



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

March 2010

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 (Balmville), NY

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

2010 Meeting Dates

March 13 (Saturday) ☞ Spring Show and Sale

April 11

May 2 (meeting changed due to Mothers Day)

June 13

July ☞ no meeting

August ☞ no meeting

September 12

October 16 (Saturday)
☞ Fall Show and Sale

November 14

December 12 ☞ Pot Luck Holiday Dinner

MHOS Spring Show and Sale will be Saturday, March 13th



Our March meeting will be replaced by the spring show and sale on Saturday, March 13th.

Please contact Dennis Sandberg at 914-954-7132 if you are able to lend a hand. As always, everyone is invited to bring finger foods. Please bring foods other than sweets ☞ we'll be there most of the day.

All members are requested to bring boxes so we are able to pack up each sale properly.

If you are selling plants or would like to bring display plants for the show table, the church will be open for setup the preceding evening from 5:30 to 7:30pm, and will open at 8:30am the day of the Show.

Members only will be admitted beginning at 10:00am the day of the sale, and it will be open to the public from 11:00am until 3:00pm.

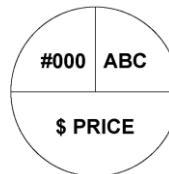
Don't forget to post flyers about the sale. You can download and print them from the Calendar and Members pages of our website at www.mhos.us.com

Labeling your plants for the MHOS Show / Sale

When labeling plants, please be sure to use light-colored labels only. Remember that well-groomed plants will always sell better, and a picture of the blooms will help sell plants that are not in bloom at the sale time.

There should be only one label on each plant, with your member number and initials on the top half, and the price on the bottom half (see sample at right). All plants and items should be individually priced (we cannot accommodate

large numbers)



Monthly Meetings ☞ Why attend?

By attending our monthly meetings, you are now entered into a free raffle. One chance goes to each individual that attends, and one additional chance is provided for each plant brought for the show table.

Sometimes winners are awarded a plant; others can win a \$10 MHOS gift certificate which can be used to purchase plants at MHOS meetings and sales, to purchase supplies, or to be applied to your dues.

MHOS Members in *Orange Magazine*

MHOS member and journalist Deborah Medenbach recently wrote an article that was published in the February/March issue of *Orange Magazine*, a publication of the *Times Herald-Record*. (To view it, click [here](#), or go to www.mhos.us.com and look on the Links page, under Orchid Information.) Some of Deb's research and interviews were not used in the finished piece, and she has generously offered to "reshape" the material for inclusion in our newsletter.

Please turn the page for the first installment, a profile of MHOS president Dennis Sandberg.

After they appear in the newsletter, these will also be posted on our website. **Member Profiles** will be located at the bottom of the Members page.

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2010

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-954-7132

Vice President

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901

Membership Secretary

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901

Corresponding Secretary

Holly Read
845-855-1842

Program Secretary

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

Librarian

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901

Supplies

Carolyn Sanders
917-774-1018

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**:

Dendrobiums are sympodial orchids that produce tall, thin canes along with keikis, which are adventitious or out-of-place growths that appear at nodes along the older canes, especially in the case of *Dendrobium nobile* and its hybrids. Keikis occur generally as a result of poor cultivation. For example, keikis might occur if dendrobiums are watered too soon after the orchid is awakening from a k]bhYfDj fYgH' b h jg WUgYZ c k Yf Vi Xg h.Uh UY fYUXmhc XY Y cd'a][\hifUbgZcfa themselves into keikis. However, keikis are handy in that they can be removed and potted up as soon as they have produced their own roots.



Keiki

Thunias, native to southeast Asia, also produce keikis, as do a number of the reed-type epidendrums. The latter produce keikis from the older stems as well as from the ends of the flower spikes. Even phalaenopsis, a monopodial orchid, will occasionally produce keikis from older flowering stems, especially in the case of *Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana* and its hybrids.

There is another way to propagate the long-caned dendrobiums, thunias and epidendrums: by taking stem sections. Begin by taking leafless stems from the parent plant at the start of the growing season. Divide these into shorter lengths, with a minimum of two growing nodes per length. Lay these cuttings on trays containing an appropriate growing medium such as moist sphagnum moss and place each tray in a clear plastic bag. Watch for new orchid growth in three to four months.

Vandas are monopodial orchids that have no need for further growths if the orchid is doing well. However, if the main stem is damaged and the orchid can no longer grow from its center, a new [fck h'a UmVY UWj UYX bUh fU`mZca` h.Y j]Wb]micZH Y'cfW]XBg VUgY'' H\]gbUh fU`endency of a vanda to grow despite damage can be utilized, although not without risk, to propagate more vandas. Begin with a very tall vanda that has bare stem near its base and strong aerial roots above the section of bare stem. Cut the stem below the aerial roots and repot it. With luck, you now have two viable vandas.

Dennis Sandberg

by Deborah Medenbach

MHOS current president Dennis Sandberg, 61, of Katonah, invites members to present their blooming plants at each month's show table and describe its growing characteristics to help other members.

Sandberg started growing orchids 30 years ago when he came upon some bare root orchids on a flea market table during a Florida vacation. "They were inexpensive, so I bought five of them. The guy said there was nothing to it, but I promptly killed all five. Next time I went back to Florida I bought 10 more and in the process, found other growers and other kinds, and some of them survived and some of them didn't, but I was learning."

Though he hadn't yet had the satisfaction of seeing the slow-growing plants come to flower, he did learn that there were some plants that were nearly impossible for him to kill and others he would have life-long difficulty keeping alive in the growing conditions of his home.

His Westchester house up a long, stone-walled driveway, boasts a spacious master bathroom with a jacuzzi and floor-to-ceiling windows. The tub has not seen a bather in 20 years. The jacuzzi and all surrounding windowsills are crowded with orchids. His back deck is overtaken with lanais sheltering shelves of Ecuadorian miniature orchids, blooming under shade cloth. His private office beyond the deck doubles as an orchid greenhouse and aviary for his breeding parrots. Staying with his nutshell philosophy to buy only the orchids that will grow in your conditions, his comfortable, slightly humid office boasts hundreds of terrestrial paphiopedilums, a wall of epiphytic cattleyas and vandas, and one 10-foot long vanilla orchid climbing an apple branch toward the skylights. A fish tank provides nutrient-rich water for his plants. A far wall has tiny flasks of half-inch orchid seedlings growing in agar gel for the seven to nine years it will take until they're ready to be moved into pots.

"The phalaenopsis orchids you get at Home Depot are a popular commercial orchid because growers can get a plant in only about three years," Sandberg said.

Sandberg keeps a database of orchid varieties and bloom photos and is generous with information to help newcomers enjoy plants that will work in their space.

Other Area Societies

1st Sunday
Central NY Ę Syracuse
www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm
Northeastern Pennsylvania
Society Ę Lakeville, PA

1st Tuesday Ę 7:30pm
Pinelands Orchid Society Ę
Medford, NJ
pinelandsorchidsociety.org

1st Saturday
North Eastern New York Ę
Albany/Colonie, NY
www.nenyos.org

2nd Tuesday
Greater Westchester Ę
White Plains, NY

2nd Tuesday
Deep Cut Ę Tinton Falls, NJ
<http://deepcutorchids.googlepages.com/>

2nd Wednesday
Manhattan, NY
www.manhattanorchid.com

2nd Wednesday
Connecticut Ę Hartford or
New Haven
www.ctorchids.org

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

2nd Thursday
Long Island Ę Valley Stream

3rd Sunday
Southern Tier Ę
Binghamton, NY
www.storchidsociety.com

3rd Tuesday
Staten Island, NY

3rd Wednesday
Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

3rd Wednesday
Greater NY Ę Bronx, NY
www.gnyos.org

3rd Thursday
Ramapo, NJ
www.ramapoorchid.org

New MHOS Service - House Calls

For those members who are new to the world of orchid growing, learning the ropes can often be frustrating and challenging. One member voiced such concern at the February meeting and inquired if one of the more experienced members could make some recommendations for improvement. We presently have two members: one in Highland, NY and one in Gardiner, NY who are in need of such services. If you are able to assist one or both of these members, please contact [Elisabeth Mansfield](#) (contact info on page 2) and you will be put in touch with those members needing help.



Inclement weather

In case of inclement weather where our regular meeting may be cancelled, the following volunteers will accept phone calls from members inquiring about the meeting status.



These volunteers do not call anyone, they will just accept calls from members who want to know if the meeting will be held. To inquire, please call any of the following:

Ruth Natras	(845) 343-2901
Dennis Sandberg	(914) 954-7132
Holly Read	(845) 855-1842

< Uj]b['U'dfcV`Ya 3'8 cbEh
k U]h'Zcf 'í 8]U[bcg]g'8 Umġ

If you are having a problem with a particular orchid, feel free to bring it to a meeting. There are always experienced growers present who can help you with it. Or if you e-mail your questions to [Elisabeth](#) (contact info on page 2), we will forward them on to members who grow that species and get you an answer. And if it becomes popular, we might start a Q & A section in the newsletter!

Events in the Northeast

January 23rd to March 31st Ę Orchid Extravaganza at Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennet Square, PA 19348. 1-800-737-5500 www.longwoodgardens.org

February 6th to April 11th Ę Orchids: A Cultural Odyssey, U.S. Botanic Garden, 100 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC. (202) 225-8333

February 27th to April 11th Ę The Orchid Show: Cuba in Flower, at **The New York Botanical Garden**, 200th St and Kazimiroff Blvd, Bronx, NY. 718-817-8700 www.nybg.org

February 28th to March 7th Ę Philadelphia International Flower Show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. Jane G. Pepper (215) 988-8826; bjgreene@pennhort.org.

March 12th to 14th Ę Maryland Orchid Society Show, Timonium Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. Contact: William Scharf (717) 244-3695; willworks@hughes.net.

March 20th & 21st Ę Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Show, Phipps Garden Center, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: Barbara Tisherman (412) 683-0207; btisherman@aol.com.

March 20th & 21st Ę London Orchid Society Show, North London Optimist Community Ctr, 1345 Cheapside St., London, Ontario. Sean Moore (519) 645-7747 spmoore@rogers.com

March 26th to 28th Ę International Orchid Show & Sale 2010 sponsored by Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society, at Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennet Square, PA 19348. 1-800-737-5500 www.longwoodgardens.org or www.sepos.org

March 26th to 28th Ę Brookside Orchid Society Show and Sale, Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallen Ave., Wheaton, MD. Carol Pihlstrom; (301) 652-2255; pihlstrom@verizon.net.

March 27th & 28th Ę Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Orchidexpo 2010, Cegep de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere, Montreal, Quebec. Contact: Andre Poliquin (450) 653-5416; mor-pol@sympatico.ca.

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 *Orchids* magazine is also on the web page.

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: Due to renovations at the Hampton Inn, the Northeast Judging Center will meet at the Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown (it is one block away from the Hampton Inn) in January, February and March, 2010.

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, refer to the Members section of our web site. Supplies purchased through MHOS are at very reasonable prices, with no shipping charges. For prices, check with Carolyn or see the MHOS website at www.mhos.us.com/supplies.html.



Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

26201 NY N^W Goshen
218 Greenwich Avenue
c/o Elisabeth Mansfield

Directions to AOS Judging at the Hampton Inn in Elmsford ⚠️ NOTE: These are directions to the Hampton Inn. Due to renovations at the Hampton Inn, the Northeast Judging Center will meet at the Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown, one block away from the Hampton Inn, in January, February, and March, 2010.

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 E Cross Westchester Expressway (Route 287 East), Take 287 East to first exit on your right E 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 E 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 E 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.