
MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY



March 2010

Monthly Meeting...March 9th, 7:00PM



*courtesy of Nutmeg State Orchid Society

"Growing Orchids with Hydroponics"

Jeree Harms from Creative Hydroponics in Hillsborough, N.J. will be the speaker. They have been in business since 1978 and into hydroponics for orchids for the past 18 years. The Hydroponics System is well suited for any house and houseplant. It is self contained and does not use a pump, filters, or outside reservoir for storage of the nutrients.

MOS Captures 1st Place Again!

Congratulations and Thanks!

The New Hampshire Orchid Show "Rapture of Orchids" was a great success in many ways. It was a beautiful show that featured many plants that had not been seen in a very long time. The MOS display won the 1st place ribbon and was featured on the NH Chronicle TV show on Wednesday Feb. 24th. Several plants in our display were awarded ribbons.

Congratulations to all. There are many people I wish to thank for our success. I would like to thank Brian Leib, Sasha Varsanofieva, Betty Levine and Dave Roberts who supplied the plants for our display. I would especially like to thank Lisa & Brandt Moran for not only supplying plants, but for spending the day with me during setup and coming again on Sunday for the teardown. On behalf of the MOS and myself thank you all.

George Baltoumas



Helpful Hints...

In response to all the questions raised at our last meeting about **Growing Woodland Slipper Orchids Outdoors** I thought it would be helpful to reprint Ron Burch's notes from a prior meeting.

Pro's Choice makes several sieve sizes of expanded clays for playing field and turf management. Soilmaster is the second-largest sieve. "Pro's Choice Soilmaster" from Lesco should represent a single product in this line. I am not sure if there is a Lesco store near you (they are common here in Connecticut) but if so, all of them carry this in 50 pound bags. You may also ask your local nursery/garden centers if they carry a product called "Turface." This is exactly the same material as Soilmaster made by the same manufacturer. As a brand it is common in Canada and there are a few places in the US that also carry it, mostly on the West Coast so far.

Soil Perfector is an Espoma product - most places that sell HollyTone fertilizers also carry Soil Perfector. It should be available at almost all nursery/garden centers. Several folks in MA have told me that their local nurseries sell it. It is fairly light so comes in a 27 pound bag. It may also be available as Stalite Permatil (same product by the same manufacturer) but this is often only available in large quantities - my local garden center has the 27 pound bags as Soil Perfector and 98 pound bags as Permatil.

The gravel is the "natural aquarium gravel" or if you get it from a water filtration company or garden center it will be called #3 filtration silica sand or #3 filtration quartz gravel - these are the same thing. Coir is ground coconut husk. I buy it in "bricks" from my local hydroponics shop. Here is an online source of bricks

<http://www.3rlighting.com/hydroponics/organic/coir.html>

I think that you will find your plants doing even better in these media. Good luck!



BLOOMS! 2010

at the

Boston Flower & Garden Show

Wednesday, March 24 to Sunday March 28, 2010

Seaport World Trade Center

Boston, MA 02210

BRIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP! HE CAN'T DO IT ALONE!

The New England Orchid Societies will set up a booth at the Boston Flower Show starting on the 21st of March. We will need lots of plants for our prominent display, and lots of people to answer questions about orchids. Most are basic such as:

What do I do now that my orchid has finished blooming?
(Don't we all need an answer for that one!)

It's usually a lot of fun, plus you get free admission to the show when you volunteer. Parking expenses are not covered.

Please contact Brian if you have any questions.

bleibume@gmail.com



SHOW TABLE RESULTS

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2010

Judges: Sasha Varsanofieva, Cindy Herrick, Bob Hesse

Scribe: Linda Abrams 19 Displayed 7 Awarded

Tolumnia Magic 'Hildos'

Masdevallia amplexa

Cochleanthes Amazing

Paph. Hybrid

Dendrobium Super Ise

Paph. Paul Parks

Dpts. Taida Salu 'Alisan'

Bob Richter

Bob Richter

Bob Richter

Charlie Briggs

Carol McClennen

Brian Lieb

Susan Johnston

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! Here's how to do it.

Bringing Plants for the Show Table

Members can and should bring in their blooming plants (plants should be free of pests and disease).

Try to get your plants on the table and identified by 7:00 p.m. The ribbon judging starts at 7:10 p.m.

At the Show Table, fill out either a white card if you are a beginner (assume 2-3 years experience), or a green card if you are more experienced. Put your name on the back of the card. Put the raffle stub in the cup/can (keep the other so you know if your number is called).

The ribbons are awarded based on some fairly subjective measures, including:

- Is it a beginning grower?
- Is it pretty?
- Is it rare or unusual?
- Is it difficult to grow and bloom?
- Is it doing better than would be expected for growing conditions?

It is NOT the stringent AOS judging. Even though it is common for the people doing the ribbon judging to be AOS judges, they are not using the same criteria.

If it's in bloom, bring it!

The Monthly Meeting Raffle



- You get a ticket just for coming with your ID Badge.
- You get another ticket if you bring a snack.
- You get another ticket for each plant you bring for the Show Table.

Usually people bring plants to donate for the raffle. However, there are exceptions and in these cases there won't be a raffle.

Preview of upcoming speakers

In April we have Greg Butler of Oak Hill Gardens. You may visit his web site at <http://www.oakhillgardens.com/> and preorder if you would like to be able to pick up anything at the meeting.

In May we have Dr. Glenn Lehr from New World Orchids with a discussion that combines Orchid Shows in Japan, Japanese Orchids, and a tour of the people, cities and culture of Japan. We will be looking for a member to host Dr. Lehr.

In June, we'll have Carri Raven-Riemann from the Orchidophile.



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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