithful Newsletter Editor is once again dealing with the effect of my completely missing deadline, so I'll be brief.

First, the show: I thought this year's show was the smoothest and most efficiently run that I've seen. There is a long list of people to thank for this, but I'd like to single out one in particular. Bill Scharf has served as Show Committee Chair for several years now, and there is no doubt in my mind that his results are more impressive each year. The show is an enormous project to undertake, requiring many hours of planning and work. We're all indebted to Bill's efforts, and I'm personally fortunate to have him running this critical function for the society. Great job Bill!

Second, I'd like to offer a shout-out to a few other members who distinguished themselves lately. In February, I committed the society to participate in the *The Joy of Orchids* event at Homestead Gardens on 1 March. I did a lousy job of proactively planning for the effort. When the time came to pull together handout material and even arrive on time for the event, my efforts fell short. But three members pulled my fat from the fire and did an exemplary job of representing the society in fine form. I'd like to thank Barbara Buck, Louis Buck, and Clark Riley for their outstanding effort. Thank you again!

Gary

Dr. Bill Mathis to Speak at March MOS Meeting

Since 1970, Dr. Bill Mathis of The Wild Orchid Company has been nurturing his intense interest in growing hardy orchids and enthusiastically teaches others how to do so as well. With a Master's degree in Botany and a Ph.D. in agronomy, this orchid enthusiast and botanist has immersed himself in the plant world, both personally and professionally, for over 35 years. His passion for growing hardy orchids is palpable and his audiences benefit from his knack for turning the seemingly complicated into simple guidelines and instructions. Dr. Mathis will present a talk titled "Gardening with Hardy Perennial Orchids."

Note: Dr. Mathis will not have plants for sale at the meeting; however, he will bring copies of his book "The Gardener's Guide to Hardy Perennial Orchids."



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February Show Table

Monthly checklist for March/April

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February's Judges' Choice Winner Jamie Riegel

Orchid Calendar

show table-feb. 2009

by Tom McBride



Phal. Orange Love - Lynn Pastore

Novice

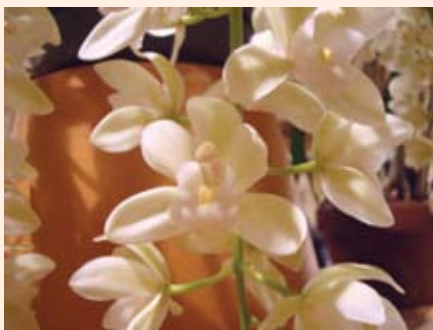
1. *Phal.* Orange Love - Lynn Pastore
2. *Slc.* Hazel Boyd - Gregg Custis
3. *Den.* Mini Snowflakes - Charlotte Grahe



Slc. Hazel Boyd - Gregg Custis

Home Grown

1. *Cym.* Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' AD/CSA - Jamie Riegel
2. *Masd.* Claret Chalis 'Harford's Wine Festival' AM/AOS - Bill Scharf
3. *Gur.* *aurantiaca* - Ernie Drohan



Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' AD/CSA - Jamie Riegel

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. *Rhv.* Blue Lightning - Les Kirkegaard
2. *B.* Little Stars - Jos Venturina
3. *Paph.* (Alma Gavaert X Todd Clark) - Lou Vadorsky

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. *Den.* Oriental Smile 'Fantasy' - The Adamses
2. *Cym.* Red Beauty 'Carmen' - Cy Swett
3. *Ddc.* *tenellum* - David Smith



Rhv. Blue Lightning - Les Kirkegaard



Paph. (Alma Gavaert X Todd Clark) - Lou Vadorsky

Cattleya

1. *Bl.* Yellow Bird - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
2. Tie *Lc.* Astri - Jos Venturina
Epi. Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower' - The Adamses
3. Tie *Epi.* Jubilee - Clark Riley
Epi. Panama 'Ruby' - Craig Sherman



Den. Oriental Smile 'Fantasy' - The Adamses



Phal. Hybrid - Bill Soyke

Phalaenopsis

1. *Phal.* Hybrid - Bill Soyke
2. *Phal.* *schilleriana* 'Summer' - The Adamses
3. Tie *Phal.* Hybrid - Joan Roderick
Dtps. Sogo Manager 'Ben Yu' - Kathi Jackson



Lc. Astri - Jos Venturina

Oncidium

1. *Vuyl.* Melissa Brianne 'Shady Lady' AM/AOS - Eric Wiles
2. *Bllra.* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS - Cy Swett
3. *Onc.* Gower Ramsey - Chris Zajac

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. *Phrag.* *besseae* 'Noyo's Daughter' HCC/AOS - Clark Riley
2. Tie *Paph.* *villosum* - David Smith
Paph. Mount Toro - The Adamses
3. Tie *Paph.* Albion - Lou Vadorsky
Paph. Diane Vickery - Cy Swett

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Dtps. Sogo Manager 'Ben Yu' - Kathi Jackson

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. *Den. Yellow Chinsai 'Little Joe'* HCC/AOS - Eric Wiles
2. *Stsc. Vanguard 'Sarah'* - Val Lowe
3. *Masd. Elvin Magic 'Carney'* - Bill Scharf



Vuyl. Melissa Brianne 'Shady Lady' AM/AOS - Eric Wiles



Billra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS - Cy Swett

Species

1. *Ddc. bicallosum* - David Smith
2. Tie *Masd. princeps* - The Adamases
Sppm. gibberosum - Jos Venturina
Den. amabile - Bill Ellis
3. *Masd. imposter* - Bill Scharf

Miniature

1. *Max. lankesteri* - Cy Swett
2. Tie *Aergs. citrata* - Eric Wiles
Scgl. sp. - David Smith
3. Tie *Den. aberrans* - Bill Ellis
Pths. cypripedioides - The Adamases



Paph. villosum - David Smith

First Bloom Seedling

1. *Paph.*
Conkoloco - Clark Riley
2. *Paph.* (Red Glory X Mod Maude) - The Adamases
3. *Aergs. fastuosa* - Eric Wiles



Stsc. Vanguard 'Sarah' - Val Lowe

Fragrance

1. *Ri. glauca* - Craig Taborsky
2. *Lc. Saturn* - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. *Lc.* (Susan Holguin X Yee Yee Law) - Eric Wiles



Masd. Elvin Magic 'Carney' - Bill Scharf



Den. amabile - Bill Ellis

The Judges Choice of the Evening was *Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'* AD/CSA, exhibited by Jamie Riegel. The judges were Craig Sherman, Lorie Lee-Young and Chris Zajac. What spectacular show table this month, we had a whopping 147 plants displayed!



Paph. Conkoloco - Clark Riley



Lc. Saturn - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

Monthly Checklist for March and April

Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Web site: www.aos.org

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard *cattleyas* of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering *cattleyas*. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.



Cym. Red Beauty 'Carmen' - Cy Swett

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group — bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* — is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.



Paph. Diane Vickery - Cy Swett

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your *paphiopedilums* before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted *paphiopedilums* look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to

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This column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In February, Jamie Riegel's Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' AD/CSA was awarded the honor. Following is Jamie's description of how he grows his plant:

“ I originally purchased this plant back in 2003 from the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. I am pretty sure it was one of those late night internet impulse buys, after coming across a picture of it in bloom somewhere. Over the years it has become one of my more reliable, and easiest plant to bloom that I have owned.



I grow the plant outdoors with my other *Cymbidiums*. The plant will receive full sun in the morning. In the afternoon, and evening the awning on the greenhouse shades from the sun. I water the plant every day, or every other day. Depending on how the weather has been. The potting mix is the multi-purpose mix from The Little Greenhouse, and I fertilize with a balanced timed release Flower and Vegetable plant food. I keep the plant outdoors from the spring, until I see spikes beginning emerge. Once I bring it indoors I move it to a large West-facing window in my laundry room, where I keep the temperature from 55-60 degrees. After the plant is finished blooming it's time to start the cycle all over again. ”

stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a “nodding” stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with *fairieanum* background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for *phalaenopsis*. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging — even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of *phalaenopsis* spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

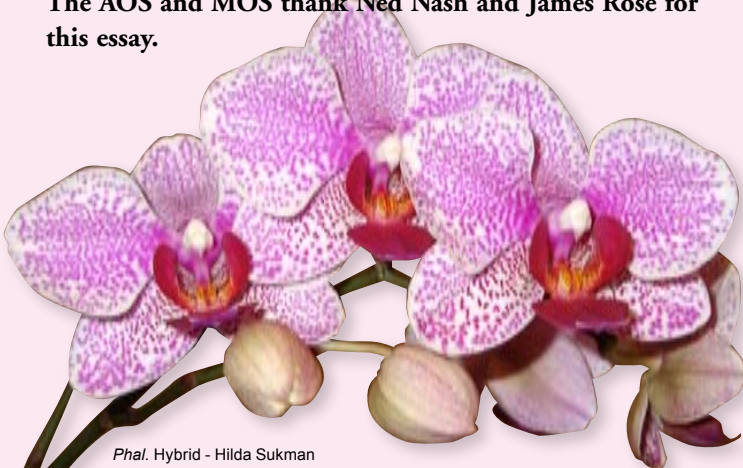
Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

The AOS and MOS thank Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



Phal. Hybrid - Hilda Sukman

orchid calendar 2009

Date: 12 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show Ribbon and AOS Judging
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 9:00 AM

Date: 12 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show Preview Party
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 PM

Date: 13-15 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show and Sale
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM Fri & Sat
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sun
Tear down 6:00 PM
Details: www.mdorchids.org

Date: 15 March
Event: National Capital Orchid Society Meeting
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Details: www.ncos.us/ncos/meetings.htm

Date: 15 March
Event: Susquehanna Orchid Society Meeting
Location: Giant Supermarket, 3301 Trindle Rd, Camp Hill, PA
Time: 1:30 PM
Details: www.susquehanna-orchid.org

Date: 19 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting
Location: First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org

Date: 26 March
Event: International Orchid Show Exhibit Installation
Location: Longwood Gardens
Time: 10:00 AM

Date: 27-29 March
Event: International Orchid Show and Sale
Location: Longwood Gardens
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Fri
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sat & Sun
Details: www.longwoodgardens.org/OrchidShowandSale2009.html

Date: 4 April
Event: National Capital Judging Center Judging Session
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM
Details: www.nationalcapitaljc.org/index.html

Date: 12 April
Event: Catoctin Orchid Society Meeting
Location: Church of the Transfiguration, Braddock Heights, MD
Time: 2:00 PM
Details: www.catoctinorchidsociety.org/COS_About.html

Date: 12 April
Event: Brookside Gardens Orchid Club Meeting
Location: Brookside Gardens Visitor's Center, Wheaton, MD
Time: 3:00 PM
Details: tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/BrooksideOrchids/

Date: 16 April
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting
Location: First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org

Date: 18 April
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Workshop
Location: St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org

Date: 19 April
Event: National Capital Orchid Society Meeting
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Details: www.ncos.us/ncos/meetings.htm

Date: 19 April
Event: Susquehanna Orchid Society Meeting
Location: Giant Supermarket, 3301 Trindle Rd, Camp Hill, PA
Time: 1:30 PM
Details: www.susquehanna-orchid.org

Date: 2 May
Event: National Capital Judging Center Judging Session
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM
Details: www.nationalcapitaljc.org/index.html

Date: 17 May
Event: National Capital Orchid Society Meeting
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Details: www.ncos.us/ncos/meetings.htm

Date: 17 May
Event: Susquehanna Orchid Society Meeting
Location: Giant Supermarket, 3301 Trindle Rd, Camp Hill, PA
Time: 1:30 PM
Details: www.susquehanna-orchid.org

Date: 21 May
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting
Location: First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org

YOU ARE INVITED!

Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society Dinner/Dance at Longwood Gardens

Come Dine and Dance among the Orchids

Saturday, March 28, 2009

6:00 -11:00PM

Longwood Gardens Conservatory

Hors D'oeuvres

Main Meal Choice of One:

- Seared Caribbean pork tenderloin with warm mango jalapeno chutney
- European chicken breast with natural thyme reduction
- or Grilled polenta with grilled vegetables, goat cheese and roasted tomato sauce
- Dessert - Chocolate Lava Cake

Advanced Ticket Purchase Required \$77/person

Marrianna Occhiuzzo

140 Columbia Ave.

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 909-5908

Cash, checks (made payable to

SEPOS, VISA/MC

and Discover accepted



New Members

The MOS would like to welcome the following new members:

Mary George and Ursula Beitter

Maryland Orchid Society Workshop

April 18, 2009

St. David's Church

4700 Roland Ave

Baltimore, MD 21210

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

www.marylandorchids.org

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