

Massachusetts Orchid Society



April: Harry Phillips, Andy's Orchids

Topic: Marvelous Miniatures, Gems of the World

Harry Phillips was born in San Diego, CA in 1953. In 1963, Harry's brother Andy Phillips (of Andy's Orchids fame) was born, and six years later it all started. They were both exposed to exotic plants and flowers at an early age, but when Andy became obsessed with orchids, Harry somehow resisted for a while. He assisted Andy in his passion by building his first two greenhouses, and Andy would reward him with a hybrid that was in bloom, tell him to bring it back when it went out of bloom, and exchange it for one in bloom. This would only last a year until Harry decided that he wanted to keep one and get it to re-bloom, the beginning of the end.

In 1986 Harry, with his soon to be wife Leslie, moved with Andy and his orchid collection to Encinitas, CA. Shortly after,

Andy left for four months in Costa Rica, and placed Harry in charge of the collection. When Andy returned he found that Harry had not killed too many plants, so he began to plan a cycling trip through South America, which ended up lasting two years. After that it was all over for Harry - he was completely addicted to orchids.

His interest in miniature orchids began several years ago while constantly being exposed to Andy's minis. He decided he would try some for himself, and that was the way the story starts. Harry would like to share some of his thoughts on growing and choosing the right mini for your conditions, or creating a growing area with miniatures in mind. Once you get to know and appreciate them, miniatures will be a larger part of your collection.

Bus Trip to NENYOS Piping Rock Picnic – Sat. June 2nd

New England societies have been extended an invite to the NENYOS Piping Rock Orchids Open House and Picnic in Galway, NY. We think this is a great opportunity to meet orchid lovers from outside our area, hear some great speakers and spend a summer day among beautiful orchids (and maybe bring a few home with you).

Featuring Special Guests:
Marc Hachadourian (Speaker: New York Botanic Garden)
Darrin Norton (Speaker & Plant Sales: Mountain Orchids)

MOS is sponsoring a bus trip to the event. **Cost for the trip is \$40/person** and includes bus fare to and from Galway, a light breakfast on the bus, and a donation to NENYOS for lunch.

Tentative Schedule

7:30am Depart Waltham, MA (parking lot with 24hr security) – light breakfast on bus
11:00 Arrival in Galway / Greenhouses Open for shopping / Raffle Tickets on sale
12:15 Picnic Lunch
1:30 Lunch clean up
1:45 Begin Raffle Table
2:00 Short Meeting & Announcements
2:15 Speaker: Darrin Norton
3:15 Speaker: Marc Hachadourian
4:00 Q&A and Greenhouse Shopping
5:00 Pick up
6:30 (approx) - Rest-stop / Dinner
8:30/9:00pm Arrival in Waltham, MA

If you have any questions, please e-mail sasha@massorchid.org

We ask that you sign up by May 1st.

You can sign up at the April 17th meeting or online: www.massorchid.org/events?eventId=468431

Please note that the April MOS meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17th.

There will be no meeting on April 10th.

Upcoming Events

April 17 (Third Tuesday!) –
MOS Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Harry Phillips
www.AndysOrchids.com

May 8 –
MOS Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Cordelia Head
Topic: Miniature Oncidiums
www.JLOrchids.com
(pre-orders welcome)

June 2 –
NENYOS Piping Rock Picnic
(see article below)



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Show table
photography by
Brigitte Fortin.

Pleione sp.

Membership

Get a head start on your 2012-2013 membership dues (due July 1st):

Did you know you can now pay for your membership online using PayPal?

Simply log into your account on www.massorchid.org, click "View Profile" and click the "Renew" button.

Or send your dues (\$20) to:

Susan Flier 27 Colchester Street
Brookline, MA 02446

Or pay in cash or check at a meeting.

MOS Welcomes New Members

Diane Doria
North Reading, MA

Elizabeth Rechner
Medfield, MA

2012 Focus on Phals Day

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response to our 2011 back-to-back IPA meetings, we are pleased to announce that the IPA Northeast Team will once again be co-hosting, on **Saturday, September 8th, 2012**, in cooperation with the New Hampshire Orchid Society our annual "Focus on Phals Day."

Dr. Ron McHatton will be our keynote speaker, giving his amazingly informative presentation on "New Approaches to Pest and Disease Control," a presentation that applies to every orchid grower.

Barring any potential hurricanes aiming for Puerto Rico, Carlos Fighetti will be speaking on the newest advances in the improvement of Phal species, covering some that might actually qualify as primary hybrids, despite the fact that

they're labeled as species. His presentation is entitled "Phal Species and Their Variants."

Carri will bring us all up to speed on the newest and most unique directions in Phal breeding as seen at the Taiwan International Orchid Show in March 2012. A nominal registration fee will provide a continental breakfast and lunch. The day will also include a roundtable discussion and regional fundraising mini-auction to enable us to continue to bring in great speakers.

Visit the IPA website (www.phal.org), beginning in April, where the registration forms will be posted. The meetings are open to all, IPA members and non-members alike.

- IPA Regions 17 & 18 Directors Marilyn Shapiro and Carri Raven-Riemann



An occasional column answering questions and providing orchid growing information. Some of this information is derived from the AOS member site and some from fellow MOS members. I've been growing orchids for about eight years, still a beginner, and this is a good way to learn and share. To keep the column lively and timely, please contribute your questions and comments to: joan@massorchid.org

Ask Joan

Q: It's spring and I see definite signs of growth on some of my orchids and roots are popping up and out of the pots. What should I be thinking about now?



A: It's Repotting Time! We have had a warm and early spring, and now is the perfect time to repot, divide and prepare our orchids for the extended summer growth period. One signal to repot is when new growths and new roots begin to emerge at the base of the plant. Another signal may be that the media has broken down, is soft and squishy, or simply smelly. You will need bleach-cleaned tools and pots. First you should clean up the root system, trimming away old, dead roots. Soak the plant long enough to make the roots pliable. Then, as to a larger pot, use the size of the bottom of the plant to determine if a

larger pot is needed. Consider whether the plant should be divided instead.

What kind of media to use? Conservatively, use the same kind of media the plant has been growing in. Remember that it is easier to have most of your plants in similar media for an easier watering schedule. Ideally, you want a medium that is fast draining yet water retentive, to help develop a good root system. Potting in an almost dry medium seems to stimulate the roots to grow, but you'll hear lots of people swear by pre-soaked media. Watch any one of a number of video guides online to help you with good repotting techniques.

Some great sources are:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsqB-872hk8>

<http://www.rv-orchidworks.com/orchidtalk/content/section/117-repotting-orchids.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO52KBXvqVI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHHzP1LB6mM&feature=related>

Orchid Trivia: A Butterfly Orchid

This hybrid was first created through the hybridization efforts of Carter and Holmes Orchids and was registered in 1988. The clone 'Monarch' was given an Award of Merit by the American Orchid Society. This particular clone is vigorous, with wide thick leaves that have a slight purple mottling on the edges and tips. The wide leaves give evidence that this clone may be a tetraploid. The butterfly-like flowers are large and can be 5 to 6 inches in size. The spikes are from 2 to 3 feet in height and can produce flowers for several years. This plant is easy to grow and flower if you follow the guidelines below.

Light:

This plant requires light similar to Phalaenopsis but can be grown in somewhat shadier conditions. If your plant has large leaves and fails to bloom, moving it to more light will probably initiate flower spikes. East windows are ideal and this plant can be successfully cultivated under either fluorescent lights or high pressure sodium fixtures.

Temperature:

This plant really prefers conditions as for Phalaenopsis, with winter nighttime lows of 62 to 64 degrees Fahrenheit and daytime highs of 70 to 85 degrees. Summer temps can be a few degrees warmer.

Humidity:

50% or higher is ideal. The use of humidity trays or room humidifiers is beneficial.

Water:

Water this plant as the moss or bark mix just dries out. When in spike or flower water as the mix approaches dryness but do not allow the mix to become completely dry between watering.

Fertilizer:

Fertilize every other watering in the summer and every third watering in the winter.

Flowering:

Flowering season can be almost any time of year. When the new growth is large enough, it will send out a spike from a small furrow in the pseudobulb just under a small leafy-like sheath. The flowers come out singularly, one at a time, and stay open for about 2-3 weeks. They will fall, and very close to where that bud came out, another flower will appear. These spikes can bloom for many, many years, continually. Never cut the spike off unless it turns totally dead and crispy brown. If you accidentally break a spike, leave the remainder and it will branch.

Repotting:

These plants prefer a well-drained mix with a lot of air. Clay pots are good for larger plants. Change the mix only as it breaks down; approximately every two years. The best time for repotting these plants is in the spring months or when new growth is beginning to appear.

What am I? Find out at the bottom of Page 4.



A Butterfly Orchid

Text source:

www.orchidweb.com/orchidofweek.aspx?id=1357

March Show Table Results

12 Plants Awarded

Judges: Joel Shelkrot, Brian Leib, Bob Richter

Scribe: Linda Abrams

Plant	Owner
Dendrobium delicatum	Warren & Susie Wheelwright
Phal. Alten Naso X Pingong Memory	Joel Shelkrot
Dtps. Yu Pin Natsume	Joel Shelkrot
Pleione	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Aerangis fastuosa	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Phal. Sogei Meili 'F175' AM/AOS	Adrienne Giovino
Paph. Shun-fa Golden	Brian Leib
Sc. Royal Beau 'Hihimanu'	Charlie Briggs
Blc. Spring Dawn 'Top Row'	Brigitte Fortin
Lc. Fire Dance 'Patricia'	Bob Richter
Paph. Death Valley 'Sandstone'	Carl Geyer
Cattleya hybrid	Bob Richter

In an effort to get our meetings started by 7:30, we kindly request that show table plants be ready for judging by **7:15pm.**



Phal. Sogei Meili 'F175'
AM/AOS

Orchid Trivia Answer:

Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS



Aerangis fastuosa



Blc. Spring Dawn 'Top Row'



Sc. Royal Beau 'Hihimanu'



Dtps. Yu Pin Natsume



Paph. Shun-fa Golden



Lc. Fire Dance 'Patricia'

Home Remedies for Orchid Pests

Susan Jones



Hand Picking The first line of defense, if a plant is not heavily affected by pests, is to pick bugs, slugs and snails from the plant and squash them. Pests have yet to develop a resistance to this type of control.

Water Pests like mites are usually most severe on plants in heated homes during the winter, when the air is dry and there are no natural enemies to keep them under control. Raising the ambient humidity through humidity trays, saucers of damp pebbles placed under each plant, or even a room humidifier can help.

For mites, aphids, mealybugs and other insects, a gentle brush or jet of water can kill and dislodge them from plants. Regularly washing the foliage thoroughly with soapy water, wiping every leaf and rinsing with a sink sprayer is one way to bring populations down.

Soaking is a third way water can be used to combat insects. Completely immerse the pot and potting medium of the affected plant in a bucket of water overnight to evict ants, roaches, sow bugs and pill bugs from the medium.

Rubbing Alcohol Soak a cotton swab in 70 percent isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and dab scale, mealybugs, mites and aphids off orchids. The alcohol dissolves the insect's waxy covering, and is a good tool to reach the pests hidden down in the sheaths and leaf crevices. Pay particular attention to the midrib, other veins and leaf edges. Repeat the treatment at seven to 10 day intervals to remove successive generations.

Another method is to spray alcohol, mixed with a few drops of mild liquid soap, from a misting bottle or small pump sprayer. Avoid strong or excessive amounts of detergent, as this may damage your plants, particularly buds and flowers. Alcohol can be combined with insecticidal soaps, but not with oil, and should never be used near fire. One of the advantages to using alcohol is that insects do not develop resistance to the treatments.

Oils, Soaps and Sterilants Horticultural, neem and mineral oils, and insecticidal soaps are generally considered safer for humans, pets and plants than insecticides, and do not generate a resistance in pests. None provide absolute pest control, but frequent applications reduce insect populations to below self-sustainable levels in small orchid collections. They are more effective as early treatment — before a few pests have become an infestation. Environmentally gentle, these solutions are only effective while they are still wet, and must contact pests.

Horticultural oil solutions (such as SunSpray and neem) smother insects' breathing pores and eggs, so complete coverage of all sprayed plants is essential. These oils are mixed with water and a plant-safe detergent for enhancing spreading and sticking, and can be used to control mites, scale, aphids, mealybugs, sow bugs and pill bugs.

Insecticidal soaps (Safer) smother pests and dissolve their cuticle (outer covering). For a heavy infestation, the affected plant(s) must be completely covered. They are most effective against soft-bodied pests such as aphids and

mealybugs. While considered safe, these soaps may still damage some plants, particularly tender new tissues, especially when mixed with hard water. They can also cause allergies and respiratory problems for users.

Growth regulators and chitin inhibitors offer other options. Growth regulators, such as Enstar, kill eggs and prevent insect maturation in scale, mealybugs, aphids and whitefly. It needs a spreader-sticker (silicon works best) to be effective.

Yet another choice is Orange Guard, a 100-percent biodegradable and water-soluble insecticide made from orange peel extract that is considered safe for use around humans, pets and food. Orange Guard kills and repels ants and roaches.

Insecticides If you decide you must use an insecticide, always check to see that the product has been approved for use on orchids, and strictly adhere to label directions for dosage and safe use. Orchids are tough, but sensitive to many chemicals — advance testing is advised.

Move the plants outdoors for pesticide application whenever possible. Growers who must apply insecticides during inclement weather need special care for applications. If outdoor spraying is not an option, spray plant(s) inside a large plastic bag, remove the bag after the spray has settled, and let the plant(s) ventilate where fumes will not travel around the home or work area.

To prepare a homemade insecticide, mix one pint of 409 household cleaner and a pint of rubbing alcohol with water to make 1 gallon of spray. It is especially effective as a preventative or to control light infestations of mites, mealybugs and aphids.

Pyrethrum, an ingredient in many commercial insect sprays, is a natural insecticide derived from plant sources that attacks insects' nervous systems. Although it is labeled for use against many orchid pests, it is especially effective against ants when used in conjunction with baits.

When faced with serious infestations, commercial insecticides may be necessary. Among those recommended are malathion or Sevin. Be sure to read the label carefully and follow the manufacturer's instructions. If the plants are growing in the home, move them to an area where they can be sprayed without harming pets or family members.

Pest Control Prevention is better than cure; good cultural practices and purchasing healthy plants reduce the chance of disease. The most common way of acquiring pests is purchasing an infested plant. Quarantining any new plant or cutting to enter the growing area for a minimum of two weeks can help curtail the introduction of new pests and diseases.

Meeting the plants' cultural needs is the best line of defense. Healthy plants are more resistant to pest and disease than their weaker cousins. Maintain a healthy collection by attending to the basic cultural needs of your orchids — water, temperature, light, fertilizer and humidity.

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Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Tue, April 17 , 7:30pm (third Tuesday)	Monthly MOS Meeting – www.AndysOrchids.com	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, May 5, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, May 8, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting www.JLOrchids.com	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, June 2, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Sat, June 2	Bus Trip to NENYOS Piping Rock Orchids (see page 1)	Piping Rock Orchids Galway, NY

Join us for a trip to NENYOS Piping Rock Orchids Open House and Picnic in Galway, NY. We think this is a great opportunity to meet orchid lovers from outside our area, hear some great speakers and spend a summer day among beautiful orchids (and maybe bring a few home with you).

See Page 1 for details.



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