



MHOS NEWSLETTER

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

www.mhos.us.com

December 2015

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.

2015 Meeting Dates

December 13 – Holiday Potluck and Elections

2016 Meeting Dates

January – no meeting

February 14, 2016 – member Isabel Lopatin: "Growing Hot and Cold: Orchids that Thrive/Survive with Seasonal Temperature Extremes, and How to Grow Them." (P)

March 18, 2016 SATURDAY Spring Show & Sale 11:00-3:00

April 9, 2016 – speaker Lawrence Schweitzer, topic TBD

May 1, 2016 – Carrie Raven-Riemann on Species Phals (NP) **Note special meeting date!!**

June 12, 2016 – speaker Joe Silva of Silva's Orchids, topic TBD (NP)

July 10, 2016 – Members Elaine Grega & Fred Plant on the Redlands Orchid Show (P)

Greg Martin, past MHOS President

We recently learned of the death of Greg Martin, one of our past presidents. Greg and his wife, Janet Jozwiak, were mainstays of our OS in the 1990's and into the 2000's. Greg was truly an orchid pro: an awarded *Bulbophyllum* grown by him and Janet was the cover photo of an issue of "Orchids", and Greg was an accredited judge in the northeast region. He was a powerhouse of a president, combining a deep knowledge of orchids, an outgoing personality, and a willingness to do anything for the society. He and Janet were instrumental in erecting the displays that MHOS used to put up at GNYOS and other shows and fairs. About ten years ago, Greg turned his prodigious scientific and artistic talent to photography and was no longer involved with MHOS, but many of us remember him well as a stalwart member of our group. Greg's obituary can be found by using the search function on this webpage: www.legacy.com/obituaries/poughkeepsiejournal/

Sunday, December 13: Holiday Potluck and Election

Our December meeting traditionally consists of a show table, holiday potluck dinner, and the election of new officers. Please bring a dish for the dinner buffet.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Carlos Perez, will present one slate for all open offices. He will also call for nominations from the floor. If there are none, a motion will be made to move the slate, and it will be voted on. If an office is contested, it will be removed from the slate and that office will be voted on separately. The slate consists of Dennis Sandberg for Vice President, replacing Isabel Lopatin; Barbara Russell for Recording Secretary, replacing Brenda Peterson (Barbara will continue as Corresponding Secretary, Brenda will continue as Membership Secretary); John Warren, who is happy to continue as Treasurer.

Since our fiscal year has been changed to the calendar year, the December meeting is also the perfect time to pay your dues for the next year. Dues are \$25 for one person, \$35 for a household.

Sunday, February 14: Member Isabel Lopatin "Growing Hot and Cold: Temperature Tolerant Orchids that Thrive/Survive in the Northeast"

Isabel will talk about the orchids she has bloomed with winter night temps in the low 40s and summer daytime temps in the low 90s.

Dennis's Moving Sale

Dennis is moving and has to sell about 100 high-end plants from his and Denis Roessiger's personal collections. Most will be priced from \$5 - \$15 with some more mature plants in the \$25-\$35 range. This will include \$10 Phrags that would never normally sell for less than \$35. These will give you the opportunity to try growing great crosses without laying out a lot of cash. There might be some specimen-size plants priced a bit higher. In addition to lots of Phrag divisions, there will be many other types of orchid. Dennis will bring them to the December meeting/holiday party, but you can go to his house for a private showing before that. Just call him on 914-954-7132 to make an appointment.

**MHOS Officers &
Volunteers
2015**

*President**

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

*Vice President**

Isabel Lopatin
914-393-2514

*Membership Secretary**

Brenda Peterson
914-489-9152

*Corresponding Secretary**

Barbara Russell
845-744-3759

*Program Secretary**

Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000
Elaine Grega
845-679-6531

*Recording Secretary**

Brenda Peterson
914-489-9152

*Treasurer**

John Warren
845-562-0681

AOS Rep

Maryelisa Blundell
mblundell@frontiernet.net

Librarian

Ruth Nattras
845-343-2901

*Newsletter
and Website*

Isabel Lopatin
914-393-2514
isabel.lopatin@gmail.com

* MHOS Officer
Other positions
are volunteer

Growing Vandaceous Orchids in the Northeast: Notes and Riffs on Kim Feddersen's Talk

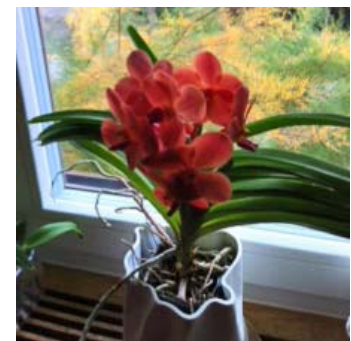
Vandas can be difficult to grow in our part of the world because many species become huge and require warm temperatures, high light, and daily watering. Kim Feddersen introduced us to Vanda species that require less heat than most, to other vandaceous (Vanda-like) genera that can be easier to grow in our part of the world, and to hybrids of these genera that are more suited to cultural conditions in homes and greenhouses in our region.

Vandaceous orchids are monopodial, meaning they continually grow upward from the base, putting out new leaves regularly. Flower spikes and roots emerge from between the leaves. They do not store much water because they do not have pseudobulbs. Once they reach a certain height, some of them initiate new growths at the base or, occasionally, from partway up the plant. There are other types of monopodial orchid, like Phalaenopsis, but the vandaceous ones are characterized by narrow leaves that are somewhat folded along the vertical center, and most of them prefer higher light than Phals.

Vandas are found in the Himalayas and throughout Southeast Asia. They grow in tree tops where the light is high. If you grow under lights and your lights aren't bright enough to keep their leaves light green, increase the amount of time the lights are on. Higher light will intensify the color and width of the flower segments. Because Vandas are tree top plants, they throw roots up and down the stem, and send them every which way in search of anchor.

Kim recommended growing Vandas in large, empty, wooden baskets if they can be watered daily. Otherwise, you should put them in a mix of sphagnum moss, bark, and charcoal, but don't insist on getting all the roots inside the basket or pot. For small plants, the mix should be 75% sphag, 20% bark, and 5% charcoal, and net pots should be used. Put large plants in 6-8" octagonal baskets, because 4" baskets dry too quickly. For large plants, less sphag is needed, so the mix should be more like 50%-35%-15%. Vandas can even be grown in glass vases. The watering regimen involves filling the vase, letting the roots sit in it for about 15 minutes, draining the vase and repeating every 4-8 days. Fertilizer can be put in the water as you wish.

The no-name vandaceous hybrid on the right (probably a cross with an Ascocentrum) was purchased at a supermarket and has been left in its original plastic pot. The pot has been kept in a ceramic vase, but some of the roots have been allowed to wander in the air. The plant is subjected to the fill-sit-drain regimen about twice a week, and has bloomed often and well for a number of years. In theory, a glass vase would be better because all the roots would get light, but this Vanda is doing fine as is.



Growing in the home of Angela Schwartz in Basel, Switzerland.

MHOS members Bob Phillips and Elisabeth Mansfield grow huge Vandas in their greenhouses. Here are Bob's, hanging from the ceiling, draped with moss:



Bob reports that before he had a greenhouse, he and Donna had only one Vanda. "We dunked it twice a day in a five gallon bucket of water when I was dressing for work and when I was getting out of my work clothes. The rest of the time it was under fluorescent lights and it bloomed for us. It was a big Vanda, Pat's Delight. It's my largest Vanda, standing about 5 or 6 feet tall. The rest of the year it spent outside and we hit it with the hose at least once a day."

Here's a huge Vanda in Elisabeth's greenhouse.



This is Elisabeth's gallery of vandaceous orchids. Note the variety of baskets.



Luckily, there are some vandaceous species that can be grown at Cattleya winter temperatures, which means down to 55F. Kim mentioned *Vanda coerulea*, *crystata*, *denisoniana*, *javierae*, *pumila* (which is a mini within the context of Vandas), and *ustii*. Intermediate-growing vandaceous species include *Rhynchostylis coelestis* and *gigantea*, while *Neofinetia falcata* and most *Ascocentrum* species can be grown cool.

There are many hybrids of vandaceous species that were created to bring down the size of Vandas, add more brilliant colors, create temperature tolerance, and to be just plain easier to grow than Vanda species. It's hard to list their generic names right now, because genetic testing has shown that *Ascocentrum*, *Neofinetia*, *Rhynchostylis*, and others fit in with the concept of Vanda. Orchids now sold as *Ascocenda*, *Vandofinetia*, and *Rhynchovanda* would now properly be called *Vanda*, but will probably be sold under their earlier hybrid names for a while.

The purpose of Kim's talk was to get us familiar enough with vandaceous orchids so that we would be able to select species and hybrids that will fit into just about any growing space and temperature conditions we can provide in our region. High light is a requirement for many, and that's the only cultural factor most growers would have to struggle with. Watering is a serious issue, but with proper attention to medium or technique, growers who cannot water every day should be able to grow something vandaceous.



Vanda coerulea, © Lovell Reeve & Co.



Vanda cristata, © Victoria and Paradise Nurseries



Vanda denisoniana, © F. Meyer-Van Loo



Vanda Sanderiana
© Imprimerie Eug. Vanderhaeghen



Vanda tessellata
© B. S. Williams at the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries



Vanda tricolor
© B. S. Williams at the Victoria and Paradise Nurseries

Other Area Societies1st Sunday, 11:30am

Central NY – Syracuse

www.cnyos.org1st Sunday, 1 pm

Northeastern PA – Lakeville

www.nepaorchidsociety.org1st Tuesday, 7:30pm

Pinelands – Medford, NJ

pinelandsorchidsociety.org1st Saturday, 1:30pm

North Eastern New York –

Albany/Colonie, NY

www.nenyos.org2nd Monday, 7:30pm

Suffolk – Setauket

www.suffolkorchids.com2nd Tuesday, 7pm

Greater Westchester –

White Plains, NY

2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm

Deep Cut – Tinton Falls, NJ

www.deepcutorchids.com2nd Wednesday, 7pm

Manhattan – New York, NY

www.manhattanorchid.org2nd Wednesday, 7pm

Connecticut – Farmington or

Cheshire

www.ctorchids.org2nd Thursday, 8pm

North Jersey – East Hanover

www.njorchids.org2nd Thursday, 7:30pm

Long Island – Lynbrook

longislandorchidsociety.org3rd Sunday, 2pm

Western PA – Pittsburgh, PA

www.oswp.org3rd Sunday, 2pm

Southern Tier – Binghamton

www.storchidsociety.com3rd Tuesday, 7pm

Staten Island, NY

www.siosonline.com3rd Wednesday

Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

3rd Wednesday, 7pm

Greater NY – Bronx, NY

www.gnyos.org3rd Thursday, 7pm

Ramapo – Englewood, NJ

www.ramapoorchid.org4th Tuesday, 7pm

Jersey Highlands - Augusta, NJ

www.jerseyhighlandsorchid.org

These vandaceous species have recently been proposed as Vandas, and make the nicest small hybrids.



Vanda (Ascocentrum) ampullacea
© James Ridgway and Sons



Vanda (neofinetia) falcata
© James Ridgway and Sons

Events in the Northeast

NORTHEAST JUDGING CENTER

CHAIR, STAMFORD - JOHN SULLIVAN, 299 VILLAGE PLACE, WYCKOFF, NJ 07481; C: (201) 835-0113, H: (201) 891-6657, EMAIL:JOHNSULLIVAN@OPTONLINE.NET

Judging takes place at the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Silver Educational Center, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT at 12:00PM on the third Saturday of the month. Send cut flowers to: John Sullivan, 299 Villiage Place, Wyckoff, NJ 07481.

North Jersey Orchid Society Show and Sale, Jan 15 – 17, 2016

Douglass Student Center at Rutgers U, 100 George St, New Brunswick, NJ ([map](#))

Contact: Richard Ho, 973-857-7992, rho144@hotmail.com

Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show, Jan 23 – 24, 2016

The Resort and Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA ([map](#))

Contact: Tina Balog 508-540-5006 tina@plaid.who.edu

Deep Cut Orchid Society Show, Feb 11 - 14, 2016

Dearborn Market, 2170 Route 35 South, Holmdel, NJ

Contact: Brenda Pauwels, 732-786-8850, bjpauwels@outlook.com

New Hampshire Orchid Society Show "A Blizzard of Orchids-25th Anniversary Show"

Feb 12 – 14, 2016

Courtyard by Marriott, 2200 Southwood Drive, Nashua, NH ([map](#))

Contact: Brenda Campbell 603-668-3689 bbcampbell139@comcast.net

Orchid events around the world can be found in the AOS magazine *Orchids* or on the AOS website at 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.

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. www.towerhillbg.org.

3rd 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

Check out our
Facebook Page



It's [Mid-Hudson Orchid Society](https://www.facebook.com/Mid-Hudson-Orchid-Society)

91501 NY gnrlds pl02

13 Pine St

c/o Isabel Lopatin

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society



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 or you can call 203-322-6971.