

# Massachusetts Orchid Society



## June: Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids

### Unusual Species for the Cattleya Grower

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college, he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids.

Alan is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.

## Orchid Trivia – *Maxillaria tenuifolia*

Like *Brassavola nodosa*, *Maxillaria tenuifolia* is one of those orchids that belongs in every collection. While small plants remain compact, it may also be grown into a specimen in a rather short period of time. The grasslike foliage makes an attractive houseplant even when not in flower. Being a widely distributed species, it is adaptable to a broad range of growing conditions. Also known as the "coconut orchid", this *Maxillaria* will perfume the home or greenhouse with its coconut-scented flowers and delight family and visitors.

This species was discovered near Veracruz, Mexico by Karl Theodore Hartweg and described by Lindley in 1837 in the *Botanical Register*. It is primarily a low elevation species found from Mexico to Costa Rica at elevations up to 1500m (4921ft). The best temperature range for cultivation is warm to intermediate. The

long rhizome makes for a somewhat straggly plant that wants to "climb" out of a pot, but a good sized plant can be easily kept in a six inch pot. Basket culture is an optimal solution to accommodate this growth habit. Most elements of *Max. tenuifolia* culture are quite forgiving with the avoidance of stale or soggy media. Plants should not be watered again until dry. Fertilize along with your other orchids every week or two using a half strength solution of balanced fertilizer. Light tolerance is broad for this species and it can be grown in a bright greenhouse or with "Phals" on a windowsill. Flowering season is March-April. Flower color is typically oxblood red with a spotted lip, but yellow color forms are known to exist.

- Greg Allikas, April 2011

Read the full article here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/3e9ngvm>

## Upcoming Events

### June 7th–

Alan Koch

[www.GoldCountryOrchids.com](http://www.GoldCountryOrchids.com)

Note: 20% Off Pre-Orders (order by June 1<sup>st</sup>)

### June 18th–

MOS Picnic & BBQ

12:30pm-3:30pm

(please see page 2)

Bob Richter's Greenhouse

283 Elm Street

North Reading, MA

**Please note that the June meeting will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Tuesday in June.**



*Maxillaria tenuifolia*  
(*Maxillariella tenuifolia*)

The Coconut Orchid

## MOS Board

### President –

Sasha Varsanofieva  
[sasha@massorchid.org](mailto:sasha@massorchid.org)

### Vice President –

Lynn Hennessey  
[lynn@massorchid.org](mailto:lynn@massorchid.org)

### Secretary –

Nick Pavey  
[nick@massorchid.org](mailto:nick@massorchid.org)

### Treasurer –

Jody Maggio  
[jody@massorchid.org](mailto:jody@massorchid.org)

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Brian Leib (Past President)  
[brian@massorchid.org](mailto:brian@massorchid.org)

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Linda Abrams  
[linda@massorchid.org](mailto:linda@massorchid.org)

Susan Flier  
[susan@massorchid.org](mailto:susan@massorchid.org)

## Committee Chairs

### Membership –

Susan Flier  
[membership@massorchid.org](mailto:membership@massorchid.org)

### Newsletter –

[newsletter@massorchid.org](mailto:newsletter@massorchid.org)

### Annual Show –

Joanna Eckstrom  
[show@massorchid.org](mailto:show@massorchid.org)

### Program –

[speakers@massorchid.org](mailto:speakers@massorchid.org)



*Miltonia hybrid*



Show table  
photography by  
Brigitte Fortin.

Masdevallia  
Machu Pichu  
'Crown Point' AM/AOS

## Membership

It's that time of the year... again!

MOS Membership dues for 2011-2012 are due July 1, 2011. If you haven't already done so, please send your \$20 annual dues to

Susan Flier  
27 Colchester Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

OR bring your cash/check payment to the June monthly meeting or MOS Picnic.

Please renew your membership today!

Welcome to New  
MOS Member

*Paula Athanasion,  
Winchester, MA*

## MOS Picnic & BBQ – June 18th

Time: 12:30pm-3:30pm      Bob Richter's Greenhouse  
Hot Food Served: 1pm-2pm      283 Elm Street, North Reading, MA

Bob Richter has been kind enough to open his home for a picnic. Join us for a barbecue and potluck lunch and explore Bob's beautiful greenhouse filled with thousands of orchids.

The MOS will provide drinks, hot dogs, and hamburgers. **Please RSVP by Saturday, June 11th** so we know how much food to buy. Look for an Evite in your mailbox. If you do not receive one, please RSVP to [sasha@massorchid.org](mailto:sasha@massorchid.org)

Please note: To give our grill masters time to enjoy the event, the grill will run from 1pm-2pm.

The rest of the food is up to you! Suggested dishes (by first letter of last name) are:

- **A-F** Desserts
- **G-L** Appetizers / Chips & Dip
- **M-Z** Salads

Spouses, significant others and orchid friends are welcome!



An occasional column answering questions and providing orchid growing information. Some of this information is derived from the AOS member site and some from fellow MOS members. I've been growing orchids for about eight years, still a beginner, and this is a good way to learn and share. To keep the column lively and timely, please contribute your questions and comments to [joan@massorchid.org](mailto:joan@massorchid.org)

## Ask Joan

**Oops:** Last month I wrote about treatments for mealy bugs. Thanks to Peter Tishler for calling attention to my error:

"Dear Joan: You mentioned the use of denatured alcohol as a topical treatment. This is ethyl alcohol. I have read that rubbing alcohol, which is isopropyl alcohol, should be used and not ethyl alcohol. I use only the rubbing alcohol, and have not subjected this to study. However, the rubbing alcohol is safe and effective."

**Q.**

Dear Joan: I'd like to try putting my orchids outdoors this summer. What should I pay attention to?

**A.**

Orchids love to be outdoors in the summer; they love the fresh air, the breezes, the rains. Think 50 degrees and higher. Do you have a balcony, a roof, a porch, an overhang, a deck or trees? Look for dappled light. Even outdoor shade is likely to be brighter than inside your home. Protect your plants from

strong or direct sun, high winds and the occasional hail that might come from a storm. I've used an umbrella to provide temporary shade when I first put out my orchids. The plants need to be up off the ground, lest slugs and other pests find their way to them. Construct a bench from cinder blocks or bricks and board or use chairs or plastic tables. Or if you can, hang some from trees.

There is a difference of opinion about putting out phalaenopsis and paphs because rain may sit in the crown and cause rot. For that matter, it's important for the orchids to have good drainage, so that the roots do not sit in water from your hose or from the rain. In the heat of summer, your orchids may need to be watered twice a day, depending on the size and type. Remember too, that some like to dry out between waterings. Cool growing orchids may need special treatment. Fertilizing should be on your regular schedule. Insect spray may be needed. Be ready to improvise, as you observe and adjust to maximize the benefits that nature provides. Chances are you'll be pleasantly surprised.

## Culture Notes for the Northern Grower - Masdevallia

Masdevallias are the miniature jewels of the orchid family frequently covered with a cloud of white, yellow, purple, orange or red flowers. Native to the cloud forests of the higher altitudes of the Andes Mountains, they are not the easiest of orchids to grow, with their requirements for cool temperatures and high humidity, good air movement and perfect drainage.

- Pot in a fine medium. Fir bark mixtures are best, with 0.5 to 1.0 cm chunks of bark, perlite and charcoal. Add moss if watering frequency cannot maintain required level of moisture. In larger pots use larger mix (1.5 – 2.0 cm) in all but top 4 inches of pot.
- Repot annually, preferably in the autumn, to ensure that the medium does not break down. Masdevallia require continuous moisture but cannot tolerate a decaying mix – the roots must always get air as well as water.
- Roots should be moist at all times. Ideally, the plant is watered each morning, and has dried to dampness by evening. Grow in small pots for the plant size, to promote this rapid drying cycle. Add moss to mix if watering frequency

cannot maintain constant moisture.

- Low to medium light levels are appropriate. Leaves should be firm, not long and floppy (more light needed).
- One to three hours of sunshine on windowsill (East recommended) or 6-12 inches under a two tube fluorescent fixture.
- Be careful of rot – good air movement is essential.
- Delicate leaves do not react well to most pesticides – use extreme caution.
- Masdevallia do best with 70 - 90% humidity but when mature will grow and bloom, although more slowly, in somewhat lower humidity.
- Masdevallia grow in cooler temperatures than most orchids. Different species require different degrees of coolness:
  - Cool: (50°F nights, maximum 68°F days) *coccinea*, *decumana*, *igneae*
  - Intermediate: (55°F nights, maximum 73°F days) *herradurae*, *strobilii*, *veitchiana*
  - Warm (61°F nights, maximum 79°F days) *floribunda*, *tonduzii*, *tovarensis*
  - For all ensure 11-22°F day/night difference to aid flower formation.



### Canadian Orchid Congress Culture Notes

The notes at left are excerpted from the COC notes. If you haven't tried these yet, I highly recommend them.

Complete Masdevallia notes: <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/cculture/masdevallia.pdf>

Other genera: <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/cculture/>

## April Show Table Results

(35 Plants Displayed, 20 Plants Awarded)

Plant	Owner
Slc. June Bug	Brandt Moran
Dendrobium unicum	John Miller
Hmtn. Golden Harry	John Miller
Wils. Goldrush x Odcdm. Crowborough	John Miller
Onc. Chrysomorphum x Oda. (Glynedebourne Cherubino x Weavside Pattern)	John Miller
Paph. Deperle	Joel Shelkrot
Masd. Machu Pichu 'Crown Point' AM/AOS	Bill Wisneski
Paph. Macabre x Nighthawk	Bill Wisneski
Den. loddigesii	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Cattleya intermedia	Bill Wisneski
Phal. Lava Glow	Pam Swearingen
Angraecum scottianum	Nick Pavey
Cattleya loddigesii (basket)	Bill Wisneski
Laelia purpurata (basket)	Brandt Moran
Lycaste aromatica	Brandt Moran
Angraecum florulentum	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Dend. griffithianum	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Masd. coccinea (basket)	Bill Wisneski
Miltonia hybrid	Jen Fuchel
Calanthe rubens	Ralph & Chieko Collins

We kindly request that show table plants be set up for judging by 7:15pm.



Dendrobium griffithianum



Phal. Lava Glow



Cattleya loddigesii



Dendrobium loddigesii



Slc. June Bug



Onc. Chrysomorphum X Oda. (Clenedebourne Cherubino X Weavside Pattern)



Dendrobium unicum



Basket of Masdevallia coccinea



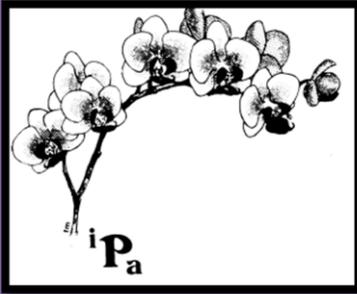
Lycaste aromatica



Paph. Macabre X Nighthawk



Angraecum scottianum



## INTERNATIONAL PHALAENOPSIS ALLIANCE

### “FOCUS ON PHALS” DAYS

SEPTEMBER “DOUBLE-  
HEADER” WEEKEND  
FOR NEW ENGLAND &  
NEW YORK

This fall, on September 10 & 11, 2011, the New England and New York/Eastern Canada Regions of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) will be hosting, in conjunction with two local AOS affiliated societies, a two-day double-header for their annual “Focus on Phals” day – a fun and informative day-long event with old friends and new.

On Saturday, September 10, we will be in Bedford, New Hampshire, providing the program and sharing the day with the regular monthly meeting of - and in cooperation with - the New Hampshire Orchid Society.

And on Sunday, September 11, we will be in the Colonie, NY area, near Albany, in cooperation with the North Eastern New York Orchid Society (one of two possible venues to be determined depending on the number of Registrants).

Our Keynote Speaker for each event will be Norman Fang of Norman's Orchids who will cover in-depth culture of the Phalaenopsis orchid in “*The Changing Face of Moss Culture: Tips for Success*”. With so many Phals now being sold in New Zealand moss, which is packed into the pots tighter than a brick, Norman will cover all the elements of caring for and being successful with this new approach to growing these Phals to perfection – a presentation that is not to be missed.

Our second guest speaker will be Carlos Fighetti, Immediate Past President of the AOS and current First Vice President of the IPA. He will be speaking on “*Phal Species & Their Variants: Are They or Not?*” With so many new forms of the species being shown now, he will explore the question of whether they are actually a species or a hybrid.

Our third speaker, Carri Raven-Riemann of the orchidPhile, will give a brief overview of the newest directions in breeding in Taiwan as seen at the recent March 2011 TIOS Show in Taiwan. We're also currently exploring the possibility of having AOS judging of the show tables at each meeting.

Each day will begin in the morning with a continental breakfast, followed by presentations given by Carlos and Carri, a light lunch, a review of the show table and a mini auction of select plants to help defray the speakers' expenses. The afternoon session will begin with our Keynote Speaker, Norman Fang, and finish with a round-table in-depth discussion of culture.

Guest vendors will include Norman's Orchids, the orchidPhile and Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies (Pre-Orders from all three vendors will be made available at a later date).

Registration Forms are now available for each event. The minimal Registration Fee is just to cover the expense of the food we provide for each event. Therefore, it will be imperative to register your intention to join us at a specific location so enough food and chairs can be provided for all who wish to attend. For this reason, we will not be taking any additional Registrations a week before either event (September 2).

If you would like the registration e-mailed directly to you, please send your request to:

Adrienne Giovino - [ipa.adrienne@gmail.com](mailto:ipa.adrienne@gmail.com) (please mention IPA Regional Meeting in the subject line)

Or download the form here: <http://www.phal.org/PDF%20Docs/NHOS2011.pdf>

We're really excited about this new approach to holding our annual Regional get-togethers and hope to see many of you there. Our special thanks go to the two co-hosting societies who have so generously invited us to share this day with them.

For more information about the IPA please visit: [www.phal.org](http://www.phal.org)

## Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Sat, June 4, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, <b>June 7</b> , 7:30pm <b>(first Tuesday in June)</b>	Monthly MOS Meeting	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
<b>Sat, June 18, 12:30pm-3:30pm</b>	MOS Picnic (please see page 2)	Bob Richter's Greenhouse
Sat, July 2, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Sun, July 10	Connecticut OS Picnic Special guest Robert Fuchs of <a href="http://www.RForchids.com">www.RForchids.com</a>	TBA
Tue, July 12, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, August 6, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, August 9, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA

**Join us for the MOS Picnic on June 18<sup>th</sup>!**



**Massachusetts  
Orchid Society**

