

Massachusetts Orchid Society

Message from the President

Happy New Year! I hope your year is off to a groovy start and you've had some lovely time to yourself.

Our first speaker this year will be Jean Stefanik. AOS Judge Jean Stefanik shows us how to prepare for an orchid show. Learn how to stake and clean your orchids, register them and create a visually-pleasing display. Coincidentally, shortly after Jean helps us learn what the judges like to see at shows as well as how to prepare plants for a show, there is a show!

CAIOS, the Cape and Islands Orchid Society (the cheeky bunch refer to themselves as "chaos") will be hosting their show, Orchid Passion, in Hyannis. They are a great society and hold their show around my birthday, though you needn't bring me a cake if you attend. Oh, I should probably mention the dates of the CAIOS show are Saturday and Sunday, January 28 and 29. There is a Preview Dinner at 6 pm on Friday, January 27, 2017. A link to reservations and their menu is here: [well, click here for reservation info \(though you may have to hold the control key to click from this newsletter\)](#). This is supposed to be a great event and I hope to be able to be able to attend this year myself. The food is supposed to be great! Please consider helping set up the display or clerking.

Shortly after that will be our February meeting where we'll have a growers' roundtable of sorts. There will actually be several tables and speakers and they may or may not be round. It will be a great place to ask questions and even bring problem plants (if they are affected by a pest or disease issue, please bring them in a sealed bag, clear if possible). Also described by Brandt as *Ask the Experts*—a term used very loosely—Bob Ritcher, Brandt Moran, Brian Leib, and Brigitte Fortin are prepared to answer your most perplexing questions about orchids. A survey of our members was conducted a few months back and this is a direct result of many queries from our many new members. Nothing is off limits but emphasis will be on culture, presentation, and pests. Bring your questions or better

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August 2016 show-table
photos, courtesy of
Linda Pakravan

yet bring in your offending plants and let's see what we can do to help you get the most out of your hobby. There's a tremendous amount of talent integral to the society – let's all see if we can tap into it a bit.

Only a few days later is the New Hampshire Orchid Society's show, **These Are a Few of My Favorite Things**. This is a great show that shouldn't be missed. This is also a great place to clerk where you will learn lots! Lots and lots of great plants, but not a great place to take a valentine date if your date isn't wild about orchids too and will want to spend hours talking to growers and looking at plants (firsthand knowledge).

This year is going to be another great year with the Massachusetts Orchid Society, though we do have some challenges too. I will be working to make the society even better, and I hope you will too. For some reason (well, I do love this society and our mission, to "promote fellowship with the public interested in orchids and to preserve and extend knowledge concerning the cultivation, hybridization and uses of orchids, and to carry on such activities as may be necessary to effectuate such purpose," really! Check it out [here!](#)) I accepted the presidency as I moved an hour and a half away from our meeting site. This distance is too much for me to sustain and as such, I am only able to serve one term. This means that one of you fine folks will be taking over the reins in July. This position itself isn't onerous and if I weren't so far away, I'd serve a second term. Please come talk to me if you are at all interested and I'll be happy to tell you about it. (If you've been a member of the society for more than a few years, I bet you would be able run the society with all the help our wonderful board provides.)

Speaking of the board, I want to personally thank Ralph Di Fonzo, George Baltoumas, Sasha Crotty, Ellen Shapiro, Jeff Feldman,

Brigitte Fortin, Brandt Moran, Linda Pakravan, and Adrienne Giovino. These folks are kind enough to donate an evening a month of their time to help run the society. It's actually kind of fun, it's a great way to learn not only about running a society, but also to learn about orchids.

I want to take a moment to thank Daniel Renfro. He is a member who has selflessly dedicated several hours a month to putting together this wonderful newsletter. Not only does he gather materials and design it, but he also is very nice to me when reminding me I need to send him a message for the newsletter every month. Thanks, Daniel! I know there have been times when this hasn't been convenient, but you have also done it without complaint. Thank you!

One problem I have as president is knowing who to thank. I absolutely want to thank each and every one of you who is willing to take a little of your time and donate it to the society, unless you shun the public spotlight (but tell me). The thing is, even if I could remember all the folks who I see helping, but there are loads of folks I don't see. If you would, please send me a note of what you have done or if things your fellow orchid society members have done. You folks are fantastic and why we have a great society and as president, I want to make sure you know how integral you are to the society and how much your input and help is not only welcomed and valued, but also crucial.

Well, enough of this for now. If you have any questions about the society, please let me or another member of the board know. Once again, happy new year!

—Brian Leib, MOS President

January Speaker: Jean Stefanik

The January meeting (Tuesday Jan. 10) will feature Jean Stefanik, a highly experienced American Orchid Society judge, who will speak to us about preparing a display for showing and judging at an AOS sanctioned orchid show. As part of her presentation, she will use some of our show table plants to demonstrate building a display.

Of course, enjoying our flowering orchids at home is a major benefit of our growing experience. Few enthusiasts will ignore an “*oh...what beautiful flowers*” compliment from visitors and friends. So hopefully we can

all glean a few tricks to help show our orchids at home in an attractive grouping rather than scattered around our homes.

Further, MOS creates a display at several New England Orchid Society shows each year and participating in putting together a display is both enjoyable and satisfying. Come learn from Jean and then put your newfound knowledge to work helping at any of the upcoming shows.

—The Program Committee

A Salute to Linda Abrams

Back in 1984, while shopping in Burlington, Linda Abrams for an Orchid Show. Shortly thereafter she joined the Mass Orchid Society and has been an active member ever since. If you have been to an MOS meeting anytime in the past **33 years** you have probably met her.

Like most novice growers, Linda started growing on windowsills and experienced success until there were just too many plants for the windowsill. She then advanced to growing under artificial lights, and hasn't looked back since. Along with growing tips from more experienced members she did a good deal of reading, and today is an accomplished enthusiast.

Her favorite orchids (besides her large collection of *Neofinetia falcatas*) are mini Cattleyas, Phrags (grown hydroponically) and Miltoniopsis. But she admits that, “any magenta colored orchid will win her over”.

Linda was involved with setting up several shows during her early MOS days, traveling to many states and sites. In the early 90's she helped set up shows at the New York Botanical Gardens and, along with Cliff Derderian, helped set up at the South Eastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society show, gaining important experience prior to helping MOS set up and host the Eastern Orchid Congress show the following year at the Park

saw an ad



Alcra Hildo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold'
HCC/AOS

Grown & photographed by
Brigitte Fortin

Plaza Castle in Boston. She and Cliff continue to contribute to the MOS Annual Orchid Show and Sale.

A Board of Directors member in the late 80's/early 90's, she was our representative to the American Orchid Society and was also responsible for publicity. In 1990, Linda assumed the chairmanship of our show table and continued to run this popular monthly event for **25 years** until earlier this year. She also rejoined the Board of Directors in 2010 for another 5+ years of service.

Currently enjoying a brief respite from MOS responsibilities, Linda remains busy with her restoration business and her weekly music gigs. Also demanding her attention is her little parrot *Arthur*, a 2-ounce high-energy bundle of blue and grey feathers that careens around her kitchen with reckless abandon.

History has shown that Linda doesn't do *rest* very well...so don't be surprised to find her at the show table at a future meeting.

The World of Orchids 2016

Congratulations to the Show Committee for once again putting together a beautiful event at Mahoney's Greenhouse in early November. Led again by **Sasha Crotty**, Show Chair, MOS showed it's finest public face to about 1000 delighted members and guests. Designer **Brigitte Fortin** revised the floor layout this year and it proved to be particularly 'visitor friendly'. The hospitality and seminar spaces were also moved to a new location. Speaking of hospitality, many thanks to **Roseann DiFonzo** and **Maria** and **Mario Cutone** for preparing those marvelous buffets. Our vendors and show volunteers were delighted.

Currently shown on our website, the **award winning MOS** display was designed by **Ralph DiFonzo**, who sends his thanks to those that helped him make his design a reality.



Sc Cosmic Delite 'SVO' HCC/AOS x Slc
Circle of life 'Trailblazer' AM/AOS

Grown & photographed by Brigitte Fortin

All vendor spaces were rented and our vendors had a successful show, offering and selling some beautiful specialty plants and exciting art. This was a first MOS show for Andy's Orchids from California and Fair Orchids from New Jersey. They both are planning to return next year.

The seminars were well received by our guests. We enjoyed a rare opportunity to hear **Tom Mirenda**, the Smithsonian Orchid Specialist who proved to be a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. He also authors an informative monthly column in the AOS bulletin "Orchids".

It was satisfying to see many of our members volunteer to help. As hard as the show committee works for us, this endeavor still requires a major contribution from membership.

Kudos also goes out to the team at Mahoney's for their accommodating help. Clearing out a 10,000 Sq. ft. greenhouse, supplying/placing plants and shrubs around the entire perimeter and constantly helping during the show is a major effort. They also helped with publicity, signage and a difficult parking plan.

Finally, a very special thank you to **Jody Maggio** whose tireless work originally established and then nurtured the MOS/Mahoney's relationship. Our opportunity to have the MOS show at Mahoney's Greenhouse is the direct result of Jody's efforts.

Upcoming Events

Monthly AOS Judging

Jan. 7, 10:30am

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

This is a judging session of the AOS Northeast Regional Center at the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens is open to the public. To learn more about AOS judging, please visit the MOS website at the following URL:

<http://massorchid.org/judging>.

Monthly Meeting — So you're having a show

Jan. 10, 7:30-9:30pm

Sons of Italy — 117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA

AOS Judge Jean Stefanik shows us how to prepare for an orchid show. Learn how to stake and clean your orchids, register them and create a visually-pleasing display.

Monthly meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Please have your plant on the show table by 7 p.m. Please **bring a snack** to share, you receive an additional raffle ticket if you do.

CAIOS Annual Orchid Show

Jan. 28-29

The Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis — 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA

Cape and Island Orchid Society 28th Annual Orchid Show "Orchid Passion". Admission \$10. For more information, see www.caios.org.

January 27: Preview Dinner 6 p.m. \$45 per person

January 28: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

January 29: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NHOS Annual Orchid Show and Sale

Feb. 10-12

Courtyard Marriot — 2200 Southwood Dr, Nashua, NH



Aeranthes Hsinying ramosa

Grown & photographed by Brigitte Fortin

New Hampshire Orchid Society 26th Annual Orchid Show and Sale. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$6, Children under 12 free. 3-Day daytime pass \$15. For the full schedule, see www.nhorchids.org.

February 10: 1 pm to 7 pm

February 11: 9 am to 5 pm

February 12: 9 am to 4 pm

Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale

Feb. 25-26

Smith Vocational High School — 80 Locust St (Route 9), Northampton, MA

Admission: \$5 (Children under 12 Free). For full info, see <http://amherstorchidsociety.org>.

Saturday, February 25: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 26: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monthly Meeting — Repotting clinic with Daryl Yerdon

March 14, 7:30-9:30pm

Sons of Italy — 117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA

Daryl Yerdon, owner of Kelley's Korner Orchid Supply and MOS member, will be our speaker.

Kelley's Korner is offering a 10% discount for all prepaid preorders to be delivered to the meeting on March 8. I've listed the information on our website and Facebook events calendars. MOS members may simply use Coupon Code MOS2016 when placing an order and 10% will automatically be deducted from their purchase.

Daryl will bring supplies for sale during the meeting but this offer is good only for prepaid orders to be delivered to the meeting please. Members should order by Sunday March 6 to be sure that they have time to prepare them for delivery to the meeting. You can preorder your potting supplies at: <http://kkorchid.com/>

Please bring a snack to share!

Show-table results from December meeting

Plant	Grower
Oncidium intergeneric	Ed Lipchus
Cattleya hybrid	Linda Abrams
Sophranitis coccinea 4N 'BL'	Jaroslaw Luciw
Phrag. cardinale	Jaroslaw 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
AOS Representative	Brigitte Fortin
Conservation	Robert Hesse
Hospitality	Ellen Shapiro
Library	— currently open —
Membership	Jeff Feldman , and Ralph Di Fonzo
Newsletter	Daniel Renfro
Orchid Digest Rep. Program	Adrienne Giovino Adrienne Giovino

Orchid Show

Sasha Crotty,
Brigitte Fortin,
Adrienne Giovino,
Joanna Eckstrom,
Lynn Hennessey,
Marcia & Bob Richter,
Board of directors

Show Table

[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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