

Mexican orchid - Bussey - con't from pg. 1

No salt has no taste, too much tastes bad and just the right amount enhances the flavor. Your orchids will love you for just the right amount.

I will give you a few tips which can change the way you grow orchids forever. Do you take vitamins? I recommend Superthrive with every fertilization, especially between March and September. One to four drops per gallon, four in the spring and summer and one in the fall. How about that cocktail in the evening? By adding the equivalent of one cc/gal (1 teaspoon in 5 gallons) of 180+ proof alcohol to every gallon of fertilizer water you apply, will double growth, pop all dormant eyes, extend the life of organic media and quadruple your root system, plus kill many bothersome insect pests. Alcohol is an adjuvant, give your plants a Happy Hour.

The delivery system! Sound like rocket science, doesn't it? It's just the placement of the fertilizer on the plants! Hose-ons, which attach to the faucet with a feeder tube on its side DO NOT WORK, unless your hose is just 15 feet long. I think liquid feeding is the only way to go, unless your plants are outside and it rains on them every few days. If this is the case, then apply lightly, 10+ granules of Nutricote, every 2-3 months per 4 inch pot. That is a PINCH, and for every inch bigger in pot size, add another pinch, SPREAD OUT, not in a heap. For fertilizing, I highly recommend the Gilmour END OF THE HOSE SPRAYERS with 5- or 6-gallon capacity. They cost \$3 to \$5, depending on where you buy them.

I try to fertilize once a week. On bright, hot, sunny summer days I may do it twice. That is usually my ONLY heavy watering. The rest are used to maintain humidity and lower high day temps and may be as much as 4 times a day. Looking at the plants you can tell when they need more water and it



is not on any real schedule other than a one minute sprinkle programmed on a timer at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Our average summer days reach 100 F in Houston. You will seldom have this problem because of your location to the north. Plants which require cooler conditions will have to be grown using more shade and/or a wet wall. When I fertilize, I water the plants down within 30 minutes before fertilizing. If there is too much fertilizer in the water, the plants have already made their initial absorption of plain water and they won't burn because they are sucking up volumes of salt. This pre-watering also breaks the surface

tension on the surface of the roots and leaves, and allows the fertilizer water to come into contact directly with the surfaces. The plant will then select which nutrients and quantities it needs to absorb. Even if you use Nutricote, you might consider a supplemental watering with alcohol and organic micronutrients.

I fertilize one a week between 9 and 10 a.m. the following solution. Make your mix in a 5-6 gallon, end of hose sprayer (one quart proportions out to six gallons of finished solution). To make "the bomb," add: (Ammonium Nitrate - 1 Tablespoon) + (Potassium Nitrate - 1/2 Tablespoon) + (Monoammonium Phosphate - 1 teaspoon) + (Maxigrow - Seaweed supplement - 1 teaspoon) + (Fish Emulsion - 1 teaspoon) + (Superthrive - 1/8 teaspoon) + (Everclear - 96% pure drinking alcohol - 1/2 Tablespoon)

OR to make rocket fuel which gets you the same place as the bomb, but cost a bit more add (Dynagro - Grow formula - 2 Tablespoons) + (Maxigrow - Seaweed supplement - 1 teaspoon) + (Superthrive - 1/8 teaspoon) + (Everclear - 96% pure drinking

alcohol - 1/2 Tablespoon.)

Go to www.abundaflora.com, click on "orchid photos" + MEXICAN, then click on "printable genus and species list" + repeat on the right side to obtain the chart legend.

Part III in April

February Minutes - con't from pg. 2

looking at two possible dates in March and April for the Spring auction, but more work is needed before making a decision.

Raffle: Our thanks to Tony King and Jason Thoren for the plants donated to the raffle.

Yearbook: Dan Schlozman reported that the yearbook is nearing publication. More advertising is needed. Tony King volunteered to help Lance Jesse with the advertising.

Hospitality: Mike Wheeler said that names of those providing refreshments will be published in the newsletter as a reminder.

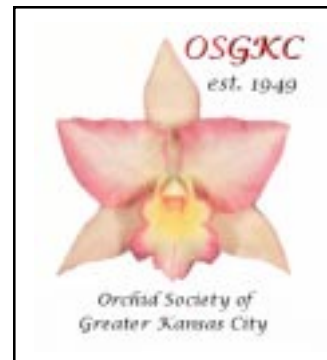
Newsletter: Jami Parkison, Newsletter Editor, said the newsletter will be distributed electronically beginning in May. If you wish to receive the newsletter by regular mail, please contact her. Also, members should contact her with any changes to their email addresses.

Miscellaneous: Michael Wheeler said the Family Tree Nursery Orchid Day has been tabled to plan better publicity. Michael said OSGKC has agreed to provide orchid growing tips at Powell Gardens the weekend of April 21 and 22. Volunteers are needed.

Tony King has taken over management of the club's website. He asked that members email him photos that could be displayed at the site.

Dan Schlozman asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the deaths of two members: Clark Volkerman and George Goodwyn. **Plant of the Month:** Pleurothallid grobyi, grown by Deb Pate, and Brassavola nodosa, by Joy and Mark Prout. Congratulations!

Submitted by Susie Hanna, Secretary



OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY www.osgkc.org March 2007

The following was part of a handout from a lecture in August 2006 at the Mid America Orchid Congress Conference in Lexington, Ky.

Showy Mexican Orchid Species for Middle America: Where they come from and how they grow.

By Weyman Bussey of Abunda Flora [www.abundaflora.com]

Part II

Understanding where orchids come from helps us understand how they grow. Every orchid has particular WANTS, based on its natural environment.

- WATER - quality, frequency and quantity.
- AIR - quality and movement, for gas exchange.
- NUTRITION - fertilizer, vitamins and alcohol.
- TEMPERATURE - they do not use clothing.
- SUNLIGHT - the energy that makes food.

AIR

Air movement is a must for all Mexican species. When using high air movement, maintain high humidity. Moving air also eliminates water logged conditions and also helps supply fresh gases for growth. Orchids

A Look Forward:

During the last week in October, the OSGKC will host the Mid-America Orchid Congress show.

"This has been a goal I have shared with many in OSGKC since I joined," said Mark Prout. "I hope once we get one under our belt, an annual show will become self-sustaining. Much smaller societies than ours (Springfield) do it. Some of our programs will need to be focused on organizing. Next year we should be able to put it in motion more easily, once everyone knows how one works."

Because the October show is a major event, March's Society meeting will be the first planning session for show. Beth Martin and Mark Prout will be leading the session.

Message from Mark Prout, Program Chair: Our March 11 meeting is on the first day of daylight savings time (new DST starting regimen), so if you don't "spring forward," you'll be an hour late to the meeting.

are growing 24 hours a day, even at night. With sunlight during the day, they produce food which is consumed both day and night. They do produce oxygen during the day, and to do this, require carbon dioxide, which they also fix at night for consumption during the day. However, during the night they require oxygen to grow and will produce more carbon dioxide. Therefore, constant air movement will permit these gas exchanges. Could you live with your head in a plastic bag?! **NUTRITION** Fertilization is a must to obtain good growth. You might think that if they grow wild without fertilizer, then why fertilize. I have yet to see a plant flowering in the wild which compares to a similar plant well-grown and well-fertilized in culture. it doesn't take much fertilizer and too much is worse

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Special Announcement:

The OSGKC Newsletter will be sent via email starting in May 2007. If you want to receive your copy through the U.S. postal service, please write or call Jami Parkison 7337 Terrace Kansas City, MO 64114 816/333-3843

than none. Fertilizers are salts, so remember about your water quality. To simplify this recipe, always use a balanced fertilizer containing equal parts of N-P₂O₅-K₂O - Nitrogen, Phosphorus and (K) Potassium. Ideally it should contain a very small amount of trace elements or micronutrients and it should be water soluble.

For those familiar with fertilizer calculations: 110-200 ppm every fifteen days of N-P₂O₅-K₂O in your irrigation water will be sufficient or you can supply this with every watering for greatly increased growth. For those not familiar, simply dissolve one teaspoon of 20-20-20 per gallon of water and apply it to your plants once every two weeks. If your formula is 10-10-10, then use 2 teaspoons, etc. Remember as temperatures lower, you must reduce your watering frequency and also your frequency of fertilization. Please use the following logic with fertilizers: think of it as salt in your food.

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Letter from OSGKC President:

Dan Schlozman

We have now completed our first meeting at the Broadway Methodist church and I think, in spite of the mix-up about rooms, all went very well. We have an astonishing number of good growers, who presented an impressive array of plants for judging. Many of them will, at the time of this reading, have been part of our St. Louis show. (Three of my best are currently having a playdate at the Martins'.)

I think we are moving in the right direction with the proposed Mid-America show. Clearly, it will be a lot of work for all who are willing to take it on. But I believe the payoff will be worth it. Stay tuned for more information at the next meeting.

Happy growing

Dan

Book Review

Missour Orchids, by Bill Summers

Reviewed by Jason Thoren

My book report is on the book called "Missouri Orchids" by Bill Summers. When I read this book, I couldn't help myself thinking how much fun it would be to go and find these wild orchids native to this area. It's like a treasure hunt, mysterious but intriguing. The book is very easy to understand and gives all the regions orchids have been found in the state.

The two that caught my attention were, *Galearis spectabilis* with its purple or lavender and white blooms that can be found in oak-hickory areas from April through June. And *Spiranthes vernalis* that has a spiral form with white flowers and a pale yellow lip that could be found in southern Missouri from June through September. Both can be found near Kansas City, but are elusive, if you are not sure what to look for.

A Look Behind: OSGKC Meeting -- February 11, 2007, Minutes

Dan Schlozman, President, called the meeting to order on February 11, 2007. The treasurer's report was approved.

New Business: A motion was passed to authorize Jami Parkison to have a sign made for the new meeting location.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Ron Daly reported that many calls have been made to lapsed members. Julie Morrison is sending out welcome notes to new members, and Harold Basye is running a welcoming table at the meetings. Ron is planning a member survey.

Harold Basye introduced new members: Cathy Hamilton, Amanda Matthews, and Stephanie Jones, as well as returning member Kenny Hukriede.

Beginner's Program: Fred Bergman said there was a very good turn out

Beginners' Group

In February, the beginners were provided culture information on Dendrobiums by Tony King and viewed the display for minis that has been prepared for orchid shows. Next month the high point winner for Pleurothallids, Al Clinton, will share his secrets with the beginners' class.

Fred Bergman.

today to hear Tony King talk about Dendrobiums. Al Clinton is now assisting Fred with the beginner group. Next month, he will speak on Masdevallias.

Budget: Cindy Hobbs said the web site costs will need to be added to the budget.

Programs: For this month's program, Doug Martin gave a presentation on orchid pollination.

The program for March will be Beth and Doug Martin, co-chairs for the Mid-America Show Committee, talking about getting organized for the Fall 2007 show in Kansas City.

Future programs will be posted at the OSGKC website.

Shows: Beth Martin reported that the next exhibit for the society will be in St. Louis February 17 and 18. OSGKC will also exhibit at shows in Springfield March 23 and 24, and Omaha March 31 and April 1.

The Executive Committee met in January and voted to recommend that OSGKC sponsor the Fall 2007 Mid-America Show in Kansas City. After a brief discussion among members, a motion was made and passed to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation and to go forward with plans for the show. A second motion was made and passed to make Beth Martin Show Committee Chair. She appointed Doug Martin as her assistant.

The Spring Mid-America show will be in Chicago at the Botanical Gardens April 27-29.

Mini-Auction: Monica McNamara reported that the committee is

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Member Profile: Fred Bergman -- Q and A

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

A. My first contact with real live orchid plants was at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the spring of 1949. I was accepted as a co-investigator in a graduate level course to study trace elements required by orchids. My major was in chemistry and my co-investigator was majoring in horticulture.

After graduating in 1952, I became a member of the local orchid society and the American Orchid Society. I guess that makes it a 57 year love affair with orchids. My plants were first grown in an experimental greenhouse at MRI, and when the space was needed, I moved my plants to my home basement.

When I married, the plants were moved to the greenhouse of Frances Dolph, a local member, while I made arrangements to build my own greenhouse. Land at my current location was purchased in the summer of 1955, and the first greenhouse was started in the spring of 1956. Plants were moved into the partially finished greenhouse in the fall of 1956. They filled one half of one of four benches. By 1991, there were three greenhouses with from 2,000 to 2,500 plants. At that time I was selling plants and cut flowers to the six local wholesale florists.

Q. How many orchids are in your collection?:

A. For several reasons, I am now down to one greenhouse with about 1,000 plants.

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

A. Currently my collection contains mostly Phals with some

Paphs, Prags, large and miniature Cats, and a few Ascidas, Lycaste, one Oncidium and one Habeneria. The rest of my plants have been sold or now rest in peace in my compost pile.

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

A. The Phals are my favorite because they are easy to breed, grow fast (at my age that's important) and stay in bloom a long time. My favorite Phals would probably be Classic Beauty, Fred's Yellow Miss, and Fred's Precocious. These are all multi-floral compacts with branching spikes covered in blooms.

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

A. I have grown many different orchids and usually succeed by sheer stubbornness. One type of orchid that has been a complete failure to raise in my greenhouse, however, is the natives. Everything I did turned out to be the kiss of death.

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

A. The best tip I can give other growers is to read everything available about orchids and don't believe any of it. Listen to everyone and be doubtful, think about it and then go ahead and try something. For a good laugh read anything posted on the internet.

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

A. I went to work after graduation from MU at Midwest Research Institute in the summer of 1951. I rose slowly through the ranks to Principal Environmental Chemist, and retired with my world globe and a 40 year pin in 1991. I had a lot of fun leading projects to characterize emissions from cement and lime kilns, hazardous waste incinerators, refineries, and determining the effectiveness of asbestos abatement in schools. I designed a sampling cartridge for measuring VOCs (volatile organic compounds) which is still in use



and co-authored the paper describing the official EPA sampling procedure for fluorine in stack gasses currently found in the Federal Register.

A side benefit of my work was that I traveled extensively and was allowed to make side trips to visit most of the large commercial orchid growers operating in the 50s and 60s. These were men that included Fergie Beal, Raymond Burr, Rod McLellan, Herb Haager, Fred Stewart, Ben Bracey, Clint McDade, John Lines, Harold Patterson Jr., Bill Osment, Janet & Lee Coon, Craig Foster, plus many more. These were the days when you did not see a lady at a dance, Easter or Mothers Day without a Cattleya corsage.



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