



ORCHID newsletter



News and information from the Maryland Orchid Society

April 2024

President's Message

Spring! Growth and Renewal – for MOS as well as my lawn!!

Hey! I appear to have been right last month (doesn't always happen!) in seeing signs of spring. All the symptoms I noted have continued to develop, even to the point of needing to pull the mower out of the shed to deal with a particularly lush part of the lawn. That's not my favorite rite of spring, but it's part of the package.

But besides those outdoorsy signs of growth and renewal from Mother Nature, we have opportunities (perhaps obligations) for similar growth and renewal within our society. On the one hand we have a nominating committee hard at work identifying another generation of leaders to guide and manage our next couple years. Time's getting

short, but you can still contribute suggestions to that process (Jill Allen, catstaff4@verizon.net, will be happy to receive them, but don't dawdle!).

As important as those officers are, however, they can do little without a membership that's sufficiently large, skilled, and enthusiastic to make it all happen. We need to be constantly striving to recruit and retain those members; most of our activities have that as, at least, an implicit purpose. Two spring time activities – our annual show at the Fairgrounds and our Spring Workshop (April 13 this year) – are especially important for that. As we approach that workshop, please 1) Plan to

attend and help impress the non-member participants with how friendly and useful a group we are; and 2) Encourage a non-member orchid-growing friend or family member to join us then and see what we have to offer the orchid hobbyist. I hope to see many of you and your friends at the Woodbrook Baptist Church on the 13th!

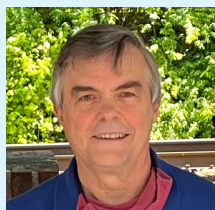
As always stay safe and healthy, grow beautiful orchids, and share them with us.

John Heinbokel
April 1, 2024



Our April Speaker is the Esteemed Clark Riley!

Clark Riley has been an active orchid grower since 1957. At the age of six, he got his first plant, a probably-collected Yellow Ladyslipper (*Cypripedium pubescens*) from a perennial nursery. The plant died a miserable death in a short time, but not before blooming and cementing a love of orchids that has lasted over half a century. He has labored ever since to make amends by promoting the sound cultivation of Ladyslippers. He grows a wide range of orchids, including several thousand terrestrials, hardy species, and ladyslippers, Brazilian *Laelias*, and specialty *Phalaenopsis*, often from seed. He was the producer for the book and CD of *Proceeding of the North American Native Terrestrial Orchid Conference*. He is a member of the Maryland Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society. He can be reached at DrRiley@aol.com or visit his web site at <http://cyps.us>.



MOS Welcomes the following new members...

Todd Jackson
Stephanie Tommasello and Philip Hutchinson
Dan Baer and Becky Augustine
Bruce Cohen
Richard Lee

Sarah Spence
Membership Chair



Novice

1. Phal. no id - Alexis Grubel
2. Phal. no id - Maureen O'Neil

Homegrown

1. Coel. Nitida - Arne Schön
2. Tie Bcd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze' - Luis Molina
- Slc. Hsin Buu Lady 'Y.T.' AM/AOS - Bob Johnston
3. Phal. Sam's Sunshine - Bob Travers

Greenhouse

1. Phrag. *philipinense* - Craig Taborsky
2. Asc. Fuchs Gold - Jos Venturina
3. Cym. Green Glass 'Solana Beach' - Clark Riley

Cattleya

1. Blc. Mem Grant Eichler 'Lynette' - Bob Johnston
2. Tie Blc. Dan O' Neil 'Jubilee' HCC/AOS - Chris Zajac
- Psh. *cochleata* - Bob Travers

Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. *amabilis* - Jos Venturina
2. Tie Phal. Angel Love - Chris Zajac
- Phal. Noid - Luis Molina
3. Tie Phal. Little Gem Stripes - Amanda Gallegos
- Phal. Liu Cute Angel - John Heinbokel

Paphiopedilum

1. Phrag. Bel Croute - Chris Zajac
2. Paph. Gaeyi - John Heinbokel
3. Tie Paph. Alluring Woods - Maria and Norm Zickhur
- Paph. Sequential hybrid - Todd Jackson

Dendrobium

1. Den. Mini Snowflake x Nilda - Luis Molina
2. Den. Burana v Green Star Jade - Phuong Tran and Rich Kaste
3. Den. Hamana Lake 'Prism' - Kathi Jackson

Oncidium

1. Bllra. Marfitch 'Howards Dream' - Luis Molina
2. Tie Brs. Rex 'Sakata' - Craig Taborsky
- Wils. Firecat 'King Snake' - Brenda Logan
3. Psy. Butterfly - Laura Sobelman

Miscellaneous Hybrid

1. Cl. Rebecca Northen - Chris Zajac
2. Zns. Cynosure 'Blue Birds' - Sarah L. Spence

Species

1. Aergs. *fastuosa* - Arne Schon
2. Epi. *stramfordianum* 'Sean Boy' - Clark Riley
3. Tie Coel. *tommii* - Nicole Allen
- Asc. *christensonianum* - Bob Travers

Miniature

1. Rntda. Maui's Mini Freckles - John Heinbokel
2. Phal. Evarise Blue Angel 'Purple Halo' - Sarah L. Spence
3. Soph. *coccinea* 'SVO' AM/AOS - Clark Riley

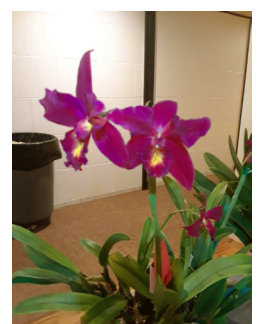
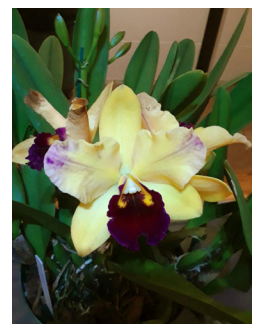
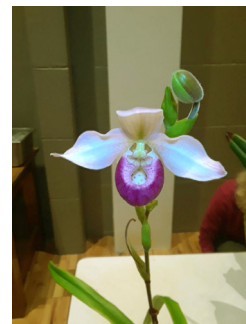
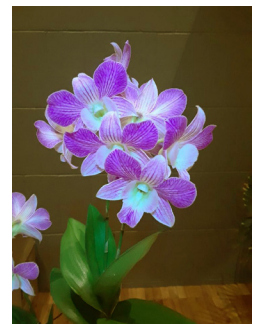
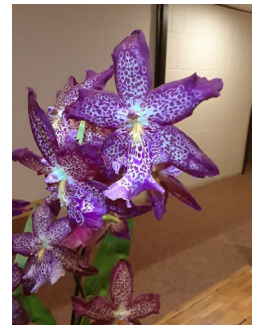
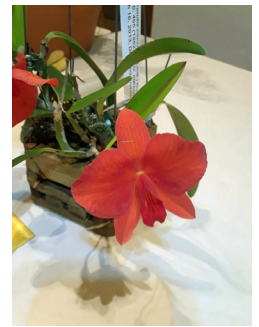
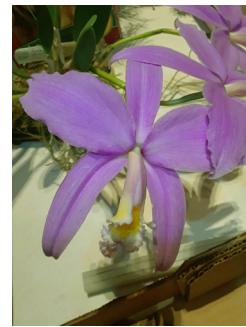
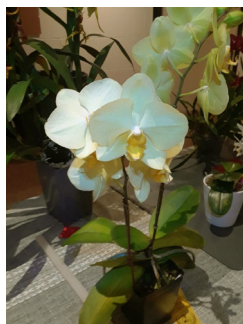
First Bloom

1. Cyn. *angustipetala* - Joel Graham

Fragrance

1. Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lynette' - Bob Johnston
2. Phal. *schilleriana* - Diane Elam
3. Rhyn. *gigantea* - Phuong Tran and Rich Kaste

What a wonderful and diverse show table and on the heels of show fatigue, you should be proud MOS! We had 75 marvelous blooming plants on the show table. We enjoyed some of the best looking Oncidinae we have had. The Phalaenopsis really shined with the most well bloomed *amabilis* we have seen, a miniature *lobbii* hybrid and even a *schilleriana* grabbing second in fragrance, of all categories. Judges' choice went the Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lynette' brought in by Bob Johnston. Additional exhibitors not mentioned above were Jill Allen, Mai Conaway, Dave Smith, David Smith, Aaron Webb and Eric Wiles.



Photos: Aaron Spence

The 2024 Maryland Orchid Society Show was Dedicated to Gary Krause



Another Successful Show of exhibits, judging, sales, award sponsors and our wonderful volunteers (*apologies if anyone was missed*). The public was awed by the beautiful displays and all of the orchids for sale.

THANK YOU for a job well done!

Special Thanks to Marc Kiriou (Show Chair) and Laura Sobelman (Show Co-Chair)

Support: Clark Riley (**website**), Travers (**forms**), Fay Citerone, Monica Sparber (**Food: Wed & Thurs**)
Marc Kiriou, Laura Sobelman, Joel Graham, Susan Travers (**Facebook Admins**)

Tuesday: Retrieval Staging from Shed and Set Up at Fairgrounds

Wednesday: Exhibit Set Up

Thursday: Clerking & Judging Day

Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Hospitality, Chatting with Public, Boxing Plants and last of all Teardown.

Volunteers: Marc Kiriou, Bob Johnston, Bob & Susan Travers, Fay Citerone, Dian Elam, Chirs Zajac, Clark Riley, Joy Marlow, Aaron Webb, Sarah Spence, Laura Sobelman, Robin Neukam, Danielle Gent, Ernie Drohan, Brenda Logan, Eric Wiles, Jill Allen, Kathi Jackson, Vincent Russo, John Heinbokel, Monica Sparber, Norm and Maria Zickuhr, Owen Humphrey, Nicole Allen, Arne Schon, Alexis Grubel, Katia Bautista, Richard and May Lee, Adrienne Kaspar

Members Exhibits:



Orchid Allies: Clark Riley, Fay Citerone, Kathi Jackson, Marilyn Lauffer, Monica Sparber, Robin Neukam, Suzanne Gaertner (*Plant Count 27*)

Zajac: Arne Schon, Bob Johnston, Chris Zajac, Sara Spence (*Plant Count 18*)



Botanical Buddies: Brenda Logan, Diane Elam, Jill Allen, Laura Sobelman, Marilyn Lauffer, Nicole Allen, Tom McBride (*Plant Count 21*)

Travers: Bob & Susan Travers
(*Plant Count 18*)

Judging Clerks: Marc Kiriou, Bob Johnston, Chris Zajac, Kathi Jackson, Danielle Gent, Laura Sobelman, John Heinbokel, Fay Citerone, Eric Wiles, Nancy Hensler, Jill Allen, Robin Neukam, Bob & Susan Travers, Clark Riley

Registrar: Gary Smith

AOS Judges: Valerie Lowe, Sarah Hurdel, Bill Goldner, Gordon Slaymaker, Robert Griesbach, Nancy Mountford, Brian Ramsey, Deb Bodei, Tom McBride, Ting Wang (Student Judge) **AOS Photographer:** Sarah Hurdel

Award	Award Name	Award Sponsor
Best Cypripedium Alliance in Show Slipper Orchid Alliance Trophy	The Gary Krause Memorial Award	Marc Kiriou
Best Non-Commercial Exhibit Orchid Digest Show Trophy	The Sobelman Award	Laura Sobelman
Best Phalaenopsis Alliance in Show International Phalaenopsis Alliance Trophy	The Little Greenhouse Award	Tom McBride
Best Orchid Society Exhibit	The Kensington Orchids Award	MOS - KO Endowed cash \$50
Runner Up Orchid Society Exhibit	The Kensington Orchids Award	KO Endowed \$25 cash
Best Cymbidium Alliance in Show	The Danny Adams Award	MOS Endowed
Best Plant in Show	The Merritt Huntington Memorial	MOS Endowed
Best Table-Top Exhibit	The MOS Award	John Heinbokel
Best First-Time Hobbyist Exhibit	The Shirley Jackson Memorial Award	Kathi Jackson
Best Hobbyist Exhibit	Dr. Alanah Webb Award	Aaron Webb
Best Cattleya Alliance in Show	The S. L. Spence Award	Sarah Spence
Best Paphiopedilum in Show	The Debbie Riley Award	Clark Riley
Best Phragmipedium in Show	The Memoria D. Anne Lowe Award	Valerie Lowe
Best Dendrobium Alliance in Show	The von Mehlem Memorial Award	Judi von Mehlem
Best Oncidium Alliance in Show	The Travers Award	Bob & Sue Travers
Best Vanda Alliance in Show	The Benigna A. Venturina Award	Jos Venturina
Best Miscellaneous Alliance in Show	The Wiles Award	Eric Wiles
Best Species in Show	The Ann Lundy Award	Lee Lundy
Best Specimen Plant in Show	The Smith Award	David Smith
Best Miniature in Show	The Margaret Smith Award	David Smith

MOS 2023-2024 Calendar

(NOTE: Still some question marks)

April 2024 – SEPOS Show (Show Table Points Awarded to Orchid Loaners)

April 4 – Set-up (Plants and Designers Needed)

April 7 – Tear-Down

April 13 – MOS Spring Workshop – Morning, Woodbrook Baptist Church

April 18 – Monthly Meeting

May 16, 2024 – Monthly Meeting

June 20, 2024 – Monthly Meeting (Election of Officers for 2024 -26)

July 18, 2024 – Virtual Show Table (ZOOM)

July 25, 2024 – Board of Trustees Meeting (Location TBD???)

July or August 2024 (TBD ???) – MOS Picnic

August 15, 2024 – Virtual Show Table (ZOOM)

August - September 2024: Maryland State Fair – Show Table Points (First of 2024-25) Awarded to participants



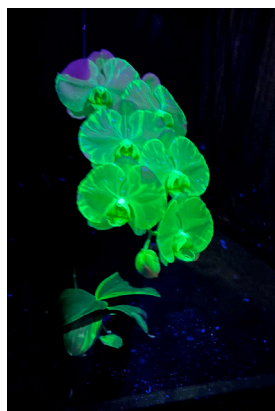
Glow-In-the-Dark Phalaenopsis? Eh ... Not Exactly

One of the exhibits making the biggest splash at this year's Tokyo Orchid Expo was a "glow-in-the-dark" genetically engineered *Phalaenopsis*. It was displayed in a case in a dimly lit area of the Expo and drew crowds. The whole plant — flowers and leaves — glowed an eerie green:

So did it actually glow? In the dark? A few details are in order. The clone, originally a standard *Phalaenopsis*, had the gene for fluorescence from a sea animal inserted into its orchid genes and the implant worked as designed. But the plant is NOT glowing on its own, a property known as bioluminescence — think lightning bugs and certain mushrooms. Fluorescence results from the pigments of the plant or animal absorbing one type of light such as ultraviolet, invisible to human eyes, and then emitting back in a frequency which we can see, such as green. In actual darkness, these *Phals* are in fact dark. They turn green only when one shines a UV light on them. In this same way there are genetically modified tropical fishes that glow in an aquarium illuminated by UV light.

Should we be excited about these "new orchids? I'm not convinced. The requirement of a dark area with a UV lamp seems an experience detached from the plants we love. Like the dyed blue, purple, and shocking pink *Phals* and the genetically modified true-blue *Phals* of Taiwan, I suspect they will be of passing interest to the serious orchid grower. I could be wrong.

Clark



New Life Members Honored

Prior to the March 2024 MOS meeting, the Board of Trustees (BoT) convened a short special meeting to vote on nominations of new Life Members of the MOS. Those members had been nominated at the regular January BoT meeting; the special meeting in March was the first opportunity to complete the selection process. That process is defined in our Bylaws which sets criteria for such an honor:

"A voting member of the Society who has rendered long-standing and consistently superlative service (which may be ongoing) to the Society may be elected to life membership in the Society ..."

Four nominations were received in January (below). At that time the BoT chose to formally include Susan Travers in a single nomination with Robert.

- **Clark Riley** in recognition of his lifetime of service to the Maryland Orchid Society since joining in 1988 for his ongoing critical support for the website, blast emails, hybrid meeting zoom management, always willing contribution and participation in workshops, ever present ambassador of MOS, auctioneer and house set up and clean up (first one there and last to leave).
- **Gary Smith** in recognition of his many years of service to the Maryland Orchid Society in multiple roles: former president, former MOS Show Chairman, general member. His ongoing support and management of the Orchid Auction Database that is indispensable in managing the MOS annual auction, plant registration and database management for MOS Show.

- **Sarah Hurdell** in recognition of the many years of applying Sarah's exemplary design skills on behalf of Maryland Orchid Society in MOS displays at away shows that have won for the MOS several AOS Show Trophies and ODC Awards, participation as AOS judge at MOS Show as well as her past service as monthly show table photographer. Ongoing support of Orchid education through one-on-one encouragement of upcoming growers, participating as speaker at MOS meetings and workshops, as well as other societies and education sessions with the National Capitol Judging Center.
- **Bob Travers** in recognition of exemplary contributions of time, energy, creativity, and resources to a broad swath of MOS activities. Support of all our shows, mentoring of members, contributions to our educational programs, service on our BoT, and improvements in 'business organization' of the MOS, are parts of his contributions. The uncertain piece of this nomination is how (or whether to even bother trying) to separate his contributions from those of Susan Travers, who has been fully engaged in most of those cited activities.

With 14 members of our Board present and voting, all four nominations very comfortably achieved the ¾ majority required for approval.

CONGRATULATIONS to all!

MISCELLANY

An Every-Once-in-a-While (Monthly?) Item of Potential Interest to the MOS Membership

Have you run into a resource that provides some useful information or just an oddity related to our passion for orchids? Please share that discovery with your friends and colleagues of the MOS. Please submit your findings to John Heinbokel (jheinbokel@hotmail.com), for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

... and you thought Darwin's Orchid was cool ...

Most of us know the story of 'Darwin's Orchid.' If you don't, look it up; it's fascinating. However, a recent report from the Missouri Botanical Garden (<https://phys.org/news/2024-03-scientists-orchid-species-famous-darwin.html>) suggests this evolutionary tale is still, pardon the expression, evolving.

The linked story has two primary chapters. First, is the actual biology: a newly discovered angraecoid species (*Solenangis impraedita*) is described which produces a 2 cm flower with a 33 cm nectar spur(!), presumably dependent on hawkmoths for pollination. How wonderful is that?

The second piece of the story, however, is somewhat depressing. The discovery was actually made about 15 years ago but was withheld until recently from concern that poaching of the newly discovered plant would threaten its extinction. In that period of secrecy, conservation measures, including off-site cultivation and seed-banking, were put in place. The actual location of the natural populations is still not being revealed in any more detail than 'central Madagascar.'

Submitted by John Heinbokel, March 29, 2024



New orchid species, *Solenangis impraedita*. Credit: Marie Savignac

THE MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY PRESENTS

ORCHID WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION, GROWING, CULTURE, CARE, POTTING DEMO

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

WOODBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

25 STEVENSON LANE, BALTIMORE, MD 21212



- Introduction to Orchids,
a not-too-technical overview
- 60 Years of Orchid Growing
Mistakes (and How to Fix Them)
- Potting Demonstration

Admission is \$10 per person and includes snacks.
The workshop is open to the public. Walk-Ins Welcome

Please RSVP to marylandorchid.pres@gmail.com by April 10, 2024
to reserve your(s) space.

.....Cut here and return lower portion with your payment.....

Please make \$10 checks payable to Maryland Orchid Society
and mail with your MOS Workshop 2024 registration form to:
[John Heinbokel, 2 Norris Run Ct., Reisterstown, MD 21136](#)

Name(s)	
Email	
Phone	

LOCAL AOS NEWS

November 4, 2023: National Capital Judging Center

Sarah Hurdell's plant of *Habenaria Spoonbill* 'Brilliant' received a 79 point Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) from the American Orchid Society. Her plant of *Habenaria Spoonbill* 'Pick Me!' received an 80 point Award of Merit (AM) from the American Orchid Society. Sarah's plant of *Habenaria Flamingo* 'Fascinating' received an 85 point AM from the American Orchid Society.

Robert Travers' plant of *Guarechea Black Comet* 'Norrisville' received an 81 point AM from the American Orchid Society.

Jason Gebbia's plant of *Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Montera* 'Emily's Lucky Star' received an 84 point Award of Merit (AM) from the American Orchid Society. Jason's plant of *Phragmipedium Susan Kulhavi* 'Caroline Saylor' received an 82 point AM from the American Orchid Society.

National Capital Judging Center (NCJC)

The NCJC will be meeting on May 4, 2024 at the Saint James United Methodist Church located at 12470 Old Frederick Rd., Marriottsville, MD 21104. Judging starts at noon. Everyone is welcome to come, whether you have plants you want considered for an American Orchid Society Award or not.



Habenaria Spoonbill 'Brilliant'



Habenaria Spoonbill 'Pick Me!'



Habenaria Flamingo
'Fascinating'



Guarechea Black Comet
'Norrisville'



Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Montera
'Emily's Lucky Star'



Phragmipedium Susan Kulhavi
'Caroline Saylor'

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.

We invite articles, notices, etc., for inclusion in our newsletter. The deadline for inclusion is the first day of each month.

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, 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
Maryland Orchid Society
P. O. Box 50097
Baltimore, Maryland 21211



The MOS meets at the Woodbrook Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212, the third Thursday of each month, September through June. The Show Table setup begins at 7 p.m. followed by judging at 7:30 p.m. The Education Corner and Library open at 7:15 p.m. The program commences at 8 p.m. and adjourns at approximately 9:30 p.m. Members may also attend via Zoom.