

The following is the handout OSGKC judges are using to assess the entries in our monthly judged shows. The handout is provided by Mark Prout, a student AOS judge.

A few basic guidelines for judging orchids at OSGKC monthly meetings

While the American Orchid Society has guidelines for evaluating the quality of orchids in several large families of genera, OSGKC members participating as judges in the monthly meetings will be "show" judging, that is, ranking those flowers presented in their categories, rather than looking for award quality.

Many of the plants that members show at meetings are clones of plants that already hold AOS awards. Some of these received recognition as long ago as the 1970s. Since the AOS presents new awards based on improvement on the parents of new hybrids, more recent hybrids, although unawarded, may be a better flower than a previously awarded clone.

Judges comparing flowers should consider form, color and other factors.

Form: Criteria includes roundness, fullness, flatness and symmetry.

Roundness: "A circumscribed circle, drawn with the base of the column as the center, should touch the tips of the petals and sepals and the margin of the lip..."

Fullness: "...while the flower should fill the greater proportion of the circle."

Flatness: When viewed from the side, the flower should appear for the most part to occupy the same plane.

Symmetry: The flower appears to be arranged so that both sides of its axis are identical.

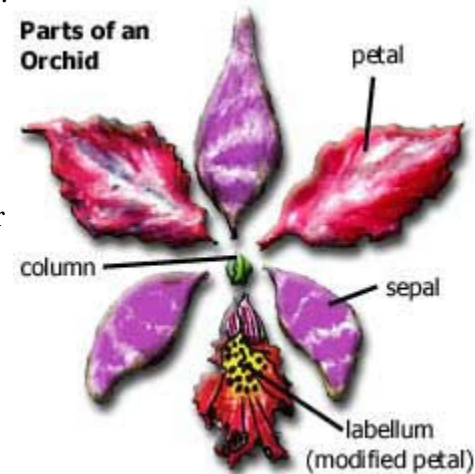
Color: Color should be clear and definite, consistent with the genus and parentage. Markings should be distinct, pleasing and symmetrical.

Other factors: Size of flower...arrangement/presentation...floriferousness...strong, straight stem...misshaped?

The importance of these criteria varies according to the category and according to the parentage of the plant. For example, the genus *Dendrobium* is so large and diverse that mobile-type are judged according to *Cattleya* standards, and *Phalaenopsis*-type are judged according to (what else?) *Phalaenopsis* standards. Small single-flowered or sequentially flowering *Paphiopedilums* will never match their multiflora brethren for floriferousness.

Pleurothallid caveat: *The Pleurothallid Alliance is so diverse and varied in form that there are few of the standard criteria that apply to set individual plants apart except that the colors of Section Coccineae of the genus Masdevallia have a natural advantage.*

Don't worry about getting it "right." Do the best you can. In the end, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. You know quality when you see it and when you what to look for.



* American Orchid Society Handbook on Judging and Exhibition, 11th Edition.

Program...con't from pg. 1

- ♦ 1/2 cup bone meal.

For Phrags (excluding xerophyticum) potted in cinch and larger pot sizes, I like to add in 1/4 to 1/3 medium sequoia bark. I also often add in 1/4 fluffed rock wool, especially for the more moisture-loving types of phrags. I never use rock wool in my xerophyticum mix.

For Phrag (Mexipedium) xerophyticum, I add to the above formula:

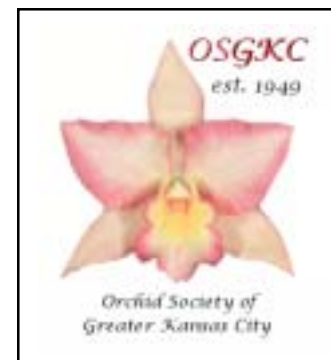
- ♦ 1/4 cup dolomitic lime.
- ♦ 1/4 more charcoal for good drainage to any size part of this mix separated out. For example, for two cups of the above mix, I add 1/2 cup or more of extra fine charcoal.

I also use the above mix, minus the extra charcoal but with the dolomitic lime, for my *Paphiopedilums*. I also like to use styrofoam peanuts in the bottoms of my pots for good drainage.



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OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY www.osgkc.org June 2006

A Look Forward:

OSGKC June 11th Program: Spring Auction

The annual, Spring Orchid Auction is scheduled for Sunday, June 11 and takes the place of our regular monthly meeting, with all proceeds of the auction benefiting the Society. This is the Society's big money raiser of the year and helps to fund our annual budget for speakers, books for our library, and other Society activities and expenses.

"We will auction plants and supplies donated by our supportive vendors," says Monica McNamara, Chair of the Auction Committee.

Members are encouraged to donate nice plants, orchid supplies or other orchid paraphernalia - with a limit of 25 plants per member. Plants in bloom are most welcome, but if not in

bloom, you are encouraged to include a picture of the flower. (Contact Mark Prout or Doug Martin for picture assistance.) It is helpful when a list of your donated plants is e-mailed to Mark Prout or Monica McNamara by Sunday, June 4, so that an email announcement can be sent out to members prior to the auction.

The set up and viewing are from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. The auction will start at 1:30ish and go to about 4:30. The Auction is held at the Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Drive, in the regular, smaller meeting room.

"Members are highly encouraged to attend and support your Society," says Monica, "as well as add to your wonderful collections."

Monica also asks that members please spread the word to family, neighbors, and friends because this event is open to the general public.

If you have questions, contact Monica, 913-851-8709, e-mail: mmorchids@everestkc.net or Mark Prout 816-478-7087, e-mail: mprout2@comcast.net.

Thanks to Monica McNamara for this announcement

OSGKC's Monthly Meeting: June 11, 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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Paphs and Phrags: Potting Mixes

Last month, Monica McNamara concluded an excellent series on raising *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmopedilums*. In her article, she mentioned that for her Phrags and Paphs she uses the potting-mix formula of Marilyn LaDoux, of Windy Hill Gardens.

The following is information about that mix, which is quoted from the Windy Hill Gardens' website.

LaDoux's Repotting and potting media:

Repot every one to two years in fresh mix. The best time is usually right after flowering, but Phrags are very tolerant of re-potting anytime. I prefer the following basic potting mix for my Phrags:

- ♦ 9 quarts fine bark (Sequoia).
- ♦ 3 quarts perlite or sponge rock.
- ♦ 3 quarts fine to extra fine charcoal (#3 or #4)
- ♦ 3 quarts fluffed Canadian peat or Pro-Mix HP (or similar peat-based mix).

A Look Behind: OSGKC Meeting - May 7, 2006 Minutes

Dan Schlozman, President, called the meeting to order on May 7, 2006. Dan said we would begin with the program, followed by the business meeting. Doug Martin introduced the speaker, Paul Martin Brown, author of several books on native orchids, and his partner, Stan Folsom, who illustrates the books. Mr. Brown's presentation, *Wild Orchids of the Prairies and Great Plains*, is also the title of their latest book which will be released later this year. Members who would like to order the book at a group discount rate, should contact Doug Martin. Brown's slide show included photos of Cypripediums growing in Wyandotte County taken the day before the meeting. Along with books to sell, Mr. Folsom offered botanical illustrations.

Old Business:

Dan Schlozman said some confusion had occurred about the executive committee's function. He said that the committee's purpose "is to make recommendations. Approval of recommendations are made by the general membership." Dan said the Executive Committee is working on a proposal to host a regional show in Kansas City.

New Business:

The April 2006 minutes were approved. Paul Kreutzer, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$13,062.24, not including show funds. The treasurer's report was approved.

Budget 2005-2006

Cindy Hobbs presented the proposed 2006 budget. Currently, we have account balances of \$6,272 in the show fund, and about \$13,000 in the general fund, for a total of \$19,272. Income for 2005 was \$6,635, with expenses of \$7,142, meaning we used a little over \$500 from the general fund to make up for the deficit. Cindy said we spent more for club donations than anticipated, but this was partially offset by income from the Pat Garrison auction. The proposed budget for 2006 is \$5,400 in income and \$6,263 in expenses. Cindy explained that the lowered projected income for 2006 is largely a result of the reduction of revenues resulting from the cancellation of the Spring mini-Auction, which in 2005 brought in about \$1,200. A discussion followed about some members being disappointed about the cancellation of the Spring auction. Dan Schlozman said there was concern that the mini auctions were taking funds away from the main fund-raising auction held each summer to benefit the society. Susie Hanna suggested that we consider having three auctions per year at which a percentage of the proceeds at all the auctions goes to the grower/vendor and a percentage goes to the club. The discussion was tabled to a future time. A motion was passed to approve the budget as presented.

Committee Reports:

Beginner's Program: Fred Bergman reported that the group discussed general orchid culture.

Program: Mark Prout stated that future programs are: June, auction; July, picnic; August, Lucinda Winn from J & L Orchids; September, Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids. Marge Fromm of the Omaha Zoo has been invited to speak in either October or November on the zoo's orchid conservation project. December is the holiday banquet.

Yearbook: Lance Jessee announced that the yearbooks are ready for members to pick up.

Membership: John Mallery said we have taken in no new members in the past month.

Website: John Mallery said he's working on the website and will be adding a photo of plant-of-the-month. He thanked Tom and Joyce Mallery for managing the website and urged members to read the society history at the site.

Mid-America: Vivien Walters welcomed returning members Tom and Joyce Moulis. Vivien announced the next Mid-America meeting is August 25-27 in Lexington, KY. She also said the 19th World Orchid Congress will be held in late February and early March 2008 in Miami.

Publicity: Jason Ward said the June 11 auction will be publicized in the *KC Gardener* and in the "Growing Section" of *The Kansas City Star*.

Auctions: Monica McNamara said that the June 11 auction preview will be from 1 to 1:30, and the auction will begin at 1:30. She encouraged members to donate nice plants. If the plant is not blooming, please provide a photo. If you need help finding a photo, contact Mark Prout or Doug Martin.

Raffle: This month's raffle plants were purchased from Windy Hill Orchids.

Hospitality: Harold Basye, Vivian Walters, Marquita O'Riley, and Olga Berger provided refreshments.

Judging: Monica McNamara said that we will continue with the same system of judging with some improvements for the rest of this year. Later in the year, a member survey will be done to collect ideas on changes. She said she wanted to encourage volunteers to judge. Mark Prout has an explanation sheet available for judging criteria.

Library: Rosemarie Hedrick suggested the club buy *Orchids of North America*, by Paul Martin Brown. A motion was made and passed to make the purchase in the amount of \$27.95. Cindy Hobbs noted that the club had already spent all but about \$8 in library funds. Vivien Walters offered \$10 toward it's purchase.

Point and Comment: Frank Serra presented an idea for keeping track of plants that need attention. He buys colored ontractor flags at the hardware store to place in the pots of plants that need help.

Book Review: Paul Kreutzer reviewed *Field Guide to the Orchids of Costa Rica and Panama*, 1993 by Robert Dressler.

This meeting's Plant-of-the-Month was Phrag Gigantium grown by Fred Bergman. Congratulations Fred!

Jami Parkison, Deb Pate, Susie Hanna and Al Clinton will provide refreshments for June's meeting



Website Chair Report

The OSGKC web site has been slightly modified and slightly updated. All 2006 newsletters are now available online and the photo gallery includes the May 2006 plant of the month - something I hope to continue throughout the year. A new resources page will be added soon, with a short listing of online resources.

I still need a list of the planned programs for the remainder of the year. If anyone would like to promote the upcoming auction, send me the text you would like posted.

No new members to report.

John Mallery



Looking for information about orchids?

The following website was featured in a recent AOS *Orchids* magazine. The web page provides a link to the National Plant Data Center.

NPDC "acquires, develops, improves and disseminates plant information to support the USA's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other efforts to improve the ecological health of the land."

Website: www.orchidweb.org/aos/conservation/page03.aspx

Member Profile: Marquita O'Riley -- Q and A

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

A. Nine years ago, in 1997, I got my first orchid as a Valentine gift from my son, Brian.

Q. How many orchids are in your collection?:

A. I have about 140 various type of orchids.

moved them two years ago to the basement.

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

A. I find getting my phals to bloom very frustrating. I have sent many different types of orchids to orchid



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

A. I have mostly cattleyas slip-pers, phalaenopsis and oncidiums.

Q. Give a brief description of their growing environment:

A. I started out in my east kitchen window but have now expanded to other windows. I put them outside on the deck, when the cold weather has gone. I bought a small, 8x10 greenhouse in 2002, but the last two years my orchids have been in the basement for the winter so I don't have to worry about power failures.

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

A. I have a little Epidendrum "green hornet" which has bloomed 5 years in a row despite where I put it. I have also had the best luck with most of my slippers since I

heaven. I just keep buying and trying.

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

A. I really don't have any tips; I just keep trying. I hope to redo the room in the basement into micro climates and see if that helps.

Q. What do/did (if retired) you do in life to support your orchid addiction?:

A. I worked for AT&T for 30 years until Dec. 2000, and then in 2002 went to work for Lowes in the garden center. That way, I am outside in the fresh air with plants and have the extra money for my plant and orchid addiction.

The photo shows Marquita on vacation in Europe.

