

Next Meeting: February 12, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Orchid Society will be held on Tuesday, 7:30 PM at the Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA.

# Massachusetts Orchid Society



January 2008

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## January 8th Meeting

MOS Member Bob Richter will present a slide show of his recent trip to Ecuador

The Cape and the Islands Orchid Show is coming up in early January and we need blooming plants! If you'll have plants or can suggest someone I should contact who might, I would appreciate it. This will greatly help the society fulfill its responsibilities... Remember, the plants don't need to be the best ever as it's helpful to have plants to fill out the display. Thanks!  
Brian



### *Cape and Islands Orchid Show*

January 12-13<sup>th</sup>

Seacrest Resort and Conf. Center

### *New Hampshire Orchid Society Show*

February 8-10<sup>th</sup>

Nashua, NH

*More details on back page*

## Amherst Orchid Society Show

We are looking for exhibitors large and small, clerks and judges, and visitors. Here are the dates:

- Feb 21: Set Up
- Feb 22: Judging
- Feb 23/24 open to the public.

I would love to have some more art exhibits, as that is often lacking at our show. Anyone interested should email me Ellen Kennedy [E832847@aol.com](mailto:E832847@aol.com) or call 413-369-8070, if no one answers leave a message and a good time to call back. Hope to see many of you there!

E. Kennedy  
President,  
Amherst Orchid Society



### Newsletter Editor Needed

Due to increasing family obligations (birth of second child in June), my last newsletter will be the May 2008 edition. If you have experience with Microsoft Word and Outlook, please consider this opportunity to serve the Society. With my assistance, I can assure you that the transition will be simple. Please contact me (Steve Kirincich; [skirincich@comcast.net](mailto:skirincich@comcast.net); 978-369-5375) if you are interested

### MOS Monthly Show Table –December 2007

Judges: George Baltoumas, Bob Richter, Bob Hesse	
Scribe: Linda Abrams	
14 plants displayed	8 plants awarded
Hawkinsara Koolau Sunset ‘Hawaii’	Betsy Opitz
Stenorhyncus speciosa	
Ascocenda Motes ‘Hot Chestnut’	
Dendrobium Ellen x Den. Zip	Ralph and Chieko Collins
Neolauchea pulchella	
Pleurothallis ornata	
Aerangis mystacidii	
Pleurothallis nossax	

## ***January-February Culture Checklist***

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay ...

### **Cattleya**

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

### **Cymbidium**

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

### **Lycaste**

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

### **Odontoglossums**

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

### **Paphiopedilum**

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

### **Phalaenopsis**

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not report this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

### **Zygopetalum**

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

**Chu Jung, Membership Chairman**  
**Massachusetts Orchid Society**  
**21 Coolidge Road**  
**Arlington, MA 02476-7736**

## Calendar of Orchid Events

Saturday, January 5 February 2	<b>Northeast Judging Center Boylston, MA</b> , Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA, Robert Winkley, <a href="mailto:rwinkley@aol.com">rwinkley@aol.com</a> . Presentations begin @ 10:00 AM. Judging begins at 12 PM. <a href="#">Directions</a>
Tuesday, January 8 February 12	<b>MOS Meeting</b> , Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA, 7:30PM
January 12-13	<b>19th Annual CAIOS Orchid Show</b> , Seacrest Resort and Conference Center, 350 Quaker Road, North Falmouth, MA, for more info call the CAIOS 24 hour info line: 508-536-5008 or go to <a href="http://www.caios.org">http://www.caios.org</a>
February 8-10	<b>New Hampshire Orchid Society Show</b> , New location!: Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH (formally Sheraton Tara) just off US Rt. 3 at exit 1. Exhibits, Workshops, and Sales Friday Feb. 8 - Preview Party and Early Bird Sales Saturday Feb. 9: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Sunday Feb. 10: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
February 23-24	<b>Amherst Orchid Society Show</b> , Smith Vocational School, 80 Locust St. (Rt. 9) Northampton MA, (next to Cooley Dickenson Hospital) <a href="#">Directions</a> Feb. 21: Set Up                      Feb. 22: Judging                      Feb. 23-24 open to the public Contact: Ellen Kennedy <a href="mailto:E832847@aol.com">E832847@aol.com</a> or call 413 369 8070
<a href="http://www.massorchid.org">www.massorchid.org</a> newsletter editor: Steve Kirincich <a href="mailto:skirincich@comcast.net">mailto:skirincich@comcast.net</a> ; 978-369-5375	