

# MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

# ORCHID

## newsletter



News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

January 2012

## president's message

### Welcome 2012!

Happy New Year to all. I hope that your holidays were fun and relaxing.

We have now turned our calendars to 2012 and with that, we as a Society must turn our full attention to our Show, beginning just two months from now on March 9. There is much to do prior to the Show and the committee is already in progress with some of those chores.

Here are the dates you'll need:

**Tuesday, March 6 – Set-up staging**

**Wednesday, March 7 – Exhibitor Set-up**

**Thursday, March 8 – Ribbon and AOS Judging,  
MOS Banquet**

**Friday, March 9 – Show opens to the public. 10 am – 6 pm**

**Saturday, March 10 – Show open to the public.  
10 am – 9 pm**

**Sunday, March 11 - Show open to the public. 10 am – 6 pm**

Please keep these dates in mind as we'll need as much help as we can get. The Show is our largest and most work intensive activity of the year. It is a perfect opportunity to support the Society through your volunteer efforts as well as attend the Banquet and purchase plants at the Show. It is critical that we have a good turn out from our Society. Please be sure to put it on your calendar and support the Society. Please sign up using the sign-up sheets at the January meeting or contact me to sign up.

[willworks@hughes.net](mailto:willworks@hughes.net)

There are so many opportunities for you to volunteer your time and effort. Help set up staging on March 6 at the Fairgrounds, put in an exhibit by yourself or with a group of friends, volunteer to help with judging on March 8, and be sure to attend the Banquet on the evening of Thursday, March 9. You'll get first choice from all the plants available from our talented vendors. We will need many people from Friday, March 9 through Sunday,

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## Our January Meeting Features Robert J. Griesbach

In January we're bringing back Dr. Robert Griesbach to speak on the *Arts and Crafts of Orchid Propagation*. It's been nine years since Rob has presented to our society and we're happy to correct that oversight.

Rob Griesbach earned a Ph.D. in genetics from Michigan State University in 1980. The following year, he joined USDA's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS). Rob conducted a broad based research program in the plant genetics. He authored 106 scientific papers, as well as, presented over 500 scientific seminars and popular



talks. Rob currently is the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Technology Transfer. In this role, he helps to coordinate programs to optimize the transfer of research results across USDA-ARS to the private sector and other users for development and commercialization. Rob is a Past President of the American Orchid Society. He is currently an accredited AOS judge, member of the AOS Research Committee, and member of the RHS Orchid Registration Authority Committee.

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# December 2011 show table by Tom McBride

Special thanks to Sarah Hurdel for the beautiful photos below of last month's show table plants!

## Novice

No Entries



## Home Grown

1. Cym. Nagalex 'Hatsume' (above) - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Paph. *spicerianum* - Mark Robbins  
Fdk. After Dark 'Sunset Valley Orchids' - The Dagostins
3. Tie Slc. Fuchsia Doll - Deborah Dade  
Lc. Cariad's Mini Quenee (below) - The Lundys  
Phal. Spring Silk 'Wishful' - John Dunning



## Greenhouse

1. Onc. Twinkle 'Golden Fantasy' (above) - Jos Venturina
2. Paph. Buena Bay - The Adamses
3. Epi. *eburneum* (top center col.) - David Smith



## Cattleya

1. Bc. Chia Lin 'New City' (above) - Michael Moran
2. Tie Bc. Green Dragon - Eric Wiles  
B. Little Stars - The Adamses  
Slc. Ginny Champion 'Prince' - David Smith
3. Tie Slc. Our Joy 'Jackpot' HCC/AOS - Barbara Buck  
Lc. Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS - The Lundys  
Ctna. Jamacia Red - Chris Zajac

## Phalaenopsis

1. Dtps. Taida Salu - John Dunning
2. Phal. *amboinensis* 'Nicole' AM/AOS - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
3. Phal. Yaphon Image - Joan Roderick

## Oncidium

1. Btcm. Little Dragon 'Carmela' - David Smith
2. Tie Onc. Tiasuco Margarite - Chris Zajac  
Vuyl. Aloha Sparks 'Halloween' - Cy Swett
3. Mtdm. Pacific Sunrise - Deborah Dade

## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Prince Edward of York - Mark Robbins
2. Tie Paph. Sun & Surf - David Smith  
Paph. *spicerianum* - Michael Moran
3. Tie Paph. *venustum* (below) - Joan Roderick  
Paph. Pinocchio - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith



## Dendrobium

1. Den. Pam Tajima - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
2. Tie Den. *crepidiferum* - Eric Wiles  
Den. Mini Snowflakes - Charlotte Grahe
3. Den. Nora Tokunaga - Norma Lynch



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# December 2011 show table continued from page 2

Special thanks to Sarah Hurdel for the beautiful photos below of last month's show table plants!

## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Fdk. After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' - Michael Moran
2. Tie Cirr. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckelberry' AM/RHS - David Smith  
Cym. Hybrid - The Riegels
3. Cym. Summer Ice 'Judith' (below)- Cy Swett



## Species

1. Cyc. *warscewiczii* - The Adamases
2. Tie Max. *varabilis* var. *aurea* - Bill Scharf  
Den. *nobile* (center top col.)- Bill Ellis
3. Lip. *viridiflora* 'Elmer' - John Dunning



## Miniature

1. Slc. Little Hazel - Clark Riley
2. Tie Asctm. *pumilum* (top third col.)- David Smith  
Sppm. *ovulare* - The Adamases
3. Masd. *erinacea* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith

## First Bloom Seedling

- 1 Phrag. (*ricteri* X Pink Panther) - Gary Smith & Sarah Hurdel
2. Rhy. *gigantea* - The Adamases
3. Phrag. *pearcii* - Clark Riley



## Fragrance

1. Zygo. (Titantic X John Banks) - Eric Wiles
2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' - Laura Sobelman
3. Tie Lc. Angel Heart 'Nora' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste  
Blc. Merrily Morison 'Larry' - John Dunning

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Paph. Prince Edward of York, exhibited by Mark Robbins. (See below for how Mark grows his wonderful paph.) The judges were Mark Robbins, Patti Kelt and Bill Ellis. There was an incredible 151 beautiful plants displayed on our show table this month!

# December 2011 judges' choice

**P**aph Prince Edward of York 'Patty' was part of a flask that I purchased for \$20 in 1997. The flask was from Orchid Zone originally and was supposed to be Paph *sanderianum* 'Deep Pockets' x 'Jacob's Ladder'. However, when the plants began to bloom, it became apparent that the cross was actually Prince Edward of York. While Prince Edward of York is a very nice cross, people who purchased the flasks thinking they were *sanderianum* were very disappointed. I was fortunate to visit a dealer with a huge number of flasks shortly after he discovered the mixup and did not know what to do with all of the misnamed plants.

I gave some of the seedlings to the MOS auction and society members and ended up keeping only 3 to maturity. Two clones first bloomed in 2002. One was 'Patty'

and the other, 'Tomcat', received an AM from the AOS in 2005.

The plants have been grown entirely under lights. At first they were with other deflasked seedlings that I grew under a 24" fluorescent fixture with the lights on 24 hours a day. This seemed to be good for the initial vegetative growth of paph seedlings and kept all the sensitive plants fresh from flask together. The plants were in 4" compots and were moved to my basement light setup when they got 4-6" across. Paph. Rose Tapestry 'Catherine' actually bloomed in this setup before I moved it.

For the last 10 years Prince Edward of York 'Patty' has been on a bench lit by 400W Metal halide and florescent lighting. The lights are on 12 hours a day all year. Like all my paphs it is in a



medium mixture of 3 parts coconut, 2 parts perlite and 1 part charcoal. I use clear plastic pots to check the mix for dryness and health. Most of the year I water every 5 days and fertilize a couple of times a month, alternating between different types of fertilizer.

Mark Robbins

# Little Greenhouse Open House By Dr. Eric Wiles

Photos by Beng Light

Hey All!

I hope you didn't miss it; once again our gracious hosts Gary and Tom opened up the doors of their establishment for some fine hospitality, tours and camaraderie. Yes, the open house at The Little Greenhouse, which in the past had been in the summer, was moved to the winter. The event gave some of you last minute holiday shoppers a chance to pick up a few gifts for orchid lovers, as well as maybe a beautiful arrangement for your holiday table. For those non-shoppers it was a chance to share our passion for the plants we enjoy with many friends in our society.

Once again thank you to Gary Krause and Tom McBride for all your support!



# Relearning What I Thought I Already Knew

By Gary Smith

Last week at work I was reading a technical article on deployment diagram notation using unified modeling language when I happened upon a word that I recognized but admittedly had no idea what it meant. The containing sentence was, “This [long label] is pesky sesquipedalian to use”. An odd sentence under any circumstance, but particularly so given the context of the article. Of course most of you will register the same familiarity with the word that I did, given its resemblance to the specific epithet of the orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale*.

I thought that I knew that *sesquipedale* meant “six-petaled”. Having seen many examples of those big creamy flowers with six relatively equal segments, my derivation seemed iron-clad. But it certainly made no sense in that sentence. A quick look up in an on-line dictionary produced the following definitions:

- Given to or characterized by the use of long words.
- Long and ponderous; polysyllabic.



Okay that made a bit of sense. The long label referenced in the sentence was rather ponderous and because of that might be difficult to use in practice. But how was it that this word should look so much like an orchid species name?

The answer lies hidden in its Latin roots:

*semis* = a half  
*que* = and  
*pedalis* = of the foot

In other words, “a foot and a half”. So a sesquipedalian word is a very long word, a literal foot and then some. But what was the link to the orchid? Then it hit me. *Angraecum*

*sesquipedale* is known as Darwin’s Orchid because of its very long nectary spur and Charles Darwin’s conjecture that a moth with an equally long tongue—then unknown to science—was its pollinator. And how long is that flower? Why it’s a foot and a half of course.

## MOS Plans Trip to Al's Orchid Greenhouse

**When: Saturday, January 28, 2012**

**Time: 10 am - 4 pm**

**Where: 204 Masons Lane SE**

**Leesburg, VA 20175**

**(703) 771-7753**

**Al Pickrel (Leesburg, VA) is opening his greenhouse to MOS members. Al's Orchid Greenhouse is perhaps not as well-known as other regional orchid outlets, but Al has a well-deserved reputation as an exemplary grower.**

**Members will receive a 20% discount on plant purchases.**

**Don't miss this rare opportunity. Visit Al's website <http://www.orchidexchange.com> or Facebook page for more information.**

# Dendrochilum Website

About a month ago I was catching up on some back issues of *Orchid Digest* and came across this website and wanted to share it with you.

This site, [www.dendrochilum.com](http://www.dendrochilum.com), is devoted entirely to the genus *Dendrochilum*. There is a very good "About the Genus" page, consisting of a fairly thorough history of discovery and publication on the genus.

Many of the 278 known species are discussed and described in detail, including cultural information for the grower, where the plants grow in nature, specifics on flower size, and color and an in-depth description of the species. Of

course we all like beautiful photos, and this site is chock full of excellent images.



*Dendrochilum apoense*

This plant was photographed by Malcolm Perry and is a plant in his collection.

Whether you are a novice *Dendrochilum* grower like myself or an expert like our very own David Smith, I think you'll find this site informative and helpful. Not always obvious at first glance, *Dendrochilum* is a very diverse and varied genus—from the very small to the quite large, these plants are well worth space in your collection. They are very capable of growing to nice specimen size plants over just a couple years.

By the way, if you are not a member of *Orchid Digest* I would suggest looking into it. The publications are beautifully

produced and well written, with articles full of excellent cultural information. Visit [www.orchiddigest.org](http://www.orchiddigest.org) for more information.

Enjoy,

Bill Scharf

## Sponsors Needed

As mentioned in my message this month, there are multiple ways to support the Show. One great way is to sponsor a glass award that is distributed during the Show. We would like to have the "Best" in Show awards sponsored first. Below is a list of available opportunities. If you're interested in sponsoring and award, contact Lorie Lee-Young at [scuubadive@yahoo.com](mailto:scuubadive@yahoo.com) or Bill Scharf at [willworks@hughes.net](mailto:willworks@hughes.net).

**Best Angraecum Alliance in Show**

**Best Dendrochilum in Show**

**Best Miscellaneous Genera in Show**

We also have number of second tier Awards available. That list follows below.

**Best Commercial Cattleya Alliance**

**Best Commercial Paphiopedilum Species**

**Best Commercial Phragmipedium**

**Best Commercial Dendrobium Alliance**

**Best Commercial Epidendrum Alliance**

**Best Commercial Miniature**

**Best Commercial Oncidium Alliance**

**Best Commercial Pleurothallid Alliance**

Thank you for your help,

Bill Scharf

## local aos news



Photo by Jos Venturina



Photo by Jamie Riegel

### January 7, 2012: National Capital Judging Center

Jos Venturina's plant of *Dendrobium spectabile* 'Tickle' (above) received an 86 point Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM)

Jamie Riegel's plant of *Paphiopedilum venustum v measuresianum* 'Jamie's Green Martian' (above right) received a 79 point Highly Commended Certificate (HCC).

By Valerie Lowe

# The International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Inc.

Region 13 Piedmont Meeting

Co-hosted by the Catawba Valley Orchid Society

Expert Lectures      Orchid Displays      Orchid Sales  
Orchid Auction      AOS Judging Event

Speakers:

**Tom Harper**, Stones River Orchids & IPA President  
**New Breeding Trends in Taiwan Phalaenopsis**

**Michael Mims**, Hybridizer

**The Colorful World of Fragrant Phalaenopsis; Hybridizing at Home**

**Tom Wise**, John's Island Orchids

**The Big Bang Theory: Miniature Phal Species and Hybrids**

**Lester Poole**

**Phalaenopsis: A Journey of Imagination**

Registration \$15; includes lectures, lunch, admission to orchid sales & auction and the opportunity to enjoy the day in the Ultimate Furniture Destination. You must register in advance to ensure an accurate lunch count!

Please register before January 15, 2012 using the registration coupon below.

Need more information? contact Linda Thorne at 336-879-6677 or [Orchidlinda@rtmc.net](mailto:Orchidlinda@rtmc.net)

## Hickory Furniture Mart

2220 Highway 70 SE Hickory, NC 28602; [www.hickoryfurniture.com](http://www.hickoryfurniture.com)

# Saturday, January 28, 2012, 9 AM to 4 PM

Number of Registrants \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address

Please detach & send with check made out to "IPA Region 13" to:

Linda Thorne  
Seagrove Orchids  
3451 Brower Mill Road  
Seagrove, NC 27341

*Please consider donating divisions for the Auction.  
Proceeds support Regional IPA Activities  
and production of the  
IPA Magazine*

**W**hile surfing AOS website for a topic for this month's AOS Corner, I came across a little known project of the, the Species Identification Task Force (SITF) AOS (in full disclosure, I have to admit it is little known by me probably because I am not a judge). SITF is under the supervision of the Judging Committee of the AOS and its mission is to try to improve and simplify the processing of awards, with the goal of ensuring that awarded species are correctly named. Members of the Task Force are not necessarily taxonomic experts but individuals who use reference material to confirm the identity of submitted awards. When the SITF collective expertise and reference collections are not adequate, members of the task force turn to a network of qualified experts.

The discussion on their website goes on to describe that the "task force replaces the previous cumbersome identification and verification procedure, which often involved shipping plant material to

a taxonomic expert. The SITF, using today's electronic communications capabilities and readily available high quality digital images, hopes to facilitate the process of identifying awarded plants and to get the process done in a timely manner. Most awarded species do not need a taxonomist for identification, if reference material is available. When reference material is not available we use taxonomic experts who are willing to give opinions based on digital photographs. Occasionally awards will require in depth investigation by a taxonomic specialist, and SITF coordinates this when it is required." Their webpage also provides links to a variety of other resources which any orchidist would find interesting to explore. To find out more about the SITF check out their site at <http://www.aosforum.org/sitf> - you should all enjoy exploring this site.

This SITF page on the AOS website is an example of the vast amount of information on the AOS website.

We are in the middle of an exciting show season and I hope you all will try to support the shows in your areas. Some that are on my radar screen for this year will be the 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show. AOS will again be putting in an exhibit at this world renowned event. Last year 265,000 attendees visited this show over its 7 days. The theme this year is Hawaii: Islands of Aloha. A committee has been put together and we will be soliciting plant material and volunteers for 'manning' the site. Another show is the Spring Members' Meeting of the AOS. This will be hosted by the Wichita Orchid Society. More information on these two shows (including how to register for the Members' Meeting) will be forthcoming on the AOS website under Events.

Hope you all had a great holiday and New Years.

Lynn Fuller, Chair AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

# National Capital Orchid Society

34<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Orchid Auction



Saturday, **February 11<sup>th</sup>**, 2012 ~ 11AM to 4PM  
Bidder Preview: 10:00am

**Behnke Nurseries Co.**

11300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville MD, 20705  
301-937-1100

**Free Admission**

Lots of very rare and unusual orchids.  
This is one of the largest Orchid Auctions  
in the country.

Checks / VISA / MasterCard welcome

[www.NCOS.us](http://www.NCOS.us)

# President's Message

From page 1

March 11 at the Show. We'll need help in the sales area, making boxes, boxing plants, answering questions from eager buyers and being part of the Hospitality area. Another less obvious way to support the Society is to sponsor a glass award. (See the list of available awards to sponsor on page 6.)

It is extremely important that we get as much help as possible, so please consider being part of this most important event.

Happy Growing,

*Bill*

## New Members

The MOS would like to welcome new members Terry Rosenberg and Tom Deliso.

## Members Count

According to Margaret there were 67 members at the December meeting.

## MOS Board of Trustees Meeting

Sarah Spence is hosting our next Board of Trustees Meeting on January 26. Arrive at 6:30 pm to get a head start on light food and refreshments. (Please consider bringing a dish to share.) The meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Board meetings are open to the general membership, but please RSVP at [slspence@live.com](mailto:slspence@live.com) if you plan to attend.

# maryland orchid society

### Officers

#### President

Bill Scharf  
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#### Vice-President

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### Committees

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The *MOS Newsletter*, published monthly by the Maryland Orchid Society September through June, shares the latest news of our orchid community. Please submit your comments to [sobelman1@verizon.net](mailto:sobelman1@verizon.net)

We invite articles, notices, etc. for inclusion in our newsletter. The deadline for inclusion is first Sunday of the month.

**Contributors: Beng Light, Sarah Hurdel, Valerie Lowe, Tom McBride, Mark Robbins, Bill Scharf, Gary Smith, Laura Sobelman, Eric Wiles**

The MOS brings together people interested in orchids to promote and encourage orchid culture, preservation, education, propagation, hybridization, and all other orchid-related activities of interest to its members. Benefits of membership include a subscription to the Newsletter (e-mail and web), voting rights, borrowing privileges from the MOS Library, monthly guest speakers, local judging, valuable door prizes, and much, much, more!

If you are interested in orchid culture and would like to meet others with similar interests, we cordially invite you to join the ranks of Marylanders already enjoying the benefits of membership in the Maryland Orchid Society.

Visit us on the Web at [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)  
Maryland Orchid Society  
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