

# Massachusetts Orchid Society



## December: MOS Holiday Party

Let's have some fun. Bring your food, your orchids, and your holiday cheer.

**Turkey and ham will be provided by MOS. The rest is up to you!**

A cash bar will be available.

**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

Will we have a **show table**? Yes!

## AOS Corner – Lynn Fuller, AOS Affiliated Societies

The Trustees and Members meeting was held in Coral Gables with most of the meetings being held at Fairchild Botanic Gardens (the new home of the AOS). A nice show was arranged by the Coral Gables Orchid Society and at the AOS judging, awards were given to many local orchidists. In conjunction with the meetings, a number of AOS awards were presented. The Distinguished Affiliated Society Award (DSSA) was given to the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania for their volunteer commitment to Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. An article will be forthcoming in *Orchids* about the establishment of an historic slipper orchid collection. An AOS Gold Medal was given to Harold Koopowitz for his dedication to orchids in conservation, biology, hybridizing and publishing; AOS Silver Medals were bestowed upon Aileen Garrison and Jose Izquierdo in recognition of

their service to the AOS judging system. Leon Glicenstein was recognized with an AOS Fellow for his outstanding scientific, horticultural and hybridizing in addition, Leonid Averyanov was recognized with an AOS Fellow for his work on Vietnam orchids. Hybridizing awards were presented to Milton Carpenter for his work with *Oncidiinae* and warmth-tolerant *cymbidiums* and to Gene Crocker of Carter & Holmes for his art-shade *cattleyas*.

Save the date for the Spring Members and Trustees meeting to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 30-May 4, 2014 in conjunction with their show – *Orchids – A Growing Obsession*. This event will be held in conjunction with the Mid-America Orchid Congress, the Slipper Orchid Alliance, the International *Phalaenopsis* Alliance, *Pleurothallid* Alliance and *Angraecoid* Alliance.

Wishing you all the best during this holiday season and for a happy 2014.

## Upcoming MOS Events

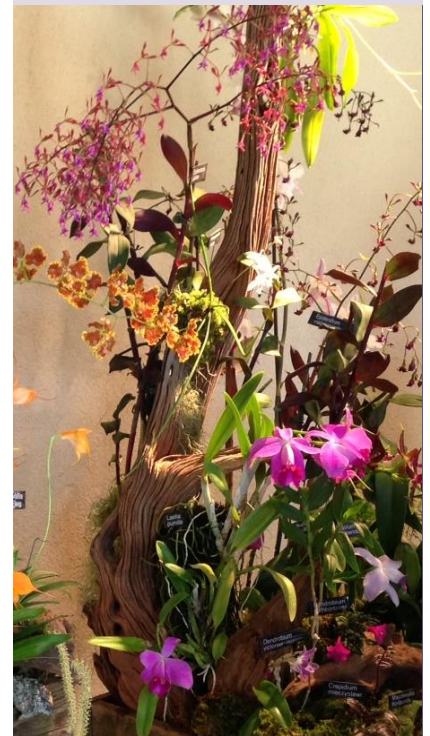
**December 10 –**  
MOS Holiday Party  
7pm

**January 14 –**  
MOS Monthly Meeting

**January 25-26 –**  
CAIOS Annual Show  
See Page 7

**February 11 –**  
MOS Monthly Meeting

**February 14-16 –**  
NHOS Annual Show  
See Page 7



## MOS Board

### President –

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

### Vice President –

Adrienne Giovino  
[adrienne@massorchid.org](mailto:adrienne@massorchid.org)

### Secretary –

Brigitte Fortin  
[brigitte@massorchid.org](mailto:brigitte@massorchid.org)

### Treasurer –

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

### Directors –

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

Joe Rajunas  
[joe@massorchid.org](mailto:joe@massorchid.org)

Joan Gitlin  
[ioang@massorchid.org](mailto:ioang@massorchid.org)

Leslie Buchanan  
[leslie@massorchid.org](mailto:leslie@massorchid.org)

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

## Committee Chairs

### Membership –

Adrienne Giovino  
[adrienne@massorchid.org](mailto:adrienne@massorchid.org)

### Newsletter –

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

### Annual Show –

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

### Program –

Brigitte Fortin,  
Adrienne Giovino,  
Sasha Varsanofieva  
[speakers@massorchid.org](mailto:speakers@massorchid.org)



Gastrochilus  
dasygogon

Winner MOS Culture  
Award  
Grown by Joan Gitlin

## Membership

### Have membership questions?

E-mail our membership chair:  
[adrienne@massorchid.org](mailto:adrienne@massorchid.org)

**Membership dues:** individual  
membership - \$25, dual - \$30

### Renew online:

<http://massorchid.org/Content/Wizard/Renewal/MemberRenewal.aspx>

**Renew by mail:** Please mail a check  
made out to Massachusetts Orchid  
Society to Mass Orchid Society,  
PO Box 550141, Waltham, MA 02455



© Marni Turkel

[Phalaenopsis gibbosa](#)

## Orchid of the Month: Phalaenopsis gibbosa (miniature)

Phal. gibbosa grows in Laos and Vietnam at elevations from sea level to 3300 feet as an epiphyte. The leaves on a mature plant can be up to 3" long.

Culture: It is a warm to cool-intermediate grower that does well when it is allowed to approach dryness between waterings during the growing season and a bit drier in the winter. I fertilize at every watering at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon and a bit lower strength in winter. The root system is quite

long so allow enough mount to let the roots run. I have always grown this species mounted with the leaves positioned down so that water doesn't collect. I've been growing these at 56F minimum night, but have also bloomed them well at 50F nights. In cooler temperatures, they may be deciduous and should be kept on the dry side during cold weather.

Source:

<http://marniturkel.com/mostlyspecies/f.phal.gib.696.html>



## My Addiction to Miniature

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids is well known for his compact cattleya hybrids. Here, he tells readers his motivation for creating them, and how to best grow these petite gems.

MY ORCHID ADDICTION STARTED many years ago as a college student. My freshman botany professor gave a lecture on orchid pollination that opened my eyes to the wide variety in the orchid family. I had been given three cymbidiums by an aunt, and following the lecture I went to a local orchid vendor and made my first purchase of orchid plants. And so the obsession began.

Like many growers, my first purchases were based on what I liked, not where I was growing. There were many fatalities in the early years, but soon my small apartment was taken over by the orchids. As my addiction became more serious and my orchid collection grew, I learned that environment was an important factor in successful home orchid growing. I moved into a larger apartment with a south-facing covered balcony, and much better light in the living room for my orchids. It never occurred to me to stop buying more orchids. The obsession continued and I moved to a house and put in a very nice greenhouse, but once again the greenhouse wasn't large enough for my growing collection and I had to move again. I rented a large

commercial greenhouse for a time, but I finally came up with the solution — 10 acres (.04 sq km) of land.

Today I have three commercial double-wall polycarbonate computer controlled greenhouses with rolling benches. Our nursery is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Northern California, in a beautiful citrus belt that the 49ers (the gold miners, not the football team) called the Thermal Lands because of its milder winters. Our challenge during the summer is low humidity, so when building the greenhouses, we put down 12 to 18 inches (30 to 45 cm) of crushed rock to buffer the effects of the outside dry air. Our greenhouses are 21 feet (6.5 m) tall and designed with a large internal air volume to moderate the temperature swings. The majority of the orchids are in clay pots with New Zealand Sphagnum moss, which raises the humidity around the plants slightly; however, plants that need to dry more quickly are mounted or grown in baskets.

OBSESSION WITH MINIATURES In the mid to late 1970s, I started to see a few articles in the AOS Bulletin (now Orchids) about miniature species and miniature cattleyas. Having run out of room (again), I started to replace the larger cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums with the plants about which I was reading. I started with *Cattleya Small World* (*aclandiae* × *luteola*) and *Soprolaelia Psyche* (*L. cinnabarina* × *Soph. coccinea*), plants that I still have today. I soon found myself looking at the ads in the back of the Bulletin before I read the articles, and began to purchase plants from the advertisers. I was assembling a fantastic collection of miniatures before long and found with the miniature cattleyas that the flowers lasted longer than their larger relatives, the colors of the flowers were brighter and the plants bloomed more often. I had found my niche.

I was blessed to be in California, as was able to meet and talk to a veritable who's who of orchid breeders, people like Hugo Freed, Earnest Hetherington, Joanne Brown, Herb Hager and Bob Jones, to name a few. They freely shared their vast knowledge with me and I know their mentoring helped me become a better grower. My good fortune continued, and while selling at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show in 1981, my sales booth happened to be next to that of Frank Fordyce of Fordyce Orchids. Over the

course of the show we became friends and he has had the greatest influence on me by inspiring me to focus my breeding program on miniature cattleyas.

A trip to Hawaii in the spring of 1985 convinced me of the best way to breed orchids. I visited a relatively new nursery called H&R, located on the windward side of Oahu. Roy Tokunaga (the "R" in H&R), had worked for years at E&R Orchids of Hawaii, learning many of the techniques he was now employing in his own nursery. He proudly showed me around the beautiful nursery, and we shared what we were doing and what we hoped to accomplish. Tokunaga invited my wife and me to dinner and a friendship developed, with family, food and orchids. After several hours of talking about orchids, our wives proclaimed us clones, identical twins separated at birth. Over the past 22 years, Tokunaga and I have exchanged our knowledge, sharing both successes and failures.

The greatest information he shared with me that first evening was papers he had saved from Haruyuki Kamemoto, PhD, one of his college professors at the University of Hawaii. It was from these papers that I discovered the importance of genome breeding and how to apply this to the Cattleya alliance.



Years ago, breeders kept everything close to the vest and would not share information. Today's growers and breeders are more open; Tokunaga and I readily share information with others working with cattleyas, such as Gene Crooker of Carter and Holmes in Newberry, South Carolina, Mike Bleitz of Exotic Orchids of Maui, and many others. Working with these friends has been rewarding in so many ways, as new miniature cattleya hybrids are created and then improved upon.

**CULTURE BASICS** Most hybrids are easier to flower than the species behind them, and usually flower more often. *Cattleya luteola* and *L. pumila* are both easy to grow, but most people try to grow them too bright. Light seems to be the number-one reason people don't flower their miniature cattleyas. When growing in windowsill conditions, your plants should be as close to the window as possible, without letting the leaves feel warm to the touch at the hottest part of the day — not on a coffee table 3 feet (.9 m) from the south window or in the center of the room. A south or east window is always preferred; however, a west window will work sometimes if it isn't too warm. When growing under lights, keep moving the plant up closer to the light until the leaves no longer feel cool to the touch. This is commonly referred to as "the touch test," and the plant will indicate when it is in as bright a light as it can handle. The leaves will start to feel warm to the touch as the plant can no longer pull enough water up to cool itself. This can be applied to greenhouse growing as well.

When miniature cattleyas are receiving too much light many of them will turn red, a build up of anthocyanin pigment in the leaves. It is also true that if you are growing in low humidity, the plants can't take as much light, so when growing indoors, we highly recommend the use of humidity trays. We try to maintain about 60 percent humidity, which prevents the plants from drying out too quickly. There is no reason to mist orchids in the home because the humidity trays are much more efficient.

If you are growing in a greenhouse, you should mist your orchids only early in the day so they will dry off before evening. Make sure the plant is not sitting in water, as cattleyas do not grow well with "wet feet."

Watering is one of the most important things and yet it is the hardest thing to teach a new employee at the nursery. We have hard

water and most of the miniature cattleyas will struggle if there is a build-up of salts in the medium. We use a long water cycle about once a month (often referred to as leach watering) to keep from getting a build-up of salts. We will let the overhead sprinklers rain down on the plants for 30 to 45 minutes. As a general rule, the harder your water, the longer your water cycle should be. We grow quite a few species that are sensitive, so we keep bottles of distilled water in the nursery to pour through the pots of these plants after we have finished watering.

Air movement is also an important factor on how bright you can grow your plants. If you have good air movement in your growing area, the plants will be able to handle more light. We have fans going 24 hours a day, which lets the plants dry out more quickly and helps to reduce disease. Plants are living, breathing organisms and benefit from buoyant air. Since most of the miniature cattleyas do best when allowed to dry out between watering, the fan is a great asset, but use one in proportion to your growing area. A soft, gentle breeze is all you are trying to duplicate, not a hurricane.

Nutrition will separate the good grower from the outstanding grower. We always water our plants prior to applying fertilizer. We use a five-week watering rotation all year long. In week one, we apply a balanced fertilizer as a drench. We use a blend that we have developed for our own water quality.

However, if you have a small collection we suggest a 20-20-20 formula. If you have a large collection and good water quality, we suggest the Michigan State University formula for reverse osmosis (RO). If your water is hard, you might try the MSU formula for well water.

During week two, we apply a micronutrient package as a foliar feeding after watering. Most foliar feeding occurs under the leaf, so it is important to get your spray under the leaves.

In week three, we go back to a drench feeding with the balanced fertilizer. It is important to note that macronutrition, such as nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous, calcium and magnesium, is best absorbed by the root system of your orchid, whereas the micros are absorbed more efficiently by the macropores found under the leaves.

During week four we go back to the foliar feeding of the micronutrients; however, this time, we add

seaweed extract to our spray. Sea kelp aids in the absorption of nutrients and has vitamins and hormones that support and strengthen hearty, thriving plants.



In week five, all we do is a thorough leach watering. Late spring through early autumn we use the fertilizer at full strength, and during the rest of the year we cut back to three-quarter strength because we do not have the same light intensity. By the middle of winter we are down to half-strength solution.

We repot plants every two years to prevent salt build-up in the medium. We use high-quality sphagnum moss from New Zealand and use a collaring technique when we pot. We wrap a circle of the moss around the top of the plant so that it just fits into the clay pot and the bottom half of the pot is empty with the exception of a few roots. Other mixes will work well as long as you include some organic medium in your mix.

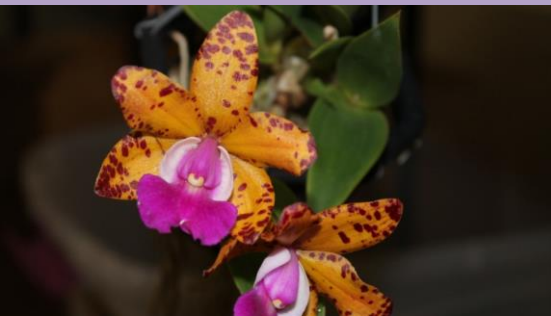
Orchids don't require a lot of tender loving care, but they can't be treated like the common houseplant either. I am thankful that I started this obsession those many years ago, and hope that these suggestions will help you discover the joy of growing miniature cattleyas. But be careful — they are habit-forming.

Original article & additional images:  
[http://www.aos.org/images/img\\_content/PDFs/MiniCatts.pdf](http://www.aos.org/images/img_content/PDFs/MiniCatts.pdf)

# October Show Table

Plant	Owner
Miltassia Aztec 'Toni'	Julian Oliver
Gastrochilus dasypogon	Joan Gitlin
Paph. helenae	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Oberonia satigera	Ralph & Chieko Collins
Neostylis Fuch's Ocean Spray	Jody Maggio
C. Dale Ott	Jaroslav Luciw
Den. magnum	Brandt Moran
C. Elizabeth Bohn 'Silver Flare'	Brandt Moran
C. Christian Starr 'Tribute'	Jaroslav Luciw
C. June Bug 'Venice Sunshine'	Sonia Slik
Dtps. Kenneth Schubert 'AO6255'	Sonia Slik
Dtps. Kenneth Schubert 'AO6255'	Jaroslav Luciw
Zelenkoa onustra	Ralph & Chieko Collins

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.**



## A&P Orchids Open House

Tired of those monotonous greens and reds? Bring some radiant colors this Holiday season with a living gift that keeps giving. A&P Orchids invites you to our open house on Saturday, December 14, 2013 from 10:00AM-4:00PM.

For the second year in a row, we will be offering an *Angraecum sesquipedale*, also called Darwin's Orchid, in spike. Don't miss your chance to own this majestic, snow-colored flower.

We will be pre-selling our hardy orchid offerings. These will be available for pickup/shipping in the spring. Whether grown outside in full sun or in heavy shade, there is a hardy orchid just for you! Set your love of orchids free into your garden!

110 Peters Rd, Swansea, MA 02777  
(508) 675-1717

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

## Hospitality

Bring a snack to the meeting. Not only will you be everyone's favorite orchid grower, but you get an extra raffle ticket to boot!



## CAIOS Annual Show

January 25-26

The Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis  
35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA

[www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org)

New Hampshire Orchid Society presents



## *Orchid Love Affair*

Annual Show and Sale

February 14 -16, 2014  
Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH

Fri. Feb. 14 ~ 1 pm to 7 pm  
Sat. Feb. 15 ~ 9 am to 5 pm  
Sun. Feb. 16 ~ 9 am to 4 pm

*Valentine's Day Weekend*

## NHOS Annual Show

"Orchid Love Affair"

February 14, 1-7pm  
February 15, 9am-5pm  
February 15, 9am-4pm

Radisson Hotel  
11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH

[www.nhorchids.org](http://www.nhorchids.org)

## Upcoming Events

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tue, December 10, 7:30pm	MOS Holiday Party	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA
Sat, January 4, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, January 14, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA
Sat-Sun, January 25-26	CAIOS Annual Show See Page 7	Resort & Conf. Center Hyannis 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA
Sat, February 1, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, February 11, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA
Fri-Sun, February 14-16	NHOS Annual Show See Page 7	Radisson Hotel 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH



**Massachusetts  
Orchid Society**

