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BCOS Meeting and Program

Thursday, March. 21, 2024

Regular Meeting 7:30pm

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

PROGRAM: "Oddities of the Orchid

World" Friend of BCOS and frequent contributor to this newsletter, **Ed Weber** explores the various pollination strategies orchids use, as well as some other fun stuff, and he ends the talk with a series of "flowers with faces". It's not a science-y talk and always gets lots of great feedback. Ed Weber began growing orchids in 1999 after he inherited his grandmother's collection. Not a 'Plant Person', his curiosity got the better of him and he began reading about these marvelous exotic treasures that were now in his care. 12 plants became 20, which became 50, and so forth until his home and garage (no room for a greenhouse!) looked like a tropical rainforest! In 2001 he joined The South-eastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society (SEPOS) and soon learned that he needed to become an expert in these plants. In 2005 he began studying to become an American Orchid Society (AOS) Judge, but life got in the way, and he had to drop out. Then, in 2011, a world-famous orchid grower came to speak for SEPOS, and he got to talking. The next day Ed returned to the judging program. It takes about 6 years to become an orchid judge and Ed finally completed his studies in 2017 becoming a certified orchid judge! During those years Ed had the pleasure of travelling to Ecuador twice to see orchids in their native habitat. He even has wild *Cypripedium acaule* (The Pink Lady Slipper) growing on his property in Berks County, PA! What a surprise it was to find those!



President's Message

Dear BCOS Members,

The SEPOS International Orchid Show & Sale from April 5- 7, 2024 is fast approaching. Setup starts Wednesday April 3, 2024 late afternoon, and continues



Thursday all day. A boxed lunch is provided on Thursday. Frank and I will be there Wednesday and Thursday late afternoon only. Teardown is Sunday April 7, 2024 at 5:00 PM, and we'll be there at 4:00 PM. We need to know if anyone has plants to share for our display. If there's anything for judging, we can enter plant names ahead of time. Please let me know if you can join us on any of the setup days, and/or teardown.

Typically, people come and go during setup, meet with vendors and get anything that has been pre-ordered. What has been helpful in the past is when members bring their plants on one of the setup days. It's always a bit confusing, but fun at the same time. Somehow it all comes together as different members add their "eye" to the display. If you CAN'T bring your plants to setup, then we'll try to make arrangements to transport them for you. Please contact me. Whoever can come earlier on Thursday is welcome to do so.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on March 21, 2024 where we will answer any questions that you have about the SEPOS.

Sincerely,

Sandy

215-801-9406
skern0713@aol.com

SHOWTABLE AWARDS - Feb., 2024

Windowsill Growers

	Genus	Species	Clone	Grower
Cattleya				
1st	Slc.	Doris and Bryon		Elise Salisbury
Dendrobium				
1st	Den.	Microchip x Nida		Richard Kaplinski
Miniatures				
1st	Trisetella	andreettae		Carl Gustafson
Paphiopedilum				
1st	Phrag.	Chuck Acker	Coral Flame	Elise Salisbury
2nd	Paph.	Robert E Lee x laurenceanum		Richard Kaplinski
Phalaenopsis				
1st	Phal.	Charming Crystal Water		Mitch Paroly
1st	Phal.	Lioulin Hot Lip	A10459	Mitch Paroly
2nd	Phal.	unknown striped		Carl Gustafson
2nd	Phal.	No ID		Thora Williams
3rd	Phal.	Lioulin Golden Age	A09714	Mitch Paroly
HM	Phal.	No ID		Sue Schneck
Pleurothallid				
1st	Dracula	inequalis		Carl Gustafson



Slc. Doris and Bryon



Den. Microchip x Nida



Phrag. Chuck Acker 'Coral Flame'



Trisetella andreettae



Phal. Charming Crystal Water



Phal. Lioulin Hot Lip 'A10459'

SHOWTABLE AWARDS - Feb., 2024

Greenhouse Growers

	Genus	Species	Clone	Grower
Cattleya				
1st	Rcv.	glauca		Clara Huntzinger
2nd	Lc.	Santa Barbara Sunset		Clara Huntzinger
Dendrobium				
1st	Den.	Angel Baby		Clara Huntzinger
Paphiopedilum				
1st BG	Paph.	No ID		Bob Gore
2nd	Paph.	Invincible		Chuck Keiser
3rd	Paph.	Shipleigh Egisha x Sandra Mary Empire		Chuck Keiser
HM	Phrag.	schlimii		Chuck Keiser
Species				
1st BG	Coelogyne	wenzelii		Bob Gore



AOS Corner – Mar. 2024**by Ed Weber** (edwardweber0218@gmail.com)

With each passing month it seems that our judging center is seeing more and more magnificent orchids from an array of established as well as new exhibitors. It's a wonderful although slightly intimidating thing to walk into the auditorium at All Saints Church and see a table with 3-dozen plants on it and to know that you are going to get to explore each and every one of them... and to know that someone in the room is going to experience the joy of having their plant(s) receive an award. If you've never been to a judging session you really should try it at least once. I did, in 2005, and I've only missed about 5 sessions ever since! Just getting to see the process and hear the judges' comments is worth the trip. Plus, our center is easy to get to, has plenty of off-street parking, and a refrigerator to stash your lunch since our sessions usually span the lunch hour.

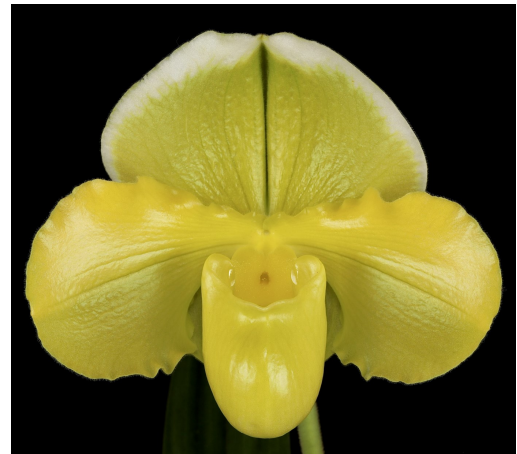
In February we had 28 plants to look at and thankfully a number of judges from the Northeast J/C made the trip down to help us out. We split into 2 teams so that we could allow each plant to receive the attention it deserved. Here are the results. All photos are by Bayard Saraduke.

To begin with, we saw this magnificent specimen of *Clowesia Jumbo Grace* (Grace Dunn x Rebecca Northen) presented by Mike Mocariski who has also been helping us with clerking duties recently. With 143 flowers on 14 inflorescences and 15 leafless pseudo-bulbs it was truly a thing to behold. And a pleasant fragrance wasn't bad either. Fragrance is not a quality that is judged by the AOS because smell is very variable from person to person.



Clowesia Jumbo Grace 'Alba' CCM/AOS 83 pts

Meanwhile, Team 2 was looking at this specimen of *Paphiopedilum Gold Mine* (Lippewunder x Katie's Golden Emerald) presented by Sergei and Elena Skoropad, two judges from the Northeast Center. Judges love uniformity of color and symmetry, and this flower has both.



Paphiopedilum Gold Mine 'Yellow Dragon' AM/AOS 83 pts

Bob Gore presented us with this *Coelogyne wenzelii* which garnered an 84 pt CCM. I know what you are thinking: *Coelogyne*? Yes. About a year ago the powers that be decided that the majority of what we knew as *Dendrochilum* now belong to the genus *Coelogyne*. Whatever you call it, this is a beautiful specimen and Bob definitely deserves the recognition of the cultural award, which goes to the grower and not the plant. Bob mostly specializes in vandaceous orchids, so this is a bit of a departure for him. Well done, Bob!



Coelogyne wenzelii 'RHG' CCM/AOS 84 pts

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AOS Corner — Continued from page 4

Another delightfully fragrant flower was this Vandachostylis TSS Taiwan Gandharva, a cross between Vanda Lou Sneary and Rhynchostylis gigantea. This was presented by Richard Ho and sparked some very interesting conversation amongst the judges of Team 1. At the end it received an 81-pt AM. The flowers have the best attributes of both parents, but the plant size favors the Lou Sneary.



Vandachostylis TSS Taiwan Gandharva 'Miki' AM/AOS 81 pts

Meet Cattleya Exotic Fireworks (Virginia Dickey x Mem. Trudy Marsh) presented by Loc Tran. Mini-catts are always fun to see especially when they are this colorful and well-shaped. The judges agreed and gave this plant an 84-pt AM.



Cattleya Exotic Fireworks 'Color Extravaganza' AM/AOS 84 pts

Also from Loc Tran is this second example of Cattleya Exotic Fireworks. This cross was made by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. It's fun when you get to see such different results

in the same cross side by side. Loc certainly was lucky to get two such excellent plants.



Cattleya Exotic Fireworks 'First Pageant' AM/AOS 83 pts

Last but not least, our center photographer Bayard Saraduke is also a world-class orchid grower with many outstanding awards to his credit. His latest is this Cattleya Culminant 'La Tuileries' (Ile de France x Guillard). This monster of a flower is 15-cm wide and 16.5-cm tall! That's 6" x 6.5" for those who don't speak metric. Just look at that lip!



Cattleya Culminant 'La Tuileries' AM/AOS 84 pts

As always thank you and congratulations to our exhibitors! We are looking forward to doing it again on Saturday, March 9th, 2024. It would be great to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Weber
edwardweber0218@gmail.com

Monthly Checklist for March and April

Reprinted from the AOS website <https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/march-april-checklist.aspx>

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

The Bucks County Orchid Society

OFFICERS

Sandy Kern <i>President</i>	Jean Norton <i>Vice President</i>
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Chuck Keiser <i>Treasurer</i>	Open <i>Secretary</i>
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Richard Kaplinski <i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Carl Gustafson <i>Awards Coordinator</i>
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Meetings are held 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month (**except July and August**) at the Churchville Nature Center, 501 Churchville Lane, Churchville, PA 18966

Other Societies and Vendors:

A list of other societies and vendors is now exclusively available on the BCOS website.

<http://041d544.netsolhost.com/WordPress/library/other-orchid-groups/> for other societies and <http://041d544.netsolhost.com/WordPress/library/local-vendors/> for vendors.

EDITOR'S NOTE – Contributions to the newsletter will be greatly appreciated. Please submit relevant news, photos, awards or information relating to the Society, its members, the care and culture of orchids to the Editor at kaplrs@comcast.net. I am also looking for your favorite tip on growing orchids, for the feature, ***Orchid Tip of the Month***. Please submit your copy by the first day of the month.



MONTHLY CHECKLIST *Continued from page 6*

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fair-ianum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

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