

# MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY



**2\*** issues left

## May 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### Culture Corner & Repotting Clinic

The meeting will begin with our usual show table and announcements about special events. Guests Jan and Ulla of Kelly's Korner Orchid Supplies will be in attendance. While they plan on bringing a variety of growers needs it would be a good idea to check there catalog and pre order. [www.kkorchid.com](http://www.kkorchid.com)



## Editors note\*

Your newsletter editor plans on retiring as of publication of the June 2009 issue of the newsletter. It would of course be best for the incoming editor to have the aid of the current editor. If you have any interest in assuming this important MOS function please contact George at [mos@massorchid.org](mailto:mos@massorchid.org) or speak with Brian.

PS: I normally spent about a half day a month to assemble the newsletter.



The board is hosting a reception for new MOS members at the home of Sue Flier of Brookline on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>.

New members are encouraged to attend for what promises to be an informative and a great time.

June meeting to be members picnic Find out more at May meeting or in the June newsletter.

## May – Is it Spring Yet?

Ron McHatton, Director of Education AOS

With the warmer temperatures and longer days much of your orchid collection should be busting new growth and roots. The new shoots of many orchids are really good at holding water and you'll want to make sure that when you water you avoid having water stand for too long in these growths. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, a couple of applications of water a short time apart are much more effective at thoroughly wetting your plant's roots than is a single longer watering. When you water, make sure you water very thoroughly and allow water to flow freely from the drainage holes. This will aid in minimizing salt buildup in the potting mix. Click the link below for a refresher on proper watering.



Along with longer days comes more intense sunlight and you will want to be vigilant with respect to changing sun angle. What might have been a good location for over-wintering, can very quickly become dangerous to your plants as the sun rises in the sky. The early spring months can be really dangerous in the northern parts of the country as the sun's intensity increases often long before the trees which provide natural summer shade have leafed

out. This image is a *Paphiopedilum* very quickly sunburned by unfiltered sunlight coming through the gap between two pieces of shade cloth. At first glance, it might look a lot like a fungal infection but note the sharp boundary between the brown sections and the healthy green areas surrounding it. These sharp boundaries are a dead giveaway for sunburn. Unfortunately, this new growth is scarred for the life of the growth.

As we work our way toward warmer weather around the country you should now be well on your way to completing spring repotting. Last month I mentioned some pests to be on the lookout for (Thrips, mites and aphids) and while we are on the subject of repotting I'd like to point out another one. All of us are familiar with the noxious mealy bug but are you aware that these pests



can infest the roots of your plants? This is one of the reasons that it can be so difficult to rid plants of this pest. Unless you use systemic pesticides, you reach those visible above the potting media but those lurking below survive to re-emerge weeks later. This image is an *Amorphophallus* corm infested with mealy bugs feeding off the corm. Repotting time is a really good opportunity to thoroughly inspect your plants both above and below the potting media line.



*Doritaenopsis* Chain  
Xen Pearl 'Penny',  
AM/AOS  
(Ching Hua Spring x  
Nobby's Pink Lady)  
Photographer: Tek H.  
Hia  
Grower: A & P Orchids,  
Swansea, MA

## **Tricks of the Trade – Some Helpful Hints!**

*Dave Tribble, Contributing Editor Illinois Orchid Society*

The following were taken from some old copies of the AOS "Orchid Bulletin" from the 80's and **early 90's**.

- When potting an orchid, use a small, inverted pot (clay preferred) over the center of the drainage hole to provide air to the roots and keep the medium from staying too wet and breaking down. If you use a plastic pot for this, a center drainage hole must be added. A two inch pot is just about perfect for a five or six inch pot.
- If you are using the packing material referred to as "peanuts" for drainage material, make sure you are not using the water soluble kind. Those that resemble tiny binoculars are made from corn starch and will dissolve in water leaving a sludge that supports the development of bacterial and fungal growths and impede drainage.
- To recycle discarded plant tags, scraping with a razor blade is easier than using solvents or an ink eraser.
- A Butane barbecue lighter is a practical tool for sterilizing any cutting tool used on orchids. The lighter is compact, inexpensive, and the flame can be adjusted to low or high. Look for an elongated nozzle and a trigger lock as safety features when purchasing your lighter.

*-Jerry Garner*

# April 14, 2009 Show Table

Judges: Bob Richter, Sasha V., Linda Wilhelm

Scribe: Susan Flier 27 plants displayed 11 awarded

---

Leptotes bicolor<sup>1</sup> Bob Richter

Tolumnia Ralph & Yagi 'Elsa' Bob Richter

Pair of Masdevallia hybrids William Freedberg

Den. Golden Aya R&C Collins

Restrepia lansbergia R&C Collins

Paph Fumi's Delight R&C Collins

Cochleanthes Hybrid Betsy Opitz

Masdevallia Copper Angel 'Highland' AM/AOS x rex 'Maui Titan'  
CHM/AOS  
Betsy Opitz

Phal P. Brother Sara Gold Susan Johnson

Ascocentrum miniatum Sasha V.

LC Princess Margaret George Balt.



Massachusetts Orchid Society  
Officers and Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 7th, 2009  
B. Opitz's House  
Prepared by S. Varsanofieva, Secretary

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

- I. Minutes of prior meeting approved.
- II. Treasurer's Report (account balances as of 3/31/2009)
  - a. Total Balance - \$30,910
  - b. Up \$15 dollars from last year
  - c. Made a \$500 donation to the Northeastern Regional Judging Center.
  - d. Paid \$110 for AOS Show kit for annual show
- III. Program
  - a. April - Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids (South Carolina)
  - b. May - Potting Workshop - Kelley's Korner if possible
  - c. June -
  - d. July - Glenn Decker of Piping Rock Orchids (New York)
  - e. August -
  - f. September - Auction (**3rd Tuesday! September 15th**)
  - g. October - Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids (Brazilian Orchids - Florida)
  - h. November -
  - i. December - Holiday Party
- IV. Old Business
  - a. All Members Picnic
    - i. B. Opitz to confirm June 20th as date with B. Richter
    - ii. Send an e-vite
    - iii. Announce twice at April & May meetings
    - iv. Hold show table as usual
  - b. Flower Show
    - i. Successful, but few plants from the society
  - c. Educational Display - G. Bonoff to contact G. Romero
  - d. Nominating Committee
    - i. G. Bonoff may need some additional help
    - ii. Need a President & VP
- V. New Business
  - a. Annual Show
    - i. Contact I. Versoy & J. Eckstrom to determine if there are any outstanding bills from last year's show
    - ii. Set up new account with \$1500 for this year and get any remaining money back.
- VI. Next meeting will be held at S. Flier's house.
- VII. June Meeting - G. Bonoff's
- VIII. July Meeting - S. Shelby's
- IX. Meeting adjourned.

## Upcoming events

Saturday, June 06 July ? 04	<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>
May 09	<b>New Member Event</b>
May 12	<b>MOS Meeting</b> , Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA, 7:30PM
June 20	<b>MOS Members Picnic</b>
<a href="mailto:mos@massorchid.org">mos@massorchid.org</a> newsletter editor: George Bonoff	

---

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

---

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

