

# M ORCHID S

# ORCHID

# newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

May 2010



## president's message

As President, I have to be more aware of project plans and progress toward goals than most members. Keeping a finger on the pulse of the society and knowing when to crack the whip or praise members for their work is a delicate but necessary task. That's why, when a major project is successfully executed with nary a hitch, to me, that's a big deal.

In years past, our Orchid Workshop was a relatively small member-only affair, scheduled during the summer months when little else orchid-related was happening. That's how I remember my first Workshop in 2001 as a new member. Perhaps ten members attended, and it was held in the same hall that we still

use for monthly meetings. Since then, the Workshop has grown and we've repositioned it to work in concert with our March Show. As such it has taken on immense importance not merely as another orchid activity but also as the culmination of our spring membership drive. This year the Workshop attracted 34 attendees. And between both events, we were pleased to welcome 30 new members to our ranks.

We all know or have a sense for how complicated it is to put on the annual Show. That's the mother of all events for us. To allow a scant 33 days before putting many of those same volunteers to work again on the Workshop is asking much.

continued on page 8

## Julia Redman Discusses Orchid Hybridization, Flasking and Seedling Development

Julia Redman will discuss the mechanics of Orchid Hybridization, Flasking and Seedling Development at the May 20 MOS meeting.



Julia received her first orchid as a gift as a teenager, which died a spectacular death of rot as a result of bad advice. As a plant enthusiast she had to try again, this time armed with better resources. When her luck improved, so did her desire for more plants and information, as is so often the case. While attending the University of Maryland, she joined AOS and began attending NCOS meetings, and you could often find her on the weekends at Arbec Orchids. Working at Arbec resulted in an exponential increase in orchid-growing experience and trivia, including some tutelage from Roger Cole in orchid breeding techniques and lore.

Julia's research projects at the University of Maryland, and for several years after at The Institute for Genomic Research, focused on plant gene expression, providing handy access to laboratories with quality equipment and the experience for sterile culture. Given that she always enjoyed growing things from seed, the next logical step seemed for her to try growing orchids from seed.

These days Julia has moved on to work on bacterial pathogens, but the clandestine Friday night use of the labs for orchid seed sowing is simply accepted as one of her quirks. Her house is crammed with plants, and these days, flasks and young seedlings. She tells about her flora adventures and



Some of Clark Riley's *Bletilla formosana* flasks. Photo courtesy of Clark.

continued on page 8

### INSIDE

2  
4

April Show Table  
Michael Moran's April  
Judges' Choice Orchid

5

Monthly Checklist: May  
and June

6  
7

International Phal Forum  
Show Table Etiquette  
Next Board Meeting



**Novice**

1. Milt. Breathless 'Brilliant' (above)-  
The Dagostins
2. Onc. Popoki 'Mitzi' - Kathi Jackson
3. Phal. Yellow Harlequin (below)-  
Janice Mazur



**Home Grown**

1. Milt. Patricia Marie Linares '#1' - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS (above)- Kathi Jackson  
Ctsm. *roseo-album* - Chrissy Mavrides
3. Tie Enc. *cordigera* (middle column top)- Aaron Webb  
Psy. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS - Craig Sherman



**Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet**

1. Paph. *philippinense* (above)- Lou Vadorsky
2. C. (*labiata* X Nickie Holguin) - Craig Taborsky
3. C. Milton Warne 'Premier' AM/AOS (below)- Barbara Buck



**Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet**

1. Lept. *bicolor* - David Smith
2. Neost. *falcata* 'Tenkei Fukurin' (below)- The Adamses
3. Brs. Hybrid - Cy Swett



**Cattleya**

1. C. Irene Holguin 'Brown Eyes' AM/AOS- Michael Moran
2. C. *schilleriana* var. *coerulea* 'Loch Raven' - The Adamses
3. Tie Ctna. Maui Maid 'December Bride' - David Smith  
C. *skinneri* var. *alba* (above)-  
Norma Lynch



**Phalaenopsis**

1. Phal. *lueddemanniana* - The Adamses
2. Phal. Smart Thing (above)- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Tie Phal. Brother Heather 'Nuclear' AM/AOS



(left) - Hilda Sukman  
Phal. Mem. Anne Fajen - Will Cassano



**Oncidium**

1. Psy. Kalihi (above)- Laura Sobelman
2. Brs. *arcuigera* 'Caruso' AM/AOS - The Adamses
3. Tie Colm. Wildcat Rainbow - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste  
Psy. Mendenhall 'Monarch' AM/AOS - Craig Sherman



**Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium**

1. Paph. *lowii* (above) - David Smith
2. Tie Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara - Deborah Dade  
Paph. (Black Cherry X Sue Franz) (below)- Valerie Lowe
3. Paph. Alma Gavaert (see photo on page 5)- Lou Vadorsky



**Miscellaneous Hybrids**

1. Ang. North Star - Michael Moran
2. Vasco. Pine Rivers 'Pink' - The Adamses
3. Den. C.K. Ai 'Cana' (above)- Chrissy Mavrides

**Species**

1. Sns. *gemmeta* - David Smith
2. Tie Rbq. *mooreana* - The Adamses  
Den. *atroviolaceum* - Chrissy Mavrides
3. Tie Oe. *centradenia* - Bill Scharf  
Arpo. *gigantea* - Cy Swett



**Miniature**

1. Pths. *grobyi* - David Smith
2. Aergs. *leuteo-alba* var. *rhodosticta* (above)- Bill Scharf
3. *Reichantha tonduzii* (below)- Gary Smith



**First Bloom Seedling**

1. Paph. *hirsutissimum* var. *esquirolei* (above)- The Lundys
2. Phrag. Red Flare - Valerie Lowe
3. Psy. Butterfly - Bill Soyke & Wendy Keene



**Fragrance**

1. Lc. (Susan Holguin X Casitas Spring) (see photo on page 5) - Craig Taborsky
2. Lc. Love Fantasy 'Sweet Dreams' (above)- Sarah Spence
3. Phal. Sierra Gold 'Suzanne' (below)- Chris Zajac



The Judges Choice of the Evening , C. Irene Holguin 'Brown Eyes' AM/AOS, was exhibited by Michael Moran. See next page for how Michael grows his Catt. The judges were Valerie Lowe, Kevin Hill and Michael Moran. **There were 146 fabulous plants on the show table this month!**

## the judges' choice: april 2010

April's Judges Choice of the Evening, C. Irene Holquin 'Brown Eyes' AM/AOS, was exhibited by Michael Moran. Following is how Michael grows his gorgeous plant.

“ Growing large *cattleyas* such as Blc. Irene Holquin 'Brown Eyes', referred to as a “standard *cattleya*,” is fairly easy if you have a south facing window.

Complex hybrids such as these (Blc., Slc., etc.) are watered year-round so one does not have to know when to begin watering and when to stop watering.

Since Irene Holquin blooms in the spring, it follows a one year cycle that begins shortly after the blooms are removed.

As the new growths emerge with their roots, re-potting if needed would be done now using a free draining bark mix.

When new growths emerge in the spring, daylight is getting longer and temperatures are getting warmer. Watering and feeding with a balanced plant food with micro nutrients should be used. And watering will be somewhat light, only once a week. One still has to be conscious of over watering.



As we move into the summer, starting mid-June, watering and feeding can be as much as every 3-4 days. It is wise to use 1/4 to 1/2 the recommended mix on the package. This regimen will be kept up through September.

As summer turns to fall, daylight gets shorter and temperatures lower. Now is the time when pseudobulbs should be about mature and watering will be cut back to once a week to every ten days. One would also turn to a blooming formula.

When fall turns to winter, watering should be cut back to a light sprinkle once a week. This means a pint of water per six inch pot. This is the period when bud sheaths should be set and there is nothing to do but wait for those large beautiful flowers. Do not move the plant so as not to “confuse” the flower buds as to their orientation to the sun.

Blc. Irene Holquin 'Brown Eyes' is a wonderfully fulfilling plant that keeps its flowers for 5-7 weeks. ”

-Michael Moran

## aos corner

For those of you who are neophytes, I thought I would provide a few judging definitions:

### Flower Quality Awards

**HCC** (Highly Commended Certificate) awarded to flowers/ inflorescences that receive an average score of 74.5-79.4 points

**AM** (Award of Merit) awarded to flowers/inflorescences that receive a average score of 79.5-89.4 points

**FCC** (First Class Certificate) awarded to flowers/inflorescences that receive an average score of 89.5-100 points

### Cultural Awards

**CCM** (Certificate of Cultural Merit) awarded to the grower whose plant receives an average score of 79.5-89.4 points.

**CCE** (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) awarded to the grower whose plant receives an average score of 89.5-100 points

### Recognition

**CBR** (Certificate of Botanical Recognition) awarded to species or natural hybrid for rarity, novelty, or educational value.

**CHM** (Certificate of Horticultural Merit) awarded to well grown species or natural hybrid with outstanding esthetic appeal.

All point spreads must be within 6 points, so you may hear quite a bit of discussion amongst the judges as they try to reach consensus.

Valerie Lowe,  
AOS Representative

# Monthly Checklist for May and June From the AOS Web site [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)



Lc. (Susan Holguin X Casitas Spring) - Craig Taborsky

## **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. Alma Gavaert - Lou Vadorsky

## **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.



Dtps. Sogo Viogold

*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.

MOS and AOS thank Ned Nash for this essay .

# INTERNATIONAL PHALAENOPSIS ALLIANCE 2010 SPRING FOCUS ON PHALS DAY

Saturday, May 22, 2010

A&P Orchid Nursery

110 Peters Road, Swansea, MA 02777

Telephone: (508) 675-1717 Fax: (508) 675-0713

A&P Orchid Nursery, Swansea, MA, will serve as the spring venue for the Northeast IPA Region on Saturday, May 22, 2010. This day-long event will include keynote speaker Tom Harper, Founder, Past President, current 1st Vice President and Regional Director of IPA, speaking on "The 12 Most Important Phalaenopsis Species Influencing Today's Modern Phalaenopsis Hybrids." Joining him will be Ulla Jurrissen on Phalaenopsis Culture and Carri Raven-Riemann on The Best of the Best: New Breeding Directions from the 2010 Taiwan Show. The day will include a roundtable discussion group and a mini-auction. The fee of \$15 covers the cost of morning refreshments and a catered lunch. We welcome all orchidists, IPA members and non-members alike. In addition, this annual event will provide you with the opportunity to purchase plants from the following vendors: A & P Orchids, Stones River Orchids, The Orchidphile and Kelley's Korner. You may pre-order items from the vendors; info appears on the bottom.

## PROGRAM

9:30 - 10:00 am	Morning refreshments. Sales area open.
10:00 - 10:45 am	Tom Harper, Keynote Speaker: The 12 Most Important Phalaenopsis Species Influencing Today's Modern Phal Hybrids
10:45 - 11:00 am	Q & A with Tom Harper
11:00 - 11:45 am	Carri Raven-Riemann: The Best of the Best from Taiwan 2010
11:45 am - noon	Q & A with Carri Raven-Riemann
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break. Sales area open
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Auction to raise money for future meetings
1:30 - 2:20 pm	Ulla Jurrissen: "Outs & Ins" a discussion on potting media and fertilizers
2:15 - 2:45 pm	Ask the Experts: Roundtable Discussion
2:45 - 3:30 pm	Sales area open



Phalaenopsis *cornu-cervi* f. *flava*  
'Orchid Phile'; AM/81pts, Carri Raven-Riemann. Photo from NCJS Web site

**PLEASE NOTE:** Registration by mail or phone is extremely important so that sufficient food can be provided for all! For further information contact: New England Regional Rep Carri Raven-Riemann (Region 18) via E-mail at carrir@optonline.net or Tel: 203-329-7255; New York Regional Rep Marilyn Shapiro (Region 17) via E-mail at mlshap2@juno.com or Tel: 212-831-3076; New Jersey/Pennsylvania Regional Rep Mitch Paroly (Region 16) via E-mail at hilolip@aol.com or Tel: 215-943-7516; Mid-Atlantic Regional Rep Les Werner (Region 15) via e-mail leswer@verizon.net or Tel: 410-793-0756. You can also contact A&P Orchids via E-mail at knife67@aol.com for local hotels or visit their website ([www.aandporchids.com](http://www.aandporchids.com)) for driving instructions. Additional information is available on the IPA Website ([www.phal.org](http://www.phal.org)).

### REGISTRATION FORM: FIPA Focus on Phals for SATURDAY, May 22, 2010

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ registration(s) at \$15 each (payable to IPA)

Send form with check : c/o Marilyn Shapiro, 235 East 87th Street, Apt 5L, New York, NY 10128.

PLEASE NOTE: You may also pay at the door but please make your reservation by calling Marilyn Shapiro at 917-881-7181 or 212-831-3076 at least 24 hours in advance so we can provide sufficient food for everyone attending.

Check out the following for Vendor Pre-Order Lists. Please mention "IPA Pre-Order" in subject line:

- the orchidPhile: (203) 329-7255 or carrir@optonline.net
- Stones River Orchids: (615) 771-2755 or harper\_sro@bellsouth.net
- Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies: (207) 439-0922 or info@korchid.com

# Please Mind Your Manners: Show Table Etiquette

Occasionally it is helpful to be reminded of the consideration we need to show other growers when placing our plants on the show table each month. With a few simple guidelines, we can have a more smoothly-run show table. Below are a few helpful tips and courtesies one should follow:

- Be sure you have owned and have been growing the plant for at least 6 months, unless you are placing a plant in the “non-competitive” category.
- All plants should be groomed and free of pests.
- Be respectful of plants already on the show table. Place plants on the show table behind the ones that were there first. (Although it’s okay to gently nudge

taller plants toward the back to make room for shorties.)

- Since space can be limited, put plants close enough together so that there is room for many more to be put in that category.
- Be situationally aware and respectful of others’ plants. Try not to break spikes or flowers when admiring plants, walking by them, or when removing your plants.
- Make sure your plant is placed in the appropriate class. If you are unsure, feel free to ask Tom McBride, Show Table Chair, or one of the other experienced members.
- Keep the noise level down while the show table results are being announced.



*Grammatophyllum speciosum*, believed to be the largest orchid species in existence, would most likely not belong in the miniature class.

## calendar of events

### Don't Miss Any Important Orchid-Related Events!

For more society- and orchid-related events go to:

[http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New\\_York](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York)

You might need to copy and paste the link into your Web browser. There is also a link on the Maryland Orchid Society Web site ([marylandorchids.org](http://marylandorchids.org)) to this event calendar.

## New MOS Members

Please welcome Frederick McLean, Jr. and Sharon Everette as members of the Maryland Orchid Society.

The following new members signed up at the workshop:

Pat Pudelkewicz  
Lynn Burke Reyes and Paul Reyes  
Linda Harvey  
Diana Davis and Kirsten Gardner  
Christina Goddard and David Westfall  
Patricia Triandos  
Kathy Dorsch  
Lissa Falk

There were 58 people at the last MOS meeting.

## Next Board Meeting

The next MOS Board of Directors meeting is July 15 at the home of Margaret and David Smith. Light dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. All members are welcome. Please let the Smiths know you are attending and if you'd like to bring food by calling 410-526-0179 or e-mailing David at [fpsakes1@aol.com](mailto:fpsakes1@aol.com)

## President's Message continued from page 1

To watch it come together as seamlessly as it did this year is witnessing a small miracle.

So, it's with admiration and thanks that I acknowledge the collective effort that went into our April Workshop. The Workshop is the responsibility of the combined Activities/Education Committee led by Eric Wiles. His team (I won't try to name everyone lest I inadvertently leave out someone) quietly and effectively did a great job orchestrating an event that requires the harnessing of many talents. I thank you all for making my job easy.

*Gary*

## Julia Redman continued from page 1

discusses orchid culture on her blog The Plant Geek Chronicles (<http://sapphirechild.blogspot.com>) and sells plants through her online shop SapphireChild Orchids (<http://sapphirechild.etsy.com>) as well as occasional markets.

Julia is a member of COS and will be selling plants at the meeting.

## 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](mailto: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 (email 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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