

Next Meeting: July 10, 2007

The monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Orchid Society will be held on Tuesday, 7:30 PM at the Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA.

Massachusetts Orchid Society



June 2007

June 12th Meeting

MOUNTED ORCHIDS: FACT AND FANTASY

Harry Phillips
Andy's Orchids

Harry Phillips was born in San Diego, California on July 9, 1953. His father taught him to appreciate plants at an early age. In January of 1963, Harry's brother Andy was born. They were both exposed to exotic plants and flowers at an early age, but when Andy became interested and latter obsessed with orchids, Harry somehow resisted becoming involved with them for as long as he could. He assisted Andy in his passion by building his first two greenhouses and Andy would reward him with a hybrid that was in bloom, tell him to bring it back when it goes out of bloom, and exchange it for one in bloom. Well this would only last about a year until he decided that he wanted to keep one and get it to re-bloom, the beginning of the end.

In 1986 Harry, with his soon to be wife Leslie, moved with Andy and his orchid collection to Encinitas, California. Being constantly exposed to all of Andy's

orchids was beginning to have an effect on Harry. Shortly after, Andy left for four months to Costa Rica, and placed Harry in charge of the collection. When Andy returned he found that Harry had not killed too many plants and had managed to become even more addicted. Andy, now feeling more confident about leaving his orchid collection under Harry's care, began to plan a cycling trip through South America which ended up lasting two years. After that it was all over for Harry, he was completely addicted to orchids.

For 15 years, while holding down a full time job, Harry assisted his brother, but the last eight years have been a full time commitment. His orchid passion lies with the genera *Sobralia* and *Elleanthus*, but if you ask him which is his favorite, it will most likely be the one or ones in bloom at that time. He has traveled in Mexico and Ecuador viewing orchids in the wild. Harry believes that growing epiphytic orchids the way they grow in nature is best and the orchids seem to agree. He will share with you his experiences with growing mounted orchids, and would like to dispel the fantasy that growing mounted orchids is difficult.

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The Massachusetts Orchid Society would like to welcome new member Summer Silverman

J&L Orchids' Annual Summer Sale

June 22 - July 1 (at greenhouse only)
9 AM- 4 PM each day, including Sundays

First Weekend Special Guests
June 22, 23 & 24 only

James Rose Carri Raven-Riemann
Cal-Orchid, Inc. The orchidophile

Free Picnic Lunch First Weekend

Lots of new plants --- 15% off all J&L stock
Great Bargains!
Please join us.

J&L Orchids 20 Sherwood Road
Easton, CT 06612 (203)261-3772 email
jlorchid@snet.net www.jlorchids.com



On May 26, 2007, Gene Ketelhon, husband of society member Linda Abrams, passed away at the age of 60. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 7, 2007 at 2:00 PM in the Cabot House at Harvard University, 100 Walker St, Cambridge, MA. Gifts in his name may be made to Wellness Community-Greater Boston, 1039 Chestnut St., Newton, MA 02464

Past Issues of **Orchids** Magazine, published by the American Orchid Society, for sale @ \$0.50 each at the June MOS meeting. Proceeds go to MOS Treasury."

Anne-Marie Beauregard

Growing Woodland Slipper Orchids Outdoors

Notes from Ron Burch – May 2007 Guest Speaker

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Pro's Choice makes several sieve sizes of expanded clays for playing field and turf management. Soilmaster is the second-largest sieve. "Pro's Choice Soilmaster" from Lesco should represent a single product in this line. I am not sure if there is a Lesco store near you (they are common here in Connecticut) but if so, all of them carry this in 50 pound bags. You may also ask your local nursery/garden centers if they carry a product called "Turface." This is exactly the same material as Soilmaster made by the same manufacturer. As a brand it is common in Canada and there are a few places in the US that also carry it, mostly on the West Coast so far.

Soil Perfector is an Espoma product - most places that sell HollyTone fertilizers also carry Soil Perfector. It should be available at almost all nursery/garden centers. Several folks in MA have told me that their local nurseries sell it. It is fairly light so comes in a 27 pound bag. It may also be available as Stalite Permatil (same product by the same manufacturer) but this is often only available in large quantities - my local garden center has the 27 pound bags as Soil Perfector and 98 pound bags as Permatil.

The gravel is the "natural aquarium gravel" or if you get it from a water filtration company or garden center it will be called #3 filtration silica sand or #3 filtration quartz gravel - these are the same thing.

Coir is ground coconut husk. I buy it in "bricks" from my local hydroponics shop. Here is an online source of bricks
<http://www.3rlighting.com/hydroponics/organic/coir.html>

I think that you will find your plants doing even better in these media. Good luck!

Ron Burch

As far as cultivation in pots, either species (parviflorum var. parviflorum or reginae) can be maintained in pots and I have some of each of those species in pots. However the reginae in particular will need to be divided every couple of years

once it gets going since that species can easily achieve root span of more than three feet. The ones I have potted are in 24 inch pots. Most people nowadays try to minimize dirt in their pots or in beds. For potting these American species I suggest using a mixture of perlite, turface or similar expanded clay product, coarse sand and coir. Each of these should be readily available although turface is not a common brand in North America - although more common in Canada than the US. One of your big landscaping dealers will have it or one of the other brands - tell them you are looking for the clay gravel that absorbs water on playing fields. I would use these in a ratio similar to perlite:turface:sand:coir at 30:30:20:20. If you cannot find turface, then increase the sand somewhat. As one big Cyp grower recommends: "if in doubt add more sand."

In beds I use a similar media but increase the turface and sand rather than add perlite, which will float away over time. For the beds, especially with clay in your soil (Cyps worst enemy), dig to about 12 inches and add the medium. The plants should be set in so that the tops of the buds are about 1 cm below the surface - they tend to rot if placed lower and you will find over the years that on their own they will set their buds just at the surface. Make sure to spread the roots out roughly flat - Cyp roots grow very shallow.

Plant so that the parviflorum get about 2 hours of early or late sun and dappled shade the rest of the day. Reginae will also tolerate that but they like 3 or 4 hours of sun - they will have more flowers under sunnier conditions. Make sure the media is not allowed to dry.

During the winter you will want several inches of leaves or other mulch over the plants and rake it thinly (and carefully - remember the shallow buds) in late April to allow the buds to elongate naturally.

As for storage until spring, make sure they are refrigerated but not frozen. Make sure there is a tiny amount of water in the bags to avoid the roots drying but do not add too much water as the plants will rot. I strongly recommend not adding sphagnum - the roots will rot very quickly if the sphagnum is even slightly too moist.

Once your plants are established outside - they do very well to -40 F - they will expand every year. Once a reginae blooms the first time it will start to add several new stems each year. Some of mine that have been blooming 5 or 6 years are approaching 20 blooming stems. There are lots in cultivation with many more than that - even 80 or 100 stems on big, happy, old plants.

Good luck!

Ron Burch

CALLING ALL ORCHID GROWERS

Orchid societies' monthly show tables provide a great opportunity for members to show off their blooming plants and see what others are doing. A Judge may comment on the quality or rarity of a plant and suggest that it be brought to an AOS judging center where it may be researched in their records. Unless your plant or inflorescence was AOS judged the day before, you'll probably never know if it's awardable but one thing is certain - your plant won't be awarded if it stays at home. So, what are you waiting for?

An AOS Judging Center is a great place to see how new hybrids are blooming and what new species are coming out of the wilds or even flasks. Hybridizers, whose goal is to make better-looking flowers and plants, get to see what's working, and, what's not. All attendees get a first-hand look at the best, most unusual, and even the worst and learn what to look for and are privy to a great store of knowledge in terms of quality, unusualness and historical perspective.

Learning how to judge an orchid begins with a minimum six-year training period; but, with orchids (and orchid judging) constantly evolving, the learning process is ongoing - What was good 5, 10 or 15 years ago may be substandard today. The Judging Program affords exhibitors and judges alike with an opportunity to look at issues like this through informative presentations and lively discussions that precede plant judging. The bottom line is that Judging Centers are in place for the benefit of all orchid interests.

Your orchid society has made a contribution in your behalf to support the AOS Judging Program at the Northeast Regional Centers in Boylston MA and Elmsford NY. The great thing about orchids is that there's always something in bloom. Please bring your plants and visit us soon. We look forward to seeing you!

Rita Cohen, Chair – Elmsford NY
516-374-6426
Monthly on 3rd Saturday, 12:00 PM
The Hampton Inn
200 Tarrytown Rd
Elmsford NY

Bob Winkley, Chair – Boylston MA
617-282-7351
Monthly on 1st Saturday, 12:00 PM
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens
11 French Dr
Boylston MA
www.towerhillbg.org

Judging sessions at both locations are Free and Open to the Public - donations to the Northeast Regional Center are always appreciated. Programs usually begin at 10:15 AM. Plants submitted for judging should be registered by 11:45 AM. (There is no entry fee for judging however a nominal cost is charged to process any award. Effective 7/1/07, this \$32 by mail, \$28 by internet).

April 2007 Minutes

Massachusetts Orchid Society

Present: Manuel Garber, Peter Tishler, Bernhard Wuensch, Betsy Opitz, George Bonoff, Charles Briggs, Robert Hesse, Brian Leib

Minutes accepted

Treasurer's Report: the balance on the CD was reported as was the checking account balance (around \$16,000 and \$4200, respectively).

The auction with the April speaker raised over \$300.

Library Report: it was decided to discontinue the subscription to the Slipper Orchid Alliance and the Australian Orchid Review.

New boxes for the books in the library was approved.

Plants for society raffles: in order to ensure a supply of plants for the society, Bernhard has been authorized to purchase up to \$500 worth of plants to be held for give-aways. Reimbursement is at the discretion of the board, but it is expected his purchases will be reasonable.

The Auction is in October. We need a chair person.

Massachusetts Orchid Society Show 2007: will be at Tower Hill. Theme will be "The Great Hall of Orchids".

AOS Judging Chair is Bob Winkley.

There will be a change in the organization of the show as there will be work ongoing at Tower Hill.

New Board:

Proposed:

Treasurer: Sheila Selby

Program Chair (Appointed): Robert Richter

Ideas discussed to help encourage people to serve on the board:

To familiarize new officers with their positions, introduce board mentoring

Make sure people realize that without members taking leadership positions, our society may fail.

We would greatly benefit from 'new blood' on the board to avoid stagnation of ideas.

Prepared by: Brian Leib

Chu Jung, Membership Chairman
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Calendar of Orchid Events

Saturday, June 2	Northeast Judging- Center Boylston, MA, Tower Hill Botanic Gardens of Worcester, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA, Robert Winkley, rwinkley@aol.com
July 7	Presentations begin @ 10:00 AM. Judging begins approx. 12 PM
Tuesday, July 10	MOS Meeting, Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA, 7:30PM

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