

# OSGKC News

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

## A Look Forward - June to December

Fred Clarke, of Sunset Valley Orchids in California, will present June's program about orchids from the Catasetinae family. Clarke, who is featured in an article in the May 2007 issue of

chair, reports that Clarke is unfamiliar with Kansas City barbeque, so society members will take him to Jack Stack downtown following the meeting.

"If anyone is interested in joining us," Prout says, "let me know by that Saturday, June 9th." OSGKC programs and activities for the next few months include the annual fundraising auction in July, at which 100% of proceeds go to the society. Prout requests donations of good plants. "Bid generously, so we can increase the program budget," says Prout.



*Cyc. barthorum*

### OSGKC's Monthly Meeting: June 10, 2007

Broadway United Methodist Church  
74th and Wornall Road  
Kansas City, Missouri

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

OSGKC/MAOC Expo and Sale meeting: Noon



*Cyc. watsoni*

AOS's *Orchids* magazine, will offer a 10% discount on pre-orders (visit the company's website, sunsetvalleyorchids.com for a list of sale plants), with free delivery.

Mark Prout, OSGKC Program

August is the annual picnic. Cindy Hobbs has graciously offered her home and pool for the event. OSGKC will provide the barbeque. Prout requests that members bring desserts.

Plans for September and

con't on pg. 2

## Inside...

Officers' Reports	pg. 2, 5
Special Feature:	
Conson for Orchids	pg. 2
Member Profile	pg. 5
OSGKC Sponsors	pg. 5

## Invasion of the Ants!

Are you looking for an environmentally friendly way to fight the perennial invasion of ants in your orchid collection? Here's a great idea for an ant pesticide from the March 2007 issue of [AOS] *Orchids* magazine.

"...[to] deter ants. You may mix some boric acid with peanut butter or with syrup and flour to make a dough. Put little pieces of either around your plants that have ant problems. Keep the pieces of dough dry. Ants feed on them and die. They work on cockroaches, too."

*Letter from OSGKC President:  
Dan Schlozman*

It is late spring and all is doing well. We've had a great auction, a wonderful greenhouse crawl, and all in all a great time.

I never cease to wonder at the ingenuity and innovations seen at the greenhouses on display. As a consequence, I learn and my growing improves. Soon it will be summer, with it's attendant chores to assure great blooming in the fall, so that we can start all over again!

And as a bonus another auction to come soon!

Happy growing

*Dan*



## Consan for Orchids

*by Susie Hanna and Deb Pate*

Consan is a commonly available and inexpensive antifungal that maybe used for a variety of purposes, including cleaning plant trays, buckets, benches and tools. It's also good to pour into humidity trays to preven algae, other molds and bacteria. The active ingredient in this product is the same as in Physan. Both products can also be used directly on a wide variety of plants. I prefer Consan as the odor does not linger. A brochure from a recently-purchased bottle offered information specifically for orchids. The type of orchid is not specified, so you may wish to use a weaker dilution for very tender orchids, such as Masdevallias or seedlings. So far, we've found no ill-effects from using this product. This is not a systemic fungicide, so it won't solve all problems. The advantage, however, is that it has almost no toxicity, so it's good for the home grower. If you are having fungal problems with your plants, it's another tool to try, especially with the damp, overcast weather we are having. Here are the recommended uses for orchids.



### **For Preventative Care**

Spray with one tsp of Consan per gallon of water.

### **For Erwinea Rot/Crown Rot**

Remove plant from pot, and wash the roots well under running water. Then soak the plant for 10 minutes in 1 tsp per gallon of Consan. Remove any rot with sterile blade. Re-soak plant for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, soak media in the Consan solution, then re-pot into a clean pot. Be sure to clean and sterilize the old pot, if you plan to re-

use it. Continue to water the plant with two tsp. per gallon of Consan weekly. When you water, drench plant with the solution, and pour solution into crown.

### **Weekly Treatment of Affected Plants**

Continue to water plant with two tsp gallon of Consan weekly. Drench plant and pour solution into crown.

### **Dividing Orchids**

Remove plant from pot and wash roots. Soak plant for two to five minutes in one Tbsp of Consan per gallon of water. Wet hands with solution, along with tools. Divide the plant, then re-soak the divisions in solution for an additional two to five minutes. Be sure to use a clean pot.

*Look Forward: con't from pg. 1*

October programs are still being developed. Because the OSGKC MAOC Expo and Sale is in November, that month's meeting will

likely focus on preparations for the show.

December is the annual awards banquet.

*(Cynoches photographes appearing on page one are from the Sun Valley Orchids web site.)*





## Member Profile: Wendy and Eric Hoch -- Q and A

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

A. In July of 2000, I got my first orchid, a white Phalaenopsis. However, days later, I was injured in a wreck and was too busy focusing on my recovery to get swept up in orchids. It wasn't until almost a year later when that orchid died, and I replaced it with two more Phals. that I knew I was hooked.

Eric didn't become involved until we moved in together in 2002. He doesn't raise orchids, he does the heavy lifting. Nevertheless, his help with hauling water into my growing area, cleaning trays, keeping the windows clean, and everything else that my injuries won't allow me to do has enabled me to expand my collection.

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

Right now, I have 35, but I'm always on the lookout for a new one I can't live without.

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

A. In our house, what was designed to be a formal dining room has become our orchid/computer room, with the orchids along the south-facing bay area, particularly in front of the large picture window. All the plants and various supplies fill about a twelve-by-four-foot area. The windows are unobstructed, so I don't use any supplemental lighting. The orchids are grown here year round.

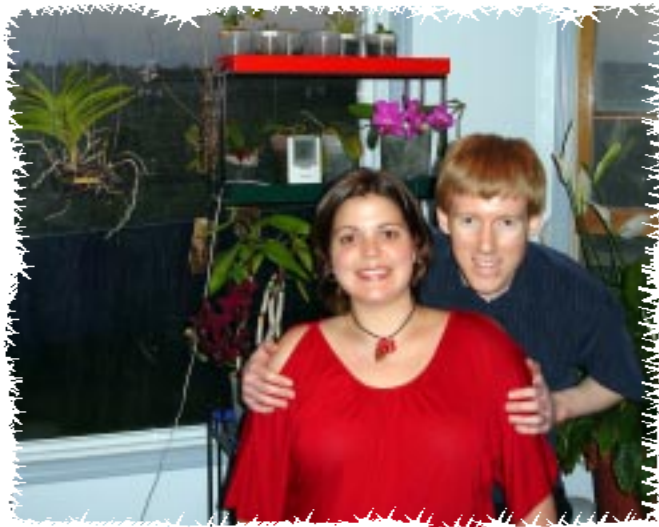
### Q. What's the predominant type of orchid(s) you raise?

A. I have a diverse collection including Phals., mini Cattleyas,

Dendrobiums, Pleurothallids, Vandaceous, and more. About half are miniature species.

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

A. I love Ascda. Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire' AM/AOS, the color is beautiful and it blooms three-to-four times a year. This one is also Eric's favorite. Schoenorchis fragrans is amazing, it's my smallest orchid and currently has four spikes. It's hard to believe such a



little plant has the energy to produce so many flowers.

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

A. I have yet to keep a Masdavalia alive. I currently have one, wish me luck! I also just lost my only Miltonia. I got a new one at the auction.

### Q. Share with readers your best orchid-culture tip.:

A. It's really a combination of things that have helped me immensely, especially as a window-sill grower with chronic pain. The potting method I use is semi-hydroponics. (See [www.firstrays.com](http://www.firstrays.com) for details.)

The media never breaks down, as long as a plant still fits in it's pot and is happy, I don't have to re-

## Beginners' Group

The Beginners' Meeting will start at 1 p.m. and will be presented by Harold Basye. Harold will tell how he grows his ribbon-winning Cattleyas. All club members are welcome to audit the meeting

*Fred Bergman.*

pot. My back sure appreciates fewer re-potting sessions. I have custom plant trays to fit my stand. (See [www.planttrays.com](http://www.planttrays.com).) My pots sit on plastic grids, cut to fit the trays. When I flush water through the pots, the trays hold it all. No more carrying plants to the sink! The water evaporates quickly, so I don't drain trays either. I use a pump sprayer with a long hose. With Eric's help, I never have to carry water. I soak my mounted orchids in a bucket for 30 minutes, instead of misting. This keeps the house drier. The bucket holds several orchids, so I do two batches a day. Eric keeps the bucket supplied with fresh water.

### Q. What do (or did, if you're retired) you do in life (career/work) to support your orchid addiction:

Q. My wreck occurred shortly before I got my Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics. Unfortunately, my injuries prevent me from pursuing a career. Eric's other role in my addiction is to support it monetarily. He is a computer programmer.

## Support OSGKC Sponsors:

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