

# Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041  
Medford, MA 02155



**NOV 2019**

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## The Massachusetts Orchid Society Show And Sale Is Almost Here!

**To register plants or  
sign up to volunteer,  
visit our website  
([massorchid.org](http://massorchid.org)), or  
click on the blue links:**



[Event Schedule](#) - Schedule of events planned for  
the weekend

[Directions](#) to Sons of Italy

[Vendors & Exhibitors](#) - Learn about the vendors  
and Exhibitors attending the show

[Awards](#) - Learn about the trophies and awards and  
help defray our costs by becoming a sponsor  
online.

[Registration Information](#) - Everything you need to  
know to register your plants online

[Volunteer](#) - Sign up to help at our show

[Purchase tickets](#) - Online (or at the door)

[Advertising](#) - Buy ad space in our show brochure

Questions? Contact [show@massorchid.org](mailto:show@massorchid.org)

*We're especially in  
need of show  
hospitality help. It's a  
very simple job -  
making coffee,  
replenishing snacks  
and drinks for the  
vendors, exhibitors  
and show volunteers  
and keeping the  
kitchen and eating  
areas tidy.*



Den. Lawesii  
Photo: Eric Hunt





## Minute Minutes

### Notes from the Board Meeting

*We are always interested in new topics for demos and speakers at the regular monthly meetings. Feel free to stop a board member and tell them what you'd like to hear about.*

- ◆ In lieu of a show table in December, we're hosting a silent auction. Some plants are from a very kind donation and include a *Vanilla*, several un-tagged from the *Cattleya* alliance and fun orchid friends like a *Nepenthes* (Pitcher Plant!) Plus, several are in cork pots, which are valuable on their own.
- ◆ Adrienne Giovino has stepped down from the board to spend more time with her family. Meanwhile, the directors have reached out to another member, who has generously accepted to fill her position.
- ◆ We still have a few trophy sponsorships available. Take a look online and be a sponsor this year!
- ◆ We had 5 more people renew their memberships, but as a gentle reminder you must be a paid-up member to enter the show for free. So get those renewals in!
- ◆ We are pushing the Diamond Award out to the spring. We want to present the award as its own event, that can be attended by more members than usually attend the show awards ceremony.
- ◆ We've said it before but WE NEED YOUR PLANTS for the MOS display. Did you know you can enter any blooming/near blooming orchid in the show, even if you just got it? (To be considered for awards, you must own the plant for a minimum of 6 months.)
- ◆ Our banner is up at the downtown Winchester rotary!! We have a photo contest on Instagram and Facebook, so make sure you check us out online and you may win some free raffle tickets! We will also have a couple free admissions as prizes as well, so tell your friends to look for details at our Instagram and Facebook pages!!



Congrats to October's Beginner Grower - People's Choice winner Zash Hudson, for *Haraella retrocalla*!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**Monthly AOS Judging

07 Nov 2019 10:30 AM  
Tower Hill Botanic Garden,  
11 French Dr, Boylston, MA

MOS Annual Orchid Show & Sale

08 - 10 Nov, 2019  
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St,  
Winchester, MA

Monthly Meeting – Gary MeyerGrowing Dracula Orchids

12 Nov 2019 7:30 PM  
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St,  
Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging

07 Dec 2019 10:30 AM  
Tower Hill Botanic Garden,  
11 French Dr, Boylston, MA

Holiday Party

10 Dec 2019 7:00 PM  
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanson St,  
Winchester MA

*We Welcome this month's speaker, Gary Meyer*

Gary's interest in orchids began when he was a freshman in high school in Michigan. He had already replaced much of his dad's beloved lawn with hundreds of perennials and North American native plants, partly in an attempt (futile, unfortunately) to attract hummingbirds. Among this plant collection were several *Cypripedium* species, which ignited his curiosity about orchids from other parts of the globe. He found a photograph of *Masdevallia vietchiana* in a library book that rendered him helpless to resist the pull to Pleurothallids. Shortly thereafter, he laid eyes on a line drawing of *Dracula chimaera* in a J & L Orchids catalog, and has been enslaved by *Draculas* ever since.

Gary started growing *Draculas* in his parents' basement in 1990, with some degree of success. However, college, then medical school, and finally graduate school became unavoidable distractions for him. By the time he finished his Ph.D. in Neuroscience in 2004, he thought he had managed to completely kick the orchid addiction.



Photo by Eric Hunt

In February, 2003, Gary moved to San Francisco, and within two weeks of his arrival, found himself face to face with a pure yellow *Dracula gorgona xanthina* (owned by John Leathers) at the Pacific Orchid Exposition. The addiction was immediately revived, stronger than ever. Six years later, Gary now has two overcrowded greenhouses in his backyard in San Francisco and several hundred *Dracula* plants (along with a reasonable dose *Masdevallias*, *Lepanthes*, and *Anguloas*).

In 2005, Gary attended the first Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids, held at Ecuagenera's facilities in Gualaceo, Ecuador. There, he met Ken Cameron, Ph.D., then the director of the molecular taxonomy program at the New York Botanical Garden. Given Gary's access to most of the *Dracula* species and variations currently in cultivation and his laboratory science background, Ken suggested they together take on the task of investigating the taxonomy of *Dracula* through molecular technologies. Gary spent the summer of 2006, and occasional weeks thereafter, in Ken's lab at the New York Botanical Garden and his new facility at the University of Wisconsin, isolating and studying the DNA of more than 200 *Dracula* specimens. The initial results from this work were presented at the Second Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids in 2007, held in Loja, Ecuador.

Gary has been travelling to Colombia and Ecuador once or twice a year since 2005 to observe *Draculas* in the wild and visit collections of South American *Dracula* growers. His talk today will cover a variety of topics, including the current state of *Draculas* in nature, cultural cues from the environment, and new insights from his laboratory research. 🌿

Massachusetts Orchid Society

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 PM

Sons of Italy, Winchester  
117 Swanton Street Winchester, MA 01890

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Let's have some fun! Bring your favorite dishes  
and your holiday cheer.**

**\*Please note the 7 PM start time\***

Turkey, ham will be provided by MOS.  
There will be a cash bar. The rest is up to you!

***There will be a silent auction instead of a show table  
Invitation to follow***

*Dear Members,*

Please don't leave your flowering orchids home while you're off having fun at our monthly meetings. Bring them in to the show table, let them bask in their beauty and be enjoyed by everyone! Ribbons awarded to beginners, intermediate and advanced growers.



# Orchid Portraits

Artist Sally Robertson transforms orchids into works of art

By Mary Nisbet



SALLY ROBERTSON'S WORK caught my attention when I was attending a show at the Bolinas Museum in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1991. I had heard that she was an accomplished watercolor painter, well known for her work with iris, roses and other garden flowers. There was a painting of *Rhododendron catawbiense grandiflorum* and I remember standing in front of it, impressed by its strength and the quality of the color, thinking I must introduce this woman to orchids.

It was another year before Sally finally made it over to our annual autumn sale and saw the orchid that changed her life. We had lots of great orchids in flower that year but the one that caught her eye that day was a large flowering specimen of *Laelia perrinii*. I remember Sally's eyes closing down a little in concentration as she held up her fingers to form a frame moving over the flowers and the pseudobulbs. She began stopping by every week to see what was in flower and, in her own



LAELIA AFTER THE RAIN

1995. Watercolor on paper. 60 x 40 inches.  
Collection of the artist.

words, became obsessed. Her first exhibition of orchid paintings took place the following spring at her San Francisco gallery with 27 works exhibited. It was a great success.

Sally has brought a wealth of art education and painting experience to orchids. She holds an Master of Arts in the History of Art from the University of California at Berkeley and was a highly respected gallery owner dealing in 19th- and 20th-century works on paper for 20 years in San Francisco. She has been painting flower subjects for more than 12 years and portrays the singular power and



strength of the orchids in a truly expressive manner.

It is a great pleasure to have an artist of Sally's caliber come into the greenhouse to look for inspiration in the great variety and liveliness of the plants. One especially interesting aspect of Sally's



work that I have come to really enjoy is her treatment of the vegetative aspects of the plants. It is not just the flowers but also the shapes and textures of the pseudobulbs, leaves and roots that fascinate her.

Orchid enthusiasts from the San Francisco Bay Area know her work as an ex-

#### DIALAELIA SNOWFLAKE

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1997. Watercolor on paper. 40 x 60 inches.  
Collection of Carolyn and Keith Vodzak,  
Sausalito, California.



citing addition to the last five Pacific Orchid Expositions. Sally has added richness to these shows by allowing the year's theme to inspire her work. She placed five 5-foot-wide watercolors in the amazing rainforest exhibit for 1996 "Gardens in the Rain" entrance, and more recently her rendering of *Cattleya* Mem. Helen Brown 'Sweet Afton', AM/AOS, in the Deco style, was reprinted as the perfect poster to advertise the 1998 "Orchids Go Art Deco" exhibition.

Sally Robertson has shown great enthusiasm for these shows and has donated

much time and skill working with the organizers. We are lucky to have such a talented, generous artist in our midst. □

**Mary Nisbet** has been growing orchids professionally for 20 years. She is the owner of *California Orchids*, a company that boards orchid collections for more than 200 clients. • PO Box 806, Bolinas, California 94924.

#### LYCASTE DEPPEI

1997. Watercolor on paper. 41 x 21½ inches.  
Collection of Leonard Abess Jr, Miami, Florida.



CHRISTOPHER SPRINGMANN

### What the Artist Says

I use Arches Cold Press watercolor paper, in both 140 pound and 300 pound, or the equivalent weight in larger sizes. I usually recommend the 140 pound to my students, as it encourages the spontaneity and magic qualities of watercolor, but I find myself using the heavier paper for my finished work.

My paints of choice are Winsor and Newton tube watercolors, with the occasional addition of colors offered by Daniel Smith.

I use fine sable brushes (Winsor and Newton Series 7), and usually have at least three in my hand at one time. But I also recommend the all-synthetic white sable to my students as an affordable and quite-satisfactory alternative.

Of the many how-to books on watercolor I own, the only one I can recommend with enthusiasm is *The Art of Watercolor*, by Charles LeClair.

As far as rendering orchids, they are better models than most garden flowers, in that they hold their pose (unlike a rose, for example, which can lose its petals before your eyes). However, orchids present a separate set of challenges: the symmetry of form, the strange and fascinating arrangements of roots and pseudobulbs, and trying to place plants grown in pots in a natural setting are among my concerns when confronting an orchid. — Sally Robertson, PO Box 373, Bolinas, California 94924 (e-mail [sallystudio@earthlink.net](mailto:sallystudio@earthlink.net)).



DECEMBER 1998 ORCHIDS — THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY ♦ 1239

## • THE AOS CORNER •



# Seasonal Orchid Care: OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Click [here](#) for Checklist

Now you can access the MOS website  
from your smartphone with this new app!

The new [Wild Apricot for Members App](#) allows members to log in and view content from [www.massorchid.org](http://www.massorchid.org).

### What can your members do with the member app?

- View the member directory
- View a member's profile
- Email fellow members
- View the event calendar and event details
- Register for an event
- Specify the number of guests if the registration type was set up to collect the total number of guests only
- View your existing event registrations
- Pay an outstanding event registration fee
- View your member profile
- Download the app on Apple or Google Play.

# Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

## Officers

President	Dina Deresh	<a href="mailto:dina@massorchid.org">dina@massorchid.org</a>
Vice President	Karyn Stewart	<a href="mailto:karyn@massorchid.org">karyn@massorchid.org</a>
Secretary	Meg Bright-Ryan	<a href="mailto:meg@massorchid.org">meg@massorchid.org</a>
Treasurer	Ellen Shapiro	<a href="mailto:ellen@massorchid.org">ellen@massorchid.org</a>

## Directors

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Sasha Crotty, Past President	<a href="mailto:sasha@massorchid.org">sasha@massorchid.org</a>

## Committee Chairs

AOS Trustee	Howard Bronstein	
AOS Representative	Brigitte Fortin	<a href="mailto:aosrep@massorchid.org">aosrep@massorchid.org</a>
Conservation	Robert Hesse	<a href="mailto:conservation@massorchid.org">conservation@massorchid.org</a>
Hospitality Committee	Ellen Shapiro	<a href="mailto:ellen@massorchid.org">ellen@massorchid.org</a>
Library	Open	<a href="mailto:librarian@massorchid.org">librarian@massorchid.org</a>
Membership		<a href="mailto:membership@massorchid.org">membership@massorchid.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Anne Pfaff	<a href="mailto:newsletter@massorchid.org">newsletter@massorchid.org</a>

## Orchid Digest Representative

Ellen Shapiro	<a href="mailto:ellen@massorchid.org">ellen@massorchid.org</a>
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## Orchid Show

Board of Directors	<a href="mailto:show@massorchid.org">show@massorchid.org</a>
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## Show Table

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Mike Badia	<a href="mailto:mike@massorchid.org">mike@massorchid.org</a>