Massachusetts Orchid Society



March: Ron Burch, Gardens at Post Hill Topic: New Developments in Cypripedium

Ron Burch has been growing orchids for 40 years. His passion is temperate terrestrial orchids and he specializes in Cypripedium. Ron has been hybridizing for the past 7 years and registered his first Cypripedium hybrids in 2009. Ron and his wife Barbara run a small nursery in Connecticut where they produce Cypripedium and other terrestrial orchids.

Preorder Specials:

Dormant Cypripedium

Cyp parviflorum, blooming size \$25 each Cyp makasin, blooming size \$25 each Cyp pubescens, blooming size \$25 each Cyp reginae, blooming size \$25 each Cyp Gisela, blooming size \$30 each Cyp Dietrich, blooming size \$40 each

Phraamipedium

Phrag Demetria, near blooming size, \$15 each (2 from this flask bloomed in December)

Phrag Fliquet 4N, near blooming size, \$15 each (1 from this flask bloomed in January) Phrag China Dragon, near blooming size, \$15 each

Phrag Waunakee Wonder x Grande, 2 year from bloom?, \$15 each
Phrag Sunspot x besseae 'Cow Hollow II'
FCC, 2 year from bloom, \$15 each
Phrag Hanne Popow x kovachii, 2 year from bloom, \$25 each
Phrag Eumelia Arias, 2 year from bloom, \$25 each

Website: <u>www.GardensAtPostHill.com</u> Preorders to: orders@gardensatposthill.com

Andy's Orchids Pre-Order Info & Meeting Date

Please mark your calendars: the **April MOS meeting will be held on April 17th**, the 3rd Tuesday in April.

We are the 7th (and last) society that Harry Phillips will be visiting during his Northeast trip. For that reason, **we strongly recommend preordering** from Andy's Orchids for best selection.

Preorder information

Harry can bring preorders to the meeting; just make sure he has all the preorders at least 7 days in advance. Anyone interested in a preorder can

- go to <u>www.AndysOrchids.com</u>
- make their selection
- e-mail preorder to info@andysorchids.com or call (888) 514-2639

In case you've never visited the Andy's Orchids website it's definitely worth a visit. You can't beat the selection when it comes to species. And here's a secret: have a species that you just can't find? Give Andy's a call – he might just have one or two tucked away somewhere.

Watch a video about Andy's:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht3TuDMD
PX4&feature=plcp&context=C3338910UDOEgs
ToPDsklGzjhuTgZJJDDGCS5K- vG



Ornithocephalus inflexus

Upcoming Events

March 13 -

MOS Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ron Burch Topic: Cypripediums www.gardensatposthill.com (pre-orders welcome)

April 17 (Third Tuesday!) -

MOS Monthly Meeting Speaker: Harry Phillips Topic: Miniature Orchids www.AndysOrchids.com (pre-orders welcome)

May 8 -

MOS Monthly Meeting Speaker: Cordelia Head Topic: Miniature Oncidiums www.JLOrchids.com (pre-orders welcome)



Lepanthes manabina Photo: Andy's Orchids

MOS Board

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Committee Chairs

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Newsletter -

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Annual Show -

Joanna Eckstrom

show@massorchid.org

Program -

Brigitte Fortin,

Adrienne Giovino, Sasha Varsanofieva

speakers@massorchid.ora





Show table photography by Brigitte Fortin.

> Osmoglossum nulchellum

Membership

Get a head start on your 2012-2013 membership dues (due July 1st):

Did you know you can now pay for your membership online using PayPal?

Simply log into your account on www.massorchid.org, click "View Profile" and click the "Renew" button.

Or send your dues (\$20) to:

Susan Flier 27 Colchester Street Brookline, MA 02446

Or pay in cash or check at a meeting.

MOS Welcomes
New Members

Mary Claire, Allston, MA

Michele Lee DeFilippo, Arlington, MA

This Month's Premium Raffle Plants

LC Aussie Sunset 'Cosmin Fire'





Help Us with Hospitality!

Our hospitality table is in need of refreshments to be enjoyed by all during the meeting. I'd like to encourage all attending, to bring an item with them for the table; it will also earn you a premium raffle ticket.

We are looking for people to sponsor the hospitality table each month. A signup sheet will be available for members to choose what month they would like to sponsor.

Email <u>derek@massorchid.org</u> for questions, thank you.



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:

Dear Joan, I'm having a big problem with almost all my Phalaenopsis plants dropping buds this winter. Can you give me some advice about this? – Claire W.

A:

Hello Claire.

Thanks for your question.



Your phals have experienced what is known as "bud blast". This is a condition where the

buds wither and dry up, or refuse to open, and drop from an otherwise healthy plant. It can occur on many types of orchids but phals are very sensitive to temperature swings. Have you moved your plants to a new, more vulnerable position recently? In the winter drafts from windows, blasts from a hot oven or bringing a plant in from outdoors are causes. Rapid temperature fluctuations in the summer can also cause bud blast. Best to keep budding orchids some distance from ripening fruit too, as ethylene gas can also cause bud blast. Last but not least, carefully check the roots. Bud blast can be an early symptom of root loss.

Phals are native to the humid tropics and prefer warm daytime temperatures with humidity higher than 70 degrees. A pebble tray will help with the humidity. Phals like east window light or curtained bright light. Water once every seven to ten days with lukewarm water.

Also, take a look at this great article on the subject:

www.waldor.com/Images/pictures/pdfs/Page %205C4.pdf

Orchid Trivia: The Medusa

This species is still often described under the name of its synonym H. myriotricha. Both names refer to the radiating filaments - which are in fact spreading side-lobes of the lip: Medusa is a mythical creature with snakes on the head while myriotricha means "many hairs". The species was described in 1893 based on a plant in Blume's herbarium (Leydener Herbarium). The species occurs in Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi and Borneo.

The tuber looks like a small hairy potato and its shoot starts growing in the beginning of Spring. You should pot it up in a deep pot (to allow room for new tubers) before the roots start to develop. Use an airy free-draining compost, plant the tuber with the shoot pointing up and place the container in a temperate greenhouse or an East or West facing window - in the wild they flower during the hot and wet monsoon but don't try to copy this. It's important to respect the built-in cycle: the inflorescence dies back after 6-7 months, at this point the plant is storing all its nutrients back in the tubers.

Key to success is watering and temperature. To induce healthy flowers you should maintain a daytime temperature of 18-25°C and a nighttime drop to 16°C. Only start watering after the shoot has broken through the surface. Around May the plant will have developed a set of healthy leaves and from then on you shouldn't let the soil dry out. A clay container will make sure that the excess moisture can escape - place the container on a very shallow saucer of water to prevent dehydration on the hottest

days. Maintain a high humidity around the plant and keep the air well ventilated.

An adult plant will develop a flowering stem with leaves on it. Flowering takes a long time: first the buds will orientate, the spur elongates and then the flowers open one by one. Depending of the number of flowers the display will last 4 weeks to several months.

After flowering the leaves will start to turn brown, this is the signal that the plant is pumping its nutrients back in the new tubers. The old tuber will die off but will produce new offset tubers. Reduce water when leaves start to fade and let the soil go bone-dry when the plant has died back. Now it's time to inspect the new tubers and assess your technique:

- no new tuber: plant has died you did something wrong
- new tuber is smaller than old tuber: lots of room for optimization
- new tuber is larger and has new offset tubers: excellent, you're a natural

Store the tuber in some barely damp loose soil around 16°C until the new season starts. Inspect them every two weeks and spray the soil with some water to maintain humidity.

What am I?

Find out at the bottom of page 4.

Original text:

http://culturesheet.org/orchidaceae:habenaria:medusa



The Medusa
Image: http://www.theorchidcolumn.com/
2011/08/medusa.html

February Show Table Results

10 Plants Awarded

Scribe: Linda Abrams

Plant	Owner	
Den. aberrans	Ralph & Chieko Collins	
Osmoglossom pulchellum	Ralph & Chieko Collins	
Den. Super Ise	Susie & Warren Wheelwright	
Den. Kingianum 'Ruth'	Susie & Warren Wheelwright	
Barkeria Nambon Pixie	Linda Abrams	
Den. Nagasaki	Alvin Kho	
Onc. cheirophorum	George Baltoumas	
Lycaste macrophylla	Bob Richter	
Ceratostylis philippenensis	Ralph & Chieko Collins	
Phal. hybrid	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.



Barkeria Nambon Pixie

Orchid Trivia Answer:

Habeneria medusa



Phal hybrid



Onc. cheirophorum



D. Nagasaki



D. Super Ise



D. aberrans



D. kingianum 'Ruth'



Ceratostylis philippenensis

2012 Focus on Phals Day

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response to our 2011 back-to-back IPA meetings, we are pleased to announce that the IPA Northeast Team will once again be co-hosting, on **Saturday, September 8th, 2012**, in cooperation with the New Hampshire Orchid Society and on Sunday, September 9th, 2012, in cooperation with the North Eastern New York Orchid Society, our annual "Focus on Phals Speakers' Day."

Dr. Ron McHatton will be our keynote speaker, giving his amazingly informative presentation on "New Approaches to Pest and Disease Control," a presentation that applies to every orchid grower.

Barring any potential hurricanes aiming for Puerto Rico, Carlos Fighetti will be speaking on the newest advances in the improvement of Phal species, covering some that might actually qualify as primary hybrids, despite the fact that they're labeled as species. His presentation is entitled "Phal Species and Their Variants."

Carri will bring us all up to speed on the newest and most unique directions in Phal breeding as seen at the Taiwan International Orchid Show in March 2012.

A nominal registration fee will provide a continental breakfast and lunch. The day will also include a roundtable discussion and regional fundraising mini-auction to enable us to continue to bring in great speakers.

Plan your fall weekend get-away around the date and location of your choice. Visit the IPA website (www.phal.org), beginning in April, where the two registration forms will be posted. The meetings are open to all, IPA members and non-members alike.

- IPA Regions 17 & 18 Directors Marilyn Shapiro and Carri Raven-Riemann

Piping Rock Orchids Open House & Picnic



MOS has been extended an invite to the Piping Rock Open House and Picnic in Galway, NY. We think this is a great opportunity to bond with fellow MOS members, meet orchid lovers from outside our area, hear some great speakers and spend a summer day among beautiful orchids (and maybe bring a few home with you).

Saturday June 2nd, 10:30am-5pm

Special Guests:

Marc Hachadourian (Speaker: New York Botanic Garden) Darrin Norton (Speaker & Plant Sales: Mountain Orchids)

MOS would like to organize a bus to take us there and back.

Costs will include bus fare to and from Galway and a donation
to NENYOS for lunch.

If you are interested in participating or would like to be included when we get further information, please e-mail sasha@massorchid.org

Complete open house info: http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/ open-house-at-piping-rock-orchids.php



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. We especially are looking for a membership chairman. Susan Flier has done a fantastic job in this position, but sadly, is stepping down. This is an integral post, which has been made easier through website automation and now payment of dues online through PayPal.

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!

Miniature Orchids for Northern Homes

Gloria Keleher Betsy Thorsteinson



Ionopsis utricularioides



Epidendrum porpax



Ornithochilus fuscus

Reproduced, with permission, from "Miniature Orchids for Canadian Homes" published in the January 2012 Canadian Orchid Congress newsletter.

(Continued from February 2012 MOS Newsletter)

Haraella odorata, from Taiwan, is a choice miniature with monopodial type growth, the dark green leaves only about 4 cm long. It blooms readily, usually in fall, the flowers appearing one or two at a time. They are relatively large, pale yellow, with a long, fringed lip centered with a large purple blotch and looking altogether like some member of the insect world. It can be grown in a small pot, on a tree fern or a padded cork mount. As it occurs at rather low altitudes, it does best with warm temperatures and high humidity, making it a good subject for terrarium culture.

lonopsis utricularioides, from Florida through to Peru, has two or three 7-10 cm long leathery leaves that surround a tiny seed-like pseudobulb. In the spring it produces a long branching flower spike. The flowers are variable in color, ranging from white to lavender, with some striping in the two-lobed lip. Once the flower spike is produced and the first flush of flowers finished, the plant will often bloom again from a node further down the spike. Consequently, it has a long blooming time. It is best grown mounted on tree fern in intermediate to warm temperatures in good light. The tree fern should be allowed to dry between watering.

Leptotes bicolor, from Brazil, is a pretty and vigorous little plant with dark green terete leaves. When it flowers, often twice a year, it is very showy, covering itself with white and magenta blossoms. It can be grown in a small pot of osmunda or mounted on tree fern, in a south window or close under fluorescent lights. When actively growing, it needs to be well watered. After flowering and when the roots are inactive less water should be given.

Masdevallias are cool-growing plants native to the high mountains of South America. They grow quickly into clumps of fleshy, paddle-shaped leaves and the flower stems are produced from the leaf bases. The flowers are not large but are produced in abundance. They are unusual because the sepals form the showy part, being broad and often tipped with long tails. Many Masdevallias flower more than once from the same stem, so do not cut the flower stalks until they turn brown. Masdevallia infracta is easy to grow, has glossy leaves and the sepals united to form a yellow and purple cup. M.

reichenbachiana is tubular and a red and yellow combination. It is almost constantly in bloom. A special favorite is **M. tovarensis** with several large pure white flowers to a stalk. In addition to cool temperatures, all masdevallias like low light, good humidity and constant moisture. They will do well in a north or east window or near the ends of the fluorescent light tubes.

Neolehmannia (Epidendrum) porpax is a miniature that makes a fine specimen plant. Its branching 4-6 cm stems grow quickly and will soon completely cover the mount. The fleshy leaves stay in perfect condition for a long time so that the whole plant is a picture of robust good health. The 2 cm long flowers with their shiny maroon lip appear at the end of each stem and they seem to resemble a swarm of tropical beetles. This plant grows in intermediate

temperatures and thrives when grown on a slab of tree fern and hung under fluorescent lights. It should be watered or sprayed once a day as the stems develop many aerial roots.

Oncidium onustum is first choice in a genus with dozens of delightful small species. The purplespotted pseudobulbs are topped by a single dark green leaf about 8-10 cm in length. The inflorescence is a branched spray. The flowers are flat and of a pure, bright yellow color, about 2 cm long, with a large lip consisting of a broad midlobe and narrow side-lobes. This plant should be grown in bright light and does well mounted on unpadded cork bark as it needs a drying-off period after watering.

Oncidium calochilum is another choice species. It is very tiny and the foliage resembles a cluster of pine needles. The relatively large yellow flower has pointed sepals and petals and a beautifully fringed lip. Medium light is sufficient so this plant can be grown under fluorescent lights, mounted on a slab of cork or open tree fern. Do not make the mistake of padding the mount as it does not appreciate constantly wet roots.

The pretty members of the genus **Ornithocephalus** should be welcome additions to any orchid collection. They all form fans of flattened leaves and as the plants grow, more leaves are added to the center of the fan. New plants also form from the base of the fan and they can be separated off. **O. iridifolius** from Mexico grows



about 8-10 cm tall, and has thin pointed leaves. The flower spikes appear in summer from between the leaves and are strung with little white flowers that have the characteristic 'bird headed' column. The fan of leaves, decorated with the long delicate spikes, makes a charming display.

O. cochleariformis is about the same size but its leaves are wider. Its flowers are slightly larger and fuzzy. This plant quickly forms an attractive clump of fans and puts on quite a show when it flowers in the spring. Both these species do well on tree fern slabs, sprayed daily. They need good moisture but the roots should have aeration. They grow easily in intermediate temperatures and medium light.

Ornithochilus fuscus is one miniature that can be grown with Phalaenopsis. It is very like a phalaenopsis in growth form, but carries only three or four pointed leaves that are at the most 10 cm long. The flowers, which appear on long branched spikes twice a year, are small (1 cm) but numerous and charmingly eccentric-looking. The red and green striped sepals and petals are folded up and back and held over a spurred lip embroidered with two red fringed pinwheels. O. fuscus needs the same treatment as Phals with perhaps a little more light. When the plant is in spike be careful not to disturb it in any way, as the spikes do seem to be very sensitive when the flower buds are developing.

Miniature Orchids for Northern Homes

Gloria Keleher Betsy Thorsteinson



Physosiphon tubatus



Restrepia elegans



Sophronitella violacea



Trichoceros dombeyi

Phalaenopsis parishii var. lobbii, only about 8 cm across, is a miniature relative of the much larger species and hybrids so popular in all collections. The flowers, each about 2 cm across, are in a raceme. The sepals and petals are white and the lip is white with brown vertical stripes. They are faintly fragrant. We grow this plant under fluorescent lights, mounted on cork bark, with intermediate temperatures and daily misting. It is deciduous in nature but we have not found this to be the case in cultivation, probably because it is kept more evenly moist.



Phymatidium delicatulum is a diminutive little plant, standing only 2-3 cm high. It comes from Brazil. The plant has a tuft of light green grassy leaves, and many fine roots. It blooms in the summer, generously producing spikes of tiny white flowers that are as fragile looking as the name suggests. The plant must be grown in a shaded location and kept constantly moist. Care should be taken with this plant as it is easily rotted. It is a good idea to grow it on a branch padded with a little osmunda. Alternately, to provide good drainage, it could be mounted on a cross-section of tree fern pole.

Physosiphon tubatus, from Mexico, is as delightful vegetatively as it is in bloom. The plant quickly fills a small pot with graceful arching, paddle-shaped leaves about 15 cm in length. During the summer each leaf produces a spike of many tiny orange flowers. The sepals are partly united so the flowers appear tubular and three lobed. It is very easy to grow in a cool, humid and shaded environment.

Promenaea stapelioides is a fine dwarf-growing relative of the zygopetalums from Brazil. Its shiny squat little pseudobulbs are topped with soft grey-green pointed leaves. The whole plant stands only 5 cm tall. Without fail, every summer this little plant produces an impressive display of long lasting flowers. They are borne on short stems from the base of the pseudo-bulbs and are almost as large as the plant is tall. The wide sepals and petals are yellow and densely banded with purple. The lip is fleshy and a darker purple. This plant is happy in intermediate temperatures and medium light. It likes to be grown in a moist but well-draining compost or mounted on a branch on a pad of osmunda. This plant freely produces new growths, but be careful when watering because they can easily rot.

Restrepia elegans is one of four species of this genus that we have flowered and any that you can obtain will be a delight to grow. Most of them are native to Ecuador and Columbia. The flowers of all species are distinctive. They are similar in shape, with large lateral sepals united to form the showy part and delicate filiform dorsal sepal and petals. The lip is usually similarly colored to the lateral sepals and blends so as to be almost unnoticeable. The whole flower looks like some wonderful insect dancing on the end of the

stem and flowers appear repeatedly from the same leaf base. Restrepias are unique among orchids in that they propagate from leaf cuttings. One may also find that plantlets form at the base of the leaf blades and these can be removed and potted when roots have developed. Compost should be fine and welldrained and temperatures cool to intermediate with good humidity. They like to be shaded so grow them near the ends of the fluorescent tubes or under the foliage of taller plants.

Sophronitella violacea, from Brazil, is a true miniature, the whole plant being less than 10 cm high. The short stems have up to three lovely, starshaped violet flowers which open widely, almost hiding the foliage. The individual flowers last about two weeks but open somewhat successively so the plant is in bloom for a longer time. It likes an intermediate temperature, a bright humid atmosphere and a drying-off period between waterings. It can be grown potted or mounted.

Sophronitis rosea, also from Brazil, is closely related to Sophronitella, and considered by some authors to be a form of Sophronitis coccinea. It is equally beautiful having a rosy-pink flower about 8 cm across which dwarfs the little plant. This species should be grown a little cooler and somewhat shadier than Sophronitella. It does best in a small pot with good drainage and is kept moist throughout the year. Some chopped fresh sphagnum mixed with the compost is beneficial.

The genus **Trichoceros** would interest those who enjoy the unusual. There are six species in the genus, all coming from the mountainous regions of South America. They are commonly called 'fly orchids' because each species of Trichoceros mimics a different species of tropical fly. The flowers they produce are fascinating, with hairs, shiny spots, and antennae-like projections all designed to imitate a female fly. Fertilization is accomplished by the male fly attempting to 'mate' with the flower. Characteristically, the plants have small pseudobulbs with two or three fleshy leaves. The pseudobulbs are strung along rhizomes that come between the base of the bulb and the leaves. The flowers are held high up from the plant, and open singly over a long period of time. Because they come from the mountains, they need temperatures on the cool side with shady, constantly moist conditions. They grow well under fluorescent lights, or in a terrarium. Because of the long clambering rhizomes, they are best grown on a tree fern pole that is wedged in a pot for stability, or on a 'log' of osmunda made with chicken wire or hardware cloth. These plants are guaranteed to intrigue non-orchid lovers. They occasionally appear in orchid catalogs and any of the six species is rewarding to grow.

This is only a sampling of the countless numbers of miniatures to be discovered. Rebecca Northen has opened a whole new world to the lover of small plants with her recent book *Miniature Orchids*. Several hundred species are described with many of them illustrated, either in black and white or color. It inspires a never-ending search of the catalogs of commercial species specialists for new and unusual orchids to grow. To anyone serious about growing miniatures it is highly recommended reading.

Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Tue, March 13, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting www.GardensAtPostHill.com	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, April 7, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, April 17 , 7:30pm (Third Tuesday!)	Monthly MOS Meeting – www.AndysOrchids.com	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, May 5, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, May 8, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting – www.JLOrchids.com	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, June 2, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Sat, June 2, 10:30am-5pm	Open House & Picnic at www.PipingRockOrchids.com	2270 Cook Road, Galway, NY (please see page 5)



