

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
Medford, MA 02155



MAY 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minute Minutes

What Judges Look For

Photo Tips

Virtual Show Table Photos - WOW!

Upcoming Events

Monthly Speaker:
Kristen Ulthus,
"Honey, I Shrunk The Orchids!"

Grow And Show:
Meg Bright-Ryan

AOS Webinar:
"Repotting"

AOS Corner

Officers, Directors & Chairs



Minute Minutes

Notes from the Board

- ◆ Due to current health regulations, the board voted unanimously to cancel both the May and June meetings. While meetings are temporarily cancelled, you can still stay connected to MOS:
Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/massorchid
For Instagram: www.instagram.com/massachusettsorchid

- ◆ We await more information as to when we can host physical meetings again, but in the meantime we are working with speakers to hold online presentations. Guest speaker Kristen Ulthus will be joining us this month and she will be judging the Show Table!

- ◆ You can join the virtual meeting either online at <https://meet.google.com/suu-oabp-kqt> or [Link](#)
or by phone: +1 505-596-1495 | PIN: 487 471 002#

Be sure to email photos to showtable@massorchid.org **no later than Sunday, 6 PM** before Tuesday's meeting. In addition to flowers, be sure to send a photo of the entire plant! Go to page 2 to find out what judges look for.

- ◆ The nominating committee continues its search for board nominees for June's election. To learn about the positions, click [here](#). All who are committed to learning the jobs are welcome! Email nominee suggestions to Anne Pfaff at (anne@massorchid.org). Nominations are due May 31st.

We need to fill the following:

Vice President – 1 year term

Treasurer – 1 year term. Our current treasurer Ellen Shapiro will train!

Director and Membership manager – 1 year term

- ◆ The first show committee meeting is Thursday, May 14th. Make sure to attend and find out who you can help steer his awesome yearly project.
- ◆ We had a couple of new member emails bounce back. Please check that your email is up-to-date in the system to ensure you get MOS emails and other news.

Continued next page

- ◆ This month on *Greenhouse Chat*, AOS President Ron McHatton goes into depth in his hour-long webinar all about potting. Learn how to choose the right kind of media and selecting pots for different types of genera, what growing signs to look for when deciding the best time to repot, and lots more. *Greenhouse Chat* is a generally question and answer forum covering topics like culture, pest and disease control, plus much more information for growers of all levels. Go to page 12 for a detailed list of this issue's topics.



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.

So..... what exactly do judges look for judging orchids?

*Flower form and color - Is the overall shape and color a good representation of the orchid?

*Flower size

*Flower arrangement and number of inflorescences - Are the flowers attractively presented? Use stakes and clips to hold flowers and spikes upright if that is the desired presentation.

*Floriferousness - How many flowers has the plant produced?

*A judge also checks for health and vigor. Orchids should be well grown and well groomed. Leaves should be clean and attractive, dead leaves, spikes and spent flowers removed. Plants should always be disease and pest free!

The show table photos everybody sent in last month were absolutely gorgeous!!! It's super clear who much people love their orchids and proud to show them off. April Showers bring May Flowers... can't wait to see those!

I'm not sure anyone needs photo advice, but still, if you're having trouble getting good pics try some of the following:

*Choose a place near a window for natural, indirect light. Cloudy days work best for accurate colors and details. The light should be coming from behind you, and little to the side, if possible, so that it falls on your orchid, not you.

*For one or two flowers, get as close as you can and focus your lens on the area to be the sharpest - oftentimes this is the flower's lip. If you want a photo with many flowers or the whole plant, step back a bit and zoom in. Chances are better that everything will be in focus with a little distance.

*If you're using a flash, stand a few feet away and use the zoom to get in close.

*Pay attention to your background. Choose something pleasing to enhance color and composition or use a blank wall; so long as it contrasts with your flowers but isn't distracting.

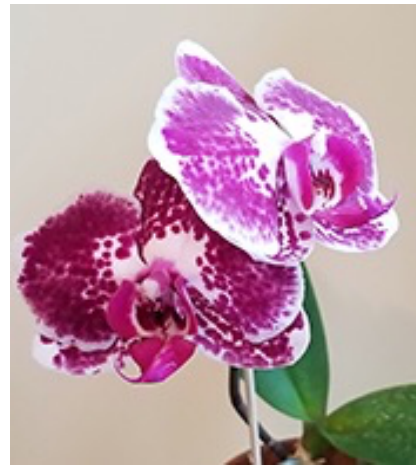


Left to Right:
Row 1: Phal. NoID (Fortin), Phal. NoID (Larson),
Phal. NoID (Larson)

Row 2: Phal. parishii (Abrams), Phal. Cornustris
(Redman)

Row 3: Phal. Black Eagle 'Wilson' (Dagon Tree)
(Fortin), Phal. NoID (Shelkrot)

Row 4: Phal. parishii (Bright-Ryan), Phal. Sogo
Lawrence 'Taida' (Shelkrot), Phal. NoID (Sykes)



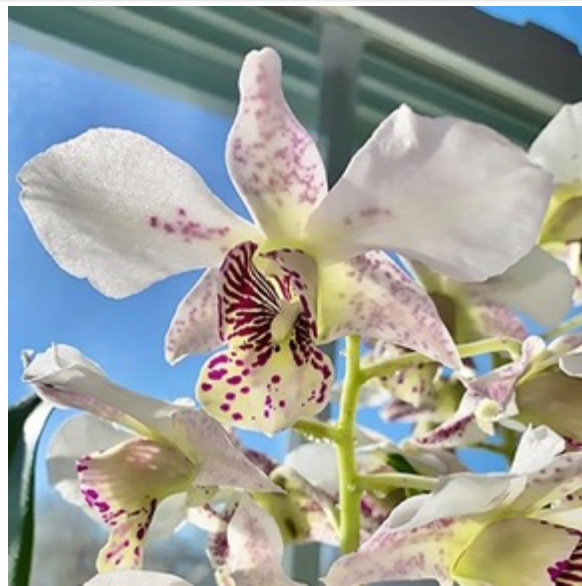


Left to Right:
 Row 1: Paph. Death Star (Zash), Paph. Haynaldianum (Fortin), Phrag. Fliquet (Fortin)

Row 2: Phal. NoID (Fenercioglu), Phal. Brenda Matthews (Larson), Paph. (Leopard Spots x Den. En) 'Red Bean' x Thunder Cat 'Sizzler' (Fortin)

Row 3: Paph. Liemianum (Diresh), Paph. Saiun '#3' x Paph. rohtschildianum (Badia), Paph. Magic Mood 'Sweet Surander' x Emerald Lake 'C.H. #5' (Fortin)





Left to Right:
 Row 1: Den. Shixingense (Schenkler), Den. hercoglossum (Bright-Ryan), Den. Roy Tokunaga (Emily ?)

Row 2: Den. Roongkamol Vejvarut (Shelkrot), Den. fuerstenbergianum (Bright-Ryan), Den. NoID (Zash)

Row 3: Den. nobile To My Kids 'Fantastic Story', Den. Hibiki (Badia)



UPCOMING EVENTS

CANCELLED - Monthly AOS Judging

02 May 2020

Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

Monthly Virtual Meeting -

Kristen Ulthus of New World Orchids

See Page 1 for log in info

12 May 2020 7:30 PM

Monthly AOS Judging - TBA

06 June 2020

Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

Monthly Meeting - Alan Koch of

Gold Country Orchids - TBA

09 June 2020 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St
Winchester, MA

Monthly Meeting - Peter Tobias of
Orchid Conservation Alliance, TBA

14 July 2020 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St
Winchester, MA



Left to Right:

Row 1: Pot. Lovely Martha 'SVO';
x Pot. Martha Clarke 'Amazing
(Pfaff),

Bc. Terese Lacertilla 'Neptune'
(Sykes)

Row 2: B. Perrinii 'Ruben' x
Chocolate Drop 'SVO' (Maloney)

Row 3: Encyclia (Prosthechea) vitellina (Feldman), Lc. Koolau Treat (Fortin)





Left to Right:

Row 1: Peoples' Choice Award, Leptotes bicolor, Brandt Moran

Trisetella triglochis (Bright-Ryan)

Row 2: Alkra. Stellar 'Hoku' (Kaitz)

Row 3: Brassia Rex 'Sakata' (Fortin), NoID (Sykes),

Colmanara Catante 'Pacific Sunspots' (Shelkrot)



• THE AOS CORNER •



Seasonal Orchid Care: MAY/JUNE

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.

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.

*About this month's speaker,
Kristen Ulthus
of New World Orchids*

Dr. Kristen Ulthus joins us online to talk about miniature orchids and why they should be in every grower's collection.

Kristen studied both plant and animal ecology and evolution at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the Ohio State University (OSU). She then taught biology and ecology at several colleges including VCU, OSU, University of Michigan, and Eastern Michigan University. The daughter of a plant fanatic, Kristen has been growing orchids for over 25 years, and in 2014 she fulfilled her dream of making orchids a full-time commitment by purchasing NWO.

Although she enjoys growing many varieties of orchids and other plants, miniatures remain her passion—the weirder the better. New World Orchids specializes in Japanese species including *Neofinetia falcata*, *Dendrobium moniliforme*, and *Sederia japonica* as well as Asian Cymbidium species, but her miniature selection has been expanding to include many other small species, including Pleurothallids, Bulbophyllums and Angraecums.

To order and receive a 10% MOS discount, go directly to her email by clicking kristen@newworldorchids.com. (The discount will show up in the shipping.) Orders are due by May 20th.

Orders will be grouped together and shipped to Bob and Marcia Richter at:
283 Elm Street
North Reading, MA
(978) 665-4282



Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

This month: Repotting Click [Here](#) to watch.

Note times to watch or listen to specific topics.

Start- Repotting (Mechanics and Timing)

3:16 When do I repot

13:58 What type of pots should I use

19:15 What type of potting media should I use 36:18 Orchiata

39:38 Using Charcoal

43:00 Using Tree Fern

45:48 Using perlite

47:29 Using Styrofoam Peanuts

50:23 Preparing Potting Benches to prevent Virus 57:41 How

do you place the Orchid in the pot 1:01:53 Care after repotting



Did you know we're on Instagram and Facebook? On FB, we are "Massachusetts Orchid Society – MOS". On Instagram, search #Massachusettsorchid, or find our profile at @massachusettsorchid. Links to our FB and Instagram accounts can also be found at the bottom of the MOS website page. Check out the photos and share pictures of your orchids in bloom!



GROW AND SHOW



Occasionally we have an opportunity to present an article featuring a member talking about how they plan, grow and maintain their orchid collections. It's a way of getting to know each other and share advice and tips on the many approaches to growing orchids. This month we're glad to feature Meg Bright-Ryan. If you don't know Meg, you've seen her blooming plants often on the Show Table!

Meg Bright-Ryan joined MOS in 2017 and currently serves as Secretary and member of the board . Photo credit: Heidi Keating, of Danvers MA

Meg grew up in Massachusetts and in 2017, she moved back to the state from LA, with her small but growing orchid collection. She had to adjust the culture of her plants drastically: instead of plenty of sun and absence of humidity, there was plenty of humidity but not enough light. It was then she started to grow under lamps. Meg also has a terrarium setup with small fans, to assure that nothing rots from too MUCH moisture. Today, Meg grows about 60 species of orchids, mostly miniatures that she "likes the looks of"; "a true-blue Cleisocentron gokusingii, pretty pink Dendrobium cuthbertsonii, and the ethereal Angraecum didieri, which also happens to smell wonderful in the evening. I have a pair of very tiny Dendrobium moniliforme plants which are usually grown for their foliage, but also happen to have quite darling little flowers. A favorite is Lepanthopsis astrophora which has tiny wine-colored, star-shaped blooms no bigger than the head of a pin". Lately she's been branching out to larger orchids, like Angraecums, Masdevallias, Vandas, and seedlings from a flask of Dendrophylax lindenii - the endangered ghost orchid "grown from seed in a lab - not collected!!".

"I am still working on trying to bloom the lovely yellow Thai Dendrobiums: Den. jenkinsii, Den. capillipes, Den. lindleyi (aggregatum). I have been largely unsuccessful, but I am not disheartened: I was told Dendrobium aggregatum was known as "aggravate 'em" by a well-known grower who gave me a tip to get them cool at night and give them a bit of winter rest. Maybe I haven't neglected them enough."



This is my main orchid area, but most of my bigger windowsills are occupied as well. I have two 3' high shelving units with 3 shelves each, combined into this longer combination. I highly recommend to anyone who wants more horizontal space! The bottom level of plants is usually on humidity trays, but I was cleaning them during this picture. (Soak in vinegar: it removes all the calcium buildup and kills any algae. Scrub them with a stiff brush and they clean up almost as good as new!!)

I mounted a light fixture to the bottom of one shelf and mounted another set of lights hanging from L-brackets from the walls. (Above the domes, not pictured.) These were super cheap lights that I got on clearance. People should know ALL LIGHT is light. Some different colors of light induce vegetative growth, and some induce floral growth, but if you have to choose one light source: Daylight bulbs are fine. If you're unsure, choose something 5500 or higher Kelvin, which is how the light color is measured. These have 4 LED bulbs each, and they add about 2000-foot candles close to the light and the light falls off to 500 foot candles at the bottom of the shelves. I'm not terribly concerned about "enough" light because I use them to supplement natural light. This is a good way to get a few more blooms without having to think about it too much. I simply adjust location of the plants.

My tropical plants have enough consistent light, but the dips seem to be enough to nudge my plants that prefer stronger seasonal differences into blooming, too.

On top are two cheap 10-Gallon aquarium tanks, with domes to keep humidity in. Got the tanks at a local pet store, but these are also found cheaply on craigslist. I got my domes at Kelley's Korner (<https://www.kkorchid.com/climate-control/Mondi-7-Mini-Greenhouse-Dome-with-Easy-Vents.html>) The domes are fabulous. They have vents at the top, to let hotter air out and keep air circulating out. I remove them once a day to water. Sometimes my flowers perfume the whole tank, which I find delightful.



Here is looking into one of my tanks. I hang all my little orchids from the sides of the tank, and it seems to work great, despite some obvious overcrowding.

The tanks give me super high humidity. This allows me to have species I would never be able to keep outside a greenhouse environment. They're my own tiny greenhouses! However, super high humidity can cause bacterial and algal growth, so I clean these out a few times a year with bleach, and check all the mounts to see if anyone needs remounting or repotting. Second, to combat bacteria and algae, I run fans all day, on the same timer as my lights. They shut off at night, so overnight is fairly still air, but the plants seem to do just fine with a daytime breeze only. I put plants closer to the fans that want more circulation and I put plants that want low circulation as far away from the fans as I can (or under other plants.)

For my tiny fans, I wired small computer fans to an old USB wire, which I simply plug into a USB phone charger. I hung the fan across the aquarium, and it is totally enough air movement for even some picky species. You can see my happy little pink *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* blooming, it seems happy pretty close to the fan, it never gets TOO hot even in this south window.

I am more than happy to expound on any details of my setup, or facets of how I grow; from building tiny fans to the math behind light drop-off over an area. Just shoot me an email at:

Meg@massorchid.org!



Please share your secrets of success (or laments) with our members! Everyone has their own approach to growing and flowering orchids, particularly here in New England. We're curious to know what works for you and the challenges you face. Whether you grow on a windowsill, summer outside, indoors under lights or in a greenhouse, start taking photos of your growing spaces and send them along with a short essay to: newsletter@massorchid.org.

Just to get you started:

- How do you maintain proper humidity, light & temp levels indoors?
- What are some pros and cons of your lighting, ventilation and humidification systems?
- How to water without ruining your floors, messing up the bath or breaking your back carrying buckets.
- Greenhouse culture & setup; is yours a DIY or ready-made?
- Basement growing: induce flowering under lights; tracking day lengths and temps.
- Growing on mounts, in orchidariums, micro-climates, hydroponically...

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Dina Deresh	dina@massorchid.org
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Meg Bright-Ryan	meg@massorchid.org
Treasurer	Ellen Shapiro	ellen@massorchid.org

Directors

Past President	Mike Badia	mike@massorchid.org
	Sasha Crotty	sasha@massorchid.org
	Brigitte Forti	brigitte@massorchid.org
	Zash Hudson	zash@massorchid.org
	Anne Pfaff	anne@massorchid.org
	Cindy Sykes	cindy@massorchid.org

Committee Chairs

AOS Trustee	Howard Bronstein	
AOS Representative	Brigitte Fortin	aosrep@massorchid.org
Conservation	Robert Hesse	conservation@massorchid.org
Hospitality Committee	Karyn Stewart	karyn@massorchid.org
Library	Open	librarian@massorchid.org
Membership	Zash Hudson	membership@massorchid.org
Newsletter Editor	Anne Pfaff	newsletter@massorchid.org
Orchid Digest		
Representative	Ellen Shapiro	ellen@massorchid.org

Orchid Show

Board of Directors show@massorchid.org

Show Table

Brigitte Fortin brigitte@massorchid.org
Mike Badia mike@massorchid.org