

Massachusetts Orchid Society



New Location! New Location! New Location!

Winchester Sons of Italy
117 Swanton St
Winchester, MA

This location is about 4 miles from Arlington. We welcome your feedback on the location:
mos@massorchid.org



May: Carri Raven-Riemann

Topic: Taiwanese Phal Breeding Trends

Carri Raven-Riemann of the orchidPhile will talk about the best and newest Phalaenopsis hybrids seen at the March 2013 Taiwan International Orchid Show.

Going from a BA in English Literature with a minor in Drama to breeding, raising and selling orchids for a living was not in the career plans for Carri Raven-Riemann, owner of the orchidPhile, a Stamford-based wholesale orchid business. A former New York model and actress, Carri began growing orchids in 1980 with the gift from her husband, Herb, of three orchid plants placed under the Christmas tree. And the rest - as they say - is history.

Carri was fortunate enough to begin her orchid collection with the Phalaenopsis (Moth) Orchid which was so easy to care for and re-bloom, that the "Orchid Obsession" quickly took hold. Frustrated with flowering house plants whose flowers never lasted, she started scouring Orchid Shows for more orchids which could be grown easily on windowsills and under the eventual light-stands that

she set up. Thirty plus years later, the collection numbers in the thousands, many of which have won Best Plant in Show & Best Phal Trophies in addition to over 100 American Orchid Society (AOS) Awards.

She, with seven other "Phal-aholics", co-founded the highly successful International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Inc. (IPA), an 800 plus-member international organization of Phalaenopsis enthusiasts.

For the past eight years, she has traveled to Taiwan each March to serve as an AOS judge at their huge spring Taiwan International Orchid Society Show, one of the most impressive orchid shows in the world. Being at the forefront of current Phalaenopsis hybridizing, Taiwan has become a rich source of the new multi-floral miniatures and novelties which she offers for sale. So each spring she combs the nurseries in Taiwan for the newest of the new to offer her clientele.

Website:
www.facebook.com/orchidPhile

Upcoming MOS Events

May 14 –

MOS Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Carri Raven-Reimann
Website:
www.facebook.com/orchidPhile
Topic: Taiwanese Phal Breeding

June 10 –

MOS Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Satomi Kasahara
Website: www.seed-engei.com
Topic: Neofinetia falcata

June 15 –

MOS Annual Picnic
Location: Bob Richter's Greenhouse



MOS Board

President –

Sasha Varsanofieva
sasha@massorchid.org

Vice President –

Adrienne Giovino
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Committee Chairs

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adrienne@massorchid.org

Newsletter –

Sasha Varsanofieva
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Annual Show –

Joanna Eckstrom
show@massorchid.org

Program –

Brigitte Fortin,
Adrienne Giovino,
Sasha Varsanofieva
speakers@massorchid.org



Show table
photography by
Brigitte Fortin.

Paph.
(Great Pacific x
Spotgen)

Membership

Have membership questions?

E-mail our membership chair:
Adrienne@massorchid.org

Want to get a jump start on your
membership dues for 2013-2014?

Renew online:

www.massorchid.org

- Log in using your e-mail
- Click "Renew"



June Meeting: Satomi Kasahara

Satomi works for Seed Engei, a family business that has specialized in *Neofinetia falcata* for 30 years. Her father is vice chairman of the Japan Fukiran Society (A Japanese society dedicated to *Neofinetia falcata*). She grew up around Fuukiran and had a lot of interaction with best growers in Japan.

Now she is a representative member of the Japan Fukiran Society and seeks introduce Fuukiran to the world outside of Japan with their support.

She learned English in Oklahoma where she attended college. After she graduated she started to help the family business in 2006. It began with a visit to Santa Barbara, CA by her father where he declared the United States would be a perfect place to grow *Neofinetia*. Shortly after that Satomi began coming to America to expand the business. Now Seed Engei sponsors both the American Fuukiran Society as well as a number of Fuukiran judging events here in America.

Website: www.seed-engei.com



Tolumnias (Equitant Oncidiums)

By Anita Aldrich

Complete article:
[http://www.aos.org/
Default.aspx?id=479](http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=479)

The group of orchids now called Tolumnia were at one time called Oncidium section Variegata or commonly referred to as "equitant oncidiums". The foliage seldom exceeds 6 to 8 inches in height, and a 4-inch pot can house a "specimen" plant. The leaves are arranged in pairs overlapping or straddling one another at the base, accounting for the popular term "equitant" (derived from the Latin meaning riding a horse). Most of the species produce growths at short intervals along the rhizomes, resulting in a compact, clumping growth habit. A few, however, possess elongated rhizomes that create rambling tangles of growth. Flowers are produced primarily in the spring on 12- to 18-inch inflorescences that are often branched on older plants. Some types have much shorter, bouquet-like displays.

Compared with most mainstream genera, the Tolumnias have been hybridized for a relatively short time -- about 50 or so years. The short time it takes to reach flowering size (approximately 2 1/2 years from pollination to bloom) has enabled breeders to make significant advances in just a few years. Today's hybrids offer an astounding array of colors and patterns not seen in the species. Their petite size and ability to adapt to a fairly wide range of conditions make them suitable for growing spaces under lights or on windowsills. The key to growing Tolumnias is understanding their natural habitat. The species are endemic to the Caribbean Basin with many confined to a single island. Most of the species involved in modern hybrids are found in intermediate to warm conditions growing on twigs where they are exposed to bright light and air movement. Moisture is provided by high humidity and by daily rain showers or heavy dews. Due to constant air movement by the trade winds, plants never remain wet for long.

Culture

Temperature and Humidity Grow Tolumnias almost anywhere an

intermediate range of temperature (55 to 90F) and relative humidity of 50 to 70 percent can be provided. Those cultivated in windows or under lights benefit from summering outdoors where climate permits.

Light Provide bright, diffused light that is somewhere between the optimal for phalaenopsis and that for cattleyas. The general rule of thumb is if shadows on the orchid bench are just discernible, the light is about right. Plants that are growing well but reluctant to bloom usually need an increase in light intensity. Once conditioned to high light, tolumnias are fairly tough, but when moving tender plants to a higher light situation, increase their exposure gradually to prevent burning. This is especially true when moving plants outdoors for the summer.

Watering This is the most crucial aspect to success with tolumnias. There is no hard and fast rule for how often to water. Only close observation of your conditions will indicate frequency. Plants must dry out between waterings. Drying will be faster outdoors than on a humidity-enhanced windowsill. Damp, cloudy days will retard drying while bright, breezy days will hasten it. Plants on mounts can be misted daily because drying is rapid, but those in pots must be observed more closely for complete drying. The adage "if in doubt, don't water" applies here. Avoid misting or watering during the heat of the day. Water that collects in the overlapping leaf bases can reach "cooking" temperatures and severely damage plant tissue, especially the tender young growths.

Fertilizing In the natural habitat, plants are bathed with nutrients derived from decaying plant and animal matter with every rain. So, for cultivated plants, frequent and dilute feeding is the preferred approach. A balanced fertilizer applied every second or third watering at half to quarter strength should be adequate. Flushing with plain water between feedings is important because residual salts can damage the roots.

April Show Table Results

Plant	Owner
Masd. Angel Heart 'Hana'	Joe Rajunas
Phal. Philisander	Adrienne Giovino
Phal. aphrodite	Adrienne Giovino
Epi. Miracle Valley	Julian Oliver
Phal. Yiching Fang	Joel Shelkrot
Epi. Yoko Yokohama	Linda Abrams
C. walkeriana	Brandt Moran
Letotes bicolor	Brandt Moran
Slc. Mary Buel 'Miami'	George Baltoumas

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. Hybrid

Remembering MOS Member Don Gammon

Donald Lee Gammon, long time Andover resident, currently of Holliston, MA, died on April 28th, 2013 at the age of 73.

Don Gammon was a recognized expert in plant innovation bringing 30 years of experience in hybridizing plants. He was a patented mechanical inventor, President of the Inventors Association of New England, and now, currently Emeritus.

Mr. Gammon "invented" the industry he dominated for decades; Interior Landscaping. Using live tropical plants to establish comfort, health and beauty in corporate settings, he served clients such Cambridge Hyatt and John Hancock. He owned and successfully operated five acres of greenhouses to support the tropical foliage needs for his hundreds of clients. Don was the founder of the certification accreditation for the interior landscape industry for which Mr. Gammon received the number SC-CIH #00001, a recognition awarded only to him for his passion and commitment to the industry. This certification process standardized landscaping requirements throughout the industry. Former First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, invited Mr. Gammon to the White House to receive one of her beautification of the United States acknowledgement awards. Dr. Edwin Land retained Mr. Gammon to design a football-field-size atrium for a research center. For the accomplishment, he received the best U. S. landscape design, interior or exterior, award presented by former First Lady, Nancy Reagan, at the White House. This prestigious award served as Mr. Gammon's second White House recognition.

Early in his career, the third largest advertising agency in New England, Bo Bernstein, recognized his creativity when they promoted him quickly from copywriter to Creative Director. At 40 Fathoms Seafoods, a Canadian-based seafood company, he served as Vice President, Marketing, responsible for all marketing positioning, logo development and package design of their 200 products. Don received his bachelors in Marketing/Advertising from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Don is survived by his beautiful and loving wife Norma of fifty years, his 2 loving daughters, Dainia Langsam and Erin Dumas, Sons-in-law, Jon Langsam and Tom Dumas, and 5 grandchildren, Xander, Bella, Macky, Kaden and Declyn, his brother Doug Gammon and many additional family members.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his Funeral Service on Wednesday May 1st at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine's Parish, 43 Essex St. in Andover. Visiting hours are at the Conte Funeral Home, located at 28 Florence St. in Andover are Tuesday, April 30th, from 4pm to 8pm.

In lieu of flowers, and those wishing to remember Don may do so by making memorial donations in his name to the Andover Historical Society, 96 Main Street, Andover, MA 01810.

Join the MOS Board

We are looking for directors to join the MOS board. Please help out the society by volunteering an extra day per month. You also get to hang out with the other board members and we're really, really fun!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Sasha
MOS President
sasha@massorchid.org



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!



J&L Orchids' Annual Summer Sale, June 28th thru July 7th

All J & L Stock is 15 % off, plus we will have a large bargain bench! We have been busy dividing many of our stock plants and have recently received exciting shipments...

The first weekend, June 28, 29, and 30, we have GUEST VENDORS, special workshops and great food. The workshops are Sunday, June 30, and include the following topics - Phalaenopsis Culture and West Coast Orchids for East Coast Growers. In addition the Connecticut Orchid Society will be sponsoring a repotting clinic Sunday morning. Please check our website for more details.

Carrie of The Orchidphile, will be bringing a variety of blooming novelty phalaenopsis including many miniature multiflora types, rare species, and lots of fragrant selections. She will be releasing, for the first time, some of the unique phalaenopsis purchased during her March trip to Taiwan. Carrie will give a phalaenopsis culture workshop particularly addressing plants potted in sphagnum moss, Taiwan style.

Lauris from Cal-Orchid will have a wide range of species and hybrids, many in bloom and spike, and she always brings more plants than will fit her tables, so there will be lots of great choices. This is a super opportunity to buy plants from this popular west coast company and to get first hand cultural advice about growing their orchids. Lauris' culture workshop is always humorous and very informative.

As usual we will provide a delicious picnic lunch of fried chicken, veggies and dip, chips, watermelon and lemonade.

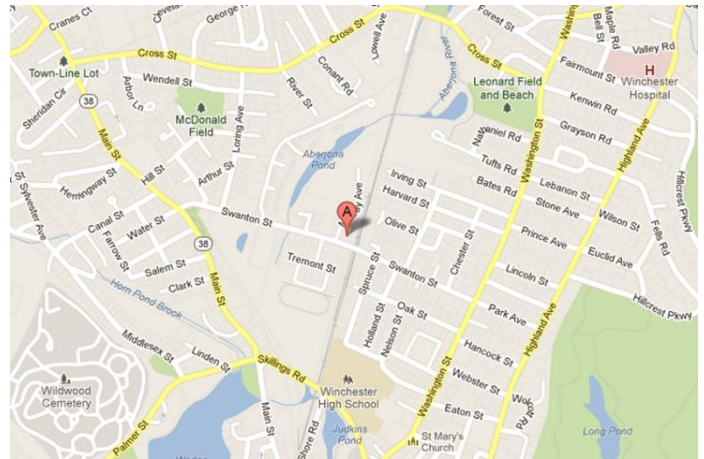
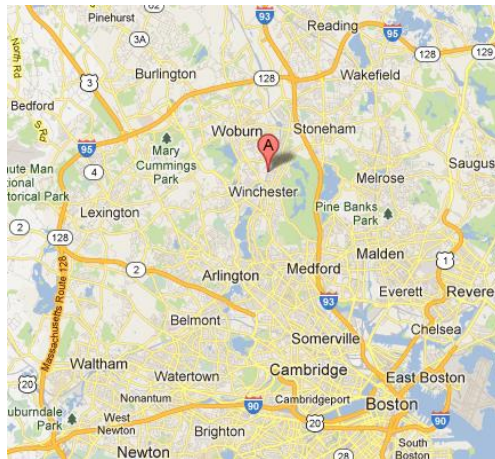
Come and spend the day with us! There is ample room to sit outside and picnic or just relax. We look forward to seeing you!

J&L Orchids *** 20 Sherwood Rd, Easton, CT 06612 *** (203) 261-3772 *** www.ilorchids.com

Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Tue, May 14, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting facebook.com/orchidPhile	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA
Sat, June 1, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, June 11, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting www.seed-engei.com	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA
Sat, June 15, 12:30pm	MOS Annual Picnic	Bob & Marcia Richter's Home

Please
note our
location
change!



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