

# Massachusetts Orchid Society



**July: Tom Gregg**

## Vancouver World Orchid Conference

Tom Gregg, a longtime grower and vice-president of the Cape and Islands Orchid Society, will share his experiences and photos from the

Vancouver World Orchid Conference as well as his experiences from growing his extensive orchid collection.

## Orchid Trivia – The Raspy Cricket

Glomeremus orchidophilus made this year's top ten new species list for its distinction of being the only pollinator of the rare and endangered orchid *Angraecum cadetii* in the Mascarene Archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

The genus *Angraecum* is best known for Darwin's study of the comet orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale* of Madagascar, and his hypothesis that it was pollinated by a bizarre, long-tongued moth pollinator - a theory that was proved true many years after his death.

Claire Micheneau: "We knew from monitoring pollen content in the flowers that pollination was taking place. However, we did not observe it during the day. That's why we rigged up a night camera and caught this raspy cricket in action. Watching the footage for the first time, and realizing that we had filmed a truly surprising shift in the pollination of *Angraecum* was thrilling."

Micheneau's research also revealed that two other species of Reunion Island *Angraecum* orchids (*A. bracteosum* and

*A. striatum*) are pollinated by two species of small white eye songbirds.

She continues, "My studies have shown that the raspy cricket is also a surprisingly efficient pollinator with higher rates of pollination and fruit set in *Angraecum cadetii* than those recorded in its bird-pollinated sister-species."

There is a close match in size between the raspy cricket's head and *Angraecum cadetii*'s nectar-spur opening. These wingless raspy crickets reach the flowers by climbing up the leaves of the orchid or jumping across from neighboring plants. They use long very long antenna to explore their surroundings.

Just why the raspy cricket developed a taste for orchid nectar is still a key question for Micheneau. "Although crickets are typically omnivorous and eat both plant material and other insects, we think the raspy cricket has evolved to eat nectar to compensate for the general scarcity of other insects on Reunion."

Provided by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

## Upcoming Speakers

**July 12<sup>th</sup> –**

Speaker: Tom Gregg, CAIOS  
Topic: Vancouver World Orchid Conference

**August 9<sup>th</sup> –**

Speaker: Jean Stefanik  
Topic: Angraecoids

**September 13<sup>th</sup> –**

MOS Annual Auction  
Please contact  
[brian@massorchid.org](mailto:brian@massorchid.org)  
if you would like to donate plants.



*Angraecum cadetii*  
(pollinated by the newly discovered raspy cricket)

Photo: C. Micheneau/Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium/J. Fournel/Université de la Réunion

## MOS Board

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### Newsletter –

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### Annual Show –

Joanna Eckstrom

[show@massorchid.org](mailto:show@massorchid.org)

### Program –

Brigitte Fortin,

Sasha Varsanofieva

[speakers@massorchid.org](mailto:speakers@massorchid.org)



Picnic  
photography by  
Pam Swearingen.

## Membership

It's that time of the year... again!

MOS Membership dues for 2011-2012 are due! If you haven't already done so, please send your \$20 annual dues to

Susan Flier  
27 Colchester Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

OR bring your cash/check payment to the next monthly meeting or MOS Picnic.

Please renew your membership today!



## MOS Picnic





## Ask Joan

**Q.**

Dear Joan: What is the difference between a Miltonia and a Miltoniopsis anyway? I have a pansy orchid that's not doing too well; the leaves are red and wrinkled.

**A.**

If you have a pansy orchid, you have a Miltoniopsis from the cool growing, wet cloud forests of the Andes of Columbia, Venezuela Peru, Ecuador. Therefore they need high humidity, plentiful water and good drainage, year round. The single leaf foliage is blue green and because the leaves are thin, they will not do well in direct sunlight. They like a tight pot, and should be potted every year.

Miltonias on the other hand, are a warm growing species that like a slight drying period between heavy watering. From the low to moderate altitudes of Brazil, they like bright light, with high humidity. With their yellow or bronze colored foliage and often brilliantly patterned, star shaped flowers, they resemble the other members of the Oncidium family. The Miltonia has been used to hybridize such intergenerics as Miltassia, Miltonidium, Colmanara.



For an informative article see: [www.robert-bedard.com/orchids/miltoniopsis\\_culture.html](http://www.robert-bedard.com/orchids/miltoniopsis_culture.html)

Photos courtesy of: [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)



An occasional column answering questions and providing orchid growing information. Some of this information is derived from the AOS member site and some from fellow MOS members. I've been growing orchids for about eight years, still a beginner, and this is a good way to learn and share. To keep the column lively and timely, please contribute your questions and comments to [joan@massorchid.org](mailto:joan@massorchid.org)

## Potting – The Method Behind the Madness

Summer is finally here, and re-potting season is in full swing. There is a lot of information out there regarding the various potting media, all claiming to be the "wonder mix" guaranteed to make your orchids grow and bloom better. A rule to live by: if it sounds too good to be true - it probably is!

Here at Oak Hill Gardens, we use a mix that we make here ourselves. We start with a good, clean, hard, "three-dimensional" bark (white fir). Large, chunky bark works well for us, as it allows plenty of air to penetrate the mix into the root system which is key for the plants to thrive. If the bark is soft, flat, or too fine, it will become compacted around the roots and the air flow will be reduced to almost nil. This will eventually cause the roots to rot.

We add chunky perlite, chunky vermiculite, and a pit of peat or coconut husk to the mix to hold **some** moisture, in order to reduce the frequency necessary in watering the plants. Most orchids need to dry out between watering to allow the air to reach the root system.

The composition of your mix should vary depending on your growing climate and conditions. In a dry climate, more sphagnum moss, or a finer grade of bark or coco husk is usually better in order to facilitate moisture retention. A good goal is to modify your mix to suit your environment and your desired watering frequency, which is usually either once or twice a week.

Orchids **love** fresh potting mix! We re-pot most of our orchids every year. Some of the larger plants only need it every two years. Fungicides work well, but a re-pot is a fresh start. It is best to repot plants when they are in their active growth cycle. This is usually in the spring/summer, when most orchids put out their new root and leaf growth.

After re-potting, keep the plant a bit on the dry side. It will then send out new root growth quickly. It is also good to skip a feeding after re-potting. When choosing what pot size to use, look at the root ball....not the leaves. The root system should fit comfortably into the pot with a bit of room for growth. If potted in too large a pot, the plant will stay too wet.

Clay pots dry out faster than plastic. Conversely, plastic pots retain water longer than clay. Choose what is right for your conditions, watering frequency, and type of plant.

If you witness yellow, black or wilted leaves, it is usually a sign that something bad has happened to the plants root system - usually rot due to wet conditions. Repotting gives your plants clean, fresh and coarser media to sink their roots into. This will lead to healthier plants and ultimately better flowering potential.

Get potting!

Good luck,  
Liese Herman



Reproduced from the Oak Hill Gardens July 2011 newsletter. [www.oakhillgardens.com](http://www.oakhillgardens.com)

## June Show Table Results

20 Plants Displayed, 13 Plants Awarded

Judges: George Baltoumas, Bob Richter,  
Cliff Derderian

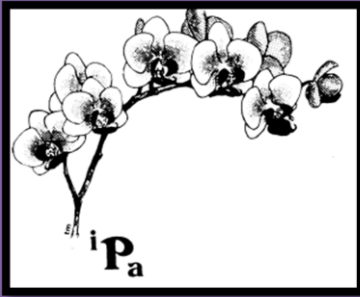
Plant	Owner
Ascda. John DeBiase 'Fuch's Indigo'	Bob Richter
Laelia purpurata	Bob Richter
Schomburkia tibicinis	Bob Richter
Neofinetia falcata Shutenno	Bob Richter
Epicyclia Serena O'Neil	Bob Richter
Cattleya tenebrosa	Bob Richter
C. purpurata var. striata x sib	Bob Richter
Dtps. Sogo Meili 'F1751'	Adrienne Giovino
Dtps. Yu Pin Burgundy	Adrienne Giovino
Dtps. I Hsin Balloun 'KH6734'	Adrienne Giovino
Burr. Pacific Command 'Huir Road' HCC/AOS	Charlie Briggs
C. purpurata v. carnea 'Haiku Kiss' x purpurata 'Exotic'	George Baltoumas
Pot. His Light x Sunstate's Carmela	Carol McClennen

We kindly request that show table plants  
be set up for judging by 7:15pm.



MOS Picnic





## INTERNATIONAL PHALAENOPSIS ALLIANCE

### “FOCUS ON PHALS” DAYS

SEPTEMBER “DOUBLE-  
HEADER” WEEKEND  
FOR NEW ENGLAND &  
NEW YORK

This fall, on September 10 & 11, 2011, the New England and New York/Eastern Canada Regions of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) will be hosting, in conjunction with two local AOS affiliated societies, a two-day double-header for their annual “Focus on Phals” day – a fun and informative day-long event with old friends and new.

On Saturday, September 10, we will be in Bedford, New Hampshire, providing the program and sharing the day with the regular monthly meeting of - and in cooperation with - the New Hampshire Orchid Society.

And on Sunday, September 11, we will be in the Colonie, NY area, near Albany, in cooperation with the North Eastern New York Orchid Society (one of two possible venues to be determined depending on the number of Registrants).

Our Keynote Speaker for each event will be Norman Fang of Norman's Orchids who will cover in-depth culture of the Phalaenopsis orchid in “*The Changing Face of Moss Culture: Tips for Success*”. With so many Phals now being sold in New Zealand moss, which is packed into the pots tighter than a brick, Norman will cover all the elements of caring for and being successful with this new approach to growing these Phals to perfection – a presentation that is not to be missed.

Our second guest speaker will be Carlos Fighetti, Immediate Past President of the AOS and current First Vice President of the IPA. He will be speaking on “*Phal Species & Their Variants: Are They or Not?*” With so many new forms of the species being shown now, he will explore the question of whether they are actually a species or a hybrid.

Our third speaker, Carri Raven-Riemann of the orchidPhile, will give a brief overview of the newest directions in breeding in Taiwan as seen at the recent March 2011 TIOS Show in Taiwan. We're also currently exploring the possibility of having AOS judging of the show tables at each meeting.

Each day will begin in the morning with a continental breakfast, followed by presentations given by Carlos and Carri, a light lunch, a review of the show table and a mini auction of select plants to help defray the speakers' expenses. The afternoon session will begin with our Keynote Speaker, Norman Fang, and finish with a round-table in-depth discussion of culture.

Guest vendors will include Norman's Orchids, the orchidPhile and Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies (Pre-Orders from all three vendors will be made available at a later date).

Registration Forms are now available for each event. The minimal Registration Fee is just to cover the expense of the food we provide for each event. Therefore, it will be imperative to register your intention to join us at a specific location so enough food and chairs can be provided for all who wish to attend. For this reason, we will not be taking any additional Registrations a week before either event (September 2).

If you would like the registration e-mailed directly to you, please send your request to:

Adrienne Giovino - [ipa.adrienne@gmail.com](mailto:ipa.adrienne@gmail.com) (please mention IPA Regional Meeting in the subject line)

Or download the form here: <http://www.phal.org/PDF%20Docs/NHOS2011.pdf>

We're really excited about this new approach to holding our annual Regional get-togethers and hope to see many of you there. Our special thanks go to the two co-hosting societies who have so generously invited us to share this day with them.

For more information about the IPA please visit: [www.phal.org](http://www.phal.org)

## Upcoming Events

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tue, July 12, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, August 6, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, August 9, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA
Sat, September 3, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, September 13, 7:30pm	MOS Annual Auction	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple St, Arlington, MA



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