



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

November 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 (Balmville), NY

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

November 9, 2008 – Nomination of upcoming officers. Speaker Jeree Harms of Hydro Orchids will talk about hydroponic growing.

December 14, 2008 – Elections and Pot Luck Holiday Dinner

January 11, 2009

February 8, 2009

March 7, 2009
(Saturday) – Spring Show and Sale

April 5, 2009

May 3, 2009 – (Meeting held one week early because of Mother's Day)

June 14, 2009

July 12, 2009

Fall Show & Sale

Last month's show was a little more lightly attended than previous sale, but those who came had an enjoyable time. Thanks to all who participated and helped.

Nominations

At our November meeting we will nominate members to fill four offices for two-year terms. Up for election in December are the offices of:

- President (eligible for second term)
- * Program Secretary
- Membership Secretary (eligible for second term)
- Corresponding Secretary (eligible for second term)

If you would consider working for the MHOS in any of these capacities or as a volunteer in a different position, please contact Dennis Sandberg.

* After seven years of arranging our monthly speakers and programs, Isabel Lopatin will be stepping down as Program Secretary at the end of this year. Hers are big shoes to fill, but we need a volunteer to take over this very important office. Please contact Dennis Sandberg if you are interested.



Learn About Hydroponics



Our November 9th speaker will be Jeree Harms of Hydro-Orchids.

On his website, www.hydro-orchids.com, you can see some of the Hydroponic Grow Systems available, as well as a sale page with some "Phals that need a home".

Here is his contact information:

Jeree Harms
Hydro-Orchids.com
379 Amwell Rd
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
(941) 544-6420
hydro.orchids@yahoo.com

hydro-orchids.com



Northeast Judging Center Annual Judge's Auction

Saturday, December 20, 2008
10:00 am

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 forms 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, mostly grown by our Judges, and to take the mystery out of orchid judging. All members and guests of AOS affiliated Societies are invited to the AOS Holiday Party, Auction, and Judging Sessions.

For information: Rita Cohen, 1433 Kew Avenue, Hewlett, NY 11557
Phone (516) 374-6426 E-mail orchart@optonline.net

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2008

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-962-1541

Vice President

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

Membership Secretaries

Ruth Nattras
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 Nattras
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
[Elisabeth@Mansfield
Commercial.com](mailto:Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com)

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

Orchids are intriguing because of their relentless biodiversity. For example, we live in a temperate part of the world, where orchids grow in the soil and leaf litter that covers the forest floor. There are no epiphytes to be seen, since the exposed aerial roots of epiphytes will not survive cold temperatures. Hence, our wild orchids are mostly terrestrial, and generally smaller and less flashy than tropical epiphytes. A good example is the lady's slipper orchid, *Cypripedium calceolus*.

Our worldwide knowledge of orchids goes back 2,500 years to the Chinese emperors who were delighted by the sweet perfume of cymbidiums such as *C. ensifolium* and *C. verescens*. They were also inspired by the fragrance and brightly colored flowers of *Dendrobium moniliforme*, while the early Japanese were fascinated by the prominent stripes and varied foliage of their native *Neofineta falcata*. In Europe, the Greeks considered *Aceras anthropophorum*, popularly known as the "man orchid", to be an aphrodisiac, since the shape of the lip looks somewhat like the figure of a man. The word orchid comes from "orchis", a Greek word meaning testes, which refers to the tubers found in pairs in some orchid species.



Dendrobium moniliforme



*Angraecum
sesquipedale*

The Aztecs in Mexico used the ground seed capsules of the orchid known to us as vanilla, which they called "Tlilxochitl", as both a perfume and a food. Vanilla was added to food to improve flavor, but was also mixed with the brown seeds of the cacao plant to produce a bitter drink that was the precursor of chocolate. Today, vanilla is mostly produced in Madagascar.

Also native to Madagascar is the comet orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale*, famous for the very long spur at the back of the flower, which enables it to be pollinated by the nocturnal hawk moth. As nature would have it, the length of the tongue of this moth is equal to that of this orchid's spur.

The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera

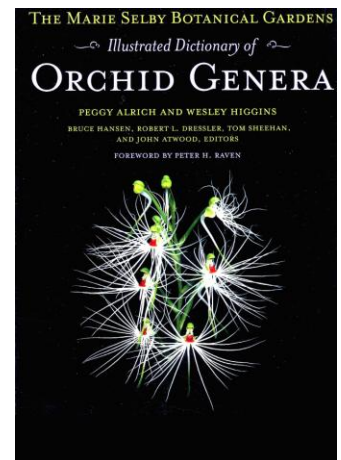
from Cornell University Press

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Dues notice

MHOS dues are now payable. Ruth Nattras will accept payments at monthly meetings, or you can mail a check payable to MHOS to:

Ruth Nattras
2 Lake Avenue
Middletown, NY 10940

Dues are \$20 for individuals, or \$25 for families. Dues must be paid by December 31.

Collection for Sale

Dennis Sandberg is handling the sale of Len Ellentuch's orchid collection. The plants have been worked on and are in beautiful condition. If you are interested in any of them, or if you would like an appointment at Len's greenhouse, please call Dennis at 914-962-1541.

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

Growing Tips from Orchidweb.com

The cold winds of winter are beginning to push southward upon the northern hemisphere, light levels are falling, and plants are beginning to spike and bud up for fall and winter blooming. This is a great time to assess your plant environment, be sure that adequate light, proper differential between day and night temperatures, and humidity are maintained for the best health of your plants.

Orchids can take higher light levels in late fall and winter months as the sunlight is lower on the horizon and cutting through levels of atmosphere that contain dust and clouds. The days are also shorter, so the chance of leaf burn is less. Once mid- to late-February arrives, one should be careful not to burn the more sensitive plants with too strong a light. A good rule of thumb is to hold an orchid leaf that has been in the sunlight to your cheek and if it feels relatively warm to your face, it is probably experiencing leaf temperatures of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, which indicates that your plants require some shading.

Insects should be under control now and one should just have to monitor their plants in case of any outbreaks.

An automatic setback thermostat can easily control indoor household temperatures. If you don't have one, go buy one as they are cheap and will save you bundles of money on home heating, and your orchids will flower better! Most homes have a thermostat in a hallway that is toward the center of the house. If you set your thermostat for a nighttime temp of 65 or 66 degrees by a window, the temps will be a few degrees cooler. Day temps should be set from 68 to 72 degrees. This differential will help your plants develop flower spikes. If your home runs the same temperature day and night, your plants may grow but not flower.

We have a lot of new plants on our [in spike section](#) of the web site and we add more each week as they bud up. We have added some new products this past month so [click here to see what's new](#).

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.

Events in the Northeast

November 7th & 8th – Fourth Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact: Dot Pierce pierce.db@verizon.net

November 8th – 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.

November 8th & 9th – Niagara Region Orchid Society Show, CAW Hall, 124 Bunting Rd., St. Catharines, Ontario. Contact: Jodi Shannon, 20 Squires Gate, St. Catharines, Ont L2P3W2; (905) 641-1934; jshannon7@cogeco.ca

November 15th – North Eastern Orchid Society annual orchid plant auction. Plants on display beginning at 12 noon, auction starts 1pm. Contact Steve.Condon@nenyos.org

November 22nd – Orchid Lecture Series with Glen Decker: "Ladyslipper Orchids", Hearts-Ease Nursery / Tewksbury Orchids, 213 Old Turnpike Rd, Califon, NJ 07830; (908) 832-2708

December 20th – Northeast Judging Center Annual Judge's Auction, Hampton Inn, Elmsford, NY. Contact: Rita Cohen (516) 374-6426

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.