

# Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

## January 11 Speaker Lynn O'Shaughnessy

Lynn O'Shaughnessy has been a pleurothallid addict since 1997. She started out growing pleurothallids under lights in her basement and eventually moved to a greenhouse in January 2000. With more growing space available, she has ventured into hybridizing and growing seedlings from flasks and compots.



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## President's Message

Various folks have posted their New Year's Resolutions as they relate to orchids. More consistent watering & fertilizing, monitoring for pests, buying only healthy orchids, getting things to the newsletter editor on time, blah blah blah. Resolutions should be realistic!

- 1) I will obtain more orchids.
- 2) I will not worry if I already have the orchid I'm looking to purchase.
- 3) Never allow family to stand in the way of buying orchids.
- 4) Nothing is more important than your health ... except for your Paphiopedilum rothschildianum.
- 5) If I sell half my orchids for twice what I paid for them, then mine are FREE! Moohahaha.....
- 6) Good orchids are as rare as latinum. Treasure them.
- 7) Why buy one at retail when you can buy five at wholesale?
- 8) Don't let sleep or food interfere with your lust for orchids.
- 9) I will make unassuming people smell my Bulbophyllum fletcherianum. Hee hee hee.
- 10) There is always room for another dozen orchids.



## Lunch with Lynn at Applebee's

The AOS always takes our speakers to lunch or dinner on the day of their talks. Lynn O'Shaughnessy is our speaker this month. Please join the group having lunch with her. We are meeting at Applebee's restaurant at 2310 Green Road (north of Plymouth Rd) at 11:30. Please let Paige know if you are coming so there are enough seats reserved. (gehartman1@msn.com or 734-418-2758) Its always a fun time to sit, talk orchids and enjoy the company.

January Speaker, cont.

Lynn is the newsletter editor and webmaster for the Pleurothallid Alliance. She is also an accredited AOS judge and has over 280 AOS awards! She also enjoys photography, and does awards slides for the Great Lakes Judging Center and some of the nearby shows. Her photos have been published in *Orchids* and *Orchid Digest*

Lynn will be speaking on warmth tolerant pleurothallids. The program begins at 2:00 with set up at 1:30.

Please join in welcoming Lynn!

### Show Update

Our next orchid show is the Grand Valley Orchid Society show! This is a wonderful show that will be held at Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids on January 24-25. We will set up a display on the 23rd. The tear down will be on the 25th at 5:00 p.m. If you can help with either of these tasks, your help will be much appreciated! This is one of the very best shows in Michigan, in a fabulous location, so I hope that you can come and enjoy the show with us!

## Dottie's Trophy-Winning Arrangement

Harry was kind enough to scan a picture of Dottie's award winning flower arrangement from the Saginaw Valley Show. Congratulations Dottie!



## AAOS Calendar



**January 11, 2009:** Lynn O'Shaughnessy: Warmth Tolerant Pleurothallids

**February 15, 2009:** Alex Challis, Jewel Orchids

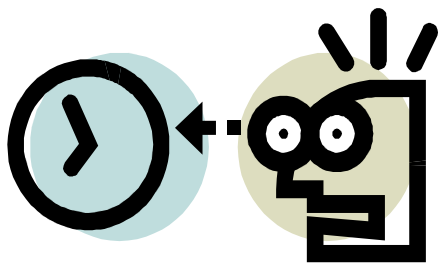
**March 8, 2009:** Orchid Travels with AAOS Members

**April 17-19, 2009:** AAOS FESTIVAL!

**May 17, 2009:** Tentative: Judging Seminar--Oncidiums with speaker Eduardo Sanchez, from Cuenca, Ecuador

**September 13, 2009:** Ernie Gemeinhart: Cochlopetalum Paphs (sequential bloomers)

A big **THANK YOU** to Vivian Lin, who hosted our fantastic Holiday Party in her gorgeous home! A good time was had by all attending, which seemed to be a record number!



### Newsletter Deadline

Please contribute to the AAOS Newsletter! The next deadline for contributions is February 7, 2009!

## Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2007-08 Officers

**President** - Alex Challis 734-971-6186, IcePenguin@aol.com

**Vice President** - Vivian Lin, 734-741-1984, VHL@umich.edu

**Treasurer** - Linda Battison 810-227-0120, lcbattison@comcast.net

**Secretary** - Robin Johnson 734-482-6416, robinjo@umich.edu

**Director** - Ann Bommarito 734-418-3134, AnnieBomm@comcast.net

**Director** - April Pedit, 734-528-1860 apedit@mac.com

**Past President** - Paige Hartman 734-846-7864 GEHartman1@msn.com

**Hospitality** - Vivian Lin, Susan Haddock 734-994-0756 shaddock@comcast.net, and Riki Marquis 248-486-1540 marquisdj@juno.com

**Reception Committee** - Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859, harwin@umich.edu

**Library** - Duane Duman, George Parks. duman2@aol.com

**Membership** - Randy Long, 810-599-0384, Boomerj2@aol.com

**Newsletter Editor** - Denise Nash, 248-349-5482, djnash@comcast.net

**Orchid Festival** - Ann Bommarito & Kevin Griffin

**Orchid Shows** - Alex Challis, Paige Hartman

**Programs** - Paige Hartman, Alex Challis

**Publicity** - Neal Foster

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter** - The AAOS meets monthly from September through May (excluding December) at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI. at 2:00 p.m., set up at 1:30. The AAOS Newsletter is published 8-9 times throughout the year, and is sent to all AAOS members. AAOS members and others are invited to submit articles or other information relating to orchids. The Ann Arbor Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) educational and scientific organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and with the Orchid Digest Corporation.

## Plant Table November 8, 2008

November's plant table was back to normal, with a full table of many wonderful plants brought in by 9 members. We hope this means that we'll have some great displays in the various upcoming orchid shows.

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Ascocenda Mem. Thianchai 'Butter Ball'           | Laura & Duane Duman<br>G-O |
| Rhynchosphrocattleya Mem. Irene Feil             |                            |
| Vanda Johanne Goutier 'Pomegranate'              |                            |
| Vanda Pakchong Blue                              |                            |
| [Vanda Jose Coronado x Ascocenda Truman Motes]   | Neal Foster<br>G-O         |
| Brassocattleya Binosa 'Wabash Valley' AM/AOS     |                            |
| Cattleya Marjorie Hausermann 'York' AM/RHS       |                            |
| Oncidium Sharry Baby                             |                            |
| Oncidium Sweet Sugar                             |                            |
| Peetersara (Otaara) Island Flare 'Fragrant'      |                            |
| Cymbidium Golden Elf                             | Susan Haddock<br>L-O       |
| <i>Dendrochilum filiforme</i>                    |                            |
| <i>Aerangis flabellifolia</i>                    | Paige Hartmann<br>G        |
| <i>Epidendrum schlechterianum</i>                |                            |
| <i>Lemurorchis sp. aff. madagascensis</i>        |                            |
| Sophrocattleya (Laeliocattleya) Tropical Pointer | Riki Marquis<br>W-O<br>L-O |
| Cattleya [Hawaiian Wedding Song x Hihimanu(?)]   |                            |
| Phragmipedium Don Wimber                         |                            |
| Thwaitesara Dianne Meyer1                        | Lee & Don Meyer<br>G       |
| Cycnoches Jean E. Monnier2                       |                            |
| <i>Maxillaria chacoensis</i>                     | Denise Nash<br>G           |
| <i>Maxillaria sp. aff. Picta</i>                 |                            |
| <i>Paphiopedilum charlesworthii</i>              |                            |
| Procyelia (Epidendrum) Green Hornet              | W-O John Olszewski<br>W    |
| Psychopsis (Oncidium) Mendenhall 'Hildos'        |                            |
| Paphiopedilum callosum                           |                            |
| Paphiopedilum [Duguesclin x Desert Sun]          |                            |
| Paphiopedilum [Hampshire Raven x Hsinying Maru]  |                            |

*Continued on page 5.*

November Plant Table, continued from page 4.

Dendrobium Maiden Charlotte L-O Dottie & Harry Winter  
Howeara Lava Burst L  
*Keferstenia tolimensis* L-O  
*Paphiopedilum primulinum album* W  
*Restrepia angustilabia* (=trichoglossa?) L  
*Restrepia antenniferum* L

<sup>1</sup>(=Potinara [(C. Chocolate Drop x SLC Lady in Red)x BLC Erin Kobayashi])  
<sup>2</sup>[*cooperi* 'Sunset Valley Orchids' HCC/AOS x *boothianum* 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS]

Conditions: G, greenhouse; L, Lights; W, Windowsill; O, outdoors in summer.  
All plants from a member are under the same conditions, unless shown for each plant.

### Orchid Potting Media

by Denise Nash

I like trying new orchid media, and several years ago when Coconut chunks came on the market I gave them a try. At first, I had some success with them with certain orchids. Buoyed by this success, I used it more often on different types of plants. I thought I would share what I have learned, so you don't make the same mistakes.

I had heard on the internet that Paphs like to be potted in coconut husks. So I bought some medium sized chunks, with are half inch cubes. I soaked the coconut cubes in water, to rinse off any salt that they might have accumulated. I soaked them and then dumped off the water, replacing it with clean water several times. Yes, it was a mess, but it was a necessity. I discovered via the internet, that although coconut husks do not have salts naturally, they come from Bangladesh and other coastal countries in Asia, where they are stored next to the sea on pallets. If the pallet gets soaked with sea water, the coconut husk cubes will be salty! And we want to avoid excess salts when potting orchids.

Once the coconut husks were soaked and ready, I mixed in some perlite or sponge roc, and usually some horticultural charcoal. I repotted some of my paphs, which "took off" and grew well in this new media. I was sold.

I then repotted my phrags in this mix, and some cattleyas, although I was careful about putting those cattleyas into clay pots when I used coconut

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## SVOS Show, November 29-30, 2008

The show season started off as usual with the Saginaw Valley show in Midland. This year, because many of the the usual suspects were not available on Sunday to bring back staging and plants, we had to limit the size and amount of staging of our display to a 6' by 3' table-top. It was thanks to April Pedit, who volunteered to help with takedown, that we were able to put up the display and get all of the plants and staging back. We had a good crew for set-up - Neal & Meredith Foster, April Pedit, Paige Hartman, Denise Nash, and Dottie & Harry Winter. We got started at 1, and were finished in record time, by about 4:30. In all, five members exhibited 28 plants.

Several of our members helped with the judging – Prez. Alex Challis, Rob Halgren, Marilyn Lee, and Doris Asher were regular AOS judges, Harry Winter filled in as a ribbon judge, and Don Garling was the chief judge. Neal Foster helped as a clerk, and Dottie Winter assisted Don at the judging table. Our display won second place out of the three society exhibits in its class. For the first time in memory, none of the plants got blue ribbons for first place, but more than half, 15 of the 28, received either second or third place ribbons. Ribbon winners were:

### Second

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Angraecum infundibulare</i>                       | Denise Nash |
| <i>Dendrobium glomeratum (crepidiferum)</i>          | Denise Nash |
| <i>Maxillaria schunkeana</i>                         | Denise Nash |
| Oncidium Sweet Sugar                                 | Neal Foster |
| Phalaenopsis Sogo Grape                              | Neal Foster |
| Wilsonara Moondust                                   | Neal Foster |
| Bishopara (Hawkinsara) Koolau Sunset 'Hawaii' AM/AOS | Vivian Lin  |

### Third

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Dendrobium lawesii</i>           | Denise Nash           |
| <i>Elleanthus oliganthus</i>        | Denise Nash           |
| <i>Eria coronaria</i>               | Denise Nash           |
| Cattleya hybrid                     | Neal Foster           |
| Doritaenopsis Ganlin Yellow Diamond | Paige Hartman         |
| <i>Chondrorhyncha aromatica</i>     | Dottie & Harry Winter |
| <i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>    | Dottie & Harry Winter |
| <i>Phalaenopsis equestris</i>       | Dottie & Harry Winter |

However, some blue ribbons and even a trophy did come back to Ann Arbor. After the set-up was complete and the wonderful buffer supper was had, Dottie Winter got busy with some cut orchids she brought, and other necessities for making arrangements, and made four cut flower arrangements entered in the “orchids in use” competition, judged by regular flower show judges. And, her arrangements won 3 firsts and a third, AND, one of those firsts was awarded the trophy for best arrangement!

The snow started in the early afternoon on Sunday, and by takedown time was really piling up. April, Dottie & Harry got the display down and every thing packed up in our two vehicles, and we were on our way, albeit slowly, by 4:45. We got back safely, three hours later, and all the plants were back to their owners by Monday. Many thanks to those who came to help, and to all those who contributed plants for the display. We hope to have even more of you participate, by contributing your blooming plants, and/or coming to help set up or take down, at our next show, the Grand Valley OS show at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids on the fourth week-end in January, always a great venue for an orchid show. For a picture, see page 7.



The picture at left is our table top display for the Saginaw Valley Show. The design was created and executed by Dottie Winter. Congratulations on a lovely display, Dottie!

Orchid Potting media, cont.

husks. Cattleyas like to dry out and I was afraid that the coconut mix would hold too much water for them. I didn't worry about the phrags, figuring that they like water, and they wouldn't dry out as quickly in coconut.

For awhile, I liked coconut. But then, after moving my plants from the house into the greenhouse and dealing with more consistent and higher humidity levels, I noticed decline. The coconut seemed to deteriorate faster than bark mixes. And the Phrags were not happy at all.

I discovered that the coconut (or any mix, for that matter) will deteriorate faster when the humidity is higher (so the media stays wet for longer periods of time) or when higher levels of fertilizer are used. Plus, coconut husks will retain more salts from fertilizer than a bark mix will.

Coconut can be used with great success, especially for indoor growers, but it has unique properties and you must learn them if you want to use it well. After my initial success with paphs, I found that they really dislike coconut husks once the media starts to deteriorate and retain more moisture. I discovered that for me, the mix completely deteriorated in the bottom of the pots in about 18 months.

This leads me into another truth: that everyone has different growing conditions, so everyone has different experiences using the same potting materials. You might think that you will be successful using what a successful grower is using, but this is not necessarily the case. I have found that with limited space and a wild watering system with high humidity, I have to do things differently than some other successful growers. Like many things, your growing conditions are individual, even unique, and as long as you understand them you can be successful.

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society, Inc**  
**Treasury Summary and Proposed Budget**  
**December 31, 2008**

| Category Description: | Actual<br><u>8/13/08-12/31/08</u> | Budget<br><u>8/13/08 - 8/12/09</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>         |                                   |                                    |
| Donations & Misc.     | 38.00                             | 0.00                               |
| Dues                  | 1,170.00                          | 1,500.00                           |
| Festival Income       | .00                               | 2,100.00                           |
| Ways & Means          | <u>--377.00</u>                   | <u>1,900.00</u>                    |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>   | <b>1,585.00</b>                   | <b>5,500.00</b>                    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>       |                                   |                                    |
| Administration        | 248.40                            | 600.00                             |
| Cost of Goods Sold    | .00                               | 500.00                             |
| Festival Expense      | 386.56                            | 1,500.00                           |
| Member services       | 325.80                            | 500.00                             |
| Programs              | 62.77                             | 1,800.00                           |
| Shows                 | <u>-----00</u>                    | <u>-600.00</u>                     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>1023.33</b>                    | <b>5,500.00</b>                    |
| <br><b>NET CHANGE</b> | <br><b>\$ 561.67</b>              | <br><b>.00</b>                     |

***Account Balances:***

|  | <u><i>Aug. 13, 2008</i></u> | <u><i>December 31, 2008</i></u> |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><i>TCF Checking</i></b>               | <b><i>\$7,893.02</i></b>    | <b><i>\$7,454.69</i></b>        |
| <b><i>TCF Certificate of Deposit</i></b> |                             | <b><i>1,000.00</i></b>          |
| <b><i>Cash</i></b>                       | <b><i>--79.00</i></b>       | <b><i>---79.00</i></b>          |
| <br><b>TOTAL:</b>                        | <br><b>\$7,972.02</b>       | <br><b>\$8,533.69</b>           |



## Ann Arbor Orchid Society Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone (Home):

Phone (Work):

E-mail:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Individual (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Household (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Household (\$20)    Senior rates apply for those 70 and over.

New Membership

Renewal

New Address

Beginner

Advanced Grower

Commercial Grower

What is your growing environment?

Greenhouse

Artificial lights

Windowsill

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive you newsletter via email only?    Yes    No

Member of the American Orchid Society?    Yes    No

Member of the Orchid Digest Corporation?    Yes    No

Please make checks payable to the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. You may bring this application to any meeting, or mail it to: AAOS Membership, P.O. Box 3006, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3006