

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
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MAR 2024

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Minute Minutes Notes from the Board

- ◆ The MOS website has been updated! Now you can
 - *Learn about our society's history*
 - *Research orchid care articles and links to reliable websites to identify orchid pests and diseases, and how to treat them*
 - *Link directly to trusted orchid vendors located throughout the US.*
 - *Catch up on old newsletters in our archives*
 - *Connect with fellow MOS members in our directory*

If you haven't visited it recently, check out the updated MOS website and discover all the new offerings helping you grow your 'chids.

Many thanks to Team Emily and Jeff, Alexis, Steve Ki, Meg and Amanda for their support and assistance with this project! - Anne

- ◆ *The Nutmeg Orchid Society Show and Sale is happening March 16th-17th. To enter your bloomers in our display, contact [Brigitte](#) for registration details.*

- ◆ We are setting aside a table at monthly meetings for members selling or buying plants and supplies. Proceeds go to the seller, or if desired, donated to MOS. Each month, Regabio virus test kits will be available for purchase at a cost of \$4.50 per kit.

- ◆ Anne has 2 new and unopened 1 Qt. bottles of First Ray's Kelpack for sale. Bought at a discount, the regular price is \$33 per bottle, but will be sold for what she paid; \$22/ea. First come, first serve.

Anne also has a large quantity of fresh Spanish moss for sale that can be broken down into 1-gallon bags or as needed. Prices TBD. Proceeds will be donated to MOS.

If you are interested in either the Kelpack or Spanish moss, email her at newsletter@massorchid.org.

Did you know the Board of Director meetings are open to all members? A member may submit a specific proposal to the President, who may add it to the agenda and then invite that member to present their proposal to the Board. The regular member's participation in discussions will be limited to the member's specific proposal.

*Become a contributor and share your orchid knowledge with others in the newsletter! Post orchid-related articles, sell your extra orchid supplies, growing equipment or arrange swaps. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org
Submissions are due 14 days prior to monthly meetings.*

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.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/massorchid, Friends of Massachusetts Orchid Society at www.friendsofmassorchid and Instagram at www.instagram.com/massachusettsorchid.



Congrats to James Lawson, who sent us these photos with the note, "One of my largest specimens, Cymbidium Ming Emperor. I've waited 5 years for her to bloom like this! So thrilled!"

James lives out in Springfield, so it's not hard to understand why his gorgeous cymbidium didn't make it to our January show table. Thanks for sharing, James!



Message from the President

Hello everyone,

Recovering from the storm-cancelled February meeting, I still feel a little like the boy who cried "wolf". Happy to miss a major winter storm, but sad to have cancelled a great talk by Jerry Kessler, that turned out to be unnecessary. We have already agreed with Jerry to reschedule his presentation.

The March meeting will feature Daryl Yerdon and Mike Badia, presenting a talk and pictures of their recent (Ecuagenera sponsored) trip to Ecuador. The pictures from their trip present a rare opportunity to see orchids in-situ.

Our annual election meeting in May is approaching and it is time to express your interest in serving on the Board. Please share you interest with any of the current board members.

See you on the 12th,
Ralph DiFonzo II
President



Welcome To Our New Members



Terry Gould of Brookline
Erick Rumbley of Boston
Liu Luus of Malden

Due to February's canceled meeting, there are no show table pictures to share with you this month. Instead, here are photos of our MOS outing to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to see the beautiful array of orchids displayed in the atrium. It was a fantastic trip and fun to meet and talk about Orchids and Art!



Left to right:
Anne, Mary Ann & Peter,
Elaine & Barry feeding treats to
Isabella's pup





Congrats to Anne and the show team for winning 1st place for display at the Amherst show

Many thanks to set-up and break down crews:
Anne, Bob F. Josh, Ron, Mike & Steve Ka.

Plant contributors:

Jeff, Brigitte, Anne, Bob & Marcia, Linda, Ron, Mary Ann, Sally, Anita, Danielle, Steve Ki. and Li-An.

*And a big shout out to Danielle, whose Phal. Jiaho's Pink Girl 'Little Miss' won the award for
"BEST SMALL PHALAENOPSIS IN SHOW"!*





UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

Orchids of Ecuador
12 Mar 2024 7:00 PM
SOI, 117 Swanton St., Winchester MA

Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show & Sale

16-17 Mar 2024

West Hartford Meeting & Conference Ctr.,
50 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

06 Apr 2024 10:30 AM
Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting

Cordelia Head of J&L Orchids
09 Apr 2024 7:30 PM
SOI, 117 Swanton St., Winchester MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

04 May 2024 10:30 AM
Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting

Beth Davis of Waldor Orchids
14 May 2024 7:30 PM
SOI, 117 Swanton St., Winchester MA

This month Daryl Yerdon and Mike Badia present “Orchids of Ecuador”

MOS members, Daryl Yerdon and Mike Badia will present an overview of their Nov. 2023 small group trip to Ecuador including photos of orchids in their natural growing environment plus other aspects of this stunningly beautiful and diverse country. Included will be orchids and photos of their travels to several high elevation cloud forests, low level tropical rain forests and everything in between. You will come away with an appreciation for beautiful Ecuador (4000+ species of orchids!) and importantly, the in-situ conditions that many of your favorite orchids and aroids grow in. Please bring your questions!



**Nutmeg State Orchid Society
“Come see our bloomers”**

March 16 at 9:00 am - March 17 at 5:00 pm

2024 MOS Meeting Program

- Mar.** Daryl Yerdon & Mike Badia
- Apr.** Cordelia Head, J&L Orchids
- May** Beth Davis - Waldor Orchids
- June** Alan Koch from Gold Country
- July** Kristin Uthus - New World Orchids
- Aug.** Summer Social or Speaker
- Sept.** MOS Annual Auction
- Oct.** Kim Feddersen - Fair Orchids
- Nov.** Dave Sorokowsky - Paph. Paradise
- Dec.** Annual Holiday Party!

Remember to pick up your raffle ticket at the membership table before each meeting. Members receive one ticket and get another for bringing in treats for the hospitality table. You'll also get a ticket for each orchid you bring in for the Show Table!

Ecotourism and Orchid Hunting in Ecuador

For many years, developing countries have promoted ecotourism as a way for indigenous people to make a living without cutting down the forests. Ecuador is particularly rich in biodiversity and has set aside 23% of its land in national parks, reserves, refuges, and recreation. In addition, the government pays private land owners to keep their acreage wild. Over 5000 species of orchids have been identified throughout Ecuador with more being discovered each year.



Orchid hobbyists will travel great distances to see their favorite plants. Ecuador has become a popular destination for Americans with a currency system in U.S. dollars and direct flights from Miami. Last month, the World Orchid Conference was held in the Ecuadorian port city of Guayaquil which further brought horticultural attention to this South American country.

Ecuador's leading expert on orchids, Pepe Portilla (www.ecuagenera.com) describes the four main areas to visit:

1. The Northern Coastal Lowlands has one of the wettest places on earth, the El Choco district, which has up to 630 inches of rain annually. The lush tropical rainforests are the perfect environment for such unusual genera as Stanhopea with its short-lived creepy pendant blooms and Dracula which Westerners refer to as the "Monkey Face Orchid." In addition, a multitude of Epidendrum species live there including Epi ilense with its cluster of dainty white blooms.

2. The Southern Coastal Lowlands are much drier and favor orchids that can hold water in their pseudobulbs during periods of drought such as Cattleyas, Encyclias, and Schomburgkias. While South America is home to nearly all the Cattleya species, only two reside in Ecuador – C iricolor and C maxima. The latter blooms in November and December and the locals refer to it as the "Flor de Navidad". Enthusiasts marvel at the enormous heads of purple flowers and accompanying foliage which can reach five feet across.

3. The Andes Mountain Range is the longest in the world and runs vertically through the middle of Ecuador with some elevations over 19000 feet. Warm air travels inland where it cools and condenses on the epiphytes. Orchid pollination is done mostly by flies and hummingbirds at this altitude. There are two rainy seasons – one from February to April and another during October and November. Among the unusual orchids found in this area are the large-flowered bright yellow Cyrtorchilums whose flower spikes can hang down 10 feet from cliffs. There are also many species of Masdevallia, Maxillaria, Odontoglossom, and Oncidium.

4. The Amazon Basin has heavy rainfall for most of the year and hundreds of species can be found in bloom at any time. Among them is Oncidium sphacelatum which is one of the building blocks of today's yellow hybrids. Mature plants are capable of producing dozens of branched inflorescences with over one thousand small blossoms. Of particular interest are the 'fields' of orangey-red lady slippers, Phragmipedium besseae, with their one to six sequential blooms. A single plant of P besseae draws a crowd at our domestic orchid shows.

Enthusiasts will be disappointed to learn that the famed Galapagos Islands which are just off the coast and are bustling with prehistoric tortoises, penguins, and sea lions, have only a handful of orchids. Nonetheless, it's a good idea to set aside time to check out this Natural World Heritage site which is on par with The Great Barrier Reef and The Grand Canyon.

When not orchid hunting, I found the local farms of Ecuador to be fascinating. The crops run the gamut of tropical fruit – banana, guava, mango, papaya, and pineapple with the most unusual being cocoa. My omniscient and thankfully bilingual tour guide, Eduardo Meneses (www.guayaquilaguidedvisit.com) demonstrated how to make pure chocolate by grinding cocoa seeds that had been dried in the sun. I will never look at Hershey bars the same way.

Ecotourists could spend weeks scouting the countryside of this delightful South American country for rare orchids. The plants are all there in protected areas and the locals are more than willing to assist with the search. Before embarking on this life changing journey, it's best to relearn high school Spanish, brush up on tropical birds, and look forward to not checking email for a while.

HILLSIDE NURSERY



Time to place orders for spring!

At this time last year, all the plants were tucked away for the winter and the ordering was in full swing, but this fall has been a lot more hectic. But we're getting there and I still managed to get the website updated more or less on time! Spring is still the smaller of our shipping seasons, so we have a limited selection of Lady Slippers and Arisaema bulbs available and we expect items to sell out quickly.

New York Botanical Garden Presents

THE ORCHID SHOW:
FLORALS IN FASHION

February 17–April 21, 2024

The 21st edition of NYBG's iconic and beloved *Orchid Show* will be a fashion-inspired celebration of all-things orchids, featuring the unique designs of Collina Strada by Hillary Taymour, Dauphinette by Olivia Cheng, and FLWR PSTL by Kristen Alpaugh. Visitors will be invited to get up close to a variety of diverse orchid species amidst dramatic, picture-perfect installations created by these three featured designers and inspired by the captivating nature of these flowering plants. On-site activations and ongoing public programs will allow visitors to "walk the orchid runway" and show off their own personal style, their love for orchids, and their fashion-forward connections to the natural world.

AOS 5th CULTURE DAY "ORCHIDS FOR ENJOYMENT" *Explore the wonders of four fascinating genera*

This Virtual Event is Available to the public.

March 3, 2024, 11:00 am – 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time

All-Day virtual seminars with four great speakers and programs. Eric Sauer, a prominent Maxillariologist from River Valley Orchids will talk about Maxillarias, George Hatfield from Hatfield Orchids will talk about growing prize winning Cymbidiums in an era of global climate change. Lourens Grobler from AfriOrchids, will talk about Angraecoids and growing them in the home. Last, Julien Baruch from Krull Smith will talk about their beautiful Phalaenopsis breeding and culture.

Join us for fun and some LOVELY prizes! To register click [here](#).

Schedule (All times EST)

11:00-11:45 am - Eric Sauer "It is not Just *tenuifolia* Anymore."

12:15 -1:00 pm - Lourens Grobler "New African Species in Cultivation and How to Grow Them."

1:30 - 2:15 pm - George Hatfield "Growing Award-winning Cymbidiums"

2:45 - 3:30 pm - Julien Baruch "Phalaenopsis Culture and Breeding"

PATTERNS IN BLOOM, AN ORCHID EXHIBITION

Sat., February 10 – Sun., March 17, 2024

At the Garden's annual orchid exhibition, immerse yourself in bright colors, bold designs, and vibrant patterns that celebrate the artistry of orchids. *Patterns in Bloom* showcases thousands of living orchids displayed in artful arrangements as well as the imaginative sculptural work of artist Molly Gambardella. Experience the creative wonder of this breathtaking orchid exhibition during daytime hours or through an exciting lineup of special events, including our Orchids After Dark series.

To read about Molly's work click [here](#).

•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.

4:00 Cattleya pseudobulb browning- rot (continued below
at 1:05.38)
10:40 Low-E glass
13:06 Problem growing Phalaenopsis
16:10 White spots on pseudobulbs and leaves of
Guarachea
20:30 Can I save my Orchid? 2-bulb division without
roots
23:10 Light Meters
28:30 Virus- what to do when they test positive
31:15 Paphiopedilum wrinkled and droopy leaves
34:42 Oncidium spotted foliage (continued below
1:10.07)
39:30 Moving plants outdoors- Oncidium
41:30 When to water a mixed collection
44:16 Dying Phalaenopsis
48:32 Leaning Orchids
51:36 Growing Phalaenopsis at an angle
1:01.44 Odd damage to Phalaenopsis leaf- Mites
1:05.38 Revisited Cattleya with no roots- How much
sunlight and water? Sphag-n-Bag
1:10.07 Revisited struggling Oncidium, what to do?

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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