



National Capital Orchid Society Newsletter

Website: www.ncos.us

Summer 2015

Editor: Mary Rice, mjriceis@aol.com

Next Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2015

U.S. National Arboretum, Admin Bldg Auditorium
24th & 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 **NOT** a members' sales event.



Guillermo Salazar, our speaker this month, will talk about "Epidendrum Species and Culture". He was born in Miami and grew up in El Salvador in Central America. He received his degree in Landscape Design & Management, and later received a Master's in Science in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida.

As a 9 year old living in El Salvador, Guillermo found orchids and became the youngest member of the San Salvador Orchid Society, which is the largest orchid society in the country's capital. During his college years back in Florida, he became a National and International orchid speaker and the youngest AOS student judge of the Miami region. He is the owner of a private Landscape Designer & Horticulture consulting firm, Adjunct Faculty for the Landscape Technology Department for Miami Dade College & Landscape Plan Reviewer for the Planning & Zoning Department for the City of Miami. His work entails ensuring that landscape projects are designed successfully with the use of adequate plants and trees to create functional and environmentally conscious environments.

Guillermo has published several articles on home gardening, landscape design and orchids for South Florida and International magazines. His credentials include: Certified Arborist, Certified Landscape Inspector and Certified Horticulturist. His specialty in orchids as collector is Angraecoids, Bulbophyllums, and Miniature Tropical Orchids. In his spare time, Guillermo is a breeder of pedigree Persian and Himalayan cats, enjoys gardening & exploring tropical regions of the world.

**NCOS 'PRESENTS
ORCHIDS!': an exhibition and
sale October 9 to 12, 2015!**

***THOUSANDS of orchids for Sale and
on Exhibit --- just what we ALL need to
get ready for the cold, indoor months
ahead!***

Only 30 days away.....NCOS' 68th Fall Orchid Exhibit Show and Plant Sale. Preparations currently are in their final stages, and we are ready to welcome each of you to this yearly extravaganza!

After months of preparatory work by NCOS volunteers, and exhibitors carefully arranging their exhibits during the days before; the curtain will rise on Friday, October 9 at nine o'clock when the AOS judging teams begin evaluating the exhibits. These will be open for public viewing, 9 am until 5:30 pm each day, and will close at 3 pm on Monday.

On Friday at 12:30 pm, NCOS will serve a catered complimentary lunch for the Judges and our members. This meal service will remain open until 2 pm and replaces our traditional evening Preview Party. Please plan on attending and spending some quality time visiting with NCOS members and Judges. The Orchid Exhibits will be opened for a leisurely daylight viewing experience beginning shortly after 2 pm.

(Show, continued on page 2)

Upcoming Special Events

**September 11-13: Silva Summer Fest,
Neptune, NJ**

**October 10-12 (Columbus Day Weekend):
Annual Show and Sale, Behnke
Nurseries, Beltsville, MD**

(Show, continued from page 1)

From 3 pm until 5:30 pm on Friday, the Sales area opens to NCOS members for ADVANCE sales. Public sales on Saturday and Sunday will be from 9 am to 5:30 pm, and on Monday until 3 pm when the Exhibits and Sales close. A series of educational lectures and guided tours of the exhibits are planned for all three days.

Thanks to NCOS members who have already volunteered to help make this Show the BEST ever! To those who yet want to help, please contact Nancy Burns at nburnsva@gmail.com.

--Joe Francis

Comment from the Editor:

For the members to fully understand and appreciate how the Annual Fall Show and Sale is put together, the process is fully described on page 4.

We hope you will read this, understanding the need for many volunteers to carry out the various steps in creating the Show. Perhaps some will see a place in the process where they feel they can assist the Show Chair.

Correction to Membership Directory (new email address):

Mary and John Kwolek,
marykwolek@gmail.com



68th Annual **“Present Orchids!”**

Orchid Show and Plant Sale
OCTOBER 10-12, 2015

- ✻ Orchid Show
- ✻ Workshops
- ✻ Plant Vendors

Behnke Nurseries
11300 Baltimore Ave
Beltsville, MD

The National Capital Orchid Society
DETAILS AT: www.ncos.us

FREE ADMISSION!

Culture hint for cattleya growers:

Removing the dry sheaths from your mature Cattleya pseudobulbs will increase the area for photosynthesis and make them more likely to bloom. Not enough light being one of the main reasons why Cattleyas don't bloom for you. And, of course, removing the dry sheaths also eliminates a favorite sheltered hiding place for scale insects.

-- Nancy Mountford (from the Odom's Cattleya symposium)

Societies and AOS

Pennsylvania - Southeastern
Pennsylvania Orchid Society
www.sepos.org

Pennsylvania - Susquehanna Orchid
Society
www.susquehanna-orchid.org

Baltimore - Maryland Orchid Society
www.marylandorchids.org

Frederick - Catoctin Orchid Society
www.catoctinorchidsociety.org

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

Alexandria - Hollin Hills Orchid Society
www.hollinhillsorchidsociety.org

Winchester - Lord Fairfax Orchid
Society – Zita Winzer
zitawinzer@me.com

Richmond - Virginia Orchid Society
www.vaorchidsociety.org

Richmond - Richmond Orchid Alliance
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

National - American Orchid Society
www.aos.org

FOR SALE FOR ORCHID GROWERS

Pictured to the right, a custom made
shelf system, good work, trim in front.

Top shelf lifts off for easy moving.
Bottom shelf lights turned off. Lights
work. 60" tall, 60" long and 25" wide.
Three sets of lights included as well as
trays (you will have to clean them).
Asking \$200.00. Contact Neville Ward
at beardolls@aol.com.

NCOS Events 2015 (updated 1 Sept.) (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.

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 16: 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, Columbus Day Weekend, at Behnke Nurseries, Beltsville, MD

December 14: Holiday Party/Awards Ceremony/ Business Meeting.



The Anatomy of our Fall Show Preparations

(How We Got Here – Start to Finish)

When you read this we will be about 30 days away from welcoming our first guests to the 68th Fall Show and Plant Sales. This event will contain many surprises and changed procedures. Of all of our Society's public outreach efforts, it takes by far the greatest amount of time in planning, installation and execution. As most of us enter the cycle as volunteers or clients late in the process, during the execution phase, I thought it best to give you a behind the scenes look at the planning and installation effort.

In mid-winter the committee chair recruits members to manage the registration, judging, and awards tasks. Members are found for installation, education, food management, public relations and volunteer recruiting efforts. Financial management gets folded into the mix with the Board's review and approval of proposed budget and planning requirements for the four days of sales activity.

A March meeting with the key committee members is convened to review the past show history and articulate some conceptual changes. These proposals are taken to the host Nursery for a sounding session to explore their possibilities. At this year's meeting, the Nursery offered a complete revision of both exhibit and sales space locations within their complex. Also, this year we chose to look critically at the entire awards process, starting with a clean slate and no untouchable 'Sacred Cows.' In March the team of Gary Smith and Sarah Hurdel began to look at our registration process and examined our past four years of actual registration records. Their analysis led to the addition of two new plant classes and the consolidation of other genera into their host grouping. They also reviewed and clarified the definitions of the entries in each class. Their work and the review process for content accuracy by the remaining members of that subcommittee culminated in the final product, which was published on August 25th.

The ribbon judging classes of Connoisseur and Commercial were retained with an effort to simplify this distribution. A new discretionary rosette ribbon was added to call attention to a plant that was exemplary in its cultivation but not recognized in the open competition. A major change will be the substitution of cash for glass in many of the awards. The AOS show trophy, and the OCA trophy for the best Connoisseur exhibit are retained.

In May, a parallel effort was underway to retool the show rules details based on suggestions, observations and revised additions tailored to the show venue. Vendors were screened and they along with the host of local societies were issued invitations to participate. That subcommittee's effort was completed in late July.

The sales management, accomplished thru vendor specific bar code stickers, was begun in July and the end product delivered to the vendors in September. Member volunteer recruiting began in earnest in August and continues right up to the Show opening date.

Public relations moved to the front burner in July. This is a multifaceted challenge with mailing lists, press releases, and broadcast media, and a lot of attention to detail with all the grunt work done before September. We held a mid-summer meeting with the Nursery planning staff and reviewed the entire process beginning with the arrival of our logistics truck on Monday of show week until we depart the following Monday after the show has closed. The resulting clarifications led to added committee work and the final layout choices for both exhibit and sales areas. Next the props inventory was matched to the revised layout. New requirements for show props and provisions were located and purchased as needed for the installation.

It is a fair observation to note that this event takes a lot of effort. Dividing the major tasks into smaller segments makes it very manageable and avoids volunteer burnout because of the collective effort. The volunteer member contributors who made this planning effort possible are:

Mike Bongiovanni
Nancy Burns
Janet Cherchuck
Linus Chen
Sarah Hurdel
Ron Oldfield

Jerry Rice
Gene Schurg
Ken Shapiro
Gordon Slaymaker
Gary Smith
Robyn Voytilla

We owe this group a collective debt of gratitude for their having laid the groundwork necessary for a successful Show.

-Joe Francis, Chair