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newsletter

A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

February 2009

president's message

Ever since the January meeting when Joe Francis put the whammy on my orchid with his voodoo black magic, I've been thinking about orchid viruses and their impact on our personal collections. (For those of you who didn't attend our last meeting, I volunteered one of my favorite *Cattleyas*, *Guarisophleya* (formerly *Laeliocattleya*) Blue Boy 'Gainsborough' for testing. It's a fairly old clone (1966), giving it plenty of time to have picked up something nasty over the years. Unfortunately, I was not disappointed.) I still need to decide what (if anything) to do with my plant. Part of that calculus will have to include assessing the value of the plant and an increased vigilance to look for visible manifestations of virus. But even with a thorough assessment of that one plant, I'm still in the dark about the rest of my collection. Maybe I have a hard decision to make regarding one plant, but if heuristics are any indication, I may well be facing a considerably more difficult decision.

Fortunately, we held a Board of Trustees meeting on 22 January at which I opined that we had an opportunity to provide a new and potentially important benefit to our membership. The Board agreed. So I'm pleased to announce that MOS is making

preparations to buy virus test kits that will be made available to members at the bulk rate that should be possible if we pool our purchases. If we use test kits from Agdia, the cost will be around \$4.50 per kit. We need to first ascertain how much interest there is for this program among our members. Look for details at the February meeting.

On a different note, I'm both delighted and horrified to observe that we have only one monthly meeting left before our spring show and sale in Timonium. As I explained in my November 2008 column, MOS hosts a couple of events that generate most of the funds it needs to bridge the gap between membership dues and annual expenses. The volunteer response for our auction was enormously gratifying. I am appealing to our membership again for the same level of support for our show. It can be hard work, but it's great fun too. And there are innumerable opportunities to learn both about your orchids and your orchid society. It's far more than just a fund-raising event. I look forward to the entire week each year.

Gary

Valerie Lowe Speaks About Judging Orchid Flowers

Valerie Lowe has been an MOS member since 1990, holding numerous offices and committee positions including President from 1996 to 1999. Valerie is also an accredited AOS judge, and so given that our show is right around the corner, we've asked Valerie to deliver a talk on exhibit design from a judge's viewpoint. This will not be a "how to" tutorial as much as a "what to" lecture for maximizing your chances of grabbing the judge's eye. You'll walk away with a better understanding of terms such as balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale and what they mean to your exhibit.



At last year's show, Valerie Lowe won Best Interpretation of Show Theme, Hobbyist Exhibit, 25-Square-Foot.

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Orchid Calendar

Homestead Gardens Features *The Joy of Orchids*



Den. Nora Tokunaga - Charlotte Grahe

Novice

1. *Den.* Nora Tokunaga - Charlotte Grahe
2. *Phal.* Hybrid - Suzanne Gaertner



Phrag. caricinum 'Independence Day'
- Clark Riley

Home Grown

1. *Masd.* (Copper Angel X *mendozae*) - Bill Scharf
2. Tie *Stenosarcos* Vanguard - Val Lowe
Phrag. caricinum 'Independence Day' - Clark Riley
3. Tie *Cym.* Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' - The Lundys
Lc. Culminant 'La Tuilerie' HCC/AOS - Ernie Drohan



Lc. Culminant 'La Tuilerie' HCC/AOS
- Ernie Drohan

Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet

1. *Onc.* Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy' - Jos Venturina
2. Tie *Paph.* Lady Isabel - Lou Vadorsky
Epi. ciliare - Joe Dockman
3. *Paph.* Hellas 'Westonbirt' - Craig Taborsky



Epi. ciliare - Joe Dockman

Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet

1. *Epi. porpax* var. *alba* 'Harford' CHM/AOS - David Smith
2. *Rhy. gigantea* var. *alba* - The Adamses



Epi. porpax var. *alba* 'Harford' CHM/AOS - David Smith



Lc. Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS
- The Lundys

Cattleya

1. *S/c.* Tutankahmen 'Pop' - The Adamses
2. *Lc.* Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS - The Lundys
3. *Lc.* Koolau Seagulls X *B/c.* Edisto - Barbara Buck



Lc. Koolau Seagulls X *B/c.* Edisto
- Barbara Buck

Phalaenopsis

1. *Phal.* Yungho Geb Canary 'Chin Ho' - The Adamses
2. *Phal.* Hybrid - Hilda Sukman
3. *Phal.* Hybrid - Bill Soyke



Phal. Hybrid - Hilda Sukman



Burr. Nelly Isler 'Swiss Beauty' - Chris Zajac

Oncidium

1. Burr. Nelly Isler 'Swiss Beauty' - Chris Zajac
2. Wils. Red Pacific 'Deep Shadows' HCC/AOS - The Adamses
3. Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS - Sue Spicer



Paph. fairrieanum var. alba - The Adamses

Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. fairrieanum var. alba - The Adamses
2. Tie Paph. spicerianum 'St. Albans' AM/AOS - Bill Scharf
Paph. Southern Alps - The Lundys
3. Tie Paph. Albion - Lou Vadorsky
Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara - Deborah Dade

Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Cycd. Taiwan Gold 'Orchis' - Jos Venturina
2. Masd. Vulcan - The Adamses
3. Den. Hybrid - Chris Zajac



Paph. Albion - Lou Vadorsky

Species

1. Coel. gardneri - Jos Venturina
2. Tie Paph. gratixianum - Bill Scharf
Den. atrovioleaceum - Bill Ellis
3. Tie Stenorrhynchus speciosum 'Fishing Creek' - Val Lowe
Pths. gelida - David Smith

Miniature

1. Bulb. pleurothallianthum - David Smith
2. Aergs. hyaloides - Bill Scharf
3. Pths. alata - Jos Venturina



Pths. alata - Jos Venturina

First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. fairrieanum - Les Kirkegaard
2. Paph. Conkoloco - Clark Riley
3. Cyc. warscewiczii - The Adamses

Fragrance

1. Onc. Sharry Baby - Anne Minkowski
2. B. Little Stars - Chris Zajac

3. Dendrochilum glumaceum - Craig Taborsky

The Judges Choice of the Evening was *Coel. gardneri* exhibited by Jos Venturina. The judges were Val Lowe, Kevin Hill and Lee Lundy. There were 119 plants on the show table!



Paph. gratixianum - Bill Scharf



Paph. fairrieanum - Les Kirkegaard



Onc. Sharry Baby - Anne Minkowski

2009 spring show update

It's been a long cold winter and it doesn't seem to want to let up any time soon. However the days are getting longer and that means the Show is drawing ever closer. The Show Committee is finalizing details and arrangements for what we hope will be another fantastic Show.

We are hoping for even more MOS member exhibits than last year. Keep in mind the Entry forms are due on February 23. In addition we would like to see another full wall of creativity this year, so I hope the artists among us have been busy.

The success of the Show greatly depends on the help we get from the membership. Please sign up to help at the February meeting if you have not done so already. The areas of need are Set Up of the Show Staging on Tuesday, March 10 at the Fairgrounds, Clerking for judging on Thursday, March 12 and of course working in the sales area during Show hours Friday-Sunday. We'll need people to help at the cash registers boxing plants, making boxes, checking plants for customers and answering questions. If you would rather not work the sales area we need people to sit at the Hospitality Table and welcome viewers to the Show and to answer their questions about the Society. We also need lots of help at tear down on Sunday when the Show ends. The more help the faster and easier tear down is.

Plan to attend the Preview Party and Sale on Thursday, March 12. Not only will you be treated to delicious food and great fellowship, you'll have the first opportunity to get that one orchid ... ok *ten* orchids you just can't live without. We do need to keep our Vendors happy! You should have your invitation by the February meeting.

To whet your orchid appetite here are the Vendors you can expect to see at the Show:

- Arbec Orchids
- Celebrate Orchids
- Fishing Creek Orchids
- Little Brook Orchids
- The Little Greenhouse
- Orchids 4 You
- The Orchid Station
- Piping Rock Orchids
- Quarter Acre Orchids
- Seagrove Orchids
- Sunisa's Clay Flowers
- Waldor Orchids
- Woodstream Orchids
- Hydrofarm East High Intensity Lighting.



Paph. Hellas 'Westonbirt'
- Craig Taborsky

I hope you are as excited about the Show as I am. Bring a friend and get them interested in the wonderful world of growing orchids.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me or catch me at this month's meeting. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,
Bill Scharf
MOS Vice President and Show Chair

know it all!

This column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In January, Jos Venturina's *Coel. gardneri* was awarded the honor. Following is Jos' description of how he grows his plant:



“Thirteen years ago, we went to Arbec Orchids located in Bowie, Md., to shop for orchids. We purchased a couple of plants and one of them is this *Coelogyne gardneri*. The plant was in a 6" plastic pot, with five or six growths and blooming with fragrant white flowers.

This plant is grown alongside other orchids in the greenhouse. It receives water every day in the summer time and every other

day in the winter. Fertilizer is applied after the flowers die off in the winter, using a high nitrogen formulation. In October, I switch to a bloom-booster formula. The day temperature it receives during summer is around 80 to 100 degrees F, and 60 to 70 degrees F during winter. The plant receives light in the range of 1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles. During the summer months, the plant spends time outside of the greenhouse in indirect sun. As far as I can remember, this plant has been repotted thrice already, the latest being last year. It was transplanted from a 12" plastic pot to 12" teak basket. I use fir bark as the potting medium.”

orchid calendar

Date: 24 January - 26 April
Event: Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes
Location: National Museum of Natural History
Time: 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Details: www.gardens.si.edu/orchidshows/2009darwin/index_darwin.html

Date: 14 February
Event: NCOS Paphiopedilum Forum
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Details: www.ncos.us/ncos/paph.htm

Date: 15 February
Event: National Capital Orchid Society Meeting
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Details: www.ncos.us/ncos/meetings.htm

Date: 15 February
Event: Susquehanna Orchid Society Meeting
Location: Giant Supermarket, 3301 Trindle Rd, Camp Hill, PA
Time: 1:30 PM
Details: www.susquehanna-orchid.org

Date: 19 February
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting
Location: First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org

Date: 1 March
Event: Philadelphia Flower Show
Location: Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2299
Details: www.theflowershow.com/showinfo/index.html

Date: 7 March
Event: National Capital Orchid Society Auction
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Details: www.ncos.us/ncos/auction.htm

Date: 7 March
Event: U.S. Botanic Garden Production Facility Open House
Location: TBA
Time: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Details: www.usbg.gov/education/events/U-S-Botanic-Garden-Production-Facility-Open-House.cfm

Date: 7 March
Event: National Capital Judging Center Judging Session
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM
Details: www.nationalcapitaljc.org/index.html

Date: 8 March
Event: Catoctin Orchid Society Meeting
Location: Church of the Transfiguration, Braddock Heights, MD
Time: 2:00 PM
Details: www.catoctinorchidsociety.org/COS_About.html

Date: 8 March
Event: Brookside Gardens Orchid Club Meeting
Location: Brookside Gardens Visitor's Center, Wheaton, MD
Time: 3:00 PM
Details: tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/BrooksideOrchids/

Date: 10 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show Staging Set-Up
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 9:00 AM

Date: 11 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show Exhibit Installation
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 9:00 AM

Date: 12 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show Ribbon and AOS Judging
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 9:00 AM

Date: 12 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show Preview Party
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 PM

Date: 13-15 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Show and Sale
Location: Timonium State Fairgrounds
Time: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM Fri & Sat
 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sun
 Tear down 6:00 PM
Details: www.mdorchids.org

Date: 15 March
Event: National Capital Orchid Society Meeting
Location: U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002
Time: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Details: www.ncos.us/ncos/meetings.htm

Date: 15 March
Event: Susquehanna Orchid Society Meeting
Location: Giant Supermarket, 3301 Trindle Rd, Camp Hill, PA
Time: 1:30 PM
Details: www.susquehanna-orchid.org

Date: 19 March
Event: Maryland Orchid Society Meeting
Location: First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Time: Show table 7:30 PM; Meeting at 8:00 PM
Details: www.marylandorchids.org

Date: 26 March
Event: International Orchid Show Exhibit Installation
Location: Longwood Gardens
Time: 10:00 AM

Date: 27-29 March
Event: International Orchid Show and Sale
Location: Longwood Gardens
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Fri
 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sat & Sun
Details: www.longwoodgardens.org/OrchidShowandSale2009.htmlOrchidShowandSale2009.html



Cyc. warscewiczii - The Adamases

YOU ARE INVITED!

Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society Dinner/Dance at Longwood Gardens

Come Dine and Dance among the Orchids

Saturday, March 28, 2009

6:00 -11:00PM

Longwood Gardens Conservatory

Hors D'oeuvres

Main Meal Choice of One:

- Seared Caribbean pork tenderloin with warm mango jalapeno chutney
- European chicken breast with natural thyme reduction
- or Grilled polenta with grilled vegetables, goat cheese and roasted tomato sauce
- Dessert - Chocolate Lava Cake

Advanced Ticket Purchase Required \$77/person

Marrianna Occhiuzzo

140 Columbia Ave.

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 909-5908

Cash, checks (made payable to SEPOS, VISA/MC and Discover accepted)



Homestead Gardens features The Joy of Orchids

Homestead Gardens has asked MOS to participate in its The Joy of Orchids event on Sunday, 1 March from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. We're looking for a few members willing to provide short (20-minute) talks on orchids, orchid culture, orchid pests, etc. Tom Mirenda of the Smithsonian Institution is advertised as the featured speaker. We'll also need a couple of volunteers to represent MOS at a hospitality table, much as we do for our show. Homestead Gardens is located in Davidsonville, MD in Ann Arundel County. Please contact Gary Smith if you are interested in helping.

Maryland Orchid Society

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Currently open

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