



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

May 2009

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.

May 3 – Meeting held one week early because of Mother's Day. Ron Midgett, New Earth Orchids, will speak on "New Trends in Cattleya Breeding"

June 14

July 12

August – no meeting

September 13

October 17 – Fall Show and Sale (sale date changed to avoid conflict with Columbus Day)

November 8

December 13 – Pot Luck Holiday Dinner

Next Meeting on May 3rd

The May meeting will be held on May 3rd because our regular week coincides with Mother's Day. At that meeting, the board will present its findings of the analysis on the club's dues structure and the recommendation as to whether dues should be raised. Please plan to attend if you wish to have input on the decision.

Also at our May 3rd meeting, we will welcome Ron Midgett of New Earth Orchids. His program is entitled "Beyond SC Beaufort...New Trends in Cattleya Breeding", summarizing twenty years of breeding efforts.

Ongoing Raffles at Monthly Meetings

The April meeting included several free raffles of orchids, which delighted the winners, and prompted the membership to make it a regular part of our monthly meetings. If you want to be included in the raffle, just come to the next meeting!

Name Badges

Name badges for each member have been made and will be distributed at the May meeting. If you are unable to attend the May meeting, Ruth Natras will store the badges with the library books. Whenever you attend a meeting, please wear your name badge so we can all get to know each other better.



Next Member Open House - Dennis Sandberg's, Katonah, NY

Our next Member Open House will be at the home of Dennis Sandberg in Katonah, NY (which is in Northern Westchester) on Sunday, May 24th. Visitors will be welcome from noon til 3 pm. Dennis does not have a greenhouse; he grows in a freestanding cottage, under lights. His watering system is unique, with plant benches so he can water with a garden hose. He specializes in paphs and South American species – 80% of what he grows is in specie, not hybrid. His cattleyas are going outside now, hanging from trees and sitting on benches. Something is always
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"Best in Show" Judging at April Meeting

The April meeting was well attended, which provided an array of blooming plants for the extended show table program. Led by Isabel Lopatin, the various orchids were grouped by type. Members were assigned to one group, where each orchid was judged and a "best" and "second best" was chosen. The winners of each group were presented, and then the membership voted on which was best in show. Rob Greene's Cattleya Lc Fire Dance 'Patricia' won "Best in Show" and Elisabeth Mansfield's Masdevalia 'Red Wing' was judged second best. It was an informative presentation, and an enjoyable way to get better acquainted with our members. Thanks Isabel!

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2009

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-962-1541

Vice President

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

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Bob Phillips
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Supplies

Georgette Martin
845-473-6276
after 6 pm only

Newsletter and Website

Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

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

Orchids are good at producing offspring from parents of different species. For example, *Laelia gouldiana* is a natural hybrid parented by *L. anceps* and *L. autumnalis*. Orchids are even good at producing offspring from parents of different but related genera. This natural, evolutionary tendency to hybridize comes from orchids' dependency on insects for pollination, and has been cultivated by humans since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

Some orchids stick to themselves. For example, cymbidiums will only produce interspecific hybrids, so if you try to cross them with related orchids that are not cymbidiums, you will likely fail. Cymbidiums like each other so much that even cymbidiums from the Himalayas such as *C. devonianum* can be crossed with cymbidiums such as *C. madidum* from northern Australia, which is at a much lower elevation and much closer to the equator.

Looks are deceiving. For example, slipper orchids that are paphiopedilums or phragmipediums look alike, and intergeneric hybridizing generally works. However, paphiopedilums and South American phragmipediums won't hybridize. This is very surprising, since multi-flowered, long-petalled "paphs" such as *P. rothschildianum* and *P. parishii* look more like "phrags" such as *P. caudatum* and *P. pearcei* than like other "paphs".

The Cattleya, Odontoglossum and Vanda genera are especially hybrid-friendly. For example, it took many generations of hybridizing to create *Brassolaeliocattleya Nuance 'Elegie'*, which blooms in autumn with lime-green flowers accentuated by a yellow lip. Another autumn-bloomer is the hybrid *Laeliocattleya Chinco*, which features rich purple flowers balanced by a deep purple lip. Also in the hybrid Cattleya line is *Laeliocattleya Elizabeth Fulton 'Histoire'*, with a single leaf per pseudobulb highlighted by yellow flowers with a deep magenta lip. On the hybrid Odontoglossum side, a cross between *O. biconiense* and *O. rossii* produces *O. Violetta von Holm*, which features tall red-flavored flower spikes in autumn. Curiously, the vandas, which hail from southeast Asia, will hybridize with Phalenopsis more readily than with the angraecoid orchids from mainland Africa and Madagascar, even though the vandas resemble the latter more than the "phals".



Cymbidium Cricket
(*devonianum* x *madidum*)



O. Violetta von Holm

The Classifieds

We will be making "The Classifieds" a regular section of our monthly newsletter. Send your want ads to Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com or fax to 845-294-1070.

Does anybody have a plant of *Epidendrum geminiflora* (or maybe *geminiflorium*)? I would like to purchase a piece. Many years ago I bought this plant from Orchids Bountiful in Utah; sadly they are now gone. I know I gave Marian Kent a large piece many years ago - so most likely anyone would have gotten it from her. For some reason my big mother plant suddenly died. I miss the twin (Gemini!) yellow flowers. Please e-mail me at rtt@ampico.name or call: 845-266-3303. Many thanks, Tim Tomaselli

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 Tuesday
Greater Westchester –
White Plains, NY

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

2nd Wednesday
Manhattan, NY
www.manhattanorchid.com

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

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

2nd Thursday
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 Wednesday
Greater NY – Bronx, NY
www.gnyos.org

3rd Thursday
Ramapo, NJ
www.ramapoorchid.org

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

Dennis Sandberg's Open House

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in bloom. He also hopes to have a new experimental LED light system in place by the time of the MHOS member tour.



Dennis says his home is not easy to find, so please contact him for directions - via email at dhsandberg@optonline.net, or by phone at 914-962-1541. His address can be accessed online under the Member Directory on our website (the password for which was included with the minutes in February's newsletter).

If you plan to attend, please give him a call. He promises to give you excellent coffee or tea, snacks, and a very informative and enjoyable afternoon among his orchids.

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 our web site. Supplies purchased through MHOS are at very reasonable prices, with no shipping charges. For prices, please check with Georgette or see the MHOS website at <http://www.mhos.us.com/supplies.html>

Events in the Northeast

April 24th to 26th – Southern Tier Orchid Society Show, Oakdale Mall Center Court, Reynolds Rd. & Harry L Dr., Johnson City, NY. Contact: Dee Janis, 2 Spurr Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903; (607) 217-5889; deejanis@yahoo.com.

April 25th & 26th – Ottawa Orchid Society Show, Nepean Sportcomplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa, Ontario. Contact: Marcel Carriere, PO Box 171, Wendover, Ont. K0A 3K0; (613) 673-1807; chipwendover@videotron.ca.

May 2nd – Delaware Valley Orchid Council Speakers' Forum, Wyndham Hotel, Mt. Laurel, NJ. Contact: John Salventi; parkside@ptd.net.

May 2nd & 3rd – Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, Contact: Cathy Riemer, 434 Chestnut St., Bellefonte, PA 16823; (814) 353-8741.

May 2nd & 3rd – Staten Island Orchid Society Show, Sailor's Snug Harbor Botanical Garden. Contact: John Foley; (718) 996-1064.

May 9th – 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 9th & 10th – Orchid Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania Show, JMC Arena, 423 W. 38th St., Erie, PA. Contact: Marion Morton, Teepleville Flats Rd., Cambridge Springs, PA 16403; (814) 398-4684.

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 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

Goshen, NY 10924
218 Greenwich Avenue
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.