

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
Medford, MA 02155



JUL 2023

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Officers, Directors & Chairs



Minute Minutes Notes from the Board

- ◆ The board has voted to extend our monthly meeting 30 minutes to provide more socializing time! The new schedule is:

6:30 Doors open
7:00 Plants for the show table on the table
7:15 Raffle
7:30 Show table discussion
8:00 Speaker presentation

- ◆ **Sunset Valley Orchids Pre-Ordering Instructions**

To preorder, click: [sunsetvalleyorchids](https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com).

You can also e-mail fred.clarke@att.net or call (760) 310-0778 with your list. Note the cross number and price of each plant.

When your Shopping Cart is complete, go to *Payments*. In the Billing address, *fill out the fields indicate with an asterisk**. In the Shipping Address, *indicate the Orchid Society's name*, and for Company, *the meeting date*, then click *Continue*. On the checkout page indicate *Cash on Delivery* if you would like to pay at the meeting.

All pre-orders will receive a 10% discount and free shipping.

MOS will be Fred's 3rd society tour, so preorder soon for the best selection. Cut Off Date is July 3rd!

- ◆ Show meetings for our November show have begun! The zoom meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month and the next meeting will be July 13th, at 7:30pm. If you're interested in joining, be sure to email show@massorchid.org, or speak with Brigitte or Ralph.

SOI is booked and a deposit has been paid. Thank you, Amanda!

- ◆ Also, on the subject of shows, the board has voted to increase its show budget to cover additional expenses accrued, such as gas mileage, costs to build displays and other associated expenses.

- ◆ This year we will also hold a Swag and Bake sale to raise funds to purchase virus test strips to test for potentially virused plants prior to our September auction.
- ◆ Annual MOS potluck BBQ! See Page 3 for details.
- ◆ September Auction call for donations. It's not too early to start looking over your orchids- be they growing on windowsills, benches or under lights – for our September auction. Plant divisions, seedlings, keikis or simply orchids you're ready to part with are what we're looking for. Also receiving books, magazines, equipment or potting materials. In short, anything related to orchid appreciation and culture would be appreciated.

Support MOS with one of it's biggest yearly fundraising events! To donate, contact Mike at mikeb@massorchid.org or Amanda at amandal@massorchid.org. There will also be new plants available from some of our most popular vendors.

Please be sure your plants are healthy, disease and pest free.
Thank you!

- ◆ For Sale – a functioning RO system, \$20.00. Connects to a standard water faucet to deliver low TDS.\$20. If interested email Steve Ki at skirincich4@gmail.com.



Did you know that you can submit articles to the newsletter? Got extra orchid supplies you want to unload or looking for garden swaps? Submissions are due 14 days prior to monthly meetings.

Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post or advertise.

Got extra orchid supplies you want to unload? Looking for garden swaps? Advertise right here in our new Minute Minutes Member's Classified section. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post in the next newsletter.

We are always interested in suggestions for speakers and topics, and special programs for upcoming general meetings. Email your thoughts to mos-board@googlegroups.com.

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



Raffle Tickets and Name Badges Now at the Membership Table

The membership table has returned to the entrance to the hall before meetings. The committee will be giving out raffle tickets to any member and you'll get another one if you bring treats to the hospitality table, and/or a plant for the Show Table.

We will also have name badges, new lanyards and badge holders.

Be sure to stop by and say hello!

Membership Committee

Jeff F., Li-An S. and Maryelisa B.

Message from the President

Welcome to the new MOS year, which began July 1.

We owe many thanks to our Past President, Dina Deresh and her team for their unwavering service during this past MOS year and through "the virtual days" of 7/1/19 – 6/30/23.

We currently have a full board of officers and directors already planning for the next 12 months. Upcoming events include; the BBQ in August, the Auction in September, the World of Orchids Show in November and our Annual Holiday Party in December.

Our July 11th meeting will feature Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. Fred is a master hybridizer, an international speaker and a very good friend of the Mass. Orchid Society. He is offering a 10% discount for pre-orders (see page 1 or MOS website homepage) and will have plants for sale at the meeting.

A reminder to our members, dues for the 2023-2024 year are up for renewal at this time. Dues for new members that joined on, or after March 1, 2023 are already paid until July 1, 2024.

Please consider every member of your board approachable. Your thoughts, questions and ideas are the seeds of growth and direction for the Mass Orchid Society.

See you on the 11th,
Ralph



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the annual MOS BBQ!

When: Saturday, August 12th, 1PM -4PM. Raindate Sunday, August 13th.

Where: Bob and Marcia Richter's, [238 Elm St., North Reading, MA](#)

Get together with fellow members, relax and have a great time!

We ask folks with last names A-H to bring a side dish, I-N to bring a salad and O-Z to bring an app or a dessert. The society will provide hotdogs, hamburgers and refreshments. While we have a limited number of chairs, please bring your favorite folding chair, just in case. See you there!

MOS Show Table Results, June 2023

Judges: Mike B., Daryl Y., George B., Steve Ki

Scribe: Brigitte F.

Total Ribbons: 20

Name of Orchid	Name of Exhibitor	Light L,M,H	Temp W,I,C	Growing Location: Lights, Windowsill, Greenhouse? Judges' or Exhibitor's Comments?
Phal. Queen Beer 'Red Sky'	Steve Ki.		W	Lights
Epidendrum porpax fma. alba	Mike B.		I	Lights
Den. uniflorum	Daryl Y.		W	People's Choice. Greenhouse
Prostechia baculus	Daryl Y.		W	Greenhouse
Phrag. Ecuagenera Dream	Joe L.		I	Cross btw sedenii & kovachii. Greenhouse
Paph. Cloud's Pink Parfait	Mike B.		I	
Paph. primulinum 'In Charm'	Mike B.		I	Lights
Den. parishii fma. petaloid x Hsinying Sweetscent 'W-3'	Joe L.		I	Greenhouse
Den. Pen Seng	Karyn S.		W	Windowsill & greenhouse
Den. Meyteo Blue x Kultana Blue	Elaine H.		W	Greenhouse. Beginner Grower
Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS	Brigitte F.		I	Lights
Miltoniopsis Picare Langeron	David A.		W	
Gptm. Starburst 'Parkside' AM/AOS	Li-An S.	I	C	Lights. Fragrant in the A.M.
Max. tenuifolia	Daryl Y.		W	Greenhouse
Ctsm. dentigrianum 'SVO Excellent' x Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise'	Ron M.		W	Lights.
Neo. falcata Man Jushage	Ron M.		W	Lights. Summer outside
Ascofinetia Twinkle	Ron M.		W	Lights
Neo. falcata Koukakuden	Ron M.		W	Lights
Bulb. facetum	Daryl Y.		W	Greenhouse
Encyclia NoID	Steve Ki.		W	Lights

Our June People's Choice Winner goes to Daryl and his Dendrobium uniflorum!

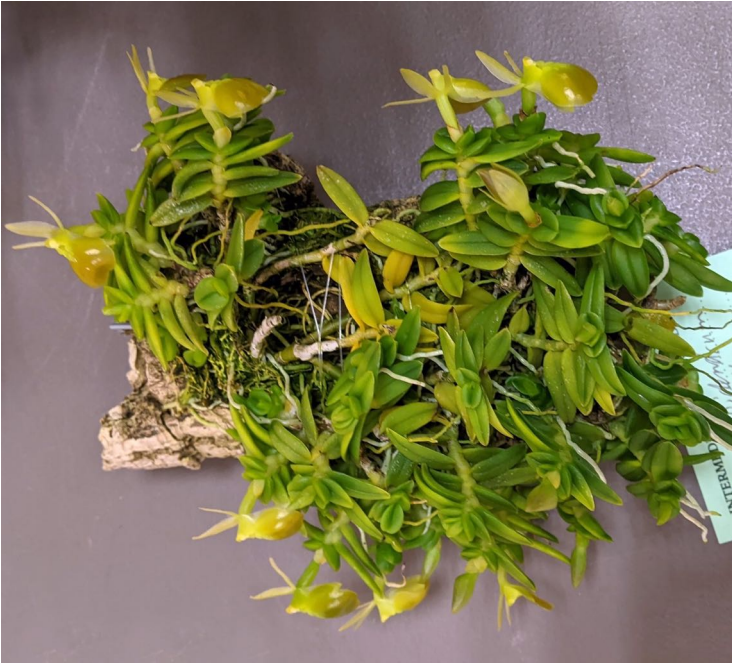




Bulb. facetum,
Daryl Y.



Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos',
FCC/AOS, Brigitte F.



Epi. porpax, fma. alba,
Mike B.



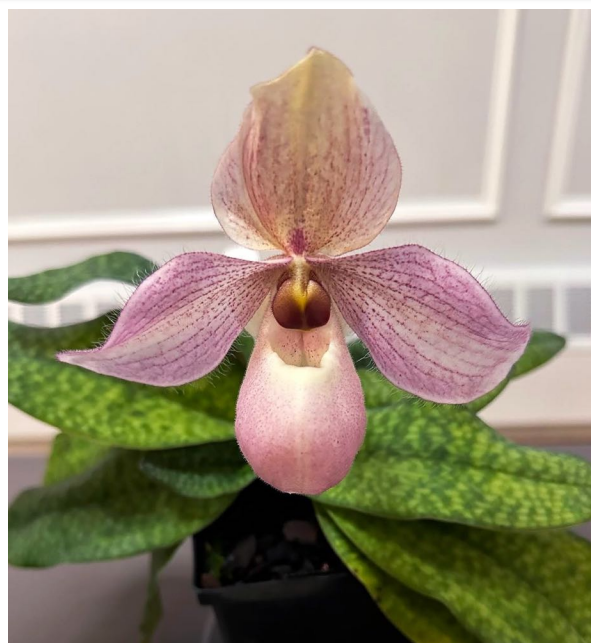
Den. Peng Seng,, Karyn S.



Prostechia baculus, Daryl Y.



Phal. Queen Beer 'Red Sky', Steve Ki.



Paph. Cloud's Pink Parfait, Mike B.



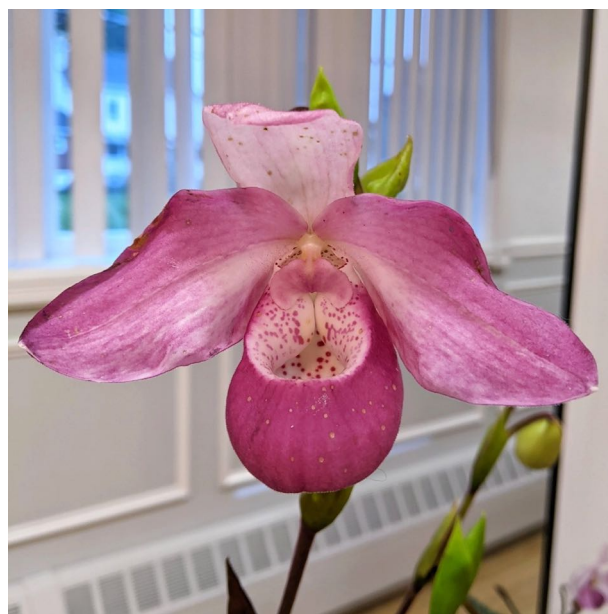
Paph. primulinum 'In Charm', Mike B.



Miltoniopsis Picare Langeron, David A.



Encyclia NoID, Steve Ki.



Paph. Cloud's Pink Parfait, Mike B.



Den. parishii fma petaloid x Hsinying Sweetscent 'W-3', Joe L.



Den. Meyteo Blue x Kultana Blue, Elaine H.



Gptm (sp) Starburst 'Parkside' AM/AOS, Li-An S.



Ctsm. dentigranum 'SVO Excellent' x Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson's', Ron M.

MEDIATE / ADVANCED
 (P.A. OUTSIDE)
 Greenhouse
 Windowsill
 Lights
 Parentage/comments
 CTSM DENTIGRANUM
 SVO EXCELLEN
 STSM PORTAGEE STAR
 BRIAN LAWSON'S
 Print your name on back of c
 SUN



Max. tenuifolia, Daryl Y.



Neo. Falcata Koukakuden, Ron M.



Ascofinetia Twinkle, Ron M.



Neo. falcata Man Jushage, Ron M.

UPCOMING EVENTSMonthly Meeting

11 July 2023 7:30 PM
 Fred Clarke, SVO – *Cycnoches*,
Mormodes and *Catasetums*: Recent
 Trends
 Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
 Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

05 Aug 2023 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

There will be no August meeting
due to the annual picnic!

Date: TBD (Saturday in Aug)
 Rain Date: (Sunday in Aug)
 Time: 1:00-4:00
 Place: Bob and Marcia Richter's
 283 Elm St.
 North Reading, MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

02 Sep 2023 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting

12 September 2023 7:30 PM
 Annual Auction
 Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
 Winchester, MA

Fred Clarke presents “Cycnoches, Mormodes and Catasetums: Recent Trends”

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California. Fred is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Paphiopedilum* and Aussie *Dendrobium* hybrids, plus some others to be named if they work out! His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fredclarkeara After Dark*, which produced “the blackest flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC’s and thirty AM’s from the AOS judges!



Fred will speak to us about **Cycnoches, Mormodes and Catasetums**, and his talk includes the making of the world famous *Fredclarkeara After Dark*, ‘the blackest orchid seen.’ There will also be a thorough review of plant culture.

Cycnoches, *Mormodes*, and *Catasetums* are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or “botanical”, of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions. Commercially, *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* (or ‘Swan’ orchids) and *Mormodes* (or ‘Goblin’ orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of *Cymbidiums*, *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobiums*, *Epidendrums*, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Catasetinae Plant Culture

Cycnoches, Catasetums, Mormodes, and Clowesia

The cultural information below is a generalization and will apply in most situations; however each grower and growing environment is different. I encourage you to make adjustments based on your own experience and growing conditions.

Catasetinae have a distinctive growth and rest period (dormancy). For best plant growth it is important to understand and respect these growth phases. When the plants are in active growth maintain constant root zone moisture and fertilize regularly. This is essential to optimizing the development of new growth. When the plants are dormant little or no water is needed as the pseudobulbs store enough moisture and nutrients to survive the dormancy.

Catasetinae plant culture is not difficult. All it takes is an understanding of the seasonal growth patterns. The plants' vegetative state signals to the grower their changing needs. Interpret the signals and make the appropriate cultural adjustments. Here is what to look for:

Early spring:

Catasetinae begin their new growth in early spring. However, watering should wait until the new growth has well-developed new roots. This means you should let the new roots grow to an approximate length of 3-5" before you begin watering. Let me emphasize this point. Wait to water until the new roots are well developed. The waiting to water is not easy; my natural instinct is to begin watering when I see new growth, but I have learned through trial and error that it is better to wait to water than start watering too soon. I also believe that Catasetinae roots deteriorate during dormancy, and in the following year they are not as effective at taking up moisture and nutrients. This makes the new roots vital in the plants' health. This reinforces the message about not watering too early.

Mid-Season:

Once the new roots are sufficiently developed, this is the period where the plants are rapidly developing their new pseudobulbs. There is a surprising amount of growth that occurs in these 3-4 months; often the plants will double their size. Due to this, the plants require constant moisture and regular fertilization. In most cases, irrigation will be needed 2 or 3 times a week. A balanced fertilizer at full strength is suitable for this rapid growth. Light levels at or above those suggested for Cattleya will help insure strong good growth and flowering. This is the time when the fruits of your labor will begin to pay off as the flowering season is in underway.

Late Season:

Sometime after flowering, in the late autumn the plants will begin to enter the dormancy phase. Understanding the signals of the onset of dormancy and the factors triggering it are important to a healthy plant culture. The plant's first signals are the yellowing and browning off of the leaves, at this time stop fertilizing and reduce watering by one-half and when most leaves are yellow/brown and have dropped off cease watering altogether. The general rule to follow is: by the 15 th of November stop fertilization and reduce watering by one-half. Most leaves should have yellowed or fallen off by the 1 st of January. However, if the plants still have leaves all irrigation should be stopped at this time.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors; the maturity of the pseudobulb, shorter day length, cooler day/night temperatures, and a reduction of root zone moisture. In most of the country dormancy occurs naturally; however, when the plants are cultivated in warm growing areas such as in South Texas, Florida, Hawaii, or in the home or under lights sometimes dormancy needs to be encouraged. I have found that stopping watering in early January regardless of the number of green leaves will trigger the dormancy.

Note: Watering during dormancy should only be done if the plant shrivels severely. Usually a single irrigation is sufficient to restore the bulbs.

Here's a summary:

- As the new growth develops wait to irrigate until the new roots are well-developed and are 3 to 5" long. (Don't be in a hurry to water; it is better to wait)
- Irrigate and fertilize frequently while the plants are in active growth.
- Stop fertilization and reduce irrigation by one-half around by mid November.
- Cease watering by the 1 st of January.

Light levels: Catasetinae like light levels comparable to Cattleyas at about 2500-4000 foot candles (fc) However, the plants are widely adaptable and do well with light levels as low as 1500 fc and as high as 5000 fc. For optimal growth I suggest a Southern exposure or a location where all the plants will receive plenty of bright, filtered light

Potting mix: For mature plants I have been using a 3:1 of mix of fine 'Kiwi Bark' and medium Perlite. For seedlings up to a 3" pot size I like to use New Zealand sphagnum moss with the bottom 1/3 of the pot filled with Styrofoam peanuts. However, this genus is not too particular in what it is potted in, and any well drained media will work well.

Containers: I prefer to grow in plastic pots; however clay pots, baskets, and cork slabs will all work. Catasetinae don't like to be over potted; select a pot size that will allow for 2-3 years of growth.

Fertilizer: When in active growth, regularly use one teaspoon of your favorite fertilizer per gallon of water.

Air movement: Catasetinae enjoy abundant air movement. If you are growing in a green house use air circulating fans. Also, hanging the plants allows for maximum air movement around them and often they do best hanging.

Repotting and Dividing: Is done as the new growth is just starting to develop and before the new roots start to show. (Remember no watering until the roots are well established, 3-5" long). Unlike most orchid plants Catasetinae do well when divided in to 2 bulb pieces. Divisions are made by cutting with a sterile tool or by pulling the bulbs apart. I try to keep the size of my plants between 2 and 5 bulbs.

Insect pests: Catasetinae are generally pest free. However spider mites are attracted to the soft leaves of these plants. Spider mites are quite small.They live and feed on the undersides of the leaves. Take care in checking for them as the plants are developing the new leaves and control them with a recommended miticide from your garden center. Although the leaves will drop off during dormancy this is not an excuse to not treat for them.

Please feel free to contact me on any question regarding the growing of this genus. Once the basics are understood they are very rewarding. fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net



TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR AN ORCHID GROWER

RODDY GABEL

(Based on an article by Ernest Hetherington published in Volume 46-3 (1982) of the *Orchid Digest*.)

PERHAPS LIKE THOSE of the Bible, the following ten commandments for orchid growing might be a good code to live by, but—just like the biblical ones—may be overlooked or broken. In orchid growing, how much we know and how long we have been growing is of little consequence if we do not practice what we know.

1. *Learn Basic Good Culture.*

A well-grown average plant will give you better flowers than a fine variety poorly grown. The genetic makeup of a plant cannot be changed, but its full potential can only be realized through good culture. As simple as it may sound, you must learn the basic requirements of various genera to grow them, including how and when to water, light intensity and photoperiod (hours of light per day), and how much and how frequently to fertilize.



Do not continually experiment with new mixes, feeding procedures, and all sorts of techniques until you have learned the basics. Develop good relationships with growers who have demonstrated their cultural prowess and whose opinions you respect; listen to them. Wait until you have proven your competence in the basics of good orchid culture before you set out to revolutionize the orchid world.

2. *Provide Proper Growing Facilities.*

A greenhouse may provide many advantages, such as the ability to maintain a humid environment and good airflow. However, many growers do a great job growing on windowsills and under lights. In fact, it can be argued that growing under lights in the home provides a more stable environment than a greenhouse, which is subject to the vagaries of the weather that can influence humidity, light, and temperature. Some orchids may be adaptable to either in-home or green-

house growing. Still, others may need the changing environment that a greenhouse offers, such as seasonal changes in day length and temperature, which may be more challenging to provide in the more consistent conditions of your home—not to mention the dryness created by heating and air conditioning.

Regardless, make sure you can establish the conditions required by the kinds of orchids you want to grow. If you spend money to begin your orchid collection without first ensuring you have proper facilities, clichés like “getting the cart before the horse” and “pouring money down a rat hole” come to mind. Not only will you do better with your plants by ensuring they have the environment they require, but you will also feel rewarded by your success and develop confidence in your ability to expand your collection and try new varieties.





©Paul Johnson

3. Learn Disease Identification and Pest Control.

The best way to prevent the spread of viruses and other diseases among your plants is to buy single-edge razor blades to do any cutting. This includes removing dead or diseased tissue or dividing a plant. You should even follow this protocol to remove blooms for use as cut flowers. Discard the blade into a sharps container. The best way to ensure that cutting tools are disinfected is by using a flame. The safest way to flame your tools is a torch with a self-igniting trigger. The flame is not kind to the tool, but you can use it immediately for the next plant. Remember: only ONE plant per tool before disinfecting or one razor blade per plant. Seek out published material on aseptic technique topics and become informed.

Do not introduce obviously diseased or infested plants into your collection. If a condition is treatable, keep the affected plant or plants away from the rest of your orchids until you can clean them up and ensure they will not infect your entire collection. If it's not a rare or expensive plant, consider just tossing and replacing it.

Learn basic pest control, particularly of the various scales, mealybugs, and mites that most typically affect orchids. There are many pesticides and home remedies for addressing these pests. For individual plants, a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol can be used to remove scale or mealybugs, but eradicating them from a substantial number of plants would more likely involve treating with a pesticide. BE CAREFUL! Follow directions and learn which ones are appropriate for the pest you are trying to eradicate. Learn which ones are

appropriate for your situation. What might be suitable for greenhouse use may be inadvisable for use in your home. You do not want to make yourself, your family, or your pets ill—or worse—because you used something toxic in your living environment.

Beware of snails and slugs that can devastate your orchids, particularly those with softer leaves, new growth, and flowers. There are baits available for them, or if the damage is localized to one or a few plants, you can simply examine your plants after dark with a flashlight and pick the culprits off your plants and dispose of them. Mice and rats can also inflict severe damage on orchids. Keep your traps handy.

4. Buy Good Stock.

Do not be “penny wise and pound foolish” by trying to fill your growing area too quickly and too cheaply. You get what you pay for. Many orchids can be had at very affordable prices from reputable sources, including both large commercial nurseries selling mass-produced clones and smaller nurseries that specialize in particular lines of breeding that might not be available



©Greg Allard

from mainstream sources. Orchid shows and orchid society auctions and sales are good places to pick up plants from both commercial vendors and hobbyists selling unusual plants from their private collections. If you have inexpensive plants on which you learned and developed your cultural expertise, phase them out, and upgrade your collection. An assortment of high-quality varieties can be more rewarding than a group of run-of-the-mill plants.

5. Watch for “Creeping Obsolescence.”

An orchid collection is ever-changing. Your interests do not remain the same. What you liked yesterday will not be your favorite tomorrow. As you build your collection, you will find your tastes becoming refined and selective. Keep in mind that you have just so much space, time, energy, and money to spend.

Get the most satisfaction and pleasure from your orchids. If you have plants that you know are diseased or not doing well, get rid of them! Make sure that every plant produces well and gives you the blooms you desire. If you have cattleyas, count the growths on your mature plant. How many of them have flowered? Most should have; otherwise, the plant is a non-blooming boarder. Although some orchids are grown primarily for their foliage, most are not. Do you have a plant that won't flower, but you are determined to get blooms from it? Give it a fair trial under varying conditions. If it still doesn't flower, get rid of it! Another plant is waiting to take its place and reward your efforts. Do you have a plant that flowers but produces blooms of inferior quality? Have you actually divided it and have extra divisions? Give them away to beginners or as gift plants. Make room in your collection for better-quality plants. Do you have seedlings from community pots repotted multiple times that never seem to thrive despite what you do for them, whereas some of their siblings from the original flask or compot are substantially larger and doing well? Throw the weaklings out and give your space to the ones that are thriving. Keep upgrading your collection, and you will get more pleasure from it. It costs no more to grow nice orchids than it does to grow poor ones!

6. *Beware of Gift Plants.*

This is related to several of the other categories. If you are just starting, beware of the plant your neighbor gave you that he or she could not flower. Be sure the gift is a plant worthy of your attention. Most plants you win from various drawings by your orchid society are likely to be of excellent quality from reputable growers. However, beware of plants sometimes donated by a well-meaning amateur who is not cognizant of the presence of diseases such as viruses or pests on the plant. The expression "Sometimes a gift is a thing you do not get" is very apt when it comes to a plant that is difficult to bloom, unthrifty, diseased, or carrying hitchhikers.

7. *Specialize.*

The orchid family is large and highly variable, offering many directions in which to develop a collection. Of course, the first rule should be, grow what you like. You may be a purist who only grows species; indeed, the natural variety in the orchid world is sufficient to keep a grower's interest. However, you may be intrigued by the results achieved through hybridizing to expand the orchid palette. You might even derive pleasure from producing your own hybrids, raising the seedlings, watching them grow, and hoping for a winner. You may get satisfaction from having a collection of only select or awarded varieties, or you may wish to specialize in cymbidiums, paphiopedilums, cattleyas, phalaenopsis, or some other genus. You may get more pleasure if your collection includes some variety and grow multiple genera with compatible growing requirements. You

will find that even someone who says they focus on one genus will have a few plants of other genera in their collection because they found them interesting.

8. *Learn a Little about Orchid Names and Watch Your Labeling.*

You will get so much more pleasure from your orchid hobby if you know a little about orchid names. How are they named? How are they registered? You can find the accepted name for different species at the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (WCSP). You can enter a genus name and find all the species within that genus. The list of all registered orchid hybrids is found at The International Orchid Register.

Maintain the labels in your plants, since a named variety carries more value than one lacking its identification. It is disappointing to see plants with labels that are no longer legible or that have lost their tags, since there is no way to know with certainty what they are, particularly if they are not in bloom. Many growers put two labels in every pot to prevent a lost tag. Use a pencil, permanent ink pen (with a fine or ultra-fine point), or label printer to ensure that the label remains legible.

9. *Build a Good Orchid Library.*

The pleasure and success you achieve with your orchid collection will be in direct proportion to your knowledge of your plants and their requirements. Learning how to distinguish different genera or various species or groupings within a genus makes growing orchids even more interesting.

In the digital age, information is as close as your computer screen, including information about almost every aspect of orchids. Useful resources online to help with the growing requirements include The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia at <http://www.orchidspecies.com/>. The OrchidWiz Encyclopedia, with images and culture information, is very helpful and has a journal section where you can list all your orchids, including pictures and other information. The Members' Section of the *Orchid Digest* website has many articles on growing specific genera. Please check it out at www.orchiddigest.org.

However, especially for in-depth knowledge of a particular genus or other classifications of orchids (e.g., miniature species), and for unusual species requiring highly specific care and conditions, there is no substitute for the various specialty books available. These may be recent publications or classics containing timeless information on species' geographic distributions, habitat types, elevation, temperature ranges, rainfall levels—all indicative of the conditions the plants will require in cultivation. Then again, many books provide this information along with cultural information. Depending on the scope of your collection, a few good books may be all that are needed. (To learn which books will provide the best information for your preferred plants, refer back to Commandment 1: consult experienced growers.)



10. Join Your Local Orchid Society.

When you join your local orchid society, you receive many benefits. Monthly member meetings generally include a presentation by an invited expert, who will show images of well-grown and often unusual and/or very high-quality plants. The speaker usually provides valuable cultural information and “tricks of the trade” they have developed to help their plants grow better. There is generally a question-and-answer period during which you can also query them on specifics to help you with your own plants. Frequently, the speaker will provide a plant table with plants for either the raffle or for sale.

The personal contacts you make among fellow society members and visitors will also be of great value. Interacting and sharing information with others will multiply the enjoyment you derive from your hobby and invariably help you become a better grower. Your orchid society also opens up possibilities for becoming involved in shows, judging, plant auctions and sales, and other activities to enrich your orchid experience.

Orchid growing is a hobby that can provide life-long enjoyment. You can gain the most from your experiences with your plants if you bear in mind these basic commandments as a guide.*



Welcome To Our New Members

Brittney Davis - from Clinton. She is interested in Auction, Greeters, Show/Display
Phyllis Muthony - from Somerville. A new grower from Ghana. (See below)

New Member Phyllis Muthony

New Member Phyllis Muthony lived in Ghana from 2016 - 2022 before moving to the United States in August of 2022.

She says: “I am a newbie in the orchid hobby – which I started in mid-2021. My first year was quite painful. Nevertheless, it was a great learning experience. I restarted in November 2022 in the States and have had a much better experience so far. Through my interaction with the MOS, I hope to become a better grower and also learn where to find healthy plants (I haven’t been able to locate orchid nurseries in Massachusetts). I am growing only Phalaenopsis and Cattleya alliance orchids at this moment. I hope to venture into beginner plants in the Oncidium alliance later in the year”.

A warm MOS welcome to Phyllis,
The Membership Committee

• 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.

- 4:11 Discolored Pseudobulbs (fungus)
- 7:49 Spots on Paphiopedilum leaves
- 10:56 Angraecum culture
- 12:54 Root problems (What's the white stuff growing on my potting mix)
- 16:10 Water Quality for Cattleyas (ph levels)
- 20:40 Cattleya problems (bud blast in sheaths)
- 22:54 Thrips
- 28:28 Blistering on leaves (high humidity)
- 30:14 Black spots on Oncidiums
- 32:56 Ants
- 35:57 Growing conditions on Oncidium intergeneric
- 38:00 Aliceara (issues with pseudobulbs and leaves)
- 40:12 Mealy bugs and Scale (Phalaenopsis)
- 43:30 Phalaenopsis Problem (thrips and root damage)
- 45:28 Root tip color
- 46:12 Roots (dehydration)
- 47:42 Snails
- 50:26 Dendrobium problems (Mites, secondary infections and fungal problems)
- 53:08 Watering meter (What is TDS)
- 54:39 Are thiomyl and Cleary® 3336 the same thing
- 55:58 Basement growing (swamp cooler)
- 59:26 Back to thiomyl and Cleary® 3336
- 1:00.50 Building Greenhouse suggestions for articles
- 1:02.05 Greenhouse (Low-e glass and twin wall polycarbonate)

Seasonal Orchid Care July/August

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.

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