



MHOS NEWSLETTER

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

www.mhos.us.com

January 2012

Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road (corner of Balmville Road and Beech Street), in Newburgh, NY 12550.

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

2012 Meeting Dates

January 8 – AOS slide program “Native Australian species and their hybrids” (P)

February 12 – “Open Mike meeting” – members may each do a short presentation (P)

March 10 – Spring Show and Sale (P)

April 1 – (one week early due to Easter)

May 6 – (one week early due to Mothers Day)

June 10

July & August – no meeting

September 9

October 13 – Fall Show and Sale (P)

November 11

December 9 – Elections and Pot Luck Holiday Dinner (P)

(P) = Member Plant Sales permitted

January 8th Meeting – AOS Slide Show “Native Australian Species and Their Hybrids”



Dendrobium White Grace

Prepared by John Woolf of Australia, this program deals with the species indigenous to the Toowoomba, Queensland area where he lives, as well as the hybrids from these species. *Dendrobium* and *Sarcophilus* are among the genera shown.

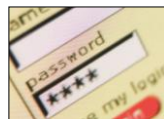
For more information about John Woolf, as well as articles he has written, see his website: www.woolforchidculture.com



Sarcophilus Fitzhart

Photos © 2010 Greg Allikas, www.orchidworks.com

MHOS Website Password



The 2012 password for the Members Only section of the MHOS website is included with this newsletter in the meeting minutes. This password gives MHOS members access to minutes of previous meetings and to the Member Directory.

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.

Member Plant Sales vs. Guest Speaker Plant Sales

It was decided at the November meeting that, going forward, when there is a guest speaker invited who has agreed to bring plants for sale, that speaker will be given the option of being the only one selling plants that day. If a speaker requests it, members will not be permitted to sell plants at that meeting.

On the calendar to the left, whenever there is a speaker, there will now be a notation (P) indicating whether member sales of plants is permitted that day.

Note: We are currently arranging speakers for 2012 – expect the next newsletter to include them.

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 be available to accept calls from other members who want to know if the meeting will be held. In bad weather, call any of these members:

Ruth Natras	(845) 343-2901
Holly Read	(845) 855-1842
Dennis Sandberg	(914) 962-1541



Did you pay your 2012 MHOS Dues?

Your dues help pay for programs, supplies, newsletters, and meetings. If you have not renewed for 2012, please do so now. Dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families. You can mail your check, payable to MHOS, to:

Ruth Natras
2 Lake Avenue
Middletown, NY 10940

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2012

President *

Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

Vice President *

Isabel Lopatin
845-265-9057

Membership Secretary *

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901

Corresponding Secretary *

Dennis Sandberg
914-954-7132

Program Secretary *

Carolyn Sanders
917-774-1018

Recording Secretary *

Brenda Peterson
914-489-9152

Treasurer *

Bob Phillips
518-784-9403

AOS Rep

Lois Brennan
845-255-7931

Librarian

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901

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Carolyn Sanders
917-774-1018

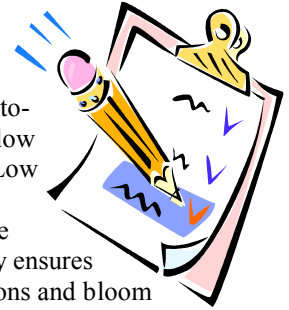
Newsletter and Website

Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000
[Elisabeth@Mansfield
Commercial.com](mailto:Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com)

* MHOS Officers

Other positions
are volunteer

AOS Checklist for January and February



Cattleya - Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium - We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste - The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums - Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum - The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis - Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum - For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Other Area Societies

1st Sunday

Central NY – Syracuse

www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern PA – Lakeville

www.nepaorchidsociety.org

1st Tuesday – 7:30pm

Pinelands – Medford, NJ

pinelandsorchidsociety.org

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

www.deepcutorchids.com

2nd Wednesday

Manhattan – New York, NY

www.manhattanorchid.org

2nd Wednesday

Connecticut – Farmington or Cheshire

www.ctorchids.org

2nd Thursday

North Jersey – East Hanover

www.njorchids.org

2nd Thursday

Long Island – Lynbrook

longislandorchidsociety.org

3rd Sunday

Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA

www.oswp.org

3rd Sunday

Southern Tier – Binghamton

www.storchidsociety.com

3rd Tuesday

Staten Island, NY

www.siosonline.com

3rd Wednesday

Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

3rd Wednesday

Greater NY – Bronx, NY

www.gnyos.org

3rd Thursday

Ramapo – Englewood, NJ

www.ramapoorchid.org

4th Tuesday

Jersey Highlands - Augusta, NJ

www.jerseyhighlandsorchid.wordpress.com

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

*Oncidium sotoanum** Hybrids on our Recent Show Tables

By Isabel Lopatin



There were a number of fragrant and charming small-flowered *Oncidium sotoanum* hybrids on our show tables in November and December. We had at least one *Oncidium* Twinkle (*cheirophorum x sotoanum*) on the table in December, and there was also one *Oncidium* Tsiku Marguerite, a cross of *Oncidium* Twinkle “Red” and *sotoanum* that generally has white or blush flowers on a plant that is perhaps twice as tall as a Twinkle. Even though the Tsiku Marguerite belonged to me, I think the Twinkle is more charming precisely because the plant is smaller.

Oncidium sotoanum is my favorite species of the genus because I am not fond of yellow and brown flowers. It’s a medium-sized plant with a compact growth habit and small, violet flowers that are fragrant and plentiful. To me, they smell like church during humid weather (frankincense with an undertone of mildewed wood), but to many they smell more like chocolate or vanilla.

I find *sotoanum* easy to grow and have succeeded with plants from the same batch under two sets of light and temperature conditions: summers outdoors with medium shading and winter conditions of 1) cold-bright-dryish or 2) intermediate-intermediate-less dryish. What I find most interesting about the blooming is that spikes appear right around the summer solstice and the flowers finally open right around the autumn equinox.

Sadly, most of these thin-leaved *Oncidium*s don’t last more than three years at my house because they are prone to fungus and the leaves are devoured by it. If I grew a lot of orchids with this problem I’d spend time dealing with it, but Twinkles are easy to come by and not expensive, so I don’t mind buying a new one every few years. At a judging session I attended a number of years ago, a *sotoanum* specimen with spotted leaves was not disqualified because the species is prone to this condition, which makes me feel better about what happens to my plants.

* Please note that *sotoanum* refers to the Mexican and Central American species we’ve been calling *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* for ages. Taxonomists recently discovered that the epithet *O. ornithorhynchum* really adheres to a yellow and brown Andean species and the pink Mexican species that is the subject of this article had not been described. This was corrected in 2010, when it was described and published in *Lankesteriana* 9(3). It was named in honor of Miguel Angel Soto Arenas, a recently deceased Mexican botanist of great repute.

Events in the Northeast

January 19th to 22nd – **Silva Orchids Annual Open House**, 635 Wayside Road, Neptune, NJ. (732) 922-2635, silvaorchids@optonline.net, www.silvaorchids.com

January 28th & 29th – **Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show**, Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA. Tina Balog, (508) 540-5006; tina@plaid.who.edu

February 9th to 12th – **Deep Cut Orchid Society Show**, Dearborn Market, 2170 Route 35, Holmdel Township, NJ. Contact: Faye Arnett, (732) 786-8583; farnett@gmail.com.

February 10th to 12th – **New Hampshire Orchid Society Show**, Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH. Contact: Jean Hallstone, (603) 880-0404; jhallstone@yahoo.com.

February 11th & 12th – **Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show**, Toronto Botanical Garden, 77 Lawrence Ave E, Toronto, Ontario. Peter Poot, (905) 640-5643 peterpoot@capricornview.com

February 24th to 26th – **Amherst Orchid Society Show**, Smith Vo-Ag High School, 80 Locust St, Route 9, Northampton, MA. Marc Gray, (802) 348-7926, bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net

Orchid events around the country can be found in the AOS magazine *Orchids* or on the AOS website at www.aos.org. Check before traveling to see if there may be a local orchid event at your destination. For Hudson Valley gardening events, see www.HVgardencalendar.com.

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.

For further information, contact Rita Cohen at 516-374-6426 or orchart@optonline.net

Supplies

If you would like supplies brought to an MHOS meeting, please call Carolyn Sanders before Friday preceding the meeting at 917-774-1018.

For a list of supplies and prices, refer to the Members section of our web site:

www.mhos.us.com/supplies.html.

Supplies purchased through MHOS are at very reasonable prices.

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

26201 YAN, Goshen
218 Greenwich Avenue
c/o Elisabeth Mansfield



Directions to AOS Judging at the Hampton Inn in Elmsford

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. Hampton Inn is on your left.

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 Route 119 Elmsford, NY, turn right on Route 119, go about 2-3 long blocks. See Hampton Inn on left.