### BUCKS COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2023



Visit our website: www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org

# BCOS Meeting and Program Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023

Regular Meeting 7:30pm Churchville Nature Center 501 Churchville Lane Churchville, PA 18966 Show Table Setup-7:00 p.m.

# **Program: Wait - is that an orchid? Presented by Carl Gustafson**

Most orchid growers are familiar with Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Paphiopedilums, and Dendrobiums, but what about all those other plants relegated to one end of the show table? Those plants that make you scratch your



head and ask "Wait - Is that an orchid?" Carl will present a photographic show table of the unusual and lesser-seen gems of the orchid world. Complete with comments on orchid sex.

Carl's been growing mostly species orchids for more than 40 years, and has tried all kinds of ways to grow plants, from windowsills to various artificial light setups, but never a greenhouse. He's probably killed more plants than most members have in their collections (including his own).

Trained as a chemist, employed as a computer software engineer, and now retired, he takes care of plants in hotels, makes expensive sawdust in his wood shop, plays with trains, because he's never grown up, enjoys both indoor and outdoor horticulture, and enjoys learning new things.

Come with questions, and he'll have answers, even if he has to make them up on the spot. Carl will have some plants for sale, and he encourages other members to bring plants for sale also.

### AOS Corner – Oct. 2023 by Ed Weber (edwardweber0218@gmail.com)

When an exhibitor at our judging center accomplishes something truly remarkable, I love to share it with others. This is the second time I am highlighting this particular exhibitor in this column. I doubt it will be the last

In September, Ryan Moraski presented the judges with Dendrobium Fire Wings (Big Alex x Silver Wings) and Catasetum Karen Armstrong (Susan Fuchs x denticulatum). Both plants received both an Award of Merit (AM) to the flower and a Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) to the grower. This accomplishment has never been achieved in our center, at least to the memory of the judges present.

So, why two awards? Because the AOS judges orchids based on several different criteria. A flower quality award looks at how good the flower itself is. We look at the size, form, color, presentation, and several other factors to determine if the flower is deserving of recognition. Additionally, we look at the culture of the plant itself. Is the overall health of the plant good? Is it clean? No infestations? Well groomed and staked? These are all factors taken into consideration. A plant that meets these standards can earn a cultural recognition award for the grower.

Ryan told me that the first plant, Dendrobium Fire Wings, was a "bag baby" from Lowe's! You know, those little orchids in the mesh bags that you sometimes get lucky enough to find when they are still healthy. It turns out that these plants are actually good quality plants and are deserving of a place in your collection. This is just such a case. The judges found the flower to be excellent in all aspects and granted an Award of Merit of 85 points. We also found the plant to be in exceptional condition and granted a Certificate of Cultural Excellence of 91 points. Shown below [page 3]

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#### SHOWTABLE AWARDS - Sept. 2023

#### WINDOWSILL GROWER

Species/Cross Cultivar Grower

Cattleya Alliance

1st CattleantheKarlo and LouisGustafson, Carl2nd BrassantheMaikaiCarrick, David

**Classic Cattleya** 

2nd Laeliocattleya Mary Elizabeth Bohn Royal Flare AM/AOS Nakonechny, Vera

**Oncidium Alliance** 

1st Oncidiopsis Onolicious Vivid Friehs, Rosanne

Phal & Dtps Alliance

3rd Phalaenopsis MS Golden Sweet MBL098 Kaplinski, Richard

Pleurothallid Alliance

1stStelisvulcanicaGustafson, Carl2ndPleurothallisendotrachysGustafson, Carl

**Cymbidium Alliance** 

1st Cymbidium Chen's Ruby Kern, Sandy

**Miniatures** 

1st Pleurothallis picta Gustafson, Carl

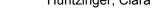
**Species** 

1stProsthecheacochleataSchneck, Sue3rdKefersteiniatolimensisGustafson, Carl

**GREENHOUSE GROWER** 

Phal & Dtps Alliance

1st Phalaenopsis LD's Bear King Huntzinger, Clara

















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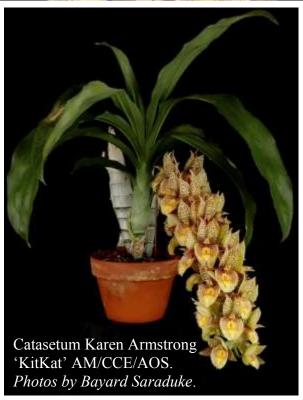




Dendrobium Fire Wings 'Gigi' AM/CCE/AOS. *Photos by Bayard Saraduke*.

Next up was Catasetum Karen Armstrong, a cross made by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. Many people struggle with these but Ryan has mastered them, based on his show table offerings and what he has contributed at the SEPOS show. The judges really liked the unusually light coloration of this flower and the presentation was beyond reproach on a single 23-cm inflorescence with 39 flowers! These flowers have a trigger that will eject the pollen if disturbed and it doesn't take much to disturb them. Just the fact that Ryan was able to get this plant to judging with all flowers intact was an accomplishment! Sadly, several of the pollen were ejected during the process of counting, measuring, and describing them. We hope that the good feeling of having received 4 awards to 2 plants made up for it! Good job, Ryan. We look forward to seeing much more from you!





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I'm excited to announce my annual orchid yard sale. Each year we host an event to help reduce the amount of extra plants in our personal collection.

#### What to Expect:

200+ plants up for sale at reasonable prices. A majority of the plants will be from the fabulous Cattleya genera.

Explore a treasure trove of orchids, including:

- Seedlings
- Select divisions
- · Rare species
- · Gorgeous hybrids

This is an exclusive in-person event you won't want to miss! Please note: No lists will be published, and we won't be shipping any plants.



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# MID-HUDSON ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Fall 2023

## Saturday, November 11, 2023, 11am - 4pm

Wallkill View Farm Market and Garden Center 15 Route 299 West, New Paltz, NY 12561 Located in the large greenhouse to the left of the market



Multiple vendors will have a large assortment of different Orchids and Orchid supplies available.

2 pm - Orchid Potting Demonstration and Clinic

See the beautiful display of gorgeous blooming Orchids.

MHOS members will be available to answer any of your orchid care questions.

#### Raffles!



Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society (AOS)

www.mhorchidsociety.com

For further information, please email Brenda L. Decker, MHOS President at president@mhorchidsociety.com