

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
Medford, MA 02155



May 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the
President

Show Table Results

Upcoming Events

Monthly meeting:
May Grower's
Forum

Nutmeg Show Pix

Grow and Show:
Anne Pfaff

AOS Corner

Mid-Hudson Show
& Sale

Seasonal Orchid
Care

Officers, Directors
& Chairs

Message from the President

Hi folks!

It's May, and no one has volunteered for the board nor to be our show co-chair. Not to be all doom and gloom, but no board and no show chair = no Massachusetts Orchid Society.

Our May meeting is the annual business meeting. We have a bit of business to conduct, including {insert throat clearing noise here} electing a new board, voting to change the by-laws to give honorary members the right to vote, voting to give long standing members with years of service honorary memberships (and if you want to nominate anyone {or yourself!} send me or the board a note), a quick overview of our membership status, our financial status, what's up with programming and I don't know if I remembered to mention that we need to elect our new board too. Because of our

bylaws, I couldn't be president anymore even if I wanted to be, but **you** could be! Serving on the board or as show chair is **great** to put on your resume as community involvement! It isn't a huge commitment but is often viewed as quite impressive!

After we finish off business, we will have the Growers Forum that was canceled by the snow. Three of our members will share their tips and tricks to growing. It's funny how something that just seems obvious to you or me is super helpful or even genius to someone else!

I hope to hear from a few of you (and experience is not a problem) about board or show co-chair positions and look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

If you have plants for the show table, please! please! please! try to get your plants on the table by 7 so we can start the meeting closer to on time.

See you soon! -Brian Leib



Lycaste Abou 'First
Spring' Mike Badia

MOS show table results March 2018

Judges: Mike Badia, George Baltoumas, Michel

Scribe: Brigitte Fortin

exhibitor's name	plant's name	Lights/Windowsill/Greenhouse
Mike Badia	Noid phal	w
Joel Shelkrot	Phal. Yu pin 'Pearl'	w
Linda	Epic. Yucatan 'Richella'	L
Linda	Epi. Yoko 'Yokohama'	L
Charlie	Iwanagara 'Apple Blossom'	G
Dina Deresh	Dendrobium senile	L
Collins	Den Isa 'Yahoi'	G
Hana Vincent	Den normabyense	L
Mike Badia	Lycaste Abou First	W

total ribbons: 9

total plants: 15



Top: Phal. Yu Pin 'Pearl', Joel Shelkrot

Bottom: Den. senile, Dina Deresh



Den. Isa clone
Ralph Collins

Iwanagara 'Apple Blossom'
Charlie Briggs



Epic. Yucatan 'Richella'
Linda Abrams

MOS Upcoming Events

Monthly AOS Judging

05 May 2018 10:30 AM

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

Monthly Meeting - MOS Members

Speak on Growing in the Home

08 May 2018 7:30 PM • Sons of
Italy, 117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging

02 Jun 2018 10:30 AM

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

Monthly Meeting - TBA

12 Jun 2018 7:30 PM • Sons of
Italy, 117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging

07 Jul 2018 10:30 AM

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



Above: Den. Normabyense
Hana Vincent



Below: Epi. Yoko 'Yokohama'
Linda Abrams

May Growers Forum!

The Program

We hope you can join us at our May 8th meeting program, featuring the long-awaited Growers Forum. Three MOS members will lead 20-minute segments of different growing styles: Windowsills, under lights and growing in a terrarium. In each case, a 10-15 minute talk will be followed by 5-10 minutes of interactive discussion and questions.

The proposed discussions and their leaders will be as follows:

Mike Badia – Mike brings extensive experience and success growing award winning plants on windowsills. He also is an experienced grower under lights, and currently is completing the construction of a growing room in his basement. For this program he will focus on windowsill growing.

Linda Abrams – Another excellent grower, Linda is very successful under lights, and has been for a long time. She grows several alliances with diverse cultures under lights. Her growing room, which she calls primitive, has different lighting conditions based upon her plants needs. A long time member of MOS, Linda ran the MOS show table for 20 years. Linda will focus her talk on her different lighting and growing conditions.

Sasha Crotty – An extremely knowledgeable orchid grower, Sasha (a former MOS President) has conquered the challenge of space limitations in a townhouse. Her 200+ plants attest to her ingenuity and commitment to succeed. Sasha focuses on smaller (and often lesser known orchids) and grows in terrariums. She creates growing environments consistent with the culture requirements of her orchids and has extensive success with her plants. She controls temperature, air movement, humidity and light in the terrarium. This will be an excellent opportunity to gain insight into a growing style that too few of us are familiar with!

-Jeff Feldman

Dear Members,

Are you leaving your flowering orchids home while you're off to have fun at our monthly meetings? Please don't leave your babies behind! Bring them in and let them shine on the show table. Let's not be shy about it - beginners or advanced growers, all are welcome to participate.



Photos from 2018 Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show, “Come See Our Bloomers”



Courtesy of Brian Leib.
Thank you Brian, for driving
plants down to the show and
giving MOS a presence!





GROW AND SHOW!



May's Grow And Show features your newsletter editor! If we haven't already met, my name is Anne Pfaff and I re-joined MOS two years ago, after a 20+year hiatus, to focus on my art career and raising kids. I grow my orchids indoors from October until May, but during the warm months they camp out in our backyard, where they enjoy sun and shade provided by my neighbor's enormous oak trees.

There is a 10 x 10' room in the basement of our Victorian home that was once the maid's washroom. Aside from three enormous soapstone sinks that no one ever bothered to remove (they weigh a ton) the room has been empty and unused until about 10 years ago, when I started collecting again. I needed space and this room seemed perfect. The old, rotting plaster walls and ceiling were replaced with Wonder Board –a product that stands up to high humidity. New windows that can be opened replaced the old ones and a plumber reconnected the drain and faucets. I installed hanging ballasts for the T5 lights. I bought light timers, plastic shelving units and two oscillating fans, plus a 9 gallon Lasko humidifier, all from Home Depot. I lined the walls with kitchen shelf liner to protect from splashing water and laid a scrap of linoleum on the floor, too.

The nice thing about basement growing is being able to regulate temperatures by simply opening the door and windows. T5 lights generate a lot of heat, which is a constant problem. Another basement advantage; light timers can be set to regulate shorter or longer day lengths, to simulate growth and rest seasons. My hose has an adjustable head which can be set to mist or shower. The runoff goes either down the sink drains or into deep trays that drain into buckets. To fertilize, I use a pressurized garden sprayer, also from HD.

Small pots lay on fluorescent light covers for extra stability. In the foreground, a recently divided Catt. Walkeriana mounted on pieces of the remains of a cholla cactus that I recently found in the desert in Arizona.



Please share your secrets of success (or laments) with all of our members! Everyone has their own approach to growing and flowering orchids, particularly here in New England. We're curious to know what works for you and the challenges you face. Whether you grow on a windowsill, summer outside, indoors under lights or in a greenhouse, start taking photos of your growing spaces and send them along with a short essay to: newsletter@massorchid.org.

Just to get you started:

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



Home Depot shelves and horticultural tubs from GYO garden supply center (Cambridge). Water drains into buckets. The bottom shelf stores potting materials.

Under the soapstone sinks are my fertilizers, potting tools and chemicals.



Plants that need high light intensity sit closer to the lights on overturned pots.





We're searching for new Board members to fill a few shoes. If you'd like to become more involved in our society, there are many ways to contribute. Step up and become a bigger part of MOS!



NOID Phal, Mike Badia

•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 [May/June Checklist](#)

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Brian Leib	brian@massorchid.org
Vice President	Ralph Di Fonzo	ralph@massorchid.org
Secretary	Winnie Chiu	winnie@massorchid.org
Treasurer	Sasha Crotty	sasha@massorchid.org

Directors

Mike Badia	mike@massorchid.org
George Baltoumas	george@massorchid.org
Anne Pfaff	anne@massorchid.org
Ellen Shapiro	ellen@massorchid.org
Adrienne Giovino (Past President)	adrienne@massorchid.org

Committee Chairs

AOS Trustee	Howard Bronstein	
AOS Representative	Brigitte Fortin	aosrep@massorchid.org
Conservation	Robert Hesse	conservation@massorchid.org
Ellen Shapiro	Hospitality Committee	ellen@massorchid.org
Library	Open	librarian@massorchid.org
Membership	Ralph Di Fonzo & Adrienne Giovino	membership@massorchid.org
Newsletter Editor	Anne Pfaff	newsletter@massorchid.org

Orchid Digest Representative

Adrienne Giovino	orchiddigestrep@massorchid.org
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Orchid Show

Brigitte Fortin, Co-Chair	
Ralph Di Fonzo, Co-Chair	
	show@massorchid.org

Board of Directors

Show Table

Brigitte Fortin	brigitte@massorchid.org
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