
MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY



May 2010

MONTHLY MEETING
Tues. May 11th – 7:30pm

DIFFERENT LOCATION
THIS MONTH!

Arlington Senior Center
27 Maple Street
Arlington, MA 02476

The location is easily accessible from
Route 2 and there is a parking lot in back.



Photo courtesy of New World Orchids

ORCHID LIGHTING

Everyone has questions and suggestions on growing under lights vs. natural lighting. We will be having a member panel on lighting. All member images & thoughts are welcome.



Photo courtesy of New World Orchids



THANK YOU FROM BRIAN LEIB

Hi. Thanks to everyone who helped with the All New England Orchid Societies display at the Boston Flower Show Blooms. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered at the display, contributed plants to the display and those who helped set up and tear down. I would especially like to thank Florence Lewis, David Roberts, Bob Richter, the Conrad Ganns, Joan Blackett, and everyone who I seem to have forgotten....

The display was a great success and we received many wonderful comments. I hope everyone who contributed had a good time.

Thanks again

Advance Notice – June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at 7:30pm, but don't miss the picnic – June 19th!

Carri Raven-Riemann from **The OrchidPhile**, Founder, Past President and Regional Director of the **International Phalaenopsis Alliance** will be our speaker.



Summer Picnic



Saturday, June 19th

Location: Home of Bob Richter, North Reading

Bob Richter has been kind enough to open his home for our 2nd annual MOS picnic. Join your orchid loving friends for a potluck lunch and explore Bob's beautiful greenhouse filled with thousands of orchids.

The MOS will supply the Drinks, Burgers & Franks...you bring the rest. More details to follow at the meeting.



J&L Orchids' Annual Summer Sale

June 25- July 4 9-4 each day

LOTS OF GREAT NEW PLANTS!

Special Guest Vendors June 25, 26, 27

Lauris Rose of Cal-Orchid, Inc.

Carri Raven-Riemann of the orchidPhile

Culture Workshops and free picnic lunch

15% off all J&L Stock --- Special J&L Bargain Bench

Join us for some summer orchid fun

J&L Orchids 20 Sherwood Road, Easton, CT 06612

(203) 261-3772 www.jlorchids.com

In Memory of Dr. Neptune



Dr. Wilford B Neptune

Dr. Wilford B. Neptune, formerly of West Newton, MA, died on April 3, 2010, while living in Edelweiss Village, the assisted living section of Deutsches Altenheim (German House) in West Roxbury, MA. He was a retired physician who, as a member of the Overholt Thoracic Clinic, practiced thoracic and cardiovascular surgery from 1954 to 1995 at the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Neptune grew orchids from 1972 to 2007. Although his beloved wife, Ruby, had no specific interest in the plants, she was a staunch supporter of his hobby and was usually with him for orchid-related events. In addition to lecturing and publishing about their culture, Dr. Neptune frequently exhibited plants in orchid shows and garden shows throughout the Northeast. He received his first official award in 1982, when he received an AD/AOS. As an amateur hobbyist, he subsequently received 127 awards, including a

Gold Medal for culture from the Royal Horticultural Society, nine AOS Show Trophies, and 117 awards from the AOS for individual plants. Forty of these awards were for culture, of which seven had scores of ninety to ninety-six points, making them eligible for the CCE/AOS Award.

Although Dr. Neptune grew 155 different genera, his favorite of all orchids was *Dendrobium kingianum*, a species native to Australia. He had forty-two named clones of this species, and he was especially proud of his results from hybridizing the species. He crossed two of his awarded plants, 'Inferno' AM/AOS x 'Jazzy' AM/AOS, to produce 'Trident's Baby.' This clone received an FCC/AOS, which was the first such award for this species in any judging system in the world.

The following year, he received an FCC/AOS for another *Dendrobium kingianum*, 'Conference 82.' This plant had been a gift, as a division of the original plant owned by Ted Gregory of Merrellen Orchids in Australia. Mr. Gregory had previously received a Gold Medal, for Best in Show in all of Australia, for *Dendrobium kingianum*. Dr. Neptune had a variety of orchids from Australia, and most were from the Merrellen nursery, where Mr. Gregory had been hybridizing native species for forty-five years, with about ninety percent of his effort directed toward improving *Dendrobium kingianum*.

Between 2001 and 2008, Dr. Neptune donated his entire orchid collection to Smith College, in Northampton, MA, where it will be used in teaching botany, landscape architecture, and art. It will also be part of the standing collection for viewing by the public, which currently receives 60,000 visits per year.

Dr. Neptune was an honorary member of the Massachusetts Orchid Society (MOS). He received a lifetime achievement award, in 2000, from the MOS, and a similar award the following year from the Cape and Islands Orchid Society (CAIOS).

Dr. Neptune was predeceased by an infant grandson, Jason Howland. He is survived by his beloved wife, Ruby, of sixty-three years, whom he married in 1946; their children, Lenore N. Howland of Reading, MA, and Wilford Harold Neptune and his wife, Jane Morris, of Acton, MA; their five grandchildren, Seth Howland, Aaron Howland, Jocelyn Neptune, Kate Neptune, and Margaret Neptune, and a sister-in-law, Ferne Weissman, of Needham, MA.

Funeral arrangements were by Eaton & MacKay in Newton, MA. Services were private, with burial in Newton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Thoracic Foundation, in care of either Edward Martin or Bradley Cook, at The Landmark, 160 Federal Street, 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02110.

Culture of *Dendrobium kingianum*

By Dr. Wilford Neptune

Although I grow 155 genera, this is my favorite of all the orchids. It is a neat, compact, attractive plant, even when not in bloom, and it is easy to grow and rewards one with an

array of beautiful, long lasting, fragrant flowers in shades of white, white with colored lip, yellow, and plain and splash petals in mauve, pink, and purple.

This plant will grow vegetatively at any temperature, any light, and any kind of watering and feeding- but if one wishes it to bloom to its fullest potential, then it MUST be grown cool (min nite temp in autumn and winter below 50F); maximum light; lots of water when growing; and lots of food, but never in a high N ratio.

Dendrobium kingianum grows normally down to 35F (will tolerate temps down to 29F), so I put mine outside in April (Boston area), in full east sun; and it comes back inside in Nov. After blooming, all keikis are removed, as well as old flower spikes, and the new developing keikis are left on as they will remain uniform in size and will increase the amount of flowers. All dendrobies will produce keikis, however *kingianum* varies from clone to clone, and within reason this has nothing to do with culture, in contrast to *nobiles*, which make excessive keikis with too much N, or not enough sunshine. Certain clones, as 'Ruth' AM/AOS, and 'Roy' AD/AOC/QOS-HCC/AOS, produce multiple keikis, and if these are not removed after blooming the keikis make keikis, and these make keikis and soon there is a veritable weed patch. 'Karl Marx' rarely makes keikis and when it does they are small, and on removing may behave like seedlings out of flask and take 3 to 5 years to bloom; whereas the usual keiki after removal can be planted and will make a new growth, perhaps a keiki, and all will usually bloom the following season. The pot is watered enough to keep it moist, and during hot weather this may be every day. It is fed 100ppm of N/gal/wk, in a low N ratio, as 9-30-25. All are potted in a bark mix, and in plastic, Azalea type pots.

The plant is brought inside in Nov, to a cool house (min nite temp of 46F) and water is withheld until buds start to develop (6-8 weeks). At this time I spray the leaves once or twice a week, and when the buds can be recognized I resume watering the pot, once a week, and after the flowers open I resume watering to keep the plant evenly moist. I do not fertilize until the flowers are open. I have learned by trial and error that some clones can be watered the entire year, and bloom well ('Ruth' and 'Roy'); others behave as the book advises and must be dried out if they are to bloom; and this varies in both natural and outcrosses.

At the present time I have many seedling outcrosses; and 36 specific clones of *Den kingianum*, including 'Ruth', for which Louis Jaskow, of NY, received an AM/AOS in 1974, and 'Betty' on which Bob Martin, of Tennessee, received a JC/AOS in 1997. A more recent award was an AM, in 2002, to Anna Chai, in CA, for a clone she named 'Ron Parsons'. The remaining flower awards are all mine, and include 'Roy' (known as 'Roy Gill' in Australia) HCC/AOS, 'Sue' AM/AOS, 'Trident's Pinky' AM/AOS, 'Inferno' AM/AOS, 'Jazzy' AM/AOS, 'Trident's Pride' AM/AOS, 'Tunstead's Pink' AM/AOS, 'Lansdown White' CHM/AOS, 'Trident's Dream' AM/AOS, 'Trident's Happy Day' AM/AOS (which is a sibling of 'Trident's Pinky', above), 'Corrigan's Red' JC/AOS, 'Linda' AM/AOS (which is a sibling of 'Sue'), and 'Trident's Baby' FCC/AOS. This last plant is from a cross I made using two of my awarded clones, 'Inferno' x 'Jazzy', mentioned above, and this was the first award for me from a cross I had made, and also my first FCC.. In addition, I have received a CCM/AOS on 'Ruth', one on 'Betty', and two

on 'Roy' which also has an AD/AOC-QOS, in Australia, and this is the usual award given there, if any, and is for new trends in color breeding.

Many of the primary hybrids with kingianum are likewise attractive, and in my collection are Den xdelicatum 'Sarah' (a natural hybrid of kingianum x speciosum) on which I have received two CCMs/AOS, the last one being for 94pts; Den xdelicatum 'Trident's Stripes' CHM/AOS; Den xdelicatum 'Rod' HCC/AOS; and Den xdelicatum var. Ira Butler 'Trident's Snow Showers' AM/AOS. It is of interest that the only other xdelicatum listed with a flower quality award was a clone called 'Walter', awarded in 1979, and described as having a NS of 7.5Cm. This is more than twice the size of any other xdelicatum previously seen and at once raised the question of a mistake, somewhere. After searching out the picture, published with the award, it is obvious that the plant was actually Den phalaenopsis.

If the conditions can be met for the culture of this plant I believe it should be in every collection.

Below is Den kingianum 'Trident's Baby' FCC/AOS. I'm proud of this one as it is the first award I have obtained on a plant I made. I crossed 'Jazzy' and 'Inferno', on each of which I had obtained an AM, and it is on a species which is my favorite of all the orchids, and, as far as I know, the only FCC in any judging system for this species.



MEETING SHOW TABLE

Don't be shy. Bring in your blooming plants to exhibit on the show table. It's fun and informative...and you might go home with a ribbon!

RESULTS

March 2010

Den. delicatum	Sasha Varsanofieva
Den. kingianum	Nick Pavey
Oncda. Pacific Pagan "Pagan Rite"	Susan Shapiro
Onc. cheirophorum	George Baltoumas
Paph. Impulse x Cyberspace	Bob Richter
Leptotes bicolor	Bob Richter
phal. hybrid	Barbara Head
Paph. Olympian Yard x Maiden Paradise	Barbara Head
Cattleya skinneri	Elizabeth Janko
Laelia pumila	Brigitte Fortin

April 2010

Judges: Cliff Derderiam, Ralph Collins, Nick Pavey

Scribe: Linda Abrams

Leptotes, bicolor	Brandt Moran
Angraecum Andromeda	Bob Richter
Aerangis luteo alba	Nick Pavey

BE AN ACTIVE PART OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY.
VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO GET INVOLVED.



Cymbidium Lillian Stewart 'Monique', AM/AOS

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