

Growing Paphs and Phrags ~ Part II

by Monica McNamara

Phragmipediums require different light, temperature and watering conditions than paphiopedium. For example, phrags like fairly high light levels, 3000-4000 ft candles, except for bessae-types that do best around 1500 ft candles. In the summer, I move my phrags from the light room to a screened-in outdoor porch and put them in a bright spot out of the direct sun.

Phrags prefer intermediate temperatures, but bessae and schlimii tend to like it somewhat cooler.



Paph. Satin Smoke

distilled or RO for phrags. Tom Larkin of Whip-poorwill Orchids indicates that leaf tip burn can also occur as a result of drying out the phrag too severely and then when watered, the salts rush to the tips causing the leaves to burn. Along with wet feet, phrags like humidity 50+%. Constant air circulation is a must in the higher humidity of a light room or greenhouse.

Phrags are said to thrive on repotting. The media tends to break down more quickly with the frequent watering schedule. I try to repot phrags every 6-12 months and use the potting media recommended by Marilyn LeDoux of Windy Hill Gardens.

Additional growing tips: Water in the morning and have good air circulation around paphs and phrags so their foliage dries prior to night-fall, as they are prone to bacterial rot and infected leaves with water left standing in leaf axils. Also avoid getting water in the pouch of your slipper orchids when watering or misting as it will cause flowers to deteriorate.

Happy growing, and I will look forward to seeing your paphs and phrags at future meetings.



Watering phrags is great! Imagine an orchid that is nearly impossible to overwater! In nature, phrag roots do not dry out. My phrags do best with greater frequency of watering and yet avoiding a wet stagnant condition around the roots. I thoroughly water phrags 3-4 times a week in the light room and almost daily when outside during the summer. I have read that many growers have their phrags sitting in saucers of water, but I have not tried this due to concerns about stagnant conditions developing and concerns about intensifying salt concentrations with evaporation.

Phrags are heavy feeders, and I feed about every other watering. Phrags are very sensitive to salt build-up in the media, usually indicated by leaf tip burn, so flushing or leaching the media is very important.

Many growers emphasize good water quality-rainwater,



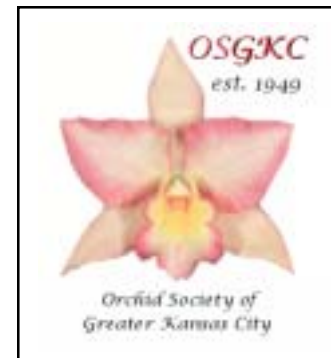
Phrag. Green Dragon

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received his undergraduate degree at the Massachusetts College of Art and Masters of Fine Art and Ph.D. at The Pennsylvania State University. His primary medium is watercolor and his work is represented in several permanent collections, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

[Thanks to Paul Martin Brown for the biographical information.]

Platanthera praecleara



OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY www.osgkc.org

May 2006

A Look Forward: OSGKC May 7th Program

Our May meeting will feature a program by Paul Martin Brown. He will talk about the subject of his latest book, *Wild Orchids of the Prairies and Great Plains Region*.

Brown is a research associate at the University of Florida Herbarium at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, Florida. He received his M.S. from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth and is the founder of the North American Native Orchid Alliance and the *North American Native Orchid Journal*.

He and his partner Stan Folsom have published *Wild Orchids of the Northeastern United States* from Cornell University Press in 1997, *Wild*



Paul Martin Brown (left) and Stan Folsom

Orchids of Florida (2002), *The Wild Orchids of North America, North of Mexico* (2003), *Wild Orchids of the South-eastern United States, North of Peninsula Florida* (2004), *Wild Orchids of Florida, (2005, updated and expanded edition)*, *Wild Orchids of the Canadian Maritimes and Northern Great Lakes Region*, *Wild Orchids of the Pacific Northwest and Canadian Rockies*,

Wild Orchids of the Prairies and Great Plains Region (2006), all from the University Press of Florida.

Currently in progress are *Wild Orchids of the Northeast: New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey* for publication in 2007 and *Wild Orchids of Texas: A Field Guide* for 2008.

Stan Folsom is a retired art teacher and botanical illustrator who

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OSGKC's Monthly Meeting: May 7, 2006

Roeland Park Community Center
4850 Rosewood
Roeland Park, KS

Beginners' Group: 1:00 p.m.
Regular Program: 2:00 p.m.

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OSGKC Wins In Omaha

by Beth Martin

Congratulations to Team OSGKC, who brought home the American Orchid Society Show Trophy for the most outstanding exhibit at the Mid-America Orchid Congress and Greater Omaha Orchid Society 19th Annual Show and Sale! The exhibit looked like a rocky cliff covered in orchids and truly was a show favorite. It was even used as a background by an Omaha TV news crew.

Our society's exhibit included orchids, which were generously provided by 16 society members, and which won a total of 19 ribbons. Special congratulations to Monica McNamara, whose *Encyclia bractescens* won the best of class trophy as the best *Epidendrum/Encyclia/Laelia* in the show.

Kudos also to Vivian Walters and David Bird (Bird's Botanicals), who entered their own winning exhibits in Omaha. Vivian won the best of class trophy for the best orchid art entry, and Bird's Botanicals won the best of class trophy for open competition exhibits as well as 10 ribbons.

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Letter from OSGKC President:

Dan Schlozman

My growing space, and I hope yours, is alive with color now. At no other time does the greenhouse look so good. Likewise, the outside garden is coming alive, making this time of year a grower's paradise.

I am very much looking forward to the May meeting. Meanwhile, we plan a board meeting on May 3rd, during which we will talk again about judging, a possible MidAmerica show, program updates, auctions. Clearly, many of these subjects will not be resolved, but I'm sure progress will be made.

Happy growing.

Dan

A Look Behind: OSGKC Meeting - April 2, 2006 Minutes

At the end of the annual growers' tour, Dan Schlozman, President, called a brief meeting to order. The tour included the homes of David Sosland, Jami Parkison, and Lance Jessee, all in the Mid-Town area. The March 2006 minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Voting on a change to the club's constitution to add the Budget Committee Chairperson to the Board of Directors was postponed to the May meeting.

Committee Reports:

Shows and Exhibits: Beth Martin announced that the Society received the AOS Show Trophy for the exhibit at the Mid-America show in Omaha. See related article in this issue of the newsletter for more details on awards won at the show.

Program: Doug Martin said the speaker for May will be Paul Brown on native orchids. Mark Prout said the Society picnic was being planned for July. Mark volunteered to organize a potting clinic to be held in conjunction with the picnic. The speaker for August will be Lucinda Winn from J & L Orchids.

Submitted by Susie Hanna, Secretary

Omaha...con't from pg. 1



Many thanks to the OSGKC members who helped with the exhibit: Joy and Mark Prout, Cindy Hobbs, Jami Parkison, Deb Pate, Julie Morrison, Monica McNamara, Doug and Beth Martin, Tony King and Jason Thoren. A very special thank you to the OSGKC members who provided orchids for the exhibit: David Bird, Fred Bergman, Cindy Hobbs, Wendy and Eric Hoch, Tony King and Jason Thoren, Cynthia Kriesel, Beth and Doug Martin, Monica McNamara, Julie Morrison, Marquita O'Riley, Jami Parkison, Joy and Mark Prout, Dan Schlozman, David Sosland, Terrence Thompson, and Vivian Walters.

Ribbon winners in the OSGKC exhibit are listed below:

Owner	Class	Orchid Name	Hybrid Cross	Awards
OSGKC	6	Exhibit		1+AOS
David Bird	79	Milioniopsis Hajime Ono x Arnold Lineman		2
Fred Bergman	40	Paph. Ebony King	Orchilla x Docteur Knock	2
Cindy Hobbs	65	Phal. Classic Beauty	Be Glad x stuartiana	1
	23	Lc. Gold Digger	Lc. Red Gold x C. War Paint	3
	25	Slc. Brandied Treat `Cherry Ripe` HCC/AOS	Lc. Trick or Treat x Slc. Brandywine	1
Wendy Hoch	51	Asocenda Princess Mikasa `Sapphire` AM/AOS	Ascda. Royal Sapphire x V. coerulea	1
	11	Encyclia abbreviata	species	2
Tony King	97	Den. Red Emperor `Prince`	New Colmet x Benikujiyaku	3
	98	Den. semifusum x johannis	HNR	2
Beth & Doug Martin	45	Cyp. parviflorum var. parviflorum	species	1
Monica McNamara	11	Encyclia bractescens	species	1 + Trophy
	44	Phrag. Green Dragon	Grande x Court Jester	3
	21	Lc. Schilleriana	L. purpurata v werkhaueri x C. intermedia `Blue Lip`	3
Mark & Joy Prout	18	C. aurantiaca	species	3
Dan Schlozman	23	Slc. Hugh Cragg `Aiea`	Slc. Pacific Gem x C. aurantiaca	1
David Sosland	14	Gba. Snow Ballet	Dial. Snowflake x Bl. Richard Mueller	2
Vivian Walters	90	Cym. canaliculatum `Sparkeii`	species	3
	77	Brsdm. Shooting Star	Brsdm. Guilded Urchin x Brs. Edvah Loo	3

Member Profile: Tony King and Jason Thoren -- Q and A

Q. Give basic background about your orchid collection:

A. Our orchid addiction started when Aunt Anita, a member of the Columbia Orchid Society, gave us a piece of a unknown Oncidium. After that we started picking up a plant here and there, not wanting to buy too many for fear of killing them. When Jason started watering orchids for David Bird, it was



off to the races. We went willy nilly, bringing things home we had no idea how to take care of, but we learned. Then Jason started working at Heartland Nursery, and they had a \$5 orchid sale for the employees, and it was all over. Our collection grew very quickly in a short period of time. Now we look for orchids all the time, trying to find the strange and bizarre. We have read a lot of books to keep our addiction alive and thriving.

Q. How many years have you been growing orchids?:

A. About 5.

Q. How many orchids are in your collection?:

A. 223.

Q. What is the predominant type(s) of orchid you raise?:

A. Cattleya Alliance,

Bulbophyllum, and Species.

Q. Give a brief description of their growing environment:

A. We bought a house last March, and built a 12 x 12 grow room, with HPS lights and a new addition of florescent lights. It was very large under taking, for the two of us and a friend.

Q. Name one to three in your collection which is a/are particular favorite(s) and why:

A. Epilealiocattleya `Dogashima` (Lc. Trick or Treat x Epc. Lemon Twist): It has the coolest blooms that change colors in different kinds of light, with waxy orange petals and magenta lip. Brassavola Nodosa: This is the best smelling orchid, I think. We got it from Vivian Walters, and it re-spikes off the old spike.

Cirrhopetalum lepidum: It is great for its multiple flower spikes and numerous flowers all lined up in a row.

Q. Name one to three in your collection that, despite your best efforts, has/have proven particularly difficult to grow:

A. The first plant we got from Aunt Anita. We have almost killed it twice, wrinkled up all of its leaves, lost almost of its leaves, rotted part it off, and it has never bloomed, but it is finally looking better. There is still hope.

Q. Share with readers your best orchid culture tip(s):

A. When re-potting, remember that lots of roots doesn't mean a plant needs a larger pot. Also a larger pot doesn't mean more water is needed. Don't be afraid to mount orchids on whatever media you like. Lots of them will do

Harold Basye, Vivian Walters, Marquita O'Riley and Olga Berger will provide refreshments for May's meeting



better. We have found that mounting things that you can't grow in a pot seem to do better. We have mounted Phals, Catts, and many other species. This way you can't over water them.

Also we put wine corks in the bottom of our pots for better drainage, and besides the plants like a good buzz.

Q. What do you do in life to support your orchid addiction?:

A. Jason works at Heartland Nursery in the perennial department, and loves being outside with all of the plants. I work as the Executive Chef at Deer Creek Golf Club in south Overland Park.



Start Planning for the June 12th meeting!

OSGKC will host an auction at the regular June 12th meeting. Please remember that at this sale, 100% of the proceeds goes to the Society. Contact Monica McNamara and Mark Prout about plants you are donating to the sale.



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