Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041 Medford, MA 0<u>2155</u>



JAN 2022

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Officers, Directors & Chairs



Our January meeting will be VIRTUAL. We'll stay with the program topic of repotting and mounting our epiphytic orchids. Mike Badia and Daryl Yerdon will present slide shows for each. Mike will mount an orchid TBD – hopefully from Brandt Moran's greenhouse where he has at least a dozen candidates that need quickly drying and very breezy feet. Daryl will repot at least an overgrown Phal. and time allowing, a sympodial Oncidium or Cattleya.

When we get back to in-person meetings, we'll hold a repotting workshop one half hour before our regular meeting. There's nothing like hands-on training when it comes to this part of our hobby.

- Seems we threaded the needle when it came to Orchid Shows in the New England area. The Cape and Island show was the first victim of the increase in COVID prevalence. Now it's reported that Amherst has also canceled their show...:-/ Everyone else is keeping their fingers crossed and hoping this spike is short lived.
- If you made a purchase at the auction and have an outstanding receipt, please submit payment to Amanda ASAP. Click here to email her.
- Amanda reports that the auction grossed \$1,163.55. Deducting costs for the venue, bartending and food, MOS netted a tidy \$740.59.
- The Society will be upgrading their projector and microphone. With the Bluetooth capacity of the projector, we will be able to import MOS presenters from around the world to our monthly meetings. Yes folks, how's that song goes, "The times, they are a-changin".
- The Society still has more 4" clay pots than they are willing to admit. They have all been cleaned and sterilized. These are the old school heavy clay pots, the likes of which are no longer available at the big box stores. Let Brandt Moran know if you have e any interest. At 3 for a dollar, they'll very fairly priced. All proceeds go to MOS.

Did you know you can submit articles to the newsletter? Got extra orchid supplies you want to unload or looking for garden swaps? Submissions are due 10 days prior to monthly meetings. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post or advertise in the newsletter!

We are always interested in suggestions for speakers and topics, plus ideas for special programs for upcoming general meetings. Please email them to mos-board@googlegroups.com.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/massorchid and Instagram at www.Instagram.com/massachusettsorchid.

President's Message

Happy New Years all!

Seems like Deja Vue all over again from my perspective. COVID still rules the news cycle, with the only saving grace being, this variant is less likely to put us fully vaccinated folks in the hospital. So here we are – enjoying each other's company via a computer screen. Us older members of the Society (notice I absolutely include myself) don't like this one bit. We all have more than a few very dear friends in the Society and for those of us that did not grow up with a computer screen as a Nanny – it's just not the same. But enough about my frustrations, here's what I got:

The December Holiday Party was great. Thank You to everyone who made it happen. Ham and Turkey galore with fabulous side dishes and desserts.

And a Huge Congratulations to Dina, Amanda, and Meg. As recipients of the first inaugural Charlie Briggs Award, they have set a pretty high bar. As a group, they got us thru the first wave of COVID and as I'm sure everyone can predict, they're back in the limelight again, making our January Meeting possible and probably a couple more months' worth of meetings after that.

The aforementioned award would not have been given if not for the dedication of Jeff Feldman and Ellen Shapiro. They, along with yours truly, made up the Awards Committee. None of us took our task lightly, and I could not be more pleased with the outcome. I never would have guessed that Jeff had such a knack for making such a beautiful plaque. It'll be part of the Society for a very long time.

That's it for now. Stay Safe and Healthy,

Brandt Moran Your Very Accomplished Orchid Murderer



UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>VIRTUAL Monthly Meeting – Repotting &</u> Mounting Demos

11 Jan 2022 7:30 PM

New Hampshire Orchid Society hosts AOS Judging

08 Jan 2022 11:00 AM Old Town Hall, Bedford, NH

<u>Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show</u>
CANCELED

AOS 2nd Orchid Culture Day

29 Jan 2022 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Details on page 10 Amherst Orchid Society Show

CANCELED

Monthly Meeting - Bob Cleveland, TBD

08 Feb 2022 7:30 PM Sons of Italy - 117 Swanton St., Winchester, MA

Deep Cut Orchid Society Show

18-20 Feb 2022 Dearborn Market, 2170 Rt. 35 South Holmdel, NJ

Nutmeg Orchid Society Show

19-20 Mar 2022 West Hartford Conference & Meeting Ctr., 50 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT

New Hampshire Orchid Society Show

25-27 Mar 2022

Courtyard Marriot, 2200 Southwood Drive, Nashua, NH

2022 MOS Meeting Program

Jan. Mike and Daryl - report and mounting

Feb. Bob Cleveland Orchids

Mar. Glen Decker - formally Piping Rock Orchids

Apr. Francisco Miranda - Miranda Orchids

May Carri Reimann - Orchidohille

June Tim Culbertson

July Kristin Uthus - New World Orchids

Aug. B-B-Q

Sept. MOS Annua Auctition

Oct. Jason Fischer Orchids Limited

Nov. TBA

Dec. Annual Holiday Party

January's Northeast Judging to be held at New Hampshire Orchid Society

Mini-auction, pot-luck lunch and presentation by Bob Winkley

The American Orchid Society judging, normally held in Boylston, MA, will take place this month in conjunction with the New Hampshire Orchid Society meeting. Judges from the Northeast Judging Center will preside over the show table and pull potentially awardable plants for judging. They will also bring a few plants to auction off. Proceeds will defray the costs of the Judging Center. There will also be a small auction to raise funds for the judging center. Time permitting, Bob will give a short presentation on how the judges determine the points given to individual plants.

Time: 11:00 AM, January 8th

Location: Old Town Hall, 16 South Road in Bedford, NH

The meeting will feature a show table. All plants are due on the table no later than 11 AM. There will be a potluck lunch. I'm hoping that the auction can take place around 12:30 after which there will be a short presentation on how plants are scored followed by AOS judging.

However, due to the current surge in the Omicron variant of COVID-19 here in New England, Bob Winkley will be in contact with NHOS to review what protocols are in place for the meeting and be sure to communicate those out to ensure that you have the necessary information to make what are very personal decisions about participation.

Event will adhere to all current local and state social distancing guidelines during the pandemic, as safety is our priority.

Bulbophyllum

Thouars. 1822
Pronunciation:
bulb-oh-FILL-um
Tribe: Dendrobieae
Subtribe: Bulbophyllinae

The genus *Bulbophyllum* was described by Louis-Marie Aubert Du Petit-Thouars in 1822, with the name coming from the Greek *bulbos* (bulb) and *phyllon* (leaf). *Bulbophyllum* and closely allied genera (especially *Cirrhopetalum*) are considered to be the largest group of orchids. Taxonomists have described at least two dozen allied genera, which have been combined with, and separated from, *Bulbophyllum* over the years.

Some of the most commonly encountered allied genera are; Cirrhopetalum, Ione, Mastigion, Megaclinium, Rhytionanthos and Trias. The plants are typically small to medium (although some have leaves up to a meter long) creeping epiphytes, having a sympodial growth habit with prominent pseudobulbs, with one or two fleshy leaves. There is a wide range of fantastic flower shapes and sizes (2 mm to 400 mm). All have a hinged lip that aids in pollination. The pollinator (most often a small fly) lands on the lip, which tilts and causes the pollinator to fall back in to the sticky pollina. The flowers are usually short lived (5-7 days) and are occasionally fragrant (while the fragrance can be pleasant it is often quite foul). Some commonly encountered species are: Bulbophyllum dearei, echinolabium, falcatum, fasinator, flabellum-veneris (syn. lepidum), guttalatum, lasiochilum, lobbii, longissimum, makoyanum, medusae, and putidum. Until recently little hybridizing has been done in the genus however, two particularly attractive hybrids are Bulbophyllum Daisy Chain; an example of the smaller umbellate-flowered group, and Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann; an wonderful example of the large-flowered group.

Number of species:

This is an enormous genus rife with synonymy. The actual number of species varies depending on whether or not the proposed, closely allied genera are included. Currently, the World Checklist of Monocotyledons recognizes only Trias as a separate genus and includes more than 2000 species in Bulbophyllum.

Distribution:

Predominately tropical or subtropical, although the range can extend into temperate regions. A few dozen species are found in the New World (South and Central American and the Caribbean). Several hundred species are found in equatorial Africa and the island of Madagascar. Most species are found in Asia; ranging from the foothills of the Himalayas (2500 m) in Indochina, down through Southeast Asia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia (especially Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Sulawesii), New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand. The island of New Guinea, which has at least 600 species, is believed to be the dissemination point for the genus. Since Bulbophyllum species are a very diverse and wide ranging group of orchids, only general culture can be given. The grower should try and obtain habitat information for his/her species of interest.



Bulb. plumatum 'A-doribil' AM/AOS ©2009 Ernest Walters



Bulb. graveolens (syn. Cirrhopetalum) graveolens ©2009 Greq Allikas



Bulb. echinolabium ©2009 Greg Allikas

CULTURE

<u>Temperature</u>: Most *Bulbophyllum* species are warm growing and should see a winter temperature of no less than 65 F at night. Species from more temperate regions can be grown 5-10 degrees cooler. Maintain a gentle air movement.

<u>Light</u>: Moderate to bright (2000 to 3500 foot-candles). Higher light, that does not damage the leaves, seems to result in better and more frequent blooming.

Water-Humidity: Most species come from humid rain forests. Humidity should be kept at 60%, which can be difficult to do outside of the greenhouse. Water frequently, as both mounted (at least daily) and potted plants (several times a week) will thrive under wetter conditions than most orchids. Bulbophyllum may be the exception to the rule "when in doubt, don't water". Species from more temperate regions often have a dry period, and watering should be adjusted accordingly.

<u>Fertilizer</u>: Use a balanced fertilizer at quarter strength once a week during the summer. This can be reduced to once a month in the winter.

<u>Potting</u>: *Bulbophyllum* species tend to prefer a minimum of repotting. Mounting (tree fern or cork slabs), well draining baskets, and pots can all be used successfully. The recommended potting media are sphagnum moss, coir (coconut chips or fibers) and tree fern. The choice of potting will often be dictated by the very long rhizomes of some species.

<u>References</u>: 1.Chowdhery, H. J. Orchid Flora of Arunachal Pradesh. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun, India. 1998.

- 2. Comber, J. B. Orchids of Java. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England. 1990.
- 3. Cootes, Jim. The Orchids of the Philippines. Timber Press, Portland, OR. 2001
- 4. Dockrill, A. W. Australian Indigenous Orchids, vol. 1, The Epiphytes, The Tropical Terrestrial Species. Surrey Beatty & Sons Pty, Ltd., Chipping Norton, NSW, Australia. 1992.
- 5. Du Puy, D., et. al. The Orchids of Madagascar. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England. 1999.
- 6. Jones, David L. Native Orchids of Australia. REED, Australia. 1993.

Author: Marianna Max



Bulb. lasiochilum ©2009 Greg Allika



Bulb. medusae ©2009 Greg Allikas

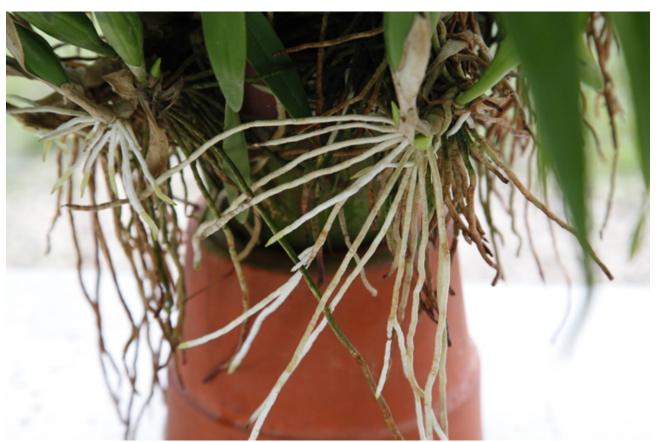


Bulbophyllum affine ©2009 Greg Allikas



by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

We get more questions about repotting than any other subject. Some folks never repot their orchids because they are intimidated by the whole process, so their potting mix ultimately rots causing their roots to rot and their orchids are well on their way to orchid heaven. Other folks repot their orchids several times a year because they say their plants are just not blooming for them. Their plants never get a chance to get established, so they too will soon find their way to orchid heaven. There are really only three reasons I can think of to repot an orchid.



Repot. This Encyclia radiata will be happier in an 8 inch bulb pot.

Repot All New Additions Before Adding to Your Collection. I almost always repot an orchid I bring home, immediately if it is not in bloom. If I buy a blooming orchid, I enjoy the flower and don't touch the roots until the plant is bloomed out. Then I pot the orchid in my mix of choice for that kind of orchid. All my cattleyas and dendrobiums are in a coarse, freely draining, largely inorganic mix so they can all be watered every second or third day during the growing season. My phalaenopsis are all in a soilless peat mix so they can all be watered every week or two when they approach dryness.

When you bring orchids home, they can be growing in wildly different potting mixes, from pure sphagnum moss, pure bark, pure clay pebbles or gravel, or mixes containing these materials. Each of these mixes retains water at a different rate. If you bring orchids home and just water them all on your normal watering schedule, you'll find the ones potted in



by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

sphagnum moss stay too wet, the ones potted in gravel/clay pebble mixes stay too dry and the ones potted in a bark/coco mix may be just right.

Some growers also set you up for failure when they grow their seedlings in sphagnum moss and then pot them up to a larger pot by packing bark around the sphagnum core. These plants are impossible to water correctly because if you water when the bark approaches dryness, the roots in the sphagnum moss will be smothered from overwatering and if you water when the moss approaches dryness, the roots in the bark will wither from dehydration.

If you repot your orchids into your mix of choice when they first enter your growing area, you will know when you repotted them and how long they should grow well in that mix. You can water all your similar type orchids in the same mix at the same time without water logging or dehydrating them. It makes taking care of your orchids much simpler.



Repot. This cattleya looks very unhappy and is wobbly in the pot. It needs fresh mix.

Potting Mix is Degraded. Many people use organic matter in their potting mixes. It retains moisture, helps buffer pH and holds nutrients for later uptake by the plant. Of course, being organic, it will degrade over time and degrade is a nicer term than rot. When the potting mix rots, the roots that are growing in the potting mix will likewise rot because the potting mix smothers the roots.

Different organic materials degrade at different rates. The generally available 'premium' sphagnum moss tends to have a life of between 6 and 12 months. The much more

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by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

expensive sphagnum mosses like the AAA to AAAAA grade long fiber New Zealand sphagnum moss will last for 2 to maybe 5 years for the highest quality moss. Coco husk is widely used and has a useful life span of 1 to 2 years in the pot. The quality of bark varies wildly and I use bark hesitantly as a result. The highly touted Orchiata bark is reported to be long lasting and we'll be testing this claim over the next couple of years. Tree fern fiber is also variable. I stopped buying the medium grade because it had so much fine material in it, now I only buy the coarse grade. I have gotten bad batches of tree fern where snow mold appeared in mixes barely 2 years old, though good quality tree fern should have a life of 3 to 4 years. The highly desirable redwood bark is no longer available commercially. Regardless of the quality of the organic matter, it will ultimately rot and it is best to repot your orchids before the mix rots.

The easiest way to test whether your potting mix is past its prime is to try to lift the plant up by its leaves. A well established plant growing in a still fresh mix can be picked up by the vegetation. If it is wobbly in the pot, stick your finger an inch or two deep inside the pot. If it feels soft and dirt-like, odds are the mix is rotting. If you catch it early enough and repot before there is too much root loss, perhaps your plant will not suffer. Many times though, I discover the degraded mix because my plant starts to look unhappy. Trust your instincts, if your plant doesn't look happy, if it is wobbly in the pot, you've got your excuse. Knock it out of the pot and put it into some fresh mix.



Orchid Unstable from Growing Out of Its Pot. The longer you can grow your orchid without disturbing the roots, otherwise known as repotting, the happier your plant will be. If it is a monopodial orchid like a phalaenopsis, it may be growing well out of the pot with lots of aerial roots and not many roots anchoring the plant in place It then becomes top heavy and a candidate for repotting. For a sympodial orchid like a cattleya, it seems like it always blooms better when there is a bulb or two or three out of the pot. Eventually there will be four or five bulbs out of the pot and your plant becomes unstable and unwieldy in the pot. Once vour plant is physically unmanageable for you, repot it so it will be able to grow and bloom for you for another two or three years without touching its roots.

Don't Repot. This epicattleya may have lots of aerial roots but it can be picked up by the pseudobulbs with no wobble. It has six flower spikes this year, two more than last year.



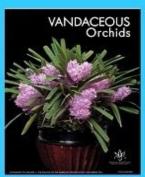
by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

Don't repot unless you have a reason to repot. Each time you disturb your plant's roots, it will go through transplant shock and take some period of time to recover. You can minimize the transplant shock by repotting just before your plant starts throwing off new roots. You can also help your plant recover from transplant shock by adding root stimulating hormones when repotting. Some people spray seaweed, Superthrive or other root stimulants on the bareroot plant or add these supplements to their water/fertilizer mix for the next month or so. I add a protective drench of the fungicide Banrot plus seaweed after repotting to minimize the inevitable damage that occurs during the repotting process.



Repot. This cattleya has new leads growing horizontally outside the pot and should be reoriented vertically in a new pot.

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AOS Orchid Culture Day Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch!

Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch! Enjoy a Day with these Delightful Speakers

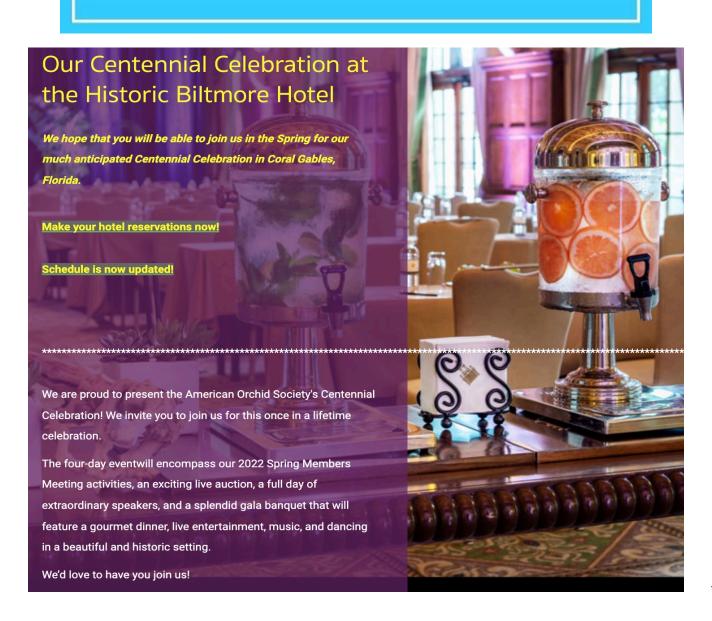
Explore the Virtual World of Vandaceous Orchids

SATURDAY, January 29, 2022
Start Time 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)
\$30 USD

Building on the 2021 Bodacious Vandaceous Orchids Magazine Supplement, this is an opportunity to learn more about the VANDA family of orchids.

Tune in to presentations by four distinguished speakers.

- 1) Kim Fedderson from Fair Orchids: Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids at Home
- 2) Jason Fischer from Orchids Limited: The Culture & History of Vanda falcata (formerly Neofinetia)
- 3) Bob Fuchs Pres. of RF Orchids: The Latest Trends in Vanda Hybridizing
- 4) Brenda Oviatt from Botanica Ltd.: Angraecoids Conservation and Culture



·THE AOS CORNER·



Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Orchid related questions, answered by AOS experts.

Click here to watch now.

Note the specific times below if you wish to watch or listen to those topics.

4:50 Phragmipedium leaf spotting

10:43 Dead flower removal

12:00 Watering indoor growing Orchids

16:01 Phalaenopsis schilleriana

19:47 Black spots on leaves

24:26 Virus

25:59 Leaf spots

31:21 Yellow spots on leaves

33:18 Yellow splotches on leaves

35:16 Keikis

37:53 Seedlings- When will they bloom?

40:41 Growths turning yellow

42:30 Cattleya & Vanda black and brown spots and growths

47:35 Losing new growths

51:03 Cold Night requirements for blooming

Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums

54:25 Water in Sheaths

56:11 Growing on a Magic Carpet

58:58 Dendrobiums and Copper Sensitivity

1:01.49 Dendrobium nobile- watering with new growth

1:04.15 Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite repotting

Seasonal Orchid Care January/February

Click here for Checklist

Organizing orchid culture and its chores by season is a convenient way to make sure that your orchids get the proper care at the right time. Becoming in tune with your plants' growth cycles creates a connection with the natural world and makes you a better grower.

Some Orchids That Flower In The Winter Months

The names below are derived from the Latin and Greek languages and can, at first, be daunting to pronounce. It's easier if you remember that, with few exceptions all letters are pronounced. You will often hear names pronounced somewhat differently than indicated below as a result of regional differences. There are also pronunciations that are not technically correct but have found their way into common useage. The common pronunciation, **stan-HOPE-ee-ah** rather than the technically correct **stan-HOPE-ah** for Stanhopea is an example. This pronunciation has no doubt evolved because of the "pronounce every letter rule" although that would sound more like **stan-HOPE-AY-ah**.

C= 50F minimum, I = 55F minimum, W = 60-65F minimum

Cattleya percivaliana (KAT-lee-ah purr-sih-VAL-ee-an-ah) and many of its hybrids (I)

Coelogyne cristata (see-loh-GUY-nee KRIS-tah-tah) (C)

Laelia superbiens (LAY-lee-ah sue-PURR-bee-enz) [also known as Schomburgkia superbiens]

Lycaste skinneri (lye-CASS-tee SKIN-er-eye) and many of its hybrids (I)

Trichocentrum cavendishianum (try-koe-SENT-rum cav-en-DISH-ee-an-um) [also long known

as *Oncidium - Oncidium* is pronounced as on-SID-ee-um] (C)

Phaius tankervilleae (FAY-us tan-ker-VILL-eye) [the Nun's Orchid] (I)

Many *Phalaenopsis* (fail-en-NOP-sis) species and their hybrids (W)

Angraecum eburneum (W)

Angraecum sesquipedale (an-GRAY-kum sess-kwih-PED-ah-lee) (W)

Brassavola nodosa (bra-SAH-voe-lah NOE-dose-ah) (I)

Early flowering *Cymbidium* (sim-BID-ee-um) species and hybrids (C)

Dendrobium nobile (den-DRO-bee-um NOE-bee-lee) and its hybrids (C winter)

Epidendrum ciliare (I)

Laelia anceps (LAY-lee-ah an-SEPS) (I-C)

Many Masdevallia (maz-dee-VAHL-ee-ah) species and hybrids (C-I)

Rhynchostylis gigantea (rink-oh-STY-liss jye-gan-TEE-ah) (W)

Cattleya coccinea (KAT-lee-ah COCK-sinn-ee-ah) (C) and many of the miniature cattleyas developed from this species.

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

Officers

President Brandt Moran <u>brandtm@massorchid.org</u>
Vice President Jeff Feldman <u>jefff@massorchid.org</u>
Secretary Meg Bright-Ryan <u>megb@massorchid.org</u>
Treasurer Amanda Larson <u>amandal@massorchid.org</u>

Directors

Past President

Dina Deresh
Linda Abrams
Linda Abrams
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Emily Dewsnap
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Anne Pfaff

Dina Deresh
Linad@massorchid.org
Linda@massorchid.org
Rinda@massorchid.org
Linda@massorchid.org
Rinda@massorchid.org
Emilyd@massorchid.org
ralphd@massorchid.org
annep@massorchid.org

Committee Chairs

AOS Trustee Howard Bronstein **AOS** Representative Brigitte Fortin aosrep@massorchid.org Conservation Robert Hesse conservation@massorchid.org emilyd@massorchid.org Social Media Emily Dewsnap karyns@massorchid.org Karyn Stewart Hospitality Committee librarian@massorchid.ora Open Library jefff@massorchid.org Membership Jeff Feldman ralphd@massorchid.org Ralph DiFonzo Newsletter Editor Anne Pfaff newsletter@massorchid.org

Speaker Program Jeff Feldman <u>jefffeldman@massorchid.org</u>
Orchid Digest
Representative Brigitte Fortin <u>orchiddigestrep@massorchid.org</u>

Orchid ShowRalph DiFonzo
Jeff Feldman

Brigitte Fortin <u>show@massorchid.org</u>

Orchid Show Program Meg Bright-Ryan <u>program@massorchid.org</u>

Show Table Mike Badia <u>mike@massorchid.org</u>