



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

May 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.

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, repotting session and a discussion about roots

July 13th meeting, speaker to be determined

August – no meeting

September 14th meeting, we are hoping to get Weyman Bussey to come from California

October meeting to be replaced by the Spring Show and Sale on Saturday, October 11th (setup on October 10th)

November 11 - We are hoping that Carri Raven-Riemann will be speaking on phalaenopsis

Help Requested with Speaker Program

Our Program Secretary, Isabel Lopatin, is having a hard time getting speakers this year, and is hearing the same thing from other program secretaries. At Georgette's suggestion, we'll probably have a repotting session in June, and Isabel will also give a talk about roots at that meeting. If anyone has suggestions for other programs, please let Isabel know.

Our May meeting speaker, Judy Becker of Lauray Gardens, is coming at the suggestion of Carlos Perez. Thanks Carlos!

Bottles Wanted

Georgette Martin is requesting members to bring clean empty Snapple bottles and caps to meetings so she can reuse them when selling liquid supplies. Please note: she can't use it if it's not **glass**, and she can't use it unless it comes **with the cap**.

Diagnosis Day at April meeting

By all accounts, Ron Midgett of New Earth Orchids gave an excellent, dynamic presentation at our April meeting.

For those who wish to visit his greenhouse, and for those who missed the April meeting, you may want to attend one of his sales (see below) or one of his upcoming repotting workshops; the next one is Saturday, May 17, 9am to 4pm.

Directions to: **New Earth Orchids,**
193 County Rd 628, Sussex, NJ 07461

Take Interstate 84 to Exit 2, Mountain Rd. Left off ramp onto CR 35/Mountain Road. Go 8.2 miles (crossing into NJ, and Mountain Rd becomes CR 519). Turn right onto Colesville Lusscroft Road/CR 519. Go 2 miles, CR 519 turns left, stay on CR 519 another 2.2 miles. Turn left onto CR 628, go 0.4 miles and you're there.

NEW EARTH ORCHIDS
ALMOST SUMMER SALE

Saturday, May 17 10am to 5pm

Sunday, May 18 10am to 3pm

Bring your problem plants for some help, get repotting help, browse the bargain table.

See newearthorchids.com or call 973-875-4014



Ron Midgett has been growing orchids for 37 years and is an American Orchid Society judge. Last year he moved to New Jersey with his wife Cyndi and built a 1,500 square foot greenhouse, filling it with orchids. Ron speaks annually on growing orchids at the Philadelphia Flower Show and sells orchids at the Sussex County Springfest Show every March. For the past two years he has chaired the North Jersey Orchid Show. His plants have won many awards.

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2008

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-962-1541

Vice President

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901

Membership

Secretaries

Ruth Natras
845-343-2901
& Betty Gilbert

Corresponding

Secretary

Angie Collini

Program Secretary

Isabel Lopatin
845-265-9057

Recording Secretary

Lois Brennan
845-255-7931

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 and Website

Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

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

A **spider** may come to mind when one sees long drooping tentacle-like petals in an orchid. "Caladenia" is the genus that includes over 150 species or major variations of the "spider" orchid. Although found all over Australia, as well as in New Zealand and southeastern Asia, Caladenia includes some of the rarest Australian orchids.

Caladenia thrives in diverse habitats, from scrubland to dense forest. Although one species is semi aquatic, Caladenia represents a predominantly terrestrial orchid, beginning with a tiny tuber in fall and climaxing with a fancy flower in spring.

Caladenia huegelii is the scientific name for the grand spider orchid, which grows in woodlands. It is "grand" because of its large, red-streaked green flowers topped off with a fringed lip. It is also rare, unlike *C. flava*, the common cowslip orchid of Western Australia, which grows in sandy soils. "Flava" means yellow and refers to *C. flava*'s yellow, crimson-spotted flowers.

"Calanthe" has nearly as many species as Caladenia and a slightly larger range, as it is found more northerly (in Japan and the foothills of the Himalayas) and westerly (across central Africa). Calanthe includes deciduous and evergreen terrestrial orchids that like shaded areas with lots of organic matter. Instead of long drooping petals, Calanthe has fan-like pleated leaves and is a very popular winter-flowering orchid. While Caladenias can be grown in a mix of leaf mold and coarse sand, Calanthes like to grow in a mix of leaf mold with granulated composted bark and charcoal.

Calanthe ceciliae is an evergreen species with orange-on-violet flowers, found on the forest floor in the hills of western Indonesia and Malaysia, while Calanthe vestita is a deciduous species found in central Indonesia and Thailand. *C. vestita* grows in the understory of lower montane (i.e., highland areas below the tree line) forest, sometimes epiphytically, up to altitudes of 2,300 feet. *C. vestita* is the parent of one of the first orchid hybrids, *C. veitchii*, produced about 150 years ago.



*Caladenia vulgata
polychroma postea*

Events in the Northeast

May 3rd & 4th – Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, Ag Arena, Penn State Campus, State College, PA. Contact: Cathy Riemer, 434 Chestnut St., Bellefonte, PA 16823; (814) 353-8741.

May 10th – Northeast Judging Center Symposium, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 232 Durham Rd., Madison, CT. Contact: Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, CT 06068; (860) 435-2263; jbecker@mohawk.net.

May 10th & 11th – Orchid Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania Show, JMC Arena, 423 W 38th St., Erie, PA. Contact: Steven Kidder, 1645 West 39th St., Erie, PA 16509; (814) 866-1830.

May 31st – JPC Speakers Day, Holiday Inn North, Newark International Airport, Newark, NJ. Contact: Rita Cohen (516) 374-6426

October 4th & 5th – CNYOS Show and Sale, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville, NY. www.cnyos.org

October 17th to 19th – AOS Members Meeting hosted by Longwood Gardens at The Hotel DuPont, Wilmington, Delaware. Contact information to be determined

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.

Other Area Societies

1st Sunday

Central NY – Syracuse
www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern Pennsylvania
 Society – Lakeville, PA

1st Saturday

North Eastern New York –
 Albany/Colonie, NY
www.nenyos.org

2nd Sunday

Mid-Hudson – Newburgh,
 NY www.mhos.us.com

2nd Tuesday

Greater Westchester –
 White Plains, NY

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

2nd Wednesday

Manhattan, NY
www.manhattanorchid.com

Connecticut – Hartford or
 New Haven
www.ctorchids.org

2nd Thursday

North Jersey – East
 Hanover
www.njorchids.org

Long Island – Valley
 Stream

3rd Sunday

Southern Tier –
 Binghamton, NY
www.storchidsociety.com

3rd Tuesday

Staten Island, NY

3rd Wednesday

Matinecock – Oyster Bay,
 NY

3rd Thursday

Ramapo, NJ
www.ramapoorchid.org

4th Tuesday

Greater NY – Bronx, NY
www.gnyos.org

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

Spring Orchid Care

from www.argusorchids.net

ORCHIDS IN BLOOM ALREADY? Lucky you. Many cattleyas, phalaenopsis, and slipper orchids bloom in the spring. Be sure to keep plants in bud or bloom well watered and do not allow them to dry out. This also includes orchids that generally like to dry out a bit, such as cattleyas. You'll get nice full flowers that last for their full potential; for phals this may be three months, for cattleyas this could be three weeks

GETTING READY TO GROW. Once your orchids have bloomed, or if you know they are not spring bloomers, this is a good time to repot your orchids in fresh mix. Spring is an excellent time to repot as it gives the orchid time to get established before the more stressful heat of summer. It also allows the plant to get established so it can get on with the work of growing once warmer brighter weather arrives.

Basically, you want to repot your orchids about every 12-18 months, or sooner if the potting mix is mushy, stays wet, or is smelly. This will be most noticeable with a bark mix. While cattleyas and paphiopedilums can be repotted at any time, wait until you see new growth emerging on cattleyas and other orchids before repotting. If the mix is broken down, always repot as soon as you can.

OUT FOR THE SUMMER?

Many growers summer their orchids with great results! The brighter light, and plentiful fresh air will rejuvenate your orchids and help them grow faster and better than they might indoors. Remember though, it is only spring. Do not move orchids outside until a few weeks past the last frost free date in your area. Cymbidiums and other cooler growers may be the exception, but if the weather is going to be cloudy and wet for days on end, you're better off keeping your orchid inside for now. There'll be more on this in our summer care guide. For now, enjoy your flowers.

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.

SPEAKERS DAY

Saturday, May 31, 8:30am to 4:30pm
 Holiday Inn North, Newark International Airport

The Joint President's Council of the metropolitan New York Area, in conjunction with the American Orchid Society, presents the 25th "Speakers Day" featuring talks by leading orchid authorities from all parts of the world.

COME MEET, HEAR AND TALK WITH THESE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKERS

Carlos Fighetti
Ron McHatton

Frank Smith
Juan Carlos Uribe

The daylong event will feature these four outstanding speakers, plus an orchid plant and book sale, raffle of fine plants, morning refreshments and a complete lunch, all included in the registration price of \$39.00.

Advance registration is required. Space is limited.
 Call (516) 374-6426.

See the attached flyer for full details

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 on our website. And if you have a picture of the award-winning orchid, we'd love to include it! Email Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

42601 YAN'GOSHEN
A Suite 3A
3 Hatfield Lane,
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.