



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

November 2007

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.

November's will be held on the 11th. Isabel Lopatin will lead an in-house discussion: *Orchid Facts and Opinions from MHOS*

December 9th will be our last meeting of 2007, with elections of officers and our annual holiday potluck dinner

January 13th, 2008
AOS slide show

February 10th meeting, speaker to be determined

March 10th meeting, speaker to be determined

November Meeting to Include Nomination of Officers

As per the by-laws, the nominating committee (Dennis Sandberg, Ron Champion, and Elisabeth Mansfield) will be presenting the slate of nominees to fill the upcoming vacancies of MHOS offices. The positions becoming vacant are as follows:

Vice President
Treasurer
Recording Secretary

Other nominations will be accepted from the floor, so please plan to attend. Members will vote on these at the December meeting.

Some MHOS members act in volunteer positions without being elected to any office. Their contributions make a huge difference. Please think about ways that you can help too.

Member Dues

Please remit membership dues to Ruth Natras, and be sure your membership information is current by filling out the 2008 member form that will be given to you when you renew.

You can pay dues at the remaining 2007 meetings. If you are unable to do it then, please mail to Ruth Natras, 2 Lake Avenue, Middletown, NY 10940.

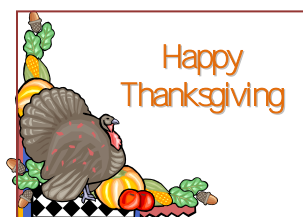
Dues must be paid no later than December 31, 2007.

Projector Update from Dennis Sandberg, Acting President

Hello to everyone. I purchased our projector, a Sharp XR10X. It has very high definition and clarity with a very powerful lamp so that we will be able to see the *rtgugpvgtøu"unkfgu"cpf"kipended up costing usp" g* about \$50 more than the original model I was holding out for. Our total cost was just under \$600 which is \$100 less than we budgeted.

Vjkuk"ku"c"ocpwhcevwgtøu"tgeqpfkvkqp returned it to the factory for some reason or it was new and the factory released it because it was replaced with a new model. In either case, the projector is supposed to operate like a new one and we got a 90 day warranty to be sure it does.

Sharp is a good brand, and this projector costs over \$1000 when new so I think we got a good deal.



MHOS Web site

Easier to remember, redesigned and beautiful.
Take a look! www.mhos.us.com

MHOS Officers & Volunteers

Acting 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
Chris Asmann
845-542-2007
& Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

A Once A Year Opportunity

**N o r t h e a s t J u d g i n g C e n t e r A n n u
Saturday, Dec 15, 2007, starting at 10am
The Hampton Inn Elmsford, NY**

Ideal flower form and optimum cultivation are elusive goals orchid hybridizers and growers strive to achieve. The American Orchid Society system of judging has been developed to grant recognition to new and superior forms of orchid species and to improved form of orchid hybrids. Recognition is also given to growers of plants for superior culture.

This is a wonderful opportunity to buy at auction very special plants, and to take the mystery out of orchid judging. All members and guests of AOS affiliated Societies are invited to the Holiday Party, Auction, and Judging Sessions.

For details call Rita Cohen at (516) 374-6426.

MHOS member John Rashak, now a regular newsletter contributor, sends us this piece

Bulbophyllum * u j q t v g p g f " v q " ð d w n d ö " k p " v j g " v t c f g " scientific name for the orchid family. Bulb has nearly 2,000 recognized species to date, which r w v u " k v " c v " v j k t f " q p " v j g " i g p w u " * q t " u j q w n f only by Euphorbia and Senecio. The scientific name for the bulb genus, which derives from the Latin word *bulbus* (which means bulb-like) and the Greek word *phyllon* (which means leaf), t g h g t u " v q " v j g " ð r u g w f q d w n d ö . " v j g " u v q t c i g "

Bulbs have a large number of vegetative forms. There are tall bulbs with cane-like stems and root-e n k o d g t " d w n d u " v j c v " e n k o d " v t g g " v t w p m u 0 " on other plants. Many bulbs smell like rotting carcasses, which attracts the flies necessary for pollination.

Bulbs appear to have originated in Papua New Guinea (the eastern half of New Guinea, the second largest island in the world), where more than a third of bulb species are found. There are also more than 200 species found in Borneo (the third largest island in the world, divided among three countries) and about 135 species found in Madagascar (the fourth largest island in the world). Bulbs are also found in Australia and the tropical parts of Central and South America.

Bulbophyllum beccarii * h q w p f " k p " ~~Des(t)isone of the most spektakular species of bulb; partly because it is the largest bulb and also because of its thick, snake-like, tree-climbing rhizomes. The sinuous rhizomes host egg-shaped pseudobulbs, which sprout leathery bowl-shaped leaves that catch falling debris and recycle it into fertilizer. D g e c rhizomes also sprout a yellow-speckled-with-red inflorescence tempered with a rotting-carcass smell (ð p c v w t w o ö A + " v j c v " c v v t c e v u " o c p { " r q n n k p c v k p i " h n~~

Want to contribute to the MHOS newsletter? Email to Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com

Events in the Northeast

November 9th & 10th óMerritt Huntington Memorial Symposium, Ramada Inn 1776, Williamsburg, VA. Hotel: (757) 220-1776. Symposium: Dot Pierce pierce.db@verizon.net

November 10th & 11th óNiagara Region Orchid Society Show, CAW Hall, 124 Bunting Rd., St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Jodi Shannon, 45 Shakespeare Ave., St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 6M8; (905) 641-1934; jshannon7@cogeco.ca

December 15th óP q t v j g c u v " L w f i k p i " E g p v g t " C p p w c n " L Elmsford, NY. Contact: Rita Cohen (516) 374-6426

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

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 óSyracuse
www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern Pennsylvania
 Society óLakeville, PA

1st Saturday

North Eastern New York ó
 Albany/Colonie, NY
www.nenyos.com

2nd Sunday

Mid-Hudson óNewburgh,
 NY

2nd Tuesday

Greater Westchester ó
 White Plains, NY

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

2nd Wednesday

Manhattan, NY
www.manhattanorchid.com

Connecticut óHartford or
 New Haven
www.ctorchids.org

2nd Thursday

North Jersey óEast
 Hanover
www.njorchids.org

Long Island óValley
 Stream

3rd Sunday

Southern Tier ó
 Binghamton, NY
www.storchidsociety.com

3rd Tuesday

Staten Island, NY

3rd Wednesday

Matinecock óOyster Bay,
 NY

3rd Thursday

Ramapo, NJ
www.ramapoorchid.org

4th Tuesday or Wednesday

Greater NY óBronx, NY
www.gnyos.org

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

Checklist for November & December

by Ned Nash and James Rose

Cattleya óGrowers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter. The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases). Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids –One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium –Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. Cymbidium ensifolium can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex óThis is the season for plants in Oncidium section crispum from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum –The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike. While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis –Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest. A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera –Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is Neofinetia falcata. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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:

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 or on our website. And if you have a picture of the award, please send it to Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com to include it! Email

Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

Goshen, NY 10924
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 6Cross Westchester Expressway (Route 287 East). Take 287 East to first exit on your right 6Exit 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 6Hampton 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 6Hampton 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.