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newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

May 2009



president's message

I thought I'd use the May issue to get you caught up on a few developments worked on as of the last Board of Trustees Meeting in April.

Virus Test Kits – We're moving forward with the purchase of test kits for those members who have expressed an interest. By pooling our resources we'll be able to purchase kits at a moderate discount. The only hitch is that members will be required to pay up-front. We considered purchasing kits and then selling them to members, but kits are perishable and we didn't want to get stuck with a bunch of worthless kits. We'll be in contact soon to confirm interest and number of kits and ask for remittances.

Auction – The monthly auction has seen unprecedented popularity during the past six months. Unfortunately, the number of plants offered for sale is contributing to the meeting running late into the evening. Consequently, the Board decided to limit the number of plants per seller from three per night to just two beginning in May. We hope that this is enough to throttle back the number of plants sold at each meeting but still maintain a viable auction for both sellers and the buyers. We'll continue to monitor the situation and suggest remedies as needed.

Shed – Our storage shed in Clarksville is in need of some maintenance and minor repairs. Lou Buck has a punch list

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Steve Male to Speak at May Meeting

Stephen Male, owner of Fishing Creek Orchids in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has been growing a diverse collection of orchids for over 25 years. He and his plants have received over 100 AOS awards for both quality and culture, including one FCC. He has also been awarded the AOS Show Trophy in over twelve nationally judged shows. Steve has experience growing on window sills, outdoors, under lights, and in a greenhouse where he creates micro-environments to increase the diversity of his collection.

Steve will share his techniques for growing a diverse collection of species from uncommon orchid genera. He will also bring some of his plants for sale at the meeting. He can be reached at 717-599-5390 for special orders.

Steve Male and Alfredo Manrique at a March 2007 Susquehanna meeting. Alfredo was speaking about growing *Phragmipedium kovachii*.



Photo by Clark Riley

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Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS - Kathi Jackson

Novice

1. Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS - Kathi Jackson
2. Dtps. Happy Valentine X Phal. (New Eagle X Pinlong Cinderella) - Janice Mazur
3. Phal. Hybrid - Suzanne Gaertner



Masd. Maui Gold - Bill Scharf

Home Grown

1. Masd. Maui Gold - Bill Scharf
2. Paph. Rose Tapestry 'Catherine' AM/AOS - Mark Robbins
3. Tie Slc. Mae Hawkins 'Miya' AM/AOS - Ernie Drohan
Phrag. Super Grande - Val Lowe



Lc. Milchael Gifand - Barbara Buck

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. Lc. Milchael Gifand - Barbara Buck
2. Paph. (Conco-bellatulum X Lemon Heart) - Les Kirkegaard



Mts. harriotiana - David Smith

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Lyc. (Tropic Flare X Auburn) - The Adamses
2. Mts. harriotiana - David Smith
3. Phrag. Demetria - Lou Vadorsky



C. schilleriana 'Harford' HCC/AOS - The Adamses

Cattleya

1. C. schilleriana 'Harford' HCC/AOS - The Adamses
2. Tie C. Irene Holguin 'Brown Eyes' AM/AOS - Michael Moran
C. intermedia 'Do Hietor' - David Smith
3. Rl. digbyana 'Mrs. Chase' AM/AOS - The Lundys



Phal. Carmela's Pixie 'Hakalau' - Lorie Lee-Young

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Carmela's Pixie 'Hakalau' - Lorie Lee-Young
2. Phal. Sogo Fairyland - Bill Soyke
3. Phal. Rue Lyn Beauty 'RL' - The Adamses



Pyp. Mendenhall 'Monarch' AM/AOS - The Lundys

Oncidium

1. Pyp. Mendenhall 'Monarch' AM/AOS - The Lundys
2. Bapt. echinata - Nancy Duggan

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. (philippinense X armeniacum) - Mark Robbins
2. Tie Paph. Dellaina - Sue Spicer
Paph. Addicted Phillip - Val Lowe
3. Paph. hirsutissimum - David Smith



Cym. canaliculatum - Val Lowe

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Ang. (sesquipedale X leonis) - Michael Moran
2. Den. atroviolaceum - Lorie Lee-Young
3. Tie Den. Nestor - The Lundys
Zygo. Advance Australia 'HOF' - The Adamses

Species

1. Masd. ayabacana - The Adamses
2. Tie Den. harveyanum - David Smith
Cym. canaliculatum - Val Lowe
3. Anc. rothschildianus - Bill Ellis



Soph. Arizona 'Rio Sunrise' - Clark Riley

Miniature

1. Soph. Arizona 'Rio Sunrise' - Clark Riley
2. Tie Masd. (tonduzii X mendozae) - Bill Scharf
Pths. species - David Smith
3. Lept. bicolor - The Adamses

First Bloom Seedling

1. Soph. coccinea - Clark Riley
2. Paph. lowii - Lou Vadorsky
3. L. jongheana - The Adamses



Bc. Elnor - Marilyn Lauffer

Fragrance

1. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' - Laura Sobelman
2. Bc. Elnor - Marilyn Lauffer
3. C. Margaret Degenhardt 'Saturn' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Ang. (sesquipedale X leonis), exhibited by Michael Moran. Read more about Mike's Ang. on page 4.

The judges were Bill Ellis, Laura Sobelman and Michael Moran. We had a total of 122 beautiful plants displayed on the show table this month!

April Orchid Workshop Draws Big Crowd

The Dow is up, the Dow is down. The economy may be sinking, but orchid lovers are still full of enthusiasm. Our post-show workshop is a great example. A full house of attendees with fervent interest in improving their ability to grow better plants. With such enthusiasm, we added new members to our roster as well, had great conversation, entertainment and a fine lunch. Participating volunteers gave their all in strong support at the event and I sincerely thank them. Their love of growing

orchids and helping others to do the same, and camaraderie for the society ensured a great time for all. We hope to see all of you at next year's work shop. Bring a friend and enjoy a great experience with the society.

Eric Wiles
Education Chair



Bill Scharf, MOS Vice President, spoke about easy-to-grow orchids and the difference between hybrids and species. He also touched briefly on pests and said to watch out for snugs. Sarah Spence explained that this must be a snail/slug hybrid.



A rapt audience clung to every word.



Eric Wiles, MOS Education Chair, introduces the workshop.



Bill Ellis discussed the many species and sections of Dendrobiums.



Valerie Lowe brought several Phalaenopses for her talk on Phals.

Clark Riley lectured on fertilizers, saying a little fertilizer goes a long way. Orchids prefer a wide variety of fertilizers. Even if you love to eat shrimp, you wouldn't want to eat it at every meal. Clark also talked a bit about water.



David Smith demonstrated how to mount and repot orchids. Afterward attendees could repot their own plants.



Bill Scharf noted Miltoniopsis can be easy to grow and very rewarding, if given the right conditions.



Sue Spicer offered refreshments.

Two unusual plants brought in by Valerie — a Paph with two lips and sets of sepals and a two-headed Paph.

orchid calendar 2009

Date: 16-17 May
Event: Woodstream Orchids' Open House and Sale
Location: 5810 Huntingtown Road, Huntingtown, MD
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Details: www.woodstromorchids.com

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

Date: 6 June
Event: National Capital Judging Center Judging Session
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:00 PM
Details: www.nationalcapitaljc.org/index.html

Date: 18 June
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
 Last meeting until September!

know it all!

This column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In April, Michael Moran's Ang. sesquipedale x leonis was awarded the honor. Following is Mike's description of how he grows his plant:



“ I purchased this unnamed *Angraecum* cross (*sesquipedale* x *leonis*) from Oak Hill Gardens in 2004. This plant is easily grown in a pot of bark, charcoal and perlite mix. I like to use the largest pot as possible since *Angraecums* seem to be sensitive to having their roots disturbed.

This plant is always in a growth mode so it is watered regularly. By this, I mean three times a week in the summer and once, maybe twice a week, in the winter. If the bottom leaves start to turn color and fall off, I water more heavily.

I'm not much of a plant feeder so my plants only get fed two or three times in the summer with some type of all purpose food. I don't feel that feeding is very important compared to light and watering requirements.

This plant is placed up high in my greenhouse where it gets plenty of diffused light and will also be in a warmer and more humid environment. ”

Editors note: *Angraecum* (*sesquipedale* x *leonis*) is recognized by the International Orchid Registrar as *Angraecum* North Star.

Monthly Checklist for May and June

Reprinted from the AOS Web site



Slc. Mae Hawkins 'Miya' AM/AOS - Ernie Drohan

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.



Paph. Michael Tibbs (*philippinense* X *armeniaceum*) - Mark Robbins

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season.



Phal. Sogo Fairyland - Bill Soyke

Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

AOS and MOS thank Ned Nash for this essay.

President's Message continued from page 1

ranging from minor carpentry to painting and is looking for some volunteers. Please contact Lou if interested in helping.

Calendar – The society calendar has been under gradual development for nearly a year now, but it's time to introduce it to our members. The purpose of the calendar is to list regional orchid-related events and activities of potential interest to our members. It is implemented in Google Calendar and is therefore an on-line resource. The URL is http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York. Of course, this is a bit much to type, so we plan on adding a link on our website shortly. Please feel free to recommend additional events and suggest improvements.

Committees – We've added several special committees over the past six months. In addition to Lou Buck's Shed Improvement

Committee, we now also have a Mentoring Committee chaired by Bill Ellis, a Recognition Committee led by Eric Wiles, and we're in the process of forming a website Redesign Committee. The Mentoring Committee is charged with implementing a mentor/protégé program to pair up experienced members with those seeking learning opportunities related to orchids. Eric's Recognition Committee is charged with developing guidelines for recognizing the great work performed by our volunteer members. And finally the website Redesign Committee is charged with gathering requirements and investigating options for creating and reorganizing the content available on the MOS website. We're extremely eager to turn the website into an even more useful resource for our members. Any of these committees could benefit from your help, so please ask for information and get involved.

Gary

New MOS Members

The MOS would like to welcome the following new members. Please greet them warmly at the next meeting.

Nancy Chalmers
Jannette Edwards
Barbara Isaacs

Sheila Johnson
Patricia Kastal
Delores Keene

Melissa Lovell
Valerie McNeal
Mary Teague

For the Nattily-dressed Orchidophile

We are currently taking orders for blue denim shirts with "Maryland Orchid Society" and an orchid embroidered on them. Shirts are \$33 each and can be ordered at the next meeting from Ann Lundy. Choose your size and orchid embroidery style — *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya* — and we will have them by the following meeting. For photos of the shirts, go to <http://www.celebrateorchids.com/shop/shirts.html>

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