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newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

October 2006



president's message

We had an excellent show table at the September meeting in spite of a smaller than average turnout. As Tom McBride commented on the show table, he also gave out plant awards to all of the members who had accumulated points last year by putting plants on the show table, loaning plants for the NCOS and SOS shows and setting up displays at our own show. The plants he provided for the awards were very attractive and there were many pleased members at the end of the evening. (In fact, several of the bonus plants won ribbons at the NCOS Show; this should encourage everyone to bring in plants for the show table and shows!) Tom also gave out money to the members who had scored the most points in each class on the show table last year by winning ribbons. As we knew all along, one didn't have to have a greenhouse to score those points either!

David Smith's wonderful *Den. diffusum* and Barry Woolf's huge *Dendrochilum magnum* from the show table were then used as major focal points in the NCOS Show display last weekend. Valerie Lowe, Gary Smith, Cyrus Swett, David Smith, Barry Woolf, Eric Wiles and I all participated in the set-up of the show on October 5th and we used plants from 20 different growers. After the judging was finished the next day, MOS had covered itself in glory - and ribbons! We received the Orchid Digest Award

for best amateur exhibit and the Best Society Exhibit award. In addition, members' plants in the exhibit received awards for Best Miniature, Best Amateur Grown Pleurothallid Alliance, Best Amateur Grown Miniature and Best Amateur Grown Oncidium Alliance and a total of 30 ribbons by my count! See pictures and a list of the final results on the website!



This month, if you have a plant on the show table and see a sticker on it at the end of the meeting, talk to Valerie Lowe or Eric Wiles. The sticker means that they would like to use your plant in the SOS Show exhibit which will be set up on October 26. If you have a plant that is not fully in bloom for the meeting but will be by the 26th, tell Valerie or Eric!

Ann Lundy

Roger Cole of Arbec Orchids to Speak at Next Meeting

Roger Cole, owner of Arbec Orchids and an AOS Judge, will be our speaker this month. He will be speaking on new breeding in Equitant Oncidiums, those lovely little "dancing ladies". Roger has been growing orchids for over 40 years and has been an AOS Judge for over 25 years - he has seen and grown a lot of plants! As a professional orchid grower and judge he sees many new plants, new crosses and improvements on old standards and he will talk about what is happening in the orchid growing world with these smaller growing Oncidiums.



Next General Meeting

October 19, 2006

- 7:00 pm Show table setup
- 7:15 pm Beginners' corner
- 7:30 pm Judging begins
- 8:00 pm Meeting begins
- 8:15 pm Program begins

The Maryland Orchid Society meets at the First Christian Church Hall, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore MD.

show table > sept. 2006

Novice

1. Paph. (Supersuk x Raisin Pie) - Don Forester
2. Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puinani' AM/AOS - JoAnn Russo

Home Grown

1. Den. *laevifolium* - Bill Scharf
2. Paph. Magic Lantern - Mark Robbins
3. Phrag. Norimont - Chris Zajac

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. V. Hybrid - Les Kirkegaard
2. Phrag. Cardinale - Lou Vadorsky
3. C. Carol Ackerson - Barbara Buck

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. Mok. Salaya Red - Cy Swett
2. Ascda. Fuch's Sunglow 'Starryln' AM/AOS - Barry Woolf



Den. *laevifolium* - Bill Scharf

Species

1. Epi. *diffusum* - David Smith
2. Dendrochilum *magnum* - Barry Woolf
3. Pholidota *imbricata* - Cy Swett

Miniature

1. Pths. *sonderana* - David Smith
2. Polystachya *stenostachya* - Barry Woolf
3. Cadetia *taylori* - Bill Scharf

First Bloom Seedling

1. Onc. (Mendenhall x *papilio*) - The Lundys
2. Paph. Predatious - Barry Woolf
3. Phal. *violacea* - The Adams



Pths. *sonderana* - David Smith

Cattleya Alliance

1. Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pokai' AM/AOS - Michael Moran
2. Bl. Mem. Bernice Foster - Dr. Eric Wiles
3. C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' - Cy Swett

Phalaenopsis Alliance

1. Asvts. Thai Cherry - The Adams
 2. Phal. Mistral's Sunrise Flame 'Catherine' - Mark Robbins
 3. tie Phal. Brother Strawberry - Lorie Lee-Young
- Phal. *bellina* - Cy Swett

Oncidium Alliance

1. Mtssa. Olmec 'Betty Ho' - Barry Woolf
2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Misaki' - Cy Swett
3. Mtssa. Charles M. Fitch - Barbara Buck

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Mem. Larry Heuer - Mark Robbins
2. Paph. Iantha Stage - David Smith
3. Paph. Vera Pellechia - Barry Woolf

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Rlla. Sugar Baby - Barry Woolf
 2. Ascda. Eileen Beauty 'Ono' AM/AOS - Les Kirkegaard
 3. tie Masd. Maui Gold - Bill Scharf
- Den. Yellow Chinsai 'Little Joe' HCC/AOS - Dr. Eric Wiles

Fragrance

1. B. *cuculata* 'Cub Hill' - Michael Moran
2. Cym. Golden Elf 'Sundust' - James Winner
3. Dendrochilum *magnum* - Dr. Eric Wiles

The Judges Choice of the Evening was Epidendrum *diffusum*, exhibited by David Smith. The Judges were Phuong Tran, Lee Lundy, and Aaron Webb. There were 81 plants on the show table!

calendar for 2006-2007

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| Oct. 12, 2006 | MOS Board Meeting at Lorie Lee-Young's |
| Oct. 19, 2006 | MOS monthly meeting |
| Oct. 26, 2006 | SOS Show display set-up in Harrisburg, PA |
| Oct. 27-29, 2006 | SOS Show and Sale in Harrisburg, PA |
| Nov. 4, 2006 | International Phalaenopsis Alliance 2006 Fall Joint Regional Workshop
Location: Parkside Orchid Nursery, Ottsville, PA
www.phal.org/Regional%20Events/regionfifteen.htm |
| Nov. 10-11, 2006 | Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium
Location: George Washington Inn
Williamsburg, VA
www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/resources/events/merritt_huntington_symposium.doc |
| Nov. 16, 2006 | MOS monthly meeting |
| Nov. 25, 2006 | MOS Orchid Auction at the Armory in Ellicott City |
| Dec. 21, 2006 | MOS monthly meeting |
| Jan. 11, 2007 | MOS Board Meeting at Ann and Lee Lundy's |
| Jan. 18, 2007 | MOS monthly meeting |
| Feb. 15, 2007 | MOS monthly meeting |
| March 7-11, 2007 | MOS Show and Sale at the Maryland Home and Garden Show in Timonium |
| March 15, 2007 | MOS monthly meeting |
| April 12, 2007 | MOS Board Meeting |
| April 19, 2007 | MOS monthly meeting |
| May 17, 2007 | MOS monthly meeting |
| June 21, 2007 | MOS monthly meeting |
| July 12, 2007 | MOS Board Meeting |

show table > 2005 - 2006

Novice

1st Don Forester - 16 pts.
2nd Marilyn Lauffer - 13 pts.
3rd Nancy Duggan, Edith Goldman,
Kristine Welch - 3 pts.

Home Grown

1st The Adams - 14 pts.
2nd Lorie Lee-Young - 11 pts.
3rd Clark Riley - 10 pts.

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1st Lou Vadorsky - 16 pts.
2nd Stoney Copelin - 11 pts.
3rd Barbara Buck - 10 pts.

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1st Marty Vittek - 20 pts.
2nd Cyrus Swett - 18 pts.
3rd Barry Woolf - 13pts.

Cattleya Alliance

1st Michael Moran, Marty Vittek - 17 pts.
2nd Cyrus Swett, Barry Woolf - 5 pts.
3rd David Smith - 4 pts.

Phalaenopsis Alliance

1st The Adams - 17 pts.
2nd Marty Vittek - 15 pts.
3rd Lorie Lee-Young - 5 pts.

Oncidium Alliance

1st Barry Woolf - 17 pts.
2nd Cyrus Swett - 8 pts.
3rd Marty Vittek - 7 pts.

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1st The Lundys, David Smith - 11 pts.
2nd The Adams - 10 pts.
3rd Marty Vittek - 6 pts.

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1st Barry Woolf - 22 pts.
2nd Marty Vittek - 8 pts.
3rd Michael Moran - 5 pts.

Species

1st David Smith, Marty Vittek - 15 pts.
2nd The Adams - 7 pts.
3rd Barry Woolf - 6 pts.

Miniature

1st Marty Vittek - 17 pts.
2nd David Smith - 12 pts.
3rd Barry Woolf - 10 pts.

First Bloom Seedling

1st The Adams, Barry Woolf - 12 pts.
2nd Marty Vittek - 10 pts.
3rd Bill Soyke - 4 pts.

Fragrance

1st Barry Woolf - 8 pts.
2nd The Lundys - 7 pts.
3rd The Adams - 6 pts.

Congratulations to the following members who had perfect attendance on our show table last year ! The Adams, David Smith, Gary Smith Bill Soyke, and Barry Woolf.

Second Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium

Dear Orchid Friends,

Back by popular demand, the "Second Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium" will be held on November 10 & 11, 2006 in Williamsburg, Va. The symposium will feature three individual speakers, Marguerite Webb, Andy Easton, and Glen Decker, followed by a panel discussion led by Rob Griesbach on November 11. AOS judging will be held and eight vendors will be on site. Vendors include Waldor Orchids, Seagrove Orchids, Orchid Enterprise, Machodoc Orchids, Celebrate Orchids, J & L Orchids, Piping Rock Orchids, and New Horizon Orchids. In addition, we will offer a Preview Party on Friday, November 10th, with access to the sales area, refreshments, and a multimedia presentation by Hal Horowitz on "Israeli Orchids".

Registration forms and biographical information on the speakers can be found on the Tidewater Orchid Society Website at <http://www.mycommunityis.com/tos/merritt-huntington-sumposium>

Registrar is Dot Pierce at pierce.db@verizon.net You can also snail mail Dot at 917 Beryl Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23464.

We had a great time last year and we are looking forward to an enjoyable and informative event again this year. Merritt was very interested in helping us get started in this venture several years ago and it is only fitting that we name it in his memory.

Please feel free to contact me.

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member spotlight

This month's edition of MOS News introduces a new column called "Member Spotlight" in which we feature a society member. Our first volunteer is Gary Smith, an Information Architect at T. Rowe Price, who started raising orchids about eight years ago. Most of this article originally appeared in an online employee newsletter, addressing people who might know little about orchids. Gary was gracious enough to answer some hobby-related questions and we are sure you'll find his answers informative, interesting and amusing. Gary says his hobby started as a benign enterprise but ballooned into an unexpected passion when he joined the Maryland Orchid Society in 2001.



Lc. Gold Digger 'Fuchs Mandarin' from Gary's collection

1. Are orchids difficult to grow? What is involved?

There are nearly 25,000 species and over 100,000 man-made hybrids, so there is an orchid for every taste. Many are as easy and undemanding as an African Violet and grow well under similar conditions. Many, many others can be very particular. Hybrids tend to be easiest; species more exacting in their needs.

2. Is this an expensive hobby?

It can get expensive—not something I like to admit to myself. (I had another collecting hobby a few years back where I bought horse brasses from eBay. After about six months, I added up how much I had spent and, after recovering from the shock, stopped cold turkey that very day. I've spent far more on my orchid habit, but the cost-to-benefit analysis is much more favorable.) An average orchid costs between \$15 and \$25. A choice orchid could run between \$50 and \$125. (The most I've spent is about \$75—a new record that I set twice on the same day recently.) Then there are the two light stands (~ \$650 each). Pots, media, and supplies are inexpensive by comparison. All my orchids are in a small (6' x 8') dormer room upstairs in my house. Besides the two light stands at either end, I have a PVC "jungle gym" I built in front of the windows that provides for hanging plants and additional shelf space. At night the lights throw a strange glow out onto my front yard, which I'm sure puzzles neighbors and passersby.

3. Is it stressful or relaxing?

For me "stressful" and "relaxing" aren't the right words. It does require a lot of patience. Most orchids grow slowly and only bloom once or twice a year. If they become damaged or diseased it can take years to recover the full beauty of the plant. On the positive side, when it all comes together, the sense of satisfaction can be enormous.

4. Name and describe some of your favorite orchids.

That's difficult, since my tastes seem to change every 18 months or so. I've been getting into more species lately, so I'm

partial to my species Phalaenopsis (moth orchids) and Paphiopedilums (Asian Slipper Orchids). They're not as flashy as their hybrid cousins, but I find them challenging and very satisfying when I can get them to grow well. (Unfortunately most orchids are endangered in their native habitat, but in a strange paradox some are widely available as seed-grown plants.)

5. Do you compete in orchid shows?

The Maryland Orchid Society has monthly meetings at which we have a show table (really eight tables). There are typically 120 to 170 beautiful flowering orchids at each one. It's remarkable to see what people can grow. To save gas and driving, I bring my plants to work with me on meeting days. It's usually only half a dozen plants, but it makes an eye-catching display in the office.

Each year in March, the society hosts a full-fledged orchid show in Timonium, during which I take a week of vacation to help. I've had some minor success with very small exhibits. Even with over a hundred plants, only a very few are in bloom at the right time and have sufficient quality to be worth showing.

6. What do you enjoy most about raising orchids?

Aside from the satisfaction of raising happy plants, I most enjoy the friendship of society members. We're a hugely varied crowd, but we all share a common interest in orchids. I found it easy to get involved with the society and currently serve as chairperson for the Database and Auction committees. The Database Committee allows me to ply my trade to design and maintain a contact database. The auction, held in the fall, is one of the main fundraisers for the society.

I also like that there is so much to learn about orchids. You can get involved as much or as little as you like. Beyond the beauty of the flowers, there's judging, taxonomy, specialization in certain genera, hybridization, society leadership, and orchid-related events. The more I learn, the more I come to understand how little I know. Few hobbies offer such room for growth.

7. Do you have any funny stories to tell us about orchids?

Recently, I was in Orlando for an American Orchid Society event. I was late to the breakfast that was offered to participants, so I had little choice of tables to sit at when I arrived. I spied one across the room with an empty seat, asked if it was available, and sat down with my breakfast. When I read the name tags of the others already at the table, I realized that I was sitting among pillars of the orchid world. Nearly all were current or past presidents of the AOS. Collectively, they represented many, many decades of service

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Come Join us for the Maryland Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Auction!

Saturday, November 25, 2006

Ellicott City Armory

Preview: 11 am ■ Auction: Noon - 5 pm

Featuring:

Quality orchids from:

- Carmela Orchids
- Ratcliffe Orchids
- RKS Orchids
- The Little Greenhouse
- Tropical Orchid Farm
- And many other orchid houses and MOS member plant divisions

Orchid supplies:

- Potting media
- Pots
- Humidity trays
- AOS Calendars

Instant Auction Table:

- Plants priced and ready to sell!

For information or to help:

- Contact Bill Ellis at **410.549.1530** or Aaron Webb at **410.235.4062**, or visit the MOS web site at www.marylandorchids.org

Directions:

- From Baltimore
SOUTH on US #29 (Columbia Pike)
RIGHT at Exit 23
LEFT onto MD #103 (Montgomery Road)
Go past the Fire Station and make a
RIGHT at the Armory

- From Washington
NORTH on US #29 (Columbia Pike)
RIGHT at Exit 22 onto MD #100
RIGHT at Exit 1A onto Long Gate Parkway
LEFT onto MD #103 (Montgomery Road)
Go past the shopping center and make a
LEFT at the Armory



The MOS Display at the NCOS Show— lots of ribbons!

reminder

If you have not done so already, now is the time to renew your MOS membership. Fees are **\$20 per household** and should be made out to the Maryland Orchid Society. Please send your payment to the Maryland Orchid Society, P.O. Box 5651, Baltimore, Maryland 21210. Thank you for supporting the MOS.

RKS Orchids Sale

RKS Orchids is selling its entire orchid inventory to upgrade its greenhouse operation. All plants including their private collection are for sale— 7,000 plants including 2,000 Paphs, 100 Phrags, 3,000 Cattleyas and many assorted genera.

- many awarded and premium plants
- all plants are priced to sell quickly
- additional discounts for large quantity purchases
- all plants must be sold before Nov. 30.

Sale dates: October 17 - 25
and October 30 - November 30, 2006.

Hours: Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Sun., Noon - 5 pm.

RKS Orchids
15073 Bonfair Road • Glen Rock, PA 17327
717.235.2421

Member Spotlight

from page four

and dedication related to orchids. I'll never know how I managed to eat my food with my mouth agape.

One lesson I've learned over the past few years is that it's easy to come to quick and superficial conclusions about strangers we meet in life (in my example, during orchid events). I've learned not to listen to that voice, and instead get to know a little bit about people first. In the case of my orchid acquaintances, I'm repeatedly amazed by their experiences and depth of knowledge. The most unassuming people can really surprise you if you let them.

If you are interested in being "Spotlighted" please email Laura Sobelman at sobelman@comcast.net.

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