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December 2009

An AOS Affiliated Society

President's Message

As I write this message just before Thanksgiving I am reminded how thankful I am to be a member of the wonderful group of individuals who comprise the Tidewater Orchid Society. It is a society of hard workers and volunteers who really do spread the wonder and beauty of this wonderful group of plants known as orchids. I am reminded of the saying "I came for the flowers but stayed for the members". Our society is a close knit group that really does work well together so that no one is overly burdened by the work that is necessary to successfully operate such a group such as ours. I joined this society in 1967 and never once have I regretted joining and serving the membership in many capacities over the years. THANKS to Everyone of You!!

I would also like to thank the Merritt Huntington Symposium Committee who produced a wonderful weekend of fantastic speakers, great sales plants and great fun. It was a great gathering we will long remember.

Our Holiday and Awards Banquet this year will be held at ODU on December 13th in our usual meeting place in the Webb Center Cafeteria. Remember we will NOT be meeting on our usual first Sunday date due to a scheduling conflict. The party will begin with appetizers and a cash bar at 5:30 PM followed by a wonderful buffet dinner (if last year's party was any indication) and then the presenta-



Blc. Owen Holmes 'Mendenhall'

tion of Show Table Awards and a review of the plants brought in for display. Remember to bring your flowering plants in for display during this gathering. There will also be some door prize plants this year. The cost to the members will be \$25.00 per person with TOS contributing the balance. You can mail your reservations and payments to our treasurer Sharon Peterson, 623 Bartell Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322-5754 or you can call her at 548-9376 to make a reservation and pay her at the party. Please make your checks payable to TOS. I look forward to seeing you at this function so make those reservations! It should be a great time for all.

Please make a note now that our January 2010 meeting will be held on January 10th, the second Sunday of the month due to the New Years Holiday weekend being the week before. Our speaker will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California. He will be speaking on catasetums, mormodes, cycnoches and their hybrids. We were fortunate to have him speak this last year on cattleyas and we look forward to hearing him speak on this wonderful and bizarre group of orchids. Please take some time before then to go to his website www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com and see the diverse and beautiful breeding he has done within this group.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Ken Peterson

5th Annual Merritt Huntington Symposium



C. Penang 'Black Caesar'

For all of you that didn't attend the symposium you missed out on a great experience! There was lots of great information, camaraderie and a great variety of beautiful plants for sale. Don't miss it next year because the AOS Trustees meeting and several other orchid associations will be occurring in conjunction with the symposium

The group that was putting the display up and making sure that everything was ready for the first session on Friday had their hands full dealing with the problems created by the Northeaster! There was traveling through flooded roadways, traffic problems with stop lights out and stalled cars, electricity out at member's residences and having the location of the symposium moved to two different meeting rooms during the two days prior to the start due to flooding at the hotel.

The IPA Region 13 Meeting



Those of you that went to the IPA meeting know what the other's missed! Great plants and great Speakers. Dr. David H. McDaniel, introduced by Linda Thorne of Seagrove Orchids as "our local treasure", talked about his personal experiences with Phalaenopsis hybridization at his Virginia Beach home. Very fascinating! Even if Phalaenopsis isn't your orchid of choice, if you get another chance don't miss an IPA meeting. Lots of beautiful flowers to look and and the speakers can provide information and tips that you can use no matter what you grow!

Holiday Banquet

The Holiday and Awards Banquet this year will be held at ODU on December 13th in our usual meeting place in the Webb Center Cafeteria. Remember we will NOT be meeting on our usual first Sunday date due to a scheduling conflict. The party will begin with appetizers and a cash bar at 5:30 PM followed by a buffet dinner and the presentation of Show Table Awards. Remember to bring your flowering plants in for display during this gathering. There will also be some door prize plants this year. The cost to the members will be \$25.00 per person with TOS contributing the balance. You can mail your reservations and payments to our treasurer Sharon Peterson, 623 Bartell Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322-5754 or you can call her at 548-9376 to make a reservation and pay her at the party. It should be lots of fun!



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Bc. Maikai 'Louise'



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Bllra. Tropic Tom