

MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

ORCHID

newsletter



News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

March 2012

president's message

Outstanding Show

We have successfully hosted yet another wonderful show. As the week went on, Horticulture Hall began to take on the appearance of an orchid show. It began on Tuesday with a rush of staging being assembled for the exhibitors and the sales area being covered by tables of black plastic soon to be filled with beautiful orchids waiting for a new home. Wednesday the Hall is filled with vendors and MOS members alike installing their exhibits. We had a very nice range of exhibit sizes and a diverse selection of plants in those exhibits.

Congratulations to Steve and Rachael Adams on winning the AOS Award and to David Smith for garnering the ODC Award, and to the many MOS members for the sea of blue ribbons spread across many exhibits. Thursday we enjoyed a wonderful preview party hosted by Joan Roderick and then filled our trays with new-found treasures. Friday, Saturday and Sunday the Hall was filled with a steady stream of happy orchid buyers.

I'm about to sound like a broken record, but in this case I think it's appropriate.

The MOS is made up of the friendliest, most hard working, selfless and talented members that any organization could ever hope for. The Show comes off as a breeze because of the membership. The long hours of boxing, checking and answering questions were greeted constantly with smiles. The talks were educational, friendly and well attended. We even managed to get there on time on Sunday after the time change. I heard one compliment after another from both happy orchid buyers and vendors alike. The constant thread to those comments was "what a friendly group, so easy to talk with, and so accommodating." The real beauty is this seems to come naturally to the MOS.



Sarah Spence, Barbara Buck and Joan Roderick greet show attendees.

I could not be prouder of our effort this past weekend and our success!

Thank you!

Bill

People's Choice Panel Discussion

In years past, we've selected the panelists and the theme of the discussion. This year, you're in charge. When you arrive at the meeting, we'll ask you for up to three names of members whom you'd like to see on the panel. Just prior to the start of the

meeting, we'll tally the results and ask the top vote-getters for their participation. Nominated panelists must be in attendance at the meeting (duh) and may opt out at their discretion. All (orchid-related) topics are fair game for discussion.

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February 2012 show table by Tom McBride

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

Novice

1. Phal. Hybrid - Delores Keene
2. Blira. Tahoma Glacier 'Sweet Sugar' AM/AOS - Chip Hiebler

Home Grown

1. Phrag. Sedenii 'Candidulum' - The Lundys
2. Tie Paph. Addicted Phillip (below) - Mark Robbins
Den. *aggregatum* - Bill Scharf
3. Tie Phrag. Hybrid - Les Kirkegaard
Blc. Owen Holmes 'Encore' - Clark Riley



Greenhouse

1. Den. *spectabile* 'Tickle' CCM/AOS - Jos Venturina
2. Paph. *philippinense* - Lou Vadorsky
3. Epi. *paniculatum* - David Smith

Cattleya

1. Rl. *glauca* 'River's End' FCC/AOS - The Adamses
2. Iwan. Apple Blossom 'Golden Elf' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. L. *canariensis* - David Smith



Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Ambo-Buddha 'Woodson' HCC/AOS (above) - The Adamses
2. Dtps. Taida Salu - John Dunning
3. Phal. White Satisfaction - The Lundys

Oncidium

1. Tolu. Genting Sunshine - Cy Swett
2. Onc. Sharry Baby - Les Kirkegaard
3. Tie Blira. Pluto's Drummer 'Pacific Pink' - John Dunning
Psy. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS - The Lundys



Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. *delenatii* - The Adamses
2. Paph. Oriental Tapestry 'Thomas' - Mark Robbins
3. Tie Paph. *venustum* var. *measuresianum* 'Jamie's Green Martian' HCC/AOS - The Riegels
Phrag. Hanne Popow #2 (above) - Laura Sobelman



Dendrobium

1. Den. Sweet Dream 'Ace' - The Adamses
2. Den. *amethystoglossum* -(above) Jos Venturina
3. Tie Den. Blue Twinkle - John Dunning
Den. Kemiko Angel - Chris Zajac



Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Cym. Dorothy Stockstill 'Forgotten Fruit' (column 2, bottom) - David Smith
2. Tie Masd. Angel Tang - Bill Scharf
Cym. Hybrid - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Cym. Boston Beauty 'Yahoo Takai' - Chris Zajac



Species

1. Ddc. *bicallosum* - David Smith
2. Tie Asctm. *christensonianum* - The Adamses
Max. *sanguinea* - Bill Scharf
3. Paph. *venustum* - John Dunning

Miniature

1. Scaph. *ovulare* - The Adamses
2. Tie Masd. *wagneriana* - Bill Scharf
Den. - David Smith
3. Aergs. *luteo-alba* var. *rhodosticta* - Laura Sobelman

First Bloom Seedling

1. Phrag. La Vingtiane - Clark Riley
2. Paph. (Todd Clark X Alma Gavaert) - Lou Vadorsky
3. Paph. (*liemianum* X *fairieanum*) - John Dunning

Fragrance

1. C. Margaret Degenhardt 'Saturn' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
2. Blc. Merrily Marison 'Larry' - John Dunning
3. Coel. *mossiae* - Cy Swett

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Ddc. *bicallosum*, exhibited by David Smith. See page 3 of this newsletter for how David grows his Dendrochillum. The judges were Ernie Drohan, Sarah Hurdel and Aaron Webb. There were an incredible 147 beautiful plants displayed on our show table this month!

february 2012 judges' choice

Dendrochilum *bicallosum* By David Smith

Dendrochilum *bicallosum*, the judge's choice plant for the February meeting is currently growing in a 10" plastic bulb pan in my greenhouse where it receives bright light, just short of direct summer sun, regular watering, which varies from about every 10 days during winter to every 4-5 days during summer. *D. bicallosum* receives light fertilizer (usually 20-20-20) at the rate of approximately ½ tsp. per gallon of water, every fourth watering in winter and every third watering in spring, summer, and fall. It gets good air movement and humidity year-round and is repotted about every two years in my version of a medium bark mix, which contains medium fir bark (and some fine), peat moss chunks, sponge rock, charcoal, medium coconut husk chunks, redwood fiber, and when available, pistachio shells. The winter greenhouse temperature range is intermediate, 55°-56° F, at night and about 65°-75° F during the day.



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

I purchased *Dendrochilum bicallosum* from Arbec Orchids on April 19, 1998 for \$20 while it was growing in a 3" pot. Subsequently, I have found that *D. bicallosum* is a well-behaved plant because it grows in a compact clump and spreads slowly. It produces flowers and new growths in the center without getting bare as well as around the periphery. It also does not need any special care, such as a dry rest or dormant period. Actually, all of the *dendrochilum* species in my greenhouse

receive the same care and grow in much the same way. Although none of them have proven difficult to grow under my conditions, providing sufficient humidity and light could possibly be the biggest problems that an under-lights grower might encounter. They can also probably be easily grown outdoors in dappled shade in the summer.

There is a website, Dendrochilums.com, which has a wealth of information about many, many species of the genus, plus a short list of sources. Finally, google IOSPE (Internet Orchid Species Pictorial Encyclopedia) for a very long list of orchid species, with *dendrochilums* listed under the Ds.

Stay Tuned for These Upcoming Speakers

The following are tentatively scheduled as MOS speakers for 2012:

March	Panel Presentation
April	Ruben Sauleda Ruben In Orchids (Goulds, FL)
May	Mark Werther Sentinel Orchids (Radnor, PA)
June	Erich Michel Michel Orchid Nursery (Mooresville, IN)
September	Tom McBride Show Table Results

One of the more interesting advantages of being the AOS Affiliated Societies Chair is that some of the societies send me their newsletters. I scan those that I directly get as well as on go to the AOS forum and read some of the newsletters that are posted there. By going through these newsletters, I realize how active, vibrant and healthy many of our affiliated societies are. Through their commitment and love of orchids, they manage to share their knowledge and passion with other like-minded individuals. Through the advancement of social media and computerized publishing programs, these newsletters are filled with great photographs of orchids of their shows and meeting show tables, more regional cultural information. Through these AOS Corners, I provide information for the societies to use in their newsletters about the American Orchid Society and its programs, activities and resources. I appreciate it when I see them posted in these newsletters.

The Kansas Orchid Society will be hosting the AOS Annual Members meeting at its annual orchid show April 25 – 30, 2012 in Wichita. SWROGA and other alliances



Phalaenopsis lobbii (Rchb. f.) H.R. Sweet 1980
SUBGENUS Parishianae
[Sweet] Christensen
2001 Photo courtesy of
Andy's Orchids Copyright
© 2002.

will be holding their meetings as part of this meeting. These national and regional meetings provide the opportunity to shop, meet the vendors and others in the orchid world face to face, talk about what is new in the orchid world or have someone just listen to your own theories and tips. The speakers for the AOS Members Meeting and Kansas Orchid Society Show are diverse and definitely provide something for everyone. They are Dr. Leonid Averyanov, Keynote Speaker, Senior Researcher and Professor of the Herbarium of Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg, Russia), and Vice President of the All-Russian Botanical Society. He will be speaking on 'Orchids of Vietnam: Ecology of Ornamental Species'. Dr. Raymond A. Cloyd, Professor and Extension Specialist in Ornamental Entomology/Integrated Pest Management, Department of Entomology, Kansas State University, who will be speaking on 'Pests

of Orchids'. Robert Fuchs, R.F. Orchids, who will be speaking on 'Vandaceous Intergeneric Hybrids'. Patricia Harding, AOS judge and Author, speaking on 'Brazilian Oncidiums'. Norito Hasegawa, of Paphanatics, Unlimited and an 'over extended hobbyist presenting 'What's New in Paphs?'. Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids speaking about 'Species Habitat and Hybrid Culture' and Bryon Rinke, presenting a presentation on 'Phalaenopsis lobbii and parishii, the species and hybrids'.

There are many other regional orchid events going on and they are listed on the AOS website under Events. If your society is hosting a show as an affiliated society, make sure to have it posted under the AOS Events Calendar.

If there is some information your society would be interested in through these AOS Corners, please let me know. I am open for any suggestions. I can be reached through affiliated_societies@aos.org or directly at mlfuller@comcast.net.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

calendar

Note the following events:

- March 23 - 25, 2012 2012 SEPOS / Longwood Gardens International Orchid Show & Sale
- March 15, 2012 MOS Monthly meeting
- April 14, 2012 MOS Workshop
- April 19, 2012 MOS Monthly meeting

For more events visit: https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York&gsessionid=OK

New Members

The MOS would like to welcome new members who signed up at the annual show:

Linda Hagan, Anita and Tom Crawley, Dante Brooks and Joseph and Joy Kaplan

Members Count

There were 52 members at the February meeting.

Excessive Lip Service: Peloric Orchids

By Alex Challis

One of the main characteristics that define the family of orchids is that they have three petals, one of which has been modified into a different structure: the labellum, or lip. Of course, as usual with the plant world, there are exceptions. Every now and then an orchid blooms that is not quite “right.” Suppose you are at your favorite orchid emporium, and you now have a pretty good idea of what a good orchid looks like. You look for healthy growth, healthy roots, and if the plant is in bloom, nice blossoms with three sepals, two petals, one column, and one lip. As you are looking over the myriad of orchids in bloom, you notice that something is not quite right in the orchid world. One plant kind of sticks out a little. You look closer, and notice that there appears to be not one, but three lips on each flower. Several questions then arise in your mind: Why are there three lips? Is the plant confused? Is it trying to attract more pollinators? Is this plant good enough or unusual enough to get an AOS award? What have I been drinking the night before? And of course: Should I buy this plant?

Well, what you see in front of you as “mistakes” in floral morphology are called peloric flowers. The production of a structure that strays from its normal morphology is described as teratological, teratology being the study of plant “monsters and monstrosities.” These mistakes in the morphology of a plant structure occur in various ways. These include fasciations, an enlargement and flattening of a plant structure, especially the inflorescence; peltation, the formation of leaf-like structures in place of perianth segments; and peloria, an abnormal regularity occurring in normally irregular flowers.

Peloria in orchids occurs when the petals take on the color and/or the shape of the lip, and may be found anywhere between two extremes. In *Broughtonia sanguinea* 'Aquinii' there is a slight coloration found at the tips of the petals similar to the color in the lip, while in *Cymbidium hoosai*

'Butterfly Lip' the petals may have the full appearance of the structure of the lip. The presence of peloria is genetic, but expression of peloria may be influenced by environmental changes or by being stressed. These are not always stable, and the plant may flower normally on the next inflorescence.

While some peloric orchids pop up haphazardly, others are being bred, mericloned and marketed. We can now obtain peloric forms of *Phalaenopsis intermedia* and *Phalaenopsis equestris*, and some spectacular peloric color forms of *Doritis pulcherrima*, such as 'Lakeview Yellow Splash', and 'Lakeview Red Splash'. *Cattleya intermedia* variety *aquinii* has white flowers, and also has the red-magenta lip coloration present in the petals, and has given rise to the splash-petal *Cattleya* hybrids. There is also a neat twist to these peloric flowers. Plants of *Dendrobium Classic Gem* and its progeny are now available. These are “reverse” pelorics, where the lip has reverted back to looking like the petals. Some orchid growers find little fault, if not beauty, with peloric flowers. Mrs. P. K. Manuel referred to peloric flowers found in *Phalaenopsis intermedia* as a fascinating phenomenon, and that “a splashed-petal hybrid in *phalaenopsis* will be a welcome novelty.” Dr. Dominic Man-Kit Lam described *Cymbidium hoosai* 'Butterfly Lip' as “probably the most superior variety because of the perfect symmetry created by the three sepals and three lips. Viewing this flower... is like looking at a pattern through a kaleidoscope.”

But there are those who feel that peloria is not a good quality to look for in an orchid flower. Some feel that peloric flowers are deformities, and that “peloric orchids that display a complete inflorescence of

deformed flowers should automatically be disqualified from further consideration” in AOS judging, some also feel that the flowers of *Dendrobium Classic Gem* are no longer “true” orchids, and so will not grow or judge them. But some of these same people feel that splashed-petal *cattleyas* are now accepted as normal, and can be attractive. While not taking a stand

on their merits, the American Orchid Society refers to peloric flowers as deformed, and this term may be misapplied. Deformity in the dictionary is: a physical blemish or distortion, disfigurement. Examples of

deformity are: a split dorsal or ventral in *Paphiopedilums*, a flower that possesses two columns, or a flower where floral parts may be physically missing. Peloric flowers are mutations that have occurred, whether naturally or induced, in orchid flowers, and mutations are a part of evolution. AOS judging criteria for quality is based on recognizing superiority and improvement of a given type of flower over previously awarded flowers, or similar lines. The AOS Handbook on Judging and Exhibition states: “new lines of breeding, including new shapes,...should be considered but should not be awarded unless the new line has superior characteristics and quality.” Peloric flowers can be considered a new shape or line of breeding, but whether they are a superior form, or possess good quality is a controversy.

Occurrences of peloria in orchids have led to cultivation and new lines of breeding. In addition to the previous examples, *Rhyncholaela digbyana* var. *fimbripetala* has slightly fimbriated petal margins, which can be transferred to its progeny, has given rise to a host of modern splash-petal hybrids, many having received AOS quality awards. There are many awarded

continued on next page



splash-petal Cattleyas, and Cattleya breeder Frank Fordyce cherishes these "clowns" of the orchid world whose "normal beauty is further enhanced." *Phragmipedium lindenii* has a long petal in place of a pouch, and is highly prized. This feature has not as yet been transferred to offspring.

In horticultural circles we have come to accept if not prefer various mutations. We have come to cultivate natural mistakes of plants found in nature, such as the Double Bloodroot, the Variegated Solomon's Seal, or the Trillium with green sepals. There are many cases where man has purposely bred these mutations. A fasciation in *Celosia* has led to the Cockscomb types, while the mistake where disk florets have become ray florets has led to the doubling of many flowers in the asteraceae: marigolds, zinnias and chrysanthemums. One of the most favorite of flowers, the rose has had stamens modified into petal-like structures. There is also a large nursery industry in finding and propagating sports and mutations of "normal plants." Curiosities such as the Weeping Pussy

Willow, or the contorted Henry Lauder's Walking Stick can now be easily obtained. This is not to say that all mutations are favorable, but that they are a normal occurrence both in nature and in cultivation. There are many people that purposely search out these oddities of nature.

Peloric orchids are an interesting debate with AOS orchid judges. Some hate 'em, some love 'em. Unfortunately, the AOS Handbook on Judging does not mention or deal with peloric flowers, but what we consider the norm for each group. The *Cattleya* section tells us that "petals should be erect to slightly arched, broad and rounded, frilled, or undulated at the margins according to the variety." But if the parent variety is peloric than shouldn't the norm for it and its offspring also be peloric? Judging peloric flowers should be like judging any other orchid flower, the flowers should be symmetrical, consistent from one flower to another, have clear color and crisp markings, and an overall pleasing appearance to the eye. This last part though will always be the difficult

part, as what is pleasing to one persons eye may be dreadful to another. Because peloric orchids are here to stay, we should judge the pelorics as what they are, and compare them with other pelorics, not the "normal" orchids. As long as they possess the other qualities we want, they should be awarded or not awarded accordingly.

But the average grower probably doesn't care if the plant is worthy of an AOS award, so as for answering that last question: If you like it, buy it!

There are several articles on peloric orchids in the AOS bulletin:

- Fordyce, Frank, "Splash-Petal Cattleyas, Colorful Clowns of the Orchid World," V49, #11, November 1980.
Griesbach, Robert J., "Beauty and the Beast," V64, #4, April 1995.
Manuel, Mrs. P. K., "Phalaenopsis Intermedia - 'Star of Leyte' " V43, #11, November 1974.
Weingartner, Dr. D. Lawrence, "A Case of Peloria and a Case for Mutants," V52, #7, July 1983.

ORCHID WORKSHOP YOU'RE INVITED

The Maryland Orchid Society is presenting a workshop on orchid growing, culture and care.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2012

from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at St. David's Church,
4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210.

There will be demonstrations, discussions, hands-on training in repotting, media, and growing techniques.

Admission is \$15.00 per person, includes lunch and supplies. For more details call 410-456-1794.

Remove and return lower portion with payment.

Make your check payable to and mail to:
Maryland Orchid Society, P.O. Box 5651, Baltimore, MD 21210

Name(s)

Email



March is Orchid Month at Hillwood Estate in D.C.

When Marjorie Merriweather Post purchased Hillwood in 1955, a small greenhouse existed in a service area outside the motor court at the mansion's entrance. By this time, she had accumulated a large collection of tropical orchids and found that the existing greenhouse was not adequate. Two more greenhouses were added on each side of the existing greenhouse, creating five growing spaces each with a different climate to grow the wide variety of species and hybrid orchids that comprise her collection.

Mrs. Post hired an orchid curator to tend these temperamental beauties and breed new varieties for her pleasure. The curator

delivered orchids in bloom to the mansion throughout the year, always displaying them in Mrs. Posts' bedroom, the breakfast room, the library, and the French drawing room. Mrs. Post was so fond of her orchids that she often had a large selection shipped from Hillwood to grace her rooms when she was in residence at her other properties. Today 2,500 orchids remain in cultivation in the greenhouses, while new varieties are added to carry on the tradition of filling the mansion with these exotic blooms.

Check out www.hillwoodmuseum.org to find out about the scheduled activities. Hillwood was the estate of Post cereal heiress Marjorie Meriwether Post.



Susquehanna Orchid Society

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PREVIEW AND
REGISTRATION
10AM



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We accept cash, check, VISA, MC

2012 MOS Nominating Committee

As you can imagine there are a multitude of duties to handle as President of the MOS. I have very much enjoyed the position, working with so many talented people.

One of the duties as current president is to appoint and publish the names of the members that have volunteered to be part of the Nominating Committee. Following is the list of those members

that have agreed to be part of this important committee.

Valerie Lowe
Joan Roderick
Chip Hiebler

This committee will be working over the next two months to establish the nominees for each officer position, other than immediate past President.

I would like to thank these members for agreeing to be on the committee. I very much appreciate their efforts.

Bill Scharf
MOS President

maryland orchid society

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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

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

Contributors: Sarah Hurdel, Valerie Lowe, Tom McBride, Bill Scharf, David Smith, Gary Smith, Laura Sobelman

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
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