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Orchid Society of
Greater Kansas City

OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

www.osgkc.org

November 2007

A Look Ahead: November 11th meeting

By Mark Prout

November program is to finish the last of show planning. We'll plug any holes there may yet be, but hopefully just fine-tuning.

The holiday and awards banquet will again be at Figlio's on the Plaza, 209 W. 46th Terrace, 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9. (The slightly earlier start time may ensure some dishes haven't run out.) Although 12:30 is our target, latecomers will be seated. If you think you'll be late, let me know what time you expect to arrive.

Members can pay the restaurant directly. Brunch is \$17.95, tax and gratuities not included. Just let me know you will attend and how many you are bringing.

are divided into groups by the type or orchid, for example, *Cattleya*, *Paphiopedilum* or *Phalaenopsis*. Each of these groups is divided into classes for species (types of orchids that occur naturally in the wild) or hybrids (types of orchids created by people). The species and hybrid groups may be further divided into more classes based on the color or other common characteristics of the flowers. In the end, all white *Cattleya* hybrids compete against each other and not against pink *Phalaenopsis* hybrids.

In addition to ribbons, judges also may award "Best of Class" trophies. These trophies go to the best of the blue ribbon winners in a group of closely related classes. For example, a Best of Class trophy is awarded for Classes 29-41, which include all *Paphiopedilums*.

The following was written by Beth Martin for the OSGKC/MAOC Expo and Show booklet.

About All Those Ribbons...

The array of ribbons and trophies adorning orchids and exhibits can be baffling to first-time visitors to orchid shows. Some exhibits are covered with ribbons, while others have only a few. An unimpressive orchid may have a blue ribbon, while the beautiful orchid next to it has none. All those ribbons are the result of a system that groups similar orchids and other entries, so judges compare "apples to apples" when they judge the orchid show.

This orchid show uses the Mid-America Orchid Congress Entry Schedule to register all items entered for show judging. The entry schedule has 120 entry classes. Judges may award 1st (blue), 2nd (red) and 3rd (white) place ribbons in each class. Of the 120 classes, there are 105 classes for orchids. The classes

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Cypripedium parviflorum
Photographed in Wyandotte County, KS



Several special trophies also will be awarded in this orchid show. Each special trophy has its own specific criteria for determining the winner.

Finally, a few orchids in this show may receive prestigious awards presented by the American Orchid Society. These awards recognize flower quality, excellence of culture, advancements in hybridizing, botanical interest and other recognition-worthy aspects. They are awarded in accordance with rules of the American Orchid Society.

OSGKC's Monthly
Meeting:
November 11, 2007

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

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

Letter from OSGKC
President, Dan Schlozman

The business of the board has been virtually 100% devoted to the show with all else on hold except the vote on the new officers. As always, I was impressed with the way our group grows. The display at the last meeting was exceptional.

I personally was chagrined to find at the top of my greenhouse two beautiful cats in full bloom which were undoubtedly open Sunday, since this is only the Wednesday following the meeting. Am I the only one who fails to see beautiful blooming orchids on the top shelf or is it that I'm the shortest guy in the society? Rhetorical question. (Please don't answer.)

Getting back to the upcoming show: I'm having good luck with placing posters and hope the rest of you are, too.
Happy growing,

Dan

Support OSGKC Sponsors:

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

Coelogyne speciosa var. *majus* (added to collection in 1896; *Oncidium sphacelatum* (1898); and *Vanilla planifolia* (1901).

History:

- The name "orchid" comes from the Greek root *orkhis*, meaning "testicle."
- The European orchid species have a long history of use as aphrodisiacs.
- The first orchid from the western hemisphere to reach Europe was vanilla, sent to Spain in 1515.
- Confucius acknowledged orchids saying, "The association with a superior person is like entering a hall of orchids." In 1595 a Chinese flower-arranging book, "A Treatise of Vase Flowers," by Chang Ch'ien-te said orchids were in the top ranking of desirability.
- In 1818, a box sent from Rio de Janeiro by William Swainson contained orchids as a packing material. One of these was brought to flower and later named as *Cattleya labiata*. The Victorians were astounded by this flower, which was, perhaps more than any other plant, responsible for the British orchid craze that followed in Great Britain. The first plants of each new species brought back to England garnered high prices. The largest amount ever recorded was in 1890 when £1,500 was paid for one orchid, which is equivalent to approximately £96,500 [\$197,168.80] today!

The following is an item that will be included in the OSGKC/MAOC Expo and Show media promotional packet.



The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
hosts
"Orchids and All that Jazz"
The Kansas City Orchid Expo and Sale
and
The Mid-America Orchid Congress

Facts about Orchids [Family name: Orchidaceae]

Trivia:

□ Orchids are now the number two pot plant for indoor or patio use in the U.S., according to the American Orchid Society. The most popular is poinsettias. Bedding and annual plants were about \$620 million in 2006, and plants for indoor or patio use are the second largest category at about \$500 million. Of that latter group, orchids make up about \$123 million and poinsettias about \$163 million.

□ Currently, orchids are the most popular houseplant in the UK, according to the Flowers and Plants Association of Great Britain.

□ Orchids are not exclusively tropical. They grow on all continents except Antarctica. They are the most widely geographically distributed plant family, after grasses.

□ Three orchid species grow within the Arctic Circle and two species only the flower extending above the soil in line.

□ Orchidaceae are the world's largest family of flowering plants, with an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 naturally occurring species.

□ The world's largest orchid can grow to 20 meters long.

□ Orchid flowers can be microscopic or as large as nearly a foot across.

□ Orchids can be long-lived. The Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis has three plants that are more than one hundred years old:



Cypripedium reginae
Photographed in Howell County, MO

Beginners' Group

The beginners' group in November will hear Monica McNamara describe how she grows her winning species. This will be the last meeting of the year. Hope to see all of you there.

Fred Bergman

- The first man-made orchid hybrid was created in 1856.
- New orchid species are still being discovered at a rate of between 200 to 300 per year. These are mainly from tropical regions, as new areas of forest are opened up by road building and development schemes.
- New orchid species such as the bright purple *Phragmipedium kovachii*, discovered in 2002, caused a huge stir in the orchid world and even made headlines in the *The New York Times*. Specimens smuggled out of their native Peru were selling for more than \$20,000 each, proving that “orchid mania” is still with us.
- Many of today’s orchids are on the endangered species list, including ones in North America. Two native orchids of Missouri are on the threatened species list: Eastern Prairie Fringed (*Platanthera leucophaea*) and Western Prairie Fringed (*Platanthera praeclara*).

Cultivation:

□ Through the years, hybridizers have learned to cross as many as five orchid genera to create a single plant. This is equivalent of mixing a hummingbird with a blue jay, eagle, mallard and whooping crane, each of which is a different genus.

□ A fertilized orchid produces hundreds of thousands of seeds. However, it is exceptionally difficult to grow orchids from seed. The seeds contain so little food that the infant plant cannot grow into a seedling. In nature, the tiny plant is nurtured by a helpful, symbiotic fungus. In 1917, Dr. Lewis Knudsen of Cornell University discovered that the seedling could also be nurtured by growing it in sugar-based solid media similar to Jell-O. Most commercially produced orchids are now propagated using modifications of this method.

□ Orchids come in all colors, except – despite popular myth – black.

□ Orchid flowers may or may not have a smell. Some orchids have a powerfully sweet scent and some smell like rotting meat.



Platanthera praeclara
Photographed in Douglas County
KS

*A Look Backward:
October 14, 2007*

Correction to the September minutes: all correspondence to be forwarded to Doug and Beth about the upcoming show.

Treasurers report \$12,000 plus in the bank, not including the show fund, which is somewhere around \$6,000.

Nominating committee report: we have selected a slate of officers

for the 2008 year: Pres. Monica McNamara, V. Pres. Beth Martin, Sect. Holly Hall, Treas. Cindy Hobbs, and Members-at-Large Julie Morrison and Tony King. The slate was put to the society for further nominations and the slate will stand with a vote by the society.

Mike Wheeler put up a new sheet for people to bring snacks to the meetings, and it will also be put on the website for the upcoming

year.

Al Clinton won plant of the month for the Masd. pumila.

Volunteers are needed for all of the show committees.

The program consisted of reporting on all committee chairs and what is needed for each committee.

Submitted by Tony King

Kansas City's "Orchids and All That Jazz"

The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
is hosting

Mid America Regional Congress Fall Conference

Kansas City Orchid Expo and Sale.

November 16-18, 2007

Holiday Garden Inn, Independence, Missouri
(I-70 and Little Blue Parkway)

Orchid exhibits, sales, lectures, live jazz music,
Annual International Phalaenopsis Alliance meeting, and much more.

Visit <http://www.kcorchidshow.org/> for more information.

The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

Membership Form

Name(s)

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number

Email Address

Single Membership: \$25.00 _____

Family Membership: \$30.00 _____

Predominant growing space (approximate square feet) used is:

Greenhouse _____

Under lights _____

Windowsill _____

Program Suggestions or Comments:

I learned about OSGKC through:

Internet _____

Newspaper _____

Flower show _____

OSGKC member _____

Other (explain)

Make checks payable to:

The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

Return to:

Paul Kreutzer

609 Rosewood Circle

Raymore, MO 64083