



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

February 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, NY (Balmville).

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

February 10th meeting, AOS slide show about orchids of Madagascar.

March meeting to be replaced by the Spring Show and Sale on Saturday, March 8th (setup on March 7th)

April 13th meeting, "Diagnosis Day" with Ron Midgett of New Earth Orchids

May 4th (meeting held one week early because of Mother's Day), Judy Becker of Lauray Gardens will speak about plants that grow well with orchids

June 8th meeting, speaker to be determined

July 13th meeting, speaker to be determined

August – no meeting

September 14th meeting, we are hoping to get Weyman Bussey to come from California

MHOS Member Open House



This year's first open house was hosted by Irma Goldknopf of Gardiner, NY. Her home and greenhouse, pictured here, were constructed

25 years ago. In addition to her extensive orchid collection, her 10' x 30' greenhouse is also home to passion flowers and other vines.



Thanks again Irma, for showing MHOS members this ideal setting!

If any other members are interested in providing a tour of your orchid growing environment, please let us know.

Member Directory

The 2008 MHOS Member Directory is now posted on our website (see Members section). The Directory is password-protected, available only to current MHOS members.

For those with no Internet access, a printed Member Directory will be provided upon request. However, as new members join, only the online version of the Directory will continue to be updated; a new printed version will not be provided each time. The on-line directory is in PDF format, and can be printed by members at any time.

For members needing the password, or to request a printed copy of the Directory, call Elisabeth Mansfield at 845-294-1000 and leave your name, address, and daytime phone number.

The Amherst Orchid Society



presents its
Annual Show

at Smith Vocational School
Route 9, Northampton, MA
(Next to Cooley Dickenson Hospital)

Saturday, February 23, 9am to 5pm
Sunday, February 24 10am to 4pm.

Admission \$3.00
Children under 12 free

For info, call 413-267-5124

Does that make it a "Tulip"?

Did you see this unusual Paph on the show table at our January meeting, grown by Holly Read and Ron Champion?

They bought the plant from Marian Kent. Holly says, "The label is a little fuzzy but as a best guess it is P. Hellas Westonbur (? 't' maybe) cross Venture Sunglow HCC/AOS. It had three blooms and only one was double-pouched.

Each bloom was from a different plant section. We won't know if this is a mutation until it happens again!" (Get it...two-lip??)



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
& Marian Kent
845-561-8558

Supplies

Georgette Martin
845-473-6276
after 6 pm only

Newsletter

Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

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



There are 45 species of *Cypripedium*, better known as the “slipper orchids”, which range from the Northern Hemisphere to the foothills of the Himalaya. Slipper orchids are terrestrial and inhabit meadows, marshes, and forest floors, in addition to a wide range of habitats from subtropical to snowy. The perennial rootstock or underground rhizome of the slipper orchids gives rise to an annual display of ribbed or pleated leaves. The seeds of these (and many other) orchids need a symbiotic relationship with a soil-dwelling or mycorrhizal fungus for successful germination. The first wild flowering of an artificially raised *C. calceolus* was only achieved within the past decade.

The common name of the slipper orchids refers to the lip of the flower, which is enlarged in the form of a slipper-shaped pouch. The pouch attracts small bees into the opening formed by the lip, and pollination occurs as the bees come and go.

There is a fascinating legend behind the slipper orchids. It seems that Venus, the Roman goddess of love and beauty, was out hunting with her lover, Adonis, when a thunderstorm forced them to flee for shelter. After finding shelter, they found each other once again, not noticing that Venus had lost a slipper. A mortal came by, and was about to pick up the slipper when it was suddenly transformed into a beautiful flower with a slipper-shaped petal.

Over 280 years ago, a Swedish botanist named Linnaeus sought a genus name for a European slipper orchid. He chose *Cypripedium* because Venus was born in Cyprus (mythologically speaking) and *pedilum* is Greek for “slipper”. Over a century later, another botanist came up with *paphiopedilum* for the genus name of tropical slipper orchids. Note that Paphos, a city on the west coast of Cyprus, is the birthplace (mythologically speaking) of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess whom the Romans called Venus.

Events in the Northeast

February 7th - 10th – Deep Cut Orchid Society Show, Dearborne Mkt, 2170 Rt 35, Holmdel, NJ. Contact Diana Kleiman, 15 Oxford Ln, Middletown, NJ; (732) 671-2396; dkleiman7@comcast.net

February 8th to 10th – New Hampshire Orchid Society Show, Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, NH. Contact: Andrea Deachman, 53 Center Rd., Chichester, NH 03258; (603) 978-4377; andread@unitedwymc.org.

February 9th & 10th – Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show. Contact: Doug Kennedy, 15 Wilmac Ct., Gormley, Ont. L0H 1G0

February 16th – Paphiopedilum Forum. Contact: Bill & Lynn Goldner, 5810 Huntington Rd, Huntington, MD 20639.

February 23rd to April 6th – The New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show. For details call 718-817-8700 or visit www.nybg.org

February 23rd & 24th – Amherst Orchid Society Show, Smith Vocational High School, Locust St., Rt. 9, Northampton, MA. Contact: Harold Norman, 7 Maple St., Monson, MA 01057; (413) 267-5124; leilani.norman@verizon.net

March 1st & 2nd – Orchid Society of Nova Scotia Show, Spring Garden Place, 5640 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS. Contact: Gail Schwarz, 301 Kings Rd., Wellington, NS B2T 1A2; rschwarz@hfx.eastlink.ca.

March 2nd to 9th – 2008 Philadelphia Flower Show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia PA. Contact: Betty Greene, PA Hort. Soc., 100 N. 20th. Street, 5th. FL, Philadelphia, PA 19103; (215) 988-8826.

March 8th & 9th – Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens Show. Contact: Beth Horyn, 76 W. 4th. Street, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L9C 3M7

March 7th to 9th – Maryland Orchid Society Show. Contact: Bill Scharf, 7768 Fulton School Rd., Felton, PA 17322; bscharf@mskpartners.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 the Orchids magazine is also on the web page.

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.com

2nd Sunday
Mid-Hudson – Newburgh,
NY

2nd Tuesday
Greater Westchester –
White Plains, NY

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

2nd Wednesday
Manhattan, NY
www.manhattanorchid.com

Connecticut – Hartford or
New Haven
www.ctorchids.org

2nd Thursday
North Jersey – East
Hanover
www.njorchids.org

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 Thursday
Ramapo, NJ
www.ramapoorchid.org

4th Tuesday
Greater NY – Bronx, NY
www.gnyos.org

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

From the AOS.....

Orchids Versus Roses – A New Trend for Valentine's Day?



Roses and chocolates. The keys to your sweetheart's affection on Valentine's Day? Not so fast! According to some, that's the wrong message!

"Well, perhaps chocolates," states Carlos Fighetti, the president of the American Orchid Society (AOS), an 86-year-old nonprofit organization headquartered in Delray Beach, Florida. "But orchids are immeasurably superior in almost every regard to roses. The rare beauty and seductiveness of a single blooming orchid should absolutely be the symbol of Valentine's Day.

Sacrilegious? Perhaps, but the AOS's president offers some intriguing logic for his position.

"Roses are almost never-lasting compared to an almost everlasting orchid," continues Fighetti. "Think about it. Which message would you rather impart on your special sweetheart? That you spent \$85 on a dozen roses that will last in peak condition for maybe four days and then begin to rapidly wilt? Or that you spent less than half of that amount on a striking orchid, perhaps with two or three magnificent sprays of flowers that will stay in bloom for weeks and perhaps months with just a little tender loving care, all the while reminding your special someone of who tenders their affection?"

Need more convincing? "Try reblooming those dozen roses," states Fighetti with hard-to-argue logic. "Not a problem with the orchid!"

"Orchids show longevity, commitment and love," Says Fighetti. "Shouldn't you be showing your wife, mother or sweetheart that your love blooms longer than a cute bunch of roses – and that you're a smart shopper, too? Buy a striking orchid and you'll still have enough money to take your sweetheart to dinner!"

Orchids come in a wide variety of colors, shapes, and sizes – according to the AOS, there are really no limits to the possibilities for gift givers this Valentine's Day. With prices that start around \$25 for a blooming orchid plant, there's an orchid for every sweetheart.

"They last longer, and are more interesting and exotic than roses – just the way you want your love life! They're rare beauties, just like your sweetheart! And at those prices, shoppers can perhaps afford to tell more than one sweetheart that your heart is theirs!" concludes the AOS president, tongue firmly planted in cheek.

"One last thing," states Fighetti. "If you're going to buy chocolate, make it white chocolate, which is made from vanilla, which also comes from an orchid."

Inclement Weather Policy

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 volunteer nearest you.

Ulster County Sandie Kaplan (845) 255-1489
Orange County Ruth Nattras (845) 343-2901
Putnam County Lorraine Mioducki (845) 279-7293

Cancellation notices will also be aired on WHUD Radio, 100.7 FM



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 the web site. Supplies purchased through MHOS are at very reasonable prices, and there are no shipping charges.

The Orchid Show

New York
Botanical Garden

February 23rd to April 6



This year's exhibition is set against the magical backdrop of Singapore, one of the great orchid centers of the world.

Group rates available.
Call 718-817-8687.

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

42601 YAN'GOSHEN
A Suite 3A
3 Hatfield Lane,
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.