

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
Medford, MA 02155



NOV 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minute Minutes

Virtual Show Table Results and
Culture Notes

Upcoming Events

November Monthly Speaker, Joe
Silva of Silva Orchids

AOS Judging Center Update

AOS Webinar: *Greenhouse Chat with
Ron McHatton*

Article: *Orchid Supplement or Snake Oil?*
by Sue Bottom

AOS Corner

Officers, Directors & Chairs



Minute Minutes Notes from the Board

COMING November 7th!



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR SHOW REGISTRATION, PHOTO SUBMISSIONS, RAFFLE TICKETS, etc.

CLICK ON PHOTOS TO MEET OUR KEYNOTE PRESENTER AND OTHER SPEAKERS



- ◆ November meeting is fast approaching! Submit images of your booming plants for the virtual show table to showtable@massorchid.org. Judges need one shot of the entire plant and one flower close-up, plus any relevant cultural notes! Cutoff for entries: Sunday October 11, 6pm.
- ◆ Don't miss this month's AOS webinar "Greenhouse Chat", covering a broad range of growing and potting topics. Article begins on Page 8.

- ◆ There are still THREE officer openings on the Board; Secretary and two Directors. We especially need a Secretary to lighten the board's load since we lost our Secretary last spring. This job's main responsibility is recording monthly board meeting minutes, which is so important to effectively run our organization. There is flexibility fulfilling all tasks and they can be shared somewhat among us. Please consider joining the board in governing our organization! Go to <https://www.massorchid.org/Officers/> for more information, or email mos-board@googlegroups.com.
- ◆ Our good friend Jonathan at Marlow Orchids has made the difficult decision to close operations later this year. There will be plants for sale at least through the end of October. To request a plant list click on the link <https://www.marloworchids.com>.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/massorchid
and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/massachusettsorchid.



October Virtual Show Table Results

For growers' culture notes, click [Here](#)



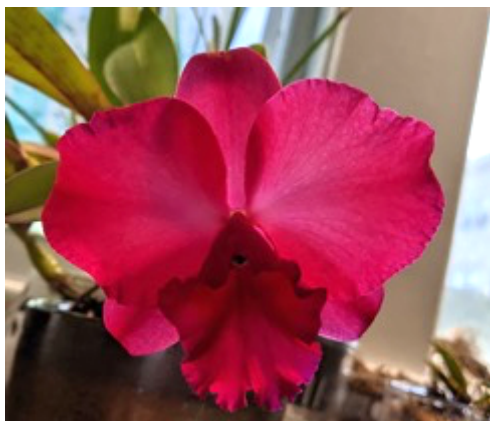
C. aurantiaca 'SVO Spots 2',
Mike Badia



C. Shannon's Sunshine,
Brandt Moran



C. Orchidglade SVO HCC/AOS x
Chocolate Drop SVO, Anne Pfaff



Pot. Loud Nice 'SVO Best' x
Slc. Circle of Life 'Fordyce
Herald Angel',
Ben & Amanda Larson



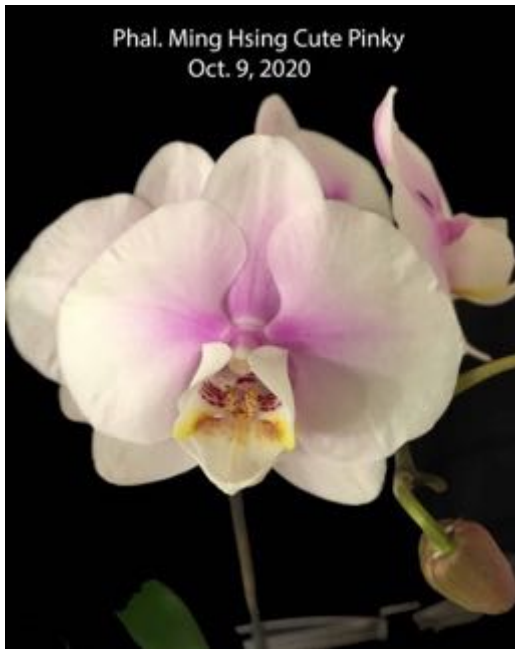
Milt. Maui Mist Golden Gate,
Donna Pettitt



Catt. forbesii 'John Miller', Brandt Moran



Bc. Greganiae Kal, Brandt Moran



Phal. Ming Hsing Cute Pinky,



Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry',
FCC/AOS, Mike Badia



Left: Lc. Canhamiana 'Azure Star',
Mike Badia



Habenaria dentata,
Donna Petitt



People's Choice Award: Bulbophyllum coconium 'Pegasus', CCE/AOS
Grown by Brandt Moran, seen here in his greenhouse tending to Pegasus



C. Laura Newton (leoloddiglossa f. coerulea SVO Baby Blue x interglossa f. coerulea-aquinii SVO, Anne Pfaff



C. Loddiglossa f. coerulea SVO Blues x Interglossa f. coerulea aquinii SVO, Anne Pfaff



C. Penang 'Black Caesar', AM/AOS Mike Badia



C. longipes Prolific, Anne Pfaff



C. bicolor, Brandt Moran



Isochilus linearis, Ralph Collins



Paph. 'Magical Peacock',
Mike Badia



Phrag. 'Fedora Brochu', Mike Badia



Pleurothallis sertularioides, Dina Deresh



Phrag. Jason Fischer, Brandt Moran



Pleurothallis grobyi,
Dina Deresh

UPCOMING EVENTS

[MOS World of Orchids: Africa and Madagascar VIRTUAL Orchid Show & Sale](#)

07 Nov 2020 ONE DAY ONLY!

[Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill](#)

07 Nov 2020

Tower Hill Botanic Gardens

11 French Dr, Boylston, MA

Details, Page 4

[Monthly Virtual Meeting – Joe Silva: Cattleya Growing and Repotting For Growers in the Northeast](#)

10 Nov 2020 7:30 PM

[Monthly Virtual Meeting - MOS Holiday Party - TBA](#)

08 Dec 2020 7:30 PM

About Our Monthly Speaker, Joe Silva



Joe will present, "Cattleya Growing and Repotting For Growers in the Northeast".

"Silva Orchids was founded by our father Augusto Silva in 1957. Gus came to this country as a young man in 1926 from Portugal and brought with him the knowledge gleaned from working on his family's farm. His managerial experience in this country included the running of the Jewell estate in New Rochelle N.Y., also known as Orchidwood, before he was tapped to run Shore Orchid Growers in Neptune N.J. in 1939. Silva Orchids was founded in 1957 and Joseph and Anthony have run the nursery since 1977 after Gus's death.

We bring to the business the dedication to quality and a love of the business learned from our founder and hope that some of this passion helps to inspire the awe of the beauty and majesty of these horticultural treasures of God's creation." – Joe Silva

Get Involved!

There are opportunities for:

- Board Secretary
- 2 Board of Directors positions!
- Event coordination
- Social Media influence
- Send ideas to the board!
 - Nominate people for Honorary memberships
 - Topics to discuss
 - Donations
 - Your ideas for events or endeavors
 - Speaker Topics

AOS Northeast Judging Center Returns to Tower Hill

In October and November, AOS judging will take place at Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, 11 French Dr., Classroom C, Boylston, MA (barring unforeseen circumstances). Please note that Tower Hill *is not available* for judging in December and January.

Start time is 10:30am for announcements, 11am for presentations or education discussions, with judging commencing at 1pm after a noon lunch break.

This event will adhere to all current local and state social distancing guidelines during the pandemic, as safety is our priority. Please adhere to the following:

All plants to be judged must be at the location by 12noon.

All attendees are required to wear a non-vented face mask at all times.

Please limit drop-off to one person.

Please follow directions regarding the use of hand sanitizer when filling out paperwork.

Depending on the number of attendees on the day, you may be asked to leave your plant and come back at a specified time to pick it up after it is judged.

If we are within safe attendee numbers you may stay but you will be asked to maintain six feet distance and wear your mask throughout the judging event.

If your state of residence is among those considered low risk by the State of Massachusetts (list can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states->) and you are an exhibitor with a plant for judging, a judge from our center, or a judge from a nearby AOS judging center, please send an email before 5pm ET, Thursday, October 1st,

to northeastjudgingcenter@gmail.com to let us know that you plan to attend. If you do not let us know ahead of time and we exceed the safe limit of attendees (currently not to exceed 9 for our space at Tower Hill), you will not be admitted to the event. We apologize for this inconvenience, but it is the only way we can try to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please check subsequent Facebook postings

(<https://www.facebook.com/AOSNortheastJudging>) up to the time of the event in case there is a need for a last-minute cancellation.



Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton
Orchid related questions, answered by AOS experts.

Click [Here](#) to watch now.

Note the specific times below if you wish to watch or listen to those topics.

- 00:56 Tolumnia culture
- 06:10 Cattleya twisted leaves
- 09:26 Root damage
- 12:08 Brassavola comparing retusa to ceboletta
- 14:53 Dendrobium cold damage to leaves
- 17:18 Cattleyas brown spots and blisters on pseudobulbs and leaves
- 24:10 Phalaenopsis spikes coming out of the crown
- 27:37 Why not to overpot orchids
- 29:37 Growing Phragmipediums in standing water
- 31:39 Repotting Phragmipediums
- 34:35 Arranging your orchid collection
- 37:15 Dendrobiums how to water nobiles
- 41:24 Cattleya lobiata spotted pseudobulbs
- 46:36 Growing Cattleyas in straight charcoal and other mediums
- 53:13 Pots versus baskets versus mounting
- 57:12 Cattleyas tying up the leaves to grow upright



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Orchid Supplement... Or Snake Oil?

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

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Our speakers are always suggesting new things to use on our orchids to improve their growth. The big question is whether it is a true supplement that benefits the orchid or a snake oil with the potential for unintended negative consequences. We'll review some supplements from the more commonly used to the ones that are on the fringe.



Fish Emulsion. Fish emulsion is naturally derived liquid from the fish processing industry. It is considered to be an organic fertilizer appropriate for use in ornamental horticulture. It has low concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (such as 5-1-1) and contains some micronutrients and vitamins. It is fairly aromatic though today's version is not nearly as odorous as it used to be. Fish emulsion is safe to use as either an everyday fertilizer, a monthly supplement or a wintertime alternative to other fertilizers. The label recommends 1 tbs/gal once a month for adult plants and twice a month for seedlings. I use fish emulsion monthly to quarterly at a rate of 1 tsp/gal as a supplement to rather than a replacement for my normal feeding routine.

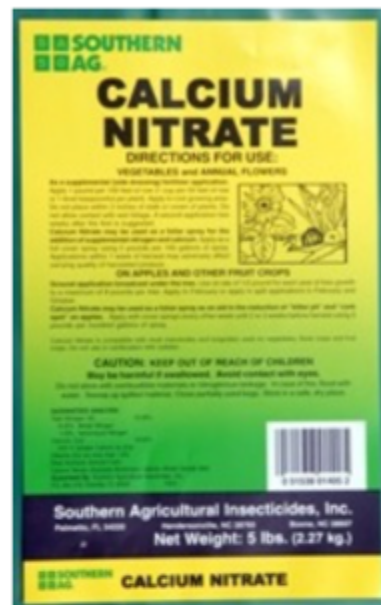
Seaweed Extract. Seaweed extract is an organic product derived from harvested brown seaweed that contains major and minor nutrients, amino acids and growth promoting substances like auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins (advanced growers may be interested in KelPak). Seaweed extract is often used to start the growth cycle in spring, enhance root growth on seedlings and divisions, and initiate multiple new growths from back bulbs. A negative is that too much seaweed use can result in a multitude of new growths that might be smaller in size than the older growths. The label recommends using 1 oz/gal weekly. I use seaweed monthly in the spring and summer at a rate of 1 tsp/gal as a supplement to rather than a replacement for my normal feeding routine. Using seaweed immediately after repotting is a good practice to encourage new root growth.



Magnesium Supplements. Magnesium is an essential element that is a major component of chlorophyll and it should be present at levels of 20 to 50 ppm in irrigation water. Magnesium supplements in the form of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) can be used to provide additional magnesium or Cal-Mag fertilizers like the Excel 15-5-15 product can be used. Magnesium is mobile in the plant so it can be translocated from the older to the newer part of the plant. You can apply magnesium at higher concentrations, say 1 tbs/gal on a quarterly basis or apply it monthly at ½ to 1 tsp/gal. Do not mix with calcium supplements because a reaction will

occur between them that will precipitate out in the mix tank. I use Epsom salts monthly at ½ tsp/gal during the fresh water flush or in conjunction with using 20-10-20 fertilizer in the winter (cal mag fertilizer is used during the summer).

Calcium Supplements. Calcium is an essential element used to build cell walls that should be present at levels of 40 to 100 ppm in irrigation water. Calcium supplements in the form of calcium nitrate (available at feed stores), dolomitic lime applied as a top dressing, the specialty product Metalosate Calcium or Cal-Mag fertilizers like the Excel 15-5-15 product can be used. Calcium is not mobile in the plant and will not translocate from older to newer parts of the plant. Calcium deficiency will result in a similar appearance to a bacterial or fungal rot on the newest, most rapidly expanding tissue. It affects cattleyas, especially the Guarianthe, primarily during periods of rapid growth in the spring and summer. New leaves may turn black at the tips. I use a Cal-Mag fertilizer all summer long and supplement it with monthly doses of Metalosate at 0.5 tsp/gal.



SuperThrive. SuperThrive contains the synthetic rooting hormone 1-naphthyl acetic acid at 0.04%, vitamin B1 (thiamine, also known to stimulate root growth) at 0.09%, plus a variety of trade-secret ingredients likely including kelp extracts, humates, soluble iron compounds, and the like (from FirsRays.com). Many growers soak newly deflasked plantlets in a SuperThrive solution or use SuperThrive when repotting to help stimulate root growth. The recommended addition rate to irrigation water is 1 to 3 drops per gallon. Some growers have reported flower deformity and crippling if too much SuperThrive is applied. I can't tell the difference in plant growth with or without SuperThrive but I continue to use it as a matter of faith. I usually add a few drops per gallon monthly during the growing season.

Quantum Growth (Innoculaid). The Quantum Growth website describes this product as naturally occurring

Page 2 of 4

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microorganisms in a peat humus extract that increase the population of naturally occurring beneficial microorganisms in the soil. This would appear to be most suitable for terrestrial or semi-terrestrial orchids like paphs because most orchids are not grown in soil. In fact, some growers report that the microorganisms rapidly degrade any organic matter (like coco husks) in the potting mix. Many SAOS members have tried this product, some report great success, most have discontinued its use. The label recommends 2 oz/gal though others recommend 1 tbs/gal on a monthly basis.



Axiom (Messenger). The Axiom Harpin proteins are a plant health promoter and plant growth stimulator that activates a plant's growth and defense responses. Harpin Proteins are produced in nature by certain bacterial plant pathogens and plants develop receptors to detect the presence of Harpin proteins which triggers an "early warning system" leading to increased plant yields and health. The label says the material should be applied as a foliar spray every three weeks. I used an earlier version, Messenger, and the plants grew well but not noticeably better, so I discontinued its use. There is some suggestion that the product may work more effectively on seedlings than mature plants.

Ethanol. It has been suggested that adding ethyl alcohol to high light growing orchids can enhance the growth rate. Using an 80 proof vodka, the recommended addition rate is 0.6 tsp/gal. I have been using about a third that rate weekly during the growing season and am seeing very vigorous growth. Some growers suggest the alcohol has no impact, others think perhaps the alcohol is easily converted to sugar and absorbed by the plants or that perhaps the alcohol is an alternate carbon source to the carbon dioxide absorbed from the atmosphere. Ray Barkalow of FirstRays speculates it might increase the permeability of the plants' cell walls, therefore allowing a greater throughput of the fluids the plants need to grow. This is an experiment in progress but I think I'll continue using 0.2 tsp/gal weekly during the spring and summer growing season.



If you have mastered the fundamentals of supplying the right amount of light, air movement and water, and then use either a good Cal-Mag fertilizer or a 20-10-20 with regular magnesium supplements, your plants should grow beautifully. You can potentially get an extra percentage point or three in improved growth by using some of these supplements, particularly the organic fertilizers and possibly ethanol. You may also target seedlings or recently repotted plants with some of the root stimulators like seaweed and

SuperThrive. Focus on the basics first, that's where you can have the greatest impact on how well your orchids grow and bloom.

Rooting Hormones. Keiki Pro, Keiki Paste and similar products contain phytohormones such as cytokinins that can be used to activate the dormant nodes of orchid plants by promoting cell division. Keiki products and rooting hormones may also contain synthetic auxins (naphthalene acetic acid, indole 3 butyric acid and indole acetic acid) that are used to stimulate root growth.

Seaweed. Seaweed extract is an organic product derived from harvested brown seaweed that contains major and minor nutrients, amino acids and growth promoting substances like auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins (advanced growers may be interested in KelPak). Seaweed extract is often used to start the growth cycle in spring, enhance root growth on seedlings and divisions, and initiate multiple new growths from back bulbs.

SuperThrive. SuperThrive contains the synthetic rooting hormone 1-naphthyl acetic acid and vitamin B1 (thiamine, also known to stimulate root growth), plus a variety of trade-secret ingredients likely including kelp extracts, humates, soluble iron compounds, and the like (from FirsRays.com). Many growers soak newly deflasked plantlets in a SuperThrive solution or use SuperThrive when repotting to help stimulate root growth.

Mega Thrive. Many growers are enamored of the foliar spray Mega Thrive which is a 3-0-3 fertilizer (mostly urea-based nitrogen) that contains boron and molybdenum in higher levels than most other fertilizers. The urea-based nitrogen and micronutrients are better absorbed through the leaf undersides than through roots. The boron and molybdenum stimulate auxin and cytokinin circulation in the plant that stimulates plant growth.

Perhaps this explains why some orchid growers are so enamored of MegaThrive, a specially formulated foliar fertilizer containing urea, potassium, boron and molybdenum that is supposed to stimulate the plant's natural production of hormones.



• THE AOS CORNER •



Seasonal Orchid Care: November/December

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.

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

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President	Dina Deresh	dina@massorchid.org
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Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	Amanda Larson	amanda@massorchid.org

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	Mike Badia	mike@massorchid.org
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Committee Chairs

AOS Trustee	Howard Bronstein	aosrep@massorchid.org
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Newsletter Editor	Anne Pfaff	ellen@massorchid.org
Orchid Digest Rep.	Ellen Shapiro	

Orchid Show

Board of Directors	show@massorchid.org
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Show Table

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