



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

January 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.

January 13th, 2008

Election of officers, our annual holiday pot luck dinner, and a special birthday party for Marian Kent

February 10th meeting, "Open Mike" program

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

Election of Officers

December's meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, so elections will be held in January.

Here is the slate of candidates for election at the January meeting:

President	Dennis Sandberg
Vice President	Ruth Natras
Treasurer	Bob Phillips
Recording Sec	Lois Brennan

February Program: Open Mike

If you would like to give a short presentation about anything orchid-related at the February meeting, please contact Isabel at 914-393-2514. The last time we did this we had a slide show of wild orchids in Switzerland, a book review, show-and-tell of useful tools and gizmos, etc. It was great!

If time permits, Isabel will also talk about strategic orchid growing with an emphasis on keeping orchid roots healthy.



A Special Celebration

Our Holiday party has been rescheduled for January 13th. It will also be the occasion for honoring Marian Kent, who celebrated her 90th birthday on October 10th. Marian was responsible for starting the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society in January 1978. It has been difficult for her to attend our regular meetings recently, so some of you may not know her. Please join us in thanking her for the thirty years of enjoyment and sharing that her energy and planning have given to us.

Bring a covered dish and come ready to have a good meal and a good time. A range of foods are needed, from breads to salads, hot and cold dishes and beverages – any special items that you enjoy making. Some desserts are needed in addition to the decorated cake which will be available.

And remember that blooming plants are welcome to make the party festive!

MHOS Member Open House

Irma Goldknopf will be hosting our first Open House on Saturday, January 5, 2008, from 1pm to 4pm. She lives in the Town of Gardiner, five miles south of New Paltz.

Directions to her home are enclosed with this newsletter. If you plan to come, she would appreciate a call beforehand at 845-255-5344.

Irma and her husband live in the home that was custom-designed and built for them 25 years ago. Her attached south-facing greenhouse is about 30 feet by 10 feet, framed in wood and covered with double glazed clear plastic with an air space. It is on ground level, one story below the main part of her home. She waters with reverse osmosis because her well-water is very hard, and heats with an oil-burning furnace. Her house is passive solar – no technology, but it faces south and has many heat-saving features.

Irma says "I grow everything!" including over 150 orchids, some remarkable passion flowers and other vines which cover the north wall, seedlings for her organic garden, plus herbs and vegetables.

We thank Irma and her husband for welcoming us into their home.

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2007 *

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-962-1541

Membership Secretaries

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901
& Betty Gilbert

Corresponding Secretary

Angie Collini

Program Secretary

Isabel Lopatin
845-265-9057

Recording Secretary

Barbara Bork
845-462-2325

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

* Elections of
officers for 2008
will be held at
January meeting

MHOS Website Password

The new password for 2008 is included with this newsletter for those members whose dues are paid through 2008. This password will give you access to minutes of previous meetings, and to the 2008 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.

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

Orchids grow in all terrestrial ecosystems that support flowering plants. While orchids produce great amounts of seed, they are hard to propagate from seed since they depend on nutrients derived from fungal sources. Orchids are found as far north as Greenland, and as far south as the Land of Fire (better known as Tierra del Fuego). They reach their greatest biodiversity in moist tropical forests, such as those found in Mexico, Costa Rica and Ecuador. Roughly one in ten known flowering plants is an orchid, having bilateral symmetry.

An orchid flower has three sepals, separated by three petals. The lower petal has a labellum, a large pouchlike lip which functions as a drop zone for pollinators. Another fascinating aspect of orchids is the ability of some to be leafless tree-dwelling, or epiphytic. These orchids have green fleshy roots that function as both leaves and roots. Many epiphytes are endangered, mostly due to loss of habitat.

The endangered epiphyte *aeranthes arachnites* is one of a genus of about 40 species native to islands off the east coast of Africa, such as the Mascarene Islands. *Aeranthes* likes the humid shade and buoyant air movement found in rain forests on these islands, and produces a fan of leathery leaves. Over a few months' window between spring and fall, many delicate-stemmed spikes of translucent flowers arise from the axils of these leaves.

Another endangered epiphyte, *barkeria lindleyana*, is one of a genus of about 15 species found in montane rain forests from Mexico to Costa Rica that experience a wintry dry season (N.B.: "montane" refers to highland areas located below tree line). *Barkeria* is famous for its rosy-pink flowers that appear in fall, arising from the end of the pseudobulb, which is continuously produced from the tip of the rhizome or rootstock.

Events in the Northeast

January 12th & 13th – Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show, Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center, 350 Quaker Road, North Falmouth, MA. Contact: Tina Balog, 64 Carol Ave., East Falmouth, MA 02536; (508) 540-5006

February 7th to 10th – Deep Cut Orchid Society Show, Dearborne Market, 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@unitedwycm.org.

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.

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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 the Orchids magazine is also on the web page.

## 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.com](http://www.nenyos.com)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

Mid-Hudson – Newburgh,  
 NY

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

Greater Westchester –  
 White Plains, NY

Deep Cut – Tinton Falls, NJ

<http://deepcutorchids.googlepages.com/>

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

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

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)

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> Thursday

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

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

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

## January/February Checklist

by Ned Nash and James Rose

**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, is 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 you 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 until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

## 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 one nearest you.

The current volunteers are:

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



## Member Dues

**If you have not yet paid your dues, this newsletter is the last one you will receive.** 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. You can still pay dues at the January meeting. If you are unable to do it then, please mail to Ruth Natras, 2 Lake Avenue, Middletown, NY 10940. Dues are \$20 for an individual, and \$25 for a family membership. Dues should be paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

## **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**

42601 NYN, Goshen  
3 Hatfield Lane, Suite 3A  
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.