

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
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NOV 2023

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Minute Minutes Notes from the Board

*Congrats on a successful show and
welcome to our new members*

Good news just in from the Membership committee - we had a significant increase in show attendance this year, plus, we picked up close to 50 new members. Our vendors also reported it was a very successful year for sales.

Thanks to all who contributed orchids to our display, especially first timers. We hope you enjoyed the experience and look forward to seeing your bloomers in shows to come. With your help, MOS brought home lots ribbons and our display won First Place!

You will find all the final show results in the December issue, plus enjoy photos of flowers and displays.

Have orchid related articles you want to share? Interested in reading about a specific topic? Email your thoughts to mos-board@googlegroups.com. We welcome suggestions for speakers, topics, and special programs for upcoming general meetings.

Become a contributor! It's fun to share orchid knowledge with each other! Newsletter submissions are due 14 days prior to monthly meetings. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post or to advertise in Minute Minutes on page 1 of the newsletter. You can also unload your extra orchid supplies, arrange swaps, or sell growing equipment in the next newsletter.

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

Message from the President

(Editor's note: This message was written prior to the Show.)

I realize that membership will be reading this message after the Show. But I have such great faith in Brigitte Fortin's leadership and the volunteer efforts of our members, that I want to thank you all (in advance) for your work and commitment to another successful Annual Show. Editor, Anne Pfaff, promises to devote a large portion of the December Newsletter to coverage to pictures and Show Awards.

I'd also like to remind all that Bob Cleveland will bring seedlings and supplies to the November meeting. We will all pot a seedling; discuss its care and will get to keep and grow it. This is a fun activity.

Please remember to get your plants on the Show Table early.

See you soon,
Ralph DiFonzo II



Steve Kaplan gives our display a good spritz-over before judging begins.
Photo: Anne P.

More show photos in the December edition!

MOS October Show Table Results

Judges: Anne P., Steve Ki., Mike B.

Scribe: Linda A.

| Exhibitor Name | Orchid Name | Light (L,M,H) | Temp (C,I,W) | Comments: Lights, Windowsill or Greenhouse Grown, etc. |
|----------------|---|---------------|--------------|--|
| Elaine H. | Onc. Wildcat | | | Elaine's "new member" plant, On exactly 1 year ago |
| Mike B. | Miltassia Shelob 'Red Spider' | M | I | |
| Paul H. | Harella odorata | L | W | Beginner |
| Brigitte F. | Den. limpidum | L | I | Catt. Light. Originally from J&L. |
| Brigitte F. | Blc. Sunspots 'Pauwela' x Blc. Sunspots 'Valley Isle' | L | M | |
| Mike B. | Ett. Hsiang Yu Gold Crest 'Sunkiss' | M | I | |
| Steve Ki. | L. (angererii x flava) x Bl. Richard Mueller | M | W | A Fred Clarke cross |
| Steve Ki. | Blc. Stan's Golden Car 'Lincoln' | M | W | |
| Jeff F. | Soph. coccinea | L | I | |
| Ron M. | Zygonisia Cynosure x Agansia cyanea | L | H | Grown hot & wet |
| Danielle B. | Howeara Lava Burst 'Pacific Sunrise' | G | W | |
| Ron M. | Monnarea Milenium Magic Witchcraft | | W | Summer outside. Black flowers! |
| Jeff F. | Paph. faireanum | L | I | |

Total Ribbons: 13

This month's People's Choice award goes to Ron for his Monn. Milenium Magic Witchcraft. Once again, hats off to Ron for his showing his expertise growing this genus of orchids. To read Ron's essay about his catesetums turn to page 7.





Paph. Faireanum,
Jeff F.



Den. limpidum, Brigitte F.



Zygonisia Cynosure x Agansia cyanea,
Ron M.



Miltassia Shelob 'Red
Spider', Mike B.

Ett. Hsiang Yu Gold Crest 'Sunkiss',
Mike B.



Soph. coccinea,
Jeff F.





L. (angererii x flava) x Bl. Richard Mueller, Steve Ki.



Oncidium Wildcat, Elaine H.



Blc. Sunspots 'Pauwela' x Sunspots 'Valley Isle', Brigitte F.



Onc. Wildcat, Elaine H.



Blc. Stan's Golden Car 'Lincoln', Steve Ki.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

14 Nov 2023 7:00 PM

Bob Cleveland: Potting compot seedlings workshop
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

02 Dec 2023 10:30 AM

Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Annual Holiday Party

12 Dec 2022 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

06 Jan 2023 10:30 AM

Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

This month, Bob Cleveland presents a workshop on Repotting Compot Seedlings

This month Bob Cleveland returns to demonstrate how to repot seedlings from a community pot into small, individual pots. Members will take home a seedling and successfully grow it - hopefully! This is a fun workshop not to be missed.

Bob has been growing orchids since 1976. He has several AOS awards and has registered a number of his own crosses. His current interest is in miniature orchids; both species and hybrids.

Bob was a very active vendor for many years and his plants were an annual staple at MOS Orchid Shows for years.



2024 MOS Meeting Program

- Jan.** Mike B., Steve Ki., and Anne P.: Testing for Viruses
- Feb.** Jerry Kessler from NHOS: A Cymbidium Story
- Mar.** TBD
- Apr.** TBD
- May** Beth Davis from Waldor Orchids: TBD
- June** Alan Koch from Gold Country: TBD
- July** Kristin Uthus – New World Orchids: TBD
- Aug.** Summer Social or Speaker: TBD
- Sept.** MOS Annual Auction
- Oct.** Kim Feddersen of Fair Orchids: TBD
- Nov.** Dave Sorokowsky of Paph. Paradise: TBD
- Dec.** Annual Holiday Party!

Welcome To Our New Members

- Noah Ouslander - Lexington
- Gary Bowden - Rejoining - Tewksbury
- Shana Smith - Hampton, NH
- Robert Stack - Providence, RI
- Joshua Meyer - Boston
- Jieying Lodha – Winchester
- Lorayne McGuinness - North Kingstown, RI

Remember to pick up your raffle ticket before the start of the meeting at the membership table, located near the entrance to the hall. Every member receives a ticket, and you'll get another if you bring treats to the hospitality table. You'll also get a ticket for each orchid you bring in for the Show Table!

How Ron Malony Grows His Catesetums

My introduction to the Catasetinae genera all started with *Monn. Millenium Magic Witchcraft*. I just love how an ugly plant can produce such beautiful flowers! Fred Clarke has brought this orchid to the forefront of breeding with his different crosses.

Growing Catasetinae is not that hard so long as you master their growth and rest periods. Let's start in the early spring, after a long dry winter rest. When I see new growths emerging from the base of last year's bulbs, but before any new roots appear, I take the plant out of its container (cutting the old container, if necessary) and dump out the old media and I trim the roots to about 3 inches. These roots are mostly dead, but leaving some helps stabilize the plant in the new container.

I use the PET potting method, which is basically potting the plant in a clear plastic container (a soda bottle works well) cut down to size. Rather than make holes in the bottom of the container, I make 2 holes, about 2 inches up from the bottom, to create a reservoir on the bottom. I also put 3 holes in the top of the container to hang my plants from wire hangers.

This genera of orchids isn't fussy about media choices, but I have found that Cypress mulch, sponge rock and charcoal work great for me. I begin by putting some broken shards of clay or rocks in the bottom of the container to stabilize the container and plant. Then I place the old bulb against the inside wall of the container, to give the old bulb maximum room for new growth and add my media. I pack the media tightly so the plants can't move.

Do NOT water your catesetum until the roots are 3 to 4 inches long! This is very important to prevent rotting. The PET potting method using transparent plastic containers makes it easy to observe the health and growth of roots.

In the springtime I wait until night temperatures are 55 degrees or warmer before putting my plants outside. All summer long I water and fertilize them every day, or every other day and give them a lot of sun. During July and August, I put a 40% shade cloth over them. The only pest problem I have is spider mites, which is less of a problem when the plants are outside, but as a preventative measure I spray Doctor Zymes on the underside leaves every other week.

Most of my Catasetinae orchids bloom at least twice a year; once when the leaves are present and once when all the leaves fall off in their dormant period. The dormancy period starts in the fall with the shortening days, cooler temperatures and reduced watering. I stop fertilizing by the end of October and decrease watering in November. I then make holes in the bottom of the containers so there is no longer a water reservoir. I stop watering by mid December to encourage winter rest. If, in late January or in the beginning of February before new bulbs start emerging, I notice the old bulbs shrinking I will give them a little water, just to keep them from shrinking alot. Store your Catesetums in bright light and temperatures around 60 degrees all winter long and check periodically for new growths to start again.

I guess I got the bug because I now have over 50 Catasetinae orchids!

Ron

Preparing Orchids for Winter

By Susan Jones

The onset of shorter days and longer, colder nights herald winter's arrival. Many factors play into keeping your orchids happy and healthy through this time — finding the right combination of variables can be tricky, especially for beginners. The phrase “proper prior planning” is appropriate here; doing so will help your orchids to reach their greatest potential and increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby.

Generally, temperatures between 50° and 80° F (10° to 27° C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100 F (38 C) or drops even into the 30s (0 C) will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold hardiness, the measure of the orchid's resistance to or ability to adjust to cold stress, should be considered when adding new orchids for your landscape or collection. The degree of cold hardiness is determined by environmental conditions, the overall health of the plant and its genetic makeup. Some species are always killed by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.



During the winter, flowering orchids brighten well-lit windowsills. On cold nights, it's a good idea to move plants away from the window or use bubble wrap as insulation between the pane and the plants.

Cold Injury

Symptoms indicating cold damage usually become visible some days after exposure to critically low temperatures, not during the cold exposure. Cold injury includes damage from temperatures above and below freezing. Chill injury is that caused by low temperatures above freezing, and freeze injury is damage from temperatures at or below freezing. Frost damage takes place when dew freezes after it has condensed on leaf surfaces if the air temperature drops below freezing.

The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment after the exposure. Continued cool temperatures and high humidity after exposure to cold may slow the development of symptoms, while high light intensity and warm temperatures may accelerate the appearance of symptoms.

Chilling

Many chilling-injury symptoms are common to other stresses such as lack of water, root-rot diseases, chemical phytotoxicity, heat stress and light stress, and as such may be difficult to diagnose. General symptoms of chilling injury include surface lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration; water-soaking in tissues, usually followed by wilting and browning; internal discoloration (browning); increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria; slower-than-normal growth (this may be difficult to identify without undamaged plants for comparison or a knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate) and accelerated rate of natural death.

Freezing

Symptoms of freeze injury include desiccation or burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves, and death of sections of the plant or the entire plant. Obvious symptoms may not be present until after the plant has been stressed by very warm temperatures.

The Basics

Preparation for weathering winter's chills begins at the point of purchasing your orchids. Choose carefully for the growing conditions you are able to provide your plants. If you keep your home or greenhouse cool in the leaved paphiopedilums or sophronitis) orchids, depending on the conditions they will be grown under during the summer months. White or yellow vandas, as well as some dendrobiums (phalaenopsis-and antelope-types), are especially cold sensitive and do not like temperature drops below 60° F (16° C) and can be particularly prone to losing leaves when exposed to cooler temperatures. Seedlings and immature plants, particularly those in flasks or compots, are also much more sensitive to chills than their mature counterparts.

Another consideration for growers in northern climes is the shorter day length winter brings. Many orchids need 14 hours of light every day to flower successfully. Relying on daylight alone during winter months will not provide sufficient light to induce budding. Genera with high light requirements may produce healthy green foliage but without sufficient illumination might never reward their growers with the desired flowers. For indoor and greenhouse growers in the north, supplemental lighting may be necessary for optimal plant health and flowering. Depending on the type of light source chosen, the heat generated by the lamps may help counteract cold temperatures.

When adding to an orchid collection, choosing carefully to match the conditions you are able to provide as a grower will go a long way toward keeping your orchids in optimal health through winter's gloom and chills.

Once they're comfortably situated in your collection, cultural factors to consider in keeping them happy through the winter months include less frequent watering and fertilization. It is worth the extra effort to read up on the seasonal needs of the orchids in your collection. This is especially important for the species, but hybrids will benefit from this research as well. Some enter a period of partial or full dormancy; they will require a rest period at this time of year and could be adversely affected if they do not receive one. As temperatures drop and daylight is reduced, their growth slows down or even stops, depending on the species or hybrid. The quantities of water and fertilizer they required for spring and summer growth are no longer needed and could negatively affect the plant unless reduced accordingly. Excess water can accelerate the breakdown of organic growing media (such as pine bark and sphagnum moss) and lead to root and plant rots. A surplus of fertilizer can accumulate in the growing media until the fertilizer salts burn the orchid's root and leaf tips that actually inhibits, rather than enhance growth.



Although winter requires preparation by the orchid grower, the shorter days are exactly what initiates bud development for seasonal species such as Cattleya trianae.

Windowsill

Because they have less control over the quality and amount of lighting reaching their plants than under-lights growers, windowsill growers face special considerations during the winter months. The day length is shorter in the northern latitudes, so supplemental lighting may be needed for part of the day to maintain a comfortable day-night balance for the plants. At this time of year, the sun's angle is lower on the horizon and may no longer be shaded by trees that have lost their leaves for the winter. A fresh snowfall can also reflect a great deal more light than normal. A sheer curtain may be needed to protect your plants from sunburn at these times.

At night, a heavy curtain between the window and your orchids can act as an insulating barrier to help keep the nighttime temperatures from damaging sensitive tropical plants. Thermopane windows will also help — their two panes of glass separated by an air pocket are good for both orchids and heating bills in the winter time. Even sheets of bubble wrap covering the glass will help keep warmth in and winter chills out. Never allow the foliage to touch the glass; condensation can freeze on the windowpane and kill your orchid's leaves.

Good air movement will help maintain temperatures as well. A fan to circulate the air around the window helps keep temperatures uniform, and distributes and circulates heat from heaters or other sources to keep the growing area closer to the ambient temperature of the room rather than the cold outside.

Greenhouses

Properly planned, a greenhouse may be constructed and oriented to minimize the effects of winter's chill on your orchids. The use of twin-walled instead of single-layered glazing materials adds insulation and reduces heat loss through the greenhouse exterior. Double-layered materials are also better able to withstand the weight of accumulated snow in the wintertime (but never allow the snow to remain on the greenhouse or it may cause damage). Attached greenhouses (those with one or more walls attached to a building), partially excavated and earthsheltered greenhouses retain heat better than freestanding models, and so cause growers less difficulty and expense to heat. Because one or more sides are opaque, attached and earth-sheltered greenhouses do not generally receive as much sunlight as a freestanding greenhouse.

Orientation

the direction of the greenhouse roof relative to the sun's movement — allows growers to take best advantage of available light. During the cold months, to optimize winter growing conditions, an eastwest orientation will allow the greatest amount of sunlight to reach your orchids through the shortest days of the year. This must be balanced with the needs of your orchids, the layout of your property, trees that might shade the greenhouse, etc. For maximum year-round exposure, a greenhouse with a north-south orientation is a better choice.

The next step is critical. Provide "backup, backup, backup and alarms," says Jan Szyren, horticulturist and greenhouse coordinator for Michigan State University. As Szyren notes, an alarm system is critical for notifying growers if the greenhouse temperature should fall below a certain level, as is a backup heating system. Supplemental heating need not maintain optimal temperatures, but protect the orchids from cold damage during a power outage or unusually cold temperatures. Should disaster strike and temperatures drop, try to keep your growing area above 45° F (7° C) at minimum. Gas- or diesel-powered generators, generator fuel and long, heavy duty extension cords for heating appliances and fans to distribute the heat are available at most home-improvement centers to heat your greenhouse during an emergency. Automated systems are available; manual systems are less expensive, but require that someone be on hand to operate them.

Kerosene or propane heaters are another option for supplemental heat if the power goes off, but their fumes that can damage flowers quickly, and to a lesser extent affect plants as well. In addition, these should never be used in attached greenhouses, as the fumes are toxic to people and animals. Greenhouses in which this equipment has been used should be ventilated before being reentered.

Ann Jesup of Bristol, Connecticut adds to and emphasizes the importance of seasonal preparation — “going over the greenhouse to check for and seal any air leaks, have the alarms, furnace and heating system tested, and,” she adds, “pray that the temperatures are not going to drop (in the greenhouse, anyway ...).”

As a last resort, moving your collection or your most treasured and cold-sensitive plants indoors temporarily may be an option. While they do not provide optimal growing conditions, homes are much better equipped to keep out the cold than greenhouses. This step can make the critical difference between plant survival and plant loss, so optimal culture can be foregone for a few days until the danger of freezing passes. If your collection is too large to bring indoors in its entirety, grouping those that would be moved indoors together or marking them with a special, brightly colored, easily identifiable tag can save time and plants as temperatures drop. Plastic sheeting or tarps can protect indoor surfaces and furniture from damage from dirt and dampness that comes in with the orchids.

After the Fact

If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, don't assume that they are goners. Treat the plant as though it has just been repotted — avoid direct sunlight and high temperatures, keep the medium moist and give them a weak solution of liquid plant food with a full compliment of minor elements. When you see the beginnings of new growth sprouting, apply a very light dose of fertilizer and continue with your weekly liquid food program.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

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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.

- 00:46 Dendrobium nobile Watering technique for flowering
- 10:39 Dendrobium lindleyi Watering technique for flowering
- 14:29 Dendrobium when to cut the canes
- 16:24 Thiomyl fungicide and it's use
- 21:06 Potting medium pea gravel and lava rock
- 23:43 Recognizing a new root
- 27:02 Phalaenopsis leaf growth
- 29:37 Biological control agents and bugs
- 36:18 Insect Frass for fertilizer
- 40:19 Phragmipedium seedlings and repotting
- 43:08 Cyrtorchilum edwardii spikes drying up
- 46:19 Dehydrated Pseudobulbs
- 48:46 Watering odontoglossums water temperature
- 53:07 Humidity levels and algae
- 56:23 Potting Catasetums in horse manure

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.

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

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Show Table

| | |
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