



OSGKC News

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

A Look Forward: Growers Tour

by Mark Prout

These are the members whose collections we will be visiting for the 2007 OSGKC Growers Tour:

- #1. Tony King and Jason Thoren
7415 Woodson St
Overland Park, KS
- #2. Julie Morrison
15302 W 82nd Ter
Lenexa, KS 66219-1541

#3. Doug and Beth Martin
15523 Johnson Dr
Shawnee, KS 66217-9466

There will be a brief meeting at the Martins' house at the end of the tour.

Many thanks to Tony, Jason, the Morrisons and Martins for being this year's hosts.

See page four for directions to the growers' homes.

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Growers' Tour -- May 6

What Does the Type of Orchid You Grow Tell About the Grower?

by Aaron J. Hicks. This is an abbreviated version of an article that was first printed in the Niagara Region Orchid Society newsletter. [Article sent by Doug Martin.]

Cattleya: You enjoy the finer things in life. You probably drive a large, slow car and block traffic a lot. Perhaps you own a Winnegabo and irritate everyone else that you 'share' the road with.



Phalaenopsis: You prefer simple things. You enjoy low-maintenance plants, but not so low that you can neglect them or anything. If it were a car, it'd probably be a Jaguar: good to look

at, nice things under the hood, but ends up swallowing as much oil as gas. And the carburetors are impossible.

Paphiopedilum: If you like the beefsteak Paphs, you have a lot of respect for the romance and nobility of the good old days of orchid growing. If you like the newer, warm growing Paphs, you probably enjoy the innovations the field has received. Either way, you're stuffy and frown upon everything else any other grower has. You believe that if you have something rare enough and BIG enough, someone should pay you a lot for it, even if it's rare only 'cos you say so.

Dendrobium: If you prefer the Nobile group and you enjoy these overbred beasts, you probably have a thing for ugly plants. If you prefer any other group, particularly species, you probably enjoy a

challenge. If you don't pull your hair out trying to get these plants to bloom, you're worthy of becoming an educator on the high school level.

Cypripedium: If you're into this group (cultivating not just admiring), you're purely an academic. Congratulations you got published.

Cymbidiums: Grow fast, stay green, low attention, low maintenance; you're a slob.

Vandas: You enjoy these slow-growing monopodial plants. You like how they reach for the sky and suck up the heat, light and humidity. You probably drive too slow in the fast lane, and will retire to Florida if you haven't already. Similar to those [who] love Cattleyas, Vandaphiles tend to wear hats when inside or behind the wheel.

Hicks is friend of Doug Martin. When Doug asked Hicks, "What is your opinion about Pleurothallid Alliance growers," Aaron replied, "The term Pleurothallidiot comes to mind."

*A Look Behind:
OSGKC Meeting --
April 15, 2007, Minutes*

Dan Schlozman, President, called the meeting to order on April 15, 2007. Dan announced that long-time member, Viven Walters, is in the hospital. Cards are welcome to be sent to her home. The minutes and treasurer's report were approved. Dan also announced that Mark Prout has been awarded an AOS HCC award for a Phrag (see Plant of the Month).

Committee Reports:

Membership: Ron Daly said the survey to provide feedback from members on what they do and don't like about the monthly meetings has been tabulated and will be given to the Executive Committee.

Beginner's Program: Fred Bergman said Cindy Hobbs talked about *Oncidiums*.

Program: April's program was Harry Phillips from Andy's Orchids, who spoke about growing miniature orchids.

Next month's program, May 6, is the annual grower's tour, at the homes of Tony King and Jason Thoren, Julie Morrison, and Doug and Beth Martin.

Shows: Beth Martin reported that the Society did very well at both the Springfield, MO, and Omaha shows. Our exhibits received Blue ribbons at both shows, and Best of Class at the Springfield show. The MAOC Spring show will be in Chicago at the Botanical Gardens, April 27-29.

The MAOC/OSGKC Fall Show planning is progressing well. Vendors and speakers have signed up. The International Phalaenopsis Alliance will hold its meeting in conjunction with this show. Al Clinton has designed a show logo, reflecting the theme: "Orchids and All that Jazz."

Mini-Auction: Monica McNamara announced that the Spring Auction will be held April 22. At this auction, 75% of the proceeds go to the grower and 25% to the Society. Please bring only healthy plants,

Life Style of a Winner: Culture Tips for the Plant of the Month, April 2007 -- Two winners.

1. Harold Basye - *Dendrobium Aggregatum*
2. Mark Prout - Phrag. Gerry Dizon 'Mark's Joy' HCC/AOS

1. *Dendrobium Aggregatum*

Watering: My plant is potted, so it is watered once a week.

Temperature (include info on differential temp needs): During the summer, my plant is outside under 50% shade cloth and the temperature is whatever the day produces.

Fertilizing: Once a week, 30/10/10 during the summer; October on I use 10/30/20. After November the plant is dried out, until the end of January, and then I begin to water once a week.

Atmosphere (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): I use two fans 24 hours a day, and when temperatures permit, the roof vent is opened for fresh air.

Where can this orchid be purchased? Mine came from Oak Hill Gardens, but almost any grower who has dendrobiums will have it.

con't on pg. 4

SPRING ORCHID AUCTION: Sunday, April 22 - UPDATE

by Monica McNamara

Going, going, gone is the Spring Auction!!! On a cloudy, blustery Sunday afternoon, the Fellowship Hall at the Broadway United Methodist Church looked like an orchid show teeming with blooms.

I hope that you were there to enjoy the beauty, fun, and phenomenal food!! Grateful thanks to all the volunteers who made this special event a success!

Preliminary results estimate that OSGKC made more than \$800. Thanks to members who brought their beautiful plants to auction. Thanks also to everyone who attended and brought friends. Special gratitude to members who donated the freebie plants for visitors/non-members, as we had 15 new buyers and one new society membership as a result of this advertising strategy.

Please begin to think about your donations for the Orchid Auction in July—remembering that this is our primary fundraiser for the year.

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. Refreshments are also needed.

Budget: Cindy Hobbs said the budget will be revised to reflect the new cost of our website.

Raffle: Plants were provided by Tony King and Deb Pate.

Newsletter: Jami Parkison said the newsletter will be distributed electronically beginning next month. Only two people have requested regular copies be mailed to them.

Website: Tony King reported that

the Society's website has been redesigned thanks to the help of Ann Abernathy, who volunteered her time to work with Tony to give the site an all new look.

Miscellaneous: In Jason Ward's absence, Dan reported that volunteers are needed for the Powell Gardens event, April 21 and 22. Please contact Michael Wheeler.

Plant of the Month: Two plants and growers were awarded:

Dendrobium aggregatum grown by Harold Basye, and Phragmipedilum Jerry Dizon 'Mark's Joy', HCC/AOS.

Congratulations!

*Submitted by Susie Hanna,
Secretary*

Member Profile: Mark Prout -- Q and A

Q. What is your name?: Mark Prout, official orchid grower for Joy Prout.

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

A. I've raised orchids for nearly 10 years.

Q. How many orchids are in your collection?:

I used to keep our collection cataloged on the computer but after a couple of years, constant additions, deaths, gifts and an occasional sale have rendered the list a historical artifact, a snapshot of what we had in 2000. The total had reached about 300 by then. I guess I've accumulated another 100 since then, so when asked, I usually say 350 to 400.



Q. Give a brief description of their growing environment:

A. We have always enjoyed gardening outdoors and indoors alike. We bought our house based on its tree-shaded yard, front-side southern exposure, and large casement windows. Little did we know we would need a greenhouse. We've made the most of what we have. Just about every window on the east, south, and west sides of the house has a table loaded with humidity trays full of orchids in it. We also have shelves of orchids under fluorescent lights in a room in our basement.

Q. What's the predominant type

of orchid(s) you raise?

A. No one genus or alliance holds sway. I have progressed from Phalaenopsis to slippers to Cattleya alliance and have tried just about everything I think I might be able to grow.

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

A. It's tough to name just one or even three favorite plants but the one that comes to mind first is *Epidendrum stamfordianum*. I've grown it to specimen size and it had eleven spikes with about 800 flowers on it last year. By 2005, the plant had won the Best of Class in the Cattleya Alliance category for three years in a row at the Springfield show. We've accumulated a lot of glassware with it.

I repotted it in June, and it's getting reestablished. It only had five spikes on it this year, and I will probably divide it this year.

Another favorite is *Angraecum sesquipedale*. It has grown rather large, but keeps providing more flowers each holiday season. A

real 'wow' with a well known story (Darwin's Orchid).

I guess the third one would be Phal. Orchid World 'Joe' AM/AOS for its striking flowers and wonderful fragrance. It's the most awarded Phalaenopsis in AOS awards.

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

A. Too many. I have a mounted *Dendrobium* I lost the tag for long ago that has never bloomed. *Dendrobium loddegesii* grows well but blooms not. *Epidendrum*

parkinsonianum has its first bloom now, so now can be removed from the frustration list. *Masdevallias* and *Pleurothallids* in general are difficult for me.

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

A. Best orchid culture tips: Number 1: Take as many outside as you can in the summer. This poses challenges different from indoor culture, but many need the extra light, humidity and air to perform at their best. The *Epidendrum stamfordianum* does so well because it spends the summer out on our deck under a shade cloth.

Number 2: Listen to your fellow OSGKC members. Lately I've learned a lot from our Master Gardener Terrence Thompson and Susie Hanna about insecticides and fungicides.

Number 3: Don't be afraid to try something new. I was afraid to try growing mounted orchids for the first four or five years I grew orchids, but once I tried it, I loved the success it gave me with orchids that need to dry between watering. Also, I love the appearance of many species growing as they would in nature, with arching or pendant inflorescences.

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

A. I work at home, trading on line.



Support OSGKC Sponsors:

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

2. Phrag. Gerry Dizon 'Mark's Joy' HCC/AOS

Watering: Two to three times per week, but Phragmipediums like it wet so you could water them every day, if you have the time. When going away on trips, you can leave them in a tray of water to keep them happy while you're gone. I use RO water in the winter.

Temperature: Intermediate, 60s to 80s. I put my Phrags outdoors in the summer, so they can stand temperatures into the 90s and even 100 as long as they get watered twice a day. One of those waterings comes in the heat of the day, if possible, or as soon as you get home from work.

Light: Bright. In the Andes Mountains from whence they came, Phragmipediums are often found in full sun in the heart of the day, after the morning fog and mist disperses and before the onset of late afternoon clouds and showers. Outdoors in the summer, I have mine in the sun under a 50% shade cloth for six to seven hours before they get full shade.

In the winter I have most of them in a southern window where they get four to five hours of full sun, filtered slightly by tree branches. Since I can't get them all into that window, others have to get by in the basement under fluorescent lights that is right on top of the leaves. Some have spiked even under these lower light conditions, but I then move them into the sunny window to finish flowering.

Fertilizing: It's the old adage about slipper orchids ... feed them weakly, weekly. I've been using a 20-20-20 fertilizer. When they're outdoors and putting on fresh growth, I step it up to a 30-10-10 and use it at full strength as I am watering more frequently and flushing the pots out well.

May Growers' Tour - con't from pg. 1

Start at 7415 Woodson St., which is blind street, two blocks north of and parallel to 75th Street.

From: #1. Tony and Jason's house: 7415 Woodson St , Overland Park, KS 66204-2176

To: #2. Julie Morrison's house: 15302 W 82nd Ter Lenexa, KS 66219-1541

Driving Directions

1. Start out going SOUTH on WOODSON ST toward W 75TH ST. (0.08 miles)
 2. Turn RIGHT onto W 75TH ST. (2.43 miles)
 3. Merge onto I-35 S/US-56 W via the ramp on the LEFT toward WICHITA. (1.67 miles)
 4. Take the 87TH ST PARKWAY exit- EXIT 225A. (0.24 miles)
 5. Turn RIGHT onto W 87TH ST/ W 87TH ST PKWY. (2.21 miles)
 6. Turn RIGHT onto LACKMAN RD. (0.55 miles)
 7. Turn LEFT onto W 82ND TER. (0.15 miles)
 8. End at 15302 W 82nd Ter Lenexa, KS 66219-1541
- Total Estimated Time and Distance: 14 minutes/7.33 miles.

Driving Directions

[A recent feature of Mapquest provides multiple stop maps. You may also want to use this feature for the trip from the Morrison to the Martin house.]

From #2. Morrison's house.

To: #3. Doug and Beth Martin's house: 15523 Johnson Dr Shawnee, KS 66217-9466

1. Start out going EAST on W 82ND TER toward LACKMAN RD. (go 0.15 miles)
 2. Turn RIGHT onto LACKMAN RD. (go 0.55 miles)
 3. Turn RIGHT onto W 87TH ST PKWY. (go 0.76 miles)
 4. Merge onto I-435 N. (go 3.67 miles)
 5. Take the JOHNSON DRIVE exit- EXIT 6C. (go 0.26 miles)
 6. Turn LEFT onto JOHNSON DR. (go 0.96 miles)
 7. End at 15523 Johnson Dr Shawnee, KS 66217-9466 US
- Total Estimated Time and Distance: 9 minutes/6.36 miles.



Atmosphere: A fan runs 24/7 in the basement light room and after watering in the window.

Special features (i.e., scented, etc.): No scent. This orchid's best features are color and long petals.

Where can this orchid be purchased?: As slipper orchids can't as yet be cloned, I have the one and only. Frank Serra and I each bought a flask of this cross from the grower, who made it, Gerry Dizon, a former OSGKC member. I have some more which may appear from time to time at auctions. Ask Frank if he would part with one. Marilyn LeDoux of Windy Hill Gardens had some and may still, but she doesn't show them on her current price list. Maybe if you ask ...

Other helpful and/or interesting information about this orchid: This was the first AOS award any of my plants has won and thus went to the top of my favorites list. Gerry Dizon owned one of the parents of this hybrid, Phrag. Les Dirouilles 'Gerry' AM/AOS. The parents of that are Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice and Phrag. Grande making for long petals and deep bronze color. He then crossed that with Phrag. besseae to get the reds and rose colors that have resulted in Phrag. Gerry Dizon. The flower as pictured has suffered from the ride back from St. Louis as well as going to our meeting. This picture would not represent an awardable flower. It looked much better when the judges considered it. I hope you can see it in the future on a fresh bloom.

A cultural tip for growing Phrag. besseae hybrids: This species grows on nearly verticle cliff faces down, on which there is usually a constant trickle of water. Its rhizome grows accordingly, straight up. The base of the next growth will be three to four inches above the potting medium. So you have to repot so the new growth can root. This frequently means burying the base of the old growth, but unless you can provide the cliff, it's necessary.

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 IV

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.

Orchids are orchids and many come from similar habitats. You have the knowledge base of other species and hybrids – so build upon your existing knowledge. You know that WANTS and you may have a taste for a particular group of orchids. Compare the groups you like with the Mexican species. Of course the measurements are not precise, so they can fluctuate 10% up or down in most cases without harm. The stronger light you provide the more you will have to provide the other WANT factors, but you will be pushing the limit on optimum or even maximum growth.

Finally we come to the DIM part of orchid growing: Disease, Insects and Media. With this we choose what will anchor our plants and protect them from unwanted attacks. As important as the WANTS are the remedies for your plant illnesses. As for disease, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Disinfect your tools. Periodically clean your benches. Keep weeds out. Speaking of weeds, you should try using KARMEX, but make sure it has ONLY DIURON as the active ingredient. Use one tablespoon per gallon and it will control ALL weeds, including oxalis. Use a small hand spray bottle and try to cover the weed leaves well. It takes them a few weeks to die, but they do, and it won't even hurt the orchids. Space your plants to provide good air circulation and light. Set up a prevention spray program, alternat-

ing fungicides and always combining them. Our shotgun for root problems is a combination of Subdue, one oz (nine drops/gal.) and Cleary's ¼ lb (one teaspoon/gal.) per 100 gallons. This is watered into the pot every 20-30 days and gives 99% effective control of root diseases.

If you have good air movement and don't over water, disease should be no problem. If you have a disease, though, first identify it, find out where it comes from, what causes it, and what specific fungicide will cure it or prevent it. Remember, fungicides are specific to certain fungi and one brand will not control all of the different diseases. A little investigation can save you a lot of money and a lot of plants.

Spray for insects only when you have to and only for the specific insect attacking your orchids. Many insects are beneficial, and so are you, so be careful with insecticides and use them only according to the specifications on the label. Watch out for cockroaches, slugs, snails, squirrels, rats and rabbits, as they all may eat the green leaves and roots you've made so easily available. Observe for bugs. Drop in on your orchids at varying times of night and quietly observe the activities going on in your collection. You will be surprised how much you see. I have used about every insecticide during my career. The only insecticide I really go for nowadays is Orthene. It seems to control everything and

doesn't hurt the plants. I use two tablespoons in a six gallon end of the hose sprayer and wet them down as if I were watering.

Your growing media and watering go hand in hand. Your media can be many things: peat moss, perlite, ground barks, volcanic rock, calcined clay, tree fern, Osmunda fiber, pieces of wood or cork slabs, even old shoes! The species will determine which media you use and by experimentation you will discover the one best suited for your species and your greenhouse. We feel the best media to use in general is the one you have available at a reasonable cost. Use what you have and experiment. All media should provide four elements: Support for the plant (that eliminates Styrofoam); Aeration (roots breathe, too!); Drainage (don't plug the hold in the pots!); and some Buffering Capacity (ability to absorb excess salts).

Most plants will do equally well in pots or on plaques. I use volcanic rock! Of course I lived 23 years in Mexico under one, but I did start out with an expanded clay which was used in light weight concrete in the Everglades. It is similar to volcanic rock and I guess that is where I learned to handle it. I grow everything from Cymbidiums to Phals, Catts and most all species in it, no sweat! It is a lot better to me because it never breaks down and you don't have to repot until the plant outgrows the pot. In the case of many orchids, they grow very slowly and may stay up to 10 years in the same pot!

Look specifically at the many Mexican species and genera which you can grow easily in Middle America. They are numerous, so please feel free to email me any questions you may have after reviewing the list:

Visit Abunda Flora at www.abundaflora.com. Email Weyman at weyman@houston.rr.com or call 281/983-9400. Write Mr. Bussey at 10811 Glenwolde, Houston, TX 77099.