

MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY



Oct 14 Meeting

Ray Barkalow, First Rays Orchids-

RAYS bio

My orchid growing began when I was a Ceramic Engineering student at Georgia Tech. After about a year of volunteering my time at the public greenhouses in Piedmont Park - now the Atlanta Botanical Gardens - the orchid grower there gave me a big, "floofy" purple cattleya.

It took me about two years to kill it via the typical root rot-desiccation cycle torture, and at the time, I simply "did not kill plants," so I was determined to learn more and got addicted like everyone else. Needless to say, in the 30+ years since, I've learned that I am a very effective plant killer... (Isn't it true that you're not an orchid-growing "pro" until you killed your weight in plants?)

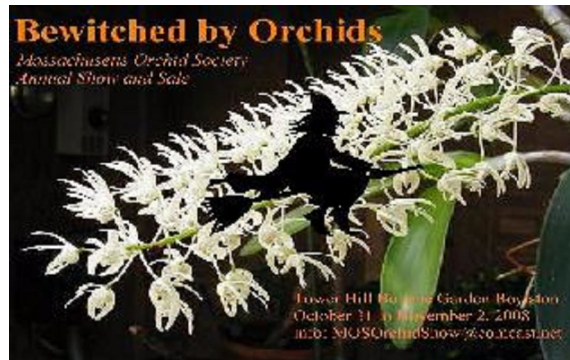
During my professional career, I have had many opportunities to travel internationally, and put together an extensive collection of orchids from around the world. That travel schedule (averaging 13 flights a week for three years at one point) led to a great deal of experimentation surrounding keeping plants healthy and happy during my absences, and that's what led to the development of Semi-Hydroponics.

First Rays Orchids came into being by accident - literally - courtesy of a greenhouse heater and alarm failure on a 7°F night in January of 1994. That 20-year collection of plants from around the world was a total loss. After a few months, a new heater and alarm were purchased and written off as business expenses, even though I had no idea how I'd make a business out of orchids.

Shortly thereafter, I divided the first couple of replacement plants I had purchased, created a text-only web page listing them, and offered the extra divisions to the internet orchid community via a post to the rec.gardens.orchids newsgroup. Within three hours I had two orders, and I knew how I'd make it a business.

The best part about the exposure that First Rays Orchids has given me is the ability to communicate with folks from around the world on the fascinating subject of orchids. Sharing the obsession is second only to growing the plants.





'Seasoned' orchid growers and new orchid enthusiasts eagerly anticipate the Massachusetts Orchid Society's Annual Show and Sales. *Bewitched by Orchids*, at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston on October 30 (set-up) thru November 2, 2008 is no exception.

As you may know, orchids shows are comprised of *many* facets that, taken together, define the event's outcome. We can always depend on good results by repeating obviously successful elements, but it's often a challenge to find the right way to correct areas that don't meet expectations without disappointing anyone.

By all accounts, last year's show was one of the best attended in MOS' and THBG's history! (THBG Marketing Director reports **1,947** paid visitors to the show - 318 on Friday from 12:30 - 5; and 640 and 989 from 10 - 5 on Saturday and Sunday.) People raved about the quality exhibits and many vendors were nearly sold out.

But there were a few 'bumps.' The catering was superb, music delightful, and the setting gorgeous for the Preview/Awards Party, but this 'separate' event on Friday evening was so poorly attended that everybody felt the letdown.

The Show Committee and Board didn't want to miss out altogether on an opportunity to publicly celebrate the show's opening and present awards, so in lieu of a formal preview party; we've modified the Friday, October 31st schedule, as follows:

October 31 Tower Hill Public Hours 12:30 - 6:00
 Exhibits and Sales Area open 12:30 - 5:00
 AOS Judging 1:30 - 5:00
Reception 5:00 - 6:00 - light refreshments served
 Award presentation - 5:15 - 5:30

HELP MOS MAKE MONEY **NO HEAVY LIFTING**

Do you enjoy talking to people about Orchids? Are you planning to attend our annual show at Tower Hill? If so, please consider giving one to two hours of your time to help staff the Hospitality Table. You will be selling raffle tickets on items donated by our vendors and AOS calendars. You will also answer orchid related questions such as the inevitable "Why isn't my plant blooming?" and "How do I join MOS?" (Applications will be available). You can bring a companion to assist you even if they are not an MOS Member. Please contact me at 617 734-9827 or bonoffr@rcn.com. Roberta Bonoff

**Massachusetts Orchid Society
Officers and Directors Meeting Minutes
September 2nd, 2008
S. Selby's House
Prepared by S. Varsanofieva, Secretary**

Present: L. Abrams, G. Bonoff, S. Flier, B. Leib, B. Opitz, S. Selby, S. Varsanofieva

- I. Minutes of prior meeting approved.
- II. Treasurer's Report (Balances as of 8/31/08)
 - a. About \$200 below last month's balance.
 - i. 9 membership renewals.
 - ii. \$200 for Auction plants.
 - iii. \$70 for Auction promotion.
 - b. Checking - \$5,158.
 - c. Overall - \$29,527.
 - d. Slightly ahead of where we were last year.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Library
 - i. We still don't have a librarian.
 - ii. We won't be able to have the library available to the members until we have a librarian, as we need someone has to keep track of the books. This decision will be announced at the next general meeting.
 - iii. Boxes – buy two sample boxes and try them out.
 - b. Speakers
 1. October – First Ray's Orchids. <http://firstrays.com>
 2. November – Dennis D'Alessandro of Gypsy Glen Orchids.
 3. December – Holiday Party.
 4. March – Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids
 5. B. Opitz has looked into inviting Mario Ferrussi of Mario's Orchids in Toronto.
 - c. Membership Improvements
 - i. Give out survey and send to membership around the Holiday meeting. We should e-mail, put on website, and give out at the holiday party to cover as many members as possible.
 - ii. Next Meeting
 1. Have sign up sheets & information sheets for volunteers for new programs:
 - a. Orchid Doctor.
 - b. Mentorship program.
 2. Have a check-in sheet at door in order to receive raffle ticket.
 - iii. Member Badges
 1. These probably don't need to be laminated.
 2. New members should receive a badge as they join. We should have a pre-printed set of these which can be written on directly at the meeting.
 3. We should also give out a lanyard. S. Varsanofieva will look into prices.
 - iv. S. Flier to send out information on new programs to newsgroup when it is ready.
 - d. Annual Show
 - i. Preview Party
 1. We don't have anyone to organize it – do we need it?
 2. Do we want L. Abram's group to play again?
 3. Concern that the party was poorly attended last year and that it's a little bit too far a drive for an evening out.
 - ii. J. Eckstrom requested \$50 for new containers for materials kept at THBG. Request approved by all present.
 - IV. Next meeting will be held on October 7th at G. Bonoff's house.
 - V. November meeting at S. Flier's.
 - VI. Meeting adjourned.

Tricks of the Trade by Dave Tribble of the Illinois Orchid Society

This month's Tricks of the Trade brings us two quick tips:

Tip #1 - Visit your local orchid vendor monthly

to build a collection that blooms year-round. Early on in my fast growing orchid obsession, I would visit local orchid vendors to purchase blooming plants at least once a month. I would purchase plants in bloom mostly because I wanted to see what the flowers would look like, and admittedly, I was not sure whether I could ever get them to bloom on my own. Well, happily, many of these plants did bloom for me in subsequent years, but with an added bonus. They would bloom around the same time of year that I purchased them – nicely spreading out the show of flowers throughout the year. Now if I could only train them to flower in time for the show.

Tip #2 - Buy fans now.

Many growers use standard box fans to move air around their plants. The fans are cheap and efficient, and they have a limited life. After a year or 2 of constant operation, they usually die a screechy death. Mine always seem to schedule their demise for sometime other than summer. Guess what - in this part of the country, hardware stores don't stock fans most of the year. The fans tend to go on sale right about now, and then disappear from the shelves until late spring. Do yourself a favor - buy backups now while they are readily available.

MOS Fall Auction a Success

The MOS 2008 Annual Fundraising Auction raised just over \$2,100, after expenses. This is comparable to what we raised at the 2007 auction. We auctioned 135 plants, with an average "sold" price of \$17.50. We also sold a light and some baskets. There were 39 registered bidders, a couple of whom were not MOS members.

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*Pictures Illinois Orchid Society

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Who's What at MOS?

Officers:

President	- Brian Leib	bleibume@gmail.com
Vice President	- Betsy Opitz	bfopitz@rcn.com
Treasurer	- Sheila Selby	srselby@verizon.net
Secretary	- Sasha Varsanofieva	mossecretary@gmail.com

Board Members:

Past President	- George Bonoff	bonoffg@rcn.com
At Large	- Linda Abrams	lindabrams@yahoo.com
	- Susan Flier	sfflier@comcast.net
	- Don Gammon	rightplant@aol.com
	- Manuel Garber	manual_garber@yahoo.com
	- Bernhardt Wuensch	mjwuensch@mac.com

Committees:

AOS Trustee	- Howard Bronstein	hbronst849@aol.com
AOS Representative	- Charlie Briggs	chasbriggs@aol.com
Conservation	- Robert Hesse	drbobhesse@netzero.net
Hospitality	- Sasha Varsanofieva	mossecretary@gmail.com
Library	- vacant*	
Membership	- Chu Jung	drcjung@exite.com
	- Pamela Swearingen	pamswearingen@verizon.net
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Odontoglossum Alliance	- John Miller	jemiller49@aol.com
Orchid Show	- J. Eckstrom/ L Hennessey	mosorchidshow@comcast.net
	- S. Varsanofieva/	
Program	- Betsy Optiz	bfopitz@rcn.com
Show Table	- Linda Abrams	lindabrams@yahoo.com

* Vacant. Please e-mail mos@massorchid.org if interested.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct 4 Nov 1	Northeast Judging Center Boylston, MA , Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA, Robert Winkley, rwinkley@aol.com. Presentations begin @ 10:00 AM. Judging begins at 12 PM. Directions
Tuesday, Oct 14	MOS Meeting , Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA, 7:30PM
October 31-November 2	MOS Fall Show and Sale "Bewitched by Orchids" Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA; MOSOrchidShow@comcast.net
December 21	Winter Solstice
www.massorchid.org newsletter editor: George Bonoff	

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