

Growing Orchids - Lights - con't from pg. 3  
get the highest humidity. Spray continuously during the day in very hot weather to aid in cooling. Increasing the humidity allows you to give the plants more light.

Windowsill growers should give their plants all the sun they will tolerate. When the sun is bright, you may need a light curtain and possibly increase the frequency of watering and the amount of air circulation. Supplemental lighting will be required only if there is insufficient sunlight.

If you move your plants outside during the summer, they can be moved as soon as there is no longer a danger of frost. Leave your orchids out until the first frost is expected in the fall. Exposure to the higher light outside should be increased gradually over a period of two to three weeks. Don't forget to watch your watering. Under high light and air

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half hybrids, which Doug grows under lights in an 18 x 20 foot room in the basement. In the past, he has grown them on windowsills and in a greenhouse. His favorites are species and the slipper orchids. Although many people think he really likes the "little weird ones," in fact he grows them mostly for Beth. His true orchid passion is the native orchids, which he loves to find and photograph in the wild and grow in pots.

Doug has been President of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, chairman of the Mid-America Orchid Congress Conservation Committee and Vice President of the Missouri Orchid Society. His favorite orchid experience is the collecting trip he and Beth took to Belize in 1996.

Outside of orchids, Doug's interests include science, scuba diving, and history, particularly medieval English history.

movement, some plants will benefit from watering one to two times a day. It is much more difficult to over water orchids when they are outside.

When you decide to grow under lights, the most important decision will be how much light will be required to bloom the plants you want to grow. For low-light plants (Phalaenopsis, Odon-toglossums, Miltonias and Masdevallias) a 40-watt, two-bulb reflector, six-to-eight inches above the plants will be sufficient. For others, consider at least two light units (four bulbs) at a height of four inches.

For maximum results, consider a high pressure vapor lamp unit. Providing less light, but pretty good, are 40-watt strip lights mounted side by side, as close together as possible. The most efficient low-pressure vapor lights are sodium, but the flowers are not

Taking Care of the 'Chids - con't from pg. 1

mention orchids, but the application recommended to me was one teaspoon per gallon, sprayed on all surfaces of the plant, as well as poured through the pot and media. I found a source for the fungicide: Green Barn Orchids, 561-499-2810 or [www.greenbarnorchid.com](http://www.greenbarnorchid.com), and treated my plants in August, and again in September. I had lost about seven plants before the Thiomyl, and after August, I only lost two more plants. The disease was too far advanced in these plants to save them. I am pleased to report that the new growth on the treated plants is emerging unblemished and with great vigor and health. About half of my collection of 50-plus Phals is now in spike and looking so much healthier.

Hyla Levine, owner of Green Barn Orchids, said many of her customers use the Thiomyl in May and June as a preventative. We also used it on some of our other orchids to clear up the black spotting on leaves.

If you choose to use Thiomyl, read the instructions carefully. This is a potent systemic fungicide. We found that it was best to apply outdoors. Within a couple of hours the odor of the product is gone, and we moved the plants back inside. Alternatively, you could carefully apply it in your garage or basement. Wear appropriate protection. Re-potting the plants is also advisable before you treat.

To prevent this problem, take care in adding new plants to your collection. Since having this experience, I see Phals. with similar symptoms for sale at the various discount department and home improvement stores, as well as local nurseries. And of course, good growing conditions are always important.

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Whippoorwill Orchids

as attractive under the yellow light. For fluorescents, the most efficient are cool white. Consider, for economical reasons, purchasing the more expensive solid state ballast.

One of the hardest decisions to be made is how close to your plants do you want your lights. The higher the lights are above the plants the lower the light intensity but the larger the growing area that is available. Don't skimp.

Both light intensity and humidity will be improved by enclosing your growing area. A good method is to use Styrofoam panels that are four-by-eight feet and one and a half inches thick. It is available at your local home-building supply store with aluminum foil bonded on one side. You can either hang the panels or stand them up to enclose your plants. This will permit the panels to be removed to care for your plants.



# OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY [www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) January 2007

## A Look Forward:

January 14th Program:  
*The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids: Pollination Biology.*

by Doug Martin

During the January OSGKC meeting, I'll explain how orchid pollination works, then discuss the various rewards and deceptions that orchids use to induce birds, bees and other beasts to take the place of toothpicks. I'll also describe some of the tricks orchids have developed to prevent self pollination and hybridization.

### Background about Doug Martin:

Doug was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. He went to college and graduate school at Clarkson College in Potsdam, NY where he earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chem-



istry. After graduate school, he became a Postdoctoral Fellow in Molecular Biochemistry at Yale Medical School. He was there for fourteen years, eventually becoming a Research Associate Professor

in the Department of Therapeutic Radiology where he studied experimental cancer therapeutics. In 1985, he moved to Kansas City and KU Medical School as the Director of Research for the Brain Tumor Institute of Kansas City. In 1988, he moved to St. Louis and sold genetic research equipment and supplies.

In St. Louis, Doug met Beth and discovered orchids. His life hasn't been the same since. He remembers being at the Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show and thinking, "These are much more interesting than African violets!"

Beth and Doug were married in 1990, and in 1991 Beth, bowing to the inevitable, bought Doug an orchid (from ViCli Orchids) for Valentine's Day. Doug immediately bought himself a second orchid, and a week later, while visiting friends in Little Rock, Beth and Doug bought three more. In 1992 Doug quit sales and opened Biosource Orchid Lab to do seed flasking and stem propagation for orchid growers. For five years people sent him orchid seed and paid him to play with it.

In 1997, Beth took a position with State Street Bank in Kansas City. They moved from St. Louis to Kansas City, Doug closed the lab and started teaching Chemistry at Penn Valley Community College. The couple have spent many, many hours remodeling the house they bought in Shawnee, and it is finally a comfortable home for them, their yellow Lab, Mina, and their cats Batman and Carlos.

Doug and Beth have about 200 orchids, about half species and

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Remember OSGKC's new Monthly Meeting location:

OSGKC begins the new year at Broadway United Methodist Church, 74th and Wornall, Kansas City, MO.

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

## Taking Care of the 'Chids

"Fungal Disease in Phalaenopsis"  
Part II

by Susie Hanna

With plants now rapidly dying, I didn't have time to waste figuring it out. This is when I contacted long-time OSGKC member and Phalaenopsis expert, Tom Larkin, at Whippoorwill Orchids. Tom said what I was experiencing with my plants sounded like the virulent fungus that spread rapidly through many Phal. collections in the early 1990s, causing the loss of many plants until the anti-fungal Cleary's 3336 was tried and found to be very effective. This product is sold in small quantities under the name Thiomyl. The instructions do not

*Letter from OSGKC President:  
Dan Schlozman*

We had a grand winter party; and I am looking forward to the start of the New Year at our new location. Unfortunately, I will miss the January meeting to my long-planned trip over the Martin Luther King weekend, dining with Donald Duck and others on a Disney cruise.

At any rate, I was very happy to see so many good friends and members at our banquet and wish all Happy Holidays and a very Happy New year.

Happy growing and see ya in Feb.

Dan



*A Look Behind: OSGKC Meeting: December 10th, 2006, Minutes*

Dan Schlozman, President, called the meeting to order on December 10, 2006. The meeting was conducted as part of the annual awards banquet, held this year at Figlio's on the Plaza.

Ron Daly, Membership Committee Chair, distributed a list of people who are lapsed members, and asked that each person attending the banquet call to invite these people to rejoin OSGKC. There are a total of 143 lapsed members on his list. Mark Prout announced the new location for our monthly membership meeting beginning in January 2007 at Broadway United Methodist Church, 74th and Wornall. He urged members to drive by the new location after the banquet.

Submitted by Susie Hanna, Secretary

*Report from Monica McNamara:*

The 2006 plant judging award winners, as announced at the December 2006 banquet meeting, are as follows:

Fred Bergman **Orchidist of the Year**

- Monica McNamara: **Species**
- Mark & Joy Prout: **Miscellaneous**
- Al Clinton & Susie Hanna: **Pleurothallid**
- Harold Basye: **Cattleya**
- Tony King & Jason Thoren: **Dendrobium**
- Terrence Thompson: **Phragmipedium**
- Cindy Hobbs: **Oncidium**
- Jan Reagor: **Beginners**
- Cindy Kriesel: **Beginners**
- Fred Bergman: **Paphiopedilum**
- Fred Bergman: **Phalaenopsis**

Monica McNamara: **The Royal Barber Memorial Award for Highest Percentage of Points for Plants Judged**



*Fred Bergman receiving Orchidist of the Year plaque from Mark Prout at the OSGKC Awards Banquet, December 2006*

*Meeting Dates for 2007*

Here are the dates for the 2007 OSGKC monthly meetings. All but two of our meetings will be held at Broadway United Methodist Church, 74th and Wornall Road in Kansas City, Missouri. April's meeting is the growers' tour, and December's meeting is the awards banquet.

January 14	July 8
February 11	August 12
March 11	September 9
May 6	October 14
June 10	November 11

*Member Profile:  
Dan Scholzman --  
Q and A*

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

A. Fifteen, and ten seriously

**Q. How many orchids are in your collection?:**

About 100 .

**Q. Give a brief description of their growing environment:**

A. I have a small greenhouse with limited early morning light and, in the winter, limited sun after 3 p.m. There are a number of microclimates present, and I'm trying to create some more.

**Q. What's the predominant type of orchid(s) you raise?**

A. I have a mixed collection with a large number of Phals, about 10 Cats of varying size. Also many paphs and phrags that bloom now and then (although my percent bloom rate to green leaves only is rising and the mortality/morbidity rate is definitely falling). I am growing a few pleurothallids with limited success with warm Masdavillias. I'm using up space



with a half dozen Bulbophyllums (in spite of generous and recurring advice from Jason and Tony).

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

A. For drama, my favorite is the large Angraecum I showed in November (Longiscott). For grace and showing in the home, several

*Growing Orchids – How much light?*

By Fred Bergman

**H**ow much light do you require? That depends, on what you grow, where you grow, and what you would like to achieve.

Minimum light is what is required for the plants to grow and bloom. Maximum light produces more side shoots, more spikes, more blooms. Maximum light also produces smaller leaves and can fade some blossoms. As

phals are the winners- in particular Phal Taisuco 'Appletine' and the miniature Phal Minimark 'Mendenhall'

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

A. I have many of those critters in my collection. They started as paphs and phrags but currently are Bulbophyllums.

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

A. I think orchid growing is mostly about drainage, pH, light, fertilizer etc., not about green thumbs. Finding growing medium to suite one's style is for me very important. For instance, I love to kill plants by overwatering and have had to adjust to this by using

mediums that give me good clues. For Phals a peat-light mixture in a clay pot works well for me. When the top surface is brown and not particularly moist when scratching the surface, it is ready for watering and fertilizing again. ( I fertilize my phals with every watering

and do fine with tap water.)

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

A. I practiced pulmonary/critical care medicine.

you increase your light you need to increase your humidity, air movement, and frequency of watering. Failure to make such increases can result in leaf burning, a little of which does not hurt your plants but does make them less attractive.

Most comprehensive literature describes light requirements of various orchid genera. I grow my plants in excess of some of the recommendations. For example, Ascocendas, Phragmipediums, Paphiopedilums and Cattleyas are all under the same light intensity. This works because I grow under high light. What most people describe for culture is the minimum light requirements, not the maximum.

There are four basic light conditions, with minor variations under each condition. They are greenhouse, windowsill, windowsill/outside in summer and under lights. In a greenhouse, you can use different amounts of shading. For windowsill growing, you use east, west and south with some shading. There is also windowsill with supplemental lighting. Under lights you can vary the type of lights, the intensity and the duration.

In a greenhouse, most growers find that no shading from November through April and 40-60 percent shade in the summer works. The percent of shading you use depends on how well you cool your greenhouse and how high you keep the humidity.

Most greenhouse cooling systems are inadequate. The larger the greenhouse the easier it is to keep the humidity high. For a small greenhouse, consider installing a large cooling system and using a misting system for when the humidity gets too low. Spray under the benches and pulse the system to

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