



MHOS Newsletter

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society **January 2023**

mhorchidsociety.com



Please like us [Mid-Hudson Orchid Society](https://www.facebook.com/Mid-Hudson-Orchid-Society)

Presidents' Message

Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road (corner of Balmville Road and Beech Street), in Newburgh, NY 12550.

MHOS 2021 Officers

Brenda L. Decker, President
President@MHOrchidSociety.com

Andrew Sinno,
Vice President
VicePresident@MHOrchidSociety.com

Debbie Wilson, Secretary
[Secretary @MHOrchidSociety.com](mailto:Secretary@MHOrchidSociety.com)

Paul Klymko, Treasurer
Treasurer@MHOrchidSociety.com

Ruth Natras,
Program Chair
AOS Representative
AOSRep@MHOrchidSociety.com

Susan Hall,
Membership Chair
Members@MHOrchidSociety.com

Hi Gang,

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays. Nice to see all the wonderful Orchids brightening your homes during all this drab weather. Thank you for sharing them with the rest of the society to enjoy.

Our next meeting will be February 12. The speaker will be Bill Stender and his talk will be "Summer vacation for Orchids," which will be about how to put your orchids out for the summer. He will touch on various styles of structures, shade and cultural needs for orchids, when they are out for the summer. Nice to plan and prepare for warmer weather during the cold months.

Our Spring Show and Sale will be April 15 and will be held at the Wallkill View Farm Stand in New Paltz, NY.

Brenda

Hello Everyone!

Welcome back to another exciting year at the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society!

2023 should be a good year as we have settled into our new location at the Wallkill Valley Farm Market for our Orchid Show and Sales. This has been a huge success and we plan on continuing this trend into the new year.

If you would like to continue to support the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society and enjoy the benefits of membership, please think about renewing soon. MHOS dues give members the following benefits:

- 1.) Access to the MHOS newsletter
 - 2.) Advance entrance to the MHOS Sales Events. (so you can get the pick of the crop before the crowds arrive)
 - 3.) Networking with like-minded orchid growers
 - 4.) Learning about how to care for orchids from other members (the tips of the trade so to speak)
 - 5.) Listen to great speakers from all over the country on orchids
- AND MUCH MORE!!!

We have some exciting events scheduled for 2023 with outstanding speakers and, as always, our main attraction, the Orchid Show and Sales events. More to follow about the 2023 scheduled events.

Dues are \$25.00 for Single membership and \$35.00 for Family/Dual membership. If you chose to renew your membership, dues can be sent to:

Membership MHOS
6 Old Temple Hill Road Unit 91
Vails Gate, N.Y. 12584-7506

Or you can bring your dues with you to the next meeting! The deadline for submitting dues for 2023 is March 15, 2023. If you have not paid by then you will miss out on the newsletter and other benefits offered to members only. Please consider renewing!

We hope to see you soon!

Thanks,

Susan Hall
Membership Chair



MHOS Newsletter

Look My Orchid Bloomed!



Paph. Luther Pass



Dend. Spectabile
Shorty



RLC Chongmil



Dend. Paul Parquette

-----Pat Kent-----



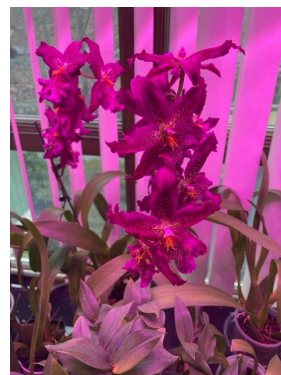
Vuylstekeara
Melissa Brianne



Amazing Thailand



C. Lucie
hausermann



Aliceara Marfitch
Howard's Dream

-----Pat Kent-----



Burrageara Francinea

---Pat Kent---



Phal NOID



Howeara
Lava Burst



Vuykstekeara

— ————Debbie Wilson—————



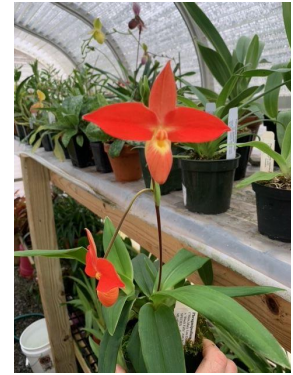
Phrag. NOID



oncidium
Cheirophorum



Paph NOID



Phrag besseae

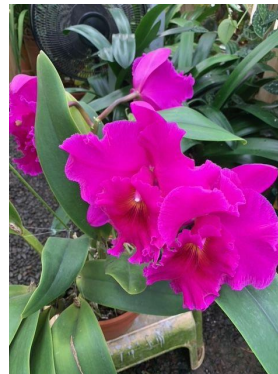
—————Andrew Sinno—————



Paph vexillarium



Fredclarkea
'After Dark'



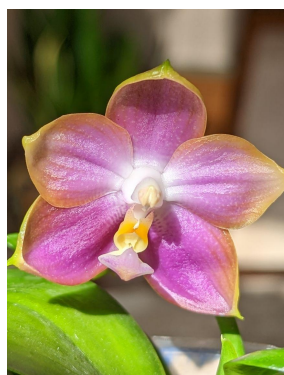
BLC Empress sun



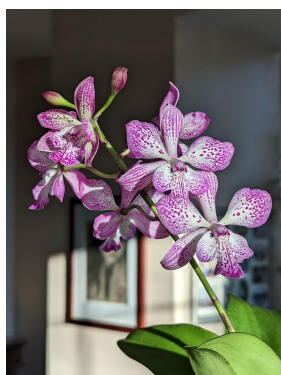
Ludisia discolor
Jewel Orchid

—————Andrew Sinno—————

—Brenda L. Decker—



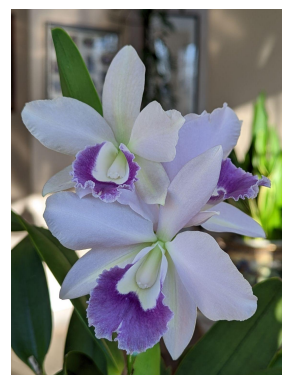
P. Mituo Reflex
Dragon ' Blue -2 '



Epicatarthron
Hilo Adventure



Phal Speciosa



c. Blue Angel Glove

-----Cindy Wang-----



Dendrobium
peguanum



Bulbophyllum
Doris Dukes



Oncidium
Sharry Baby



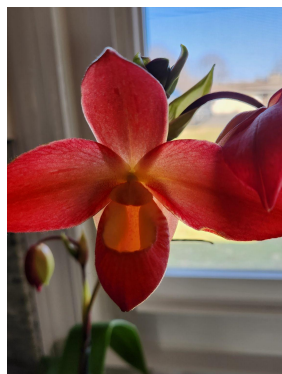
C mossiae Willowbrook
(species)

-----Cindy Wang-----

---Linda Francis---



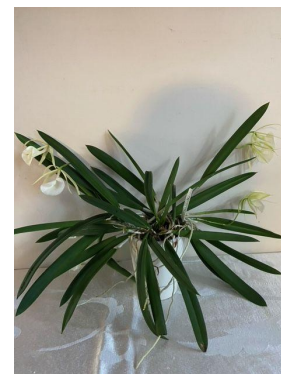
Phrag QF
Kamakakilo Tyler
X dalessandrol
'Eku'lu'



Phrag Don
Wimber



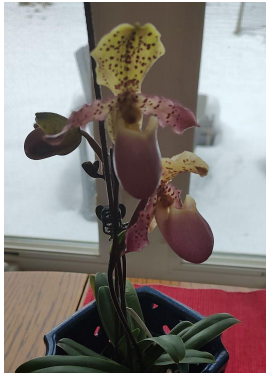
Paph Charlene



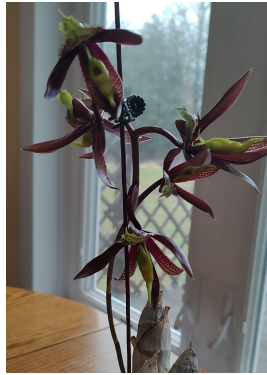
brassovalia nodosa

-----Dennis Sandberg-----

---Susan Hall---



Paph. Tropical Magic



Catasetum
Saccatum



BAC Cotton Candy

-----Denise Giardullo-----



Phal celebensis



Stanhopea NOID

-----Jessica Sweeney-----



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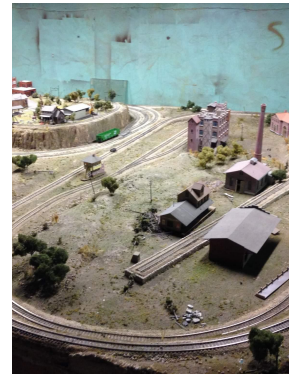
Speaker's Corner



Bill Stender has been growing orchids for about 17 years. When Bill and his wife Lynne took their 25th wedding anniversary vacation to Hawaii, they bought their first two orchids. One died almost immediately, but the other, a Nobile type *Dendrobium*, refused to die. Bill started researching the culture of orchids and how to get this orchid to bloom again and he was hooked. Now years later their orchid collection numbers about 800 plants and pretty much covers the entire spectrum of orchid growing. They have a 500 sq foot greenhouse that presently houses their collection. When not growing orchids, Bill is the owner of 10-31 Inc. which specializes in museum and gallery display and design services. Bill can often be found traveling the world for his clients. So what happened to that Nobile type *Dendrobium*? Well it took 5 years, but he was finally able to get it to bloom just in time for their 30th anniversary.

Brenda solicited a “blog” after seeing something I had done... well, there’s a back story as well, so, going back in time....

I have two sons, and what does a parent do for two boys (then 9 and 7) to grab their interest? Of course, you didn’t have to think long and hard about that one. As a parent, you spend two years putting together an immense HO scale diorama in your basement, after work and on weekends. That layout eventually consumed 120 square feet of basement on three levels and consisted of (hold your breath), a town park, with band shell, benches with townsfolk and shops adjacent to a lawned and treed park. Of course, there is the obligatory town hall (with Civil War cannon), bank and fire station. So much to fit in so little space, the town abutted a lumber yard, small farm (with late season pumpkins, corn stalks and kale tempting a horse). All this could be accessed by the local trolley. And then, there’s the commercially zoned factory with an abutting rail spur and a dried up lake bed with 55 gallon drums leaking pollutants and discarded tires. Of course, the Town Centre lit up for effect, whether by light posts or the adjacent stores. All this was circumscribed by two levels of track for the obligatory freight and passenger trains drawn by steam or diesel engines and the occasional crossing.



The kids were of age to be fascinated and gentle with the hardware and as kids are wont to do, they grew older and lost interest. Years later, their children, no more than four years old at the time, were equally fascinated but not mindful of how fragile much of this was. So, it fell into disrepair. Ten years ago, we moved, and invited a train club to take it all. They did and that chapter closed.

Of course, by that time, orchid mania had gripped me. I killed one after another, tweaking things as I learned how to culture them. I was utterly indiscriminate in trying to grow orchids from all over the world, requiring different levels of care and environments in a four season solarium we stuck on the back of our new home (my wife absolutely and resolutely refused to let me do a straight out greenhouse). So, over the course of time I learned to grow cattleyas and oncidiums and dendrobiums and miltoniopsis and odontoglossoms and, well, on and on. Usually on cork, or in cedar baskets hung from curtain rods fitted between ceiling supports, plus a slew of other orchids in pots. These were, of course, in addition to my 50 or so clivia, plain, variegated lights of buddha or striped, wide leafed darumas or long and narrow leafed varieties that I grew long before I was drawn to orchid culture (some of which have been with us, started from a 5 pack of Park Catalogue Clivia seeds more than 50 years ago that cost well over a dollar and a half).

So, here we are. Why did I force read you through all this. Well, I started to gravitate from my solarium orchids to miniatures, setting up a rather crudely put together collection, all

cork mounted or grown in lava, in a 3' x 3' x 18 inch terrarium (designed for reptiles) which I picked up for \$200. Not pretty though. A display at best for the occasionally blooming bulbophyllum, dendrobium, masdevallia, restrepia, epidendrum and the like. And then the idea took hold. No, I wasn't going to build an operating "N" or "Z" scale train diorama in the terrarium or populate it with anoles and frogs and spring tails and crickets. This would be something out of the ordinary and damn (repeated many times during the process), I was gonna build me something of a marvel.

Thank you Youtube. My god, there are so many ideas out there, many of which I gleaned from. But where to start? It has to be an outsized terrarium, vastly bigger than what I had done. And there it was, Facebook Marketplace, a 6' tall hexagonal jewelry case the asking price slashed from \$ 600.00 to \$ 300.00, 75 miles away, begging to be repurposed. This was a quality case as the label it carried showed that it had been manufactured by a company on the Bowery in NYC. My unwilling wife was forced to take the ride with me (she has a Subaru SUV, that proved to be just, and I mean, just deep enough, (one inch to spare) with the back seats collapsed and us moving our seats forward enough so that our chins were on the dashboard). We managed to get it home and moved into the garage where it sat for the next three months as the ideas of what and how to redo this perked.

Of course, this would have to have a lava like pocked wall Experiments with highly volatile spray on paints on foam board worked, but it just wasn't consistent and I had no control over the effect. Tubes of silicone were used to seal the seams of this case, the seams held together with metal strips designed to hold intersecting pieces of glass at just the right angle. So, once prepped, it was laid on its back, only to have the top and base fall off. Not then realized, but that would portend a later issue that almost brought this to a screeching halt.

As I would be foaming the backs and sides, I first sprayed the glass with paint (again, the stuff that your wife complains about stinking up the house) so that the foam, when poured, would not be visible from the back. Ultimately settling on using 2 part polyurethane foam, mixed in equal parts, stirred, not shaken, for 45 seconds and poured generously over the glass, I used two gallons (not cheap at all) to create the background. Once it set, glossy and nothing at all like what I wanted, I took to it with a knife to carve out parts and then a brass brush mounted on a drill bit, used to scribe something close to what I wanted. And that lava like effect? There it was... the cellular structure of the foam when it expanded, once carved and brushed, left the open cell lava like wall I had hoped for. Of course, that was just the basics. I needed to have cork flats sunk into and cork rounds plunged into the foam as it expanded to be held in place to eventually hold orchids and moss. Nope, I said, it still needed something more and that something more were lava rocks embedded in the foam. What, no way could I embed a piece of lava in the foamed wall, risking an inevitable crash reducing my project to shards. So that began the search for how to create the perfect rock. Mind you, I had created molds for tunnels and structures for the HO trains back in the day and so, I would embark on the search for a perfect lava rock to create a mold to then create rock after rock after rock after... well, you get the idea. Casting the mold was again an interesting process. Silicone mixed with paint thinner mixed with corn starch (I do a lot of Chinese cooking and corn starch often serves as my base for gravies or coatings). I know you're all shaking your heads in disbelief about the cornstarch additive, but it worked, and soon I had a flexible mold which I peeled from my model rock. Using the mold, I mixed an ounce each of polyurethane foam, stirred and poured and cured, a process repeated at least 10 times. Those rocks too, in varying postures, were also embedded in the expanding foam.

Of course, you can't have a terrarium without the essential misted cloud forest effect.

Not one to want to spray miniature orchids twice daily to sustain them. Soooooooo, a pump is installed in the terrarium, to itself be embedded in foam, wired through a hold in the bottom of the case, to its electric supply. And to get the water to the plants, two opposing water lines with misting nozzles for a total of 6, along opposing seams, staggered facing each other were foamed in to eventually provide the nurturing spray. And of course, since we all know that the intensity of the light reaching a plant is inversely proportional to the distance from the source, I could not simply install an LED light on top without other light sources inside the tank to add light intensity. So, two more LED lights, small and not waterproof (though the seams were sealed with silicone to test them) were also inserted into the foam as it expanded. The lights were also wired through holes in the base of the orchidarium and to their power source. Soooooo, there it was, lying on its back, ready to be raised and refitted in its base and then...

I almost wept. How could I not have foreseen this. The expanding foam pushed against the glass along the seams, distorting what would have otherwise been a perfect seating on the base. A day of curse words and several weeks of 'I've had it' passed before I thought of a way to restore this case to its original form. Knife in hand, I cut through the foam along each five foot seam, approximating where it might be. Five seam cuts later to relieve the outward pressure and quite a bit of coaxing to restore the proper angles, it fit the base again and with that, the base was foamed with a pocket for a pond to hold the water that would be stored and circulated and recirculated inside. Great, done with the basics. Let's test this. Oh geez, no. While cutting along one seam. I severed the water line. Well, that was repairable but it took some time to find just where the leak was and some effort to splice in new tubing to carry the water.

Now the door. I had to remove it to work on the inside and the moment of truth arrived. Would it seat neatly in place or would I have another bout of angina. Well, the door which was originally mounted with pins (protruding from metal pieces affixed to the top and bottom corner edge of the door glass) would not re-seat in the holes which originally held the pins in place. Time for more ingenuity. This was easy, sort of.. God bless Amazon. After an exhaustive search, I found hinges which I could mount on the door and on the edge of the glass wall of the orchidarium and it worked, well enough.

Finally, ready for the paint. Thank you Lowes. Perfect timing. They were selling half-pint latex paint samples, 3 for 12 dollars. I went through an assortments of browns (mahogany and leather), greens (hunter and forest) and an umber for the lava boulders embedded in the walls, which, I should add, perfectly matched their parent's color. I'm not an artist, by any means, but I did learn that if I did a base coat in green to be followed up with a coat of brown, that it would create a pretty realistic moss on dirt like look on the walls and the base of the orchidarium. So there it was, testing the spray, programming it and the lighting and it seemed to work, well, somewhat.

Of course, by this time I was impatient to test this as a functioning orchidarium. The persistent leak was of little concern (to me) but stressed my wife. I think I placated her. I assured her that the rubber matt with the embedded carpeting that this would sit on would wick the leak and protect the floor. So far, the wool over her eyes trick seems to be working.

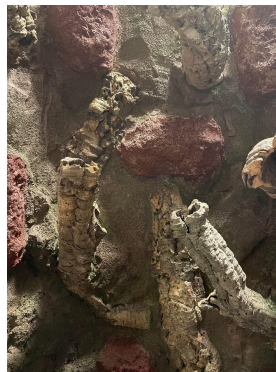
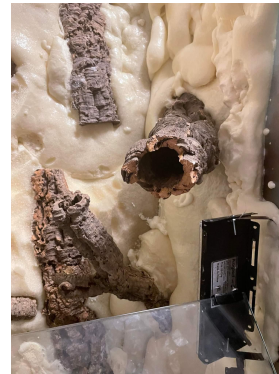
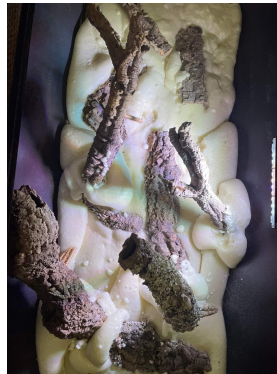
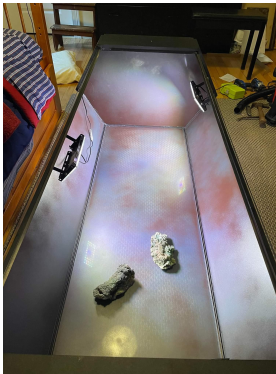
Of course, the issue arises... how do you mount your miniature orchids to the foam walls and on the cork flats and rounds. Never heard of it before but I was sure I would find pins to use for that. There they were. Greening pins. Used by florists to mount displays to foam bases. So, with that, all of my miniatures that had been tied to and grown on cork mounts with sphagnum were soaked for hours and then freed from the bonds of their mounts. Stripped of their moss, now bare rooted, they would be moved to the orchidarium where they would, in large

part, be pinned to the walls or placed on the cork branches or cork flats with their roots exposed to a twice daily misting.

This is still a project being tweaked. I felt a pang of guilt about the leak and have since sprayed the inside of the “pond” with a leak proof sealer (I hope). I spent Friday trekking to New Brunswick for the orchid show at Rutgers. Came away with some additions to the terrarium but at this point, I think I’ll maintain it as is with these new additions. Not a one trick pony, I did spring for three air plants to sit among the 60 or so miniatures I have in the orchidarium which range from several varieties of aerangis, restripeas, lots of bulbophylums, a bunch of dendrobiums, epidendrums, oncidiums and stuff... lots and lots of stuff.

I don’t think that I can embed a video of the orchidarium in action, but pictures of the journey to where I am now will have to suffice. Here it is. Many months and lots of toil later. If anyone wants to set off on a project like this, set aside no less than a year and then some and hope that some day you can raise your tykes in a home as close to a home away from home as you can.

Barry Friedman







MHOS Newsletter

Buy & Sell



**These are some of the plants that were not purchased at our last sale.
Contact me for further info, 914 954-7132.**

Dennis



“The Garden Electric”

*That spark of joy that comes while giving or receiving flowers — this is the moment captured by The Garden Electric. From the dazzling array of colors, unique shapes and textures, and rich fragrances of gorgeous floral displays and gardens come feelings of excitement and celebration. This year’s theme brings the electrifying presence of today’s most dynamic designers of floral arrangements, lush gardens, and landscapes to visitors from around the world. The **Show** makes its return **INDOORS** to the Pennsylvania Convention Center to amaze visitors with an exciting floral experience, bringing together dynamic designers, bold exhibits, world-class shopping, education, food, and family fun.*

Take a break from Winter and plan for Spring!

**Come with the West Point/Highland Falls Rotary Club to the
2023 Philadelphia Flower Show!**

Tuesday, March 7, 2019

Reserve Your Space RESERVE EARLY — This trip will sell out!

The \$100.00 (non-refundable) per person charge includes transportation and admission to the show. Proceeds go towards the Rotary club's O'Neill H.S. Scholarship Fund.

**Bus will leave from the Newburgh Mall,
Depart promptly at 8:00 AM, and will return at approximately 7:00 PM.**

*For more information, please call Susan Luther (845) 446-1278 or email at jluther@hvc.rr.com
John Blanc, (845)446-7606 or email at: john_blanc@hotmail.com*

Deep Cut Orchid Society
24th Annual Orchid Show
February 3rd-5th, 2023

Dearborn Market
2170 Route 35 South, Holmdel, NJ
Fri-Sat 9am to 6pm
Sun 9am to 4:30pm

FREE admission, free parking, food on premises
Exquisite Orchid Displays, FREE lectures
AOS Judging Friday, Feb 3rd

Orchid Vendors

Dearborn Market	Silva Orchids
Ecuagenera	Waldor Orchids
Fair Orchids	White Plains Orchids
J&L Orchids	Woodstream Orchids
Main Street Orchids	
Orchidphile	

deepcutorchidsociety.org/show

