

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
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DEC 2021

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Minute Minutes Notes from the Board

- ◆ We are pleased to report that the MOS show was a financial success. As such, we cautiously view this as an important entry (and hopefully confidence builder) into a "bit of normal" for our sister societies as they plan their upcoming shows in 2022.
- ◆ Based on several conversations the board had with every one of the vendors, it was a welcome and successful experience for them.
- ◆ Both member retention this year and new memberships are in excellent shape with a whopping 30 new members from the show alone..
- ◆ Ralph did some investigating into obtaining new wireless microphones, an HP laser printer and a projector. He will post recommendations to the board for review at the December board meeting, who will vote on whether to accept the expenses. Ralph also deserves a big shout-out for rebuilding the MOS laptop and finding the wireless router.

◆ MOS 2022 Meeting Programs

Jan.	Mike and Daryl - report and mounting	July	Kristin Uthus - New World Orchids
Feb.	Bob Cleveland Orchids	Aug.	B-B-Q
Mar.	Glen Decker - formally Piping Rock Orchids	Sept.	MOS Annu: Auction
Apr.	Francisco Miranda - Miranda Orchids	Oct.	Jason Fischer Orchids Limited
May	Carri Reimann - Orchidophile	Nov.	TBA
June	Tim Culbertson	Dec.	Annual Holiday Party

Got extra orchid supplies you want to unload? Looking for garden swaps? Advertise here in our Minute Minutes Member's Classified. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post in the next newsletter!

We are always interested in suggestions for speakers and topics, plus ideas for special programs for upcoming general meetings. Please email them to mos-board@googlegroups.com.

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

President's Message

I know it's out of character for me to want to talk about something other than orchids, but 'tis the season.

I've come to the realization after some 60 years that there's some folks out there who don't live, eat, sleep, and breathe orchids. And it's a safe assumption that some of those folks are as important to us as the next new orchid we are contemplating buying. With this being the Holiday Season, maybe it's not too much of an effort to remember to also get a Christmas gift- or two for these folks, too.

I know, I know – there's only so much in the budget. Considering a non-orchid related gift is pretty farfetched, I'm here to tell you, these folks are important, too. While winter socks, hats and gloves, and maybe even a new vacuum seem a complete waste for presents, they are important to some folks.

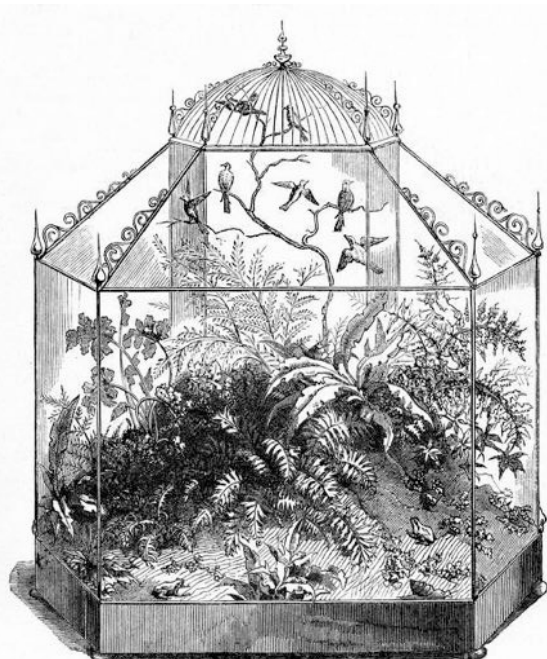
Actually I've just had a thought – as a way to ease these folks into sharing our obsession, we could gift them socks, hats and gloves- adorned with motifs of orchid flowers! And as a way to deal with all those soiled rugs, we could help them set up grow areas and wardian cases to cover all the grime, fixing the problem forever.

But here's a better idea: why not ask your significant other out on a date? All they have to do is bring a favorite salad, side dish, or dessert along. *The holiday dinner is coming fast* (Dec 14th) and what better way to enjoy a quiet night out and show that ill-informed individual what they're missing? Bring them to the dinner and let them enjoy the camaraderie and holiday cheer with us Orchid Enthusiasts!

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE WON'T TELL THEM IT'S FREE ;-)

See everyone in a couple Tuesday's from now. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all!

Brandt Moran
Your Humble Orchid Murderer



FERN CASE COMBINED WITH A SMALL AVIARY.





HOST:
Massachusetts Orchid Society

MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY

Sons of Italy
117 Swanton Street
Winchester, MA 01890

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 FROM 7:00 PM
TO 10:00 PM ET

Let's have some fun!
***Bring some food, your blooming orchids,
and some holiday cheer.***

Please note the 7pm start time!

Turkey and Ham will be provided by the MOS.

There will be a cash bar.

The rest is up to you!

Potluck by the first letter of your last name:

A-C - Salads

D-J - Side Dishes

K-S - Desserts

T-Z - Appetizers

or your favorite **Main Dish!**

Please RSVP by November 30, 2021

so we can get a headcount for the ham & turkey. Significant others and friends are welcome!

We will have a **silent auction** as well! The auction will start virtually/online, but final bidding will take place during the party. The auction link will be sent to membership soon!

There will be no show table, but please do **bring your blooming orchids** to share with everyone as a centerpiece for your table!

Last but not least, there are still currently COVID restrictions for both the Sons of Italy and the Town of Winchester. Masks will be required indoors except while eating. We will update this invitation and <https://massorchid.org> with any changes.

MOS show table results November 2021

Judges: Millard, George Baltoumas, Bob Richter

Scribe: Linda Abrams

*Congratulations, Brigitte!
Winner of December's
People's Choice Award for the
beautiful
Prag. Peruflora's Spirit*

Exhibitor's Name	Plant's Name	Lights/Windowsill/ Greenhouse	Warm/Cool /Inter
Ron M.	Cym. Golden Vanguard 'Emperor'	L	W
Ron M.	Onc. Sharry Baby	L	W
Ron M.	Ctsm. Chuck Taylor	L	W
Anne P.	Lycaste lassiloglossa x Balliae	G	I
George B.	Cattleya Mary Elizabeth Bohn 'Royal Flare'	W	I
Brigitte F.	Chysis langleyensis x limminghei	L	I
Brigitte F.	Phrag. Peruflora's Spirit	L	I
Stephen L.	Den. Enobi Splash	L	
Minnie D.	Brs. Tarantula 'Sweet Orange'		
Millard H.	Ang. Magdalena	L	I
Linda A.	Slc. Numazu Stav '4N'	L	C
Li An S.	Lycaste Full Moon	W	I
Bob and Marsha R.	Pair of Neostylis Blue Bird	G	



total ribbons: 13
total plants: 24

MOS show table summary 2021-2022

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August None	September	October	November	December None	people choice award	Total
Brigitte F.										1		2	Nov, Dec	3
Mike B.										2				2
Daryl Y.										4				4
Bob F.										1				1
Leslie J.										1				1
Millard H.			1							2		1	March	4
Linda A.							1	1				1	June, July	3
Ralph and Cheiko C.								1					July	1
George B.												1		1
Anne P.	1	1									2	1	Jan., Feb.	5
Brandt M.		1				1	1			1	4		Feb., May, June, Sept.	8
Bob and Marsha R.										1		1		2
Ron M.											1	3	October	4
Dina D.				1						2			April	3
Stephen L.												1		1
Li An S.												1		1
Virginia E.-M.***		1									1			2
Jeff F.													Feb., Sept.	0
Total # ribbons	1						2	2	0	13	10	12		40
Total plants	1 ?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	17	24			42
*** beginner														
** photos														



C. Mary Elizabeth Bohn
'Royal Flare',
George B.



Slc. Numazu Star '4N',
Linda A.



Neostylis Blue Bird,
Bob and Marsha R.



Onc. Sharry Baby,
Ron M.



Chysis langleyensis x
Limminghei, Brigitte F.

Ang. Magdalena,
Millard H.



Den. Enobi Splash, Stephen L.





Lycaste lassioglossa x *Balliae*, Anne P.



Lycaste Full Moon,
Linda A.



Cym. Golden Vanguard 'Emperor', Ron M.



Brs. Tarantula 'Sweet Orange', Minnie D.



Ctsm. Chuck Taylor, Ron M.

UPCOMING EVENTSMonthly Meeting –Holiday Potluck with awards and silent auction

14 Dec 2021 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy - 117 Swanton Street,
Winchester, MAMonthly Meeting – Repotting & Mounting Demos

11 Jan 2022 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy - 117 Swanton Street,
Winchester, MACape and Islands Orchid Society Show

22 – 23 Jan 2022

The Resort and Conference Center
35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MAMonthly Meeting – Bob Cleveland, TBA

08 Feb 2022 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy - 117 Swanton St.,
Winchester, MADeep Cut Orchid Society Show

18-20 Feb 2022

Dearborn Market, Holmdel, NJ

New Hampshire Orchid Society Show

25-27 Mar 2022

Courtyard Marriot, Nashua, NH

The Next Command Performance...

The Cape and Island Orchid Society will be holding their 2022 Orchid Show the third weekend in January at The Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis, MA

Thursday the 20th will be setup

Friday will be judging and an evening Awards Dinner

Saturday and Sunday will be the show.

MOS will be represented in the show with a 50 sq ft display. We will need to collect plants and set things up on that Thursday.

Sunday there will need to be a crew for breakdown.

Consider this the first call for volunteers and plants. There will be more to follow in early January.

CAIOS assembled a beautiful display at our show and this is our chance to reciprocate.

One More Welcome To Our New Members

Warmest welcome to our newest members! We look forward to the opportunity of getting to know you better in the social atmosphere of the Holiday Party on December 14. You should have received an invitation to RSVP by now. If you didn't, email Meg: megb@massorchid.org. Significant others are welcome!

Please remember, the Membership Committee exists to serve you. As you were told earlier, "email any time, for any reason and expect a timely reply". You can reach us easily at membership@massorchid.org or directly as shown below.

Membership Co-Chairs

Jeff Feldman (jefff@massorchid.org)

Ralph DiFonzo (ralphd@massorchid.org)



Orchid Conservation Alliance

Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat

The OCA conserves orchids by funding habitat preservation. Since inception in 2005 we have helped with the purchase of over 3000 acres of orchid habitat, protecting hundreds of orchid species in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Many species of rare birds, trees, frogs, mammals also find refuge in these reserves.



Dracula gigas (L), *D. trigonopetala* (R)
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador

Dracula lemurella (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)
La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia

We hope you will join us in promoting this important work. We invite you to become a member of the OCA, to make a donation, to take a trip with us to see Orchids in the Wild®, and to purchase merchandise through our website. Since we have no paid staff, all proceeds support orchid conservation. The OCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

For more information: www.orchidconservationalliance.org

As many of you know, the Orchid Conservation Alliance is concerned with preserving orchid rich habitat in land trusts, like the Nature Conservancy. The OCA's year-end newsletter tells what they've accomplished in the past year, despite the pandemic.

To the myriad of planners and worker-bees who made up Team MOS this year, congrats to YA'LL for turning our come-back show into a huge success. Of special note, thank you Jeff Feldman for his skillful management, Brandt for set-up and seminars, Brigitte Fortin for space planning and vendor recruitment, Meg Bright-Ryan and Anne Pfaff for graphics, Emily Dewsnap for publicity, Amanda Larson for photography, Karyn Stewart for Hospitality, Mike Badia, SOI liason and raffle plants and last-but-not-least, Ralph DiFonzo for conceiving and orchestrating (with help from many elves) an outstanding volcano display!!!



Kudos to Ralph, for winning the Orchid Digest Award!

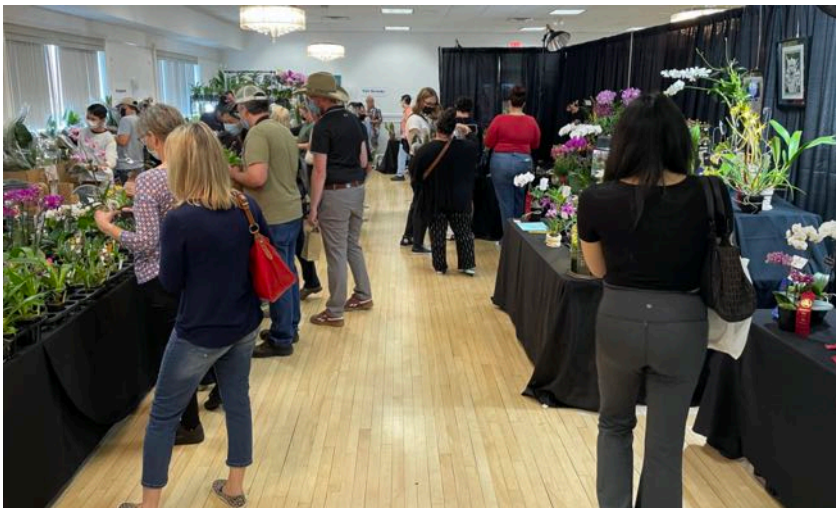
Click on the following for the 2021 show winners:

[Special Awards](#)

[Top Placers](#)



MOS Show Highlights





Mites

By Susan Jones

Reprinted from The American Orchid Society

Mites are almost-microscopic creatures, closely related to ticks, spiders and scorpions. Because of their size, their presence is usually not suspected until considerable damage has occurred. Mite damage makes a plant's leaves look silvery, especially on the underside, where the pests have killed the cells of the surface layer. From the top, the leaf often has many tiny yellow spots that turn brown over time. Spider mites also spin silken webs on the undersides of leaves. These are easy to see if you mist the foliage with water and hold the plant up to the light. You might even see the tiny mites walking along their webs. False spider mites do not make silk, and are extremely tiny and hard to see, but they produce the same silverying of the leaves.



Red Spider Mites live up to their name; they do make webs.

A good way to tell if you have mites is to wipe a white cloth or tissue over both sides of a leaf of a plant suspected of mite infestation. If mites or their eggs are present, reddish or brownish streaks will be seen on the cloth. Another test is to tap a leaf over a piece of white paper and see if any of the dislodged particles move. A good magnifying glass is recommended with this test.

Mites can severely weaken plants, as well as disfiguring them. Mites damage orchids by removing sap and chlorophyll with their needlelike mouthparts. It is this withdrawal of chlorophyll that results in the characteristic blanching and silvery appearance of the leaf. Their sap sucking can also cause bruised-looking areas on flowers. Because of their feeding style, they are also potential vectors of diseases

Life Cycle

The adult female lays one large (for her) egg at a time, which hatches into a tiny nymph. After molting a few more times, the adult stage is reached again. The life cycle speeds up under warm conditions; adult to adult takes only a week at high temperatures.

When colonies become overcrowded, winged forms appear, to fly to establish new colonies. The insects can cycle continuously under greenhouse conditions, their rate of development affected only by temperature.

In the autumn, females begin producing a few males. Females born at the same time have eggs within their bodies; they mate and lay the eggs to provide next season's offspring.

Types of Mites

Brevipalpus californicus The first observable injury from this mite feeding on orchid leaves appears as silvery areas that eventually become sunken and brown. Heavily infested leaves will become yellow and drop from the plants. Individuals of *B. californicus* are difficult to see because they lie flat against the leaf and move slowly; however, populations can be detected by the presence of cast skins.

Phalaenopsis mite (Tenuipalpus pacificus) This is one of the false spider mites, which do not spin webs. This mite is a pest in California, Florida, Panama and some European countries. Feeding by these mites causes dark spots on leaves and eventual tissue death. This mite has a slow development; the incubation period requires 18 to 23 days, and each of the developmental stages 14 to 15 days; therefore, the life cycle is at least 64 days.

Two-spotted Spider Mite, also known as the Red Spider Mite (Tetranychus urticae) These mites are greenish-yellow, wingless, eight-legged creatures with a dark spot on each side of their bodies. As day lengths shorten in the autumn, they become deep red in color. As their population builds, you will start to see webs and aggregations of mites at certain sites, usually the growing points of the plant. They feed on leaf undersides and suck the chlorophyll out of plant cells. These mites thrive when plants are stressed under warm, dry conditions, but they are less of a problem under conditions of high humidity. Two-spotted spider mites are most often found on new growth and on thin-leaf orchids.



Mites can multiply quickly during warm, dry conditions and get out of control before you even notice them.

An adult female two-spotted spider mite will lay three to five eggs per day on the underside of leaves. Each adult female can produce more than 100 eggs in three weeks. They reproduce at alarming rates: 10 spider mites in May are capable of becoming 1,000 by June and 100,000 by July. Part of this equation is because the egg incubation and adolescent-to-adult periods are drastically reduced as temperature increases. Egg to adult takes about 14 days at 70 F, or less than a week at 86 F. As temperatures increase, what started out as a small population of mites can become a major infestation in just a few days.

To make matters worse, red spider mites can overwinter without feeding and emerge in the spring and summer to reinfest plants, although artificial lighting may stop the mites from hibernating, making control easier.

General Prevention

To minimize orchid pest problems, implement such cultural management strategies as prevention, sanitation and plant inspection. Proper cultural conditions, such as the correct amount of water, temperature, light, fertility and humidity, minimize potential pest problems. Be sure to know the cultural practices specific to the orchids being grown.

Sanitation is another strategy to prevent orchid pest problems. Remove all plant debris and old potting medium. Also, remove old leaf sheaths to eliminate hiding places for pests. Inspect plants on a regular basis by looking underneath leaves to check for spider mites.

Methods of Control

The first line of defense against mites is to raise the humidity in the growing environment. Mites are usually most severe on plants in heated greenhouses or in the home during the winter, when the air is quite dry and there are no natural enemies to keep them under control. Washing the plants thoroughly, wiping every leaf, is one way to bring the population down. Because mites feed by sucking the sap from individual cells of the surface of the leaves, and plant sap is very dilute, mites must consume a lot of sap to get the nutrients they need, and get rid of all the water they do not need. Therefore, they do better when the air is dry, as it is easier for them to get rid of the water.

If the time of year allows, put the plants outside - the natural enemies in the garden plus the more difficult environment will usually sort out the problem.

Another option is biological control. Predatory mites are released onto the infested plants, where they eat harmful mites. This strategy works well only if you mite population is not too large for the predators to catch up. Consult biological control supplier catalogs for natural enemies available for each type of mite. One word of caution: if you are using biological controls to eliminate mite populations, do not use chemical pesticides as they will kill the beneficial mites, too.

Most insecticides have little effect on mites, but a number of chemicals (called acaricides or miticides) are

developed specifically for mite control. These are useful in controlling large populations of mites. Use these chemicals with care, and do your spraying cautiously, so that you get the maximum effect. Be aware that some insecticides and miticides cannot be used on orchids. Many materials have not been tested on orchids, so try any material on a small group of plants - especially when they are in flower - before exposing the entire collection to a new chemical.

Another less-exotic and much cheaper method of control involves a pint of 409 household cleaner and a pint of rubbing alcohol mixed with water to make 1 gallon of spray. This method is especially effective as a preventative or to control light infestations. For any miticide, homemade or purchased, apply a heavy coating, especially to the underside of leaves. Reapply every three to four days for six to eight applications. This will ensure that both the adults and hatching young are eliminated.

Click [here](#) to view a video showing how to recognize mite damage...





St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Controlling Snails and Slugs

Orchid Alert

Courtesy of Dr. Martin Motes, Motes Orchids, from his book *Florida Orchid Growing*

Snails and slugs are recurring problems in orchid collections. Recurring because they are ubiquitous, persistent, and hard to completely control. They recur whenever the weather is favorably wet for them to move about with ease. These mollusks save their energy during dry periods to maximize their energy in eating our orchids when the environment is favorable.

Slugs and snails are creatures of habit. When they have found a lush patch of flowers or soft new growth they feed there at night and then follow their silver trails back to their snug resting places for the day. Old pots, boards, piles of decaying leaves or other vegetable material are mollusk hotels. The moist potting soil of ferns or other foliage plants can serve as bed and breakfast. These are the places to round up the usual suspects! Better still clean up these blighted parts of the neighborhood and eliminate the spawning grounds of these criminal elements.

When one actually encounters one of these slime balls whether at their home or at large, the crunch of their shells underfoot is always satisfying. Unfortunately, like other unsavory types they do most of their work late in the night when honest folk are abed. For this reason leaving these hungry night workers a snack in the form of metaldehyde bait is the most effect control for snails and slugs. These mollusks are fatally attracted to metaldehyde. They are drawn like moths to the flame. Spread the bait thinly, one pellet every foot or so. They'll find it. The smaller the pellets the better. Those small pellets which fall on desirable plants will do little or no harm and small bits are less attractive and potentially less injurious to domestic animals.

Repeated applications at weekly or biweekly intervals (depending on rainfall) are absolutely essential. Bait is washed away by rain and irrigation. One also never manages to get all the pests with a single application. Any mature snail or slug has also almost surely reproduced and the next generation will be along soon. Please don't leave any starving orphan snails out there. Those repeated light applications of metaldehyde bait are like manna from heaven for snails.

Metaldehyde also comes in liquid form which can be sprayed to eliminate bush snails in hanging plants. Great care should be exercised in its use.



•THE AOS CORNER•



Seasonal Orchid Care November/December

[Click here for Checklist](#)

Organizing orchid culture and its chores by season is a convenient way to make sure that your orchids get the proper care at the right time. Becoming in tune with your plants' growth cycles creates a connection with the natural world and makes you a better grower.

The American Orchid Society Northeast Judging Center Is Back!

In-person monthly judging has resumed at **Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Dr, Boylston, MA 01505.**

We meet in Classroom C and are adhering to State of Massachusetts pandemic safety rules and encourage exhibitors to bring orchids to be judged within the guidelines outlined below.

10:30AM - Doors open and announcements

11:00AM - 12:00PM - Educational presentations

12:00PM - All plants to be judged must be checked in by this time

12:00PM - 1:00PM - Plant research and lunch break

1:00PM - 4:00PM AOS plant judging

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

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Brandt Moran	brandtm@massorchid.org
Vice President	Jeff Feldman	jefff@massorchid.org
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Orchid Show

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Orchid Show Program

Meg Bright-Ryan	program@massorchid.org
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Show Table

Mike Badia	mike@massorchid.org
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