



Mexican orchid - Bussey - con't from pg. 3

leaves. This may occur when you make the transition from too much shade to adequate sunlight. *Remember: moderation.* Sunburn initially appears as a lighter area on the leaf, which gradually turns black from the center outwards. If the damage is done, cut off the leaf using a sterilized implement just below the burn. The new growth will reward you with flowers and hard, sturdy pseudobulbs.

Since not all plants are adapted to strong light, the chart at the website referenced below gives the recommendation for each species according to it's light requirements, where we list popularly cultivated genera of other orchids which you might already grow well in your collection. Culture by association!

A. *Strong sunlight* – 30 to 50% shade – 7000 fc to 4500 fc, Cymbidium, Vanda

B. *Medium sunlight* – 55 – 73% shade – 3700 fc to 2700 fc, Cattleya

C. *Weak sunlight* – 80 – 90% shade – 2000 fc to 1000 fc, Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum

Light, as with water, should be adjusted according to your observations and your analysis of those local observations.

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 IV in May

March Minutes - con't from pg. 2

MAOC show in Independence, MO, scheduled for November 16-18.

Next month's program will be Andy's Orchids on growing miniature orchids.

Future programs will be posted at the OSGKC website.

Shows: Beth Martin reported that the next exhibits for the society will be in Springfield, MO., March 23 and 24, and Omaha March 31 and April 1. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down.

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

Mini-Auction: Monica McNamara announced that the Spring Auction will be held April 22. At this auction, 75 percent of the proceeds will go to the grower, and 25 percent to the Society. Please bring only healthy plants, and provide photos if the plants aren't in bloom. You may contact Monica in advance to let her know how many orchids you plan to bring. Volunteers are needed to assist.

Conservation: Doug Martin said the prairie conservation group is still working to acquire the Collier Prairie, and he will keep the OSGKC members apprised of developments.

Raffle: Our thanks to David Bird for the plants donated to the raffle. *Yearbook:* Lance Jessee announced that the 2007 Yearbooks are available.

Point and Comment: Rosemarie Hedrick shared her idea of using vinyl guttering to secure small plants outdoors. Cut the guttering to the desired length, and set the small seedlings into the gutters. It's easy to cut. The gutters can be placed on sawhorses or on a cart. *Hospitality:* Mike Wheeler said donations of two-liter soda pop would be most welcome. Thanks to Holly Hall for refreshments at this month's meeting.

Miscellaneous: Michael Wheeler said the Family Tree Nursery Orchid Day has been rescheduled for March 23, 24 and 25. Contact him to volunteer.

Tony King asked that members email him more photographs for the club website.

Jason Ward said volunteers are needed to provide orchid potting demonstrations at Powell Gardens, April 21 and 22.

Plant of the Month: Phrag Grande 4N x wallisii [the cross is called, Phrag. Penn's Creek Cascade. See page 1], grown by Monida McNamara. Congratulations!

Submitted by Suwie Hanna, Secretary



OSGKC News

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

A Look Forward: April's Program MARVELOUS MINIATURES, GEMS OF THE ORCHID WORLD

by Mark Prout

Harry Phillips was born in San Diego, California on July 9, 1953. His Father taught him to appreciate plants at an early age. In January of 1963 Harry's brother Andy (of Andy's Orchids fame) was born, and six years later is when it all started. They were both exposed to exotic plants and flowers at an early age, but when Andy became interested in and later obsessed with orchids, Harry some how resisted becoming involved with them for as long as he could. He assisted Andy in his passion by building his first two green houses, and Andy would reward him with a hybrid that was

in bloom, tell him to bring it back when it goes out of bloom, and exchange it for one in bloom. Well, this would only last about a year until Harry decided that he wanted to keep one and get it to re-bloom, the beginning of the end. He would try some for himself, and that was the way the story starts.

At the OSGKC meeting, Harry would like to share some of his thoughts on growing and choosing the right miniature orchid for your conditions, or creating a growing area with miniatures in mind. Once you get to know and appreciate them, minis will be a larger part of your collection.

Inside...

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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

Life Style of a Winner: Culture Tips for the Plant of the Month

The winner of March 2007's Plant of the Month, Monica McNamara describes the conditions she uses to grow this winning plant, Phragmipedium Penn's Creek Cascade:

Watering: Two to four times per week with reverse osmosis water.

Temperature: Intermediate to warm growing conditions, with day temperatures at 80 to 85 and night temps in the 60s.

Light: High light.

Fertilizing: 1-2 times per week with Michigan State RO Fertilizer.

Atmosphere (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): Good air flow movement.

Special features : A vigorous grower, with dangling petals.

Where can this orchid be purchased? Windy Hill Gardens.



Spring Auction -- April 22
see page 2 for details

* copyright: "original artist.com"

Letter from OSGKC President:

Dan Schlozman

It was gratifying to meet in our real room in our new home. Hopefully, we will be there for a long, long time. By the time this is printed, we will have had two more shows; and I look forward to seeing the results. Thanks to everyone who generously contributes plants, so that our "mavens" can arrange them in the shows.

Work is progressing with the MidAmerica show committees under the guidance of Doug and Beth [Martin]. Be sure to have your calendars marked as this show should be a lot of fun as well as educational.

Thanks to Mike Wheeler, whose work with the Family Tree Nursery open house is very likely to pay off generously. Our group had one person sign up on the spot! (Thanks to Cindy Hobbs.) For those of you who missed it, I recommend you come next year as the event is a real hootenanny for the whole family.

Happy growing

Dan

Beginners' Group

At the March beginners group meeting, Al Clinton described his method of growing Pleurothallis. At the March meeting, Cindy Hobbs will describe how she grew her award winning Oncidiums.

Fred Bergman.

A Look Behind:

OSGKC Meeting --
March 11, 2007, Minutes

Dan Schlozman, President, called the meeting to order on March 11, 2007. Dan announced that volunteers are needed for the society, and asked that members contact him to help with a variety of tasks. The minutes were approved.

Old Business: Due to the cancellation of the January

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SPRING ORCHID AUCTION: Sunday, April 22

by Monica McNamara

Broadway United Methodist Church ~ 74th and Wornall ~ Kansas City, MO.

1:00pm to 1:30pm - Auction Set-up and Viewing ~ 1:30pm to 4:30pm - Auction

The Spring Auction is a special, multipurpose event that is open to the general public. It provides an opportunity for OSGKC members to sell or donate their plants, supplies, books, and other orchid-related items. This auction is an important fundraiser for the Society and will help keep the Society active and fun! Selling members will receive 75% of the sale and 25% will go to the Society.

Please plan to attend and introduce a friend to orchids by bringing them to this great event. Bringing your family, friends or coworkers will help to make this a fun event which will also benefit the Society. We have flyers for this event available. If you would like some to distribute or have a location where they would be noticed by potential bidders, please contact Monica as shown below.

Members who want to sell plants or other items in the Spring Auction MUST contact Monica McNamara at mmorchids@everestkc.net or 913-851-8709 by SUNDAY, APRIL 15 with the number of plants and other items they intend to bring. Members are asked to limit the number of orchid plants to 20 ORCHIDS PER MEMBER for sale in this auction.

Plants should be **healthy, pest-free and preferably blooming**. If plants are not in bloom, please provide a color picture of the bloom to be included with the plant at the auction and identify whether the photo is of the plant's actual flower or is representative.

Sellers should plan to check-in their plants and any other auction items at 1pm.

If you have questions about this auction, contact Monica McNamara at mmorchids@everestkc.net or 913-851-8709.

meeting, the membership vote for a new Vice President was delayed until this meeting. Monica McNamara was elected unanimously.

Beth Martin moved that the members vote to change the society's Constitution to require that a nominee for President of the club must have served on the Board of Directors. Additionally, Beth moved that the By-Laws be changed to allow more members to have an opportunity to be on the Board by adding an additional at-large member. The By-Laws require that any amendment to the By-Laws shall be voted upon at the next meeting, following the one at which it was discussed. The motion was seconded, and tabled until the April meeting.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Ron Daly said the

mission of his committee is to attract new members and retain current members. He passed out a survey to provide feedback from members on what they like and don't like about the monthly meetings.

Beginner's Program: Fred Bergman said Al Clinton spoke about Masdevallias at this month's Beginners' Group. Cindy Hobbs will talk about Oncidiums in April. **AOS:** David Sosland reported that AOS is still conducting a national membership survey. If you haven't received this by mail, you can complete the survey at the AOS website.

Program: For this month's program, Beth and Doug Martin, co-chairs for the Mid-America Orchid Congress, presented information on plans for the Fall 2007 OSGKC/

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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 III

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.

TEMPERATURE

Temperature is a major concern in successful orchid growing. Daily, as well as seasonal, temperatures are important. Since the orchids of Mexico are concentrated between latitudes 14 and 24 degrees north, there exists an average difference of 7-10 degrees C between summer and winter temperatures. Apart from this seasonal difference, Mexico has the major division of species by temperature derived from elevation. For every 300m rise in elevation there will be an average drop of one degree C. Combining the effects of elevation and seasons results in considerable extremes. These extremes are what make Mexican species more tolerant of greenhouse conditions in higher latitudes and somewhat easier to grow than species collected near the equator. Therefore, as growers, you need to adjust your fertilizations and watering to create a seasonal cycle.

For simplification of the individual species temperature requirements, we divide orchids into the following categories (H to C are recommended for Middle America).

H – Hot: These plants come from 0-600m (0-2000ft) elevation.

Support OSGKC Sponsors:

Bergman Orchid Farm
Bird's Botanicals
Orchids by ViCli
Oak Hill Gardens
r.f. Orchids
Windy Hill Gardens
Whippoorwill Orchids

M. Montgomery and RoseMarie Hendrick will provide refreshments for April's meeting.

C – Cool: This group is definitely one of the most difficult to cultivate anywhere. They thrive with low night temperatures of 4 C (40 degrees F) or below, high humidity and often very bright sunlight, especially in winter months. They range from 1700m to 2700m elevation.

SUNLIGHT

Light intensity, or the amount of sunlight, is a simple factor, easy to



Most of these orchids will tolerate cooler temperatures in winter and thrive in hot summers. Temperatures below 10 C (50 F) will normally cause a cessation of growth and adversely affect flowering. Ideally, 18 C (65C) nights and up to 32 C (90 F) days are required.

I – Intermediate: This temperature group covers the majority of species in Mexico. The 1000m contour appears to be the center of diversification for epiphytic orchids. These plants grow well in average temperatures between 10 C (50 F) and 27 C (80C). They are quite tolerant of more extreme temperatures and if grown drier in winter will even tolerate freezes. They come from elevations between 800m and 1600m.

express and understand. In the USA, it is normally expressed in foot candles. In Mexico, most of the orchids come from deciduous oak forests which lose their leaves for three to five months out of the year. During this time many species are exposed to full sunlight. At high elevations, there is a maximum of 10,000 to 12,000 foot candles of light at noon. Remember, orchids usually get broken shade from branches above or cloud cover, so the exposure is seldom continuous.

In terms of shade cloth, 50% to 63% shade will provide optimal conditions for the growth and flowering of most species. Many times, a lush green plant will not flower. If you have plants that are green and pretty, but never flower, try putting them in brighter sunlight. Avoid sunburn or scorching of the

con't on pg. 4

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