

Massachusetts Orchid Society



November: Ray Barkalow

Topic: Growing Orchids in Hydroponics

My orchid growing began in college. After about a year of volunteering my time at a public greenhouse, the orchid grower there gave me a big, "floofy" purple Cattleya.

It took me about two years to kill it via the typical root rot-desiccation cycle torture, and at the time, I simply "did not kill plants," so I was determined to learn more and got addicted like everyone else. Needless to say, in the 35+ years since, I've learned that I am a very effective plant killer...

During my professional career, I have

had many opportunities to travel internationally, and put together an extensive collection of orchids from around the world. That travel schedule led to a great deal of experimentation surrounding keeping plants healthy and happy during my absences, and that's what led to the development of Semi-Hydroponics.

The best part about the exposure that First Rays has given me is the ability to communicate with folks from around the world on the fascinating subject of orchids. Sharing the obsession is second only to growing the plants.

A New England Rainforest – MOS Show & Sale

Fri November 4, 1-5pm

Sat November 5, 9am-5pm

Sun November 6, 9am-4pm

Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

Speaker/Event schedule:
www.massorchid.org/show



Admission free to MOS and THBG members. **Don't forget your membership badge!**

We are still seeking volunteers to help out with the hospitality table. It's a fun way to spend a couple of hours and get to know some of your fellow society members. If you'd like to help out, please contact Joan Blackett – joan@massorchid.org

It's also not too late to sponsor a trophy. All sponsorships are tax deductible. Please e-mail show@massorchid.org to sponsor.

Trophy list:
www.massorchid.org/default.aspx?pageid=700028

We hope you join us for the beautiful event!

Upcoming Events

November 4-6 –

*A New England Rainforest
MOS Annual Show & Sale*

www.massorchid.org/show

See page 5

November 8th –

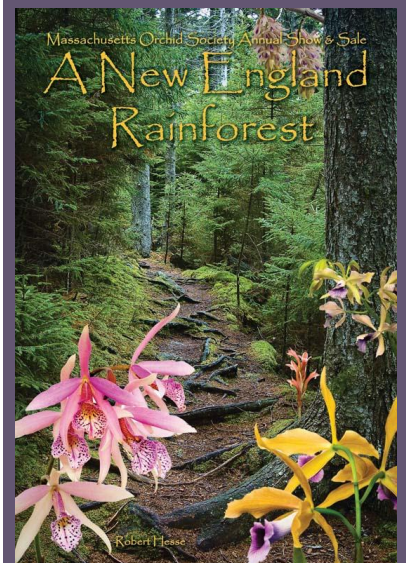
Speaker: Ray Barkalow

Topic: Hydroponics

Website: www.firstrays.com

December 13th –

MOS Holiday Party



MOS Board

President –

Nick Pavey

nick@massorchid.org

Vice President –

Sasha Varsanofieva

sasha@massorchid.org

Secretary –

Joan Blackett

joan@massorchid.org

Treasurer –

Jody Maggio

jody@massorchid.org

Directors –

Adrienne Giovino

adrienne@massorchid.org

Brigitte Fortin

brigitte@massorchid.org

Derek Scuteri

derek@massorchid.org

Linda Abrams

linda@massorchid.org

Susan Flier

susan@massorchid.org

Committee Chairs

Membership –

Susan Flier

membership@massorchid.org

Newsletter –

Sasha Varsanofieva

newsletter@massorchid.org

Annual Show –

Joanna Eckstrom

show@massorchid.org

Program –

Brigitte Fortin,

Sasha Varsanofieva

speakers@massorchid.org



Show table
photography by
Nick Pavey.

Oberonia
setigera

Membership

If you haven't paid your 2011-2012 annual dues, please do so ASAP!

To continue receiving the MOS newsletter and for free admission to the annual show please send your dues to:

Susan Flier
27 Colchester Street, Brookline, MA 02446

Or bring you dues to the Nov 8th meeting.

MOS Welcomes New Members

**Andrew Thompson & Meredith
Caruso, Allston, MA**

Joseph Glidden, Preston, CT

Susan Mehlin, Wenham, MA

Alvin Kho, Boston, MA

**David & Jacqueline
Fleishman, Sharon, MA**

MOS Annual Auction – Thank You!

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Massachusetts Orchid Society Auction! It was a big success with almost \$2000 raised!

I would especially like to thank Adrienne, Tracy, Bob Richter, Bernie, and Matt Swift who all stepped up as auctioneers (with a special thanks to Tracy who auctioned all night!), Kathy and Cliff for the fantastic food, Susan Flier, Linda Abrams, Jody Maggio, and Brigitte for clerking and Elizabeth for running the plants! Thank you to everyone who came early to help setup and stayed late to help clean up afterwards.

I would also like to thank all those who folks who donated and bought plants! Without you, the fundraiser wouldn't

have worked!

If I forgot to mention you here and you helped in any way, thank you!!!!

- Brian Leib, Auction Chair



Ascda. Motes Hot
Chestnut





Ask Joan

Q

Hello Joan, in the spring you suggested taking the orchids outdoors. I did. And they are looking pretty good. But it will soon be time to bring them in. When? How? What shall I do?

A

September/October is the time to bring them in. Watch the temperatures. When it falls below 60 for a few nights running, they should be brought in. Dendrobiums like it cool, so do Miltonia. Catts and Oncidiums should be in by 55 degrees and mini Cyms by 50 degrees. Standard Cyms and Kingianums like a longer chill and can probably stay out til Thanksgiving. Ideally most of your orchids should be in the house before the heating system goes on.

There's a little routine you should follow too. Inspect and de-bug. Soak the pot for 15 minutes or hose it off. Use a favorite spray to get rid of spiders and other unwanted plant residents. A few

grains of Sluggo atop the medium will take care of slugs.

Do you need to repot a plant because the medium is rotted, soft or smelly? Are there lots of roots outside of the pot? In fine bark, they should be repotted every year; if they are in medium bark, they can be repotted every two years. Repot the orchid and put the roots back into the pot.

Do you have a max-min thermometer to gauge the day time-night time temperature differences in your growing area? They are available at the big box stores for ten dollars. Chances are you will get your plants ready for a winter rest with less water and little fertilizer. Ask me more.

Here is a local resource for your home growing needs: www.gyostuff.com They are located in Cambridge and though they specialize in hydroponics, they have lights and other equipment we need.

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

Orchid Trivia: An Urban Orchid

My dad had heard of an orchid that grew west of town on the cypress trees. We went out looking and had no trouble at all finding the "butterfly orchid". They were plentiful on small cypress trees growing in open bogs. Even large specimens could be found at eye-level on the 20' tall trees. I was thrilled at having a real orchid-in-the-wild so accessible.

This orchid can be found as far north as Orlando and ranges into the Bahamas and Cuba. This is an extremely variable orchid in addition to being a highly adaptable one. One authority has suggested that this might not represent a valid species, but a hybrid swarm between two other taxons. This concept would help explain the variation in the plants and flowers.

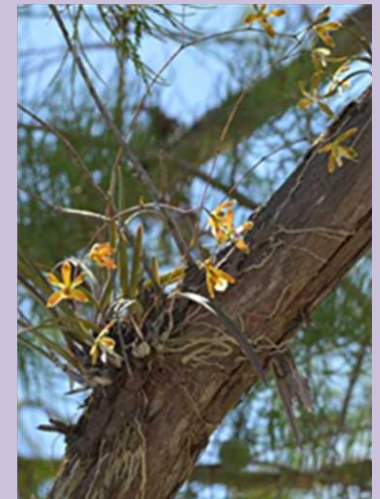
Pseudobulbs can be marble-sized and bear one 4" leaf or the size of a small onion and have two or three leaves each a foot long. Flowers too,

may be variable, with the typical example being tan to olive in color. The mid lobe of the lip is white and has a distinctive magenta spot in the middle.

Alba and semi-alba forms featuring clear apple-green sepals and petals are rare and coveted and often used in breeding. The inflorescence may be short and have just a few flowers or a foot or two long and have 20 or more flowers. Except in immature specimens, they are almost always branched. The 1" flowers have a sweet, honey-like fragrance from morning to mid-afternoon. Although the orchid is not especially fussy and will grow on oak, buttonwood and pond apple, the preferred host by far is cypress.

What am I? Find out at the bottom of page 4.

More about Greg Allikas' experience: http://aos.org/images/img_content/tampensis/index.html



An Urban Orchid

Photo:
<http://aos.org/Default.aspx?id=301>

October Show Table Results

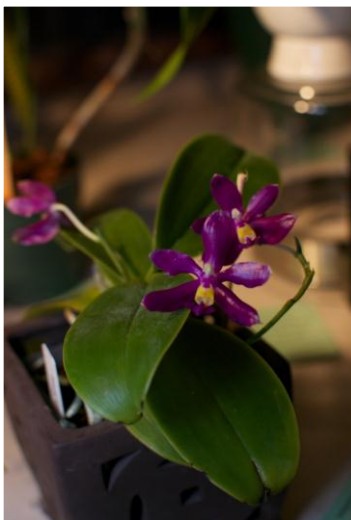
35 Plants Displayed, 14 Plants Awarded

Judges: Jody Maggio, Bob Richter, Joan Gifflin

Scribe: Brigitte Fortin

Plant	Owner
Trichoglottis brachiata var. philipinensis	Bob Richter
Cochleanthes Amazing	Bob Richter
Blc. Pamela Hetherington 'Coronation' FCC/AOS	Bob Richter
Blc. Jeremy Island 'Carmela' HCC/AOS	Bob Richter
Ascofinetia Twinkle	Bob Richter
Phal. violacea 'Red' x 'Harvey'	Bob Richter
Phal. violacea 'Gulfstream Blue' x self	Bob Richter
Oberonia setigera	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Thecopus secunda	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Sophronitis cernua	Sasha Varsanofieva
Encyclia cochleata 'Belize'	Warren & Susie Wheelwright
Blc. Lime Cooler 'Krull-Smith'	Brigitte Fortin
Phal. lueddemanniana pulchra 'Pul's Gift'	Pam Swearingen
Dendrochilum cobbianum	Nick Pavey

In an effort to get our meetings started by 7:30, we kindly request that show table plants be ready for judging by **7:15pm.**



Phal. lueddemanniana pulchra "Pul's Gift"



Trichoglottis brachiata var. philipinensis



Miltonia Moreliana



Sophronitis cernua



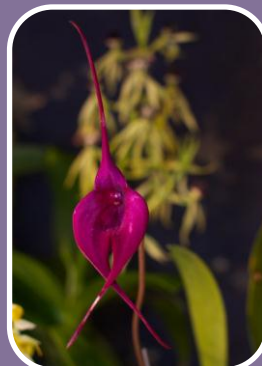
Dendrobium Illusia



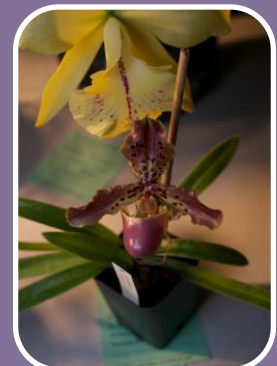
Blc. Memoria Roselyn Reisman



Cochleanthes Amazing



Masd. Machu Pichu



Paph. henryanum

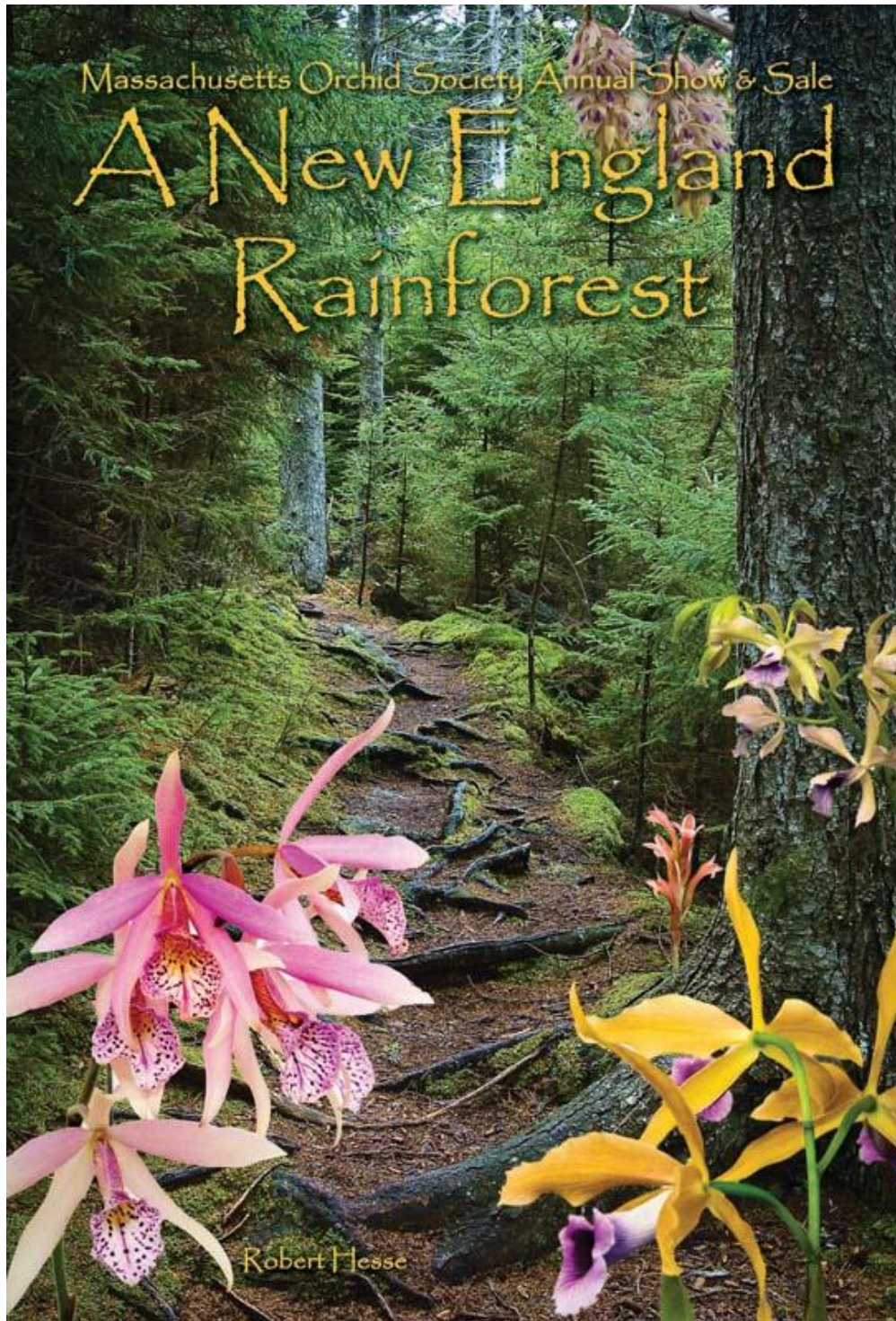
Orchid Trivia Answer: Encyclia tampensis

A NEW ENGLAND RAINFOREST

Massachusetts Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale

Fri November 4, 1-5pm
Sat November 5, 9am-5pm
Sun November 6, 9am-4pm

Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
www.massorchid.org/show



Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Fri-Sun, November 4-6	"A New England Rainforest" MOS Annual Show & Sale www.massorchid.org/show	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Sat, November 5, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, November 8, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting Speaker: Ray Barkalow	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, December 3, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, December 13, 7:30pm	MOS Holiday Party	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA

MOS Holiday Party

Tuesday December 13th, 7:30pm

Let's have some fun. Bring your food, your orchids, and holiday cheer.
Turkey, ham and drinks will be provided by MOS. The rest is up to you! Potluck by first letter of your last name, but if you have a favorite dish please bring it!

A-F: Desserts

G-L: Appetizers

M-Z: Salads



**Massachusetts
Orchid Society**

