



OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY www.osgkc.org February 2008

A Look Ahead: February 13th Program Tom Larkin presents "Designer Cattleyas"

By Doug Martin

In the past 50 years Cattleya alliance plants have been on the back burner taking a back seat to the more floriferous Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums and Oncidiniiae. As popularity of orchids has swelled in recent years, it appears to be bringing the "Queen" along with the trend. New hybrid registrations for Cattleya alliance with the RHS have run in the 450—500 per year range for the past 50 years. The last several years, however, have seen this trend change, and registrations are now nearly 1,000 per year.

Is this a resurgence? Too soon to tell, but the Cattleya offers many fea-

tures that the other popular orchids don't. Among these are two predominant characteristics. Fragrance and Color. Cattleya fragrance is like none other and colors come in all hues. Hybridizers have been busy working on other characteristics such as bloom frequency, temperature tolerance and plant size.

When Cattleyas will bloom two to three times per year, sport a knock-out fragrance, bloom under most normal household conditions, feature a rainbow of colors, and produce a plant size that compliments any décor (not overwhelm it), then the Pot Plant Cattleya's time has come.

To this end, hybridizers have been busy trying to compete

with the Phals, Cymbidiums and Dendrobiums for a share of the Pot Plant market. In recent years we have seen a plethora of compact cattleyas gracing the benches of the local mass marketers, and the public seems to be responding. Still somewhat absent from most of these compact cattleyas is the 'classic' cattleya flower size and shape — the classic type of beauty that graced my lady's shoulder/bosom decades ago.

Tom will attempt to take you on a journey of where hybridizers have been and where they are trying to go to achieve this end. While the number of commercial firms engaged in hybridizing is dwindling, the number of registrations show it is still happening in even greater numbers than ever before. Whippoorwill Orchids, now back to hobby growing, is doing what it likes to do best and that is hybridizing.

Tom will be bringing plants for sale to OSGKC's February meeting.

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Background: Tom Larkin, February's Speaker

Tom and Barbara Larkin have been members of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City for fifty years. Tom was President of OSGKC in 1961. For many years, starting in 1960, he edited OSGKC's monthly newsletter, which was then called the Pinnacle and was 27 pages long. For these and many other services to OSGKC, Tom and Barbara were named "Honored Lifetime Members" of OSGKC. In the mid-90's they retired to Rogers, Arkansas, and opened Whippoorwill Orchids.

Tom and Barbara have been active in both the Mid-America Orchid Congress and the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association. They were involved in the founding of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks, and are Co-Chairs of the SWROGA meeting, which the OSO is hosting in May of this year.

Tom is an accredited American Orchid Society judge.

OSGKC's Monthly Meeting: February 17, 2008

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

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



Minutes of January 13 OSGKC Meeting

by Holly Hall

The Awards for 2007 were announced. [See sidebar, page 3.] Special Recognition Awards were given to:

Dan Schlozman for his service as President for the last two years.

Paul Kreutzer for his service as Treasurer for the last 14 years.

Doug and Beth Martin for their leadership overseeing the planning of the MAOC Show

Monica went over her expectations for the next year:

Respect-Honor each other's different viewpoints.

Communication-contact someone directly with any concerns, questions.

Challenges-focus on the positive and look at a challenge to overcome or perform better.

Participation-everyone has to do their part.

Fun-we are here to have some fun and learn new things about orchids and socialize with others who also enjoy our addiction.

Treasurers report from Cindy Hobbs- we have money

Fred pointed out that everyone needs to make sure their information in the yearbook is up to date. There is a lot of information in the current yearbook that is out-dated.

A new OSGKC member pointed out that there is no contact person on the website to call with any questions.

Doug Martin did a show update: We had 500 entries in the show. The society will probably turn a profit of

about \$1,000 for the show. The hospitality room received compliments, as did the vendor aides.

Jason Ward did a presentation on the 501(c)(3) status. OSGKC applied for tax-exempt status with the IRS in July 2007. It was pursued at the time because it was thought it would be helpful in getting donations for shows. The IRS came back with some questions on our yearbook and website regarding the support of vendors listed. The standing rules state that members can sell plants at meetings, and a portion of the proceeds goes to the society and the rest goes back to the member. The mini auctions need changes to the format. These do not comply with being a not-for-profit organization. They cannot be sponsored by the society. The problems with the mini auctions are the members get a benefit from them, i.e. they get money from the sale of their plants. The society could not put advertisements in the newsletter about plant sales. The benefit of the tax deduction was discussed. It was brought up that to receive any benefit from this you would have to itemize on your tax returns. So it was asked if we could buy the plants from some members for a low price and then sell at the auction. The problem is it is the member that is benefiting from this. We are currently a non-profit organization and if we do not change how we do things, the members who sell plants are going to have to claim the income from the sale of said plants. A motion was passed to have Jason come to next months meeting with something that we can vote on.

Standing Committees and Reports:

Doug Martin did an outline on the programs coming up. February meeting will be a week late, and Tom Larkin will come up a do a program on designer cattleyas. March will be a potting roundtable. April is the greenhouse tour. May is David Bird doing a talk on the World Orchid Conference. June is open. July is the picnic, Cindy Hobbs is hosting. August is the auction. September, October, and

Report from the President, Monica McNamara

It was fabulous to see so many members at the Annual Banquet last month!!! A special thanks to Doug Martin for arranging the feast on such short notice. Congratulations to Mark and Joy Prout as Orchidists of 2007 and to all the award winners.

The gorgeous orchids at the January judging have us off to a great start for 2008. The 501c3 update info is somewhat difficult to digest at first. I appreciate the time and effort that Jason Ward has put into this project as well as informing and educating our members on its benefits and ramifications. This has turned into an unexpected challenge, but allows us an opportunity to redefine our purpose and goals as a non-profit group promoting orchids and calls upon our creativity.

Remember to call or email me or any of the executive board members with concerns, questions, comments, or ideas.

See you in February.

Monica McNamara

November are all open. May is also on the third weekend. On February 24th OSGKC will go to Fred's Greenhouse 2-5pm, and late in April we will visit David Bird's cave. There was discussion of taking a van to the April show in St. Louis.

Shows coming up: the Missouri OS Mini show is the second weekend in February. The Springfield show is in early March, the Omaha show in late March, the Greater St. Louis show in early April and the SWROGA show in late April.

AOS has a reduced rate for memberships through March 31st. It is \$50 for one year and \$100 for two years.

Membership chairs are Paul Kreutzer and Harold Basye.

Hospitality chair Mike Wheeler was hospitalized and is recovering.

Discussion of a list of all the books on the website.

Mark Prout is AOS, MAOC and Orchid Digest contact.

Tony King is raffle chairperson.

Beginners' Group

The February beginners meeting will once again be a busy one. Plan to learn about pesticides and ideas for modifying potting mixes. Everyone will receive a copy of the mixes that Fred uses. Beginners will also learn to understand a plant label.

Fred Bergman

Member Profile: Terrence Thompson -- Q and A

Q How many years have you been growing orchids?:

A. I have been growing orchids for about five years. I first became enamored with phalaenopsis orchids because they would bloom for months on my windowsill while I waited for long winters to pass so that I could get outside again and work in my shady perennial garden. I currently have 136 orchids, with



the largest collection being paphiopedilums with 50 plants. I have 20 compact and mini cattleyas, 18 masdevallias, 12 phalaenopsis and 10 Phragmipediums, with the remaining plants consisting of an odd lot of bulbo, cirrho and oncidium type plants.

Q. Give a brief description of their growing environment:

A. I grow all my plants under fluorescent lights in my basement, most in a four-shelf seed starting setup that I converted to orchids. Most of my light fixtures are shop fixtures but in the last couple of years I have added two T5 fluorescent light fixtures that produce almost twice the light as regular fluorescent lights. I do not move my plants outside in the summer because I live in a townhouse with a limited yard area. However, growing inside all year long does give me more control over my growing conditions. Watering is a routine thing that I can base on the number of days plants were last watered because my growing conditions do

not vary much in temperature and humidity.

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

A. Paphiopedilums are my favorite orchids with mini-catts following closely. A recent new favorite is masdevallias (with a little help from Al Clinton). All of these plants fit nicely under my lights and do well in my growing setup.

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

A. I have found it difficult to grow mounted orchids under my growing conditions, and I struggled mightily with masdevallias until Al Clinton gave me a hands-on lesson on how he pots and waters masdevallias. I had been trying to grow masdevallias in small clay pots. Al said the clay pots might be staying too wet and too slimy and suggested I use plastic or hard ceramic pots. He also suggested I was watering too often and not misting enough. Since I have made those adjustments my masdies have been thriving. I have a Masd. Golden Sun that has been blooming three to four flowers at a time since mid-September and it is still producing buds.

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

A. The best advice I can offer to a new grower is to start out with a variety of orchid types and see what thrives best in your growing situation. Also talk to other members of

OSGKC about problems. Talking to others has been where I have gotten my best advice. Books on orchids can be interesting but they never really get into the nitty gritty of what it actually takes to grow orchids

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

A. I worked as a journalist at The Kansas City Star for 35 years after graduating from the University of Oklahoma. (I was The Star's token Okie for years. Everybody else was a MU or KU grad.) I started out as a reporter/photographer and later specialized in writing about local government and politics. I wrote a weekly political column about Jackson County and Independence for years. After that I wrote the consumer column "At Your Service" for The Star for about 10 years. The final 10 years at the paper I labored as administrative manager for the editorial division so everybody else in the newsroom could have good time being journalists. Since I retired about five years ago I have spent my time enjoying my passions: photography, gardening, orchid growing and occasionally traveling with my wife. Two years ago I joined the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City and now I frequently write for its publications. Last fall I published a book of my photographs showing backyard birds, butterflies and my shady perennial garden. I am now working on a photography book about the Tuscan, Lake District and Venice areas of Italy.

2007 Annual Judging Awards

Orchidist of the Year.....	Mark & Joy Prout
Royal Barber Memorial Quality Award.....	David Sosland
Cattleya.....	Jami Parkison
Dendrobium.....	Tony King & Jason Thoren
Pleurothallid.....	Al Clinton
Oncidium.....	Jami Parkison
Phragmipedium.....	Monica McNamara
Paphiopedilum.....	Terrence Thompson
Phalaenopsis.....	Susie Hanna & Al Clinton
Species.....	Tony King & Jason Thoren
Miscellaneous.....	Wendy Hoch
Beginners.....	Melody Eads

*Life Style of a Winner:
Culture Tips for the Plant
of the Month, January 2008,
owned by Ron Daly*

**Orchid's Full Name: Slc. Jewel Box
"Dark Waters"**

Watering: Since this a mounted plant, it requires misting or watering every day and on very hot days it gets a shot twice that day.

Temperature (include info on differential temp needs): This and most Slc. tend to like the room a little warm. 65 at night and 85 daytime. It will tolerate + or - 10 degrees.

Light: Loves light. Less than Dend. and Vandas, but little more than C. and lots more than Paps., Prag., and Phals. This plant grew with 50% direct sun or sometimes known as 5500 ft. candles.

Fertilizing: I rotate my fertilizers. All at half recommended strength once a week. An organic like Kelp or Fish Emulsion and the next a chemical like 30-10-20 the next week.

Atmosphere (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): I keep a floor fan going 24/7/365. In warm weather the doors and windows stay open.

Special features (i.e., scented, etc.): This is not a fragrant flower, but it is a pretty red color and usually blooms on Feb.15. It divides about every year, throws up an extra flower any time, and has two to five flowers per stem that last for three weeks.

Where can this orchid be purchased?
I bought this plant from the Walters, whom I believe bought lots of them from Hilltop Nursury in Chicago who is also a patron of our society.

Support OSGKC Sponsors:

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

Standing Committees- 2008

Program.....	Doug Martin
Beginners Group.....	Fred Bergman
Budget.....	Deb Pate
Shows & Exhibits.....	Beth Martin
Website.....	Tony King
Newsletter.....	Jami Parkison
Publicity.....	David Sosland
Mem.....	Paul Kreutzer and Harold Bayse
Yearbook.....	Lance Jessee
Hospitality.....	Mike Wheeler and Al Clinton
Librarian.....	Rosemarie Hedrick
AOS, MAOC & Orchid Digest Reporter.....	Mark Prout
Judging.....	Mark & Joy Prout
Conservation Committee.....	Doug Martin
Mentor Program.....	Dan Schlozman
Auctions.....	Tom Reagor
Raffle.....	Tony King



Other helpful and/or interesting information about this orchid: I grew this plant for about five years until it was large enough to divide so all flowers are the same color. It is mounted on the best wood in the world: our own Hedge Apple tree. If anyone is not blessed with one of these trees, call me and come over. I have lots of free to spare. There are several Jewel Box crosses. I like this one, 'Dark Waters,' best.

Monica McNamara and Tony King will provide refreshments for February's meeting.

OSGKC contact information
Monica McNamara, President:
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Paul Krutzer, Membership Co-chair,
pauldkreutzer@comcast.net
Harold Basye, Membership Co-chair,
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Jami Parkison, Newsletter Editor,
parkisonja@everestkc.net

**Mark the Date: Field Trip to Fred Bergman's Orchids
Sunday, February 24th
2:00 to 5:00 PM**

Fred Bergman will open his greenhouses to OSGKC members on Sunday, February 24th. All members are invited to tour the greenhouses and shop for orchids.

Directions to 9401 E 103rd St., KCMO :
From I-470 take Exit 4 Raytown Road.
South about a quarter mile to 105th. Turn left.
Go west one block to Oxford road. Turn right and go one block to 103rd.
Turn right and then right again into Fred's driveway.