

Massachusetts Orchid Society

September 2016

Orchid Culture Exchange

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You may have missed a meeting while one of your favorite plants was in bloom. Perhaps you have experimented with a "difficult" orchid, with great success. Or maybe you are just proud of one of your flowers.

As an extension of our show table, last month a new section of the monthly newsletter was introduced to allow members to show a picture of one of their flowering plants along with just a couple of sentences giving its name and how you grow it. This issue features a number of submissions from MOS members.

If you'd like to have your plant included, feel free to send a picture or two along with a short description including a bit about how you grow your orchid and/or any information you feel would help other growers. Pictures and culture information can be sent directly to our Newsletter Editor, Daniel Renfro at newsletter@massorchid.org.



August show-table photos,
courtesy of Linda Pakravan

Brigette Fortin submitted this photo of her *Laelia purpurata*, saying:

"It is my favorite orchid. I received this one as a present last year from Sasha and Adrienne, purchased from Marlow orchids at the NHOS. I kept it in a south window last winter watering once a week (maybe). I put it outside under a tree in May and it is extremely happy! I fertilize with MSU for tap water ¼ teaspoon per gallon at most watering.



Orchid Culture Exchange, cont'd

The Cockleshell Orchid, by Brandt Moran

I never really consider myself an old timer when it comes to orchids. But when I have three and sometimes 4 tags in a plant, each with a different name, guess that plant has been in the collection for a while. I bought what was then *Epidendrum cochleatum* some 12 years ago now. Shortly after procurement, I was informed by one of the esteem AOS judges that the name had been changed to *Encyclia cochleata*. So when I showed this plant in last Fall's MOS show, it was awarded only after the name was correctly changed to *Prosthechea cochleata*.

So what's in a name? This is what I know about the plant:

- It's the national plant of Belize – a great place to dive.
- It can be found throughout the Caribbean Islands – I've even found plants while wild boar hunting in Florida.
- *Prosthechea cochleata* is an easy plant to bloom and an even easier plant to grow in my intermediate greenhouse conditions.
- The plant seems indifferent to temperature – My plant even survived the great greenhouse freeze of 2007 – 26 F when I woke up in the morning.
- Seems to thrive best in “bright Cattleya like conditions”.
- Less water when there's less growth – winter. Same with fertilizer.
- Windowsill growers figure out a way to get humidity around the plant in the winter. Put it outside for the summer.
- Can be a bit of a sequential bloomer with the inflorescences getting a bit unwieldy after a while. I cut all the stems back in early spring this year and it seems to have paid dividends as this is the best the plant has bloomed.

The plant is in pine bark at present but will repot into alifor (think expanded clay) early next spring. The best part is it's unusual – like me. We've all heard the saying – “Plants are like their Owners”. I have no intentions to break this specimen up anytime in the near future but I say that about all my plants. I'll rethink my decision when the greenhouse is bursting at the seams.

So please give this species a try. There's an *alba* version that is beautiful if not a little more challenging to grow. At least that's what I've been told.



Individual member displays at the November show

The Show Committee is encouraging individual members (either alone or in concert with others) to put together displays for the November Orchid Show at Mahoney's. This is a fun opportunity to both show your plants and design an arrangement for all to see and enjoy.

The minimum table size will be 2'x2' and larger tables will be available. Should you wish to display in the show, please email Brigitte Fortin and tell her of your intentions as well as your table requirements (bfortin425@msn.com).



Your displays and plants will be judged. Go to orchidworks.com/showguide for a review and guide of the AOS criteria for judging displays.

This is your chance to hone your design skills and shoot for "MOS bragging Rights" for 12 months. See the photo at left for an example of a member display as small as a basket.

—The Show Committee

What is that species?

Orchid Species (www.orchidspecies.com) is an excellent source of information for the experienced and beginner grower. This site is an important tool for MOS members, as it offers an enormous database of registered orchids. You can find culture information, images and parentage of a wide variety of orchids with just your plant name. Take advantage of this site.

Message from the President

Welcome to September! One month closer to the show!

Then again, this month is our annual auction! Please bring any (disease and insect free) plants that won't fit in your grow space, are driving you 'round the bend because they won't bloom for you (don't worry, they will bloom in short order at someone else's place), or any you just don't want. Donations are tax deductible, and if you buy a plant for more than fair market value, the portion over fair market value is tax deductible (I think but please check with a tax professional). The auction is a big fundraiser for the society and we will have some nice plants from some of the nation's premier growers. Please bid early and often to support the society! THERE IS NO SHOW TABLE AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING AKA THE AUCTION and THE MEETING STARTS AT 7 INSTEAD OF 7:30!

We will have some sandwich makings, but please bring appetizers, snacks, desserts, or anything else you'd like to bring that you think will help people bid on plants!

Another fantastic way to support the society is to help at, before, and maybe even after the show! There are a lot of things to do to help before, during, and after the show, including telling your friends, relatives, frenemies, people you pass in the street, and anyone else about the show! The more people who attend the show, the better funded we will be, which means we will be able to continue to bring in world class speakers! Not only can you be helpful with some light manual labor, but there are other things you can do using brain power (mostly) before and during the show (but much of the after show work will be tearing down displays, helping to clean up the space, packing up things, etc.). Even if you don't think you know anything about orchids, you will likely know more than a brand new grower (you have at least one plant that's not dead yet?), and your experience can be helpful. We will also need people to volunteer to staff the membership and raffle tables, and help with lots of other things. There will be more discussion of this at the meeting as well as some signup sheets. Please, please, please donate a little bit of your time by helping at or with the show (there's also judging! It's a lot of fun and a great place to learn more about these things we call orchids).

On a semi-related note, if you happen to be one of those lucky few (many) who at one time or another have agreed to store supplies, books, or anything else for the society, please send me (brian@massorchid.org) an email and let me know what you may have. We have a storage unit now and can put things there. Also, we need to know what's out there!

You may wonder what it is we do with any funds we raise at the show, the auction, with donations, and any other way. We use the money to bring in world class speakers, to pay for the show (which is where we get the majority of our new members), and to keep me constantly supplied with pastries and chocolate. Well, maybe not that last part, but I am thinking of asking all of you nice folks in the society amend the by-laws....

—Brian Leib, MOS President

*August show-table photos,
courtesy of Linda Pakravan*



Upcoming Events

Monthly AOS Judging, September

Sept. 03, 10:30am
Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Dr, Bolyston, MA

This is a judging session of the American Orchid Society as the Northeast Regional Judging Center and is open to the public. For more information, see <http://massorchid.org/judging>

IPA Focus on Phals Day, at NHOS

Sept. 10, 8:30am - 3:00pm
Bedford Old Town Hall, 3 Meetinghouse Rd., Bedford, NH

In conjunction with the monthly New Hampshire Orchid Society meeting, the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) is pleased to present a great Speakers' Day, Focusing on Phalaenopsis. For our 2016 meetings, we've invited **Rob Shepard**, owner of Sapphire Dragon Orchids and **Dr. Yin-Tung Wang**, Consultant & Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M University. Rob will bring us all up to speed on his coerulea focused breeding program in his quest for a true blue Phalaenopsis. **Carri Raven-Riemann** will finish the morning session by bringing everyone up to speed on the newest directions in breeding seen at the recent 2016 Taiwan International Orchid Show and several nurseries in Taiwan. Dr. Wang will share invaluable culture information with an eye to helping us achieve the best from our Phalaenopsis. As always, Daryl Yerdon, owner of Kelley's Korner Orchid Supply will be the vendor for all your orchid supply needs.

Registration deadline is August 30, 2016. Register online here: <http://nhorchids.org/event-2248086>. Non-NHOS members may register online to pay the \$15 registration fee.

See the MOS website for more info, at: <http://massorchid.org/event-2251204>

Monthly meeting & Annual Auction

Sept. 13, 7:00-9:30pm
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester, MA

It's Auction time again! The Auction is the September Massachusetts Orchid Society Meeting on Tuesday, September 13th, 2016! Please note there is no show table this

If you would like to see something in the newsletter, just ask!

Email the editor at:
newsletter@massorchid.org



August show-table photos, courtesy of Linda Pakravan

month.

This year we'll be having a potluck. MOS will provide the finger sandwiches, and as we do our picnic and holiday party, please bring an item to share based on the list below. If you would prefer to bring another type of dish, that would be most welcome, too.

- A - F** Appetizers / Chips & Dip Salads
- G - L** Desserts
- M - Z** Salad

If you have a division of insect-free and disease-free plant you would like to donate, please email auction@massorchid.org to have it included in the online catalog. All plant donations are tax deductible, and plants that go for over the fair market value can have the excess deducted (I believe this is correct but please check with your tax professionals to verify...). There will also be plants from a variety of vendors such as:

A&P Orchids	Big Leaf Orchids	Cal Orchids
Carter & Holmes	Gold Country Orchids	Mountain Orchids
Seed-Engei Orchids	Sunset Valley Orchids	

This is one of the society's biggest fundraisers and your help is essential! If you have plants you're planning on donating, please let me know in advance so that we can get some lists up on the website. Thanks!

Contact brian@massorchid.org and view the auction online at <http://massorchid.org/auction>.

Note the start time of **7:00pm** and not the normal time thirty minutes later.

Monthly AOS Judging, October

Oct. 01, 10:30am
Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Dr, Bolyston, MA

Monthly meeting — October

Oct. 11, 7:00-9:30pm
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester, MA

Alan Koch from *Gold Country Orchids* will be speaking.

MOS Annual Orchid Show & Sale

Nov. 04-06
Mahoney's Garden Center, 242 Cambridge St., Winchester MA

More information coming...

Show times and dates:

Friday Nov 4 1pm – 5pm
Saturday Nov 5 9am – 5pm
Sunday Nov 6 9am – 4pm

General Admission \$10
Free to MOS members & children 8 and under
Purchase tickets [online](#) or at the door

For more information, contact show@massorchid.org.

MOS show table (August meeting)

Please have your plants on the show table by 7:00 PM. Judging will start promptly at 7:15 PM. Plants arriving after judging starts may not be included in the formal judging. Thank you.

Name of plant	Exhibitor
Phal. solace	Jaroslav Luciw
Phal. cornu-cervi 'Red'	Ulla Jurissen
Laeliocattleya Precious Stones	Jaroslav Luciw
Vanda hybrid	Charlie Briggs
Encyclia alata	Brandt Moran
Origami group	Michael LaFosse
Dendrobium Hibiki	Joey Pavey
Zootropion dayanum	Nick Pavey
Den. Hibiki 'Tiny Bubbles'	Jaroslav Luciw
Den. Enoki 'Purple Splash'	Jaroslav Luciw
Cattleya loddigesii 'Lake View'	Jaroslav Luciw

MOS Officers, Directors, & Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Brian Leib
Vice President	Jeff Feldman
Secretary	Ellen Shapiro
Treasurer	Sasha Crotty

Directors

George Baltoumas	Brandt Moran
Bridgitte Fortin	Linda Pakravan
Ralph Di Fonzo	

Past President

[Adrienne Giovino](#)

Committee Chairs

AOS Trustee	Howard Bronstein	Orchid Show	Sasha Crotty,
AOS Representative	Brigitte Fortin		Brigitte Fortin,
Conservation	Robert Hesse		Adrienne Giovino,
Hospitality	Ellen Shapiro		Joanna Eckstrom,
Library	— currently open —		Lynn Hennessey,
Membership	Jeff Feldman , and Ralph Di Fonzo		Marcia & Bob Ritcher,
Newsletter	Daniel Renfro	Show Table	Board of directors
Orchid Digest Rep. Program	Adrienne Giovino Adrienne Giovino		Linda Abrams

MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



The Massachusetts Orchid Society is a non-profit educational organization of individuals from all walks of life who share an interest in orchids. These interests range from the simple appreciation of orchids as beautiful flowers to the highly technical involvement in breeding and taxonomy. Join now and enjoy the world of orchids!

Massachusetts Orchid Society
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