



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

April 2009

Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Union Presbyterian Church at the corner of Balmville Road and Beech Street in Newburgh (Balmville), NY

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

April 5 – (Meeting held one week early because of Easter.) Extended show table.

May 3 – Meeting held one week early because of Mother's Day.

June 14

July 12

August – no meeting

September 13

October 17 – Fall Show and Sale (sale date changed to avoid conflict with Columbus Day)

November 8

December 13 – Pot Luck Holiday Dinner

Spring Show & Sale

Last month's show and sale was the most successful one we've had in the past several years! Many thanks to all those who participated.

MHOS Bus Trip to Longwood Gardens

The bus trip has been cancelled due to insufficient interest.

April 5th Meeting

The program for the April Meeting will be an extended show table. We will group plants by type (e.g., slippers, Phals, Cattleyas) and assign a team of people to evaluate each group. Teams will choose first, second, and third place plants. Everyone at the meeting will be assigned to a team, so this will be a great opportunity for us to get to know each other. Once all teams have finished, they will announce their results, talk about what attributes they looked for, and give an overview of the plant group's care and needs. This will be a great educational program for our new members.

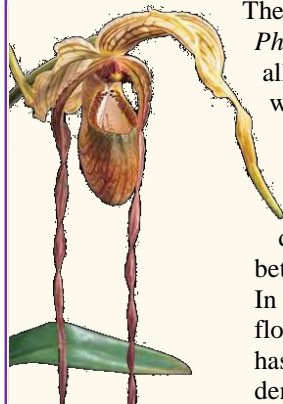
Please bring all your blooming plants - even those that aren't the best - because the more plants there are to look at, the more the team members will be able to make the comparisons that will help them arrive at their decisions.

The Classifieds

We will be making "The Classifieds" a regular section of our monthly newsletter. Send your want ads to Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com or fax to 845-294-1070.

Does anybody have a plant of *Epidendrum geminiflora* (or maybe *geminiflorum*)? I would like to purchase a piece. Many years ago I bought this plant from Orchids Bountiful in Utah; sadly they are now gone. I know I gave Marian Kent a large piece many years ago - so most likely anyone would have gotten it from her. For some reason my big mother plant suddenly died. I miss the twin (Gemini!) yellow flowers. Please e-mail me at rtt@ampico.name or call: 845-266-3303. Many thanks, Tim Tomaselli

Here is this month's contribution by MHOS member **John J. Rashak**:



Phragmipedium grande

The beauty of an orchid is highlighted by its flower. The slipper orchid *Phragmipedium grande* produces three-foot-wide flowers, the largest of all orchid flowers, while some small species of *Stelis* have flowers no wider than the head of a pin. However, most orchids have flowers that measure at least one inch in width.

The slipper orchid *Paphiopedilum Eustacenum* has a pouch-like lip or labellum at the base of a flower that looks like a violet-striped dome. This slipper orchid has violet-speckled wing-like anthers between pouch and dome that lend an aerodynamic flair to the flower. In contrast, *Zygopetalum intermedium* has a large prominent lip on its flower which is flared like a landing platform so that a pollinating insect has a better chance of finding the pollen, while *Thunia marshalliana* has densely-haired lips on its flowers that serve the same function.

To appreciate the flower of an orchid more fully, consider that each flower consists of three outer sepals and three inner petals, one of which is the labellum,

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MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2009

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-962-1541

Vice President

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

Membership Secretary

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

Corresponding Secretary

Holly Read
845-855-1842

Program Secretaries

Ruth Blash
845-265-5008
& Carolyn Sanders
917-774-1018

Recording Secretary

Lois Brennan
845-255-7931

Treasurer

Bob Phillips
518-784-9403

AOS Rep

Lois Brennan
845-255-7931

Librarian

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

Supplies

Georgette Martin
845-473-6276
after 6 pm only

Newsletter and Website

Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

[Elisabeth@Mansfield
Commercial.com](mailto:Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com)

Getting a Jump on Spring

Ron McHatton - Director of Education, AOS



Depending on where you live, March may be more spring than winter but this month is definitely one of those where you get both. However, there are things that you can be doing to get the jump on spring. This is the time that many plants should be repotted. Candidates are those plants that are actively beginning to produce new roots and new growth. Orchids are pretty resistant to most plant pests but they aren't immune. This is the time to take advantage of those occasional warm days and treat your plants that have been inside all winter for pests that came in with them. By now, the hitchhikers will have made their presence known and it's also the time when you should be looking for the presence of the first aphid crops. These insects lay eggs in the fall when the temperatures drop and the eggs winter over waiting for the weather to warm. You can go from no visible aphids to a healthy, thriving colony in a matter of days this time of the year, especially on those juicy, tender flower spikes and buds.

Mites, thrips and whiteflies are the other creatures to be on the lookout for now. This has been a drier than normal winter in many parts of the country and mites and thrips thrive under these conditions. Spider mites are relatively easy to spot since these pests spin webs much like spiders. The other mites, effectively microscopic, damage the surface of orchid leaves allowing them to desiccate. The effect has been described as a "silvery" of the leaf surface but perhaps the easiest way to visualize the change is that your orchid leaves will take on a dull appearance. When left untreated, mites rapidly increase in number causing more and more pronounced damage and can even cause the death of the infested plant. I recently saw a number of cattleyas with dark black, hard lesions on the leaves and under the pseudobulb sheaths. The owner had been trying to treat what was perceived as a fungal problem with no success. These lesions weren't fungal but rather the evidence of an advanced mite infestation. In fact, on close inspection, the grooves along the pseudobulbs were filled with tiny white crystal-like deposits that, under a microscope turned out to be the old exoskeletons of mites cast off during molting. Mites are not insects and do not respond to insecticides designed to control regular insects. Make sure that you are using a product that specifically states for the control of mites. Otherwise it's a waste of your time and money and only serves to annoy the mites.

Thrips, on the other hand, can be seen with the naked eye and their damage is entirely different. These insects fly and can enter your collection in fairly large numbers through open windows or through greenhouse vents and multiply rapidly under dry conditions ruin newly opening flowers. Thrips suck the sap from the surface cells of the flowers, especially along the edges of the parts, causing the damaged surface to become brown and papery. The effect is misshapen flowers with dry, papery edges. If you see this on your flowers you should be looking for thrips. They are often easier to see if you tap the flowers on a sheet of white paper. Look for tiny, cylindrical insects that move rapidly. On vandas (and perhaps other orchids with exposed roots), thrips cause dry, brown rings round the roots, the result of their feeding on the root covering and if you know what to look for, they can't be missed.

In warm, dry parts of the country whiteflies can be a problem on phalaenopsis and orchids with thin leaves and you should start watching for them now. Those in more northern climes aren't immune, whitefly just appear later in the season. You can't miss whiteflies. These tiny white insects resemble moths more than flies and when disturbed fly short distances. They are indiscriminate with regard to the plants they feed on; any leaves with a good supply of sap will do. In addition, they can be carried on the wind and can look like tiny white bits of ash if present in high enough numbers. They can be controlled with the usual insecticidal soaps, alcohol mixtures and general pesticides rated for houseplants or ornamental. They are attracted to yellow and some control can be had with adhesive yellow cards sold in agricultural supply stores.

Supplies - If you would like supplies brought to an MHOS meeting, please call Georgette Martin before Friday preceding the meeting at 845-473-6276. Please call **only after 6:00 pm**. For a list of supplies, check the back pages of your Member List or refer to the Members section of our web site. Supplies purchased through MHOS are at very reasonable prices, with no shipping charges. For prices, please check with Georgette or see the MHOS website at <http://www.mhos.us.com/supplies.html>

Other Area Societies

1st Sunday

Central NY – Syracuse
www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern Pennsylvania
 Society – Lakeville, PA

1st Saturday

North Eastern New York –
 Albany/Colonie, NY
www.nenyos.org

2nd Tuesday

Greater Westchester –
 White Plains, NY

2nd Tuesday

Deep Cut – Tinton Falls, NJ
<http://deepcutorchids.googlepages.com/>

2nd Wednesday

Manhattan, NY
www.manhattanorchid.com

2nd Wednesday

Connecticut – Hartford or
 New Haven
www.ctorchids.org

2nd Thursday

North Jersey – East Hanover
www.njorchids.org

2nd Thursday

Long Island – Valley Stream

3rd Sunday

Southern Tier –
 Binghamton, NY
www.storchidsociety.com

3rd Tuesday

Staten Island, NY

3rd Wednesday

Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

3rd Wednesday

Greater NY – Bronx, NY
www.gnyos.org

3rd Thursday

Ramapo, NJ
www.ramapoorchid.org

Check for date changes.
 Many do not meet in
 July or August

John J. Rashak (continued from page 1)

which is designed to attract the insect that can best promote pollination. Looking closely at the labellum, we see a pattern distinct from the rest of the flower, with ridges at the center that lead to a column, at the top of which are found pollen grains under a protective cap or anther. The pollen grains are attached to an adhesive disk by a few thin threads.

As an insect leaves the orchid's flower, the pollen grains hitch a ride on the insect via the adhesive disk. At the next flower, the insect reaches another lip-based column, but before it reaches the anther, it encounters the sticky stigma, which extracts the pollen from the sticky disk. At this point, the pollen grains send growing tubes down the center of the column to reach the ovaries and thousands of unfertilized seeds. In time, the ovaries swell into a large capsule that contains a million fertilized golden-yellow seeds.

Inclement weather

In case of inclement weather, it is possible our regular meeting could be cancelled. If this happens, the officers will notify a few volunteers who offered to accept calls from the membership to relay this information.

These volunteers do not call anyone, they will just stand by their phones to accept calls from other members who want to know if the meeting will be held. In bad weather, call the one nearest you.

Orange County	Ruth Natras	(845) 343-2901
Orange & Sullivan Counties	Elisabeth Mansfield	(914) 443-3677
Rockland County	Dennis Sandberg	(914) 962-1541
Dutchess & Putnam Counties	Holly Read	(845) 855-1842

Events in the Northeast

February 28th to April 12th – The Orchid Show, New York Botanical Gardens. For details call 718-817-8700 or visit www.nybg.org

March 27th to 29th – Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show and Sale, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Mary Beth Clarke (610) 431-7633; mcrna2go@aol.com.

April 2nd to 5th – Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, NY. Contact: Ruth Espinosa-Barone, 1134 Jackson Rd., Webster, NY 14580; (585) 872-5658.

April 9th – Northeast Judging Center Symposium, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 232 Durham Rd., Madison, CT. Contact: Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, CT 06068; (860) 435-2263; jbecker@mohawk.net.

April 11th – Eastern Maine Orchid Society Plant Show, University of Maine, Clapp Greenhouses, Orono, ME. Denis Roessiger, (207) 326-9211; or Green Care; (207) 848-5453.

April 11th & 12th – Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Show, Chinese Cultural Center, 5183 Sheppard Ave. E. Scarborough, Ontario. Contact: John Li, 5097 Elderview Ct. Mississauga, Ontario L5M 5A9; (905) 607-3559; johnkli@yahoo.com.

April 17th to 19th – North Jersey Orchid Society Show, Frelinghysen Arboretum, Whippany, NJ. Ron Midgett, 193 CR 628, Sussex, NJ 07461; (973) 875-4014; ron@newearthorchids.com.

April 24th to 26th – Southern Tier Orchid Society Show, Oakdale Mall Center Court, Reynolds Rd. & Harry L Dr., Johnson City, NY. Contact: Dee Janis, 2 Spurr Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903; (607) 217-5889; deejanis@yahoo.com.

April 25th & 26th – Ottawa Orchid Society Show, Nepean Sportcomplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa, Ontario. Contact: Marcel Carriere, PO Box 171, Wendover, Ont. K0A 3K0; (613) 673-1807; chipwendover@videotron.ca.

These events and others around the country can be found online at: www.aos.org/aos/events courtesy of the AOS. Check this website before traveling to see if there may be a local orchid event at your destination. Everything published in *Orchids* magazine is also on the web page.

AOS Judging

The Northeast Judging Center holds two monthly orchid judging sessions:

1st Saturday of each month at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA. New contact for directions: Robert Winkley (617) 282-7351.

3rd Saturday of each month at Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown-White Plains Rd (Rt. 119), Elmsford, NY (at I-287, exit 1). Slides or presentations at 10am, judging begins around 12pm; bring your lunch.

Attention

Award-Winning Members

We would like to give recognition to MHOS members when they receive any award. If you have been honored with an award, please notify us so we can include it in our correspondence on our website. And if you have a picture of the award-winning orchid, we'd love to include it! Email Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

Goshen, NY 10924
218 Greenwich Avenue
c/o Elisabeth Mansfield



Directions to AOS Judging at the Hampton Inn in Elmsford (Note: there may be construction at the I-287 exit to Route 119 so keep your eyes open for lane closures or slight changes.)

FROM ORANGE, ULSTER COUNTIES, NEWBURGH, KINGSTON:

South on the NYS Thruway, to I-287 East (toward White Plains), go over the Tappan Zee Bridge. Continue on Thruway to second exit: Exit 8 – Cross Westchester Expressway (Route 287 East). Take 287 East to first exit on your right – Exit 1. Take the fork on your right to Elmsford. At the end of the ramp, turn right on Route 119. Hotel is on your left. Go to the second light, make U turn and go onto the Hotel ramp to the parking lot.

FROM NORTHERN WESTCHESTER, PUTNAM, DUTCHESS COUNTIES: South on I-684, to Cross Westchester Expressway Route I-287

West. Stay on 287 West to Exit 1 make left turn at light – Hampton Inn is a short distance on right. OR South on Taconic Parkway to South/West Sawmill to I-287 West to Exit 1, make left turn at light – Hampton Inn is a short distance on right. OR South on Route 9 to 9A to Rt 119 Elmsford, NY, turn right on Rt 119, go about 2-3 long blocks. See Hampton Inn on left, make U turn at light, and turn into Hampton Inn on right.