

Jan 2009

# MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY



**January 13th, 2009**

**Speaker: Jean Stefanik**

**Topic: Orchid Conservation**

The talk details the issues of orchid conservation and is illustrated by Jean's photos from around the world. It also goes through the major conservation groups, including 1%FOC, and emphasizes that each has a different focus. Doing SOMETHING, both locally and globally, is better than nothing!

Jean is an Educator and Naturalist, semi-retired, whose interests include orchids, native habitats, and conservation. She has traveled extensively worldwide, eco-volunteering and often presenting talks to groups. She is a member of, and volunteer for the American Orchid Society, and serves as the New Hampshire Orchid Society as Conservation and Education Chairperson, and a member of the North American Native Orchid Conference.



**Cape and Islands Orchid Society  
20<sup>th</sup> annual orchid show**

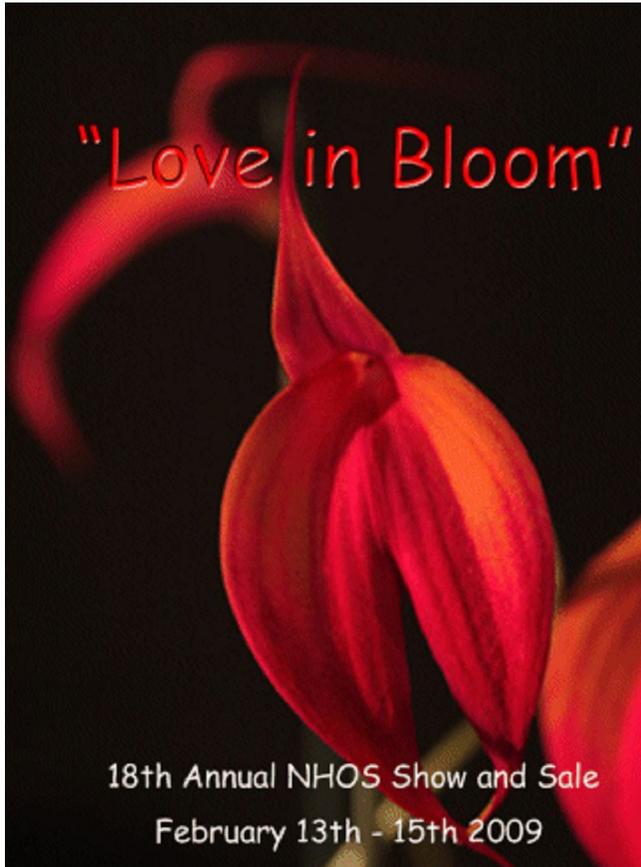
**"Palette of Orchids"**

January 24-25, 2009

Seacrest resort and Inn  
North Falmouth, Ma

For information

[www.caios.org](http://www.caios.org)



The New Hampshire Orchid Society's

18<sup>th</sup> annual orchid show

**"Love in Bloom"**

February 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Radisson Hotel,  
Nashua, NH  
just off US Rt. 3 at  
exit 1**

**Exhibits, Workshops,  
and Sales**

For information  
[www.nhorchids.org](http://www.nhorchids.org)

Monthly Checklist for January and February

#### **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 repot 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.

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



## Welcome new MOS Members

June & Hugo Saluti  
204 Linden Ponds Way, Apt 203  
Hingham, MA 02043-3776  
(781) 740-4586

Andrew Thorne-Lyman  
256 South Huntington  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-4842  
[andrewtl@gmail.com](mailto:andrewtl@gmail.com)

Lisa Freeman  
33 Linda Street  
Westborough, MA 01581-3711  
(508) 616-9888  
[Lisa\\_Freeman2001@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisa_Freeman2001@yahoo.com)

### Holiday Party

I want to thank everyone who helped to make our annual holiday party a success, both by helping with set-up and clean up and by providing such luscious food. Many hands helping allowed everyone to enjoy the night and especially the keyboard talents of our own Suzanne Davis. Special thanks go to Marge Gann and Chester Conrad for preparing the turkeys and providing all of the paper products and cutlery.

Best wishes to all for a New Year filled with beautiful blooms.  
Roberta

## MOS Survey Results

Thanks to all of you who completed our survey. The results have been compiled, and now we will tweak our monthly meetings with all our members' needs in mind. The following will give you an idea of what we have learned:

- 67% of our respondents attend almost all MOS meetings.
- 70% attend meetings to learn more about orchids, 47% wish to meet with friends, 37% attend for the show tables, and 3% are there hoping to win a door prize!
- While 76% find the length of meetings to be just right, 17% feel they last too long.
- 97% of our respondents find the meeting topics interesting, and 3% do not.
- 43% find some topics over their heads; 53% do not.
- 20% find the meetings too general, and 47% do not.
- 87% learn something new at each meeting, and 3% do not.
- 70% attend off-site MOS activities; 10% do not.
- 80% find our members friendly, 10% do not, 6% feel that our members are friendly only sometimes.
- 37% of our group considers themselves novice growers, 50% intermediate and no one considers himself an expert!
- 63% grow on windowsills, 47% under lights, and 23% in greenhouses.
- 53% believe themselves to be successful orchid growers, 23% do not, and 17% are somewhere in the middle.
- 43% would like to mentor new members while 40% do not or feel they are not knowledgeable enough.
- 3% would like to present a topic, 73% do not, 3% are not ready yet.
- 67% would like to continue the coffee/dessert service while only 27% are willing to help out. Members are looking for coffee, tea, cold drinks, water, desserts, cookies, sandwiches and beer!
- Favorites orchid websites are AOS ([aos.org](http://aos.org)), [canadianorchidcongress.com](http://canadianorchidcongress.com), Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia/Jay Pfahl ([orchidspecies.com](http://orchidspecies.com)), [jborchid.com](http://jborchid.com), [ladyslipper.com](http://ladyslipper.com), MOS ([massorchid.com](http://massorchid.com)), [oakhillgardens.com](http://oakhillgardens.com), [orchidboard.com](http://orchidboard.com), [orchidgeeks.com](http://orchidgeeks.com), [orchidlady.com](http://orchidlady.com), [orchidmall.com](http://orchidmall.com), [rforchids.com](http://rforchids.com).
- Suggestions for meeting topics are loud and clear...**back to basics!**: orchid specifics/culture/types, explanation of orchid names, growing under lights, watering and fertilizing techniques, pest, potting, miniatures. Specific requests include cattleyas, rupicolous laelias, and which orchids grow best in north, south, east and west windows.  
(The End)

**Susan Flier**

## Upcoming Events

Saturday Jan 3 Saturday Feb 7	<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>
Jan 13	<b>MOS Meeting</b> , Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA, 7:30PM
Jan 24-25	<b>CAIOS show "Palette of Orchids"</b>
Feb 13-15	<b>NHOS show "Orchids in Bloom"</b>
<a href="http://www.massorchid.org">www.massorchid.org</a> newsletter editor: George Bonoff	

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*Visit us at:*

[www.massorchid.org](http://www.massorchid.org)

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