

CALLING ALL ORCHID GROWERS

Orchid societies' monthly show tables provide a great opportunity for members to show off their blooming plants and see what others are doing. *A Judge may comment on the quality or rarity of a plant and suggest that it be brought to an AOS judging center where it may be researched in their records.* Unless your plant or inflorescence was AOS judged the day before, you'll probably never know if it's awardable but one thing is certain - your plant won't be awarded if it stays at home. So, what are you waiting for?

An AOS Judging Center is a great place to see how new hybrids are blooming and what new species are coming out of the wilds or even flasks. Hybridizers, whose goal is to make better-looking flowers and plants, get to see what's working, and, what's not. All attendees get a first-hand look at the best, most unusual, and even the worst and learn what to look for and are privy to a great store of knowledge in terms of quality, unusualness and historical perspective.

Learning how to judge an orchid begins with a minimum six-year training period; but, with orchids (and orchid judging) constantly evolving, the learning process is ongoing - What was good 5, 10 or 15 years ago may be substandard today. The Judging Program affords exhibitors and judges alike with an opportunity to look at issues like this through informative presentations and lively discussions that precede plant judging. The bottom line is that Judging Centers are in place for the benefit of all orchid interests.

Your orchid society has made a contribution in your behalf to support the AOS Judging Program at the Northeast Regional Centers in Boylston MA and Elmsford NY. The great thing about orchids is that there's always something in bloom. Please bring your plants and visit us soon. We look forward to seeing you!

Rita Cohen, Chair – Elmsford NY
516-374-6426
Monthly on 3rd Saturday, 12:00 PM
The Hampton Inn
200 Tarrytown Rd
Elmsford NY

Bob Winkley, Chair – Boylston MA
617-282-7351
Monthly on 1st Saturday, 12:00 PM
Tower Hill Botanic Gardens
11 French Dr
Boylston MA
www.towerhillbg.org

Judging sessions at both locations are Free and Open to the Public - donations to the Northeast Regional Center are always appreciated. Programs usually begin at 10:15 AM. Plants submitted for judging should be registered by 11:45 AM. (There is no entry fee for judging however a nominal cost is charged to process any award. Effective 7/1/07, this \$32 by mail, \$28 by internet).