

# MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

# ORCHID

## newsletter



News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

December 2013

## president's message

**T**he holiday season. What is it about this time of the year that for some can bring such joy and for others such anxiety? Is it the demands we put on others or those we put on ourselves? Do we remind ourselves of the greater good, or do we distress ourselves over details and minutia that at the end of the day are simply unimportant or possibly excessive? As we surround ourselves with what is right and what is wrong, what is necessary and what is unnecessary, we build our emotions to such a crescendo that we forget some of the most important tenets of the holidays.

We forget to be thankful. Thankful for friends and family. Thankful for all the gifts we have been given in the past year.

We forget to be kind. Be kind to one another when it's so easy to be difficult to each other. Our focus on our goals through the season gives us a tunnel vision that overruns the feelings and needs of others.

We forget to be forgiving. We think that our expectations, our goals are much more important than anyone else's, thereby causing us to judge others too harshly, not understanding them or seeing life from another side. Hence, we turn our backs instead of putting a hand out.

We forget to find peace. We all need flexibility and comfort to rest our weary hearts, minds and souls.

We forget to find joy. We fail to see the good things around us and the good in others.

We forget about goodwill. The giving of ourselves selflessly to and for others even when we don't want to so that others may find happiness in their lives.

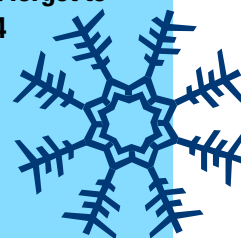
This year the Maryland Orchid Society has faced many hurdles and ordeals. We will face more in the coming months. We have shows and workshops. We have meetings and parties. There will be moments of elation at the achievement of our goals, comfort in the knowledge of a job well done. There will be moments of great hardship in planning, action and discussion as we struggle to reach the goals we have set forth.

If we look back on the past year, thinking for a moment of all that we have done together, we must realize that all these wondrous blessings we have, have come at the expense of hard work. Whether it was a successful show, auction, meeting, workshop, party or trip, if we remember to be thankful, kind, forgiving, peaceful, joyful, and filled with goodwill toward our

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## Prepare to Partay

Mark your calendars, save the date! The MOS holiday party is December 19. Always a wild time, the party will be exciting as Aaron Webb promises to dress up as the Grinch who stole Christmas. Consider bringing a covered dish (of food) or some other food-related consumable to the party. If you'd like to contribute to the holiday party, contact Barbara Buck at 410-551-9374 or [barbarabuck@comcast.net](mailto:barbarabuck@comcast.net). Also, don't forget to pick up your 2013 - 2014 Member Roster at the December meeting.



Since we have no speaker this month we will be having another MOS Member orchid swap and sale. Bring your *out of bloom*, disease- and pest-free plants to give away, swap or sell to other MOS Members or guests. This is a great opportunity to expand your collection with quality plants from good growers that you know and can talk to.

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# november 2013 show table

by Tom McBride

Photos by Sarah Hurdel



## Novice

1. Phal. Hybrid (above)- Benjamin Sims



## Home Grown

1. Holcoglossum *wangii* 'Sweetheart' HCC/AOS (above)- Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
2. Tie Paph. Hsinying Gold - John Dunning  
Blc. Marcella Koss 'Pink Marvel' - Bob Johnston
3. Tie Den. *biggibum* - The Hallameyers  
Pot. Hawaiian Charisma 'Hawaii' (below) - Norma Lynch



## Greenhouse

1. Masd. Highland Monarch (above) - Jos Venturina
2. Pths. *assamica* - David Smith
3. L. *gouldiana* - Clark Riley



## Cattleya

1. Bc. Green Dragon - Eric Wiles
2. Tie Epi. *capricorni* (above) - Clark Riley  
Lc. Mini Purple 'Tamiami' HCC/AOS - Bob Travers
3. Tie Pros. Green Hornet - Owen Humphrey  
Blc. Momilani Rainbow 'The Gypsy' - Norma Lynch  
C. Angel Bells 'Susie' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste



## Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. *pantherina* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
2. Tie Phal. Ever-Spring Lite - John Dunning  
Phal. (Plum Rose X *equestris*) (above)- Chris Zajac
3. Phal. Sin Jaun 'Golden Beauty' - Sarah Spence

## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Phrag. Belle Hogue Point - The Soykes
2. Tie Paph. Deedmannianum - Owen Humphrey  
Paph. *spicerianum* - David Smith
3. Tie Paph. Lady Isabel - John Dunning  
Paph. Pinnocchio - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith

## Oncidium

1. Onc. Twinkle 'Yellow' - Chris Zajac
2. Tie Onc. Tsiku Marguerite - Sarah Spence  
Onc. Hybrid - Bob Travers
3. Tie Odcdm. Sunlight 'Pacific Punch' - Joan Roderick  
Brs. Rex - Eric Wiles

## Dendrobium

1. Den. *laevifolium* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith
2. Den. Hawaii - The Soykes
3. Den. Haleahi Blush 'Lake View' - John Dunning

## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Masd. Mandarin Gold - Jos Venturina
2. Sten. Venus - Clark Riley
3. Tie Monn. Melenium Magic 'Witchcraft' FCC/AOS - John Dunning  
Cyn. Wine Delight - Eric Wiles

## Species

1. Ang. *distichum* - David Smith
2. Tie Ctsm. *denticulatum* - Sarah Hurdel & Gary Smith  
Sten. *longifolia* - Bob Travers
3. Cyc. *cooperi* - Dante Brooks

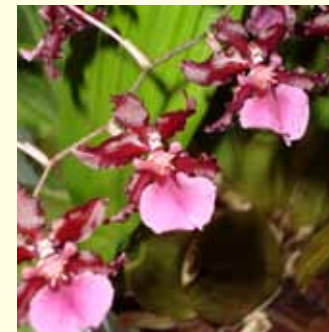


## Miniature

1. Neolehmannia *porpax* var. *alba* (above)- The Adamases
2. Tie Masd. Maui Lollipop - Clark Riley  
Platystele *repens* - David Smith
3. Neolauchia *pulchella* - Eric Wiles

## First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. (Valwin X *moquettianum*) - John Dunning
2. Paph. Reinier - Joel Graham



## Fragrance

1. Blc. Merrily Murrison 'Larry' - John Dunning
2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' (above) - Laura Sobelman
3. Ddc. *longifolium* 'J.G.' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Ang. *distichum*, exhibited by David Smith. See page 6 for how David grows this beautiful plant. The judges were Frank Dagostin, Judi von Mehlem and Bill Scharf. There were an incredible 145 beautiful plants displayed on our show table.

*from the  
education and  
activities chair*

I want to thank John Dunning for his well received presentation about Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums at the November meeting. There has been a request that he continue that presentation at a future meeting. That request will be conveyed to him very soon.

Also, a reminder that in January, Sarah Hurdel will discuss an easily and often overlooked chore: grooming and staking plants for exhibit on the show table, for the spring show, and for display at home. This is something that is almost as important as any other aspect of orchid growing, but very often neglected until too late to be effective.

There will not be an Education Corner presentation in December. All new and short time members will be expected to partake of the food and camaraderie of an open meeting: talking, eating, and enjoying the company of each other and the "old" members.

David Smith

## Happy Holidays! Come join us for **The Little Greenhouse Open House**

for Maryland Orchid Society members  
**Saturday, December 21, 2013**  
9:00 AM until 5:00 PM

**20% Off All Regularly Priced Plants!  
30% Off All Stem Prop Phalaenopsis!  
Special BOGO Sales!**

**Members may enter to win a  
\$50.00 Gift Certificate.**

9845 Harford Road • Baltimore, MD 21234  
**410.661.4748**



## **VP Represents MOS at Science Symposium**

On November 19, 2013, Sarah Spence was invited back to Baltimore City Community College to take part in the second annual Science Symposium representing the Maryland Orchid Society with a display of her orchids. "Professor" Spence retired from Baltimore City Community College in June after 45 years of teaching in the Natural and Physical Sciences Department.

## We're glad you're a member! We Need You!

Dear AOS Members,

If there's one thing we all share it's a passion, a passion for orchids. Once you get it, you're hooked. We, of course, understand—we're the American Orchid Society. We've been your source for everything orchids since 1921.

Our beautiful and informative *Orchids* magazine is now available on-line! Read it anywhere...and before the postman arrives. You're a mouse click away from our AOS website and all that reliable orchid information. We're now offering webinars where you can hear the experts tell us how to better grow our orchids. You can contact us with your questions. We're the leading provider of top-notch, reliable orchid information.

As a member of the AOS, you're part of something bigger. You're part of a community. A community of like-minded people—the AOS orchid community.

We exist to serve you.

Your support and contributions make possible educational opportunities, orchid conservation, and research, and an awards and judging system renowned the world over. And we thank you for that. We humbly ask for your continued support—now more than ever. Your gift is extremely important to the American Orchid Society—it provides resources that make an immediate impact.

Your gift can make all the difference.

We very much appreciate unrestricted gifts that can be used where they will have the most impact. If you'd like, you can specify your gift to a particular program: education, conservation, research or to support the annual supplement (color-fund). Please consider making as generous a gift as you can. Donations can be made



on our website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) or call (305) 740-2010. Please consider making a contribution to the AOS, a 501(c)3 organization, before December 31 to take advantage of the tax benefits associated with year-end giving.

Remember that smile you had when you bloomed your first orchid plant? That simple joy? We know that feeling well.

We're here for you. And with your generous support, we'll continue to be. You are indeed part of one amazing orchid family.

Your donation will make a world of difference. We promise you.

Best wishes for the coming New Year!

AOS President, Sandra Tillisch Svoboda  
November 25, 2013

## Other AOS News

The Trustees and Members meeting was held in Coral Gables with most of the meetings being held at Fairchild Botanic Gardens (the new home of the AOS). It was a great opportunity to get to know Fairchild and for Fairchild to see what the AOS is about. A nice show was arranged by the Coral Gables Orchid Society and at the AOS judging, awards were given to many local orchidists. In conjunction with the meetings, a number of AOS awards were presented. The Distinguished Affiliated Society Award (DSSA) was given to the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania for their volunteer commitment to Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. An article will be forthcoming in *Orchids* about their joint project whereby they will be assisting in the establishment of an historic slipper orchid collection. An AOS Gold Medal was given to Harold Koopowitz for his dedication to orchids in conservation, biology, hybridizing and publishing; Two AOS

Silver Medals were bestowed upon Aileen Garrison and Jose Izquierdo in recognition of their service to the AOS judging system. Leon Glicenstein was recognized with an AOS Fellow for his outstanding scientific, horticultural and hybridizing. In addition, Leonid Averyanov was recognized with an AOS Fellow for his work on Vietnam orchids. Two Hybridizing awards were presented to Milton Carpenter for his work with Oncidiinae and warmth-tolerant cymbidiums and to Gene Crocker of Carter and Holmes for his art-shade cattleyas.

Anyone wishing to be considered for judging at the 21st WOC in South Africa, must submit their application to do so by December 31, 2013. There will be no late registrations considered. In addition, discounted registration ends on December 31, 2013. For more information or to register, go to [www.woc21.org](http://www.woc21.org).

Save the date for the Spring Members and Trustees meeting to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 30 through May 4, 2014 in conjunction with their show – Orchids – A Growing Obsession. This event will be held in conjunction with meetings of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, the Slipper Orchid Alliance, the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Pleurothallid Alliance and Angraeoid Alliance.

Wishing you all the best during this holiday season and for a happy 2014.

Lynn Fuller, Chair  
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

# member spotlight: mary chiu

By Gary R. Smith

I'm embarrassed to say it's been a number of years since I last contributed content to the newsletter. Since my days as President when a monthly column was the norm, I've fallen out of practice. Even when one or another topic piqued my interest, and it crossed my mind to write about it, I allowed other priorities to take precedence. Well, this time it's an easy choice. I want to shed light on the efforts of one of our members, who is almost single-handedly responsible for introducing what will certainly be a significant, enduring, and beneficial change to our organization. This person is Mary Chiu and her accomplishment is the implementation of a new barcode-driven cash register system.

I find that most obstacles to change can be summed up as three regularly made excuses:

1. "That's the way it's always been done."
2. "It's good enough."
3. "It's too difficult."

I've heard so many people employ one or more of these reasons for inaction when faced with change opportunities that I'm convinced they constitute an innate law of human reasoning. They may sound great on the surface and are usually offered with sincerity, but I've found almost no instances where they're valid. Here's how Mary handled and overcame each of these stock responses.

The job of financial accounting for our annual show has for the past decade or so fallen upon the Controller. It's not written anywhere that this is the Controller's job, but that's the way we've always done it. Year after year we've coped with an antiquated manual system of transferring price "dots" (little round stickers) from plants and goods sold at the show to small laminated sheets as we check out patrons. These stickered sheets then go to the table behind the sales counter where the dots are transferred to a composition book. And then finally the numbers from those dots are transferred to an Excel spreadsheet and



tabulated. By the time they reach the composition book, the dots need to be taped in place, because they've lost much of their adhesive strength during their journey. Aside from the inherent inefficiency of handling dots so many times, the process also leaves little traceability of transactions (because we use the cash registers simply as adding machines) and introduces the risk of numerical errors (if dots are not pulled from all merchandise or are lost in transit, or transcription errors are made). After her first show as Controller, Mary recognized the need for change and wasn't about to allow tradition to stand in her way.

For at least half a dozen years prior to the 2013 show, the issue of the dot system has come up during planning and each time we've allowed ourselves the luxury of believing that this system was good enough. It's true that we've managed to process tens of thousands of dollars through our sales counter each year. And yes, we've managed to produce daily vendor-specific and end-of show summary reports. But lacking traceability, we've never been able to completely validate disputed numbers, check for anomalies, or produce a log of transactions. Clearly, the system was inadequate, and Mary took it upon herself to seek a better answer.

Let's be clear, the implementation of a new cash register system was a complex undertaking. But Mary had a vision and

with a stoic determination peeled the onion to break down each complexity into doable tasks. She ended up consulting with our sister organization in D.C., National Capital Orchid Society, to learn about their system. She sweet-talked them into allowing her to borrow their equipment for several months so that she could become intimately familiar with it. She made cogent arguments to the Show Committee, Auction Committee, and Board of Trustees for why MOS should invest in this type of system. And after purchasing the needed equipment and software, she integrated the parts and then piloted this new system at our auction in November with flawless results. Difficult, yes, but not too difficult.

So the next time someone suggests a new or heretical idea for improving a situation, I hope you won't fall prey to one of the three psychological impediments to change I described above. Rather, let's think back to Mary Chiu's example and not be too quick to judge. When we work together and believe in what can be accomplished, our potential becomes instantaneously much greater. \Thanks Mary for an absolutely superlative effort and for serving as a great role model.

## Let the Sun Shine in

The Maryland Orchid Society Sunshine Committee responds on behalf of the Society to circumstances of illness or other personal hardship or unfortunate circumstance of members and maintains communication with members of the Society regarding the same. But, the Committee also acknowledges weddings and other joyous occasions as well. If you or another MOS member you know commemorates a special event, milestone or passing please contact Sunshine Chair Janice Mazur at [janice.mazur@gmail.com](mailto:janice.mazur@gmail.com).

## october judges' choice David Smith

The plant, *Angraecum distichum* 'Aubert Wines' that was selected as the "Judge's Choice" at the November, 2013 meeting is at least 17 years old and was purchased from Kensington Orchids in December, 1997. I have no idea how old it was at the that time. It was a small plant originally in a four inch slat basket which was later moved into a six inch basket.

In my greenhouse, it has always received bright light with some direct sun during the winter after the shade compound on the glass has been removed by summer and fall rainfall, or by me. I do not allow it to dry out because the basket allows perfect drainage. During the winter months, November through February, it is grown at intermediate temperatures with a minimum nighttime temperature of about 58-60 degrees. I try to limit the maximum summer temperature to about 84-86 degrees through the use of an evaporative cooler, misting, periodic spraying to simulate rainfall, and shading on the glass. It hangs about six feet from the floor where it receives good air movement because the greenhouse is completely open during the summer to allow as much air movement as possible to help with the cooling. As a result of the watering for



October blooming which received the CCE/AOS in October, 2012

cooling in the summer, I water only about once a week. The plant receives a dilute fertilizer solution, Jack's Classic, 20-20-20, as a foliar feed about every third or fourth watering. Also, for winter waterings, I use slightly warm water because my well water is very cold.

The conditions described here apply to my entire collection. *A. distichum* has not been given any special care beyond those general greenhouse conditions. However, it does seem to respond well to increased water and humidity during the summer.

This plant might prove to be a big challenge for growing on a windowsill, but would possibly be worth trying in a more



November, 2013 blooming of *Angraecum distichum* 'Aubert Wines' CCE/AOS

closed-in space where watering and humidity could be more easily controlled. If anyone has an interest in growing a variety of orchids, then this would be worth trying.

This particular plant has had a good run of recognition recently. It received the Judge's Choice in September, 2011, a CCE/AOS at the National Capitol Orchid Society annual show in early October, 2012, Judge's Choice in November, 2013. It was given the clonal name, 'Aubert Wines', with the CCE/AOS in October, 2012.

## ask the expert

"Ask the Expert" is a column in which MOS members are invited to email the newsletter editor ([sobelman1@verizon.net](mailto:sobelman1@verizon.net)) questions about orchids or orchid-related subjects. This month, Dr. Clark Riley answers a question about a Paph.

### Don't Give Me Any Lip!

**Q.** I purchased a Paph. Lynleigh Koopowitz 'Christina' in 2010 in flower. The flower was beautiful. It took three years, but I finally got it to flower again and the flower lacks a lip. Is this something I did or is it just a genetic fluke? Will all future flowers be lipless or can one not really tell until the plant flowers again (if it flowers again)?

**A.** This happens occasionally for reasons not always understood. Though there CAN be a genetic disposition to this, I would bet on this being a one-time occurrence. At the Paph Forum every year, there is a category for "ugliest paph." Some of our greatest growers, including Bill Goldner have entered and won that class for flowers like this one.

Probably just a stray cosmic ray.



# Don't Miss These Exciting MOS Speakers!

Deborah Dade has a thrilling speaker line-up planned for MOS' 2013-2014 monthly meetings. Following is a list of confirmed list of speakers:

January 2014: Stephen Male, Fishing Creek Orchids

May 2014: Linda Thorne, Seagrove Orchids, Seagrove, NC

## Member Update

There were 57 members at the November meeting.

The door prize was won by Bill Soyke.

At the 15 November American Orchid Society (AOS) Board of Trustees in Coral Gables, Florida, Sarah Hurdel and David Smith were granted certification as AOS Student Judges. With dedication and hard work, Sarah and David may be elevated to a fully accredited status in just three to five years. Congratulations to two deserving members!

## President's Message continued from page 1

fellow man, our gift will be togetherness in this holiday season.

Thank you, everyone, for your hard work, companionship and camaraderie in the past year.

May the next one be even better.

*Eric*

P.S. The society is contemplating a move to a new venue for our regular meetings. This is a difficult process to undertake for all those working on this task. Intense discussions and meetings are needed to perform a smooth transition. Regardless of this fact the board and its committees will notify the membership as cohesive information unfolds. At this point I would like to especially thank all those involved. Your passion for our success is inspirational to us all. Working together we find our greatest strength.

## local aos news

by Valerie Lowe

### December 7: National Capital Judging Center:

Sarah Hurdel's plant of *Habenaria Flamingo* 'Rubenesque' received an 82 point Award of Merit (AM).

Owen Humphrey's plant of *Paphiopedilum Deemannianum* 'Sammy' received an 82 point Award of Merit (AM).



Photo by Valerie Lowe



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

# 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.

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)  
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