

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
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APR 2023

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Minute Minutes

Notes from the Board

- ◆ Nominating Committee Chair Mike Badia and committee members Steven Kirincich and Jeff Feldman are pleased to announce the following slate of nominees for MOS Board positions for the year beginning July 1, 2023. A final vote will be taken by members who are present at our May general meeting. Nominees are as follows:

President: Ralph DiFonzo

VP: Mike Badia

Treasurer: Amanda Larson

Secretary: Steven Kirincich

Directors: Dina Diresh (Past President), Linda Abrams, Emily Dewsnap, Jeff Feldman, Brigitte Fortin, Anne Pfaff, Alexis Victor

- ◆ Inspired by the board's recent survey, this incoming board will focus closely on making your MOS experience more enjoyable, sociable and educational! And to offer members our very best programs and services, the board encourages all members to get involved in the regular functioning of our society. In so doing, you will make new friends and learn more about growing orchids to boot. There's a very good chance that you have the skills needed for some of our new and existing teams, such as, coordinate hospitality during member meetings, join the MOS Auction teams, help plan excursions to places like the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum, the Harvard Glass Flowers collection, Arnold Arboretum, Garden in the Woods, or coordinate tours of some of MOS member's greenhouses. You can even help the rebranding team update our website or join the search team looking for a new show location. So...

Please support MOS and enjoy an expanded role in our community!

- ◆ Last month Amanda reported that we have a signed contract from SOI for 2023's MOS show. The confirmed dates are Friday, November 2nd – Sunday, November 5th, with setup on Thursday, 2nd. The theme for this year's World of Orchids will be the orchids of India! Brigitte will give a brief talk about the show committee and its fun and varied tasks at April's meeting.

Did you know that you can submit articles to the newsletter? Got extra orchid supplies you want to unload or looking for garden swaps? Submissions are due 14 days prior to monthly meetings.

Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post or advertise.

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

We are always interested in suggestions for speakers and topics, and special programs for upcoming general meetings. Email your thoughts to mos-board@googlegroups.com.

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



A super-sized **thank you** to the following members for assisting with our display at the Nutmeg State Orchid Society show last month. Ribbons and awards will be posted in the May newsletter.

Setup:
Ron Maloney, Brigitte Fortin and Minnie Domingo

Breakdown:
Ron, Minnie and Steve Kaplan

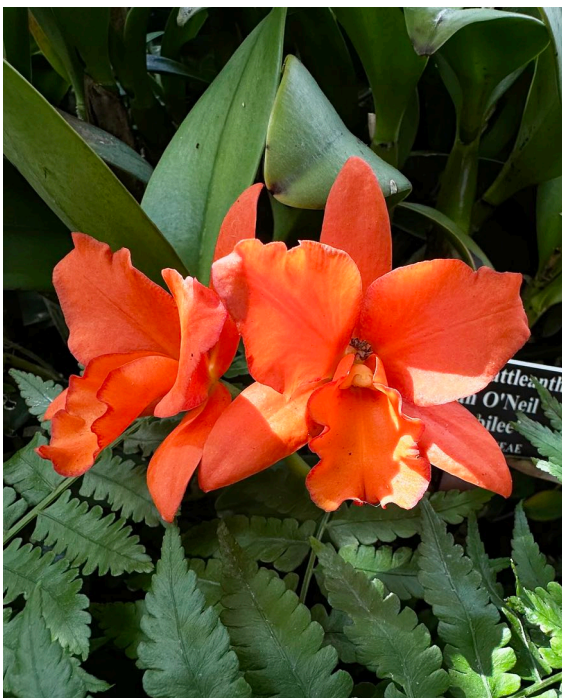
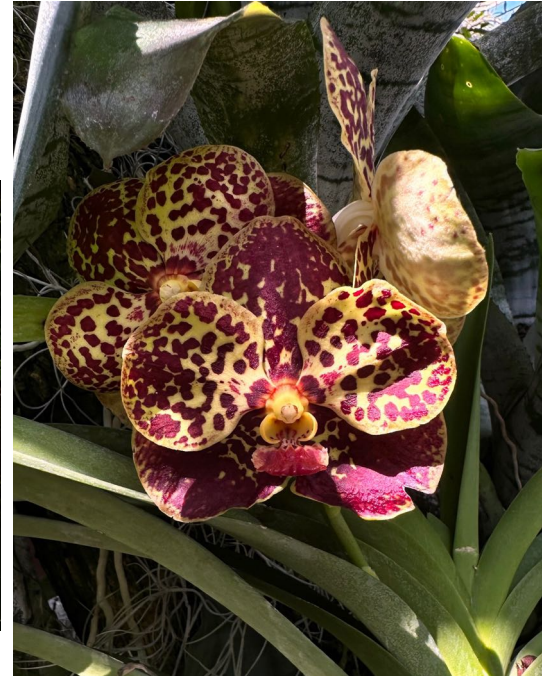
Also, thanks to Anne Pfaff, Bob and Marcia Richter, Steve Kirincich, Ron Maloney, Minnie Domingo, Sally Ishizaka and Brigitte Fortin for plant contributions for the display.

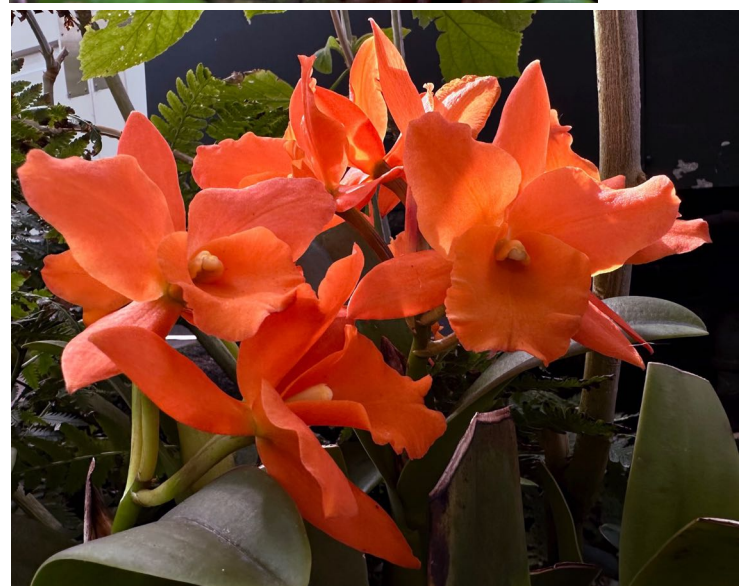
Congrats for 2nd place for display!!!

A few weeks ago, my spouse Karl and I took the train to New York to see the 2023 NY Botanical Gardens Orchid Show. It was a cold and blustery day, but the sunshine warmed the conservatory inside and treated us to a dazzling display of flowers, some with heady fragrances, encouraged by its warmth. The incredible variety of flower forms, colors and patterns within these greenhouses was a visual treat that I wanted to capture in photographs.

In random order, here's some of my favorites. Sorry, no names!

Anne Pfaff









UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

11 Apr 2023 7:30 PM
High Desert Orchids –
Fragrant Miniatures
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

06 May 2023 10:30 AM
Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting

09 May 2023 7:30 PM
Daryl Yerdon – Pests & Diseases
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

03 Jun 2023 10:30 AM
Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
Please visit our website: nejcaos.org



Kelly McCracken of High Desert Orchids presents “Fragrant Miniatures”

Kelly says the most common question vendors get asked about plants is “is it fragrant?” It seems that many orchid growers select their plants based on whether or not the plant is fragrant. For those of you who grow in limited space, but still love a nose full of floral fragrance, this is the talk for you. Kelly will go over several dozen fragrant species that will stay small (6” and smaller) and their culture. She will also describe their unique fragrances.

Meet James Lawson – New Member

I have copied an email James sent me, to help you get to know a very interesting new member. James joined MOS in March. Perhaps a Society trip to James' property would be a fun event. You can email James to welcome him to the society at <mailto:doriangray628@yahoo.com> -Jeff Feldman

I moved to Stockbridge 4 years ago, from Michigan with my 3 beautiful dogs and close to 100 Orchids. Among other houseplants, Orchids have been, and still are, a passion of mine. Each one is special. I have 2 rooms in the house that I converted for my Orchids. Humidity, temperature and light controlled. I try to collect as many original species as I can, as well as numerous hybrids.

I moved here to continue my brain cancer treatment in Springfield. All of which is going well. One factor with that is I can no longer drive since the resection 7 years ago. With driving being something I lost, I'm more than blessed to have my pets, Orchids, and a beautiful piece of property, in Stockbridge that I have been restoring. Adding butterfly and pollinating gardens. Koi pond. And I also keep honeybees. There is a Pocket Park I created on the property after clearing 35 years of overgrowth and invasive species, while keeping the native trees and plants. The Chief Konkapot Stream also runs through my yard. This has become quite the beautiful, conserved space now. I get many people that stop to admire the gardens, bird watch, meditate, and kayak in the stream.

Now that I am healthier, I decided to join the orchid society. Hoping to meet other avid growers like myself, share my collection, and add to mine.

My *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Anne Buckleberry is over 20 years old. Quite large and phenomenal when she blooms. Which spikes should be developing within a month.

I look forward to meeting you and others in the Society. - James



"My Rlc. Ports of Paradise 'Emerald Isle' FCC/AOS, grown from seed, now has given me 3 beautiful buds in the spike! This took just over 5 years."

The New Hampshire Orchid Society is saddened to announce the passing of Ulla Jurrissen

It's with a heavy heart and great difficulty that NHOS would like to inform you of the passing of one of our most beloved members, Ulla Jurrissen.

Ulla was a long-time member of our society, having served as President and in other positions on our Board of Directors. Ulla and her husband Jan will be most remembered by many as the faces of Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies, selling supplies for growing orchids at our orchid show and many others for almost 15 years. Our society recognized Ulla as an advanced orchid grower by giving her the Dick Valentine Hobbyist Award. She was a frequent contributor to our auctions, even donating divisions of her two-time AOS award winning *Dendrochilum tenella* 'Cecilia', a fantastic orchid that she named in memory of Jan's mother. In 2011 we recognized her many contributions to our society by presenting her with the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence.

We were lucky to have Ulla as a member of our society, but more importantly as a good friend to so many of us. She will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know her.



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Top Ten Signs that Your Orchids Are Happy

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com



Cattleya Secure in Pot

1. You can pick up plant by the vegetation and the pot doesn't fall away. Roots are the secret to an orchid grower's success. If you want beautiful flowers, you need a healthy plant and for a plant to be healthy, it must have a vigorous root system. The rule in nature is there is a 10 to 1 ratio of the roots to the shoots. When the roots have filled the pot, you can pick up the entire plant from the leaves and the plant does not wobble in the pot.

2. The newest growth is larger than the prior growth. A great indicator of a well growing plant is that the new leads and leaves are larger than or at least as large as the prior year's growths. Don't fret too much if the year after repotting the growths are a little smaller than the prior year, that is probably just a short term case of transplant shock. If that trend continues though, ask for a consult with one of your orchid club's members.



Cynodes Jumbo Puff



Phalaenopsis with Healthy Leaves

3. Your orchid has thick, turgid leaves. If your leaves look dehydrated, they probably are dehydrated and you'll have to follow the old tried and true advice, knock it out of the pot and look at the roots. If the roots are rotten, you'll have to repot and consider whether it was overwatering or late repotting that caused the problem. If the roots are still viable, you may have to increase your watering frequency and or the amount of water you pour through the pot when you water.

4. Pseudobulbs and canes are plump. The canes and pseudobulbs on your sympodial orchids like the leaves on your monopodial orchids function similarly to the hump on a camel. They should be full of water and energy reserves to get your orchid through the dry spells as well as to make sure your plant has enough energy in reserve to develop flowers. After all, most orchids aren't grown for their foliage.



Dendrobium Golden Aya



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Top Ten Signs that Your Orchids Are Happy

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com



Long Root Tips

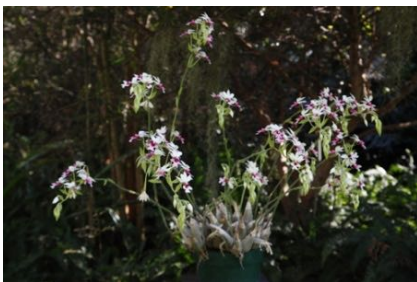
5. Plants in growth show long green (or red) root tips. You know you are a real orchid addict when you are just as excited about a new root as you are a new flower bud. When a plant is in active growth, it throws off new roots and the faster it grows, the longer the root tip.

6. Plants are flush with new growth, trying to jump out of the pot.



Cattleya Out of the Pot

When your plant is growing well, it is throwing off new growths, more leaves on a phalaenopsis or vanda, more pseudobulbs on a cattleya, more canes on a dendrobium, etc. With each new growth, comes the potential for new blooms. Dendrobiums are the exception, many will bloom from older growths, but cattleyas will only bloom from new growth, and somehow they always seem to bloom best when they're a bulb or two out of the pot. A monthly application of seaweed or kelp which contains some plant hormones will encourage new growths on your plant.



Calanthe Baron Schroder

7. You get multiple bloom spikes. Your orchids expend a tremendous amount of energy to form flower buds and then to carry the flowers in the hopes one of their pollinators will drop in for a visit. The more energy they are able to generate and store, the more energy reserves are available when it is time for them to start flowering. A drop in night time temperature also helps many plants conserve their energy stores. Multiple bloom spikes are your reward for meeting the cultural needs of your plants.

8. Your orchids don't complain about being hungry. Orchids aren't like teenagers, they can't keep saying I'm hungry every couple of hours. Your orchids will grow fine with little fertilizer and many people proudly say they never fertilize their orchids. The real orchid food is light, but fertilizer contains the essential mineral building blocks for your plant. Get into a fertilizer routine. Use either water soluble or timed release fertilizer, whichever suits you better. Your orchids may not burp in appreciation, but you'll see an improvement in growth vigor.



Clowesetum Jumbo Circle 'Clair'
AM/AOS



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Top Ten Signs that Your Orchids Are Happy

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com



Leaves Unmarred by Damage

9. No Vacancy” for disease and pests. A vigorously growing plant is much more capable of withstanding problems. It is axiomatic that if you have found the sweet spot for your orchid, you also have found a location where there is enough air movement to keep your orchid happy which means you’ll have fewer fungal infections. While orchids don’t have an immune system similar to we humans, a healthy plant can mount a greater defense against disease and to some extent pests. You always

have to be vigilant looking for scale, mealybugs, mites and other opportunistic devils.

10. All your friends want divisions. The ultimate compliment is when friends come into your growing area and say I’d love a piece of that whenever you divide it. It means you’ve grown the plant to its maximum potential and gotten it to produce beautiful blooms. Do share your divisions with friends, it is one of the joys of gardening in general and growing orchids in particular. And who know, someday you may be asking for a piece of that plant back.



Cattleya Sue Bottom ‘St. Augustine’

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🕒 DECEMBER 9, 2021

Orchid reintroduction is helpful to long-term species protection

by Zhang Nannan, Chinese Academy of Sciences



(A) Seed germination after reintroduction



(B) Seedling growth and maturation



(C) Flowering and fruit set



(D) Spontaneous seedling establishment

Orchid reintroduction in Xishuangbanna. Credit: SHAO Shicheng

Orchids are a charismatic group of plant species that currently face a considerable number of threats to their long-term survival. Orchids produce thousands of dust-like seeds that may be easily dispersed by wind. However, due to their tiny size, seeds lack an endosperm and have become highly dependent on mycorrhizal fungi for germination and further development into a seedling.

Researchers from the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences have recently developed a novel seed sowing technique called in situ symbiotic seed germination. In the experiment, orchid seeds were sown in the field simultaneously with a fungus that is able to induce seed germination. The mycelium of the fungus was mixed with agar powder.

Subsequently, the orchid seeds were evenly spread over this powder, gently mixed, and ultimately packaged to make sowing bags in paper packets. The sowing bags were soaked in water to retain moisture and then fixed on the trunk of trees using plastic wrap.

The novel methodology was tested for the first time with the epiphytic orchid *Dendrobium devonianum*, a medical and edible, dual purpose plant. An orchid population of >300 individuals had established within four years, of which the first individuals started to flower and produce seeds six years after the population was initiated. The first seedlings have established naturally.

"Our reintroduction method is very promising and it opens new avenues for setting up reintroduction programs for other epiphytic orchid species in China and elsewhere in the world," said Shao Shicheng of XTBG.

When using in situ symbiotic seed germination, a fungus that is able to induce seed germination is artificially introduced in natural environments. Currently, no evidence has indicated that introduction of germination-enhancing fungi negatively affects the abundance of native orchid mycorrhizal fungi.

"The developed methodology can easily be expanded to other epiphytic orchid species to alleviate the pressure of over-collection, but this requires detailed knowledge of the mycorrhizal fungi promoting seed germination," said Luo Yan of XTBG.

The study, titled "Successful reintroduction releases pressure on China's orchid species," was published as a spotlight in *Trends in Plant Science*.

More information: Shi-Cheng Shao et al, Successful reintroduction releases pressure on China's orchid species, *Trends in Plant Science* (2021). DOI: [10.1016/j.tplants.2021.11.018](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tplants.2021.11.018)

Journal information: [Trends in Plant Science](#)

Provided by [Chinese Academy of Sciences](#)

Citation: Orchid reintroduction is helpful to long-term species protection (2021, December 9) retrieved 11 March 2023 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-12-orchid-reintroduction-long-term-species.html>

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Help us establish the largest public orchid library in Latin America

The late Rudolf Jenny had made it his life's work to collect and catalog nearly every published and also unpublished articles, books, manuscripts, drawings, paintings etc. that involved orchids. His massive collection was housed in his home in Bern, Switzerland. The collection contains over 15,000 scientific journals, nearly 3000 books (many very rare and quite valuable), slides, photographs, paintings etc. Every single piece of the collection is catalogued in his extensive database "Bibliorchidea" which has over 190,000 entries and is the most comprehensive bibliographic archive of literature in the world. Anyone needing an original description of a species, a historical article on a genus, an annotated history of any early or current orchid explorer needed only to search Bibliorchidea. Rudolf sent copies of these hard to find articles etc all over the world and was an incredible resource for authors, researchers, and students everywhere.

It was Rudolf's wish to have this priceless legacy make a lasting impact, and he donated it to the Lankester Botanical Garden in Costa Rica. This is Latin America's leading institution for the conservation and study of orchids, and it is a publicly funded research center of the University of Costa Rica. For more than 50 years, their herbarium, laboratory, digital collection and libraries have served as a key source for researchers and students all over the world. The Garden has committed to creating a physical location for the library, and it will be carefully catalogued, curated and conserved and will be made available both physically and digitally to students and researchers for generations to come.

However, the cost of shipping the library from Switzerland to Costa Rica was not covered in Rudolf's will. This historic and scientific library requires professionals specialised in moving antique libraries, and the total cost of packing, delivery and insurance of this enormous and invaluable library has been priced at \$66000.

The Jenny family and Adam Karremans, the director of the Lankester Gardens, are reaching out to orchid societies, scholars, researchers, and individuals for financial support to help in the shipping of this library.

For more information, please contact:

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• THE AOS CORNER •



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.

- 00:45 Cattleya dormaniana (bud blast)
- 3:22 Hydrating roots
- 4:58 Semi-hydroponic culture (Growstones)
- 6:22 Shriveling Phalaenopsis buds
- 9:06 Phalaenopsis leaf problems
- 13:57 Yellow spots on leaves
- 17:14 Brown spots on leaves
- 20:32 Spider mites
- 22:44 Snow mold
- 24:53 Light (lumens vs. foot-candles)
- 28:33 Chiloschita usneoides
- 30:52 Shade cloth
- 33:52 Distilled water (which orchids need it)
- 37:19 Winter care
- 41:27 Catasetum (rest periods)
- 43:35 Repotting Phalaenopsis
- 49:22 Sticky sap on flower stems
- 51:11 Japanese Lady Bugs
- 52:13 Calanthe vestita (curly leaves, no flowers)

Seasonal Orchid Care March/April

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.

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

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