



# The Maryland Orchid Society Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Society

February 2018

Website: [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)



## President's Message

The excitement is building as we anticipate our annual Orchid Show and Sale, March 9 – 11, at the Maryland State Fair Grounds in Timonium, Maryland. We are all fussing with our plants; watering, staking and praying that they will be in gorgeous bloom in time for the show. Please consider putting in a display,

individually, with a group or lending your flowering plants to those who are displaying. You should have received by e-mail, the “exhibitor information packet” along with the “exhibitor registration form”. The “registration form” should be completed and e-mailed or given to Joan Roderick ([jomarod@verizon.net](mailto:jomarod@verizon.net)) as soon as possible. Even if you decide that you don't want to work on a display, we definitely can use your help. “Staging set-up” is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6 beginning around 10 am. Wednesday, March 7, the exhibits will be set up. Thursday, March 8, AOS judging will take place and there will be a preview sale for MOS members from 3 – 6 pm. Friday, March 9, the show opens to the public. Again, contact Joan Roderick (410-992-1811), our show chairperson, and let her know when you can be available.

A big “THANK YOU” to Valerie Lowe, Sarah Hurdel and the crew of MOS members who helped set-up and tear down the SOS show exhibit. The results are published in this Newsletter. Congratulations to Joel Graham who received an 80-point Award of Merit (AM) from the American Orchid Society for his Paphiopedilum Mary's Little Leopard ‘Honey Bear’.

At the MOS Board's quarterly meeting on January 25, the President appointed a “search committee” charged with developing a slate of nominees for the 2018-2020 MOS executive offices. The positions that will be coming available are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two Directors. The search committee consists of Joel Graham, Laura Sobelman and Marilyn Lauffer. Please consider your talents and volunteer to run for one of these positions by letting the search committee members know.

The MOS Board, unanimously, granted a Life Membership to Lee Lundy. Please see the Nomination Letter on page 4 of this Newsletter.

If you have not purchased a gold, logo T-shirt, all sizes are available (S, M, L, XL, 2XL) for the nominal cost of \$12.00 per shirt. We are hoping you will purchase one to wear at the Show, a great way to advertise our Society.

*Sarah*

*The February Program will be a presentation by Sarah Hurdel*

## Orchids - No Greenhouse Required!

Sarah began growing orchids in 2007, just a few years after discovering a passion for plants and gardening. She has been part of the MOS Away Show crew for nearly as long, and is currently an Associate Judge with the American Orchid Society. She maintains a large and diverse collection indoors under lights, and has received AOS award recognition for culture, flower quality, and her own orchid displays at local shows.

Sarah has developed creative solutions to common problems encountered by home growers and enjoys sharing what she has learned with others. She insists that it is not only possible for the home grower to compete with greenhouse growers, but there are things that can be grown BETTER indoors! She will share her tips for choosing plants and media, recommendations and sources for growing equipment, and will try to clear up some common misconceptions about growing orchids indoors.

Submitted by Jean Hedrick

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# January's Show Table Winners by Tom McBride

## Novice

1. Phal. Hybrid - Amath Gomis
2. Paph. (Pinocchio X victoria-marie) - Monica Sparber

## Home Grown

1. Epc. Volcano Trick 'Fireball' - Bob Johnston
2. Tie Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Apricot Glow' HCC/AOS -  
Kathi Jackson  
Bc. Maikai 'Louise' - Norma Lynch
3. Bllra. Tahoma Glacier - Bob Travers

## Greenhouse

1. Paph. Barb Hella - David Smith
2. Blc. Booth Lee 'Venice' - Clark Riley
3. Tie Masd. Pixie Shadow 'Harford' - The Adamses  
Neost. Pinky - Eric Wiles

## Cattleya

1. Slc. (Jillian Lee X Seagulls Apricot) - David Smith
2. Blc. (Prada Green Deluxe X Erin Kobayashi) - Bob Johnston
3. Tie Epl. Snow Fantasy 'Utuaado' - The Adamses  
Blc. Mari's Glory - Chris Zajac

## Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Baldan's Kaliedoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS -  
John Dunning
2. Phal. OX Firibird - The Adamses
3. Phal. Sogo Vivien - Chris Zajac

## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. villosum - The Adamses
2. Paph. (Frosty James X Chardmore) - Eric Wiles
3. Paph. Mary's Little Leopard - Joel Graham

## Dendrobium

1. Den. Fancy Angel 'Lycee' - John Dunning
2. Den. nobile 'Merlin' - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Den. Dream 'Ace' - The Adamses

## Oncidium

1. Odcdm. Wildcat 'Yellow Butterfly' - John Dunning
2. Bnfd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze' - Sarah Spence
3. Dgmra. Winter Wonderland - Bob Johnston

## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Lyc. Leo - Eric Wiles
2. Cal. Saint Aubin 'Shirley' - Chris Zajac
3. Coel. (speciosa X usitana) - Bob Johnston

## Species

1. Pol. stenostachya - David Smith
2. Epi. veroscriptum - The Adamses
3. Pths. palliolata - Eric Wiles

## Miniature

1. Epi. porpax - The Adamses
2. Tie Med. decorata - Ellie Martin  
Stl. argentata - David Smith

## First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. Saint Swithin - John Dunning

## Fragrance

1. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS -  
John Dunning
2. Onc. Sweet Sugar - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
3. Ang. sesquipedale - The Dagostins



**The Judges Choice  
of the Evening...**

**Epi. porpax**

exhibited by  
Steve and Rachael Adams

**Thank You** to our judges who were, Rachael Adams, Amath Gomis and Anne Headrick.

Our show table had an incredible display of 98 beautiful flowering plants.

A special THANKS to all that make our show table such a great success. It is truly breathtaking!

# Maryland Orchid Society News and Surrounding Events

## December's Judges Choice...



**Dendrobium Nida Stripe** is a nearly 4 foot tall cane dendrobium. It started as a much shorter plant 14 years ago. My mother in law, who had a 'green thumb' coaxed it into a growth spurt while housed in her sun drenched family room for several years. With her passing, it came back to my possession. It won the Best Hobbyist Dendrobium in the Timonium 2013 show. I grow it in high light, outside under a lilac shrub May through October. It receives direct morning east light and diffuse evening south/west light. Being top heavy, the clay pot enclosed dendrobium is weighted down with brick, bungy corded to a wire shelf. Strong summer rain storms have toppled it several times without damage. While outside, I water thoroughly every 2 days with the garden hose. I blast the ever present spiders and mites with sprays of water. It gets heavily fertilized with MiracleGro time release and First Rays KelpMax fertilizer.

Submitted by Chris Zajac

## Joan's Corner

### The Annual Spring Show

The Annual Spring Show is upon us and I hope all society members are excited to display their orchid "babies" this year. Although our space is a bit limited, there is still plenty of room for you to join forces with fellow members and create your own display.

We have the space, but sign up early. Please fill out the *Exhibitor Reservation Form* as soon as possible and either e-mail or mail it to me. You will receive the forms via e-mail. Happy Orchiding!

PS.

I know Orchiding isn't a word, but you get the drift!  
Thanks,

Submitted by Joan Roderick - Show

## David's Corner

### February's Education Corner

For the Ed Corner in February, the topic will be **"Interpreting the Scientific Name of an Orchid."**

Also, I would like to thank the Maryland Orchid Society for their confidence in awarding me with the MOS Leadership Award. I have never considered myself a leader or a follower, rather someone who works with the leader. Thank you.

Margaret and I would also thank the society for the Orchid Digest Service Award. Neither of us ever thought of our service other than it was something that we enjoyed doing and will continue doing.

Submitted by David Smith - (Education)

## Marilyn's Corner

### New Members...

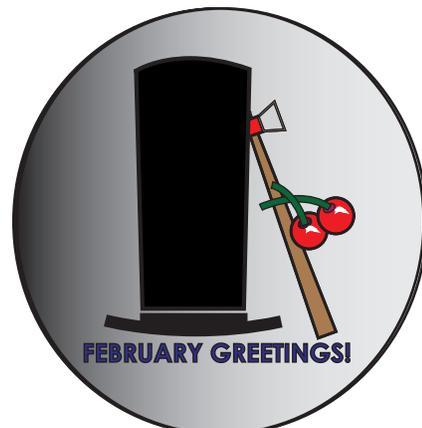
Libby and Scott Francis-Baxter

### Welcome Back...

Vilma Anderson  
Craig Sherman



Submitted by Marilyn Lauffer - Membership



*Recommendation Letter - MOS Life Membership for Lee Lundy*

*Lee Lundy has been a vital member of MOS since the year 1997. During that time period, he has served as Director, Controller, Vice President and President of the Society. In addition to those duties, he has been instrumental in the success of the Annual Show that is held at the Timonium Fair Grounds, Annual Auction, and the spring Orchid Workshop. He has been a valuable leader in the formulation and revision of the Society's Bylaws and has been the legal resource person and mentor for the Officers of the Society. Nominated by the MOS membership, he received the Leadership award in 2016.*

*I sincerely request the MOS Board consider granting a Life Membership to Lee Lundy.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sarah L. Spence  
October 26, 2017*

*January 25, 2018*

*At the January 25, 2018 Board meeting, Lee Lundy was unanimously approved for "Life Membership" in the Maryland Orchid Society.*



## Lee Lundy's Response To His Award

Hello MOS Board Members,

I thought you might like to read Lee's response to my letter concerning his "life membership"

On Thursday, Feb 1, 2018 at 8:50 PM, Sarah L. Spence <slspence@live.com> wrote:

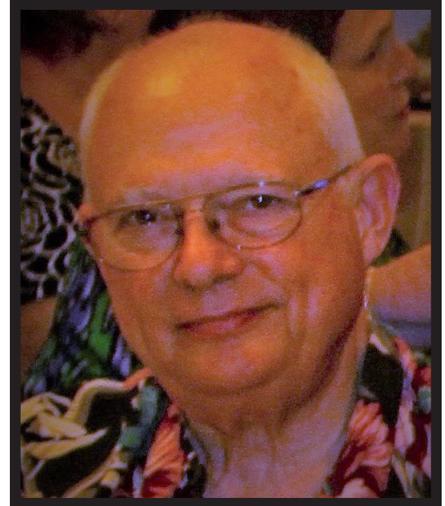
Hi Lee,

I hope this e-mail finds you and Nancy well and enjoying the Arizona sunshine and warmth. You beat a lot of cold weather here in the east, and we still have to get through February.

I have attached the October 26, 2017 proposal to the Board, nominating you for "Life Membership" in the Maryland Orchid Society and the unanimous approval by the Board on January 25, 2018...a well deserved honor. Congratulations!

We miss you! Please stay in touch.

Fondly,  
Sarah



Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your e-mail Nancy and I are well and enjoying the far north of Scottsdale, where it will be 80 degrees or slightly higher all week (admittedly slightly above normal for this season). We have been on the move a bit and in the last several months have taken trips to Oregon (Nancy's son and family), Chattanooga (my brother and his family), Memphis/Mississippi (my high school reunion and visits to Graceland and Sun Studios), and Palm Desert/Joshua Tree (Nancy's grandsons' lacrosse tourney with over 350 teams from across the US). One drawback is a lack of a real orchid culture and broad spectrum growers (only one offering only phalaenopsis and doritaenopsis). Despite that, on a north window sill we are reblooming phalaenopsis Nancy already had or we have bought. We have lots of sun but low humidity. More adventurous plants may come later.

Thanks to you and the MOS Board for the designation as MOS Life member. I enjoyed my 20 years as a resident member, and I relish the friendships formed with you and others and remembering the good times and successes the Society had in that 20 years. I continue to receive and read the monthly newsletters, for which I am grateful. The successes are continuing, and one hopes that they will go on and on. I am glad to have made what contribution I could to MOS, and if anything comes up for which the views of a non-resident legal or other resource are desired, anyone can just call or e-mail.

Designation as a life member is an honor I will cherish. My only regret on receiving it was that Ann Lundy, who was more deserving than I, was not so honored.

All the best to you and all of MOS.  
Your most distant member,

Lee Lundy



## Maryland Orchid Society 2018 Calendar

February 2, 2018 – SOS Show Set up  
February 15, 2018 – Monthly Meeting

March 6-11, 2018 – Annual Spring Show and Sale

March 6 – Set-up staging

March 7 – Set-up exhibits

March 8 – AOS Judging; Preview sale  
3-6 PM

March 9 – 11 – Show opens to public

March 15, 2018 – Monthly Meeting

April 5, 2018 – SEPOS Show Set up

April 14, 2018 – Spring Workshop

April 19, 2018 – Monthly meeting

April 5, 2018 – SEPOS Show Set up

April 14, 2018 – Spring Workshop

April 19, 2018 – Monthly meeting

April 26, 2018 – Board Meeting

May 17, 2018 – Monthly Meeting

June 21, 2018 – Monthly Meeting



### **Content for the 2018 MOS Newsletter**

is due at the end of the first week of each month.

Please submit information to: [barbarabuck2015@comcast.com](mailto:barbarabuck2015@comcast.com)

*Deadline dates are as follows...*

\*due February 3, 2018 for meeting on February 15, 2018

\*due March 3, 2018 for meeting on March 15, 2018

\*due April 7, 2018 for meeting on April 19, 2018

\*due May 5, 2018 for meeting on May 17, 2018

\*due June 9, 2018 for meeting on June 21, 2018

## *AOS Local News*

### January 6, 2018: National Capital Judging Center



**Sarah Hurdel's** plant of *Paphiopedilum coccineum* 'Mighty Mouse' received a Provisional 83 point Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM) from the American Orchid Society. Once the identification is confirmed by the Species Identification Task Force (SITF), the award will be official.

### February 1, 2018: National Capital Judging Center in association with the Susquehanna Orchid Society Show:

**Joel Graham's** plant of *Paphiopedilum Mary's Little Leopard* 'Honey Bear' received an 80 point Award of Merit (AM) from the American Orchid Society.



Congratulations  
Sarah and Joel!

## MARYLAND EXHIBIT AT THE SUSQUEHANNA ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW



Beautiful...as always!



Respectfully Submitted by Valerie Lowe - MOS Away Shows

# MARYLAND EXHIBIT AT THE SUSQUEHANNA ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

Thanks to the help of Joel Graham, Sarah Hurdel, Clark Riley, and Robert and Susan Travers and the generous donation of plants from Steve and Rachel Adams, Suzanne Gaertner, Jason Gebbia, Owen Humphrey, Sarah Hurdel, Kathi Jackson, Al and Wanda Kuhn, Marilyn Lauffer, Brenda Logan, Valerie Lowe, Sarah Spence, Clark Riley, Robert Travers, Eric Wiles, Barry Woolf, Chris Zajac, and The Little Greenhouse, the Maryland Orchid Society installed a 50 sq. ft. exhibit which received second place in its class. Other ribbons/awards received are:

PLANT	AWARD	OWNER
Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Steve and Rachel Adams
Phalaenopsis Brother Sara Nobel	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Phalaenopsis OX Firebird	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Paphiopedilum (Hilo Jewel x fairrianum)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Dendrobium lichensastrum	HM	"
Dendrobium lichensastrum	1 <sup>st</sup> , BEST Mini	"
Phragmipedium Pink Panther	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jason Gebbia
Paphiopedilum Mary's Little Leopard	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joel Graham
Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Kapuna	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Laelia lundii	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sarah Hurdel
Paphiopedilum Black Diamond	1 <sup>st</sup>	"
Oncidium Midnight Miracles 'Spotty'	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Dendrobium sanderae var. luzonicum	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Dendrobium Victoria Pinky	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Sopholaeliocattleya Rosebud	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Al and Wanda Kuhn
Laeliocattleya Star Pink	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Clark Riley
Brasidostele Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze', HCC	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarah Spence
Dialaelia Snowflake	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Robert Travers
Phalaenopsis Travers	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Tea	1 <sup>st</sup>	"
Denia ophrydis	1 <sup>st</sup>	"
Ludisia discolor	1 <sup>st</sup>	"
Macodes petola	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Cymbidium Hiroshima Sweet Eyes 'Moenoko'	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Eric Wiles
Liparis formosana	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Cymbidium sinense 'Fu Lui Jin Long'	1 <sup>st</sup>	Barry Woolf
Cymbidium sinense 'Jin Fong Jin'	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Cymbidium sinense 'Ru Xian'	3 <sup>rd</sup>	"
Maxillaria porphyrostele	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"
Brassolaeliocattleya Mari's Glory	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Zajac
Trichopilia suavis 'Harford', HCC	1 <sup>st</sup>	The Little Greenhouse

I would like to thank Owen Humphrey, Sarah Hurdel, Robert and Susan Travers, Joel Graham, Eric Wiles and Gary Smith for helping to tear down the exhibit, getting it packed up, and transported home.



Respectfully Submitted by  
Valerie Lowe - MOS Away Shows



It's just not fair: Orchids have this bum rap for being some of the most finicky plants to grow. And don't even talk about getting a second bloom out of them. Most frustrated indoor gardeners just toss them once that last flower's gone.

Yet, the truth is orchids are some of the easiest plants to grow if given the proper exposure, potting mix and right amount of water. Just ask Becky Brinkman, longtime manager of the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Fuqua Orchid Center, home to one of the country's largest collections of species orchids. There, envious visitors corner her every day for advice on what they're doing wrong with their own plants. So much so, that Becky has come up with her Eight Ways to Kill Your Orchid:

**1. Water it every day.** The most frequently asked question is "Do you water the orchids every day?" The answer is, "No, but we check them every day." Checking means looking at the potting mix to see if it's dry. A good grower learns to recognize the change in color that accompanies the drying process.

**2. Establish a watering schedule for your orchid.** Make it conform to your schedule. Water it on the same day of the week that you go to the gym, or the grocery store, or the car wash.

This one is really tempting. But let's say it's September. Did you notice that yesterday was one and a half minutes shorter than the day before and that the sun is now lower in the sky than it was in July? Your plant did. So, two months from now, when your orchid receives one less hour of light and considerably weaker light intensity, does it make sense to water with the same frequency?

**3. Water your orchid whenever you water your other plants.** Convenient, yes. Good horticulture, no.

**4. Water your *Phalaenopsis* orchid with ice cubes.** Tell me you don't do this. In nature a moth orchid seldom experiences temperatures below 60 degrees. And you're thinking about applying ice water to its roots? Why not just put it in the freezer for a day?

**5. Find out where your orchid is native to** and water it when the Weather Channel says it's raining there.

This strategy wouldn't work even if you and your houseplant lived in its country of origin. Microclimate matters more to an orchid than microclimate. Even if your condo is located in the rain forest, the kitchen window microclimate where your potted orchid resides is different from the microclimate within the tree canopy outside.

**6. Force it to live its entire life in a beautiful pot with no drainage holes, in a dense soil mix, and smothered with florist's moss.**

I know you received it from the florist this way, and it looks great, I admit it. But shouldn't they know better? The florist's priority is how the plant looks, not how well it grows.

Repotting Orchids 03:24  
To keep your orchids happy and healthy, repotting is a must.

**7. Force it to live its entire life in the same soil mix that the grower put it in.** After two years an orchid mix is history. Orchids in conventional peat moss-based houseplant soil should be sold with "Buyer Beware" stamped on the pot. The structure of peat moss (and composted pine bark) is too fine and too dense to be a good long-term medium for plants that in nature grow in trees. It retains loads of water and breaks down quickly. Peat-based mixes are cheap, widely available, uniform, sterile and lightweight (meaning inexpensive to ship). Young orchids reach flowering size rapidly in this mix, saving production time and labor, and then can be swiftly passed along to the consumer.

**8. Bring your orchid to the Garden's Orchid Care Clinic on the coldest day in January.** On the way home leave it in your unheated car while your visit every store in the mall.  
*Oh no. More blood on my hands.*

From Danny Flanniers article in the  
HGTV Gardens WEB Page  
Submitted by Norma Lynch

National Capital Orchid Society's

# Stunning ORCHIDS!

at our  
Annual Live Orchid Auction

on  
Sunday, February 11, 2018

at  
Behnke Nurseries Co.  
11300 Baltimore Ave.  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301.937.1100

National Capital Orchid Society  
holds its Annual Live Orchid Auction (10 am to 3 pm).  
Plan to join the frenzy. Over 300 rare and unusual blooming  
(or near-blooming-size) orchids from well-known growers coast to coast,  
and private collections. One of the largest Orchid Auctions in the United States!

Schedule: 10 am to 11 am ~ Preview STUNNING Orchids  
LIVE Auction: 11 am to 3 pm ~ Bidding frenzy!  
AND: Pictures of the blooms projected on screen of each Orchid

Sponsored by the National Capital Orchid Society  
Supporting Orchid Culture and Conservation Since 1947



**American Orchid Society**  
Education. Conservation. Research.

# THE FEBRUARY 2018 AOS CORNER

From the desk of Denise Lucero,  
Vice-Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee  
([dluceroaosmembership@gmail.com](mailto:dluceroaosmembership@gmail.com)).

## **For newsletter editors:**

Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner, in whole or in part, in their society newsletters. We encourage promotion of AOS website use by your members.

## **AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

After all that 2017 brought to many, it seemed like the new year had gently arrived and, with gratitude, we could now begin to make plans for 2018. Well, it appears that everyone had the same idea and the coming year is already getting very busy--planning, organizing and meeting. It's so exciting to learn about everything that's going on with all the societies. I love that it's all about Orchids!

## **MEMBER SURVEY**

The AOS Membership team sent out their survey to all AOS members on January 6th. It focuses on members, their orchids, and their AOS membership. Please remind AOS members that three lucky members who complete the survey will win a one-year print AOS membership. By completing our short survey, they not only become eligible to win, but will help the AOS learn how we can improve the experience as a member. We appreciate everyone's participation. The deadline to complete the survey is February 7, 2018.

Please click on the link to access the survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AOS\\_Members\\_2018](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AOS_Members_2018)

## **COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUERTO RICO JUDGING CENTER**

The damages caused by the passage of hurricanes Irma and Maria have left the meeting places of the center unusable. To continue providing services, we had to use locations for the meeting on an interim basis. We recommend that, if you plan to attend some of our judging sessions, contact José Izquierdo at [joseizquierdo.rivera@gmail.com](mailto:joseizquierdo.rivera@gmail.com) to receive information and specific instructions on how to get to the meeting place as well as the dates of the events.

## **AS SHOW SEASON STARTS**

Most Affiliated Societies are now hard at work making plans as Orchid Show Season comes around once again. We have just added a new pdf document on the Affiliated Society page to help. AOS Awards Registrar, Laura Newton, has provided a summary for the use of the Affiliated Societies on Exhibiting Orchids for AOS Judging. Here's a small snippet of what you will find...

There is nothing quite like winning your very first American Orchid Society Award. The thrill of knowing that you own a flower of the highest quality, or that you have grown a plant so well that you are being honored for your growing prowess, or that you have a species that will be recognized for the very first time, and on top of that-- knowing that your name will forever be listed in the records for Orchid Awards throughout the world is an experience like no other!

There are several ways that you can enter your orchids for AOS judging. You can enter them into an AOS- sanctioned show (either individually or as part of a society or vendor display), take them in to an AOS Judging Center monthly judging, or participate in an AOS Outreach Judging.

Check out the Calendar for all judging events <http://www.aos.org/news-events/event-calendar.aspx>. They are also posted in Orchids magazine monthly. Before you bring in or submit a plant for judging you should be aware of all the rules: <http://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/judging-handbook/judging-process.aspx>

We encourage you to have everyone on your Show Committee and your Exhibitors look at the complete document, hopefully, it will explain the process and answer many of the questions we are often asked by Societies about AOS Judging.

Also, should you have any questions about the process, feel free to contact the Awards Registrar, Laura Newton [laura@aos.org](mailto:laura@aos.org).

## **SAVE THE DATE**

The American Orchid Society 2018 Spring Members Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show and the Cymbidium Society of America Congress on March 7-11, 2018, in Santa Barbara, California. This is sure to be an event not to be missed and we hope to see you there. The registration site is now up at [www.aosmembersmeeting.com](http://www.aosmembersmeeting.com) where you can register for events, and link to the Centric Hyatt for hotel registration. Special hotel rates are being made available and quantities are limited, so book now before it's too late. Please put it in your calendar and let your members know that all AOS members are welcome to join us.

Thanks for all the pics that you are sending in for the Instagram feed. Our Instagram Administrator, Candace

Hollinger, sends her appreciation to you all. It's really wonderful to see such a variety of everything orchid that's enjoyed around the globe. Please remind your members that we would love pics of how they grow, what's blooming now or anything they love about orchids. Please continue to send your photos and short videos to [americanorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americanorchidsociety@gmail.com): Be sure to send a short caption explaining your photo. Also, if you are bilingual and can include your caption in English plus your other language(s)—it will help with our universal outreach.

Don't forget to check-in on our Facebook Group Page for Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society. Our administrator, Chad Brinkerhuff, monitors the feed and is a great resource for all that the AOS has to offer. Keep us up to date on what's going on at your local society and let us know how we can help you. If he doesn't have the answer you need, he will find it for you.

Also, remember we have an updated List of Speakers to help you plan society meeting programs. You will now find the Affiliated Societies link on the home page under the "About Us" heading.

And...

Here's a link to check it all out - <http://www.aos.org/>

### **WHY DO YOU GROW THE ORCHIDS YOU GROW: Now It's *Habenarias***

Written by Sue Bottom

(This article was originally published in the January 2016 edition of Orchids Magazine)

**HAS YOUR TASTE** in orchids changed over time? When you first start growing orchids, you buy everything in sight; all you know is that you need more, more! Cattleyas are my enduring favorite, the incredible flowers, the fragrance; perhaps that's why most of my benches and overhead poles are filled with them. But then you go to an orchid show and see something that you simply can't live without.

In the beginning it was phalaenopsis. When we were living in Houston, the Houston Orchid Society was a phalaenopsis club thanks in part to Bill Tippitt's breeding of multifloral phals. It was an exciting time for phalaenopsis, the hybridizing for yellows was in its heyday and the harlequin phals had just been introduced. How can you not love phals with their long-lived graceful blooms?

Then one day Stephen Moffitt gave a presentation to the Galveston club about catasetums, so naturally I started growing them. What is easier than a plant that requires no winter care during its dormancy but grows like mad in the summer? Add Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids into the mix with all his beautiful and fascinating hybrids and there are new wows to tempt you every year.

Next there was the vanda phase; so many colors, sizes and shapes! After that it was the ephemeral stanhopeas. That addiction started with a Stanhopea grandiflora that bloomed eight times in one year. Can you spell hooked? It took a bit of observing how others succeeded with theirs and some trial and error until I could reliably rebloom them and by then I had almost two dozen different varieties. After that came the African angraecoids in their white and green glory, the dendrochilums with their chains of miniature flowers and... well, you get the idea.

Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries had some Habenaria medusa seedlings for sale when he came to talk to our club and I had seen pictures of this oddity and thought, why not? When it bloomed, it was love at first sight and the hunt was on for more. There have been many enablers along the way, including Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids on the East Coast and Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids on the West Coast and several in between. Before the year was over, there were about two dozen habenarias in the greenhouse, orchids that grow from tubers and require a dry dormant winter.

That's how I found myself outdoors on a cold January afternoon with all these dead-looking plants figuring out how I was going to repot them, so they'd come back to life in the spring. The trickiest part is keeping the tuber oriented, so the shoot end is pointing up and the root end is pointing down, easier said than done in that one end looks pretty much like the other. I think I made the wrong decision on one or two of them last year. For the similarly afflicted, this is what I have gleaned from reading about them and talking with other orchid growers.

**POT SELECTION** First, look for deeper standard size pots rather than the shallower azalea or bulb pots. Don't use peanuts at the bottom of the pot because that's where the tubers will want to form. Use smallish pots; if you think you're slightly under potting, you've probably chosen the right pot.

**POTTING MIX** Most growers suggest using either sphagnum moss or ProMix HP as your potting mix. I opted for a ProMix HP-sponge rock mix and top-dressed with a little sphagnum moss so the soilless mix wouldn't wash out of the pot. If you use sphagnum moss, make sure you have the AAA grade; otherwise find a good soilless mix. Next year I may try a few in straight sphagnum moss packed tightly enough that the plants will stand up without support.

**WHEN TO REPOT** After flowering, the vegetation starts to brown, and the plants begin to enter dormancy. The tubers are still growing and storing energy for next year's growth, so just limit your watering until the plant dies back completely. Don't be in any hurry to remove the dead top vegetation from the pot because that will help you orient the tubers properly during the repotting process.

**TUBER ORIENTATION** If you just knock the plant out of the pot and clean away the old potting mix like you would with other orchids, you'll find yourself saying oops, which end is up? The first-time repotting, I held the tubers in my hand, oriented top to bottom, from depotting through repotting, to make sure they didn't get turned around. Often you can tell there is a pointy end from which the shoot grows that should be oriented up when you repot. But if you can't tell which end should be up, hedge your bets and lay the tuber sideways.

**THEN YOU WAIT** Once your tuber is happily ensconced in its dry new home, put the pot someplace where it won't accidentally get watered. You have to wait until the tuber breaks dormancy and sends up a new shoot and then you can begin watering. If there is no new growth when all your other orchids have spring fever, you can give your *Habenaria* an occasional sip to encourage it to start growing. Once it has a few inches (several centimeters) of new growth, give it copious amounts of water and fertilizer during the growing season because, like your other winter dormant orchids, it has to cram 12 months of growing into seven or eight months or less. In the fall the bloom spikes will emerge from the center of the plant; get ready for the show!

Orchid growers go through all sorts of trials and tribulations learning how to grow one type of orchid and then when they finally figure it out, they decide to start growing a different type of orchid. It is probably natural that our taste in orchids evolves over time. After all, if you look back at your recipes from several years ago you realize your ingredients and techniques have morphed over time... though you must be careful not to admit to a Louisiana native that you are now adding beans to the gumbo!



Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera and are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Publication Committee ([sbottom15@hotmail.com](mailto:sbottom15@hotmail.com)).

*Habenaria erichmichelii* 'Memoria Ernst Michel' CHM/AOS;  
Photographer: James McCulloch

#### UPCOMING WEBINARS

It's easy to find all of the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the All About Orchids tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of the monthly Corner.

#### **American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat** with Ron McHatton

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Open to all*

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions to [stillisch@cox.net](mailto:stillisch@cox.net) by Friday, February 2nd.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3591894867316552963>

Doctor, Doctor, I see spots: *Cattleya guttata* with Andrew Coghill-Behrends

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Members only*

Join Andrew Coghill-Behrends as he presents a discussion on *Cattleya guttata* and its hybrids.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3455364111863945474>

**Note:** After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the seminar.

**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

**WANT TO LEARN, BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE?** The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

**THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE** will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- Genus of the Month - *Caucaea*
- Orchids Illustrated - Timothy Sheldrake
- For the Novice - Calcium deficiency
- The Story of White *Cattleya*
- *Dendrobium bigibbum*, Part 2: The Hybrid
- Who Were These Guys? Part 4: Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach
- Red Vandas



*Vanda Will Riley 'Bonnie Riley' FCC/AOS;*  
Photographer: Tom Kuligowski

**YOUR SOCIETY CAN EARN FREE AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS:** Upcoming shows are a good time to encourage new membership to AOS. Affiliated societies can now earn a one-month extension of their AOS society membership for each new AOS member that they refer (note: membership renewals don't count). For now, the only way to take advantage of this program is to download and print the AOS Membership Application Form, check the box "yes" to indicate that you are a member of a local orchid society, most importantly fill in the NAME of your orchid society, and mail the completed application and payment to: AOS, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33156.

With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a *FULL YEAR OF FREE AOS membership!* Be sure to have membership applications with your society's name already filled in and available at your club meetings!

**Remember** to let your members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources at their disposal making growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful.

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Let's grow together,



Respectfully submitted by  
Valerie Lowe - AOS/ODC Representative

# Maryland Orchid Society Officers and Committees

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### **PRESIDENT**

Sarah L. Spence 410-243-3377  
[slspence@live.com](mailto:slspence@live.com)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Joan Roderick 410-992-1811  
[jomarod@verizon.net](mailto:jomarod@verizon.net)

### **TREASURER**

Aaron Webb 410-419-1312  
[awebb71574@aol.com](mailto:awebb71574@aol.com)

### **SECRETARY**

Suzanne Gaertner 410-531-6672  
[sgaert@outlook.com](mailto:sgaert@outlook.com)

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Eric Wiles 410-984-2180  
[winvet88@yahoo.com](mailto:winvet88@yahoo.com)

### **DIRECTOR**

Joel Graham 814-441-2090  
[jegmicrobe@gmail.com](mailto:jegmicrobe@gmail.com)  
Laura Sobelman 410-615-2445  
[lmsobes@gmail.com](mailto:lmsobes@gmail.com)



## Committees

### **AOS/ODC REPRESENTATIVE**

Valerie Lowe 410-599-2923  
[vlowe14@comcast.net](mailto:vlowe14@comcast.net)

### **AUCTION**

Aaron Webb 410-419-1312  
[awebb71574@aol.com](mailto:awebb71574@aol.com)

- Joan Roderick
- Sarah Spence

### **MOS AWAY SHOWS**

Valerie Lowe 410-599-2923  
[vlowe14@comcast.net](mailto:vlowe14@comcast.net)

- Sarah Hurdel

### **EDUCATION and ACTIVITIES**

Eric Wiles (Activities) 410-984-2180  
[winvet88@yahoo.com](mailto:winvet88@yahoo.com)

- Sarah Spence

David Smith (Education) 410-526-0179  
[fpsakes1@aol.com](mailto:fpsakes1@aol.com)

- Diane Elam

### **HOSPITALITY**

Margaret Smith 410-526-0179  
[fpsakes1@aol.com](mailto:fpsakes1@aol.com)

- Teena Hallameyer
- Brenda Logan

### **HOUSE**

Marc Kiriou 443-509-0084  
[gothiclord01@yahoo.com](mailto:gothiclord01@yahoo.com)

- Ernie Drohan
- Bob Johnston
- Randy Hallameyer
- Clark Riley

### **LIBRARY**

Norma Lynch 410-531-3220  
[nlynch@comcast.net](mailto:nlynch@comcast.net)

- Suzanne Gaertner

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Marilyn Lauffer 410-461-4083  
[mlauffer544@gmail.com](mailto:mlauffer544@gmail.com)

- Laura Sobelman

### **NEWSLETTER**

Barbara Buck 410-551-9374  
[barbarabuck2015@comcast.net](mailto:barbarabuck2015@comcast.net)

- Laura Sobelman
- Sarah Spence

### **PROGRAM**

Jean Hedrick 443-280-4380  
[rjhedrick01@comcast.net](mailto:rjhedrick01@comcast.net)

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Barbara Buck 410-551-9374  
[barbarabuck2015@comcast.net](mailto:barbarabuck2015@comcast.net)

- Joan Roderick
- Teena Hallameyer
- Brenda Logan

### **SHOW**

Joan Roderick 410-992-1811  
[jomarod@verizon.net](mailto:jomarod@verizon.net)

- Sarah Spence
- Gary Smith
- Sarah Hurdel
- Valerie Lowe

### **SHOW TABLE**

Thomas McBride 410-661-4748  
[orchidudes@aol.com](mailto:orchidudes@aol.com)

- David Smith
- Owen Humphrey
- Clark Riley

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Joel Graham 814-441-2090  
[jegmicrobe@gmail.com](mailto:jegmicrobe@gmail.com)

- Sarah Spence

### **SUNSHINE**

Janice Mazur 410-381-5694  
[janice.mazur@gmail.com](mailto:janice.mazur@gmail.com)

### **WEBSITE**

Clark Riley 410-591-9201  
[DrRiley@aol.com](mailto:DrRiley@aol.com)