



# MHOS NEWSLETTER

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

[www.mhos.us.com](http://www.mhos.us.com)

December 2013

## Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## 2013 Meeting Dates

**December 8** – Elections and Holiday Pot Luck (P)

## 2014 Meeting Dates

**January 12** – Extended show table and judging, Q&A and demonstrations for new members

**February 9** – MHOS member Dennis Sandberg speaking on his trip to Ecuador

**March 8** – Spring Show and Sale

**April 13**

**May 4** (one week early due to Mother's Day) – Dr. Clark Riley: "Orchid Taxonomy for Fun & Profit"

**June 8** – Marc Hachadourian of The New York Botanical Garden, on "Extreme Orchids: From the Beautiful to the Bizarre (A Survey of Orchid Biodiversity)"

**July & August** – no meeting

**September 14**

**October 18** – Fall Show and Sale

(NP) = Member plant sales not permitted

(P) = Member plant sales permitted

## December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Doors open after 1pm

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE HALL WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO US UNTIL AFTER 1 PM** since the church will be using it for their holiday luncheon.

## Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

There will be no program in December since we will have our Holiday Pot Luck Dinner after the business portion of our meeting. Please bring a dish to share – either a main dish, salad, or dessert.



## Elections

At the November meeting, the nominating committee, comprised of Elaine Grega, Carlos Perez, and Phyllis Freeman, reported that Ruth Natras said she wanted to run for Vice President, and that Brenda Peterson was willing to continue as Recording Secretary.

As per the by-laws, other nominations may be accepted from the floor and the officers will be elected by a majority vote of those members present at the December meeting.

## Please note: This will be your last newsletter unless your 2014 MHOS membership dues are paid

Payment of your 2014 dues will be accepted at the December meeting. Dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families. You also can mail your check, payable to MHOS, to:

Ruth Natras  
2 Lake Avenue  
Middletown, NY 10940

Please note that you must renew before December 31, 2013, to continue receiving the newsletter and other MHOS membership benefits.



## February Program will be Dennis Sandberg's trip to Ecuador

Dennis Sandberg has returned from his trip to Ecuador, and will have plants for sale at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting (after they clear US customs). For a list of available plants (that includes photos), please contact Dennis at 914-962-1541 or [dhsandberg@optonline.net](mailto:dhsandberg@optonline.net).

Also, in order to make room for the plants coming from Ecuador, he will be selling plants from his existing collection, (mostly cats and paphs) at the December meeting, at discounted prices.

## MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2013

### President \*

Elisabeth Mansfield  
845-294-1000

### Vice President \*

Isabel Lopatin  
845-265-9057

### Membership Secretary \*

Ruth Natras  
845-343-2901

### Corresponding Secretary \*

Denise Giardullo  
845-687-4891

### Program Secretary \*

Bryan Bailey  
845-728-2336

### Recording Secretary \*

Brenda Peterson  
914-489-9152

### Treasurer \*

Bob Phillips  
518-784-9403

### AOS Rep

Lois Brennan  
845-255-7931

### Librarian

Ruth Natras  
845-343-2901

### Newsletter and Website

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

\* MHOS Officers  
Other positions  
are volunteer

## I Check Their Leaves, I Water Their Roots...

by MHOS member Phyllis R. Freeman

I decided sometime in my late 50's that I needed a hobby. Well, not really *needed a hobby*. But I did think that my world of going to the gym (half-heartedly), teaching and conducting behavioral research (both often with relish), reading (for pleasure), and interacting with my husband (not necessarily in that order), seemed limited and unbalanced.

So I set out on a quest.

I had never thought of myself as a collector (except perhaps of dust from all the housework I have postponed until retirement). I didn't have an interest in crafts like knitting or woodworking, or candle dipping. My childhood music and painting lessons certainly fanned my life-long passion as a listener/viewer, but, not as a creator. I had always loved flowering things. Why shouldn't I tackle the most beautiful of plants? I would try to grow orchids!

So I bought one, rescued another, and within a year or two or four had sixty orchids in our small house. I say this with a mixture of pride and embarrassment, the way some multiple cat owners blushing admit to the numbers they own. ("And they really do keep each other company," my cat-loving friends insist.) My plants line the windows in the dining room, pack three shelves in the study, and fill the bookcases in our family room.

I am not a good grower. I'm not even a mediocre grower. Many of my plants have nice green leaves but have never spiked or bloomed. But sometimes in late winter, in early spring or in late fall, our house is filled with color from those plants I am able to coax into flowering. White, pink, yellow, brown, and especially varying depths of purple color dominate. The blooms, like flocks of cartoon moths, flutter in the currents of air from our humidifier, flights of color and loveliness heralding a new season. I love the mystery of not knowing what the flowers will look or even smell like on new plants. Some will perfume the air with subtle sweetness, others will smell like chocolate, and a few will remind me of wet, musty socks.

I love the challenges of science, skill, and luck involved in growing these living things. I check their leaves, I water their roots, I kill their bugs. I breathe deeply and fully. And as I go about my tasks, I sometimes enter a state that psychologists call "flow." I feel wholly engaged in the moment of my actions. For an hour or so each day, when my focus is on the operation of orchid keeping, my breathing slows, I feel energized yet calm, and I am "in the groove." I lose my sense of time, and I enter something like what Buddhism calls being "at one with things."

I don't claim that orchid keeping is religious or even spiritual. And my flow experiences are not daily occurrences. But when I lose myself, the experience is so enjoyable, I know that cultivating this state more frequently in my daily life would be desirable.

Tending my orchids can be a metaphor for how to live more fully as I enter "older" age. Perhaps those pressing life decisions that I have postponed won't be so difficult to make after all. Maybe the day will turn out more lovely and calm than I thought it would. Can I tend my life the way I tend my orchids, engaged wholly with my actions in the moment, without worrying about future spikes and failed blooms? Perhaps I can rest completely in my current actions, free from obsessive worries about the future, or sad regrets about the past.

All that is, is here now. This moment. These leaves, these roots, and even these bugs. I check, I tend, and I water. I breathe deeply in the moment. In this moment of being alive.



(2013) In J.Z Schmidt and L. Carr (Eds.) *A Slant of Light: Contemporary Women Writers of the Hudson Valley*, Codhill Press

### Other Area Societies

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 11:30am  
Central NY – Syracuse  
[www.cnyos.org](http://www.cnyos.org)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 1 pm  
Northeastern PA – Lakeville  
[www.nepaorchidsociety.org](http://www.nepaorchidsociety.org)

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:30pm  
Pinelands – Medford, NJ  
[pinelandsorchidsociety.org](http://pinelandsorchidsociety.org)

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 1:30pm  
North Eastern New York –  
Albany/Colonie, NY  
[www.nenyos.org](http://www.nenyos.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:30pm  
Suffolk – Setauket  
[www.suffolkorchids.com](http://www.suffolkorchids.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7pm  
Greater Westchester –  
White Plains, NY

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:30pm  
Deep Cut – Tinton Falls, NJ  
[www.deepcutorchids.com](http://www.deepcutorchids.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm  
Manhattan – New York, NY  
[www.manhattanorchid.org](http://www.manhattanorchid.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm  
Connecticut – Farmington or  
Cheshire  
[www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 8pm  
North Jersey – East Hanover  
[www.njorchids.org](http://www.njorchids.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7:30pm  
Long Island – Lynbrook  
[longislandorchidsociety.org](http://longislandorchidsociety.org)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2pm  
Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA  
[www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2pm  
Southern Tier – Binghamton  
[www.storchidsociety.com](http://www.storchidsociety.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7pm  
Staten Island, NY  
[www.siosonline.com](http://www.siosonline.com)



3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm  
Greater NY – Bronx, NY  
[www.gnyos.org](http://www.gnyos.org)

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7pm  
Ramapo – Englewood, NJ  
[www.ramapoorchid.org](http://www.ramapoorchid.org)

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7pm  
Jersey Highlands - Augusta, NJ  
[www.jerseyhighlandsorchid.wordpress.com](http://www.jerseyhighlandsorchid.wordpress.com)

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

## 26th Annual Open House

Thursday, January 23rd- Sunday, January 26th 2014

10:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

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Our largest selection of blooming plants

Many unusual and new arrivals

Once again we welcome  
**James Rose of Cal-Orchid**  
with a selection of orchids from around the world

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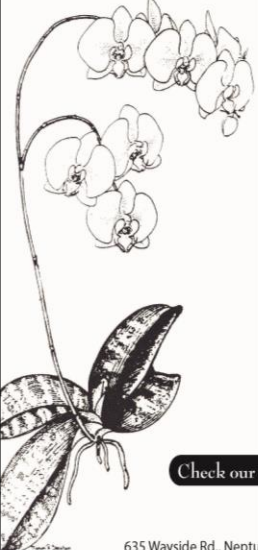
Back by popular demand:  
**Culture Talks Friday & Saturday**  
check our website for topics and times

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Sunday brunch 11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Check our web site for open house updates • [www.silvaorchids.com](http://www.silvaorchids.com)

Visit our web site or call for directions  
635 Wayside Rd., Neptune, NJ • 732-922-2635 • [www.silvaorchids.com](http://www.silvaorchids.com) • [info@silvaorchids.com](mailto:info@silvaorchids.com)



### Paph Cultural Needs

by Glen Decker

At our November meeting, Glen Decker's presentation included a chart of general cultural needs for each group of Paphiopedilums. It is now available on the MHOS website, under the "Links" tab, and is also enclosed with this newsletter on the back of the minutes.



Photo © 2013 Greg Allikas  
[www.orchidworks.com](http://www.orchidworks.com)

### New Members – Need some orchid help?

Have you recently joined MHOS and feel you need a little help with your orchids?

We have a mentoring program where experienced growers are available to assist with questions and help to solve problems that new members might encounter.

Please contact Isabel Lopatin at 914-393-2514 or via [email](mailto:isabel@mhos.org) when you need any help.

### Events in the Northeast

**November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup> – Parkside Orchids Holiday Sale.** It's the annual Black Friday sale. Stock up and save 10% to 50% on pots, bark, plants and everything else. 2503 Mountainview Drive, Ottsville, PA 18942. 610-847-8039 [www.parksideorchids.com](http://www.parksideorchids.com)

**January 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> – North Jersey Orchid Society Show,** Strawberry Blossom Garden Center, 1364 Route 23, Wayne, NJ. Richard Ho 973-857-7992 [rho144@hotmail.com](mailto:rho144@hotmail.com)

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> – Silva Orchids 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House,** 635 Wayside Rd, Neptune, NJ. 732-922-2635 [www.silvaorchids.com](http://www.silvaorchids.com)

**January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> – Cape & Islands Orchid Society Show,** The Resort & Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA. Tina Balog 508-540-5006 [tina@plaid.who.edu](mailto:tina@plaid.who.edu)

Orchid events around the country can be found in the AOS magazine *Orchids* or on the AOS website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). 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](http://www.HVgardencalendar.com).

## AOS Judging

The Northeast Judging Center holds two monthly orchid judging sessions:

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month** at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA. New contact for directions: Robert Winkley (617) 282-7351. [www.lowerhillbg.org](http://www.lowerhillbg.org).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month** at the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, Connecticut. 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](mailto:orchart@optonline.net)

## Inclement weather

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

The following volunteers ***will not call anyone***, they will just accept calls from members who wish to know if the meeting will be held.

Ruth Natras (845) 343-2901

Denise Giardullo (845) 687-4891

## Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

26601 NY N<sup>o</sup> Goshen  
218 Greenwich Avenue  
c/o Elisabeth Mansfield



### Directions to AOS Judging at the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens

Formerly at the Hampton Inn, Elmsford, the regular AOS Northeast judging meetings have moved to a new location about 15-20 minutes away, at the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, Stamford, CT.

From the Merritt Parkway (Route 15). Take Exit 35 and follow High Ridge Road (Route 137) north for 1.5 miles to Brookdale Road. Turn left on Brookdale Road and proceed 3/10 of a mile. The entrance to the Bartlett Arboretum will be on your right.

It is a beautiful facility and a great place to visit. Their website is [www.bartlettarboretum.org](http://www.bartlettarboretum.org) or you can call 203-322-6971.