



# National Capital Orchid Society Newsletter

Website: [www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us)

February 2015

Editor: Mary Rice, [mjriceis@aol.com](mailto:mjriceis@aol.com)

## Next Meeting

Monday, March 16, 2015

U.S. National Arboretum, Admin Bldg Auditorium  
24<sup>th</sup> & R Streets NE  
Washington, DC

Arboretum gates are open at 6:30.  
Show table set-up begins at **7:00 p.m.** and **Show Table judging** begins at **7:30**. Meeting: **8:00-10:00 p.m.** This **IS** a members' sales event.

Dennis Whigham from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), will speak about the Native American Orchid Program at SERC.

The ecology of plants has been Dennis Whigham's primary interest and his research has resulted in journeys through forests, fields and wetlands around the world. Explorations have led to studies of woodland herbs – including orchids, vines, wetland species, invasive species and studies of forests in the tropics, temperate and boreal zones. In recent years, studies of interactions between orchids and fungi have led in new and exciting directions. Dennis's current focus is on wetlands,



including the role of wetlands associated with juvenile salmon habitat in Alaska; the rarest terrestrial orchid in

eastern North America; and invasive species. His current passion is to establish the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC), an initiative of the Smithsonian and the United States Botanic Garden. NAOCC will be based on continentally focused public-private collaborations that will eventually result in the conservation of the genetic diversity of native orchids, initially in the U.S. and Canada.

Whigham obtained an undergraduate degree from Wabash College and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. He joined the Smithsonian in 1977. Whigham and his collaborators have published more than 225 articles in journals and books and he has co-edited 10 books, including one on terrestrial orchids and a 2009 volume on *Tidal Freshwater Wetlands*.

## Our Auction This Year: A Great Success!!

The auction this year was a great success, due in large measure to the hard work and dedication of everyone who volunteered. There were 99 registered bidders this year, and the gross sales were \$9150. Thanks to everyone who donated their time and their plants. The member donations are critical for the success of the Auction! Thanks also to everyone who attended and were generous in their bidding. We also need to give a hearty round of applause to Behnke's Nursery for opening their classroom to us.

Special thanks to Nancy Burns for her exceptional work in publicizing the auction, and to Joe Francis for his guidance on how to manage this event. The key ingredient that solidified many bids was the real time presentation of the orchid blooms. Joe and his team of Piret Lai-Neubacher, Gordon Slaymaker and Nancy Mountford were the unsung heroes of the day! The financial team kept up with the flow of incoming bidded plants and processed bid purchases making the event a smooth experience for all bidders. Finally, the three auctioneers, Ken Meier, Eric Butler, and Linus Chen, whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy. My thanks to the team of 26 volunteers who literally made this event happen!! See pictures on page 2

--Dan Gillespie, Chair for the 2015 Auction

### Upcoming Special Events

**January 24- April 26: 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Smithsonian-U.S. Botanic Garden Orchid Exhibition, Smithsonian Natural History Museum, Washington, DC [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu) (see p. 5)**

**January 24-March 29: Orchid Extravaganza, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org)**

**February 28-March 8: Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia, PA <http://phsonline.org>**

**March 6-8: Maryland Orchid Society Show, Timonium, Maryland (see p. 2 and 5)**

## MOS Away Show

The next “away” exhibit will be installed at Timonium Maryland with a **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** plant pickup for the MOS Show that has its setup on March 4<sup>th</sup> and removal on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Some plants offered for VOS may do double duty at the MOS exhibit. However, fresh blooming plant stock will be needed to carry us through to the March 8<sup>th</sup> removal. **I am in dire need of a team fill for the removal on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>!**

I rely on a shrinking pool of plant providers to meet these obligations; and I ask you to keep

these requirements in mind when you see your plants coming into bloom. Please chat this challenge up with your fellow members who might have plant offerings that we can use for these events that showcase our growers’ abilities. I appreciate all of your past support that has made our away shows so successful. These are one of several ways that we satisfy a part of our Society’s educational obligations that were laid out in our founding documents.

--Joe Francis

## Pictures from the Auction

*(Auction photos by Stephanie Fleming, cattleya picture from the web)*



A thoughtful group of bidders listen to the description of the plant being offered.



Ken Meier takes bids on a cattleya hybrid.



LC Culminant ‘La Tuilerie’ HCC/AOS, an oldie but goodie, started a bidding frenzy which delighted those watching.

## The Virginia Orchid Society Show

### The best laid plans ....

The execution of the VOS exhibit trip had a new wrinkle this time. The weather predictions of near zero surface temperatures for the Thursday morning plant loading forced a change in plan. Jerry Rice and Joe Francis departed for Richmond on Wednesday afternoon and placed the plant cargo in the exhibit greenhouse shortly before 5pm.

The following mid-morning Nancy Mountford arrived looking like Nanook of the North with her plant contributions amply protected with packing peanuts in a sealed carton. Work proceeded and just before mid-day Chick Little and Karen Fontneau brought a hoard of well grown cymbidiums and cattleya plants to add to our mix. Work proceeded and with many sets hands the task was done shortly before 3pm.

On Friday seven society exhibits were judged and the NCOS placed third. We had 22 flower ribbons scattered about on the plants from all contributors and a rosette ribbon for the most fragrant plant in show recognized as C. Prism Palette 'Christmas Candy' HCC/AOS. Our hosts were a new team on their maiden voyage, and the exhibit day was full of interesting moments as all the pieces began to fit together. Garland Hanson, a pillar of that Society's senior membership was thrust into the Registrar function at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, and he did a splendid job keeping the plant class registrations in order.

Mother Nature, not to be outdone dispensed almost eight inches of fresh snowfall on Saturday making the clearing of paths to the greenhouse and roadways a high priority task early Sunday morning to accommodate the 9pm return of the plant stocks from Richmond. This task was done in the convoy manned by Chryss Mavrides and Joe Francis. To all of our participants, warmest thanks for going those extra miles to make this a successful event.

--Joe Francis



C. Prism Palette 'Christmas Candy' (from the Web)



Two views of the National Capital Orchid Society Exhibit. It received third place out of 7 societies exhibiting at this show. *Photos by Ken Meier*

## Societies and AOS

**Pennsylvania** - Southeastern  
Pennsylvania Orchid Society  
[www.sepos.org](http://www.sepos.org)

**Pennsylvania** - Susquehanna Orchid  
Society  
[www.susquehanna-orchid.org](http://www.susquehanna-orchid.org)

**Baltimore** - Maryland Orchid Society  
[www.marylandorchids.org](http://www.marylandorchids.org)

**Frederick** - Catoctin Orchid Society  
[www.catoctinorchidsociety.org](http://www.catoctinorchidsociety.org)

**Montgomery County** -  
Rock Creek Orchid Club  
Chrissy Mavrides (240-432-9248)  
JoBeth Roberson (240-385-6608)

**Alexandria** - Hollin Hills Orchid Society  
[www.hollinhillsorchidsociety.org](http://www.hollinhillsorchidsociety.org)

**Winchester** - Lord Fairfax Orchid  
Society – Zita Winzer  
[zitawinzer@me.com](mailto:zitawinzer@me.com)

**Richmond** - Virginia Orchid Society  
[www.vaorchidsociety.org](http://www.vaorchidsociety.org)

**Richmond** - Richmond Orchid Alliance  
[www.richmondorchidalliance.org](http://www.richmondorchidalliance.org)

**Delmarva** - Orchid Hobbyists of  
Delmarva: DE- Mary Sherwood (302-  
628-3416); MD- Lois (410-228-3804);  
VA- Bill (757-665-4108)  
[www.easternshoreorchidlovers.org](http://www.easternshoreorchidlovers.org)

**National** - American Orchid Society  
[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

**Jason Brodsky**  
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301-796-8234(W)  
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**Steven Cannon & Joanna Biddle**  
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## NCOS Events 2015 (updated 1 March) (dates firm unless otherwise noted)

### Future CY 2015 Member Meetings

Members' meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of each month (except for June, July, August, October and December) at USNA. Gate opens at 6:30.

April 20: Barry Woolf, NCOS member, will speak about the culture of Asian/minature Cymbidiums  
May 18: Ken Cameron will present "Vanilla"  
June 28: Picnic and monthly meeting (auction; no speaker)  
September 21: Guillermo Salizar will present "Epidendrum Species and Culture"  
October 10-12: NCOS Annual Show  
November 16: Jay Tullos, NCOS member, will speak on the 2015 Native Orchid Conference meeting and field trips held June 1-3, 2015 at Gorham, NH  
December 14: Holiday Party

### CY 2015 Board Meetings

Board meetings will be held on January 5, March 2, May 4, September 14, and November 2 at USNA from 6:30 to 9:30.

### CY 2015 NCOS Special Events

February 8, **Sunday**: Annual Orchid Auction. Behnke's, Beltsville, MD.  
**Note change in day of week**  
February 14, Saturday: Paph Forum. All day event at the USNA.  
February 20-22: VOS Show. Strange's, Richmond, VA.  
March 6-8: MOS Show. Timonium, MD.  
March 28-29: LFOS Show. Winchester, VA.  
April 10-12: CPOS Show. State College, PA.  
May TBD: Orchid Walk. Thompson Preserve, VA.  
June 6, Saturday: Behnke Garden Party.  
June 28, Sunday: Annual Picnic and monthly Meeting. North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, MD.  
October 10-12: Annual Fall Show and Sale, Columbus Day Weekend  
December 14: Holiday Party/Awards Ceremony/ Business Meeting.

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MARYLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

# ORCHID SHOW & SALE

MARCH 6-8

FRI. 10-6, SAT. 10-9, SUN. 10-6  
Thousands of blooming orchids on display and for sale.

In conjunction with the Maryland Home and Garden Show, Timonium, MD  
NEW LOCATION in the Main Building of the MH&G Show

For directions and details visit:  
[www.mdorchids.org](http://www.mdorchids.org)



## Smithsonian Institution – U.S. Botanic Garden Annual Orchid Exhibition



Orchids are in full bloom for our 20th annual orchid exhibition, "[Orchids: Interlocking Science and Beauty](#)," showing at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History until April 26, 2015. On any given day, more than 300 orchids from the Smithsonian Gardens and the United States Botanic Garden are on display. Rotation of orchids on display will occur often to exhibit many of the rare species collected and researched by the Smithsonian and the Botanic Garden.

## Note to NCOS members:

I have recently sold my house and have a few orchid-related items to give away. Some of the plastic trays we all like for loading the plants into, many pots of various sizes, and several pieces of sun-shade cloth. It would be nice if someone who might live close to me would be interested in picking up these items, either to keep or to share with other NCOS members at a meeting. I live in Howard County MD, Scaggsville, close to Columbia, I-95 and route 29. Please let me know if anyone might be interested.

Contact: Sandy Lynch 240-593-6616 or 301-725-0918

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## AOS Corner - From the desk of Laura Newton, Membership and Affiliated Societies Chair

If you are already an AOS member, sign up for the webinars today on our website [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). If you are not yet a member, now is the time to become one and start enjoying all the many benefits of membership!

The **webinar lineup** for the next four months:

March- Ron McHatton, *Those Pesky Diseases*

April- Greg Allikas, *Cattleya lueddemanniana*

May- John Salventi, *The How and Why of Fertilizer*

June- Peter Lin, *Novelty Phalaenopsis Breeding*

In the **February 2015** issue of **Orchids**, there are articles on many diverse genera:

### ❖ Cattleyas:

- o **C. lueddemanniana**, by Michael Sinn
- o **C. maxima**, by Clare and Johan Hermans
- o **C. Betty Ford**, by Arthur and A.A. Chadwick

- ❖ **Rhynchostylis** by Peggy Alrich and Wes Higgins, describes this small genus and their powerfully scented flowers.
- ❖ **Orchids of Mexico**, by T.J Hartung is a fascinating look at Epidendrums, Oncidiums, Trichocentrums, Rhynchosteles, Prosthecheas, Lycastes, Isochilus and Mormodes. It is jam-packed with great cultural information. I've never seen anything like Prosthecea guttata, with the unusual spines on the backs of the flowers!
- ❖ **Bletilla**, by Hideka Kobayashi and Tony Avent, introduces us to this genus and the breeding trends of these interestingly keeled lips.
- ❖ **Great Ideas**, by Ed Wright and Bill Tippit, shows us how to increase our growing space by using vinyl guttering.

The **AOS Spring Members Meeting** will be held in Portland, Oregon and hosted by the Portland and Cherry City Orchid Societies, April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Lloyd Center Doubletree. Check out all the details at the website <http://www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calendar/2015AOS.php>

**Show Season** is coming into full swing; check out all the great shows coming up, under the events and news tab on the website, or by this link <http://aos.org/Default.aspx?id=512> Shows are a great place to see new and interesting Orchids and also a great place to get information from the vendors about plants that you already have in your collection.

Let's grow together, Laura Newton