

# Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041  
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**January 2018**

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## Message from the President

### Welcome to 2018! Hi there and Happy New Year!

Hope that your last year ended well and your new year started even better! {Insert obligatory witty comment for better than ever blooms here}. To help your orchids bloom better, Daryl with [Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies](http://www.kkorchid.com) (sometimes you must hold the Ctrl key when clicking links in this message). will be leading a repotting clinic at our January meeting. Kelley's Korner is offering a 10% discount on prepaid orders using the code MOS2018. There is no delivery charge for prepaid orders brought to the January meeting. If you can't click on the link above, here is a link to Kelley's Korner's website at [www.kkorchid.com](http://www.kkorchid.com) and don't forget to use the discount code above.

This month ends with the beginning of the winter orchid show season in New England, if that makes any sense. If not, let me explain. First off, WE NEED YOUR BLOOMING PLANTS

for any or all of the shows! That's because the Massachusetts Orchid Society has a display in all them!

The Cape and Islands Orchid Society (CAIOS, read: chaos) is celebrating my birthday (January 25), by having setup for their annual show! The show is open January 27 and 28 and the theme is Orchids as Art. For more info, please click [caios.org](http://caios.org) [2018 show information](#). Judging/clerking is the morning of the 26. Please contact me or someone at CAIOS directly to sign up. On January 26, there is a Dine Among Orchids Pre-Show Banquet. The menu is listed on the site and it looks delightful! There will be educational programs too!

Next is the New Hampshire Orchid Society's show February 9, 10, and 11. Here is the link to their show page: [www.nhorchids.org/show/info](http://www.nhorchids.org/show/info). Setup is February 8 with clerking/judging on the 9. If you didn't clerk at our show or the CAIOS show, here's another great opportunity to clerk and learn. They have a great lineup of educational programs and a dinner party themed Dinner Party Among the Orchids on Saturday, February 10. They are offering free photographer access 8 – 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The Amherst Orchid Society show is next February 24 and 25 at the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, 80 Locust St. Northampton, MA.

Clerking is on the 24! Please contact Joe Maciaszek at [judging@amherstorchidsociety.org](mailto:judging@amherstorchidsociety.org) to clerk. It's a little bit of a drive to get there, but the show is a fun show, it's great to support them by going as they always support us by coming out to our show, and there's lots to do in Northampton! March brings the Nutmeg Society's show, but we'll talk about that later....

For now, please consider taking a role as an officer in the society. It's a great way to get more involved, learn more about them plants we enjoy, and it's not a huge time commitment. I've joked about it being onerous, but it really ain't so bad and we need new minds on the board!

Happy New Year and happy orchids! –Brian Leib



## MOS show table results December 2017

Judges: Mike Badia, Michel, Cindy Drozynki

Scribe: Brigitte Fortin

exhibitor's name	plant's name	Lights/Windowsill/Greenhouse	Warm/Cool/inter	Comments
Mike Badia	Paph helenae	L	I	
Mike Badia	Habernaria medusa	L	I	
Mike Badia	Epidendrum centropetalum	L	I	
Mike Badia	Epidendrum porpax	L	I	
Mike Badia	Dend Jonathan's Glory 'Pure Joy'	L	I	
Joey	Dend rigidum	w		Under 10 category
Brigitte Fortin	Paph spicerieanum	L	I	
Brigitte Fortin	Catt Maxima	L	I	
Jaroslav	Rlc Cute Lady 'Christmas Candy'	G		
Jaroslav	Tuberolabium (Saccolabium) cuisumbingii	G		
Warren Wheelwright	Vanda	G		
Susie Wheelwright	Lc 'Little Susie'	G		
Maria	Epidendrum centropetalum	W	W	
Anne Pfaff	Chysis bractescens	L		
total ribbons: 14				
total plants: 20				

## MOS show table summary 2017

January February March April May June July August Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Total

	n/a							n/a						
Mike Badia	4	1		4	2	2		2		1	1	5		22
Jaroslav	3	5		3	2	1		4		2		2		22
Brigitte Fortin		2		1	1					1	3	2		10
Charlie Briggs		2		2			2	1						7
Linda Abrams	2							2			2			6
George Baltoumas						2				1	2			5
Warren & Suzie Wheelwright	1	1										2		4
Jeff Feldman							1			1	1	1		4
Anne Pfiaf	2						1					1		4
Betsy Opitz		1			1					1				3
Alan Kaitz				1		1	1							3
Alexandra Drogus***							1			2				3
Andrew List	1					1								2
Ralph and Cheiko Collins											2			2
Orchid photos Mark "Bear" Jacobson				1							1			2
Adrienne Giovino											2			2
Ralph DiFonzo					1						1			2
Jim Spall***					1			1						2
Joey Pavey ***							1					1		2
Mona Cutane				1										1
Maria												1		1
Debbie Sensale***						1								1
Joel Shelkrot						1								1



Rlc. Cute Lady 'Christmas Candy'  
Jaroslav

Epidendrum centropetalum,  
Maria



***DARYL YERDON***, owner of Kelley's Korner Orchid Supply and MOS member, will be our speaker.

MOS members may simply use Coupon Code MOS2018 when placing an order and 10% will automatically be deducted from their purchase.

Daryl will bring supplies for sale during the meeting but this offer is good only for prepaid orders to be delivered to the meeting please. Members should order by Sunday January 6 to be sure that they have time to prepare them for delivery to the meeting.

You can preorder your potting supplies at: <http://kkorchid.com/>

Please bring a snack to share.



## GROW AND SHOW!



Say folks, we're starting something new in 2018 and it features... YOU! Each month, members will tell us how they grow their orchids. If yours grow on windowsills, under lights year-round, outside in the summer, or, if you're one of the lucky ducks with a greenhouse, start taking photos of your growing spaces and send them, along with your success stories to [newsletter@massorchid.org](mailto:newsletter@massorchid.org).

Some thoughts to get you started –

- Indoors, how do you maintain proper humidity, light & temp levels?
- What are the pros and cons of your lighting, ventilation and humidification systems?
- Watering without ruining your floors, messing up the bath or breaking your back carrying buckets.
- Greenhouse culture & setup; is yours a DIY or ready-made?
- How to induce flowering under lights; day lengths and temps.
- Growing on mounts, in orchidariums, micro-climates, hydroponically...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monthly AOS Judging

06 Jan 2018 10:30 AM

*Tower Hill Botanic Garden,  
11 French Dr, Boylston, MA*

### Monthly Meeting:

#### Kelly's Korner Repotting Clinic

09 Jan 2018 7:30 PM

*Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St,  
Winchester, MA*

### CAOIS Annual Orchid Show

27 Jan 2018 9:00 AM

*The Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis,  
35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA*

### Monthly AOS Judging

03 Feb 2018 10:30 AM

*Tower Hill Botanic Garden,  
11 French Dr, Boylston, MA*

### NHOS Annual Orchid Show & Sale

09 Feb 2018 1:00 PM

*Courtyard Marriott,  
2200 Southwood Dr, Nashua, NH*

### Nutmeg State Orchid Society

#### Annual Show and Sale

17 Mar 2018 12:00 PM

*West Hartford Town Hall,  
50 South Main St, West Hartford, CT*



Above: Paph. spicerianum,  
Brigitte Fortin

Below: Paph. fairrieanum,  
Jeff Feldman



# Orchid Care

## *Now That I Have This Plant, What Do I Do With It?*



*Here are some answers to the most popular questions for orchid beginners.*

*If you are anxious to get going with orchids, check the American Orchid Society's quick-start guide to orchid culture," ORCHIDS 101".*

### Where do I cut the flower spike when it is finished?



*Phalaenopsis will often produce a secondary flush of flowers from a node on the inflorescence.*

Of all of the more commonly available orchids, only Phalaenopsis (the moth orchid) will re-bloom from its old spike. Phalaenopsis will generally re-bloom given a little extra care. When the last flower fades, you can leave the spike (stem) on and it will still continue flowering but the stem gets very ungainly and the flowers get smaller. Some people believe it is best to cut off the stem entirely at the base where it comes out of the leaves, and it will bloom again in several months. You can also cut off the stem leaving two nodes (those little brown lines on the stem below where the flowers were) on the stem. One of these nodes will then initiate and generally produce flowers within eight to 12 weeks. Younger or weaker plants may not rebloom and some Phalaenopsis are genetically incapable of reblooming from the old spike. These are usually those that flower with branched spikes. It's always worth a try. Orchids, like animals, are susceptible to viruses, so whenever cutting an orchid plant always use a sterile tool to prevent the spread of virus. A straight edged razor blade is a good tool to use for cutting flower spikes.

## How do I water my orchid?



*Use a pencil or wooden skewer to determine whether an orchids needs to be watered.*

Avoid overwatering which leads to the demise of many more orchids than under-watering. Constant wetness will cause the roots to rot, which leaves the plant without

a means for taking up nourishment which then causes the leaves to droop and will eventually kill the plant.

The classic advice is to water the day before the plant dries out. If you have to let the plant go dry to figure out what a dry plant weighs, it will not kill the plant and will make you a better grower. Another measure is to use the pencil trick (the point of a sharpened pencil, when inserted into the medium, will darken with moisture if the plant has enough water). And, there's always the old standby - put your finger in the mix. If it feels wet, it is wet. If you aren't sure whether it is time to water, wait one more day.

"Evenly moist," while the most commonly given advice on watering, is the least easily explained. Because most plants are grown in plastic containers a good diagnosis is the weight of the plant: heavy - does not need watering; light - does require water. With a little practice, one can easily tell the amount of moisture remaining in the container.

Water your orchid early in the morning. This insures complete water evaporation on the foliage as well as the crown by nightfall. If your home is very warm or has low humidity you will most likely need to water more often. The best place to water your plant is in the kitchen sink. Use lukewarm water (do not use salt softened or distilled water) and water your plant for about 15 seconds and be sure to thoroughly wet the media. Then allow the plant to drain for about 15 minutes. It may appear dry but it has had enough water. After the plants are watered, they should be placed so that the pots do not stand in water. Some people like to place the pots on "humidity trays" or in trays or saucers of gravel or pebbles and water. The pot is placed on the pebbles above the water line. This helps to insure that the base of the pot is not immersed in water, increases humidity for the plant, and provides some air circulation under the pot.



## How do I feed my orchid?



*Experienced orchid growers fertilize their orchids weakly, weekly.*

Orchids need to be fed regularly. Growers suggest using a "balanced" fertilizer such as 20-20-20 that includes all "necessary trace elements."

Regardless of the fertilizer formulation you choose to use, it should contain little or no urea

If you are unsure of what fertilizer to use, you can generally use any fertilizer you would for your other container plants.

Orchids will do far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. Many growers recommend the "weakly, weekly" approach, applying a dilute (1/4 strength) fertilizer each time they water, rather than applying a full dose once a month. Also, it is best not to fertilize a completely dry plant as the fertilizer can burn the dry roots. Water first then follow with fertilizer solution.

## Where in the house can I grow my orchid?

*An east or south facing window provides bright enough light for growing orchids.*



South and east-facing windows work best for orchids. Western windows can be too hot in the afternoon and north-facing ones are usually too dark. A sheer curtain will cast light shade. Too much direct light causes leaves to sunburn - so it may be necessary to reposition plants as the seasons change. Move plants away from or toward the window to manipulate the amount of light. Make sure the leaves are not touching the glass. In winter in a cold climate, leaves touching the windowpane may freeze.

Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom.

## What is the best potting media?



*Aliflor, an expanded clay product, is popular on its own as a potting media, or used as an additive to mixes.*

A fresh, fast-draining, but water-retentive medium is essential to the healthy root system necessary for good growth. Whether a bark-based mix (which drains well, is forgiving of watering errors but breaks down rather quickly), a peat-based mix (which retains moisture well but requires more careful watering and frequent re-potting) or some inorganic, basically hydroponic method, orchids have been grown successfully in a variety of media

## When should I repot?



*When an orchid plant starts to grow over the edge of the pot, it is time to repot it!*

Orchid plants need repotting for one or a combination of two main factors: Potting mix breaks down, often evidenced by dead roots, or the plant outgrowing the container. In the first case, a larger pot may not be required,

simply replace the growing medium. In the second case, the plant may need dividing or may be shifted into a larger pot. Fresh media should always be used. A good general rule of thumb is to pot for the bottom of the plant, the root system, and not for the top, the foliage.



## • THE AOS CORNER •



## Seasonal Orchid Care

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.

Click here for [January/February Checklist](#)

### Spring Members Meeting

March 7-11, 2018

#### Location

Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400  
Las Positas Road, Santa Barbara,  
CA 93105 and Santa Barbara  
Museum of Natural History, 2559  
Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, CA



The 2018 AOS Spring Members Meeting is being held on March 7, 2018 in Santa Barbara, CA in conjunction with the **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show** and the **Cymbidium Society of America**.

For more information including hotel reservations, visit our Members Meeting website: <https://aosmembersmeeting.com> or click the link below.

**Go to the AOS Members Meeting Website**

Please make sure to check back on our Members Meeting website often to view the latest version for the most up-to-date information and listing of events as well as event registration.



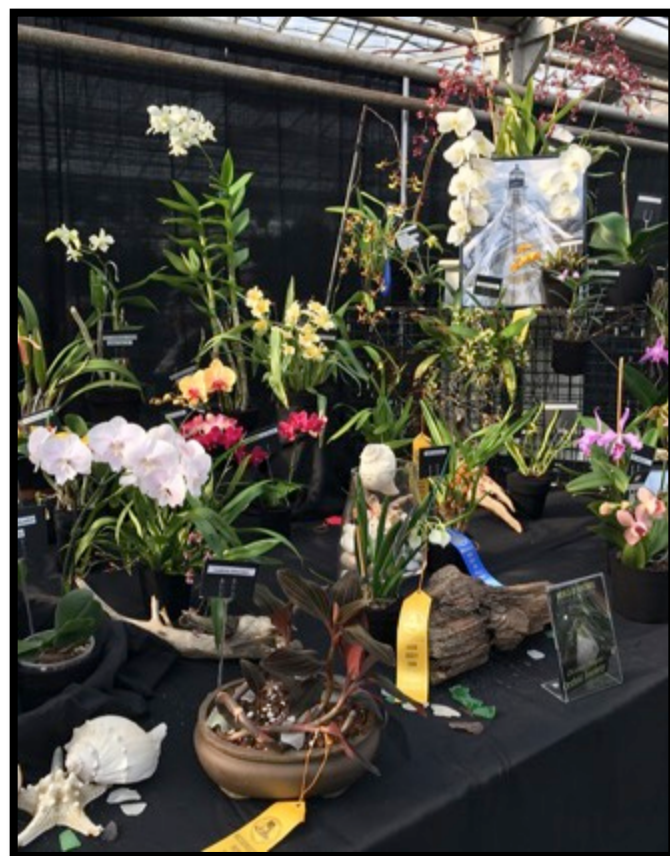
Thank you Winnie Chiu, for sharing some of your beautiful photos of our November show, The World of Orchids!



Congrats to Alan Kaitz for receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Place for his Beallara hybrid, Bllra. Tropic Lily 'Hilo Space Ship'!









*Dear Members,*

*Every now and then we hear from members looking for orchid-sitters. Here's a note we just received from Joe Levine, who will be attending the Tamiami Orchid Show! If you live in the Concord, MA area and can lend Joe a hand, please contact him directly...*

"We are going to be traveling from January 10 through January 22 (attending the Tamiami orchid show, among other things), and are looking for either a responsible, plant-friendly house-sitter, or an orchid lover nearby who would be willing to drop in once or twice a week to check on our greenhouse.

Mostly, things take care of themselves, especially in this ridiculous weather. An automatic misting system takes care of most of the plants - orchids and others.

If someone would be interested in house-sitting, he/she would just need a quick tutorial on the snow blower and a brief orientation to some plants that might benefit from occasional spot-watering in the greenhouse. If someone would just be dropping by to water now and then, The automatic misting system takes care of most of the rest.

And as I do plan to spend (probably too much) time in the vendors area of the show, I'd be happy to keep an eye out for any "wish-list" plants for that person."

Thanks!

Horticulturally Yours--Joe Levine  
617-650-8396



*Here in New England*, the short, dreary days of winter signal a time when nature slows down to rest. Many orchids also benefit from a winter nap by entering a period of dormancy.

One may assume that flowering ceases at this time, too, but this isn't always true.

An orchid's blooming period is dictated by the dominant genes inherited from its parents.

A little research on websites such as The American Orchid Society, Orchid Board or Orchid Forum, will help you figure out your orchid's heritage and learn how to mimic its native growing conditions. Sometimes, though this can get little tricky. The Cattleya alliance, for instance, is made up of mono-foliate and bi-foliate species, and knowing the difference between them is to understand their specific growth and flowering habits. Likewise, when it comes to hybrids, knowing the specie parents of your Catts will be your guide. If you're still not sure, most orchid breeders and suppliers provide growing advice.

In addition to the Catasetinae alliance, which we read about last month, there are many other winter flowering orchids, giving growers the pleasure of colorful and fragrant blooms to get them through the dark days of winter.



*Chysis bractescens*,  
Anne Pfaff



## Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

### Officers

President	Brian Leib	<a href="mailto:brian@massorchid.org">brian@massorchid.org</a>
Vice President	Ralph Di Fonzo	<a href="mailto:ralph@massorchid.org">ralph@massorchid.org</a>
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### Committee Chairs

AOS Trustee	Howard Bronstein	
AOS Representative	Brigitte Fortin	<a href="mailto:aosrep@massorchid.org">aosrep@massorchid.org</a>
Conservation	Robert Hesse	<a href="mailto:conservation@massorchid.org">conservation@massorchid.org</a>
Ellen Shapiro		<a href="mailto:ellen@massorchid.org">ellen@massorchid.org</a>
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### Orchid Digest

<b>Representative</b>	Adrienne Giovino	<a href="mailto:orchiddigestrep@massorchid.org">orchiddigestrep@massorchid.org</a>
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### Orchid Show

Brigitte Fortin, Co-Chair	
Ralph Di Fonzo, Co-Chair	
	<a href="mailto:show@massorchid.org">show@massorchid.org</a>

Board of Directors

### Show Table

Brigitte Fortin	<a href="mailto:brigitte@massorchid.org">brigitte@massorchid.org</a>
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