



# MHOS Newsletter

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

March 2026

Follow us on Social



## Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2026 Officers

Brenda L. Decker,  
President  
[president@mhorchidsociety.com](mailto:president@mhorchidsociety.com)

Pat Kent,  
Vice President  
[vicepresident@mhorchidsociety.com](mailto:vicepresident@mhorchidsociety.com)

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

Ruth Nattras,  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@mhorchidsociety.com](mailto:treasurer@mhorchidsociety.com)

Susan Hall,  
Membership Chair  
[members@mhorchidsociety.com](mailto:members@mhorchidsociety.com)

Ruth Nattras,  
Librarian  
AOS Representative

## Presidents' Message

Hi Gang,

This past month, we enjoyed a wonderful meeting filled with learning and camaraderie. Thank you to everyone who brought plants for the show table— the diversity and quality on display were truly impressive. It's always encouraging to see both long-time members and newer growers sharing their successes (and even a few growing lessons!). As the seasons change, remember that orchids teach us patience. They reward consistent care, attention, and a willingness to keep learning. In many ways, our Society reflects those same principles. Together, we cultivate knowledge, friendship, and a deep appreciation for these extraordinary plants.

Thank you for being part of our orchid family. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting — and to seeing what's blooming in your space!

*Brenda L. Decker*  
MHOS President



Look My Orchid  
Bloomed



Phal NOID



Dend. Ray Tokunga



Phal NOID



Phal NOID

-----Pat MacGregor-----



Rhynchoelalia glauca



Dend. Rainbow Dance



mini Phal. Lui's Berry



Phal Polarbear

-----Ruth Nattras-----

-----Paul Klymko-----



Dend. unicum  
'Tangerine Tango'  
x 'Tangerine Dream'



Ornithocephalus  
gladiatus



Phal. Sogo Yukidan



Bulbo. Rothschildianum

-----Whitt Van Tassell-----

—Tim Tomaselli—



Dend. violaceum



Dend. insigne



Coelogyne speciosa  
'Nutmeyer'



Coelogyne sparsa

-----Dave Taft-----



Pleurothallis wagnerii  
'Walter'



Prosthechea vitellina  
'Abigail'  
(my one AOS award!)



Bulbophyllum bolsterii



Dend. normanbyense

-----Dave Taft-----



Bulbophyllum  
Tingabarinum



Coelogyne cristata



Dend. thyrsoiflorum



Coelogyne cristata

-----Andrew Sinno-----

---Dave Quentin---



Brassavola nodosa



Aerangis Cramer



Dend. Jenkinsii



Dend. fameri fma.  
Petaloid alba

-----Leslie Horan Simon-----



Phal. 'Charming  
Chrystal'



Onc. Twinkle 'Oro'



Phal NOID

---Leslie Horan Simon---

---Michele Luisi---



Paph Hilo Citron  
x Hilo Mojito 'A'



Phal NOID



Paph Acmodontum  
x Hilo Citron



Phal NOID

-----Debbie Wilson-----



Phal NOID



Phal NOID



Phal NOI D



V. Pak Chang x  
V. Patcheree Delight

-----Colleen Martin-----

-----Brenda Decker-----

## Origin and Evolution of Orchid Plants

March 8 th – 2026

By Carlos Macku

Taxonomy, fossil evidence, and molecular genetics are combined to reveal the evolutionary affiliation (phylogenetics) of plant and animal species. Molecular clock, a novel technique that aligns these tools with statistics and computing capabilities, has been recently employed to infer on the chronological appearance of the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of orchid plants. The geological changes that occurred on Earth will be displayed on a dynamic time-scaled diagram to arrive at the triumphant appearance and the ensuing species radiation of the evolving orchid family.

Do not worry about me going too scientific about this. I am a chemist, not a biologist, or a geneticist, or an archeologist, and/or a cosmologist. The presentation has a lot of images and drawings used for the general public.



Carlos was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Universidad Simón Bolívar and pursued his doctoral degree at UC Davis, California. He is a member of the American Orchid Society and the Central Jersey Orchid Society and has been cultivating orchid plants in his Basking Ridge, New Jersey, residence for the last 25 years. He applies his professional discipline to document his horticultural experiences by publishing in magazines such as Orchids and Orchid Digest. He has delivered lectures on the care of orchid plants in residential indoor environments for orchid societies and garden clubs and teaches regularly at The Adult School of Morris County, NJ.

## Meet Member Leslie Horan Simon, Artist and Orchid Enthusiast

### My Spark Orchid

In the world of birding there is a term called 'spark bird' which refers to the bird that initially sparked your interest in birding. Here I will use the term to describe my 'spark orchid' and I will talk about my experiences as a new orchid lover, collector, grower and generally happy plant person.

5 years ago, just at the end of the pandemic we bought our home in the Hudson Highlands, a wonderful home with a two-story green space, not a traditional greenhouse and not a traditional conservatory either, so we just call it the greenhouse. As I began filling the space with plants I soon started experimenting with more unusual plants, then one evening as I was looking for begonias to buy, another plant that I love, I saw the cutest little orchid on an Etsy site and I bought it. Like most of us I had rebloomed orchids from the grocery store, so I thought that I would have no problem with this little plant, but it wasn't that easy. I didn't fuss over it, so the poor thing struggled until 3 years later it somehow bloomed and I was delighted and in love with the beauty of this unusual little plant. It was a *Dendrobium Jenkinsii*; which proved to be my spark orchid. Once it bloomed and I saw what a treasure it was, I went to YouTube, found a channel called Howards Orchids, done by a lovely British fellow who was growing orchids in a similar situation to my own. He was featuring his *Den. Jenkinsii* which was more mature than mine and blooming profusely. I was inspired by his collection, his love of species orchids, fragrant orchids and miniature orchids and I patterned some of my own choices after him. As I started looking for places to buy orchids I stumbled across Andy's Orchids in California where the focus is on species Orchids, grown on a stick.... just like in nature! That really appealed to me because of my lifelong interest in wildflowers and native plants. If a plant isn't good for the animals, birds and insects I usually don't plant it. It's not a hard and fast rule though, I do love the summer long blooms of annuals and lots of other cultivars but in general I am concerned with our loss of biodiversity, habitat and species, so I do what I can in my own small way. Less lawn, leave the leaves and plant natives.

Since then I have found LOTS of places to buy orchids. I've also found more orchid YouTube channels, another favorite being 'Orchids by Bryan' and through these channels I have learned about potting, watering, feeding, and what all of the Latin names mean. Finding other orchid enthusiasts seemed like it might be difficult, but I stumbled on MHOS and joined hoping to find some orchid friends which I did. I went to the MHOS show and sale in December and met some folks, won a *paphiopedilum* (which is re blooming already) and bought some plants from the vendors that were there.

I enjoy learning about each plant so every time I buy a new orchid I take a photo of it, print it out and then create a page where I can make notes. I look up the orchids' native habitat, where it grows, how it grows and its light requirements. I make notes about repotting and how it responds to that and what kind of medium and container it requires. I note the date of purchase and who I bought it from. Then as it blooms, I make a note of that. If I pass it along, I make a note of that. I find this system to be a good way to learn and I enjoy the fact that it helps me to keep track of my plants.

I am also a book person; I find the internet to be so littered with ads that I would rather spend the money on a book that I can read and visit with at my leisure. I bought the recently published Orchid Species of the World by David P. Banks and I have thoroughly enjoyed Understanding Orchids by William Cullina. At the end of a busy day or when I have a spare moment, I enjoy my books which are left out all over the house.

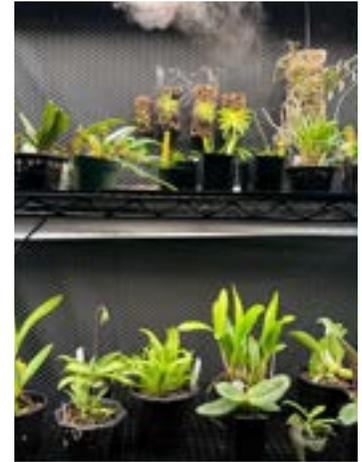
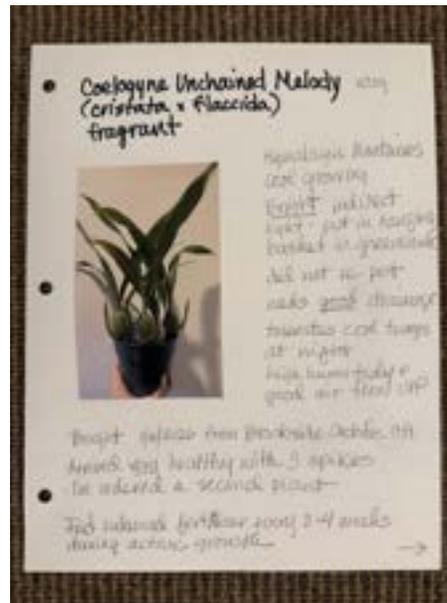
My green thumb learning started 67 years ago when I was 5, with a pack of Marigold seeds, a kitchen fork and a tea kettle full of water. The early successes along with the more recent ones keep me going as I am looking for a spike, a bloom or another orchid that I might like to have, as I am sure most of you can relate to. Growing orchids has brought a whole new world alive for me and I realize that I am still in the honeymoon stage, I know there will be viruses, pests, losses and more, but for now I am a happy honeymooner who dotes on her plants.

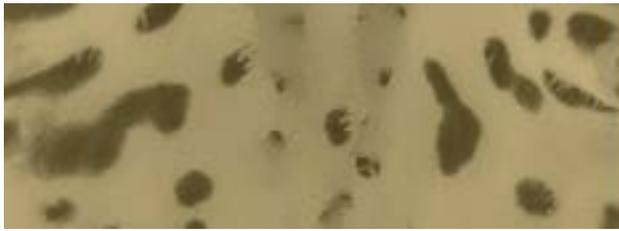
Leslie Horan Simon

<http://lesliehoransimon.com/>



Spark Orchid





## Orchid Buy & Sell Corner

**Tim Tomaselli** has one Bulbo. Rothschildianum mounted on tree fern - spikes. \$15  
2 pots of Maxillaria variabilis - yellow form - large plants. Just starting to bloom. \$20 each.  
2 pots of L. Canariensis 'Golden Glow', AM/AOS \$20 each.

Email if interested- [rtt@ampico.name](mailto:rtt@ampico.name)

**Brenda Decker** has 2 lb. bags of med. Size (power) Orchiata bark for sale \$12.00 each  
& bags left and will be available at the meeting.

**Dayton humidifier** for sale by **Dennis Sandberg**

Email- [dhsandberg@dhsandberg.com](mailto:dhsandberg@dhsandberg.com)

Needs a new \$100 pump, easy to install. It kept the room at any humidity I wanted by plugging into a \$5 timer, 20 min on 3 hours off, etc.  
paid lots, selling for \$100.



# February Show Table



## Upcoming Events

### The American Orchid Society 2026 Spring Conference



American Orchid Society  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*

*In conjunction with the Apopka  
International Spring Orchid Festival  
Apopka, FL*

**April 8th -11th**

Featuring:

- *Expert Orchid Speakers*
- *Hands-On Workshops*
- *Meeting of the Members*
- *Award Presentations*
- *AOS Elections*
- *Top Quality Vendors*
- *AOS Judging*
- *Welcome Reception*
- *Live & Silent Auctions*
- *Sumptuous Gala Dinner*

For more information visit <https://aos.org/members-meetings> or email [TheAOS@aos.org](mailto:TheAOS@aos.org).

# Waldor Orchids'

## Biggest Sale of the Year!

Don't miss our Annual Post-Flower Show Sale –  
Our Biggest Event of the Year!

**March 13th & 14th, 2026**

**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Waldor Orchids, Linwood, NJ**

**Enjoy 20% OFF**  
**All Plants & Supplies!**

**Amazing Cymbidiums, Colorful  
Oncidiums, Gorgeous Cattleyas  
& Rare Orchids!**

**Stop by Friday or Saturday!**

Meet fellow orchid lovers &  
Enjoy Refreshments While You Shop!

**Don't Miss Out on Our Biggest Sale  
of the Year!**

*We Can't Wait to See You There!*