



MHOS NEWSLETTER

www.mhos.us.com

November 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.

2009 Meeting Dates

November 8 – Repotting presentation

December 13 – Pot Luck Holiday Dinner

2010 Meeting Dates

January 10

February 14

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

Fall Show and Sale Photos

See the MHOS website for these and more photos from our October 17th show and sale. Many thanks to all who came out and contributed to its success.



At the registration table: Ruth Nattras, Lois Brennan, and Irma Goldknopf



Len Ellentuch and MHOS president Dennis Sandberg



Werner Kabitske and Sal Cutone

Time to Pay Your Dues and Renew Your MHOS Membership

Payment of your 2010 dues will be accepted at the November and December meetings. Remember that you must renew before December 31, 2009, to continue receiving the newsletter and other MHOS member benefits. Dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families. You also can mail your check, payable to MHOS, to:

Ruth Nattras
2 Lake Avenue
Middletown, NY 10940

Elections of MHOS Officers

In accordance with our Bylaws, a committee will be appointed at the November meeting to make nominations to fill the following offices:

Vice President – Ruth Nattras has served one term

Treasurer – Bob Phillips has served two terms

Recording Secretary – Lois Brennan has served one term

(Some current officers may run for re-election.)

Elections will be held at the December meeting. If you are interested in running for office or volunteering in another capacity, please notify president Dennis Sandberg at 914-962-1541.

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2009

President

Dennis Sandberg
914-962-1541

Vice President

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

Membership Secretary

Ruth Nattras
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 Nattras
845-343-2901

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 can grow in organic, as well as inorganic, mediums, although the latter will necessitate nutritional supplements for the orchids. Inorganic mediums include rockwool, perlite, perlag, horticultural foam and hortag. The first three come from volcanic rock, which is abundant in Hawaii. While rockwool is derived from spun volcanic pumice, perlite and perlag are porous mediums made from ground volcanic rock. Perlite has smaller-sized volcanic particles than perlag, but both work well on their own as growing mediums for cattleyas. Perlite and perlag also work well as drainage-improving aggregate to complement rockwool or organic bark-and-peat mediums for other orchids.

Horticultural foam holds moisture and also complements rockwool and organic bark-and-peat mediums well, while hortag consists of pellets of baked clay, intermediate in size between perlite and perlag. Hortag can be used to improve the drainage of growing mediums or as a moisture-conserving cover.

Orchids should be grown in as small a pot as possible and, on average, need repotting every two years, with younger orchids needing more frequent repotting than older orchids. A larger pot gives more room for pseudobulbs to grow, with cymbidiums being particularly sensitive to the need for space due to their thick, quick-growing roots.

The best time for repotting is in the spring, if the orchid is not in flower and has a few inches of the new growth that typically precedes the formation of new roots. The second-best time to repot is in the fall, which is ideal for cattleyas and oncidiums, but not for orchids that are about to hibernate, such as coelgyines or encyclias. Keep in mind that non-monopodial orchids grow outwards, so repotted pseudobulbs should be positioned on one side of the new pot, while monopodial orchids like phalaenopsis grow upwards, so these orchids should be centered in the new pot.



Lazy Daze ... Part 1

by Ken Slump, from *AOS Orchids Magazine*

Hobby orchid growers often have a tendency to amass rather large and diverse collections of plants over time, and it is not uncommon for the care and maintenance of those collections to become time consuming and unwieldy. Periodically, it can be worthwhile to step back from the situation and consider ways to help make plant maintenance easier and to implement practices that may save time and money too.

FERTILIZERS

One of the best ways to simplify your routine is to streamline the fertilization of your orchid plants. Most of us appreciate that many orchid plants do best with frequent, but weak applications of fertilizer. While sophisticated growers often apply weak nutrient solutions through their automated irrigation systems, many of us with smaller collections or a limited growing situation must mix up dilutions to apply with a watering can or tank sprayer. Although I resisted using them on orchids for years, I have become a big fan of time-release fertilizers for my potted orchids. As orchid medium is usually coarse, the pellets have a tendency to fall down into it, but they still work well. To the best of my knowledge, none of these products have been produced with the particular needs of orchids in mind, but generally speaking, fertilizer is fertilizer. Look for formulations that are coated for longer usefulness, generally six to nine months, realizing that such fertilizers will deliver nutrients for a shorter time at high temperatures and with frequent watering.

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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 www.mhos.us.com/supplies.html.

Other Area Societies

1st Sunday

Central NY – Syracuse
www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern Pennsylvania
 Society – Lakeville, PA

1st Tuesday – 7:30pm

Pinelands Orchid Society –
 Medford, NJ
pinelandsorchidsociety.org

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

A Once a Year Opportunity AOS Northeast Judging Center Annual Judge's Auction

Saturday, December 19th, 10am
 The Hampton Inn, Elmsford, NY

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 our Holiday Party, Auction, and Judging Sessions.

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

(Directions to the Hampton Inn are on page 4 of this newsletter)

Lazy Daze *(continued from page 2)*

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Avoid prophylactic sprays and treatments for plant pests and diseases. They are a waste of time and materials. Also, pests can build up resistance to chemicals that are constantly applied. It is time to take a responsible approach to pest control. Do not treat your plants before a symptom appears, then diagnose and identify the problem. Evaluate its severity. In some cases, no treatment may be necessary or elimination of the affected plant (or plant parts) could be the best approach. If it is determined that treatment is needed, consider all options and first try the one that is most environmentally friendly.

PLANT STAKING

Many conscientious orchid growers spend a considerable amount of time staking new orchid growths to keep them upright. Certainly, there are some sorts of orchid plants that will be growing in every direction in rather short order if you do not stake them. In many cases, I have found that the wire rings that clip onto the pot rims can keep most of these plants on the "up and up" without the time and trouble (and potential plant injury) that staking each individual growth requires. It is important to choose a ring that is about the same diameter as the pot and one that is a suitable height for the stature of the plant, yet they tend to come in a small range of sizes. Don't be afraid to employ a pair of pliers to help modify a manufactured ring into one that better suits a particular plant's needs. Also note that you will usually minimize the risk of damaging your plant when you slip the ring up from under the bottom of the pot before securing it to the pot rim.

(To be continued)

Events in the Northeast

October 29th to November 1st – Massachusetts Orchid Society Show, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA. Contact: Joanna K. Eckstrom, 14 Laurel Hill St., Wilton, NH 03086; (603) 654-5070; mosorchidshow@comcast.net.

November 13th to 15th – Merrit Huntington Memorial Symposium, Cavalier Hotel, Oceanfront at 42nd St., Virginia Beach, VA. Contact: Dave Bryan (757) 467-0760; daveandjoannebryan@verizon.net

November 14th & 15th – Niagara Region Orchid Society Show, Contact: Nancy Vanderberg, 7230 Lemon Rd. RR#1, Welland, Ont. L3B 5N4; (905) 384-2381.

November 19th to 22nd – Ocean State Orchid Society Show, Garden City Center, Cranston, RI. Contact: Susanna Parsons, 62 Elite Dr., Cranston, RI 02921; (401) 946-3314; susanna@parsonsri.com

December 19th – Northeast Judging Center Annual Judge's Auction, The 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.

The Classifieds

"The Classifieds" is a regular section of our monthly newsletter.

Send your ads to

Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com

or fax to 845-294-1070

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.

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

Goshen, NY 10924
218 Greenwich Avenue
c/o Elisabeth Mansfield

