

## BARKS:

- Huge THANKS to the working members who took EMOS to the NHOS show!!
- Thanks to Janelle for the award winning background for the booth!
- Congrats to all the ribbon winning exhibits!

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Eastern Maine Orchid Society

# Our SPOT

MARCH 2011



## A Celebration of Orchids



*The show must go on.... OH NO, the show must be cancelled..... WAIT, the show must go on.....*

This year's New Hampshire Orchid Society show kept folks guessing until just days before the event. A maintenance malfunction caused the hotel to close. After being unable to find another venue on such short notice, the NHOS had no choice but to cancel the event. But the disaster was resolved, and the show did indeed go on as scheduled.

The show was held in Nashua over the Valentine's Day weekend. Partly for that reason, and also because of the show's theme this year, there was lots of celebration in the air!



This was EMOS's first large show, and we made quite an impression—taking home LOTS of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards, as well as the award for Creative Background!

Thanks to Janelle Delicata, who designed the backdrop for the club. It obviously attracted a lot of attention, as it can be seen in many pictures taken of the show by others.

An event of this magnitude could not have happened without the hard work of a handful of members. EMOS is indebted to everyone who submitted exhibits, transported to NH & back, set up, worked at & took down the booth, answered questions, represented the club at the banquet, and did a magnificent job in displaying the plants. They make this club great!

Some incredibly talented EMOS members were also at the show as vendors, selling orchid related items.

Judging by the bare shelves of the vendors, business was brisk, and the show was a huge success.

There are lots of beautiful pictures on the NHOS Facebook pages. Or you can visit the club's website at: [www.nhorchids.org](http://www.nhorchids.org)

After we decompress from this year, hopefully plans will point towards doing it again in 2012!

*I am so sorry I missed this!!! Glad it went off without a hitch.—Cindi*



Pictures of the EMOS booth at the NHOS show.



**Join the Tea Party!**

*EMOS is holding a Tea Party at the Bangor Garden Show. The 'political climate' is educational & the benefits are priceless. YOUR help is needed!*



**Annual Plant Sale ~ April 2nd**

The EMOS annual plant sale will be held April 2nd at the University of Maine's Clapp Greenhouse in Orono.

The sale will run from 9AM—1PM.

This is our largest fund raising event of the year. It supports the book scholarship for a

UMaine student, so it's success relies on the participation of all members. There's lots involved in checking in, unwrapping, pricing and transporting before the show, and assisting in selling and wrapping purchases for customers at the sale.

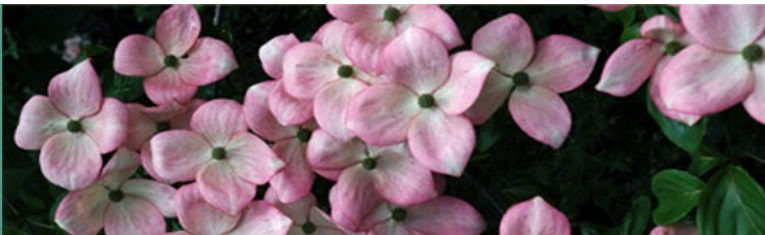
It's a blast, so join us April 2nd!

**YOUR "to-do" list!**

- 3/12/11**      **EMOS meeting**, Ellsworth, ME— "CSI: Orchid"  
fmi: [in2orchids@yahoo.com](mailto:in2orchids@yahoo.com)
- 4/2/11**      **EMOS Plant Sale**, Orono, ME— UMO Clapp Greenhouse 9—1  
fmi: [orchidaunt@aol.com](mailto:orchidaunt@aol.com)
- 4/8 - 4/10/11** **Bangor Garden Show**, Bangor, ME — HELP NEEDED!  
fmi: [bangorgardenshow.com](http://bangorgardenshow.com)
- 5/14/11**     **EMOS meeting**, Ellsworth, ME—"Sex & the Single Orchid"  
fmi: [in2orchids@yahoo.com](mailto:in2orchids@yahoo.com)
- 6/11/11**     **EMOS BBQ**



April  
8, 9 & 10  
2011  
Bangor  
Auditorium



## Orchid Society Tea Party

The Eastern Maine Orchid Society will show off their Orchid beauties and share their “How-To-Know-How” for growing gorgeous orchids in your own home. Learn which type of orchid will live happily in (almost) every room of your home. Join the Orchid Society for tea service while some local experts show & tell their secrets of the trade!

Sunday 11:30 am - 12:30pm

## SPOTlight on ...Melanie Knaut



Melanie is a true blue Mainer—born and raised in Milo, and now residing in Farmington.

She loves the quality of life that Maine offers, and enjoys the opportunity to kayak and fish in the ponds in her area. She also enjoys gardening.

Melanie began noticing orchids several years ago in stores. But she thought you needed a greenhouse to grow them.

Eventually, she decided to give them a try. Armed with a copy of Ortho’s All About Orchids as her guide, she brought home a Phalaenopsis and a Dendrobium.

On a 2005 trip to Florida, she bought a bare rooted Cattleya in an ‘onion’ bag, followed the directions and waited patiently for 4 years.

After getting a laptop and internet access, she was able to Google ‘orchid care.’ This introduced her to an orchid forum where she found lots of advice.

Once she got that Cattleya to bloom, she was off and running. She now has close to 60 orchids in her kitchen & living room!

Melanie joined EMOS a year ago & is already an MVP! She steps up to help the club achieve its goals at every event. In spite of her shoulder injury & surgery,

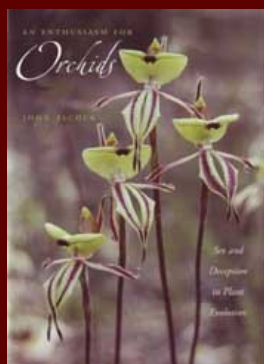
she worked the EMOS booth at the NHOS show all weekend.

She’s made many new friends through EMOS, & enjoys volunteering & staying active in the club. She feels even more passionate after attending the NH show because it opened up another chapter on how to grow orchids.

Her two daughters, Nicole (28) and Heather (26), sometimes kid her about her orchid “habit.”

Melanie is one of the hardworking, dedicated members that every club is fortunate to call ‘family.’

***“on hot, hazy & humid summer days, it’s great to paddle around on the water & stay cool”***



## An Enthusiasm for Orchids: Sex and Deception in Plant Evolution

By John Alcock. 2006. Oxford University Press. 85 color photographs. Hardcover. 320 pages.

Alcock, one of the modern leaders in natural history and science writing, is renowned for his work in animal behavior and maybe better known for his work on sociobiology.

It is therefore wonderful to see him finally write about his most recent passion, pollination of orchids of southwestern Australia. As with all of his books, this one is charming and easy to read by people with little science background.

This book begins with three consecutive chapters on adaptation, using orchid pollination as his premier examples. Then, for a pair of chapters, he leaves

this static perspective of evolution and instead delves into evolutionary changes over geological time, including a fun discussion of what is in a species or genus name. He then moves on to a pair of chapters concerning orchid biodiversity and conservation. Alcock ends with a whimsical chapter on finding orchids in habitat, often being self-deprecating about his own map-reading abilities.

Although this book is nominally about the sex lives of orchids, the author nonetheless manages to weave in his usual tale about adaptation, intelligent design and evolutionary psychology. Some of this is quite hilarious. He jokes that his ability to find the rare and cryptic elbow orchids (*Arthrochilus*) may be a character that could impress women enough to improve his own reproductive success.

Alcock teaches a general audience about evolution through the protagonists of orchids and their pathetically manipulated insect pollinators. For those strictly interested in orchids, they will find many tangents in the first four chapters. The last four chapters, however, are all about orchids. The photographs (all in color) are not comprehensive, but illustrate the relevant points and are of good quality.

My biggest complaint about this book is lack of a map of southwestern Australia, which should have been printed in the endpapers. Natural history is a subject that simply begs for a map.

**EMOS meeting**  
**minutes**  
**1/8/11**

Cherie opened the meeting around 11:20am

**Secretary's report** was read by Mary Lou H. and accepted.

**Treasurer's report** was given by Mary Lou H. from bank statement provided by Susanne W. \$2473.83 available including the \$500 for the New Hampshire show. Report accepted.

**Announcements** – Bonnie B. wanted to be remembered to us – she's been busy with many family matters and hasn't been able to come to meetings. Louise S. will not be able to organize the plant sale this year. Mary Lou has the sale info.

**Old Business** – Janelle showed off the background design for the New Hampshire show – the frame and background will possibly be donated by her boss at Intesion. Janelle has the glassware and other staging for the display. Dick G. asked members to have plants cleaned, staked and ready to go with your name on the bottom of the pot. Bring them to Greencare Feb. 5 so the show committee can set things up ahead of time.

**Program** – repotting orchids, Informal facebook tutorial

Submitted by Mary Lou Hoskins

## Introducing ..... the Cymbidium

The multi-floral stems and wonderful long-lasting scent of Cymbidiums make them a favorite to use in cut flower arrangements and corsages.

They are perfect orchids for Maine growers because they tolerate cool temperatures better than most others. In mild climates, they are grown outside for most of the year. Providing the right temperatures—in general, they prefer 55 - 75 F—is the key to getting them to bloom. They'll tolerate down to 45, and even a light frost, but this isn't optimum.

Bright light—the maximum amount possible without burning—is suggested. However, many growers supply a dappled light with success. Leaves should be a medium green in color, not dark green, if the lighting is correct.

Watering requirements are very important, because cymbidiums are semi-terrestrial. They need heavy watering during their growth period - spring and summer. Reduce this to 'barely moist' in winter.

The humidity in summer is usually sufficient. Provide 40-60% humidity in winter with good air flow.

Fertilizing at the proper time will help cymbidiums flower. A 20-20-20 mix is very popular with growers.

Spring is the best time to repot Cymbidiums, when they're done flowering. They require a water-retentive potting mix. The most common mix is fir bark (medium grade), peat moss and perlite, with a touch of 'sharp' (not beach) sand.



The beautiful and showy spray or cascade of scented blooms is truly delightful. And they are resistant to most pests, so what's not to love?

The standard variety can get quite large, which prevented some hobbyists from owning one in the past. But the new mini varieties have sparked a resurgence in this exceptional orchid. The minis are more heat tolerant, so are easier to add to your collection. Once you experience a Cymbidium, it will quickly become your favorite!

### EMOS OFFICERS

2011

**President**

**Vice-President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**AOS Delegate**

**Librarian**

**Cherie Carroll**

**Dick Green**

**Susanne Wells**

**Mary Lou Hoskins**

**Denis Roessiger**

**Louise Snow**

## Eastern Maine Orchid Society

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We're on the web:

[www.easternmaineorchidsociety.org](http://www.easternmaineorchidsociety.org)

and **facebook**

# Everything was coming up Orchids

The 2011 NHOS Show was a big success even though it got off to a rocky start and almost didn't happen at all.

Dick & Melanie got there first. I was delayed by car problems that required being towed. When the 'fireworks' backdrop went up, there was a gasp among the other exhibitors & vendors. I had a similar background for my booth, and it got the same response. These backdrops were made & donated by Ntension in Hermon, ME.

Friday was slow, but the serious buyers and collectors were shopping. I was able to get some things on my list, and so did Melanie and Dick. I scored a pleurothallis truncata – one of only two available for sale. It was highly sought after because the large specimen plant won a big prize.

Someone tried to buy it off my display three times! I put all the small pleuros I bought on display in my booth, which added a nice touch. I got compliments on how I displayed them in wine glasses.



**Prize winning arrangement**



Saturday & Sunday were busy - people just pointed at jewelry, with a credit card & said "I want that". Some guys made purchases on the sly and wanted it bagged up quickly – Valentine's Day gifts, I'm sure! It was difficult to explain to some folks why I didn't have multiples of things - it was art, one-of-a-kind, no two exactly alike, etc. A few times I thought there'd be a war over a piece, but when if one person put it down to "think about it" another one snatched it up and held out the money! The four vendors not selling plants all did well, plus the plant vendors were cleaned out so the show can be considered a success. ~ *Janelle Delicata*