

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
Medford, MA 02155



MAR 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minute Minutes

President's Message

Upcoming Events

2022 MOS meeting program
schedule

March Speaker: Glen Decker - "My
Life With Slippers"

Virtual Show Table Results and
Culture Notes

Article, "My Live With Orchids", by
Alan Kaitz, 95 years young ☺

Article, "Observations While
Repotting Phragmipediums", by
Millard Hennessee

The AOS Corner:
Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton
Seasonal Care

Officers, Directors & Chairs



Minute Minutes

Notes from the Board

**For ALL upcoming in-person meetings,
please email the show-table the names of your plants**

As your orchid collections continue to grow, our show table expands. While the format of our virtual meetings allows Mike and Brandt to do a little research in advance, this is not the case when we meet in-person.

We are asking members to please email the name(s) of any plants you plan to bring to the meeting to display (and parent names if you have them). Mail them to <mailto:showtable@massorchid.org>.

This will give the committee a chance to provide us with more information about the plant.

Thank you! - The Show Table Committee

Did you know you can submit articles to the newsletter? Got extra orchid supplies you want to unload or looking for garden swaps? Submissions are due 10 days prior to monthly meetings. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post or advertise in the newsletter!

We are always interested in suggestions for speakers and topics, plus ideas for special programs for upcoming general meetings. Please email them to mos-board@googlegroups.com.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/massorchid and Instagram at www.instagram.com/massachusettsorchid.



President's Message

A Command Performance – FINALLY!
And a couple other thoughts

We're back in person this month. but more on that in a second.

The really big news is there's going to be another Orchid Show in New England!

New Hampshire Orchid Society is going forward with their annual show. Set-up is the 24th of March. Judging on the morning of the 25th (and if you enjoyed judging at our show and you have the time – reach out to New Hampshire and see if they need any help clerking on Friday). The show is open to the public 1-5 on Friday, 9-5 Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday.

This may be the only chance this spring to display your orchids in a show. Our display is being designed and orchestrated by Brigitte, Jeff, and George. *If you have any plants* you'd like to enter, please bring them to our March meeting, or feel free to register them online yourself and bring them up to the venue (Courtyard by Marriott, Southwood Drive, Nashua) first thing that Thursday morning. As close to 9 as you can comfortably get there is ideal. We are obligated to do a really good job with our display – New Hampshire always does a great job for us at our show.

So again - PLEASE BRING ANY BLOOMING PLANTS TO OUR MARCH MEETING if you don't intend to schlep them yourself up to the show.

Now, about the March Meeting:

First and foremost, N95/KN95 masks will be required.

They will be available at the door for \$2 apiece (priced them yesterday) if you need one. Our speaker is the always entertaining Glen Decker, formerly of Piping Rock Orchids. Glen is one of the most knowledgeable speakers on the circuit. He sold Piping Rock a few years back, but word is he misses it so much he's getting back into the game as soon as his non-competitive clause runs out – which I think is real soon.

While Glen grows all genera spectacularly, his absolute forte lies with Paphiopedilums. Hope to see everyone there.

Thank you for the few minutes of your time it took to read this. When you see Anne Pfaff at the meeting, remember to tell her what an amazing job she does month in and month out with this newsletter. [No arm-twisting was involved- Brandt really did write that, lol.]

Your Humble Orchid Murderer,
Brandt Moran





New Hampshire Orchid Society's Annual Show and Sale is a go! For event information, click [here](#).

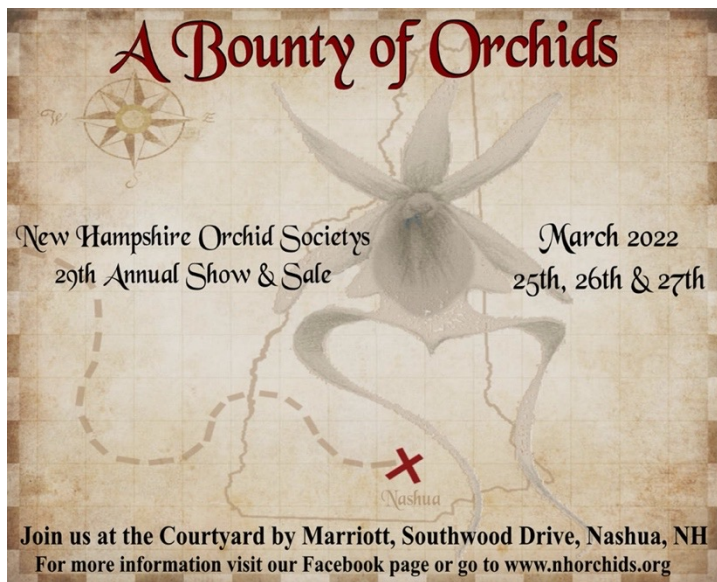


PRISMATIC, AN ORCHID EXHIBITION

Event Dates: February 12 – March 20, 2022
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden
 11 French Drive
 Boylston, MA

Inspired by color and light, Tower Hill has combined dazzling plant displays and vibrant art installations to bring you this year's orchid exhibit, Prismatic! 1,400 colorful orchids and sparkling works of art on display. For more information about this event, click [here](#).

All who are able must wear masks indoors at Tower Hill Botanic Garden until further notice. Tower Hill is following the mask guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control.



Our Centennial Celebration at the Historic Biltmore Hotel

We hope that you will be able to join us in the Spring for our much anticipated Centennial Celebration in Coral Gables, Florida.

Make your hotel reservations now!

Schedule is now updated!

We are proud to present the American Orchid Society's Centennial Celebration! We invite you to join us for this once in a lifetime celebration.

The four-day event will encompass our 2022 Spring Members Meeting activities, an exciting live auction, a full day of extraordinary speakers, and a splendid gala banquet that will feature a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, music, and dancing in a beautiful and historic setting.

We'd love to have you join us!

Smithsonian Institute presents
Orchids: Hidden Stories of Groundbreaking Women
 Event Dates: Jan 29 - Apr 24

Barrier-breaking botanists. Cutting-edge conservationists. Inspired illustrators. Women have played many roles in the quest to discover, document and conserve orchids.



UPCOMING EVENTS[Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill](#)

05 March 2022 10:30 AM

[Monthly Meeting – In Person!](#)[Glen Decker: "My Life With Slippers"](#)

08 Mar 2022 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.

Winchester, MA

[New Hampshire Orchid Society Show](#)

25-27 Mar 2022

Courtyard Marriot, 2200 Southwood Drive,

Nashua, NH

[Monthly Meeting – Francisco Miranda of](#)[Miranda Orchids: Orchid Habitats of Interior](#)[Brazil](#)

12 Apr 2022 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.

Winchester, MA

[Monthly Meeting – Carri Raven-Riemann of](#)[The Orchidophile, "Is That Really a](#)[Phalaenopsis?"](#)

17 May 2022 7:30 PM

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.

Winchester, MA

*Join Glen Decker
March 8th For
"My Life With Slippers"*

Glen's lecture will take us on a captivating trip around the world; which he describes as:

"My Life with Slippers" ...It's my journey to see slipper orchids around the world, including Peru, Ecuador, and through Europe, and the things that I have learned about growing them in the process. The lecture will include some history, travel, culture and stories about the people within our obsession.

Glen, formerly the owner of Piping Rock Orchids, has been growing orchids for over 40 years, and holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. He was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and a past Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation. Glen has won numerous AOS awards, including the Butterworth Prize, Nax Trophy, WW Wilson Award and the Carlyle A. Luer Award. He has appeared in Martha Stewart's Better Living Magazine and on a PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium". He rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for the "Orchids for Dummies" book. He also has written many articles on Paphiopedilums and Phragmipedium, which have been published worldwide.

Glen will have plants for sale at the meeting.

**2022 MOS Meeting Program**

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Jan. | Mike and Daryl – repotting and mounting |
| Feb. | Fred Clarke of SVO – Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower |
| Mar. | Glen Decker (formerly Piping Rock Orchids) |
| Apr. | Francisco Miranda – Miranda Orchids |
| May | Carrie Reimann – The Orchidophile |
| June | Tim Culbertson |
| July | Kristin Uthus – New World Orchids |
| Aug. | MOS BBQ |
| Sept. | MOS Annual Auction |
| Oct. | Bob Winkley |
| Nov. | Bob Cleveland Orchids |
| Dec. | Annual Holiday Party! |

February Virtual Show Table Results

(With apologies, due to the high volume of entries we had, not everyone's orchid photos are included)

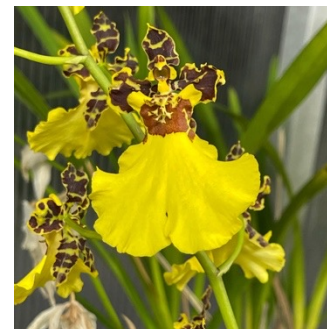
Click [here](#) for Culture Notes

Congrats to Peoples' Choice winners Dick and Eleanor Phillips, for their remarkable specimen of *Dendrobium speciosum spectabilis*

The Phillips's garnered over 20% of votes cast in the most-voted show table to-date (60+ votes). Overall, 60 orchids were represented.



Haraella retrocalla,
Dina D.



Onc. Jiuobao Gold
'Tainan', Zash H.

Brassavla maritiana,
Eleanor P.



Ophrys sphegodes,
Zash H.



Onc. creosus, Daryl Y.



Calanthe sedenii,
Daryl Y.



Trichopillia fragrans,
Kremena B.



Cym. vidar harlequin, Steve T.



Phal. Pinlong Cheris 'Sakura', Maleia A.



Phal. NoID, Bob F.



Phal. (Olga Sanborn) , Bob F.



Epi. tziscaoense 'Marlow Orchids' CHM/AOS, Daryl Y.



Max. sanguinea, Daryl Y.



Phal. NoID, Brigitte F.



Bllra. Marfinch 'Howard's Dream', Zash H.

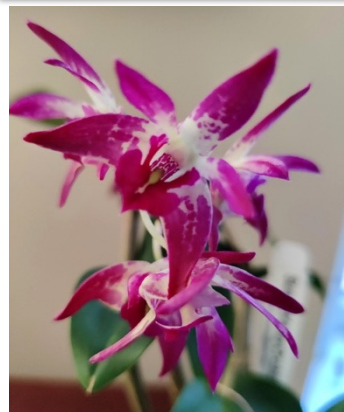


Onc. Sharry Baby, Zash H.



V. christiansoniana, Daryl Y.

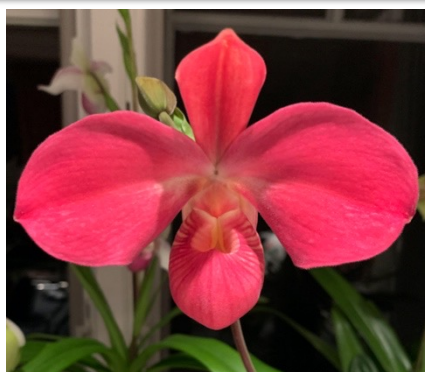
Comparettia macroplectron, Millard H.



Den. Johnnie,
Debbie McM.



Phrag. Pink Panther,
Linda A.



Phrag. Cirila Alca, Mike B.



Den. secundum x sib., Steve T.



Den. Toowoomba Royal, Minnie D



Phrag. besseae, Linda A.



Den, hybrid (from Yamamoto),
Linda A.

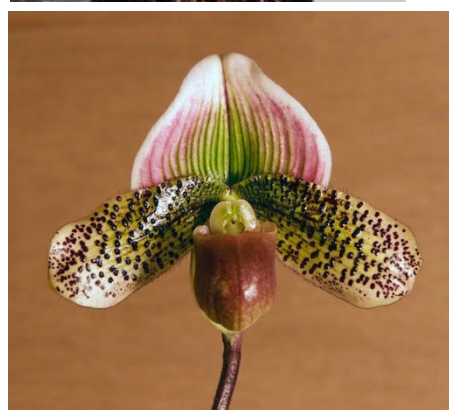


Den. NoID,
Karen S.

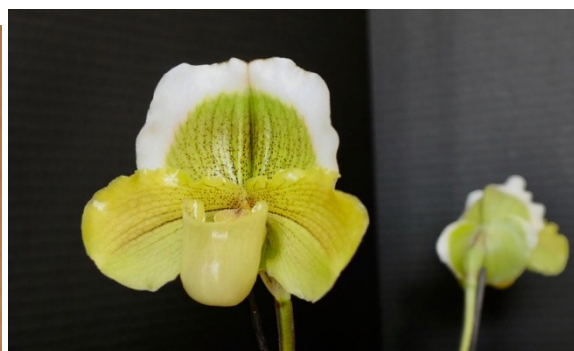


Den. Ruben Colmenares 'Big Daddy' x
Victorian Regency 'Red Stripe', Bob F.

Paph. Olympic Mountains x Greenvale,
Ralph C.



Paph. NoID, Ralph C.



Paph. Stone Lovely 'Lucky Pick' x
Paph. Gege Hughes "California Gold",
Minnie D.





C. mantiqueirae 'Tesch',
Dina D.



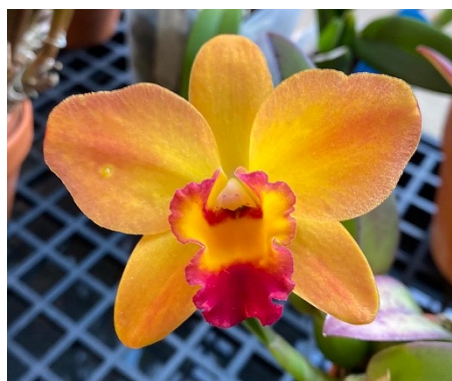
C. trianae, E. Phillips



Pot. "Linda Vee, Nadine L.



C. Nancy Off 'Linwood'
AM/AOS, Linda A.



Slc. Lucky Chance, Jeff F.



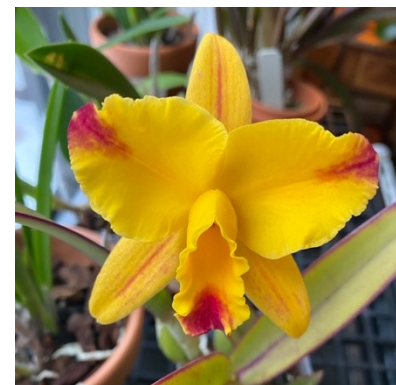
C. purpurata v. striata
'Dorido' x purpurata 'Tipo'
AM/AOS, Daryl Y.



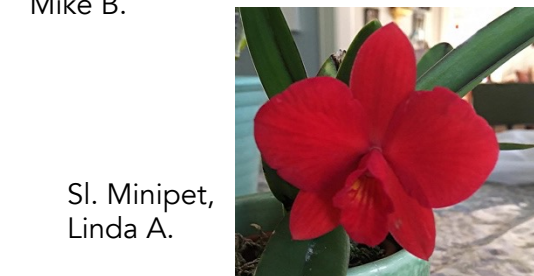
C. lueddemanniana var. semi-alba
'KS Shapely' x lueddemanniana
var. coerulea 'Cassie's Delight' FCC/AOS,
Mike B.



C. lueddemanniana
'Foothill' AM/AOS, Mike B.



Tokyo Magic x Candy Sparks, Jeff F.



Sl. Minipet,
Linda A.



Vanda Robert's Delight
'Ink Star',
Li-An S.



Lc. Koolau Treat,
Brigitte F.

Happy Birthday to Alan Kaitz, turning 95 March 22nd!

"He's no stranger to Orchids"

For those who have not met Alan, he is inspirational and full of wisdom when it comes to orchids. A longtime supporter of MOS through his presence and sharing his great growing skills, members have been privileged to Alan's orchid education, helping newer members and providing financial support over the years. He is also a longtime musician and still does piano recitals for other residents at Carleton-Willard where he lives. Oh yeah- and he is a long time and dedicated Red Sox fan!



My Orchid Journey

By Alan Kaitz

After my three children left our big home in Lexington for college, my wife and I decided to build a new home in Lexington, just for us. At the time I was 56 and with the help of an architect, I designed a ranch house attached to my very first and only greenhouse. The greenhouse was the first place where I grew orchids. I then joined MOS (located near Lexington at the time) and AOS and gradually, I learned how to keep orchids alive and healthy.

At age 70 I retired as a physician and at 75, my wife and I moved to Delray Beach, Florida, where the weather is ideal for growing orchids outside. There, I discovered that our condo was very close to the new AOS headquarters that had just opened in Delray Beach. I quickly began volunteering there, starting as a weeder, and then progressed to being a visitor's guide. I also made posters showing where to see outstanding orchids.

My major achievement at AOS was to catalog all the orchids and perennials, providing information about each. With the help of an internet company, I was able to put everything on the AOS website.

AOS closed their headquarters site to the public around 2009 and relocated to Coral Gables in 2012. I was very disappointed that the headquarters closed. Just about that time, my wife developed symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and it was necessary for us to move back to Massachusetts, to be close to family. We purchased a condo in Huckins Farm in Bedford in July of 2009. There was a spare room that I converted to an orchid room and began growing orchids again, and I also rejoined MOS.

We joined Carleton-Willard At Home; affiliated with Carleton-Willard Village (CWV) and became familiar with CWV. After my wife passed away in 2013, I eventually moved into CWV. My apartment here has a spare room for growing orchids, where I converted fluorescent grow lights to LED grow lights. and a suitable living room for my Steinway piano, where I enjoy my other hobby, playing classical and jazz piano.

An article about me entitled, "Past, Present, Future - Growing Orchids in a Retirement Community" appeared in the AOS Bulletin January 2020 issue. Members of AOS may access it searching the AOS online Archives.

I will be 95 this coming March 22nd and hope to be able to continue growing orchids.

Observations While Repotting Phragmipediums Millard Hennessee

This article is not meant to be a primer on repotting, a reflections of how my plants grow, or lack of talent in writing essays. It is an attempt to describe my observations and improve my culture after growing my favorite genera over the previous two years.

To set the stage, 1 ½ years ago I moved my orchid collection from a basement room growing under HID lighting to a new, updated, in-house growing area with state-of-the-art LED lighting. I also repotted most of my orchids in a mix that would reflect more accurately how I care for my plants. This included fine and medium fir bark, charcoal, growstone and Aliflor. However, I used several different methods to that I could better evaluate the growth under these conditions. During that time, I relatively followed the same regimen. Relatively, meaning more than 50% of the time.

Eighteen months after this initial move, I began the repotting. I know I should be repotting the orchids every year, but life gets in the way. I attempted to observe which methods proved best under my conditions, so that I could adjust my potting mix and technique to more accurately reflect how I care for my plants. This would help improve the growth and flowering potential. This article concentrates on Phragmipediums, because this is the genera that I experimented with the most. I was nervous about repotting them at this time, as a number of them are in spike and/or blooming, but the articles I read and blogs I follow said not to overly worry. Besides, I have the time now.

My observations are as follows. Repotting in your basement creates an unbelievable mess. When you think you have enough repotting mix prepared, you do not. Wet repotting media is extremely heavy. Now is the perfect time to remove dead plant material from your plants but be aware that new growths are at the base of the pseudobulbs, so be extremely careful. It is a great time to observe for any pests or diseases, as you are handling each plant.

My individual observations of plants reflect that a plant repotted 2 ½ years ago rather than 1 ½ years ago results in more dirt than bark at the central interior portion of the pot. There was no root growth in this area and the roots surrounding this rotted media were not as robust as those repotted 1 1/5 years ago.

Clay pots produced larger, and an increased number of dead roots and the potting media was the most degraded. Net pot in the central portion of the pots reduced the number of dead roots and degraded media. No roots penetrated the interior of the new pot. Roots were firmly adhered to the sides of the pots in all instances, and these were not pried loose when repotting.



My conclusions for growing *Phragmipediums* in the future in my basement under LED lighting in my present mix, with my present care are to repot them in less than 2 years' time. This minimizes degradation of the media. Air at the roots is imperative for better root growth. Using net pot in plastic pots or air=cone pots will maximize the amount of air getting to the central portion of the root mass. With my watering regimen, plastic pots are more conducive to better root growth than clay pots, as clay pots result in more rapid evaporative drying, not one of the *Phragmipediums*' cultural requirements.

So, for now, I will be repotting in plastic pots with a net pot in the central portion of the pot or using air cone pots. I will be repotting in 1-year and plant to reevaluate this portion of my culture at that time.

(At least I will try.)



• 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.

- 04:34 Cymbidium leaf problem. Turn yellow, fall off, bud drop, dehydration
- 09:46 Cattleya circoispora fungus, Thiomy
- 13:43 Zygopetalum problem – lost its leaves, dehydration, watering, when to repot
- 16:45 Cattleya sepals curling under - Dehydration, low humidity
- 19:15 Dendrobium leaf problem, dehydration
- 21:18 Epicattleya lead problem – leaves shiny and sticky, gattation sooty mold
- 24:20 Cattleya (syn Laelia) pereinii culture
- 26:54 Dendrobium leaf problem – browning, stunted leaf, low humidity, dehydration
- 28:05 Australian Dendrobium leaves turn yellow, brown, top of canes yellow, fungus
- 30:47 Potting bare root plants from Ecuador, disinfecting, quarantine questions
- 35:21 Phalaenopsis leaf spotting fungus, leaf trauma, fungus
- 37:37 Spiders – beneficial insect? , pest
- 39:05 Cattleya light percentage shade cloth for Florida
- 41:20 Mounting orchids, materials to use, orientation
- 47:35 Sour smell on mounted orchids , rot
- 50:30 Phyan uses, fungus
- 53:15 Cattleya in plug trays - how moist should I keep them, watering

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 | Brandt Moran | brandtm@massorchid.org |
| Vice President | Jeff Feldman | jefff@massorchid.org |
| Secretary | Meg Bright-Ryan | megb@massorchid.org |
| Treasurer | Amanda Larson | amandal@massorchid.org |

Directors

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--|
| Past President | Dina Deresh | dinad@massorchid.org |
| | Linda Abrams | lindaa@massorchid.org |
| | Mike Badia | mikeb@massorchid.org |
| | Emily Dewsnap | Emilyd@massorchid.org |
| | Ralph DiFonzo | ralphd@massorchid.org |
| | Anne Pfaff | annep@massorchid.org |

Committee Chairs

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| AOS Trustee | Howard Bronstein | |
| AOS Representative | Brigitte Fortin | aosrep@massorchid.org |
| Conservation | Robert Hesse | conservation@massorchid.org |
| Social Media | Emily Dewsnap | emilyd@massorchid.org |
| Hospitality Committee | Karyn Stewart | karyns@massorchid.org |
| Library | Open | librarian@massorchid.org |
| Membership | Jeff Feldman | jefff@massorchid.org |
| | Ralph DiFonzo | ralphd@massorchid.org |
| Newsletter Editor | Anne Pfaff | newsletter@massorchid.org |
| Speaker Program | Jeff Feldman | jeffeldman@massorchid.org |
| Orchid Digest Representative | Brigitte Fortin | orchiddigestrep@massorchid.org |

Orchid Show

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ralph DiFonzo | |
| Jeff Feldman | |
| Brigitte Fortin | show@massorchid.org |

Orchid Show Program

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Meg Bright-Ryan | program@massorchid.org |
|-----------------|--|

Show Table

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mike Badia | mike@massorchid.org |
| Linda Abrams | lindaa@massorchid.org |