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# ORCHID

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A newsletter for the members of the Maryland Orchid Society

April 2010



## president's message

I learned something this month through a sort of cosmic April Fool's joke. On the last day of the Longwood Gardens International Orchid Show and Sale, the last orchid that I bought was from Andy's Orchids. It was labeled "*Pleurothallis ornata (schiedei)*", which apparently means that even Andy Phillips isn't sure what to call it—either *Pths. ornata* or *Pths. schiedei*.

I need to pause already to describe the flowers on this little mutant. At only 1/4 inch in vertical spread, I could easily have overlooked the speckled reddish brown flowers on this tiny plant. However, what sealed the deal is that each sepal has numerous translucent, whitish, dangling thingies attached around the edge that flutter in the slightest breeze. There must be some insidious pollination strategy at work here, as well as there must be some official name for the fluttery thingies. If anyone knows either, please educate me.

One activity that I enjoy doing (some would say obsess over) whenever I buy a new species orchid is researching its most

current and/or correct name. (You'd think they'd be one and the same, but not always.) There are two reasons for this: First, I've always enjoyed taxonomy and systematics, and orchids allow a unique opportunity to practice that hobby. Second, I appreciate any scientific enterprise that serves to bring the experts down to my level of ignorance.



*Pths. ornata* (from Andy's Orchids' Web site)

According to the Kew World Checklist of Selected Plant Families, the accepted name for *Pths. schiedei* is *Stelis villosa*. Other synonyms (along with the year that each name was proposed) are *Pleurothallis villosa* (1838), *Humboldtia villosa* (1891), *Specklinia villosa* (2004), and *Effusiella villosa* (2007). Interestingly, *Stelis villosa* was proposed in 2001, a case of the accepted and most current names being different. Also, interesting is that none of the Internet photographs I found of *Stelis villosa* look anything like my plant. Dead end.

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## April's Speaker, Bernard Gerrard, Talks About "Miniature Cymbidiums: An Old Grower's Current Interest"

Bernard was born in British Columbia, Canada, and emigrated to the United States in his early 20s to enter a Benedictine monastery in Michigan. It was here forty or so years ago that he was given his first orchid—a big purple Cattleya. Although this eventually perished it was joined by other gifts and a few modest purchases. Eventually his Superiors felt that he needed a greenhouse to accommodate the growing collection with which his lifelong fascination really took off. During his years in the monastery he joined the then Dunes Orchid Society and eventually became president of the group for a couple of terms. This involvement led him to become friends with the owners of a commercial orchid greenhouse who took him in the



mid 1970s (before CITES regulations) on two orchid collecting trips to Ecuador.

After thirty years as a monk, he felt he needed a change and left that calling to further his education. The move was satisfactory and he eventually became a researcher in Human Genetics at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland, until retiring several years ago. He has a small greenhouse and continues to follow the whims and fancies of his orchid interests.

Bernard is a past president of the Catocin Orchid Society in Frederick and maintains the web page for the group.

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Local AOS News  
Next Board of Directors Meeting



**Novice**

1. Psy. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS (above)- Gregg Custis
2. Tie Phal. Leopard Prince 'M66' (below) - Charlotte Grahe  
Bllra. Tahoma Gracier 'Green' - Suzanne Gaertner
3. Phal. Green Star - Janice Mazur



**Home Grown**

1. Lept. *bicolor* - Bill Scharf
2. Tie Paph. Lyn Fortissimo 'Tomcat' (above)- Mark Robbins  
Lc. Culminant 'La Tuilerie' AM/AOS - Ernie Drohan
3. Phrag. Penn's Creek Cascade (top center) -Val Lowe



**Greenhouse Under 200 Square Feet**

1. Paph. *philippinense* - Lou Vadorsky
2. Paph. Hybrid (above)- Sue Spicer
3. *C. intermedia* (below)- Barbara Buck



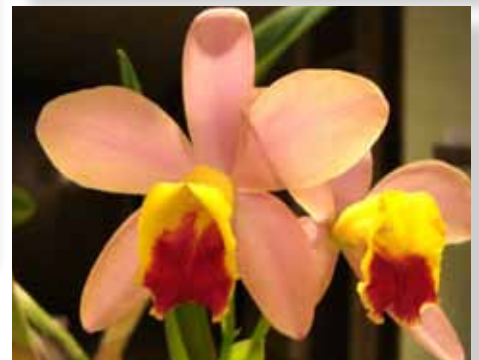
**Greenhouse Over 200 Square Feet**

1. Smb. Cinnamon Tower - The Adamses
2. Tie Ren. Twin Star - Eric Wiles  
Den. Christmas Chimes 'Asuka' - Cy Swett
3. Den. *pierardii* - David Smith



**Cattleya**

1. *L. jongheana* 'Turnberry' AM/AOS (above) - David Smith
2. Tie Lc. Gold Digger 'Fuch's Mandarin' (below)- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste  
*C. skinneri* 'Casa Luna' AM/AOS - The Lundys
3. Tie Iwan. Appleblossom - The Adamses  
Epc. Hybrid - Cy Swett  
Sc. Crystelle Smith (bottom of this column)- Hilda Sukman



# show table - march 2010



## Phalaenopsis

1. Phal. Little Emperor 'M' (above)- Clark Riley
2. Tie Phal. Hybrid (below)- Chris Zajac  
Phal. Orchid World 'Brother' AM/AOS - The Adamses
3. Phal. Brother Heather 'Nuclear' AM/AOS - Hilda Sukman



## Oncidium

1. Colm. Wildcat (above)- Eric Wiles
2. Onc. Hybrid - Sue Spicer
3. Mtssa. Kauai's Choice 'Tropical Fragrance' AM/AOS- Sarah Hurdel

## Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium

1. Paph. Lebaudyanum - David Smith
2. Tie Paph. Jerry Lee Fischer 'Tomcat' AM/AOS (top center column)- Mark Robbins  
Phrag. Penn's Creek Cascade - Val Lowe



3. Tie Paph. *vietnamense* - The Adamses  
Paph. (*spicerianum* X Stone Lovely) (below)- The Lundys  
Paph. *delenatii* f. *album* - Clark Riley



## Miscellaneous Hybrids

1. Aergs. (*articulata* X *luteo-alba* var. *rhodosticta*) (below)- The Adamses
2. Den. Nestor - The Lundys
3. Den. Nora Tokunaga - David Smith



## Species

1. Paph. *philippinense* var. *roebellinii* - Mark Robbins
2. Tie Pps. *labukensis* - The Adamses  
Prgm. *nutibara* CCM/AOS - Bill Scharf  
Den. *brymerianum* 'Malvern' AM/CBM/AOS (top right)- David Smith



3. Tie Rhy. *gigantea* - Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste  
Cym. *lowianum* var. *lowianum* - The Lundys

## Miniature

1. Aergs. *mooreana* - Eric Wiles
2. Css. *philippinense* - Bill Scharf
3. S. Arizona 'Rio Starburst' (below) - Clark Riley



## First Bloom Seedling

1. Paph. *philippinense* var. *roebellinii* - Mark Robbins
2. Paph. *delenatii* (below)- Lou Vadorsky



## Fragrance

1. C. Margaret Degenhardt 'Saturn' (below)- Phuong Tran & Rich Kaste
2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS - Jamie Riegel
3. Sed. *japonica* - Eric Wiles

The Judges Choice of the Evening , Lept. *bicolor*, was exhibited by Bill Scharf (see next page for more). The judges were Chris Zajac, Becky Wiles and Sarah Hurdel. **There were 131 fabulous plants on the show table this month!**



# the judges' choice: march 2010

This column features the MOS' Judges' Choice plant for the previous month. In March, Bill Scharf's *Leptotes bicolor* Meadowrue AM/AOS x *Leptotes bicolor* 'Ligonier' was awarded the honor. Following is Bill's description of how he grows his plant:

“ This plant holds a special place in my collection and here's why. Eight or 9 years ago, about this time of year, I stood in The Little Greenhouse, in awe as usual, in front of a tray of divisions or seedlings of *Leptotes bicolor*, all potted in very small clay pots, several with flowers open. I was about to select one of them when off to my right I noticed there were several of the same plant, or so I thought, on tree fern mounts. I had admired a couple of grower's plants on the Show Table that were mounted and doing beautifully. These growers, David Smith and Marty Vittek—true experts — grew a number of beautiful plants this way and I loved the way they looked. They inspired me to give this a try so I selected a plant and went to Tom for some advice. That's when he told me the plant I had selected was actually a cross by John Dunkelberger, an AOS judge that continues to judge our Show every spring. That made it even a better choice. This plant is special as it's the first mounted plant I tried and to this day it continues to thrill me with beautiful large, fragrant flowers every spring.

*Leptotes bicolor* grows epiphytically, in cool to hot conditions from Brazil to Paraguay in subtropical rain forest and coastal mountains. It prefers bright light and humid conditions. I grow my *Leptotes* during the colder months in my basement in an enclosed growing space I constructed, with two layers of poly to keep the humidity up. I have 5 fans constantly moving the air in a 6' x 8' space. The plant grows under a combination of T-8 fluorescent lights and 400 watt metal halide lighting. The humidity averages around 60-70%



with winter temperatures ranging from 70 during the day to 50 at night. If grown only under fluorescent lights it would need to be within 8" or so to make it bloom well. I mist my mounted plants every couple days in the winter and give them a good soaking at least 2-3 times a week. I fertilize using a ¼ - ½ strength solution every 3rd or 4th watering. During the warmer months I move about ½ my collection outside, including most of the mounted plants. They enjoy the air movement and day-night temperature differences. I hang these mounted plants under my back porch where they get direct morning sun but are shaded from the

afternoon sun. They get watered every morning using a ¼ strength fertilizer solution. The plants are dry in an hour or so and when it's hot and dry I'll mist them in the afternoon, sometimes more than once. I will water them with just water one or twice a week to flush the plants well.

This plant has given me so much pleasure I would highly recommend it for any collection.

Here's a little know fact about *Leptotes*. Yes, this is the Cliff Claven moment for those of you that watched *Cheers*. No, I didn't know this until doing a little research. In the plant's native country, Brazil, the seedpods are used for flavoring milk, ice cream and sherbert. In more ways than one, *Leptotes bicolor* is truly a "treat" to grow. ”

Bill Scharf

## ORCHID WORKSHOP YOU'RE INVITED

The Maryland Orchid Society is presenting a workshop on orchid growing, culture and care.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010**

from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210.

**There will be demonstrations, discussions, hands-on training in repotting, media, and growing techniques.**

**Admission is \$15.00 per person, includes lunch and supplies. For more details call 410-456-1794.**

Cut here and return lower portion with payment.

Make your check payable to and mail to Maryland Orchid Society, P.O. Box 5651, Baltimore, MD 21210.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

# Congratulations on Another Great Show! Truly a Feast for the Senses!

What makes a great Show? The obvious is well grown plants and beautifully designed and executed exhibits. We certainly had that and I thank all who took the time to do so. From the 3 Plants for Effect to the Little Greenhouse's incredible exhibit that welcomed and wowed the crowd all weekend, the obvious was beautiful. However, there is so much that happens that is not so obvious.

The exhibits are the obvious work of not only the exhibitors, but the Committee members and volunteers who set up staging to give the vendors and exhibitors a space to work. The sales tables, meticulously set up and covered by the staging crew, become full of plants that entice us, asking for a new home.

The Registration System has been created and perfected by Gary Smith. He is no doubt cringing at my use of the term "perfected" but as with all Gary's work, he looks to constantly improve. His program allows all of us to easily and painlessly enter our plants and artwork to be judged. Gary also organizes and orders all the beautiful ribbons we covet as the judges inspect our plants and exhibits.



Organizing the judges is another "Behind the Scenes" job. Valerie Lowe has served as Judging Chair for the past couple of years and has done an excellent job making the judges' and clerks' jobs easy. Bringing together 12 or more AOS judges and dividing them into workable teams and deciding which team judges what flowers is a daunting project and one she accomplishes with ease.

Giving the judges something to judge is also work that occurs without many of us being aware of it. By this I mean organizing the vendors for the Show. Ann Lundy spends a lot of time on the phone and e-mailing potential vendors each year to be sure we all



Photo courtesy of Tom McBride and Gary Krause

have an excellent variety of plants to see in the exhibits and to purchase for our own collections.

Speaking of collecting, we do collect a good deal of money during the Show for our vendors. This aspect of the Show sort of magically happens every year. Lee Lundy shows up sometime on Thursday afternoon. He quietly brings in both cash registers and both charge machines. He then sets to the task of programming all four machines to be sure they are ready for sales. When the judges are finished and when the membership shows up for the Preview Party, they can all purchase the plants they have been eyeing all day. Starting early Friday morning Lee is there and remains there all weekend, non-stop to answer questions, troubleshoot the registers and charge machines and generally offer a great sense of humor throughout the long days of the Show. Rarely is there a problem because of Lee's diligence, preparation and hard work leading up to the Show, but knowing he always has the answer is a real sense of confidence for everyone working the Show. By the way, no one is



Clockwise from top: Best Commercial Exhibit, 100-Square-Foot. The Little Greenhouse; Best Hobbyist Exhibit, 50-Square-Foot./ODC Award, Valerie Lowe and Jamie Riegel; First Place Hobbyist Exhibit, 25-Square-Foot, Ann Lundy and Mark Robbins; Species, second place, Phal. *bellina* 'Montclair', Gary Smith

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# mos show awarded results 2010

For a complete list of the awards go to the MOS Web site [www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

AWARD NAME	SPONSORED NAME	ENTRY NAME	EXHIBITOR NAME
Best Commercial Exhibit	The Gerald Brown Memorial Award	Commercial Exhibit, 100-Square-Foot	The Little Greenhouse
Best First-Time Hobbyist Exhibit	The Duggan Award	Hobbyist Exhibit, 3 Blooming Orchids Table-Top	Rebecca Wiles
Best Table-Top Exhibit	The W. Pitts Riley Memorial Award	Hobbyist Exhibit, 12-Square-Foot Table-Top	David Smith
Best Hobbyist Exhibit	The Buck Award	Hobbyist Exhibit, 50-Square-Foot	Valerie Lowe & Jamie Riegel
Best Orchid Society Exhibit	The Kensington Orchids Award	Society Exhibit, 100-Square-Foot	National Capital Orchid Society
Runner Up Orchid Society Exhibit	The Kensington Orchids Award	Society Exhibit, 25-Square-Foot	Southeastern Penn Orchid Society
Best Interpretation of Show Theme	The Rachel Miller Award	Hobbyist Exhibit, 50-Square-Foot	Valerie Lowe & Jamie Riegel
Best Angraecum Alliance in Show		Aergs. <i>citrate</i>	Steve & Rachael Adams
Best Bulbophyllum Alliance in Show	The Sobelman Award	Bulb. <i>falcata</i> var. <i>velutina</i>	Steve & Rachael Adams
Best Commercial Cattleya Alliance		<i>L. sincorana</i> 'Harford', AM/AOS [#1]	The Little Greenhouse
Best Hobbyist Cattleya Alliance	The Bud Hammond Memorial Award	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i> var. <i>orlata</i> 'Crown Fox' HCC/AOS	Michael Moran
Best Commercial Epidendrum Alliance		<i>Epi. erectifolium</i> 'Elk Creek'	Woodstream Orchids
Best Hobbyist Epidendrum Alliance		<i>Epi. melanoporphreum</i> 'J&L', CBR/AOS	Steve & Rachael Adams
Best Epidendrum Alliance in Show	The Wiles/Holdridge Award	<i>Epi. erectifolium</i> 'Elk Creek'	Woodstream Orchids
Best Cattleya Alliance in Show	The Swett Award	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i> var. <i>orlata</i> 'Crown Fox' HCC/AOS	Michael Moran
Best Cymbidium Alliance in Show	The Adams Award	Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascades'	Jamie Riegel
Best Commercial Paphiopedilum Species		<i>Paph. venustum</i> 'Poe Creek', AM/AOS	Woodstream Orchids
Best Commercial Paphiopedilum Hybrid	The Travers Award	<i>Paph. Oumaru Bay</i> 'West Fork'	Woodstream Orchids
Best Hobbyist Paphiopedilum Species	The Howard King Memorial Award	<i>Paph. philippinense</i> var. <i>roebelinii</i>	Mark Robbins
Best Hobbyist Paphiopedilum Hybrid	The Charlie Geis Memorial Award	<i>Paph. Black Lace</i> 'Lava Burst' x <i>wenshanense</i> 'Round Dove'	Mark Robbins
Best Commercial Phragmipedium		<i>Phrag. wallisii</i> 'Tower Grove', HCC/AOS	Woodstream Orchids
Best Hobbyist Phragmipedium	Dagmar's Joy Award	<i>Phrag. Penns Creek Cascade</i> [#1]	Valerie Lowe
Best Phragmipedium in Show	Memorial D. Anne Lowe Award	<i>Phrag. wallisii</i> 'Tower Grove', HCC/AOS	Woodstream Orchids
Best Cypripedium Alliance in Show	The Hurdel Award	<i>Paph. philippinense</i> var. <i>roebelinii</i>	Mark Robbins
SOA Award		<i>Paph. philippinense</i> var. <i>roebelinii</i>	Mark Robbins
Best Commercial Dendrobium Alliance		Den. Dream Ace	Seagrove Orchids
Best Hobbyist Dendrobium Alliance	The Jos A.Venturina Award	Den. (Roy Tokunaga 'White Knight' x Roy Tokunaga)	Les Kirkegaard
Best Dendrobium Alliance in Show	The Bill Ellis Sr. Memorial Award	Den. Dream Ace	Seagrove Orchids
Best Dendrochilum in Show		Ddc. <i>wenzelii</i> - yellow form	David Smith
Best Lycaste Alliance in Show	The Howard Eskildson Award	Angcst. Aurora 'Harford', AM/AOS	The Little Greenhouse
Best Maxillaria Alliance in Show	The Sobelman Award	<i>Max. hennisiana</i>	Fishing Creek Orchids
Best Commercial Oncidium Alliance		Odcdm. Catatante 'Pacific Sun Spots'	Fishing Creek Orchids
Best Hobbyist Oncidium Alliance	The Helen Soyke Memorial Award	Odcdm. Dark Horse 'Wilder One', AM/AOS	Tina Woods
Best Oncidium Alliance in Show	The Dorothy Powell Kelt Memorial Award	Odcdm. Catatante 'Pacific Sun Spots'	Fishing Creek Orchids
Best Commercial Phalaenopsis Alliance	The Wendy Soyke Award	Phal. <i>schilleriana</i> 'Pink Butterfly', HCC/AOS	Fishing Creek Orchids
Best Hobbyist Phalaenopsis Alliance	The Little Greenhouse Award	Phal. Orchid World 'Brother', AM/AOS	Steve & Rachael Adams
Best Phalaenopsis Alliance in Show	The Gary Smith Award	Phal. <i>schilleriana</i> 'Pink Butterfly', HCC/AOS	Fishing Creek Orchids
IPA Award		Phal. <i>schilleriana</i> 'Pink Butterfly', HCC/AOS	Fishing Creek Orchids
Best Commercial Pleurothallid Alliance		Masd. <i>coccinea</i>	The Little Greenhouse
Best Hobbyist Pleurothallid Alliance		Prgm. <i>nutibara</i>	William Scharf
Best Masdevallia in Show	The William Scharf Award	Masd. <i>coccinea</i>	The Little Greenhouse
Best Pleurothallid Alliance in Show	The "Doc" Scharf Memorial Award	Masd. <i>coccinea</i>	The Little Greenhouse
Best Vanda Alliance in Show	The Benigna A. Venturina Award	Rhv. Blue Lightning	Les Kirkegaard
Best Grower's Choice Plant	The Santos Award	Prgm. <i>nutibara</i>	William Scharf
Best Hobbyist Miniature		Prgm. <i>nutibara</i>	William Scharf
Best Miniature in Show	The Margaret Smith Award	Prgm. <i>nutibara</i>	William Scharf
Best First-Bloom Seedling in Show	The Jack L. Robbins Memorial Award	Masd. <i>caudata</i>	The Orchid Gallery
Most Pleasing Fragrance	The Lee-Young Award	Brs. Edva Loo 'Nishida'	William Soyke
Best Commercial Species	The Clark Riley Award	Bapt. <i>echinata</i> [#1]	The Little Greenhouse
Best Hobbyist Species	The John Gardner Memorial Award	<i>Epi. melanoporphreum</i> 'J&L', CBR/AOS	Steve & Rachael Adams
Best Species in Show	The Lundy Award	<i>Epi. melanoporphreum</i> 'J&L', CBR/AOS	Steve & Rachael Adams
Best Plant in Show	The Merritt Huntington Memorial Award	Angcst. Aurora 'Harford', AM/AOS	The Little Greenhouse
Best Specimen Plant in Show	The Smith Award	Lyc. Leo 'Knobb Creek'	The Little Greenhouse
ODC Award		Hobbyist Exhibit, 50-Square-Foot	Valerie Lowe & Jamie Riegel
AOS Show Trophy		Commercial Exhibit, 100-Square-Foot	The Little Greenhouse



## Art Show Results

There were 44 art pieces entered in the show. Paul Biederman's color photo (left) was awarded Best of Show—The P. Jean Soyke Memorial Award.

First Place Ribbons were awarded to the following:  
 Botanical Watercolor Christine Picard  
 Painting Sarah Hurdel  
 Botanical Color Photo Don Forester  
 Color Photo Laura Sobelman  
 Color Photo Rebecca Wiles  
 First Time Exhibitor—  
 Black and White Photo Bruce Burgess  
 First Time Exhibitor—Color Photo John Burgess

Second Place Ribbons were awarded to the following:  
 Color Photo Jennifer Jones  
 Color Photo Gary Smith  
 Color Photo Eric Wiles

## mos show results and photos 2010



Best First-Time Hobbyist Exhibit, The Duggan Award, Hobbyist Exhibit, 3 Blooming Orchids Table-Top, Rebecca Wiles



Best Table-Top Exhibit, The W. Pitts Riley Memorial Award Hobbyist Exhibit, 12-Square-Foot Table-Top, David Smith



Photo by Bill Scharf

Best Hobbyist Pleurothallid Alliance, Best Grower's Choice Plant, The Santos Award, Best Hobbyist Miniature, Best Miniature in Show, The Margaret Smith Award, Prgm. *nutibara* 'Willy's', William Scharf



Best Hobbyist Paphiopedilum Hybrid, The Charlie Geis Memorial Award, Paph. Black Lace 'Lava Burst' x *wenshanense* 'Round Dove', Mark Robbins



Best Vanda Alliance in Show, The Benigna A. Venturina Award, Rhv. Blue Lightning, Les Kirkegaard



First Place, Grower's Choice Paphiopedilum, Paph. *delenatii* f. *alba*, Clark Riley



9-Square-Foot Table Top Exhibit, Sarah Spence



Best Lycaste Alliance in Show, The Howard Eskildson Award, Angcst. Aurora 'Harford', AM/AOS, The Little Greenhouse



<< First Place, Grower's Choice Cattleya alliance, Cat. Hardiyana, Bill Mercer



Best Bulbophyllum Alliance in Show, The Sobelman Award, Bulb. *falcata* var. *velutina*, Steve & Rachael Adams



3 Blooming Orchids Table-Top, Patti Kelt

# mos show results and photos 2010



Second Place Hobbyist Exhibit, 9-Square-Foot Table-Top, Norma Lynch, Janice Mazur, Suzanne Gaertner, Joan Roderick & Marilyn Lauffer



Second Place Hobbyist Exhibit, 12-Square-Foot, Table-Top, Clark Riley & Margaret Smith



Third Place Hobbyist Exhibit, 25-Square-Foot, Cyrus Swett



Second Place Hobbyist Exhibit, 25-Square-Foot, Eric Wiles



First Place Hobbyist Exhibit, 3 Blooming Orchids Table-Top, William Soyke



First Place, Hobbyist Bulbophyllum Alliance, Hybrids, Bulb. (*carunculatum x echinolabium*), Eric Wiles



Second Place Hobbyist Cattleya Alliance, Yellow/Orange Hybrids, Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid Jungle' HCC/AOS, Michael Moran



First Place Grower's Choice, Pleurothallid Alliance, Pths. *marthae*, David Smith



Edith Goldman attends to the membership table.



# Full From the Feast by Laura Sobelman with some poetic license

I was lying in bed last night doing a recap of the annual show, “Orchids: A Feast for the Senses,” in my head. Wouldn’t it have been amazing to shoot a fast-forward video of the entire week? From the instant the first excited volunteer arrived at the fairgrounds, to the moment an exhausted Tom McBride closed the back door with a sad, empty click, the well-choreographed dance executed that week is impressive.

Tuesday morning Gary pulls up in the truck amidst a round of applause after he was stranded by a flat tire (Bill Scharf astonishingly cool and collected.) Slave-driver Margaret cuts bolts of black plastic and directs volunteers to dress the sale and vendor tables with it. Racks and frames are erected and latched into place.

Wednesday is installation day. Frenzied exhibitors and vendors load and unload precious cargo, belaboring how to meticulously arrange and style each plant. Jamie helps The Little Greenhouse carefully prune each fan palm. Lorie pirouettes around a Paph. to get it just perfect. Ann resolves some last minute staking issues. Cyrus skillfully places a Cymbidium. Plants are artfully and strategically positioned. The exotic scents of these jeweltone aliens waft through the air. Like Michelangelo’s sculptures, a breathtaking beauty is released when a whole display is finally set free by its creators. Sue, the composed art show coordinator, tactfully scrounges for more pieces to exhibit and prays that the art judge will eventually show up. Members are torn between, “I really can’t wait until this is over” and, “I’ll really hate when this is over.”

And magically it all comes together.

Thursday is judgment day. Judging clerks anxiously trail AOS judges who seem to speak a foreign language and in code—HCC/AOS, AM/ODC, BM/JOGA—and painstakingly examine every minute detail; clerks scramble inside of, on top of, underneath and behind displays, doing backbends and handstands to pin on an unprecedented amount of ribbons and place glass awards. All the while, head clerks are scribing, erasing and rewriting notations of the winners.



That night is the preview party where award winners and their owners are fêted. Orchids are the stars, but MOS members are the agents, art directors, make up artists, stylists, handlers and nervous stage parents behind them that



Clark Riley, the ever-earnest orchid encyclopedia and tour guide, stands in front of the Little Greenhouse’s exhibit.

make them shine. Joan, the party host, puts on a delectable spread befitting the show’s title, with orchid flowers and glass beads as center pieces.

And Friday the show opens to the public. Displays are gussied up, plants watered and given another once-over. You can almost hear them chortle. There is frantic scrambling for additional supplies. Despite torrential rain, attendance is good. Awestruck visitors ask questions, take guided tours and hopefully are hooked. A hospitality table manned by zealous, helpful members attracts 23 new members. There is an overwhelmingly positive response to all the workshops. The sales table rarely experiences a lull. And the vendors offer outstanding plants and supplies to an eager public.

Sad it was over for another year, the show left me sated and with sensory overload, my synapses exploding like movie theatre

popcorn. Chaotic yet organized, paradoxically enervating and exhilarating, I’m sure I didn’t get to experience the half of it. So wouldn’t it have been nice to have a video of it all?



Clockwise from top left: Bill Ellis, Sarah Hurdel, Chris Zajac, Janice Mazur; Joe Dockman mans the cash register; Lorie Lee-Young’s exhibit won first place in the Hobbyist Exhibit, 9-Square-Foot Table-Top category.

# The Maryland Orchid Society Exhibits at the SEPOS Show at Longwood Gardens

Hauling a van full of orchids collected at the March meeting, I met up with Gregg Custis, Sarah Hurdel, and Gary Smith (who was hauling all the backdrops) at the Longwood Gardens Conservatory on March 25th to install a 50 sq. ft. orchid exhibit. Joined in the evening by Rachael and Steve Adams, the crew put in an exhibit which took 2nd place in its class. Steve and Rachel Adams' plant of Phal. Orchid World 'Brother', AM/AOS received the Best in Show for Amateur Novelty/Violacea Phalaenopsis Hybrid. Clark Riley's Phal. Little Emperor 'M' took Best in Show for Amateur Standard Phalaenopsis. Many other plants received ribbons. See below for results.

Other exhibitors were Barbara Buck, Gregg Custis, Frank Dagostin, Charlotte Grahe, Marilyn Lauffer, Norma Lynch, Janice Mazur, Phoung Tran and Eric Wiles.

The crew dismantled the exhibit Sunday night. A special thanks goes to The Little Greenhouse for holding the plants until the owners could pick them up.

Valerie Lowe,  
Away Shows Chair  
MOS ODC Representative

Owner	Plant	Ribbon
S&R Adams	Aerangis ( <i>articulata</i> x <i>luteo-alba</i> v. <i>rhodosticta</i> )	1st
S&R Adams	Asctm. ( <i>garayi</i> x <i>ampullaceum</i> )	1st
S&R Adams	Asctm. <i>ampullaceum</i>	1st
S&R Adams	<i>C. walkeriana</i>	3rd
S&R Adams	<i>Max. variabilis</i>	HM
S&R Adams	Paph. <i>vietnamense</i>	1st
S&R Adams	Paraphalaenopsis <i>labukensis</i>	2nd
S&R Adams	Phal. Joy Spring Canary 'Rainbow'	2nd
S&R Adams	Phal. Orchid World 'Brother', AM/AOS	1st
S&R Adams	Sarcochilus Pink Angel	2nd
D. Smith	Den. <i>brymerianum</i> 'Malvern', CBM/AOS	1st
D. Smith	Den. Nora Tokunaga	4th
D. Smith	Den. <i>woodsii</i>	1st, CHM
D. Smith	Paph. <i>Leybaudianum</i>	3rd
E. Drohan	Lc. Culminant 'La Tuilerie', HCC./AOS	2nd
E. Drohan	Paph. Primechild	3rd
V. Lowe	Paph. (Black Cherry x Sue Franz)	2nd
V. Lowe	Phrag. Penn's Creek Cascade	1st
A. Lundy	<i>C. skinneri</i> 'Casa Luna', AM/AOS	3rd
A. Lundy	<i>Cym. lowianum</i> v. <i>lowianum</i>	1st
A. Lundy	Pholidota <i>chinensis</i>	1st
J. Riegel	Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance', AM/AOS	1st
C. Riley	Phal. Little Emperor 'M'	1st
M. Robbins	Paph. Jerry Lee Fischer 'Tomcat', AM/AOS	1st
M. Robbins	Paph. <i>philippinense</i> v. <i>roebelinii</i>	1st
M. Robbins	Paph. <i>philippinense</i> v. <i>roebelinii</i>	2nd
J. Roderick	Milt. Arnold Linsman 'Hot and Spicy', AM/AOS	1st
W. Scharf	Leptotes <i>bicolor</i>	1st
W. Scharf	Paph. <i>delenatii</i>	3rd

Owner	Plant	Ribbon
W. Soyke	Phal. Sogo Fairyland	2nd
H. Sukman	Phal. Brother Heather 'Nuclear', AM/AOS	2nd
C. Swett	<i>Lyc. brevispatha</i>	3rd
C. Zajac	Brassia Longlen 'Bill Switzer', AM/AOS	2nd
C. Zajac	Dtps. Plum Rose x Phal. <i>equestris</i>	3rd
C. Zajac	Phal. No ID	1st



Photo by Barry Woolf

## local aos news

by Valerie Lowe

### March 11: Maryland Orchid Society Show

In the rush to get the information out last month, I neglected to mention that Bill Scharf's plant of *Porroglossum nutibara* 'Willy's' received a Certificate of Cultural Merit. After seeing what he brings to the meetings every month, it's about time!

### March 26: South Eastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show at Longwood

David Smith's plant of *Dendrobium woodsii* 'Turnberry' was awarded a Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM).

### April 3: National Capital Judging Center

Chryss Mavrides received a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) for his well-grown plant of *Sedirea japonica* 'Geisha Girl'.

### ODC Update

The Maryland Orchid Society met its quota of 10 new ODC memberships in the latest *Orchid Digest* Corp. membership drive. Congratulations!!

## Nominating Committee Recommends Board Candidates

The Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of officer candidates for the 2010-2012 term:

- President – Mr. William Scharf
- Vice President – Dr. Eric Wiles, DVM
- Controller – Ms. Mary Chiu
- Treasurer – Ms. Patricia Kelt
- Secretary – Ms. Sarah Spence
- Director – Ms. Laura Sobelman
- Director – Ms. Joan Roderick

Nominations other than those listed above may be made from the membership at large via written petition signed by at least fifteen (15) voting members of the Society. All such petitions must be delivered to the President prior to the adjournment of the May monthly meeting, or in the event of cancellation, by 31 May. The names of all nominees will be published in the June newsletter and an election held at the June monthly meeting.

## President's Message continued from page 1

*Pths. ornata* led to two accepted names—*Stelis ornata* and *Platystele ornata*—an unusual and unsatisfactory answer. Where to turn next? Wikipedia of course, which provided the following surprising description:

*Stelis ornata* is a species of orchid found from Mexico to Central America. It is notable because it is one of the few carnivorous species of orchid, often feasting upon the flesh of small, innocent creatures such as the armadillo and the kangaroo rat.

Yeah, right. To add to the old adage, “Question authority and Wikipedia!” I had a good laugh, but it made me wonder how many other carnivorous orchid entries were out there. I expected to find dozens of similar malicious pages, but this was the only one. Well, except for one notable entry that I nearly dismissed.

It appears that there is one orchid that authorities believe might actually be carnivorous! Its name is *Aracamunia liesneri* and it lives in Venezuela in nutrient-poor soils (like other demonstrably carnivorous plants) and has strange vegetative structures at the base of its leaves with sticky tips (somewhat like a sundew). A little extra research (in addition to Wikipedia) eventually uncovered a short technical article in the November 1998 *Orchids* magazine (p. 1155), which fortunately is in my library.

So there you go. You never now where—or how—you're going to learn something fascinating about orchids.

Gary

## Next Board Meeting

The next MOS Board of Directors meeting is April 22 at Joan and Don Forester's home. Light dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. All members are welcome. Please let the Foresters know you are attending by e-mailing Don at [dforester@towson.edu](mailto:dforester@towson.edu)

## Monthly Door Prize Winners

In March, Frederick McLean, Jr. won the monthly door prize provided by The little Greenhouse. It was a plant of Wils. Castle Issa 'Hilo Bay'. Sarah Spence won a special door prize for which only show volunteers were eligible. It was an *Agraecum sesquipedale* donated by Tom Pho of Orchids for You.

## calendar of events

## Don't Miss Any Important Orchid-Related Events!

For more society- and orchid-related events go to:

[http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New\\_York](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ke0gdgeah30i7ovjtb9qfr4r2o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York)

You might need to copy and paste the link into your Web browser. There is also a link on the Maryland Orchid Society Web site ([marylandorchids.org](http://marylandorchids.org)) to this event calendar.

## Another Great Show! continued from page 5

better at convincing a customer they need to take a box or two to fill with orchids.

I have been lucky during my tenure as Show Chair to have the privilege to work with a very dedicated hard working Show Committee. They deserve your thanks and if you're one of the Committee you have my heartfelt gratitude for years of untiring service. I can honestly say I look forward each year to the process of producing another Show to impress and inspire orchid growers and to hopefully convert a few non-orchid growers each year. This year we did just that, collecting a record number of 23 new members. We realize some will not return but those who do should be welcomed and encouraged by the MOS.

Thanks again for making this another wonderful experience for me and another outstanding Show for the Maryland Orchid Society.

Bill Scharf, MOS Show Chair

# Maryland Orchid Society

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