



# MHOS Newsletter

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

May 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@mhochidsociety.com](mailto:vicepresident@mhochidsociety.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

Dear Members,

As we welcome the month of May, our Orchid collections are coming into one of the most vibrant and rewarding times of the year. With longer days and warmer temperatures, many of our plants are actively growing, sending out new roots, leaves, and in some cases, spectacular blooms. It's a wonderful reminder of why we share such a passion for these remarkable plants.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in last month's Show and contributed to its success. Whether you advertised, brought plants for the presentation, manned a booth, led a talk, or shopped, your involvement helped make our Show an awesome event.

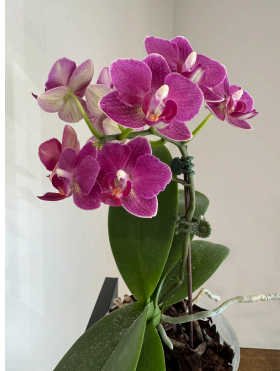
Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and support. Our society thrives because of its members, and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, May 17th.

*Brenda L. Decker*  
MHOS President

Look My Orchid  
Bloomed



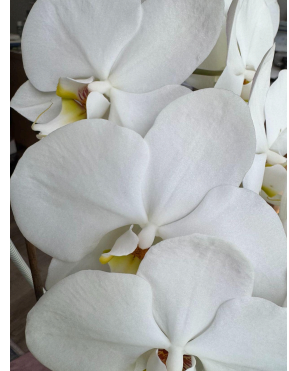
Maxillaria Tenuifolia  
'Yamada'



Phal NOID



Luisia Thailandia  
Vanda falcata



Phal NOID

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



Howeara Lava Burst  
'Pacific Sunrise'

-- Debbie Wilson--



C Dinard  
'Blue Heaven'

---Linda Francis---

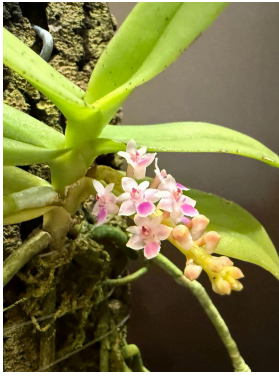


C intermedia alba  
'Lines'



Rlc. Aka's Art  
'Volcano Queen'

---Colleen Martin---



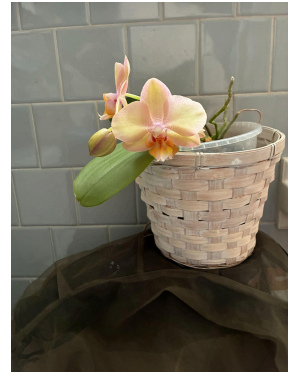
Smitinandia  
micrantha



Paph venustum



Phal NOID



Phal NOID

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

-----Amy Reville-----



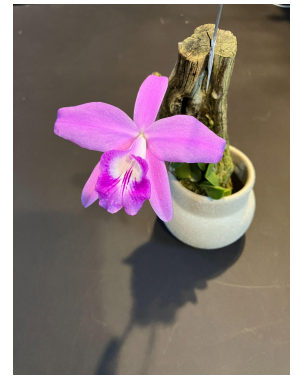
Lyc. aromatica



Paph. wardii



Polystachya NOID



Laelia sincorana

-----Tim Tomaselli-----



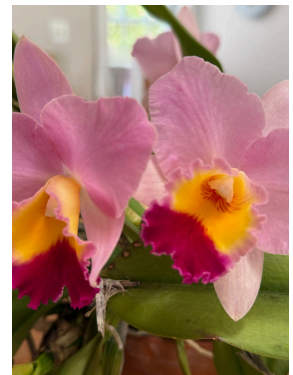
L. purpurata  
V. werkhauseri



Prosthechea vitellina  
'Abigail'



Bulbophyllum bolsterii



Slc. World Vacation  
'5th Avenue'

-----Tim Tomaselli-----

-----Michele Luisi-----



Phal NOID



Den. 'Dainty Eyes'  
'Sparkling Diamond'



Milt. Edie Brown



Banfield ara Gilded  
Tower 'Mystic Maze'

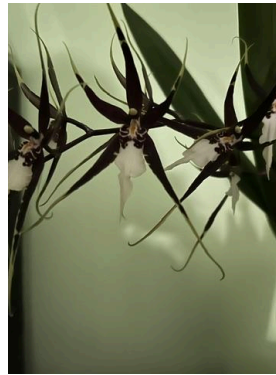
-----Diana Pullium-----



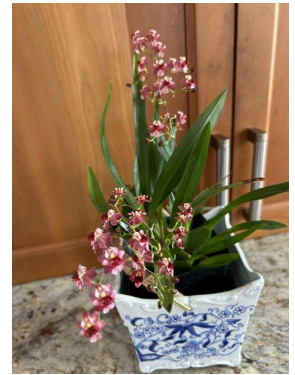
Maxillaria tenuifolia



Den. Roy Tokunaga  
'Semi alba' x  
Kaila Quintal



Brassia Rex



Onc. Twinkle 'Red Fire'

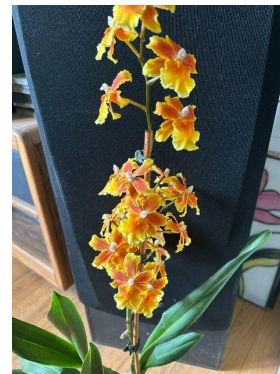
-----Diana Pullium-----



(Paph. Olympian x  
Helena) x (In Charm  
Topaz x In Charm Gold)



Dymra. Shibumi  
'Purple Rain'



Osp. Brazillian Sun  
'Samba'

-----Diana Pullium-----

## May 17th Meeting



**Speaker Bill Stender** has been growing orchids for about 18 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 over 800 plants and pretty much covers the entire spectrum of orchid growing. They have a 560 sq foot greenhouse that presently houses their

collection. 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.

Bill will be presenting a talk **“Orchid Virus Testing and Collection Management”** - which will give you a broad overview about Orchid major and minor Orchid viruses, testing methods and protocols.



# 8 MAIN MISTAKES IN WATERING ORCHIDS



Water right, and you'll solve 70% of orchid problems!

## 1 WATERING ON A SCHEDULE, NOT BY NEED

✗ Orchids don't follow a calendar.



### DO THIS INSTEAD



Water when the media is almost dry, not on a fixed schedule.

## 2 OVERWATERING (THE #1 KILLER)

✗ Constantly wet roots = no oxygen = root rot.



### DO THIS INSTEAD



Let the media dry slightly between waterings.

## 3 LETTING WATER SIT IN THE CROWN

✗ Water trapped in the crown can cause rot.



### DO THIS INSTEAD



Water early in the day and avoid leaving water in the center of the plant.

## 4 USING ICE CUBES

✗ Cold shock can stress the plant and damage roots.



### DO THIS INSTEAD



Use room-temperature water and water thoroughly instead.

## 5 POOR DRAINAGE

✗ No drainage or compacted media keeps roots soggy.



### DO THIS INSTEAD



Always use pots with drainage and well-aerated orchid mix.

## 6 LIGHT, FREQUENT "SIPS" INSTEAD OF DEEP WATERING

✗ A little splash on top doesn't reach the roots.



### DO THIS INSTEAD



Water thoroughly until it runs out of the pot, then let it drain completely.

## 7 IGNORING HUMIDITY & ENVIRONMENT

✗ What works in one season or room may overwater or underwater in another.



HOT & DRY  
Dries faster



COOL & HUMID  
Dries slower

### DO THIS INSTEAD

Adjust watering based on your environment, not just the plant.

## 8 NOT CHECKING THE ROOTS

✗ Problems hide below the surface.



### DO THIS INSTEAD



Check roots regularly. Healthy roots are firm and green/silver. Mushy or brown roots need help.

## HEALTHY ROOTS AT A GLANCE

Use clear pots or gently check the media.

### HEALTHY ROOTS

Firm, green or silvery, plump.



### UNHEALTHY ROOTS

Brown, mushy, hollow, or shriveled.



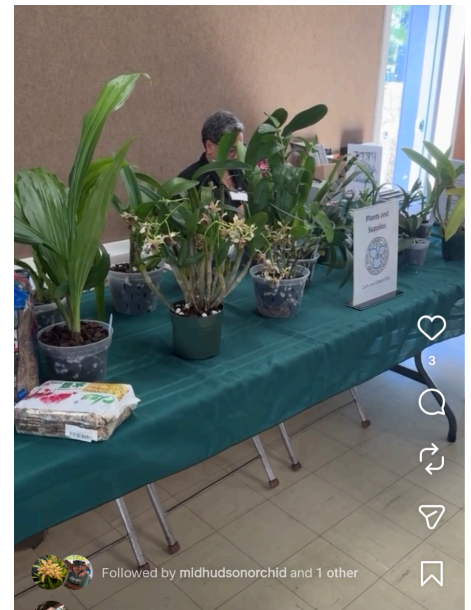
## EXTRA TIPS

- ♥ Water in the morning so leaves and crown dry during the day.
- ♥ Use quality orchid mix (bark based).
- ♥ When in doubt, wait one more day to water!



Right water + good light + airflow = happy orchids! ♥







Upcoming  
Events

*The Long Island Orchid Society  
in conjunction with  
Planting Fields State Historic Park  
Presents the Eleventh Annual*



*Long Island  
Orchid Festival  
2026*

*Orchids & Vendors from Around the World  
May 29th-31st, 2026  
9a.m. to 5p.m.  
Planting Fields Arboretum  
State Historic Park  
Horticulture Center*

*1395 Planting Fields Road  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771*

*For more information, please visit  
[longislandorchidsociety.org](http://longislandorchidsociety.org)  
or  
[plantingfields.org](http://plantingfields.org)*





# *Northeast Judging Center*

## ANNUAL AUCTION

A GREAT SELECTION OF ORCHID PLANTS SELECTED BY THE JUDGES

JUNE 13, 2026

## **WYCKOFF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

200 WOODLAND AVE. WYCKOFF, NJ 07481

**PLANT PREVIEW AT 10 AM**

**AUCTION STARTS AT 11 AM.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT

[HTTPS://WWW.NEJCAOS.ORG/](https://www.nejcaos.org/)

# SAVE THE DATE



## NeoPalooza Returns!

**Saturday June 6th**

Masonic Lodge # 72 Secaucus, NJ

Lectures, Vendors, Neo Judging!

If you missed last year, don't miss it again, it is a premier Neofinetia falcata event!

Questions? Email [wbodei@gmail.com](mailto:wbodei@gmail.com)