

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
Medford, MA 02155



APR 2024

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Minute Minutes Notes from the Board

- ◆  Hey folks, you'll get an extra raffle ticket at our monthly meetings if you bring in a snack for the hospitality table. Our stimulating speakers and events really work up an appetite, so bring something delicious and be a winner! 😊
 - ◆ There was a lot of activity around our first monthly members' table for selling or buying plants and supplies. Thanks, Brigitte and Amanda for getting it off to a great start! Proceeds will go to the seller, or if desired, donated in part or in whole, to MOS.
 - ◆ Due to a high demand for Regabio virus test kits, they are currently sold out. We're ordering a larger supply this time around. *Please email Mike in advance if you plan to purchase 10 kits or more.* The cost is \$4.50 per kit. Better grab 'em quick!
 - ◆ The newsletter will be unrolling a new feature next month, called **The Orchid Doctor**. Members can ask questions about culture for their ailing orchids and receive thoughtful responses from members of the board in the next issue. Please email a description, accompanied with good quality photos that clearly show problems to the board at mos@board. Please send your email at least two weeks prior to monthly meetings to give the board time to discuss or conduct research. Thank you!
- ◆ The MOS website has been updated! Now you can,
- *Learn about our society's history*
 - *Research reliable articles and websites to identify orchid pests and diseases, and how to treat them*
 - *Links to trusted orchid vendors*
 - *Catch up on old newsletters in our archives*
 - *Connect with fellow MOS members in our directory*

If you haven't visited it recently, check out the updated MOS website and discover all the new offerings helping you grow your 'chids.

- ◆ Just a reminder, the Board of Director meetings are open to all members. A member may submit a specific proposal to the President, who may add it to the agenda and then invite that member to present their proposal to the Board, if so desired
- ◆ The first Show Committee meeting for the 2024 MOS show will be held Thursday April 11th. To join the committee, email [Brigitte](#). The virtual meetings take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

◆ *MOS....Moving Forward*

April is the month we ask our members to consider joining the Board. Moving into the next MOS year, we're committed to offering our very best programs and services, but to keep that commitment, we encourage members to get involved in the regular functioning of our society. In so doing, you're guaranteed to make new friends as you hone your orchid growing skills. Many of you have talents needed for new and existing teams, such as;

- Website management
- Hospitality at member meetings
- Annual MOS holiday and auction
- Summer auction planning
- Annual picnic planning
- Participating in MOS shows
- Plan activities outside of our regular meetings

Our May 14th meeting will be the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors, to serve for the July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 term.

You can discuss any of these leadership opportunities with current Board members at the upcoming April meeting. Moving forward, you can help shape our tomorrows...

*Become a contributor and share your orchid knowledge with others in the newsletter! Post orchid-related articles, sell your extra orchid supplies, growing equipment or arrange swaps. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org
Submissions are due 14 days prior to monthly meetings.*

Have orchid related articles you want to share? Interested in reading about a specific topic? Email your thoughts to mos-board@googlegroups.com. Suggestions for speakers, topics, and special programs for upcoming general meetings are welcome!

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/massorchid, Friends of Massachusetts Orchid Society at www.friendsofmassorchid and Instagram at www.instagram.com/massachusettsorchid.



Message from the President

Many thanks to Brigitte Fortin for driving down to West Hartford, CT and building that beautiful MOS display for the NSOS Show. We have 1 last show (COS) on April 20-21 in Bristol, CT.

The Show Committee will meet in mid- April and begin planning for our November 2024 "World of Orchids" Show (Nov. 8th ,9th and 10th). To be part of the planning, email show-committe@massorchid.org.

Our April meeting will feature Cordelia Head of J&L Orchids. She will discuss growing miniature orchids in the home. J&L has long been a forerunner for growing, selling and offering culture tips for miniature orchids. They are offering a 10% discount and free delivery to the meeting. When you order from their website jlorchids.com use code MassOS2024.

See you all on the 9th,
Ralph DiFonzo, II
President



Dear MOS Members,

Our 2024 MOS Board elections are fast approaching and will be held in person during our May 14th monthly meeting at SOI. We are currently working on a slate of nominees which we will present to you all before the May 14th meeting. In the meantime, we would like to hear from you if you are interested in potentially serving on this year's Board. Please email our Nominating Committee Chair, [Mike Badia](#) if you would like to find out more about the positions or if you already have a position in mind. Our April 9th monthly meeting at SOI would also be a good time to seek out Mike or another Board member for more information.

Thanks in advance from the entire MOS Board.

Welcome To Our New Members



Anina Butler - Shrewsbury
Nancy Chase - Milford, NH
Tom Chen - Woburn
Judy Miller - Kingston
Maureen Coyle – Beverly
Fatima Aydin - Newton

Lorraine Greiff - Wayland
Allie Kharas - Woburn
Liang Zhang - Boston
Candace Pearson – Lincoln
Cristol Grey - Winthrop

Show results are in!

To view Ribbon results for Amherst, click [here](#).
To view Rosette Awards for Amherst, click [here](#).



To view Ribbon results for Nutmeg, click [here](#).
To view Special Awards for Nutmeg, click [here](#).



Many thanks to everyone who participated!!



MOS Show Table Results, March 2024

Judges: Chieko C., Warren & Susie W., Suzie W.

Scribe: Linda A.

Total Ribbons: 26

Name of Orchid	Name of Exhibitor	Temp W,I,C	Light L,M,H	Growing Location: Lights, Windowsill, Greenhouse? Judges' or Exhibitor's Comments?
Bc. Yellow Bird	Julia R.	W	L	
Blc. Izumi Charm SVO'	Anne P.	I		Greenhouse/outside in cattleya light. Fragrant
C. maxima	Mike B.	L	W	
Blc. Your'e Mine	Daryl Y.	W		Greenhouse grown. Fragrant
Bulbo. falcatum	Mike B.	W		High humidity w/good drainage
Clo. Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford'	Anne P.	H	I	Outside during warm months and fertilized heavily
Clo. Rebecca Northen 'Pink Fragrance'	Anne P.	H	I	Same as above, incl.no water during rest
Den. jenkensii x aggregatum	Brigitte F.	L	I	No water in winter
Den. limpidum	Brigitte F.	L	I	
Den. moniliforme 'Sankanou'	Ralph & Chieko C.	I	I	Likes cool
Den. nobile	Maryelisa B.	L	I	Withhold water over winter
Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King'	Brigitte F.	L	I	Keep watering
Dendrochilum wenzelii 'Cooper' CCE/AOS	Daryl Y.			
Dryadella zebrina	Anne P.	I	L	Greenhouse/outside. Keep moist.
Epi. (oesterdella) centradenia	Daryl Y.		W	Greenhouse
Oncidiopsis Paragon 'Honey Butter'	Elaine H.		H	Greenhouse, Zygo cross. Likes wet.
Paph. appletonianum 'Fox Valley' x self	Brigitte F.	L	I	
Paph. (Cocoa Hunting x Robcrown)	Minnie D.	M	W	Beginner. Windowsill grown.
Paph. lathamianum	Mike B.	L	I	Winner of Best Slipper, NHOS show
Paph. NoID (white hybrid)	Mike B.	L	I	
Pths. eumecaulon 'Snow Angel'	Daryl Y.			
Sarcochilus kulbura	Ralph & Chieko C.	I	L	Greenhouse grown in Phal. light.
Schoenorchis gemmata	Daryl Y.	W		Greenhouse
Schombolaeliacattelya Newberry Lavaburst 'Glow'	Mike B.	L	W	
Trichoglottis pulsilla	Anne P.	I	I	Greenhouse/outside. Cattleya light or less. Keep moist
Zygonisia cynosure 'Blue Bird'	Ron M.	H		Zygo cross. Keep moist.

The March People's Choice Award went to Mike, for his gorgeous Paph. lathamianum. This beautifully bloomed orchid also won Nutmeg's Trophy for Best Windowsill/Under Lights Award. Congrats, Mike!





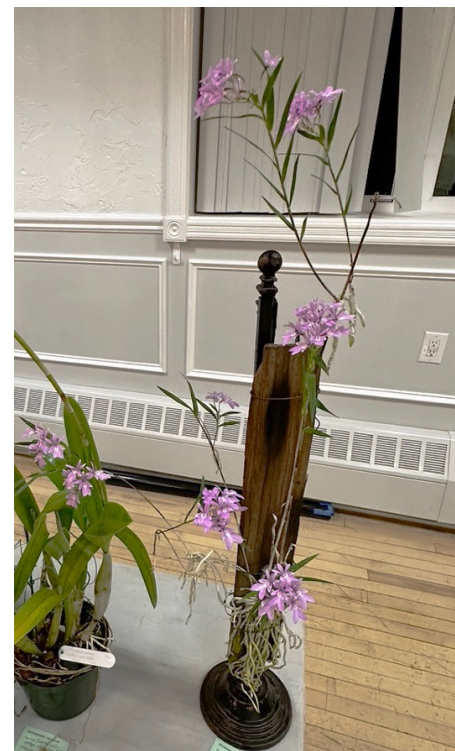
Bc. Yellow Bird, Julia R.



C. maxima, Mike B.



Blc. Your Mine, Daryl Y.



Epi. (oesterdella) centradenia, Daryl Y.



Schombolaeliacattleya Newberry Lavaburst 'Glow', Mike B.



Blc. Izumi Charm 'SVO', Anne P.



Clo. Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford', Anne P.



Clo. Rebecca Northern 'Pink Fragrance', Anne P.



Oncidiopsis Paragon 'Honey Butter', Elaine H.



Paph. (Cocoa Hunting x Robcrown), Minnie Domingo



Bulbo. falcatum, Mike B.

Paph. appletonianum 'Fox Valley' x self, Brigitte F.



Paph. white hybrid, Mike B.



Cultural observations from Mike



Den. jenkensii x aggregatum, Brigitte F.



Den. moniliforme 'Sankanou', Ralph and Chieko C.



Dendrochilum wenzelii 'Cooper', CCE/AOS, Daryl Y.



Den. limpidum, Brigitte F.



Far left: Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King', Brigitte F.



Left: Den. nobile, Maryelisa B.



Trichoglottis pulchra, Anne P.



Pthys. eumecaulon 'Snow Angel', Daryl Y.



Zygonisia cynosure 'Blue Bird', Ron M.



Dryadella zebrina, Anne P.



Schoenorchis gemmata, Daryl Y.



Sarcochilus kulbura, Ralph & Chieko C.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

06 Apr 2024 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting

Cordelia Head of J&L Orchids
 09 Apr 2024 7:30 PM
 SOI, 117 Swanton St., Winchester MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

04 May 2024 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting

Beth Davis of Waldor Orchids
 14 May 2024 7:30 PM
 SOI, 117 Swanton St., Winchester MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

01 June 2024 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

*This month, Cordelia Head presents
 “Growing Miniatures in the Home”*



Cordelia Head, former principal and long-time presence at J&L Orchids, will be discussing several different genera of miniature and micro-miniature orchids, and how to adapt to growing them in a house.

Cordelia has been growing orchids for 40 years and is very involved in orchid judging, conservation, the American Orchid Society and World Orchid Conference. She has discovered a number of new orchid species; many named for her, in her world travels.

J&L is a well-known pioneer of miniature orchids and Cordelia will be bringing orchids for sale. J&L is offering a 10% preorder discount up until April 8th. To order, click J&L Orchids and use code MassOS2024.

2024 MOS Meeting Program

- Apr.** Cordelia Head, J&L Orchids
- May** Beth Davis - Waldor Orchids
- June** Alan Koch from Gold Country
- July** Kristin Uthus - New World Orchids
- Aug.** Summer Social or Speaker
- Sept.** MOS Annual Auction
- Oct.** Kim Feddersen - Fair Orchids
- Nov.** Dave Sorokowsky - Paph. Paradise
- Dec.** Annual Holiday Party!



Repotting Catasetinae: February-March-May

It's time to repot your Catasetinae! Repotting is fun, laborious and, at times, nerve-wracking. It is an important step in making sure your plants are happy and healthy, and it's the best way to ensure lots of beautiful flowers.

Catasetinae have seasonal growth habits and flowering patterns. To understand how to grow and repot them, it's very useful to learn about the environmental conditions in their natural habitat, where they have adapted to survive and thrive. Catasetinae grow primarily in areas with a warm, wet summer followed by a dry, slightly cooler winter, thus these plants have evolved a very specific seasonal growth habit. In the spring, with the days lengthening and just before the onset of the rainy season, they begin growing and developing a root system. This is all done in anticipation of the summer rains when there is plentiful moisture and nutrients for the plants.

I follow this rule: "The best time to re-pot Catasetinae is with the beginning of new growth in the early spring".

Repotting with the onset of new growth ensures that the new roots, which initiate after the new growth by about 2-3 weeks, will grow directly into the new media. This eliminates the chance of damaging the new roots. This is important as Catasetinae produce just one flush of roots each season, and early damage to the new root system will severely limit the plant's ability to grow and flourish. I can't overemphasize the importance of the timing for repotting. It's like the emphasis I place on waiting to water until after the new roots are 3-6" long.

At Sunset Valley Orchids we use AAA sphagnum moss from New Zealand (offered in 3 kg bales on our website). After trying several types of media we have found that this premium-quality moss produces the best growth. First, we slightly moisten the new moss. When it's just right, it feels moist, but when you squeeze it tightly, water does not drip out. When using sphagnum moss for potting, we like to leave an air space beneath the moss and the bottom of the pot. This assures excellent drainage. It takes a little trial and error to get the air space right, but you will master it with a little practice. Styrofoam peanuts or similar inert material can also be used under the moss to provide this extra air space and drainage.

Repotting:

In the early spring, with the first signs of new growth, Catasetinae plants are still dormant and dry. Repotting should occur with the old media still dry. We use sterile clippers to cut away the old, unneeded moss. With larger plants, we usually trim away the moss farthest away from the newest growth. This trimming process cuts through the old moss and roots. We like to form a 2-3" long tapered (carrot-shaped) stump from the old moss and roots. This provides a form around which the new moss can be wrapped. It helps to hold the plant steady in its pot until new roots are produced and re-established. We orient the plant, so the new growth has room for 2 years of space for the growth. As with all orchids Catasetums don't like to be over potted either. It's better to under pot than over pot.

For plants purchased from SVO last year that are still in 3" pots, I recommend the "slip-potting" method of repotting. Just wrap new moss around the existing moss and slip into a slightly larger pot.

Dividing:

The best time to divide *Catasetinae* is also with the onset of new growth. They do well when divided into pieces no smaller than two or three pseudobulbs. Divisions are made by cutting with a sterile tool or by carefully pulling the pseudobulbs apart.

Watering:

Watering should begin when the new roots are 3-6" long. It will take the plants 4-6 weeks after the onset of new vegetative growth for the new roots to grow to the desired length. Waiting for the beginning of watering is not easy, but we have learned through trial and error that it is much better to wait to water than it is to start watering too soon.

For those of you wondering when the new *Catasetinae* list is coming out, look for it in early July. An inside tip: it's the best list we have ever offered!

Good Growing,

Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez
[Sunset Valley Orchids, Inc.](#)



Spring Has Sprung

Greg Allikas

March 2012, *The American Orchid Society*

Today is the first day of spring and for orchid growers, that means our orchids will be commencing their annual growth cycle soon. Depending on where you live, some plants may be in growth already. As we head toward summer we will be practicing a different culture regime for our orchids. We want to optimize their growth as much as possible during the warm part of the year. The most important task we associate with spring is repotting our plants. I often hear of a novice buying an orchid and immediately repotting it regardless of the time of year. That is not sound practice. The best, and safest time to repot an orchid is in the springtime and there are good reasons why. Lengthening days continue to accelerate plant growth through the summer solstice. With some species, growth can be explosive at this time of year. Orchids that receive ample food and water, and the proper temperatures and light for their type, can quickly fill a pot with roots. The more roots, the better a plant can utilize the nutrients it receives. This rapid growth also ensures that newly potted orchids will quickly establish themselves in the fresh medium. All of this adds up to a strong, healthy plant capable of producing abundant blooms.



While there are exceptions, for most orchids it is a safe bet to repot in the spring. It is a good idea to confirm that your orchids are indeed beginning their growth cycle. Monopodial and sympodial orchids should both have some active, green root tips on mature roots. Sympodial orchids should have a cluster of new roots starting from the base of the newest pseudobulb and may or may not have a new pseudobulb starting. The longer the new roots are the easier it is to accidentally break them so try to repot plants when these roots are not much more than a half-inch long. Soaking a plant in a bucket of room temperature water will make old roots more pliable and easier to remove from the pot. This is especially helpful with monopodial orchids like *Phalaenopsis*.

Repotting orchids is fairly straightforward, and once you get the hang of it, it becomes an enjoyable part of the hobby. There are a few rules to remember...

- Always sterilize cutting tools between plants to avoid the spread of disease. A minute or two under a torch flame will suffice.
- Remove old medium and dead roots. Leafless back bulbs may be removed from sympodial orchids.
- Use fresh, clean media and pots, do not recycle media, and reuse pots only if they have been sterilized.
- Potting time is a good time to examine plants for any pests that might be hiding. Spring cleaning applies to orchids too! Remove any old, dried sheaths with a toothbrush dipped in 70% isopropyl alcohol. Also remove any dead leaves or pseudobulbs.
- Make sure that all of the needed materials are at hand, that includes assorted pots, enough of your preferred media, rhizome clips and/or bamboo or wire stakes and don't forget nametags!

If you pot them correctly, most orchids only need to be repotted every second or third year. Some, like *Phalaenopsis* and *Catasetums*, appreciate fresh medium every year.



• THE AOS CORNER •



Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton
Orchid related questions, answered by AOS experts.

Click [here](#) to watch now.

Note the specific times below if you wish to watch or listen to those topics.

- :57 Mounting cattleyas - specifically *C. maxima*
- 5:08 *Paphiopedilum*. not blooming after four years of successful blooms
- 7:14 *Cattleya* decline - identifying possible viral infection
- 9:12 *Phragmipedium* bacterial infection from stress example
- 14:52 Disinfecting cutting tools - methods / Recommended applications to cut surface
- 18:57 Caring for newly acquired plants / Root check
- 25:25 Imported bare root orchids - how to establish new roots
- 29:3 Possible causes of irregular color on leaves
- 32:2 Management of indoor blooming needs for specific *Cattleyas*
- 36:47 *Dendrobium* decline from loss of roots. Can this orchid be saved?
- 40:06 *Phalaenopsis* chlorotic leaf damage possible causes: virus, mites or water temperature?
- 45:13 Bush snail treatments
- 47:47 What a healthy root system looks like / How to repot after flowering
- 49:00 Leaf spot problems / Recognizing and treating bacterial leaf spotting

Seasonal Orchid Care March/April

Click [here](#) for Checklist

Organizing orchid culture and its chores by season is a convenient way to make sure that your orchids get the proper care at the right time. Becoming in tune with your plants' growth cycles creates a connection with the natural world and makes you a better grower.

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Ralph DiFonzo	ralphd@massorchid.org
Vice President	Mike Badia	mikeb@massorchid.org
Past President	Dina Deresh	dinad@massorchid.org
Secretary	Steve Kirincich	stevek@massorchid.org
Treasurer	Amanda Larson	amandal@massorchid.org

Directors

Linda Abrams	lindaa@massorchid.org
Dina Deresh	dinad@massorchid.org
Emily Dewsnap	emilyd@massorchid.org
Jeff Feldman	jefff@massorchid.org
Brigitte Fortin	brigittef@massorchid.org
Anne Pfaff	annep@massorchid.org
Alexis Victor	alexisv@massorchid.org

Committee Chairs

AOS Representative	Brigitte Fortin	aosrep@massorchid.org
AOS Trustee	Howard Bronstein	
Conservation	Robert Hesse	conservation@massorchid.org
Creative Director	Alexis Victor	alexisv@massorchid.org
Extracurricular Activities	Anne Pfaff	annep@massorchid.org
Hospitality Committee	Karyn Stewart	karyns@massorchid.org
Information Technology	Ralph DiFonzo	ralphd@massorchid.org
Library	Open	librarian@massorchid.org
Membership	Jeff Feldman	jefff@massorchid.org
Newsletter Editor	Anne Pfaff	newsletter@massorchid.org
Contributing Author	Steve Kirincich	stevek@massorchid.org
Nominating Committee	Mike Badia	mikeb@massorchid.org
Speaker Program	Mike Badia	mikeb@massorchid.org
Social Media	Emily Dewsnap	emilyd@massorchid.org
Rebranding	Anne Pfaff	annep@massorchid.org
	Alexis Victor	alexisv@massorchid.org
	Emily Dewsnap	emilyd@massorchid.org
Orchid Digest Rep.	Brigitte Fortin	orchiddigestrep@massorchid.org

Orchid Show

Brigitte Fortin	show@massorchid.org
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Orchid Show Postcard

Meg Bright-Ryan	program@massorchid.org
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Show Table

Linda Abrams	lindaa@massorchid.org
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