

September 2009

MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY



MOS ANNUAL AUCTION

**TUESDAY, September 15TH
7:00PM**

There will be no show table!

This year's auction is shaping up nicely.

I have heard from several people (but not you!) about plants that people are intending to bring.

Please email me at bleibume@gmail.com if you have plants you plan on bringing.

Some of the plants I've already received are:
Angraecum elephantium, Bulbophyllum lepidum,
several NoID Catts and Brassia, Den. anonymus,
Ludisia discolor 'Trident', Lc. Allie's Spice,
Cochleanthes aromatica...

I hope to have a more complete list on the website soon.

If you can come a little early to help setup (which will allow you to peruse the plants...), I would appreciate it. I also need some help with auctioneers and clerks too....

Plant donations are tax deductible and plants purchased at prices above fair market value, the amount over the fair market value is deductible (I think...). Please bid early and often!

Thanks and hope to see you there!

Brian Leib

DUES DEADLINE APPROACHING

Dues should be sent to:

Chu Jung
21 Coolidge Road
Arlington, MA 02476.

The \$20 checks should be made out to 'MOS'.



Welcome New Members

Edward Lipchus
14 Grant St
Reading, MA 01867
781-799-4371
Elipchus@trilsys.com

Leslie Jane Buchanan
580 Salem St.
Wakefield, MA 01880
781-587-0332
Timeleslie@hotmail.com

LETTER FROM OUR MOS PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your participation and continued support. I am thrilled to take on the role of MOS president. Together we will continue to make the society a welcoming and educational place.

I hope that you have all enjoyed the summer and that your plants are flush with new growth. There is nothing more exciting than discovering new buds in the fall. I encourage you to read Liese Pigors-Butler's article on fall and winter orchid care. It contains helpful hints to get your plants through the colder months.

Growing Tip of the Month - by Liese

Fall and Winter Orchid Care

Even though it's early September, fall seems to be in the air. The days are slowly getting shorter, the nights cooler, and some trees are even beginning to lose their leaves. The kids are back in school and our summer "routines" must change.

Most of us are creatures of habit. Watering our plants every Saturday morning and fertilizing once-a-month, whatever it may be. What one must remember is that as the seasons change, the climate conditions change, thus, the care of your orchids must also change.

Fall brings shorter days, cooler nights, and lower light intensities. These conditions are necessary to push many orchids into spike. However, the care we give them must change slightly to accommodate the new season. During the fall and winter months, the plant growth of orchids slows down and, in some cases, stops entirely until spring. Because of this, we usually cut back of our watering and fertilizing. It is good to switch foods to a blossom booster formula (i.e. 10-30-20) during the fall and winter. Blossom booster cuts back on the nitrogen and pumps up the phosphate, a combination that encourages blooming. With the lower light during these months the orchids simply do not use up as much food, so make sure to reduce your fertilizing frequency and/or switch to a blossom booster.

The plants also do not use up as much water during the fall/winter months. You will want to water your plants thoroughly as usual. However, due to the darker, cooler days, it may take longer for your plants to dry out. If you are growing in a greenhouse or basement area, you

may only have to water every 10-14 days. However, everyone's conditions are different. Our home is very dry during the winter due to the forced air heating system constantly kicking on. This dries out the orchids in the house and forces me to water twice a week, instead of just once.

The best thing to do is to evaluate and change your orchid care as the seasons change. Be aware of the plant growth and moisture content. Don't get caught up in too much of a "routine" of caring for your orchids. Learn to study the plant and decide on its specific needs for that week, month and season.

Happy Growing,
Liese



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ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION

This month's meeting will be the annual plant auction. Please note that it will be held on the **3rd Tuesday** of September (**Sept. 15th**). There will be no meeting on Sept. 8th. The auction is a great opportunity to purchase a diverse selection of plants that you won't find at your local Trader Joe's. If you have any plants to donate for the auction, please contact Brian Leib. A partial plant list will soon be posted on the MOS website.

brian@massorchid.org

OCTOBER 13th MEETING

The October speaker will be Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids (www.mirandaorchids.com). He is an orchid taxonomist specializing in Brazilian Cattleyas. I encourage everyone to visit his website as it contains a lot of information (as well as a price list for those of you interested in pre-ordering plants).

ANNUAL MOS SHOW

Last but not least, the annual MOS show "Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered" will be held at Tower Hill Botanic Garden on Friday October 30th through Sunday November 1st. We had record breaking crowds at last year's show and I hope that we can top that this year. You can find the show schedule, vendor information and directions to Tower Hill on the show site

<http://show.massorchid.org>

If you are interested in volunteering for exhibit set-up, clerking for show judging, or the MOS hospitality table, please contact Joanna Eckstrom at (MOSOrchidShow@comcast.net). These are great opportunities to meet your fellow MOS members and help out the society.

I hope that you are all as excited as I am about the upcoming year. If you have any comments or suggestions for the society please don't hesitate to contact me at sasha@massorchid.org.

I look forward to seeing you at the auction.

Sasha Varsanofieva



Monthly Checklist for September and October

CATTLEYA

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

CYCNOCHES

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches ventricosum*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

CYMBIDIUM

Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

DENDROBIUM

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

LEMOGLOSSUM BICTONIENSE

Both *Lemboglossum* (syn. *Odontoglossum*) *bictoniense* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Lemboglossum bictoniense* is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: *sulphureum* (green with white lip), *album* (brown with white lip) and *roseum* (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Odcdm. Bittersweet* and *Odm.*

bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

PAPHIOPEDILUM

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

PHALAENOPSIS

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

ROSSIOGLOSSUM GRANDE

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

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

Upcoming Events

Tuesday September 15th	ANNUAL AUCTION - MOS Meeting , Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA, 7:00PM
Tuesday October 13 th	MOS Meeting , Suburban Experimental Station, 241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA, 7:30PM
October 30-November 1	Annual MOS show "Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered" Tower Hill Botanical Gardens
mos@massorchid.org newsletter editor: Susan Johnston	

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.massorchid.org

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