

# Massachusetts Orchid Society

M A Y 2 0 1 6

## Message from the President

Thank you, Darrin Norton, owner of Mountain Orchids, for your informative and entertaining talk on orchid propagation and deflasking demo at our April meeting. Many of those who attended went home with at least one *Cattleya* seedling.

In May, MOS member George Newman will speak on the native orchids of Northeastern United States and Canada. In addition, we will vote for the 2016-2017 MOS board of directors and officers at this meeting.

In June, Dr. Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids will be our speaker. We also will have our annual picnic at Marcia and Bob Richter's on the last weekend of the month. Enjoy a fun barbecue with your orchid friends and gaze at over 3000 orchids in the Richters' greenhouse. Keep a lookout about a month before the picnic for the email Evite with more information. If you just can't wait, it's already posted under the Events section of our website.

The American Orchid Society (AOS) is offering one webinar in May. AOS COO, Ron McHatton, will have a greenhouse chat on Tuesday, May 3, 2016; 8:30 PM EDT. Ron will answer your questions about orchids. This talk is for open to the public.

Sincerely,  
—Adrienne Giovino, President



## From the editor:

The newsletter needs your content!

If you'd like to see more (or different) content, or have something to share with the rest of the organization, feel free to send it in. Simply email your content and/or photos to [newsletter@massorchid.org](mailto:newsletter@massorchid.org).

—Daniel Renfro

## Brandt Moran in the Spotlight

Earlier this year, Brigitte Fortin volunteered to conduct a series of “interviews” with some of our more experienced growers. In this first one, Brigitte has engaged Brandt Moran with a brief “Q&A” interview, which follows.

### **When did you start growing orchids? Why?**

I started growing orchids more or less on a dare from Nick when he was the manager at A & P. After visiting him a couple times but not buying anything because I was sure I would kill it, Nick gave me a plant and told me to not come back until I rebloomed it. It took a little less than a year but I was hooked. That was nearly 20 years ago now.

### **Where do you grow? Did you always have a greenhouse? started under light or window sills? Do you grow alone or do you share your hobby with someone else?**

I started on a west facing window sill with a humidifier running during the daytime. I never grew as well as I did with those dozen plus plants on that windowsill/kitchen table. We lived in a small apartment in Melrose. The orchids took up half of our 50 sq ft kitchen. Built the greenhouse myself out of recycled material when we moved to Pepperell. It's always been my hobby but I have a great neighbor that takes care of things when I'm away. He knows the plants better than I do. I also have a good friend who helps me repot once a year. If it wasn't for Lee – the guy who helped me at the auction this year – I don't think I'd ever repot a plant and the only thing alive would be the mounts.

### **What is your favorite plant?**

I always like Bill Wisneski's answer to this question: THE NEXT ONE TO BLOOM.

### **When did you join MOS?**

About 19 years ago. I went to the meetings for a year before Bill Wisneski and Bob Hesse talked to me while I was registering a plant for the show table. Got a green ribbon that meeting as I remember.

### **Where do you get your plants?**

I have more or less a closed collection. Virus and pest have been a nightmare in the past and this is my way to mitigate those issues. When I go bring a plant into the greenhouse it is from a known grower and the plant is closely watched for at least a year before it finds its way into my general population. Have not bought a plant in 5 years – it's all about trading and most of the time it's pollen.



## Brandt Moran in the Spotlight

### What can't you grow?

I have issues with warm loving plants. The greenhouse is 58 degrees at night and Phals don't like it. Crown rot within 4 months.

### Accomplishments? (CCE AOS, any others)?

3 AOS awards of Merit and the 94 pt CCE. Not a big fan of taking my Saturdays to go to judging. If the plant is in form for a show then great if not I still get to enjoy the quality one's in the greenhouse.

The first display I ever created was at the Cape and Island show. We received the AOS Trophy. We had a dozen Paph rothschildianum in bloom. The display was a 100 sq ft and we did the inside of a ski hut for their Blizzard of Orchids theme. My cousin sent me palm fronds from south Florida for the roof. The pictures were published in the Awards Quarterly Magazine.

The plant quality was amazing. We have never come close since. Considering it was three hobby growers and we had over a 100 plants in prime form is saying something.

### Any other fun facts?

What I really like to grow is marigolds – plant several hundred a season, and my interests now are moving towards fruit trees. I have several acres of property in Va and it is my goal to see a Pecan orchard come to reality during my lifetime. You can't eat orchids for the most part but a good apple, peach, or pecan pie is worth every bite.

## Don't forget!

If you bring a snack to share with the group, you get an extra raffle ticket. Extra tickets means extra chances to win a new plant for your collection!



MOS display at 2016 NSOS show

## Upcoming Events

### Monthly AOS Judging

7 May 10:30am

Tower Hill Botanical Garden, 11 French Dr., Bolyston, MA

This is a publicly-open Judging session of the AOS Northeast Region al Center at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston MA. For more information, visit <http://www.massorchid.org/judging>.

### Monthly Meeting — May

10 May 7:30 - 9:30pm Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., , MA

*Topic:* Native Orchids of Northeastern United States and Canada.

MOS and NHOS member George New will speak on the native orchids of New England and Eastern Canada. As usual, meeting starts at 7:30, coffee and plant sales start at 7. Please bring a snack to share!

### Monthly AOS Judging

4 June 10:30am

Tower Hill Botanical Garden, 11 French Dr., Bolyston, MA

This is a publicly-open Judging session of the AOS Northeast Region al Center at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston MA. For more information, visit <http://www.massorchid.org/judging>.

### Monthly Meeting — June

14 June 7:30 - 9:30pm Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., , MA

*Topic:* Japanese Species.

Dr. Kristen Uthus, owner of New World Orchids (<http://www.newworldorchids.com>), will speak on Japanese species. She will also have plants for sale! To preorder plants, please visit her website.



#### **PRO TIP:**

Check the website (<http://massorchid.org>) for the most recent list of events and info.

### First Annual New England Summer Orchid Fest

25-26 June Smith Vocational High School, 80 Locust St. (Route 9), Northhampton, MA

This will hopefully be the first in a long series summer orchid fests hosted by the Amherst Orchid Society. We hope to bring together several orchid vendors providing opportunities to learn about orchid growing as well as pick up new plants for your collection.

We also hope orchid societies from the greater New England area will provide information about their societies. This way visitors that attend the fest can learn about potential societies they can join to further expand their knowledge of orchids. Admission is free.

Saturday, June 25: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 26: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Smith Vocational High School is located at 80 Locust Street (Route 9) next to the Cooley Dickson Hospital. For more information see the Amherst Orchid Society website at <http://www.amherstorchidsociety.org>, or email [neorchidfest@gmail.com](mailto:neorchidfest@gmail.com).

## MOS Picnic & BBQ

25 June 12:30 - 3:30pm Marcia & Bob Richter's Home & Greenhouse

Marcia and Bob Richter have once again been kind enough to open their home for our annual picnic. Join us for a barbeque and potluck lunch and explore Bob and Marcia's beautiful greenhouse filled with thousands of orchids.

The MOS will provide drinks, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Please **RSVP by Saturday, June 18th** so we know how much food to buy. Look for an Evite in your mailbox. If you do not receive one, please RSVP to [sasha@massorchid.org](mailto:sasha@massorchid.org).

Please note: To give our grill masters time to enjoy the event, the grill will run from 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

The rest of the food is up to you! Suggested dishes (by first letter of last name) are:

A-F Appetizers / Chips & Dip Salads

G-L Desserts

M-Z Salad

Spouses, significant others and orchid friends are welcome!

Rain Date, Sunday, June 26th.



# Massachusetts Orchid Society Board

## MOS Board

### President

Adrienne Giovino – [adrienne@massorchid.org](mailto:adrienne@massorchid.org)

### Vice President

Jeff Feldman — [jeff@massorchid.org](mailto:jeff@massorchid.org)

### Secretary

Ellen Shapiro – [ellen@massorchid.org](mailto:ellen@massorchid.org)

### Treasurer

Jody Maggio – [jody@massorchid.org](mailto:jody@massorchid.org)

### Directors

Joe Rajunas – [joe@massorchid.org](mailto:joe@massorchid.org)

Brigitte Fortin — [brigitte@massorchid.org](mailto:brigitte@massorchid.org)

Ralph Di Fonzo — [ralph@massorchid.org](mailto:ralph@massorchid.org)

Sasha Crotty — [sasha@massorchid.org](mailto:sasha@massorchid.org)

## Committee Chairs

### Membership

Jeff Feldman — [jeff@massorchid.org](mailto:jeff@massorchid.org)

Ralph Di Fonzo — [ralph@massorchid.org](mailto:ralph@massorchid.org)

### Newsletter

Daniel Renfro – [newsletter@massorchid.org](mailto:newsletter@massorchid.org)

### Annual Show

Sasha Crotty — [sasha@massorchid.org](mailto:sasha@massorchid.org)

### Program

Adrienne Giovino – [adrienne@massorchid.org](mailto:adrienne@massorchid.org)

## Membership

### Have membership questions?

E-mail our membership chairmen, Ralph DiFonzo & Jeff Feldman at: [membership@massorchid.org](mailto:membership@massorchid.org)

### Membership dues:

individual membership - \$25, dual - \$30

### Renew online:

<http://massorchid.org/Sys/MembershipRenewal>

### Renew by mail:

Please mail a check made out to Massachusetts Orchid Society to:  
Massachusetts Orchid Society,  
PO Box 550141, Waltham, MA 02455

Below, a display of orchids at the Carleton-Willard Village, by Dr. Alan Kaitz.





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  
PO Box 550141  
Waltham, MA 02455

