



# MHOS NEWSLETTER

[www.mhos.us.com](http://www.mhos.us.com)

January 2009

## Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**January 11, 2009** – Plant auction to benefit Len Ellentuch, and 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.

**June 14, 2009**

**July 12, 2009**

**August** – no meeting

**September 13, 2009**

**October 10, 2009** – Fall Show and Sale

## MHOS Dues and Website Password

When you receive this newsletter, check the subject line (for email) or the mailing label (for US mail) to see the year you are paid up through. If you have not paid your 2009 dues, this is the last newsletter you will receive.

The Members Only password for the MHOS website will be distributed with the February newsletter for those members whose dues are paid through 2009. This password will give you access to minutes of previous meetings, and to the 2009 Member Directory (when it is completed).

If you forget the password, you can call Elisabeth Mansfield's office at 845-294-1000 and – as long as your dues are current – it will be given to you.



**February 5 - 8, 2009**

Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 9 AM - 6 PM  
Sun., 9 AM - 4:30 PM

Presented in the  
11,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art greenhouse at



Fine Food & Garden Center  
Route 35 (south), Holmdel, NJ  
Just a few miles south of the Garden State Pkwy Exit 117

Exquisite Displays Filled with a Variety of Orchids  
Exotic Orchid Plants & Supplies for Sale

Guest Orchid Vendors:

- Lois Duffin Orchids • Main Street Orchids • Orchidophile
- Piping Rock Orchids • Tewksbury Orchids • Waldor Orchids
- Stony Brook Orchids • Silva Orchids • New Earth Orchids
- J&L Orchids • Parkside Orchids • Ecugenera

Ribbon, Trophy and AOS Judging on Thursday  
Free Orchid Workshops on Saturday & Sunday  
Lunch Specials Daily

A February Treat for Visitors & Orchid Growers Alike!

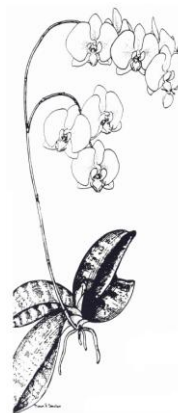
**FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING!**

For more information:  
<http://deepcutorchids.googlepages.com>  
or [dearbornmarket.com](http://dearbornmarket.com) 732-264-0256

## Collection for Sale

An auction will be held at our January meeting, featuring plants from Len Ellentuch's orchid collection, to help defray Len's medical costs. The plants have been worked on by Dennis Sandberg and Holly Read, 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.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Open House



Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to  
Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
10 am to 5 pm

Check their web site  
[www.SilvaOrchids.com](http://www.SilvaOrchids.com)  
for directions and other  
open house details  
or call 732-922-2635



## MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2009

### President

Dennis Sandberg  
914-962-1541

### Vice President

Ruth Nattras  
845-343-2901

### Membership Secretaries

Ruth Nattras  
845-343-2901  
& Betty Gilbert

### 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

### Librarians

Ruth Nattras  
845-343-2901  
& Betty Gilbert

### 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**:

Orchids have an intriguing range of designs. In size, they range from the tiny *Dendrophylax*, which is mostly roots, to the much larger *Arundina*, which is bamboo-like. Orchids, primarily herbaceous or evergreen perennials, are different from other families of plants due to their growth habits and flower structure.

Most orchids produce one at least one pseudobulb annually along a continually extending horizontal, generally underground, stem known as a rhizome. The pseudobulb is not like an onion bulb, which consists of a layer of sheafs or fake leaf bases which lie on top of each other like the pages of a book. Nor is the pseudobulb starchy and tuberous, like a potato. Rather, it consists of fibrous material that is great for conserving food and storing water. The wild pseudobulb enables an orchid to survive droughts, while the cultivated pseudobulb interprets winter as the drought season and goes into a semi-dormant state until spring, when the longer days stimulate new growth.

Pseudobulbs are the longest-living part of the orchid, and have evolved into shapes and sizes that range from long and thin to round or flat. For example, the pseudobulbs of the smaller bulbophyllums and coelogynes look like a round, shiny pea, while those of the cymbidiums may be the size of a tennis ball. In cattleyas and their like, the pseudobulbs are tall and club-shaped with a narrow base and some leaves at the top.

*Dendrobium pieradii* is famous for the length of its pseudobulb, which resembles a walking stick with leaves along the entire length. The longest pseudobulb, however, is likely found in *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, the sugar cane orchid, which has a 16-foot pseudobulb that looks like it's about to collapse under its own weight.

Perhaps the strangest pseudobulbs of all are the hollow pseudobulbs of *Schomburgkia tibicinis* and *Caularthon bicornutum*. While these pseudobulbs provide no survival insurance against droughts, they do provide a home for fierce ants that keep these orchids free of parasites and pests.



*Grammatophyllum speciosum*

## Inclement weather

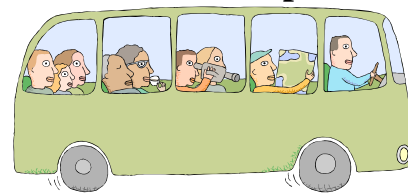
In case of inclement weather, it is possible our regular meeting could be cancelled. If this happens, the officers will notify a few volunteers who offered to accept calls from the membership to relay this information.

**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 Nattras (845) 343-2901  
Ulster County **Volunteer needed**  
Putnam County **Volunteer needed**



## MHOS Road Trip



We are planning a trip to the Annual Southeast Pennsylvania Orchid Society Orchid Show at Longwood Gardens to be held from March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. Details to come!

**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>

## Other Area Societies

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

Central NY – Syracuse  
[www.cnyos.org](http://www.cnyos.org)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern Pennsylvania  
 Society – Lakeville, PA

### 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday

North Eastern New York –  
 Albany/Colonie, NY  
[www.nenyos.org](http://www.nenyos.org)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

Greater Westchester –  
 White Plains, NY

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

Manhattan, NY  
[www.manhattanorchid.com](http://www.manhattanorchid.com)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

Connecticut – Hartford or  
 New Haven  
[www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

North Jersey – East Hanover  
[www.njorchids.org](http://www.njorchids.org)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

Long Island – Valley Stream

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Southern Tier –  
 Binghamton, NY  
[www.storchidsociety.com](http://www.storchidsociety.com)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

Staten Island, NY

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Greater NY – Bronx, NY  
[www.gnyos.org](http://www.gnyos.org)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

Ramapo, NJ  
[www.ramapoorchid.org](http://www.ramapoorchid.org)

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

## Orchid care tips from Orchidweb.com

It is now the dead of winter and many orchid species such as deciduous Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Laelia, Calanthes and Catasetums need a rest period with reduced watering and little to no feeding. This rest period coincides with reduced light levels (both in day length and intensity) and cooler temperatures. We recommend a 6-8 week period of reduced watering and no fertilizer to these types of plants. This period began around the end of November or slightly later.

Of course, individual species may have different requirements, but as a general rule we reduce water and watch the pseudobulbs - if they begin to shrivel slightly it is usually OK, but we would then water every 2-3 weeks or enough to stop the plants from shriveling any further. Once the period is up and or when new growth begins at the base of the plant, we begin resuming normal watering. Sometimes flower buds appear and when you just begin to see them, resume more frequent watering.

Plants like Calanthes may produce flower spikes just as their leaves begin dying back, but you can keep watering until the flowers fade and then keep the plant dry until you see new growth beginning at the base of the pseudobulbs.

One of the links you can find in our [Learning Center](#) page is the [Plant Of The Week Library](#) which has lots of growing tips for specific plants and will help you with knowing when to withhold water for various species.

## Events in the Northeast

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** – Silent Auction, 2pm, Central NY Orchid Society meeting, St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Road, Baldwinville.

**January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** – Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show, Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center, 350 Quaker Rd., North Falmouth, MA. Contact: Tina Balog (508) 540-5006; [tina@plaid.whoj.edu](mailto:tina@plaid.whoj.edu)

**January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Silva Orchids 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Open House, 635 Wayside Road, Neptune, NJ (732) 922-2635 [www.silvaorchids.com](http://www.silvaorchids.com)

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

**February 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>** – Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show, Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E, Toronto, Ontario. Contact: Wayne Hingston, (905) 649-2467; [w2hingston@yahoo.ca](mailto:w2hingston@yahoo.ca)

**February 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>** – [New Hampshire Orchid Society Show](#), Radisson Hotel Nashua, 11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, NH. Contact: Andrea Deachman (603) 798-4377 [andreaathnhos@yahoo.com](mailto:andreaathnhos@yahoo.com)

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Paphiopedilum Forum, US National Arboretum, Washington, DC. Contact: Bill & Lynn Golner, (410) 286-2542; [woodstream@chesapeake.net](mailto:woodstream@chesapeake.net)

**February 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Amherst Orchid Society Show, Smith Vo-Ag High School, Locust St, Route 9, Northampton, MA. Contact: Harold Norman, (413) 267-5124; [leilani.norman@verizon.net](mailto:leilani.norman@verizon.net)

**February 28<sup>th</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens Show, Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Rd. West, Burlington, Ontario. Contact: Jane Johnson, (519) 428-9913; [rjohnstone2@sympatico.ca](mailto:rjohnstone2@sympatico.ca)

**February 28<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>** – The Orchid Show, New York Botanical Gardens. For details call 718-817-8700 or visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

**March 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>** – [Philadelphia Flower Show](#). Contact: Betty K. Green, (215) 988-8826; [bgreene@pennhort.org](mailto:bgreene@pennhort.org)

These events and others around the country can be found online at: [www.aos.org/aos/events](http://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:

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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.