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newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

December 2009



president's message

My Christmas gift to the society is a short President's Message this month. In looking back at the last 12 months, I think we can count a number of accomplishments. The 2009 Show and Sale was another in what is now a long string of successes. And although proceeds were a little low, they were not as low as they might have been, and in all other respects there were no disappointments. The April Workshop demonstrated once again that there is an appetite among the general public for orchid-related information. It was also a great source for new members interested in MOS. Over the summer we had unusual access to several local orchid growers thanks to several open houses. I think everyone loved the discounts. And most recently we conducted another successful Auction. To almost everyone's surprise, proceeds were comparable with 2008. The auctioneers did a fabulous job of

keeping up the energy as well as bids, which made up for relatively few donations for our instant auction.

I'm grateful for the support that so many members both tenured and new have provided to our activities and operational work. I look forward to our holiday party this month and hope to see many friendly faces. It's good to have a little down time during this busy season, because in January we start getting serious about the 2010 Show.

Happy holidays and best wishes for the coming year!

Gary



New MOS Member

The MOS would like to welcome new member **Suzanne Gilbride**.



Other Stuff

There were 56 members at the November meeting.

Don't miss the December meeting and holiday party! Gary will dress as Mrs. Santa Claus again this year while Bill Scharf sings his rap rendition of Silent Night. If you'd like to contribute to the holiday party, contact Barbara Buck at 410-551-9374 or barbarabuck@comcast.net. Also, don't forget to pick up your 2009 - 2010 Member Roster at the meeting.



Photos by Beng Light

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November Show Table
MOS Annual Auction



Local News
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on Orchid Hybrid Registration (ASCOHR)

show table - nov. 2009

by Tom McBride

Novice

1. Bllra. Hawaiian Glacier 'Queen Anne' - Kathi Jackson



2. Phal. Jet Green Mantenfon (above)- Sarah Hurdel



3. Paph. Deperle (above)- Doe Keene

Home Grown

1. Paph. *gratrixianum* - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Paph. Elfin Charm - John Dunning
Paph. Maudiae 'Los Osos' AM/AOS - Mark Robbins



3. Tie Stsc. Vanguard 'Fireball' JC/AOS (above)- Val Lowe
Hab. *rhodochila* 'Nuaunu' FCC/AOS - Chris Zajac



Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. Paph. *spicerianum* (above) - Lou Vadorsky



2. Cym. Hybrid (above) - Sue Spicer
3. C. Chocolate Drop X B. *nodosa* - Barbara Buck

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Odbrs. Fangtastic Bob Henley 'HOF #4' - The Adamses



2. Milt. Miami Spectacular (above)- Eric Wiles
3. Med. *decoratum* - David Smith



Cattleya

1. Blc. Alma Kee 'Tipmalee' AM/AOS - The Adamses
2. Tie Bc. Little Mermaid 'Janet' BM/JOGA (above)- Barbara Buck
Lc. Simplicity - Eric Wiles
3. Bc. Binosa 'Key Lime' - Aaron Webb



Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. *venosa* (above)- Chrissy Mavrides
2. Phal. Hybrid (below)- Bill Soyke
3. Tie Phal. Fairy Snow - Eric Wiles
Phal. Hans Christiansen - The Adamses



Oncidium

1. Onc. Midas 'Valleyfield' - The Adamses
2. Tie Psy. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS - Hilda Sukman
Odcdm. Lorraine's 14th WOC 'Hawaii' - Eric Wiles
Alcra. Sunday Best 'Muffin' HCC/AOS - Suzanne Gaertner
3. Onc. Heanen Scent 'Sweet Baby' (below) - Chris Zajac



Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. *spicerianum* (above) - Les Kirkegaard
2. Tie Phrag. Sedenii (below) - Cy Swett
Paph. *lynniae* 'Cayuga' - David Smith



3. Tie Paph. (Via Pekeruru X Magic Mood) - John Dunning
Paph. Mem. Larry Heuer (above) - Mark Robbins



Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Mok. Salaya Red - Cy Swett
2. Den. Hybrid (above) - Aaron Webb
3. Enc. Green Hornet - John Dunning



Species

1. Cyc. *warszewiczii* - The Adamses
2. Tie Sppm. *rapox* - Bill Scharf
Pths. *pachyglossa* - David Smith
3. Bulb. *medusae* 'Orchidglade II' (above) - The Lundys

Miniature

1. Pths. *mystax* (top right column) - David Smith



2. Masd. Maui Gold - Bill Scharf
3. Tie Pths. *cyprepioides* - The Adamses
Bulb. *lasiochilum* - Chrissy Mavrides



First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. *fairieanum* (above) - Jamie Riegel
2. Paph. (Asteroid X Bella Lucia) - Mark Robbins
3. Tie Paph. (Doctor Jack X Wossner Jade) - The Lundys
Paph. *barbigerum* f. *albina* (below) - Clark Riley



Our 2009 MOS Orchid Auction Was a Success!

My impression and that of our President, Gary Smith, was that things went very smoothly. Everyone knew their job and did it well. The auctioneers deserve hearty congratulations for keeping the energy level and prices high.

Auctioneering was extremely well done this year. Specifically, thanks to:

- Bob Marshall
- Ken Meier
- Dr. Clark Riley
- Les Werner

Donations were down considerably this year; we received 394 last year, and just 112 this year. Perhaps fewer orchid purchases have been made during the year, so MOS orchid growers and their friends have not run short of space in their growing areas. The lots in the Regular auction from The Little Greenhouse, Carmela Orchids, Tropical Orchid Farm

and Oak Hill Gardens were good quality and sold well.

Here are some more comparisons to last year. We auctioned off 225 orchids mostly in spike or in bloom, and 224 last year. We had 88 successful bidders/buyers this year, and 86 in 2008.

Our MOS volunteers turnout was fantastic — one of the best we have ever had. Valerie Lowe earned our special appreciation for her quick showing of photos of orchids on which we were bidding. She juggled both AOS software and internet links to show us timely pictures. Ann Lundy and Sarah Hurdel worked very hard to get all of our donated orchids priced and labeled, Ernie Drohan took control of the boxing area, and our President, Gary Smith, did purchase data entry and tally as fast as his hands could type. Aaron Webb handled money very efficiently, and Lee Lundy had our charge card machine humming smoothly. Blair



Farrand and his wife, Jayne Kelly, carried on their tradition of bidding during the auction, then doing chair and table breakdown afterwards. I helped by sweeping the floor and taking out the trash, and bidding furiously for an orchid my wife Pat saw and loved while she helped me load orchids early that morning.

Thanks to everyone else who helped — Margaret and David Smith, Eric Wiles, too many to mention by name — you helped make our Auction a success!

Bill Ellis
Auction Chair





Photo by Sarah Spence



Photo by Sarah Spence



Photo by Sarah Spence



Library Rules Reminder

To check out books from the MOS library, borrowers must be members of the Maryland Orchid Society.

To check out a book or a tape, the borrower must present his membership card to the librarian, sign his name on an index card, along with the date and present it to the librarian. The completed card and membership card will be kept until the material is returned.

The borrower assumes all responsibility for materials that are signed out, and will be charged for lost or damaged materials.

To enable any society member to enjoy the library's material, we ask that you return all checked out material within one month of the check out date.

To return materials, the borrower must bring back all material in good condition. The librarian will return the member's card and ask the borrower to initial and date the index card. At this time the borrower will be released from the liability of the borrowed material.

The borrower is limited to checking out three items at one time. All items should be returned the next month. If the borrower wishes to check back out an item, he may do so. However, he must give other members an opportunity to check out the items first.

The librarian will pursue lost and late materials. The MOS has an exceptional library. We welcome donations or suggestions of books or other material that you feel would compliment the library.

Thank you for your cooperation.

November 7: National Capital Judging Center

The Little Greenhouse's plant of *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* 'Harford' was awarded an 80 point Award of Merit (AM).

Clark Riley's plant of *Laelia praestans* 'Mermaid's Song' received a 76 point High Class Certificate (HCC).

November 12: Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)

Valerie Lowe had a plant awarded at the National Capital Orchid Society Show that was unregistered. That meant that the award was provisional, basically unofficial, until the plant was registered. Since she bought the plant at The Little Greenhouse, she went there first to find out where they got the plant. Tom McBride called his vendor and discovered that the hybrid had been made at Hilo Orchid Farm and that they were not interested in registering it. Therefore, Valerie was free to name the plant. She

downloaded the Orchid Registration Application Form off the RHS website, filled it in, scanned it and e-mailed it to the Orchid registrar. The application was accepted on November 12 and now the *Paphiopedilum* hybrid of Hsinying Magic x Sue Franz is

officially know as *Paphiopedilum* Memoria D. Anne Lowe in memory of her mother. The e-mail from RHS was sent to the AOS Center Chair for the National Capital region on November 30, which released the plant from provisional status. The award will now be process by AOS and be published in AQPlus.



Clark Riley's *Laelia praestans* 'Mermaid's Song' received a 76 point High Class Certificate (HCC) at the November 7 National Capitol Judging Center. Photo courtesy of Clark Riley.

December 5: National Capital Judging Center

Jamie Riegel's plant of *Cymbidium* Chen's Ruby 'Memoria Lonnie Riegel' was awarded an 81 point Award of Merit (AM).

Valerie Lowe's plant of *Paphiopedilum* Chiu Hua Dancer 'Maxa's Curlylocks' received a 78 point High Class Certificate (HCC).

November Show Table continued from page 3

Fragrance

1. Ang. *magdalanæ* - The Lundys
2. Sc. George Hauserman 'York' (below) - Marilyn Lauffer
3. Tie Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' - Laura Sobelman
Zygo. Hybrid - Les Kirkegaard



The Judges Choice of the Evening , Onc. Midas 'Valleyfield', was exhibited by The Adamses. The judges were Lorie Lee-Young, Kevin Hill and Patti Kelt. There were 127 plants on the show table!

judges' choice

Oncidium Midas 'Valleyfield' (now *Zelemnia* Midas due to the name change of its parent, *Oncidium onustum*, to *Zelenkoa onusta*) in an oncidium-type hybrid with a growth habit similar to that of its tolnumia parent 'Red Belt'. It prefers typical tolnumia growing conditions— bright light, and drying out quickly between watering. Originally registered by W.W.G. Moir in 1974, there are many clones available, including peloric forms. 'The Valleyfield' clone is a fast and easy grower, as well as a profuse bloomer when happy. The spikes will commonly branch and re-bloom once the first flush of flowers have faded. Because of this, it is almost always in bloom. We grow it at the top of the greenhouse where light is the brightest. It's up high enough that retrieving it is my husband's task— even standing on a ladder it is out of my reach. The top tier of the greenhouse remains relatively warm, even in winter, and Midas seems to like the increased warmth.

Our plant (as are all of our tolnumnias) is mounted on a cork slab as our greenhouse maintains such a high humidity that a bark mix would not dry out quickly enough for Midas' requirements. Other than location and mounting, it receives no particular special care, and is watered and fertilized regularly along with the other plants in the greenhouse. It has been an easy grower, even before we had the greenhouse. If you have bright light, this is an easy and colorful plant to grow. However, home growers who have low relative humidity may want to try it potted instead of mounted.

Rachael Adams



Meeting of the RHS Advisory Subcommittee on Orchid Hybrid Registration (ASCOHR)

Twice yearly, this subcommittee meets to discuss matters that impact orchid nomenclature and the registration of orchid hybrids. At this spring's meeting, several agenda items were addressed that will have an impact our hobby. First, the last round of changes in cattleya names (*Sophronitis* to *Cattleya* Transfers) I wrote about here in March have been made. The RHS online database now reflects those changes. While the database does retrieve older, synonymous, genus names it is not currently set up to search for those names. This means that a search of *Brassolaeliocattleya* Bryce Canyon will yield no hits; however, a search under the new name *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Bryce Canyon will result in a single hit. When this record is opened, the older name, *Brassolaeliocattleya*, will be listed as a synonym. Since many of the new genus names will seem unfamiliar for a while, searches might best be done by entering only the grex name or the names of the two parents without genus. For instance, to find *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (*Brassolaeliocattleya*) Bryce Canyon, enter just the grex name Bryce Canyon. Future website updates will address additional search enhancements. At its fall meeting, the subcommittee will take up the changes to the nomenclature of the *Oncidium* Alliance discussed in Mark Chase's April 2009 *Orchids Magazine* article. Volume 5 of *Genera Orchidacearum*, deals, in part, with these changes and will be published just prior to the subcommittee's fall meeting.

This fall, the newest nomenclature rules will be published by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). Contained in the new rules will be provisions for the registration of names below grex. Currently, the rules do not provide a clear, organized way to handle recognition of distinctly different strains in hybrid registration. Under the new rules it will be possible to assign a "group name"



The former *Blc. Bryce Canyon* 'Splendiferous' AM/AOS is now properly *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Bryce Canyon. *Brassavola digbyana* is correctly, *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*.

for strains derived from taxonomically established variants. It might help to consider an example. The grex name for the cross *Paphiopedilum* (*venustum* x Saint Swithin) is *Paph.* Booth's Saint-Vent; regardless of the varietal form of *Paph. venustum* used even though the cross made using the albinistic *Paph. venustum* var. *measuresianum* (the correct name for plants often called *Paph. venustum* var. *album*) may have distinctly different color combinations than a strain derived from the normally colored variants. Under the new rules, it will be possible to establish a group name for the strain *Paph. (venustum* var. *measuresianum* x Saint Swithin) [a name below grex]. Plants may be marketed under these group names but the grex name is, and will remain, the dominant name so awards to this strain would still be awards to *Paph.* Booth's Saint-Vent. I'll have more to say about this after the fall ASCOHR meeting.

Lastly, the fee charged to register new hybrids will be increased in January to £10.00. At the present time, a fee in US\$ has not been established but in all likelihood a fee fixed for a year based on the January exchange rate will be used and the RHS is examining a quantity discount for multiple registrations submitted as one

time. No one wants to see costs increase but sometimes it's absolutely necessary. The last time the fee was adjusted was June of 1990 when it was reduced from £15 to the current £7.50 (\$12.50) and inflation has steadily eaten away at the pound's purchasing power. In addition, the fee assessed in US\$ has not changed since 1990 while the exchange rate has fluctuated widely and no attempt has been made to recover bank currency conversion costs.

Currently the RHS employs a full time Senior Registrar and an Assistant to the Registrar and handles some 3,000 applications per year. In 2008 the total cost to the RHS for orchid registrations was £49,600 while the revenue from registration charges was £24,771 or about 50% of the actual costs incurred. The planned increase in registration fee will bring the recovery rate to about 67%. The target recovery rate is 75% and an additional modest increase in the fee of £1.25 is planned for January of 2012. Following that increase, the registration fee will be formally assessed every two years and proposed changes will be presented to ASCOHR to seek advice of the members.

Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations, AOS Representative to ASCOHR.

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