



# OSGKC News

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

## OSGKC -- SUMMER ORCHID AUCTION

By *Monica McNamara*

All members plan to attend the Summer Orchid Auction on Sunday, July 8. The auction takes the place of our regular monthly meeting. ALL proceeds of this auction benefit OSGKC. This is our big money raiser of the year and helps to fund our annual budget for speakers, books for our library, and other Society activities and expenses.

We will auction plants and supplies donated by our supporting vendors. Members are also encouraged to donate healthy pest-free and preferably blooming plants, orchid supplies or other orchid paraphernalia. Attach a picture of the flower or a written description if the plant is not in bloom.

It would be helpful to have a list of your donations e-mailed to Mark Prout or Monica McNamara by Sunday July 1, so an e-news preview of items can be sent.

Members are highly encouraged to attend and support your Society, as well as add to your wonderful collections. Please spread the word and plan to bring family, neighbors and friends as this event is open to the general public.

If you have questions, contact Monica McNamara 913-851-8709, e-mail: [mmorchids@everestkc.net](mailto:mmorchids@everestkc.net) or Mark Prout 816-478-7087, e-mail: [mprout2@comcast.net](mailto:mprout2@comcast.net).



## Orchid Trivia

The following trivia about our favorite plants was provided by Dot Henley, from Fort Lauderdale:

- \*☐ There are about 250,000 species of plants.
- \* About 10% of all plants are orchids.
- \*☐ The most and least number of orchid seeds in a pod: *Cryptopodium punctatum* holds the record for most with about 7.5 million seeds per pod. *Barbosella Australia* holds the record for least at about 25,000 seeds per pod.

## Auction - July 8th

## *Cycnoches and Catasetum Culture*

This follow-up to our June program by *Catasetinae* grower and breeder, Fred Clarke, is provided by Susie Hanna and is quoted from an article by William E. Segars of Tampa, Florida.

The key to success with *Catasetum*-type orchids, according to Mr. Segars, is the use of a rich soil mix as follows:

- \*☐ 1/2 dairy manure
- \*☐ 1/6 coarse peat moss
- \*☐ 1/6 grit (turkey grit or gravel in feed stores)
- \*☐ 1/6 dirt, old osmunda, bark or treefern, or a mix of all four

Use 6" clay pots. Break potsherds or place river gravel over the drainage hole and fill half way up the side; take a single bulb with the dead roots still on the plant, hold it in the center of the pot and pack the medium around it, not too tightly. (If plant has more than one bulb, make several plants of it, for it will break leads only on the

newest bulb even if left together.) The new roots should just touch the medium (potting lower encourages root rot). You may have to stake the bulb or perhaps clamp the old dead roots down with a pot clip. It is most important that the bottom of the bulb be placed at the top of the medium, which should be damp but not wet.

Do not water for three or four days - then begin watering and fertilizing. Use either organic or inorganic fertilizer and lots of it. Fertilizing can be done as often as

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*Letter from OSGKC President:  
Dan Schlozman*

The hot dry months are upon us. Also the auction! Never too hot for an auction.

A personal word about Vivian Walters: I bought my first orchid from Vivian. She and Clifford were my mentors, friends and they at one time were also patients. Both did me many favors; and I will miss them a great deal. Vivian as well as Cliff will always serve as inspirations for striving to make our society the best it can be.

Happy growing

Dan

*Membership Report*

We are seeing a continuous flow of new members. New people are coming because friends invite them and make them feel welcome. Keep bringing friends because they will get hooked just like the rest of us.

*Ron Day  
Julie Morrison  
Harold Basye*

*A Look Behind: OSGKC Meeting --  
June 10, 2007, Minutes*

In the absence of Dan Schlozman, Monica McNamara, Vice President, called the meeting to order on June 10, 2007. Monica announced that long-time member, Vivian Walters, passed away. Donations are requested for a memorial fund. The minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

**Committee Reports:**

*Beginner's Program:* Fred Bergman said Harold Basye talked about Cattleyas.

*Program:* For this month's program, Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, spoke about *Catasetinae*.

July's meeting will be the annual fund-raising auction. Members are encouraged to donate plants to help raise money for the club. The picnic will be held at the August meeting date at Cindy Hobb's.

*Shows:* Beth Martin showed the trophy OSGKC received at the Omaha show.

The MAOC/OSGKC Fall Show planning is progressing well. Eleven vendors have signed up. The show website is up and running. Bookmarks advertising the show are available.

*Raffle:* Plants were provided by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids.

*AOS:* David Sosland said we've renewed our AOS membership, and AOS magazines will be available in our library.

*Publicity:* Jason Ward said advertising will appear in the *KC Gardener* and *The Kansas City Star* for the auction. Flyers will be available to distribute.

*Beginners' Group*

The June Beginners' Group was told how Harold Basye grows his ribbon-winning Cattleyas. There will be no meeting of the group in July. Plan on attending the Auction and buy a new genera to try.

*Fred Bergman.*

*Miscellaneous:* Mark Prout announced that he has available plastic bulb trays that are good for holding and moving plants. Contact him to purchase them.

*Plant of the Month:* Al Clinton won Plant of the Month with his *Masdevallia infracta*. Congratulations!

*Submitted by Susie Hanna, Secretary*

Cynoches con't from pg. 1 *Catasetinae*

two to three times a week. However, only once a week is recommended. The growth is astounding. Preventative spraying during the summer months with a good miticide such as Pentac or Avid will reward you with lusty, beautiful leaves all the way into December. The plant will begin blooming in October and will bloom several times up to and through the Christmas season. In order to keep the plants healthy and to grow larger plants the next year, remove them from the pots after the second blooming.

Here the treatment is again different from that given to other orchids. After removing plants from the pots, wash the roots, then pull, do not cut, the bulbs apart,

and set them upright on one of the benches. The bulbs can be leaned against an upside down pot. Sprinkle very lightly about once a week, just enough to keep the bulbs from shriveling. New leads and roots will begin forming in early spring. Do not hurry potting; late May is soon enough. The new lead should be at least four inches long and have abundant roots about two inches long before potting. Since each plant becomes two each year, it is evident that with a little patience one can have several plants in a short time."

**Jami Parkison will provide refreshments for July's meeting.**

*Enchanting Orchid Treasures*

*by Wayne Warzecha,  
New Mexico Orchid Guild*

For centuries, orchids were the ultimate epitome of the rare, the exotic, and the highly treasured of the plant kingdom. Centuries ago in the East, orchids were the coveted possessions or "treasures" of the Chinese emperors. Japanese nobility valued certain type of orchids [as] treasures. In the New World, the Aztec Indians cultivated the Vanilla orchid and used it as a food flavoring and a ritual perfume. Greek and Roman civilizations valued orchid treasures for medicinal purposes.

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

The winner of June 2007's Plant of the Month, Al Clinton describes the conditions he uses to grow this winning plant, *Masdevallia infracta* (purple variety).

**Watering:** A thorough watering every three or four days. Also, I mist the leaves once or twice a day (make sure you have good air circulation if you're going to do this.)

**Temperature:** This is one of the warmest growing *Masdevallias*, and can handle a high of 90 degrees. It was grown in the winter from 55 to 68 degrees and developed a huge flush of flowers as the temperature warmed up in the spring. Ideally, temperatures should be a low of 65 and high of 80.

**Light:** This is on the low-light side for *Masdevallias*, 800 to 1,000 fc. At low-light levels, the plant will make deep purple flowers, but at higher light levels the flowers will become washed out and lighter.



**Fertilizing:** I use Peters 20-20-20, 1/4 tsp per gallon, once every week or 10 days. This fertilizer lacks some minerals, but my regular water is about 70 ppm dissolved solids, which seems to provide what is missing.

**Atmosphere:** Good air circulation is a necessity, especially since the plants like high humidity (50-60 percent minimum). I also spray

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In the 18th century, the discovery of *Masdevallia* species in the Andes of South America led to phenomenal prices among European collectors. The vast majority of tropical orchids were brought into cultivation in the mid-19th century. Outrageously high prices were paid for the finest collected specimens, ensuring that orchids became more precious than silver, more valued than gold, and remaining the preserve of only the most wealthy of European collectors.

Orchids gained a reputation for being difficult to grow, unaffordable, and requiring specialty skills in a hot, humid greenhouse.

Even in modern times, some orchids still command a fortune. Recently a prized 100-growth specimen plant of *Neofinetia falcata* "Tenki Fukuren" (heavily variegated) changed hands for U.S. \$300,000.00. Single divisions of other cultivars of this Japanese "Samarai" orchid easily sell for thousands of dollars, making this the most expensive species orchid in the world.

Today, orchids are readily available on sale in garden centers, florists, home improvements stores, specialty nurseries, and even supermarkets where many varieties and types of orchids now sell at affordable

prices. Orchids thrive on windowsills, in apartments, offices, hotels, living rooms, sunrooms, and in the greenhouses of serious orchid hobbyists.

Modern scientific technology such as mericlone has made orchid mass production possible and affordable. Improved laboratory culture techniques have made seed propagated species and hybrids readily available. This has led to orchids becoming more popular and widely grown while preserving wild populations of orchids throughout the world.

More people are growing orchids today because they have become so easily available and affordable. Many of the modern hybrids being raised today are designed specifically as pot plants. Phalaenopsis orchids take the lead because they are easily mass produced, easy to grow and flower, and have a wide variety of color forms. These orchids are mass produced in huge quantities to satisfy a burgeoning demand for exotic houseplants with a distinctive difference.

the plants/soil with Consan, 1/2 tsp. per gallon once a month to prevent fungus.

**Special features** (i.e., scented, etc.): This plant will bloom consecutively three or four times on the same stem, so that over time a plant can develop an inflorescence with 40 or 50 flowers (or more?).

**Where can this orchid be purchased?:** This is a very common *Masdevallia*. There are several color varieties with different flower sizes. I purchased mine from Parkside Orchids. They acquire all their *Masdevallias* from Ecuagenera.

**Other helpful and/or interesting information about this orchid:** This

is really an easy plant to grow, and I encourage anyone who's interested to try it. I will be dividing my plant sometime in the near future!

### Support OSGKC Sponsors:

Bergman Orchid Farm  
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Oak Hill Gardens  
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