
MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY



March 2011

MONTHLY MEETING TUES. MARCH 8th – 7:30PM

Our guest speaker will be Howard Ginsberg from Bedford Orchids,
speaking on Mini-Catt. breeding.



Blc. Great Hero 'Black Hole'

Howard Ginsberg is an accredited AOS judge in the Northeast Judging Centre (the first accredited judge north of Albany, N.Y. and east of Toronto, Ontario). He began growing orchids in 1977, at which time he tried growing many genera. Since then, his focus has narrowed to Phalaenopsis exclusively, although he admits to loving Mini-catt breeding with Sc. Beaufort.

He has spoken to orchid societies across North America and has participated in AOS judges' training at several centers and has also been a featured speaker at AOS Trustees meetings. He has written several articles for the Orchid Digest and the IPA Newsletter. He runs Bedford Orchids in addition learning Mandarin and speaking around the continent. Visit the web site for a preview. <http://www.bedfordorchids.com/>



Photo courtesy of Bedford Orchids

LET THE NHOS SHOW GO ON!

After originally being canceled, the 20th annual New Hampshire Orchid Show got a second chance and was held at its scheduled time and place February 11 - 13, 2011. 'Celebrate Orchids' turned out to be one of their most successful shows. Great job New Hampshire! The Massachusetts Orchid Society display won the 3rd place ribbon for society exhibits. I would like to thank the people who gave plants for our display on behalf of the MOS. Brian Leib, Betty Levine, Linda Abrams, Nick Pavey, Ralph and Chieko Collins and Bob Richter. Our display received many 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons. The most notable was Linda Abrams plant EPC Yucatan 'Richella' which not only got a 1st and 2nd place individual ribbon but won 'Best Plant In Show' for growing under lights! Congratulations Linda. I had six plants of my own in the display which got a total of nine ribbons. Why put your plants on display? Just ask Nick Pavey who reluctantly gave me his Den. kingianum and won his first AOS judged 1st place ribbon. He can't wait for the next show. A very special thanks to Bob Richter for coming to set up with totes full of blooming orchids and spending the day helping with the display. Just a note- 95% of the display belonged to Bob! I thank you again and the MOS thanks you. George Baltoumas

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

APRIL

Bob Aldrich speaking on “How to Grow Orchids in the Home Environment”

“We have been collecting and raising orchids for fifteen years at The Inn at Weston. The greenhouse contains this large and varied collection. It is one of the largest private collections in the Northeast, containing over 375 unique species, hybrids, and mericlones and over 600 plants altogether. Some plants are huge, others are miniatures. Some are potted, others mounted on bark, tree fern or tree branches simulating the way they grow and thrive in nature. Phalaenopsis, vanda alliance, cattleya, laelia, oncidium alliance, bulbophyllum, paphiopedulum, miltonia, dendrobium, masdavellia, cymbidium and many rare species are all represented.”



Greenhouse Interior, photo courtesy of

The Inn at Weston

MAY

Harold Koopowitz speaking on “Creating the new mini paphiopedilums”

Harold grew up in South Africa where he attended university majoring in both Botany and Zoology. He then completed a doctorate at UCLA in California in 1968. A professor at the University of California at Irvine since graduating he was also the Director of the UCI Arboretum for twenty years. He is Professor Emeritus of Biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCI, where he did research on conservation and ecology.

He is well known for his work on slipper orchids, both species and hybrids and is author of several books and a large number of research papers. His most recent books include “*Orchids and their Conservation*”, “*Clivias*” and now “*Tropical Slipper Orchids*” for Timber Press. He is currently working on a new introductory book on slipper orchids as well as one on “*Autumn Flowering Daffodils*”. Harold is Editor Emeritus of the *Orchid Digest*. He also writes fiction.

Harold is also very interested in other plants and also breeds daffodils and has an international reputation as a breeder of miniature daffodils. For many years he was a partner in Paphanatics, unLimited with Norito Hasegawa. He still grows and breeds paphiopedilums especially miniature hybrids.



Photo courtesy of Harold Koopowitz

MOS Show Table Results

February 8th, 2011

Den. kingianum Nick Pavey
Den. Sea Mary "Snow King" Chieko and Ralph Collins
Epc. Yucatan 'Richella' Linda Abrams
Cym. hybrid Carol McClennen

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 plus a photo of your plant in the MOS Newsletter! You also get an extra raffle ticket for a chance to win a plant☺

Margot Lafferty has 3 light carts for sale, 3 tiers each, 7 trays. She is moving and needs to sell them by mid March. 617-244-3416.
percivalm@comcast.net

Monthly Checklist for March and April

Courtesy of the AOS

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers.

The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with *fairieanum* background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis

spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



Shown above: C. Tropical Pointer 'Suwada' HCC/AOS. Hybrid by Suwada Orchids; grown by Canaima Orchids. Photo © Greg Allikas

“Coffee Table”

Please bring a treat for the Hospitality Table!

Members who do bring a treat will be given an extra raffle ticket😊

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



Cymbidium Lillian Stewart 'Monique', AM/AOS

Visit us at:
www.massorchid.org

Susan Flier
Massachusetts Orchid Society
27 Colchester Street
Brookline, MA 02446