

ORCHID *newsletter*



News and information for Maryland Orchid Society members

June 2015

president's message

It is hard to believe that with this month's meeting, the 2014-2015 society year is coming to a close. It has been a good year. We moved into a new meeting location at the Woodbrook Church; Margaret and David Smith hosted the Members Repotting Workshop; we held a successful annual Orchid Auction; had a great Christmas/Holiday Party; pulled off a fine Show and Sale in March; and held a well-attended Workshop in April. Most importantly, we welcomed 31 new members.

Don't forget...there are activities during July and August with the Board Meeting at Margaret and David Smith's, July 23, and our Annual Family Picnic on August 15 at Eric Wiles' farm.

The 2015-2016 Maryland Orchid Society year begins with the monthly meeting on September 17 and the Members Repotting Seminar on September 26 at Margaret and David's.

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upcoming events

MONTHLY MEETING

The next monthly MOS meeting will be held June 18, 2015.

BOARD MEETING

The next board of trustees meeting is July 23 at the home of David and Margaret Smith. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30. All members are welcome to attend. Please let the Smiths know if you are attending and if you would like to bring a dish or drink.

MOS PICNIC

The annual MOS picnic will be held at Eric Wiles' farm on August 15. Please RSVP and consider bringing a food item or supplies.

MOS REPOTTING WORKSHOP

The annual MOS members-only potting workshop will be held on September 26 at the home of David and Margaret Smith.

ORCHID AUCTION

The annual MOS auction will be November 14 at the Dewey Lowman VFW Hall.

This Month's Speaker is Valerie Lowe

This month, Valerie Lowe's talk, "How Orchids are Judged," explores what judges are looking for when they evaluate orchids.

Valerie has been growing orchids since 1989 on the windowsill and under lights. She has served as president (two terms), vice president, secretary, program chairman, newsletter editor, EOC registrar, ODC representative and away shows chairperson (since 1990) for the Maryland Orchid Society. She has also served as a director of the ODC.

Each fall, Valerie looks forward to putting in the MOS exhibits in the local shows (National Capital, Susquehanna, and the EOC when it still existed). She believes she received most of her exposure to and education of the large variety of orchids



from visiting members' greenhouses and from borrowing their plants for these exhibits. She has attended many international conferences and traveled Costa Rica to see orchids in various environmental conditions.

Valerie Lowe has been an MOS member since 1990, holding numerous offices and committee positions, including back-to-back terms as President from 1996 to 1999. Valerie is perhaps best known as the MOS Away Show Chair, a job that, incredibly, she has served for most of her tenure with MOS. In October 2011, the MOS Board elected Valerie to life membership. Valerie is also an accredited AOS judge and for many years has served as Judging Chair at MOS's annual show. AOS judges serve a critical role in both ribbon and AOS judging.

Member Update

There were 56 members at the May meeting. The door prize, a bottle of KelpMax from First Rays was won by Lou Buck.

MOS is glad to welcome new members Shirley A. Bollinger and Toni Gardner.

