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# MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY

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June 2010

MONTHLY MEETING TUES. JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm

Arlington Senior Center (same location as last month)  
27 Maple Street  
Arlington, MA 02476

*Do you think Phalaenopsis are ordinary? Don't miss guest speaker  
Carrie Raven-Rieman from The OrchidPhile, Founder, Past  
President and Regional Director of the International Phalaenopsis  
Alliance to find out the truth about Phals!*

To preorder plants, e-mail Carri at [carrir@optonline.net](mailto:carrir@optonline.net) and include  
"MOS Preorder" in the subject line.



## MEETING SHOW TABLE

Don't be shy. Bring in your blooming plants to exhibit on the show table. It's fun and informative...and you might go home with a ribbon!

### RESULTS

May 2010

Judges: George Baltonmas, Brandt Moran, Betty Levine  
Scribe: Linda Abrams  
21 Displayed, 13 Awarded

Phal Hybrid  
Paph rothschildianum x sib  
Sedinea japonica Minmarmshima  
Lc Schillerina 'pira'  
Paph. Ho Chi Minh  
Onc. Space Lustre  
Ascocentrum miniaturum  
Paph Deperle  
Phal hybrid  
Paph Onyx x Robert Debear  
Lycaste Aromatatica  
Laelia Purpurata var. Striata  
Phal. Mind-Hsing Yellow Bay

Elizabeth Janko  
Alen Morse  
Ralph & Chicko Collins  
Bob Richter  
Bob Richter  
Bob Richter  
Sasha Varsanofieva  
Joel Shelkrot  
John Kasakian  
George Baltonmas  
Brandt Moran  
Brandt Moran  
Joel Shelkrot





**Bob Richter has been kind enough to open his home for a picnic June 19<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 3:00pm. Join us for a barbeque and potluck lunch and explore Bob's beautiful greenhouse filled with thousands of orchids. Spouses, significant others and orchid friends are welcome.**

So that we know how much food to buy, please RSVP by Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> using the eVite you received in your e-mail.

If you haven't received an eVite, RSVP to Sasha:  
[sasha@massorchid.org](mailto:sasha@massorchid.org) - or call 617-275-5733.

The MOS will provide drinks, hot dogs, and hamburgers. The rest of the food is up to you! Suggested dishes (by first letter of last name)

A-F Appetizers / Chips & Dip  
G-L Salads  
M-Z Desserts

283 Elm Street, North Reading, MA 01853



Photo courtesy of AOS

## ***Monthly Checklist for May and June from the AOS***

### **Cattleya**

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

### **Paphiopedilum**

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived

hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

## **Phalaenopsis**

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

*AOS thanks Ned Nash for this essay .*



Photo courtesy of AOS



Photo courtesy of AOS

The AOS website is a great resource. If you are not a member, consider joining. There is a wealth of information in videos, newsletters and articles. Here's the link...<http://www.aos.org>

### MOS Board Minutes

MOS thanks Justin Brenner and Sheila Selby for their service on the board and welcomes our newest board members Jody Maggio and Brigitte Fortin.

### 2010-2011 MOS Board

President: Sasha Varsanofieva  
Vice President: Lynn Hennessey  
Treasurer: Jody Maggio  
Secretary: Nick Pavey  
Past-President: Brian Leib  
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Linda Abrams  
Joan Blackett  
Susan Flier  
Brigitte Fortin  
Larry Kerpelman

MOS IS ON FACEBOOK! CHECK IT OUT!

BE AN ACTIVE PART OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY.  
VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO GET INVOLVED.



Cymbidium Lillian Stewart 'Monique', AM/AOS

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Visit us at:  
[www.massorchid.org](http://www.massorchid.org)

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