



# Our SPOT

May 2010

A publication of the EASTERN MAINE ORCHID SOCIETY

## Message from the President

Another orchid sale is history and another success for EMOS. This year we tried a couple of new things: a raffle and active membership recruiting.

Many thanks to Bonnie Blagojevic for her inspired “selling” of our club. We had promotional materials to hand out and Bonnie talked up the benefits of joining—mentioning the members’ discount on plants at the sale was the tipping point for many. We have five new members and others took membership applications home. We hope to see them in the future!

The raffle—a rather spur-of-the-moment brainstorm—pulled in \$102. This was all profit as the prizes were generously donated by EMOS members. Thanks to Ray Cooper, MaryLou Hoskins and Dick Green for helping to make the raffle a success.

Prizes went home with May Pardy and Mary Parsons, and Oona Luna was very pleased with her raffle win—she has agreed to let me display the beautiful marble so Mom and I can enjoy it too!

And a big thank you to all who helped: our plant “rappers” who did a fantastic job protecting plants from the chilly spring weather; those who handled the sales and gave out culture/care sheets; those who mingled and assisted customers by providing information,

helped with plant selection and carried boxes—it takes everyone’s effort to make the sale a success and a positive experience for all. And a special thanks to Milos Blagojevic who put out the EMOS sale signs at strategic locations in Orono. Directing people to the sale is very important—I know I’d get lost on the UMO campus without those signs!

I hope we will be able to continue with membership recruitment and the raffle at future sales.

The newsletter goes digital with this issue. Paper copies will be available for those without e-mail. By sending the newsletter electronically EMOS will save almost \$900 a year. This is money that can be used for scholarships or club programs such as bringing in outside speakers.

EMOS will be having a booth at the Boothbay Region Garden Club’s bi-annual Standard Flower Show in August. This is our “off” season but several members have expressed an interest in participating in this show which I am sure will be well attended. (Summer in Boothbay Harbor—can you say “lots of tourists?”) We will be able to sell at this show and the organizers are hoping we will bring plants for sale as well as for display. We do not

have to pay a booth fee and will keep all money from sales. This is a very good deal, as any of you who have “done” shows know. It will be mostly an educational display but the ability to sell is a plus. It is a wonderful opportunity for us and a test run for the New Hampshire show in February. We will not be selling in NH but the experience setting up is invaluable. The Boothbay Region Garden Club is thrilled that we will be participating so we need to do some advance planning and organizing to insure we put up an outstanding display. This is also an excellent opportunity for community outreach and education—fostering and promoting the love and culture of orchids—as it says in our mission statement. The show dates are Tuesday, August 3 and Wednesday, August 4, so mark your calendars and plan accordingly.

We also need to be thinking about the NH Orchid Society’s show. I know we can do a wonderful display there and we should be starting to plan over the summer as this cannot be a last minute thing but needs to be worked out well in advance. Input is always welcome and we will need everyone’s cooperation to make everything work smoothly.

I’ll see you all at the next meeting and hopefully at the picnic in June!

Janelle

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### \*\* BARKS \*\*

- **Congrats to Mary Lou on her great TV interview re: the Bangor Flower Show**
- **Kudos to Bonnie B. for bringing in five new members!**
- **Thanks to all who contributed to the plant sale success**

At the March meeting, club members faced budget concerns (hmm....does this sound familiar to anyone living in Maine?), and voted to raise membership dues to \$25.

Dues have not increased in a decade, yet the club's impact on, and benefits to, the community certainly have. We are a club rooted in our communities, family and environment. Fund raising events support local students and charities ... and what greater mission can a club have?

## A cost of living increase ...

Most members came to EMOS because we were bitten by the orchid bug, and grew tired of buying orchids that subsequently died. We wanted to learn more, and we did just by joining!

The value of membership is obvious. But, in addition, we get to share in an important mission to improve our communities and environment. Thanks for your help!



## We'll save a SPOT for you!!

EMOS closes the year and kicks off summer at the June meeting. It's the last meeting before summer vacation, so it's also one of the most important.

It's a potluck, so we enjoy delicious dishes shared by members.

It's an election, so we choose who will lead and handle the multitude of club functions for the next year.

It's an opportunity to tour A New Day Farm and view an incredible collection of rare species.

It's a chance to relax and get to know other members surrounded by gorgeous gardens.

Some new things to view this year:

- the recently installed, state-of-the-art geothermal system
- the new Paphiopedilum hybrid, named in honor of Denis's grandson, grown and presented by Lehua Orchids

**NOTE: The Roessigers have several dogs that roam at will during the barbeque.**

Come enjoy some fantastic food, eye-popping orchids, and Lucy's famous rhubarb tea.

Bring your favorite dish (EMOS provides the meat for grilling), your camera, and a friend.

*If you are allergic to or afraid of dogs, be aware that there will be many dogs at the barbeque.*

The address is:

Denis & Lucy Roessiger, 132 Farnham Lane, Penobscot.

RSVP: 207-326-9211 or [tzeno@midmaine.com](mailto:tzeno@midmaine.com)

We'll see you there!!!

## EVENTS FOR TO YOUR "TO DO" LIST!

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 5/8/10         | EMOS meeting, Ellsworth ME - 'Adapting Your Home for Growing Orchids<br>FMI: <a href="mailto:janelle@fairpoint.net">janelle@fairpoint.net</a> |
| 5/14 - 5/16/10 | Redland Orchid Festival, Homestead, FL<br>FMI: <a href="http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org">www.redlandorchidfestival.org</a>               |
| 6/12/10        | EMOS meeting/ picnic/ election, Penobscot, ME<br>FMI: <a href="mailto:tzeno@midmaine.com">tzeno@midmaine.com</a> or 207-326-9211              |
| 8/3 - 8/4/10   | Boothbay Region Garden Club show - EMOS to participate<br>FMI: <a href="mailto:janelle@fairpoint.net">janelle@fairpoint.net</a>               |



# Introducing ..... the *Bulbophyllum*

It has been said that only a true orchid addict can appreciate the *Bulbophyllum*s. This group is home to some of the most bizarre plants imaginable.

The flowers are often quite small, and can have a very foul smell—rotten enough to drive you right out of the greenhouse! This alone may cause some collectors to bypass owning this species.

But their uniqueness is intriguing, and once you meet one, it's likely that you'll consider owning one.

There are over 2200 *Bulbo* species, which can be found throughout India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Borneo, and the Philippines.

With thousands of species, diversity can be expected. But there are a few “givens” that classify a *Bulbo*:

- They have one joint per bulb
- They flower from the bottom of the bulb
- The lip will be hinged or mobile, and often hairy

Engineers can definitely appreciate the *Bulbo* flower. It is hinged, and will snap closed at the slightest touch. But it is not a flower that you will stop and take pleasure at sniffing when you pass by! The rancid odor is to attract specific pollinators—those that like rotten meat.

As a rule, *Bulbos* like to be damp and humid, and thrive in medium light and warm temperatures. When watering, it's important to get them on all sides. So, good air flow is necessary, to prevent rot and mold. Their fertilizing requirements also scare off some potential collectors, but it isn't a difficult mix to achieve.



**Medusa is one of the bizarre & unique to be found in the *Bulbophyllum* group.**

*Bulbos* require high nitrogen and potassium, but low phosphorus— a mix easy to get commercially.

If you have a taste for the unusual, then get away from the ordinary and into the extraordinary! Explore this species and you'll find something uniquely wonderful!

## The AOS Corner

***“Why would a blind person want to grow orchids?”***

A call came into the AOS a few weeks ago from a new orchid grower who is blind. The caller was looking for audio information on growing orchids, so they contacted the American Orchid Society. A few CDs were sent to her, but there was no audio on them. A VHS tape about growing orchids under lights was located on EBay, but even this has a lot of information that is shown and not described. AOS is looking for someone who will tape (micro cassette) orchid education programs given at their society and send them to her. If you would consider helping, please contact [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org). The caller lives in Bismark, ND, and her name is LaVonne. She also grows hibiscus, as well as succulents. LaVonne also has a few orchids— a phalaenopsis and a dendrobium.

It's understandable to wonder, “why would a blind person want to grow orchids?” LaVonne's answer is “for the challenge!” She enjoys the plants she currently grows but now wants something more challenging. LaVonne described how she feels a plant to determine if something is a keki or a new growth. She wants to consider having some minis and fragrant orchids, and perhaps some with fuzzy stems. Until she contacted AOS, she had no idea there were so many types of orchids out there. And she really wants a *Brassavola nodosa* and a *Paphiopedilum Pinocchio* but she has to wait for warmer weather. This is what orchid societies are all about – orchid people helping other orchid people become better orchid growers. Let's share the pleasure our orchids give us with others.

*Become a Great Orchid Grower – Support your local Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society.*

## EMOS MEETING MINUTES 3/13/10

Janelle opened the meeting and asked for members to introduce themselves – twenty-two members were in attendance with two new members. There were many beautiful and interesting plants brought in for “show and tell”.

### Announcements

April 10 is the orchid sale at the University. Dick G said to watch out for so called “ice-cube orchids” being sold at Hannaford and the other box stores.

Secretary's report – included in the newsletter so it wasn't read out loud

Treasurer's report – Susanne W gave the balance of \$1077.56

### Old Business

Last month's meeting was the trip to the New Hampshire Orchid Show and Sale – 9 EMOS members went and had a great time. Dick G urged the club to put in a display of our own at next year's NH show. Several members were interested and a committee will be formed to pursue it.

Orchid Sale – we need volunteers to help with the sale and answer customer questions. Members get 10% off the marked prices. Bonnie B suggested we set up a small table off to the side just to give out EMOS information. We will borrow a cash box and calculator from Dee L for use at the sale. Russ G will be door guard. Denis R has ordered 150 to 175 plants for the sale. Mary Lou H can order 2” pot orchids if we want small ones to sell. Bonnie and Milos B will put out the road signs for the day in Orono. Janelle passed out the poster she had made for all to put up.

Sue R reported on our participation in the upcoming Bangor Garden Show April 23, 24, 25. We will do an “Ask the Expert” session on Saturday evening from 6 to 7. Janelle suggested using a projector to put up a slide show of orchids running in the background and a small display of plants on the table.

Louise S passed out copies of the list of books we have in the library and urged members to make use of all the great books we have available. She asked that we make sure books are signed out properly. ML will try to put the list on the website.

### New Business

EMOS has been invited to participate in the Boothbay Region Garden Club's standard flower show in August (3 and 4) in Boothbay Harbor. The general consensus was to do it. Janelle and Ray will help.

The Budget – Janelle and Mary Lou H got together and crunched some numbers and figured out what we're spending on things. We are spending more than we bring in. Many suggestions were made. The general mood is to shift as much communication as possible to email and internet, though most members want to keep getting the meeting notice postcards in the mail. A very few members don't have email. One of the biggest budget items is the wonderful newsletter Cindi D puts together. Everyone wants to keep the newsletter – most can get it via email. It was motioned and passed that in the future the newsletter will go out electronically and also be posted on the website. Some paper copies will still be made for those who don't get email. It was decided to set up a budget committee to come up with some concrete ways to balance the budget. Volunteers include Sue R, Cindi D, Louise S, and Susanne W. It was moved and seconded that we raise the membership dues to \$25 per year starting in September. The motion was passed. The membership info list needs to be updated to accomplish this. Ray C suggested one person should take charge of membership info. Sue R volunteered.

Program – “Bugs and Bad Stuff” - members brought in sick plants to be diagnosed.

## Meet member .... Cherie Carroll

Cherie and Brian fell in love with Maine while visiting friends that lived here. So, when it came time to move, Maine was the obvious choice, and it became their home on Labor Day 1990.

They met in California, where Cherie was living. Being from New Hampshire, Brian had no desire to live in CA permanently. So Cherie made a very big adjustment, and became a New Englander. She comments that, now that she has experienced the quality of life Maine offers, she can't imagine living in CA again. "It's just too busy, fast, congested, with no elbow room."

Cherie became interested in orchids while shopping for other plants at Greencare. She was familiar with the round, flat, orchids sold in the grocery stores that came in white or lavender ...'ho- hum! But, seeing what other kinds of orchids were available in every size, shape, and color, piqued her curiosity, so she bought one....

She remembers spending \$8 on that first orchid - a Hwra. Burana 'Lava Burst'. She felt if she could keep it growing for a while, she just might become an orchid fan.

She bought a good basic orchid book (by Ortho) from Borders Books, and read it from cover to cover, several times. Subsequent visits to Greencare, more books, and website visits got her totally hooked. That was 5 years ago and 52 orchids later!

She admits she's developed a new appreciation for those 'ho- hum' orchids in the grocery store ... and now has some Phals in her collection.

Cherie enjoys EMOS meetings because of the opportunity to network with others who share the same interest. In addition to the social aspect of the club, she learns new things by listening to, and troubleshooting with others.

She especially values the 'Show & Tell,' and is excited to see some of the orchids she's only seen in pictures. They are always on the lookout for something new, and Brian will often point out one she may find interesting.

**Cherie consigns her dolls to a shop in Brewer.**



Cherie confesses that it's hard having her family - 3 grown children, and 7 grandbabes - so far away (they all live in CA), but they constantly stay in touch. They all are supportive of her orchid 'habit' and send gift certificates for plants and supplies. Cherie thinks she has her daughter-in-law hooked on orchids, now, too. While visiting last year, she bought her one when they went to Norman's Orchids. "She had difficulty choosing from the beautiful selection."

In addition to gardening and growing orchids, Cherie enjoys reading, sewing, needlework, hooking primitive rugs, and making cloth primitive dolls. She consigns the dolls in a shop in Brewer. This amazing skill is self-taught! She gets together with sewing friends every week for conversation, motivation, and to share projects.

EMOS is delighted to have Cherie and Brian in our family!



## EMOS Plant Sale is a huge Succes\$



*This year's plant sale was a huge success! Despite the economy, Mainers appreciate the beauty of orchids.*

*Success is measured in many ways, and this plant sale can claim more than those in the past due to two new initiatives.*

*Sustainability requires growth, and growth requires new members. Thanks to the outreach efforts of Bonnie Blagojevic, this sale brought in FIVE new members, and several potentials!*

*A raffle was also offered this year, with all proceeds added to the scholarship fund. Thanks to the donors!*

*Club members turned out in force to help, so customers had guidance in their purchases, were efficiently cashed out, and their purchases were protectively wrapped. (\* New York City has nothin' - EMOS has the best "rappers" going!!)*

*Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the success of the sale, which feeds our scholarship!*

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## Eastern Maine Orchid Society

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Penobscot ME 04476  
207-326-9095  
[in2orchids@yahoo.com](mailto:in2orchids@yahoo.com)

We're on the web at:  
[easternmaineorchidsociety.org](http://easternmaineorchidsociety.org)

# Have a Super Summer!

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## Important Notice: EMOS Tax deductible status

EMOS is classified as a Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation not a Public Benefit Corporation.

Mutual Benefit Corporations are not tax exempt. Public Benefit Corporations are granted tax exemption under section 501(c)(3).

The classification of EMOS as a Mutual Benefit Corporation was made in the filing of the State of Maine 2003 Annual Report for nonprofit corporations. The Articles of Incorporation filed 03/13/2001 for the Eastern Maine Orchid Society, charter number 20010396ND did not require selection of Public Benefit or Mutual Benefit status. However, starting in January 1, 2003 Maine required that every nonprofit corporation designated whether they are a Public Benefit Corporation or a Mutual Benefit Corporation.

According to Maine's Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commissions (CEC) a Mutual Benefit Corporation is any nonprofit corporation that does not fit the description of a public benefit corporation. Generally, if your corporation's mission is to serve a limited number of members with common interests, it is probably a Mutual Benefit Corporation. Common examples: homeowners' associations, snowmobile clubs, trade associations.

If you'd like to explore this further, the State of Maine has a guide "How to Tell Whether Your Nonprofit Corporation is a Public Benefit Corporation or a Mutual Benefit Corporation" which may be found on line at:  
<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/corp/jan12003.html>

The guidelines are the same one that we looked at in 2003 to determine EMOS' status.

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