

# MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID newsletter



News and information for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

January 2011

## president's message

### Greetings and Happy New Year to All!

Welcome back from our unexpected hiatus in December. I realize many of you were disappointed that we didn't have our Holiday Party. Like you, I was looking forward to a relaxing evening with good friends and enjoying the delicious treats provided by Barbara Buck and the many assorted chefs among the Maryland Orchid Society. Best laid plans ... as they say. Mother nature took a mild shot at us, but enough to cause snow emergency plans, making us cancel the meeting and lose our opportunity for the member plant swap and sale, at least temporarily. I plan to find another appropriate month to have the swap and sale and will give you plenty of notice. So keep those divisions handy!

As we flip our calendars to a new year, we also turn our minds to the MOS Spring Show and Sale. I know spring seems like a

distant concept in the middle of January, but March will be upon us before we know it. The Show committee has been busy planning, organizing and preparing to present another outstanding Show. However, it cannot happen without your help. Please consider giving your time and assistance at staging set-up, help during judging as a clerk or spend some time working the sales area, answering questions, building and handing out boxes. *(Consult with Lee Lundy on the best way to get shoppers to take a box and fill it—he has the perfect technique!)* We generally need at least 50 people throughout the week and weekend so don't be shy, it's a great way to meet new MOS friends. Talk with Joan Roderick. She'll be wowing us again this year with the Preview Party and could use your support. There will be sign-up sheets at the January and February meetings.

continued on page 5

## January Speaker Nancy Mountford Discusses “Breeding Complex Miniature Paphs”

At the January MOS meeting, Nancy Mountford is going to talk about “Breeding Complex Miniature Paphs” which is her ‘hobby’ when not making hybrids for her company, Orchids Dominicana. There she hybridizes Phals, Vandas, and the occasional Paph and Cattleya. Nancy has both exhibited and judged in many domestic and international orchid shows. She is an Accredited AOS judge and an AOS Trustee, and a marine biologist in her ‘day job’ who identifies polychaetes at her company Cove Corporation.

Nancy received her first orchid in 1970, a keiki from an Epidendrum growing in the greenhouses of the Botany Department at Rutgers University. She has always been fascinated by the challenge of growing tropical plants and



was hooked on the challenge of growing something “so exotic as an orchid.” Nancy notes that, “It was wonderful to visit the old nurseries in the northern New Jersey area such as Lager & Hurrell and the Pattersons.” She graduated with a B.A. in Zoology from Douglass College (RU) the following year, married and moved to Maryland, where she worked as a Marine Biologist for the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Lab for the next nine years. While in graduate school in Zoology at the University of Maryland, she started Cove Corporation, specializing in the identification of benthic invertebrates.

She will be bringing plants for sale.

**INSIDE** 2 Two Orchid Exhibits in D.C.

2 Local AOS News

3 Get Your Mitts on Some Mugs

3 MOS Bus Trip to Woodstream Open House

5 Orchid Web Resources

# Two Orchid Exhibits in D.C.

The delicate orchid is the focus at two museums this month: An exhibit at the Sackler Gallery examines orchids in Chinese paintings between the 15th and 19th centuries, and “Orchids — A View From the East” opening January 29 at the Natural History Museum, will display live flowers. These exhibits are a joint effort of the Smithsonian Gardens, the U.S. Botanical Gardens, the U.S. National Arboretum, and the Freer and Sackler Galleries.

Says Tom Miranda, orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution,



“Proving that there is always more to learn, our staff got out of its comfort zones and learned a tremendous amount about the history of orchid culture in Asia.”

Both exhibits are free.

Sackler:  
Jan. 15 - Jul. 17

[www.asia.si.edu](http://www.asia.si.edu)  
202-633-4880

National History Museum:  
Jan. 29 - Apr 24  
[www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits](http://www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits)  
202-633-1000

## local aos news

### January 8, 2011: National Capital Judging Center

Jamie Riegel's plant of *Masdevallia burfordiensis* 'Barrow' received an 83 point Certificate of Horticultural Merit. This award is provisional until the plant has been taxonomically identified by an AOS recognized authority.



The Little Greenhouse sent a plant of *Paphiopedilum Borobudur* 'Loch Raven' to the monthly judging session at the National Arboretum. This primary hybrid of *Paphiopedilum wardii* and *Paphiopedilum javanicum* was awarded an 80 point Award of Merit (AM).



Photos by Jamie Riegel

Other society members also submitted plants for evaluation by the two judging teams, but were not deemed to be award quality, yet.

Valerie Lowe,  
Society AOS Representative

## AOS Corner

What does it mean to be an affiliated society of the American Orchid Society? Why should orchid societies be affiliated? I am often asked this question in conversations about the AOS. First and foremost, being an Affiliated Society affords your society a membership in the American Orchid Society and a subscription to *Orchids*. Society membership provides access to a number of video and slide shows. The Education Committee of the AOS is working on production of more shows and updating some of the outdated video and slide productions. For a listing of the available programs, check out the website [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) on the Affiliated Society page. Your society may borrow any of these programs.

A program that AOS is starting to implement on a trial basis will be useful to your society's recruiting efforts. If your society sends the contact information (preferably e-mail) of any new member (forward to [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org)), that new member will receive a subscription to the free e-mail newsletter as well as a copy of a recent issue of *Orchids* magazine with an invitation to join the American Orchid Society. A membership in the AOS will

complement your local society membership.

As an Affiliated Society, you have your own AOS Representative. That AOS Representative acts as the liaison between your society and the AOS. They should have information and membership materials relating to the AOS at each of your meetings. The only requirement of that AOS Representative by the AOS is that they also have their own membership in the AOS. In addition, the Affiliated Societies Committee holds a membership breakfast at each of the two member meetings where we exchange ideas relating to societies' issues, programs and the like. Of course, in order to provide AOS judging at any shows, the sponsoring society or group must be an Affiliated Society.

I look forward to working with you all through the upcoming year. If any of you have any comments or suggestions on how the American Orchid Society may better serve its affiliated societies, please feel free to contact me at [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org).

Lynn Fuller  
AOS Affiliated Societies



## Get Your Mitts on Some Mugs

As you know if you help at the Show you receive a etched glass mug from the Show Committee as a way of saying thanks for your help. Over the years we have collected a number of extra mugs and now's your chance to grab one or add to your current collection. I have a limited number of commemorative mugs to offer at 3.00 each, that's less than 1/2 price. Here are the years I have and the number available:

2007 – (5), Orchids Around the World

2008 – (5), Orchids in Your Home

2009 – (8), Nature's Kaleidoscope

2010 – (4), Orchids, A Feast for the Senses



Bill Scharf,  
MOS President  
willworks@hughes.net

## *the judges' choice: nov. 2010*

“November's Judge's Choice plant, C. Porcia Cannizaro FCC/AOS, was obtained by me from our auction at our monthly meeting about 3 years ago. If I remember correctly the plant was brought in for sale by Barbara Buck and I believe it is piece of a plant she has still. When I bought it, the plant only had a few flowers but I loved the shine, contrast and substance of the flowers.



Photo by Sarah Hurdel

Being a fairly large plant the best place for growing it was outdoors the 1st year under the shade of some cedar trees in my back yard and then in my small greenhouse through the cold months. I think the great outdoors really is what helps this plant to do well as it seems to suffer some in the greenhouse. Oddly enough when I bought it in flower at the auction it was in the spring and when it flowers for me it has been consistently summer to fall. I believe its natural flowering period of this plant is in the fall. This plant grows surprisingly fast for such a large plant. As the lead elongates the anticipation of flowering is maddening because the plant puts on such a nice display.

For me the way I grow my plants; the cattleyas all go on summer vacation around the last week of April and stay out to the 2nd week of October. If the weather

is nice they get watered every 2-3 days in the summer and 1-2 times a week in the winter. I use whatever fertilizer I have while avoiding high nitrogen fertilizers during bud development. I use SUPERthrive with my fertilizer and try to

keep up with periodic spraying with fungicides before returning to the greenhouse in the fall. All my plants are bug sprayed 3 times in 10 day intervals before returning to the greenhouse in October to keep from bringing critters into the greenhouse. Night temperatures in the greenhouse run about 58-60F and day temperatures remain below 85F. In the cattleya side of the greenhouse I try to grow the catts, vandas, and oncidiums as bright as possible in my greenhouse. The place where my culture lacks the most is re-potting; but the catts are forgiving as sometimes going 3-4 years before re-potting.

I think the thing I like most about this plant is how showy the large flower head on the plant is and I hope to get more than one at a time soon. Either way, interesting, showy flowers as orchids are my thing and this plant definitely fits the bill. ”

Eric Wiles, DVM

## Woodstream

### Trip Jan. 29-30

Come join your friends in the Maryland Orchid Society for a trip to Woodstream Orchids for their winter open house!

Woodstream will be having special discounts for AOS members. They will also be serving refreshments and there may be specials for MOS members too! The event is rain, snow or shine January 29th and 30th. Let me know if you're interested in attending. Let's see if we can get a carpool going. Contact me at winvet88@yahoo.com with Woodstream Trip as the subject please.

Eric Wiles,  
Activities Chair

## *calendar of 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.

## MOS Board of Trustees Meeting

David and Margaret Smith are hosting our next Board of Trustees Meeting. 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 410.526.0179 if you plan to attend.

# Bus Trip to Longwood Gardens on March 26!!

## The National Capital Orchid Society (NCOS) is sponsoring a Bus Trip to the South East Pennsylvania Orchid Society Orchid Show at Longwood Gardens on Saturday, March 26, 2011

Sit back and enjoy your fellow orchid society members' company while a professional driver takes us to/from Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa., to attend the South East Pennsylvania Orchid Society's Orchid Show. You'll be in awe of the thousands of beautiful orchids displayed by individuals, societies and growers from several countries. Many of these plants will win awards during American Orchid Society (AOS) judging.

NCOS and many other orchid societies and vendors, will have an exhibit in this show! You can also buy orchids from 20 different vendors from two continents. While at the show, you can enjoy guided tours and informative talks, explore four acres of orchid accented indoor garden planting beds containing more than 30 horticultural highlights such as Amaryllis, Butterfly bush, Hyacinths, Primroses, and Winter red-hot poker. Wander through several of the Longwood Garden greenhouses, walk the grounds to see outdoor horticultural highlights such as conifers, hollies, Winter Aconites and Witch Hazels, and visit the gift shop. To learn more about Longwood Gardens, visit their website at: <http://www.longwoodgardens.org/>

Advance registration and payment required. The bus can accommodate a total of 47 passengers. Registrations will be recorded in the order they are received along with check. You will be e-mailed to acknowledge receipt of your check and your reservation. Any future notices will be sent via e-mail. We must have at least 43 passengers or the bus trip will be cancelled.

**Cost:** \$55 per person (NCOS member), \$60 per person (non-NCOS member)

Price includes bus fare and an admission ticket into Longwood Gardens. The bus trip does not include lunch. You may bring your own snacks and lunch or enjoy Longwood's café (reservations not required) or fine-dining restaurant (reservations recommended).

### To register:

- 1) Make check payable to National Capital Orchid Society;
- 2) In memo line write "Longwood Bus Trip";
- 3) Provide your e-mail address for confirmation and future communication;
- 4) Send payment to: Kevin Hill, NCOS President  
3003 Laurel Avenue  
Cheverly, MD 20785-3150

Deadline for registration and payment: Saturday, February 26, 2010, For questions call: Kevin Hill, 301-322-4617

### Schedule:

7:00 am Bus arrives at Virginia pick-up location  
Mt Vernon Recreation Center  
2017 Belle View Blvd  
Alexandria, VA 22307-1362

**Directions:** From 495, take Exit 177A toward Route 1 South; left at first traffic light (Fort Hunt Rd.) Go one mile to Belle View Blvd.; Rec Center on right corner. Park in upper level lot.

7:45 – 8:00 am Bus arrives at Maryland pick-up location  
Calverton Shopping Center  
Front of Giant Food Store

**Directions:** From Capital Beltway take 95 North, Exit 29B toward Calverton, Shopping center is immediately on right.

8:15 am Depart Maryland pick-up location  
10:30 am Arrive at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA  
5:30 pm Depart Longwood Gardens  
8:00 pm Maryland Drop-off at Calverton Shopping Center  
8:45-9:00 pm Virginia Drop-off at Mt Vernon Recreation Center



# President's Message

continued from page 1

Save these dates for the 2011 Show:  
March 8: Staging set-up 10:00 am  
March 9: Exhibit installation 10:00 am – 6:00 pm;  
March 10: Exhibit and AOS Flower judging 9:00 am, MOS Preview Party 7:00 pm  
March 11: Show opens to the public at 10 am – 9 pm.  
March 12: Show Open 10 am – 9 pm;  
March 13: Show open 10 am – 6 pm, Tear down at 6 pm.

I hope that many of you decide to help again and if you've never helped, make this the first time, you'll be glad you did. It's my 10th year with the Show and it's a fun filled weekend I look forward to each year. See you there!

*Bill*

# Orchid Web Resources

Like all newsletters, the MOS Newsletter is only as good as the people who contribute to it. We can always use ideas for and help with articles to publish in the newsletter. MOS member Judy von Mehlem recently recommended a new column that provides helpful Web sites offering orchid-growing tips. Here are a few of her favorite sites:

<http://orchidspecies.com/>  
The orchid species site has an alphabetical species search.

<http://www.andysorchids.com/>  
On Andy's orchids site, go to "Orchid Listings" on the menu and get information on orchid care and descriptions of plants.

<http://carterandholmes.com/>  
Carter and Holmes also lists tips on orchid care and descriptions. Go to "Orchid Care" on the menu.

The American Orchid Society Web site also lists about 50 links to additional orchid-oriented or orchid-applicable Web sites:

[http://www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Orchid\\_Resources1&CONTENTID=6786&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Orchid_Resources1&CONTENTID=6786&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm)

If you have any other favorite Web sites to add to this list, or any other orchid-related articles you'd like to publish in the newsletter, please e-mail Laura at [sobelman1@verizon.net](mailto:sobelman1@verizon.net).

## 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.

Contributors: **Kevin Hill • Valerie Lowe • Bill Scharf • Laura Sobelman • Sue Spicer • Judy von Mehlem • 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)  
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