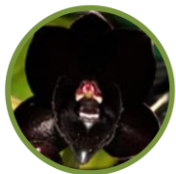


Massachusetts Orchid Society



August: Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

**Topic: *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes*,
Catasetums - Recent Trends**

Catasetum, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or "botanical," of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect.

These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions.

Commercially, *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* (or 'Swan' orchids) and *Mormodes* (or 'Goblin' orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of

Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobiums*, *Epidendrums*, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

This talk will feature some of the new hybrids and breakthroughs in the hybridization of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, and *Mormodes*.

Fred is offering a 10% discount for pre-orders with free shipping. Go to www.SunsetValleyOrchids.com to place your order.



Next Month: Premium Plant Auction

Since the MOS has held 3 auctions in the last 12 months, the MOS Board has made the decision to do something a little different and make this year's annual auction into a premium plant auction. We will auction off only quality plants that we have purchased from vendors around the US.

Members are welcome to contribute special plants, but we ask that they be pest and disease free.

A plant list will be available here: www.massorchid.org/auction and will be updated as we receive plants from vendors.

Upcoming Events

August 14 –

MOS Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Fred Clarke

www.SunsetValleyOrchids.com

September 11 –

MOS Annual Plant Auction

Plant list:

massorchid.org/auction

October 9 –

MOS Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Bob Winkley

Topic: Grooming Plants for Shows

November 2-4 –

MOS Annual Show

"Orchid Jubilee"

Celebrating 60 Years of MOS



MOS Board

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sasha@massorchid.org

Vice President –

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Annual Show –

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Program –

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Adrienne Giovino,
Sasha Varsanofieva
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Show table
photography by
Brigitte Fortin.

Brassia
signata

Membership

2012-2013 membership dues were due July 1st. Please renew your membership if you haven't done so!

Did you know you can now pay for your membership online using PayPal? - log into your account on www.massorchid.org - click "View Profile" - click the "Renew" button.

Or send your dues (\$25 individual/\$30 dual) to: Adrienne Giovino, 47 Spellman Rd, Westwood, MA 02090

Or pay in cash or check at a meeting.

MOS Welcomes
New Member

Denise Richard,
Springfield, MA

Last Call - 2012 Focus on Phals Day

In just six short weeks, on **September 8th** the New England and New York/Eastern Canada Regions of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) will be hosting their Second Annual "Focus on Phals" Speakers' Day—a fun and informative day-long event with IPA members and non-members alike. We will be in Bedford, New Hampshire sharing the day with the regular monthly meeting of the New Hampshire Orchid Society.

Our Keynote Speaker is Ron McHatton, PhD, AOS Director of Education and Chief Operating Officer, speaking on "New Approaches to Pest & Disease Control," a brilliant presentation that applies to all orchid growers, giving them new insight into these problems with new ways to control them—a fabulous talk that is not to be missed!

Our second guest speaker is Carlos Fighetti, Immediate Past President of the AOS and

current President of the IPA. He will be speaking on "Phal Species & Their Variants: Are They or Not?" With so many new and improved forms of Phal species being shown now, he will explore the question of whether they are actually a species or a primary hybrid.

Our third speaker, Carri Raven-Riemann, New England Regional Director, past IPA President and owner of the orchidPhile, will present "The Best, the Brightest, the Smallest—New Breeding Directions for 2012" with a special emphasis on the newest brilliantly colored novelties and adorable space-saving Micro-Minis currently being bred in Taiwan.

Registration forms for both events are available for download from www.phal.org/events.htm. The minimal Registration Fee covers food expenses. Therefore, it's important to send in your registration by **September 3rd** so enough food and chairs can be provided.



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

Ask Joan

Q: At the MOS Kubick Auction last month I got a couple of *Phragmipediums*. I've never had any before. They are often lumped with *paphs*, so I thought I might be able to grow them. Am I right? What can you tell me?

A: I bid on and won a couple of phrags too and since they are new to me also, we will be learning together. Please give me feedback and suggestions so we can all share in successful growing of these interesting plants.

I've done a little research on the web and in the Koopowitz book, (*Tropical Slipper Orchids*) and this is what I've found. Koopowitz lists the *phragmipedium* as one of five slipper orchid genera found in the New World, with 15 species of *Phragmipedium*. They have been widely hybridized and hybrids grow faster and are much more easy of culture than the species. Phrags can be terrestrial, lithophytic or epiphytic. We think of them as liking to always be wet and that is because many of the species grow in the splash zone of waterfalls and on stream banks. They tolerate a range of light conditions, but seem to flower more often with light as bright as that for *cattleyas*. They

are intermediate growers but beseeae (that gorgeous orange-red, originally from Peru) and *schlimii*, prefer cooler temps. You know if you have those. Humidity should be above 50 percent. *Caudatum* types (long petalled, with thick and hard leaves) are most tolerant of less humidity but the roots should remain moist. Constant air circulation is very important, as is a good quality water. Weakly, weekly is the formula for fertilizer, with a blossom booster used in fall and winter.

I have a Phrag Praying Mantis, a *caudatum*-type hybrid, described as robust, with large flowers, and a little Phrag. *Schroederiae*, which is a *caudatum* first registered in 1882. Right now they are outdoors in good sunlight, sitting on pebbles in a shallow tray. They came potted in bark that looks relatively new and fresh. I water every two days, with a weak dose of MSU fertilizer. They look okay, and I've noticed a little growth; I assume they are adapting. Patience and research. I refer you to an excellent article on the web which I found when I was preparing this column: www.schordje.com Happy growing.

Orchid of the Month: *Ponerorchis (Orchis) graminifolia*

Ponerorchis graminifolia is a very variable species with grass-like leaves up to 14 cm long and less than a cm wide - they look like the leaves of young *Dactylorhiza* species. Most of the specimens have a flower with a white or pale purple background and purple/blue accents, with varying degrees of contrast. The botanical species is rather dull: a few dozen small (1/2" tall and 1/4" wide) flowers on the inflorescence. The species is not frost-hardy but rather easy in cultivation. They are often placed in the genus *Orchis*. One of the characteristics is the white/grey woolly tubers.

The cultivars are collectively called "Uchouran", they do not have a long tradition of cultivation outside Japan. Inside Asia however they have a rich history of which the roots are difficult to date back. The peak of Uchouran culture in Japan occurred in the 1960's - many of today's popular cultivars were created at that time. Today they are grown by a rather small intimate group of enthusiasts in Japan.

Uchouran can be grown in a variety of free-draining soilmixes, and is particularly suited for pot culture. Plant the tuber 1" (2.5 cm) deep and place the pot in a semi-shaded or bright location but avoid direct sunlight. The temperatures should follow a temperate swing: in the Summer around 22°C day and

15°C night and in the Winter around 5°C - they are not frost-hardy and love long warm Summers but are mostly grown in the alpine or cool orchidhouse. The shoot starts to grow in March and flowering is from mid-May to mid-July. The flowers last up to a month, after they have dropped the plant remains green until dormancy. They can be planted in a variety of soilmixes, in Japan they're sometimes planted in pure riversand or volcanic soil (Kanuma) with a dash of Sphagnum. Use a pot which is minimum 20 cm deep, the roots grow straight down.

Water when the medium tends to go dry, starting when the tuber begins to sprout above soil level until the plant goes dormant. They like to be kept in a soil with regular humidity but good drainage - never let the soil dry out from sprouting to dormancy - but avoid wet feet. Keep dry during dormancy. Applying fertiliser is not necessary and they don't react well to a high dose, but repot the tubers annually during dormancy to avoid soil depletion.

Plants go dormant in Autumn or early winter, most growers remove them from the pots and store them with perlite or vermiculite in a plastic bag in the fridge. Take care not to expose the tubers to dry air as this generally makes the tuber shrivel.



Full article: <http://culturesheet.org/orchidaceae:p/onerorchis:graminifolia>

July Show Table Results

Plant	Owner
Paph. superbiens	Brian Leib
Zygo. Advance Australia 'HOF' AM/AOS	Adrienne Giovino
Phal. Tying Shin Phoenix 'Caribbean Sunset'	Adrienne Giovino
Prom. Limelight x Crawshayana 'Springtime'	Linda Abrams
Paph. (leuchochilum xconcolor) x Psyche	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Macroclinium manobium	Sasha Varsanofieva
Cadetia taylorii	Betsy Opitz
Brassia signata	Brigitte Fortin
Laelia purpurata	Brigitte Fortin



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.**



Prom. Limelight x Crawshayana
'Springtime'



Cadetia taylorii



Paph superbiens



Paph. (leuchochilum x concolor)
x Psyche



Phal. Tying Shin Phoenix
'Caribbean Sunset'

Collector's Item: *Dendrobium amboinense*

Some orchid species are discovered, enter cultivation and remain so over long periods of time while others, either because of rarity, incorrect collection data, cultural difficulty or a combination of these factors, disappear from cultivation rather rapidly and may not ever reappear or do so after a long lapse. Such is the case with *Dendrobium amboinense*, an incredibly beautiful, although ephemeral-flowered, species.

This species, an extreme rarity, has disappeared from cultivation twice; first shortly after its discovery in Ambon around 1854 by an English naturalist. It was discovered again sometime between 1895 by a collector working for the firm of Sanders and it remained in cultivation until sometime after 1931 although in extremely limited numbers. A short time ago the species was reintroduced into the United States through a seedling population raised by Michael Ooi of Leng Sun Orchids of Penang, Malaysia.



The species is endemic to the island of Ambon and nearby islands in the Banda Sea and belongs to Schlechter's section *Euphlebiium* (J. J. Smith's section *Fugacia* meaning fleeting) and is the only member of the section to carry more than one or two flowers per inflorescence. Based on our flowering plant, the pseudobulbs of *Dendrobium amboinense* reach about 50-cm (20 inches) in height with two or three leaves about 6-cm (3 inches long) and about 2.5-cm wide (1 inch). The flowers of *Den. amboinense* are up to 20-cm (about 8 inches) across if the ribbon-like petals are flattened although when carried naturally, the sepals and petals droop producing a distinctly wispy appearance. Flowers on our plant open shortly after midnight and, as the sectional name indicates, were completely closed by sundown. Freshly opened flowers are bone white as illustrated here but as the afternoon progresses the color undergoes a slow change to a pale shade of burnished orange before the flower collapses completely. Along with this color change is a distinct change in fragrance, beginning as a sort of musty, not really pleasant fragrance and becoming more vanilla-like before as the flowers senesce.

Little is known with regard to this species but based on its habitat and that of the other species in the section, this lowland species should be grown consistently warm with constant moisture but with excellent drainage. We grow ours in a small plastic pot of sphagnum moss under light levels slightly brighter than *Phalaenopsis* and the plants are never allowed to become completely dry.

- Ron McHatton. September 2009 (rep from aos.ora)



Yes, you. Through the Mass Orchid Society, I've met many kind, knowledgeable, and generous orchid lovers. You help at our annual show, bring snacks for our hospitality table, hand out divisions of plants, and share your valuable experience to those us less experienced. Thank you for all your help.

I ask that you consider serving as a director on the board or on a committee. The annual show is also in the planning stages and we need your help.

Volunteering is a great way to see how others grow their plants as well as enjoy the company of some very lovely people, but most importantly, help MOS.

If you're interested in helping out, please get in touch with one of the board members (full list on page 2) or e-mail adrienne@massorchid.org Thanks!

- Adrienne

CROZER & CROZER ORCHIDS SEMI-ANNUAL ORCHID SALE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SALE WILL BE ON A LARGE VARIETY OF
PHALAENOPSIS, CATTLEYA, PAPHIOPEDILUM,
AND OTHER ASSORTED GENERA.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

-KELLY'S KORNER ORCHID SUPPLIES
-MOUNTAIN ORCHIDS

ADDRESS:

737 BURPEE HILL RD
NEW LONDON, NH 03257

www.CCOrchids.com



Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Tue, August 14, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting www.SunsetValleyOrchids.com	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, September 1, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, September 11, 7:00pm	Premium Plant Auction www.massorchid.org/auction	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, October 6, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, October 9, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting Speaker: Bob Winkley	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Fri-Sun, November 2-4	MOS Annual Show "Orchid Jubilee"	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA



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