



MHOS NEWSLETTER

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

www.mhos.us.com

November 2011

Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road (corner of Balmville Road and Beech Street), in Newburgh, NY 12550.

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

2011 Meeting Dates

November 13 – speaker Connie Ballado of Ballado Orchids “Mounting Orchids and What Types”

December 11 – Pot Luck Holiday Dinner

2012 Meeting Dates

January 8

February 12

March 10 – Spring Show and Sale

April 1 – (one week early due to Easter)

May 6 – (one week early due to Mothers Day)

June 10

July – no meeting

August – no meeting

September 9

October 13 – Fall Show and Sale

November 11

December 9

Emergency Appeal to MHOS Members

The success and - more importantly - the continuation of the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society is directly related to the number of people who **get involved**, not just by attending meetings or sales, but by **volunteering your time and energy on a continuing basis**. At present, only a handful of people are doing the work that is necessary for the club to function.

At the November meeting, candidates will be nominated to fill three positions coming available for the 2012 / 2013 term. **Even if you do not wish to take on one of these offices, we could still use your help**; some of the existing officers need support and assistance to carry out their responsibilities. For example, Carolyn has been terrific storing and hauling all of the supplies from her home to our meetings and sales; however, we can use someone to assist with ordering and pricing.

If you think you might be able to help out so we can all continue to enjoy the benefits of this organization, **now is the time to speak up**. Please contact Elisabeth Mansfield prior to the November meeting. She will be happy to discuss the duties of each position and see which one is a fit with your ability to participate.

Upcoming Elections

The nominating committee will present a list of candidates at the November meeting for vote in December. Three offices are open for nomination: Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Elisabeth.



Irma Goldknopf at the show table

MHOS Show & Sale

We had a beautiful show table and vendors with lots of spectacular plants. Thanks to all who participated and helped to make it a great day. Photos will be posted on the MHOS website soon.



First-time seller Elaine Grega decorated her table for the season

Connie Ballado at November 13th MHOS Meeting

Our guest speaker at the November 13th meeting will be Connie Ballado of Ballado Orchids, Berlin, CT. Connie will be speaking on “Mounted Orchids and What Types”, and will bring orchids for sale, both potted and mounted. She will also bring supplies of Manzanita wood for mounting, which is very hard to find.

If you want some hands-on practice, bring a bare root orchid to the meeting, and Connie will help you mount it. She will also spend a few minutes on “Potting in coconut husk and its benefits”.

Connie Ballado has over 25 years of experience and research in the care of orchid culture. Her first nursery and laboratory was in Mexico in 1985; she opened her orchid business in Connecticut in 2003. She has participated in judging events such as Japan Grand Prix in 1996 and 1997, and as moderator at the World Orchid Conference of Malaysia in 2002, supporting professor Joseph Arditti, a renowned author of several orchid books. Connie is also known for her Mexican orchid species lectures. She has an immense passion for orchids, one of the most exotic plants in the world. Visit her website: www.balladorchids.com.



MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2011

*President **
Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

*Vice President **
Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

*Membership Secretary **
Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

*Corresponding
Secretary **
Dennis Sandberg
914-954-7132

*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
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Supplies
Carolyn Sanders
917-774-1018

*Newsletter
and Website*
Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000
[Elisabeth@Mansfield
Commercial.com](mailto:Elisabeth@MansfieldCommercial.com)

* MHOS Officers
Other positions
are volunteer

John Rashak Retires

John Rashak, after faithfully contributing a new original orchid article every month, has “retired” from writing. John added depth and interest to four years worth of MHOS newsletters, and we thank him for sharing his expertise with us. If anyone else would like to step into John’s shoes and write articles for the newsletter, please contact Elisabeth.

Checklist for November & December

Cattleya – Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun’s lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter. The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants’ slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer’s heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases). Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn’s more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids – One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium – Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly. *(continued on page 3)*

Time to Pay Dues and Renew Your MHOS Membership

Payment of your 2012 dues will be accepted at the November and December meetings. Dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families. You also can mail a check, payable to MHOS, to:

Ruth Nattras
2 Lake Avenue
Middletown, NY 10940

Remember that you must renew before December 31, 2011, to continue receiving the newsletter and other MHOS member benefits.

Inclement weather

In case of inclement weather, it is possible our regular meeting could be cancelled.

If this happens, the officers will notify a few volunteers who offered to accept calls from the membership to relay this information. ***These volunteers do not call anyone***, they will just stand by their phones to accept calls from other members who want to know if the meeting will be held. In bad weather, call any of these members:

Ruth Nattras (845) 343-2901
Holly Read (845) 855-1842
Dennis Sandberg (914) 962-1541



MHOS Classifieds

Downsizing Greenhouse. Greenhouse benches and large aluminized greenhouse covers for sale. Located in New Paltz, Ulster County. Contact John & Rita Rashak, (845) 256-3868
johnrashak@aol.com; ritarashak@aol.com

Other Area Societies

1st Sunday

Central NY – Syracuse

www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern PA – Lakeville

www.nepaorchidsociety.org

1st Tuesday – 7:30pm

Pinelands – 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

www.deepcutorchids.com

2nd Wednesday

Manhattan – New York, NY

www.manhattanorchid.org

2nd Wednesday

Connecticut – Farmington or Cheshire

www.ctorchids.org

2nd Thursday

North Jersey – East Hanover

www.njorchids.org

2nd Thursday

Long Island – Lynbrook

longislandorchidsociety.org

3rd Sunday

Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA

www.oswp.org

3rd Sunday

Southern Tier – Binghamton

www.storchidsociety.com

3rd Tuesday

Staten Island, NY

www.siosonline.com

3rd Wednesday

Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

3rd Wednesday

Greater NY – Bronx, NY

www.gnyos.org

3rd Thursday

Ramapo – Englewood, NJ

www.ramapoorchid.org

4th Tuesday

Jersey Highlands - Augusta, NJ

www.jerseyhighlandsorchid.wordpress.com

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

Checklist (continued)

Oncidium crispum Complex – This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum – The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis – Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera – Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Events in the Northeast

November 4th to 6th – **Massachusetts Orchid Society Show**, Tower Hill Botanic garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA. Joanna Eckstrom (603) 654-5070; mosorchidshow@comcast.net.

November 5th – **NENYOS Auction**, William K. Sanford Library, Colonie, NY. Contact Janet Vinyard (518) 673-3212; janetvinyard@yahoo.com

November 12th – **Northeast Judging Center Forum**, First Congregational Church, 1009 Main St., Branford, CT. Contact: Robert Winkley, 80 Florida St. Unit 9, Dorchester, MA 02124; (617) 282-7351; rwinkley@aol.com.

November 25th to 27th – **Parkside Orchids 19th Annual Anniversary Sale**. The only time during the year when everything in the nursery is on sale. 2503 Mountainview Drive, Ottsville, PA 18942. 610-847-8039, email parkside@ptd.net or visit www.parksideorchids.com

Orchid events around the country can be found in the AOS magazine *Orchids* or on the AOS website at www.aos.org/aos/events. Check before traveling to see if there may be a local orchid event at your destination. For Hudson Valley gardening events, see www.HVgardencalendar.com.

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.

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 and prices, refer to the Members section of our web site:

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

Supplies purchased through MHOS are at very reasonable prices.

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

26201 YAN' Goshen
218 Greenwich Avenue
c/o Elisabeth Mansfield



Directions to AOS Judging at the Hampton Inn in Elmsford

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. 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 – 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 Route 119 Elmsford, NY, turn right on Route 119, go about 2-3 long blocks. See Hampton Inn on left.