



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

December 2008

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.

December 14, 2008 – Elections and Pot Luck Holiday Dinner. Bring a dish to share: main, salad, or dessert type offerings. We have an ample supply of coffee and soda on hand.



January 11, 2009 – Member discussion: "Why We Grow What We Grow"

February 8, 2009

March 7, 2009 (Saturday) – Spring Sale and Blooming Orchid Display

April 5, 2009 – Meeting held one week early because of Easter.

May 3, 2009 – Meeting held one week early because of Mother's Day.

Marian Kent

MHOS founding member Marian J. Kent died Monday, November 3, 2008 at home. She was 91. Here are some memories of her:

From Ruth Silverman: In 1977? 78? Marian organized small meetings of friends who might be interested in forming a group to meet regularly. I attended a meeting here in New Paltz at the home of one of her friends and was hooked. We were a small group, so could meet in people's homes, gradually growing to a larger group and needing more space. Marian shared not only her expertise but also divisions of her plants and set up our first sales effort in her driveway. She and Steve, her husband, put temporary tables out on the blacktop. Since most of the sale plants were hers, our early budget was funded mostly from those sales. We did not buy plants in bloom but depended on buyers being familiar with the plants which were offered. The sale was announced in the orchid journal and had good coverage from the Middletown newspaper - with pictures. An interested journalist gave us great publicity for several years, so both the sale and the membership grew.

The formal organization as a member of the national orchid society required by-laws, regular elections, a budget with auditing procedures, etc. It was a stimulating period as we grew in size, interesting programs and interesting new members. Marian was a special person who could support that kind of well organized growth and remain an unpretentious, supportive person. She was a very good friend.

From Sandie Kaplan: Ruth Silverman and I would occasionally go to Marian's house to play Scrabble with her. Guess who won every time?! And in keeping with being a gracious hostess, she always apologized for winning.

From Rob Greene: I first heard about Marian Kent in late 1977 or early 1978, perhaps from Ruth Silverman or Betty Hain. Back then, orchid plants were not generally available as they are now (I don't think there were any Home Depots or Lowe's in the Hudson Valley at the time!), so learning about someone who had a private collection was a big deal, and being invited to see such a collection would be a special treat! I tentatively called and Marian graciously invited me to visit her home and see her collection which, of course, was very impressive at the time. Also impressive was her greenhouse, located at the top of a spiral staircase on the second floor of her and Steve's beautiful home overlooking the Hudson River. Later in 1978, at her invitation, a small number of orchid fanciers (probably 6 or 7) met at her home to discuss forming a group which would meet periodically to share knowledge, trade plants, etc. We held our first actual meeting in September 1978, and agreed to call ourselves the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society and to meet monthly. Marian was already an AOS member and before long, under her leadership as President, we had become an AOS Chapter. At first, we met in members' homes (often Marian's), but we grew quickly and started to meet at other locations with more space. Ruth Silverman taught at the Campus School (as it was then called) in New Paltz, and arranged for us to meet there several times during those early months.

The things I remember most about Marian were her energy and her willingness to take on the many tasks and responsibilities associated with organizing and leading the MHOS; her kindness, patience, and encouragement; her great knowledge about plants in general and orchids in particular; and her generosity in sharing her knowledge, her time, and her duplicate plants with others who were just getting started as orchid enthusiasts. I still have plants I got from her almost 30 years ago. It goes without saying that she will be greatly missed.



MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2008

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-962-1541

Vice President

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901

Membership

Secretaries

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901
& Betty Gilbert

Corresponding

Secretary

Angie Collini

Program Secretary

Isabel Lopatin
845-265-9057

Recording Secretary

Lois Brennan
845-255-7931

Treasurer

Bob Phillips
518-784-9403

AOS Rep

Janet Jozwiak
845-298-8735

Librarians

Ruth Natras
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)

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

The history of orchids is a mixture of adventure and science. Take, for example, the relationship between an orchid and its pollinator. Charles Darwin predicted the existence of the night-flying hawk moth with a tongue of over a foot long. This prediction was based on the existence of the comet orchid (*Angraecum sesquipedale*) and its spur of over a foot in length containing nectar at the end.

Another tale, one which relates more to adventure than science, is that of *Phalenopsis sanderiana* and its legendary red color. An Englishman, Frederick Sander, known as the Orchid King, dispatched a collector to find this colorful orchid in the Philippines. It was eventually found on the island of Davao when the collector noticed that the natives' hair, dyed a bright golden yellow, contained flowers colored rosy-pink, which turned out to be *P. sanderiana*.



Phalenopsis sanderiana

Southeast of the Philippines in a New Guinea village, another of Sander's collectors discovered orchids decorating the bones of the dead in a cemetery. The roots of these orchids, *Dendrobium schroderianum*, were firmly attached to the bones, and were named for Baron Schroeder, a patron of Sander.

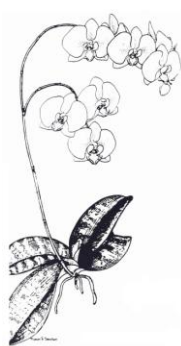
Cattleya skinneri, the national flower of Costa Rica, is named after a collector, George Ure-Skinner. This orchid is well known for its use in producing hybrids, progress at which was slow until it was realized that orchid seeds need the help of microscopic mycorrhizal fungi in order to germinate.

John Dominy, an orchid grower for the Veitch nursery in England, flowered the first hybrid orchid, *Calanthe dominyi*, in 1856. In addition to *C. skinneri*, *Miltoniopsis roezlii*, originating from Colombia, became popular for producing hybrids.

The Royal Horticultural Society in London is the world authority for registering the 100,000-plus orchid hybrids like the bigeneric hybrid between *Odontoglossum* and *Cochlioda*, named *Odontioda vuylstekeara* after a Belgian hybridizer, who is also responsible for the multigeneric *Vuylstekeara cambria* yellow. The latter contains three genera: *Odontoglossum*, *Cochlioda* and *Miltonia*.



Calanthe dominyi



21st Annual Open House

Thursday, January 29th to
Sunday, February 1st, 2009
10 am to 5 pm



Check their web site www.SilvaOrchids.com
for directions and other open house details
or call 732-922-2635

Northeast Judging Center Annual Judge's Auction Saturday, December 20, 2008 10:00 am

The Hampton Inn, Elmsford, NY
For information: Rita Cohen
1433 Kew Avenue, Hewlett, NY 11557
Phone (516) 374-6426
E-mail orchart@optonline.net

Owens Orchids of Brevard, NC sends us emails with wonderful specials, but they arrive just a little too late for the current special to be published in the MHOS newsletter. Check out their holiday gifts at www.OwensOrchids.com especially the Orchid-A-Month Plan and the Orchid Starter Collection.

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

Orchid care tips from rePotme.com

To Do Now:

1. Now is the time of year we start thinking about decorations for the winter months and the holiday season. Many orchids are coming into their full bloom at this time. Our [ceramic orchid pots](#) make a perfect display as well as an ideal gift. Our large [8 inch Cache Pots](#) make an impressive centerpiece. [Flower clips](#) add a decorative touch!
2. We should be looking to have our Phalaenopsis setting spikes by Thanksgiving. Get ready to stake up all those spikes and arching inflorescences. Find an example in our [orchid staking tutorial](#). Not sure if it is a spike or a root? Look for the classic mitten shape as [shown here](#).
3. Reduce watering with the reduction in temperatures but increase humidity in heated environments. Our [humidity trays](#) are a great solution for creating a nice environment that allows for watering orchids right on the tray. Repot fall bloomers such as Cattleya, Paphiopediums and Miltonopsis when they go out of bloom in our [Imperial or Classic Orchid Mixes](#). If you prefer your own unique mix, our [Select-A-Blend](#) make your own custom orchid mix may be just what you've always been looking for.

Looking Ahead:

1. The holiday season will be quickly upon us and rePotme has many great choices for the orchid lover on your list. Our [Ceramic Orchid Pots](#) make great gifts. Our distinctive [framed orchid prints](#) are beautiful and can't be found anywhere else. The recipient will be happy to know a portion of the proceeds goes to orchid conservation at the American Orchid Society. Can't decide or want to let them decide? Our [gift certificates](#) are just the answer.
2. Some orchids require a dry winter rest. In December we will stop watering orchids of the genus *Catasetum*.
3. Orchids that are in bloom now may well need repotting when their blooming ends. Once new acquisitions go out of bloom is a perfect time to repot them into the [orchid mixes](#) and [orchid pots](#) that work best in your environment. Orchids that didn't bloom as expected may benefit from being moved into new mix. It is time to think about having mixes and pots on hand to repot those orchids.

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. Some prices have recently gone up, so please check with Georgette or see the MHOS website at <http://www.mhos.us.com/supplies.html>

Collection for Sale - Dennis Sandberg is handling the sale of Len Ellentuch's orchid collection. The plants have been worked on and are in beautiful condition. If you are interested in any of them, or if you would like an appointment at Len's greenhouse, please call Dennis at 914-962-1541.

Dues notice - MHOS dues are now payable. Ruth Natras will accept payments at monthly meetings, or you can mail a check payable to MHOS to:
Ruth Natras, 2 Lake Avenue,
Middletown, NY 10940
Dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families

Events in the Northeast

December 20th – Northeast Judging Center Annual Judge's Auction, Hampton Inn, Elmsford, NY. Contact: Rita Cohen (516) 374-6426

January 29th to February 1st – Silva Orchids 21st Annual Open House, 635 Wayside Road, Neptune, NJ (732) 922-2635 www.silvaorchids.com

February 5th to 8th – Deep Cut Orchid Society's 12th Annual Orchid Show, Dearborn Market Garden Center, Route 35, Holmdel, NJ. (732) 264-0256 or info@dearbornmarket.com

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.