



OSGKC  
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Orchid Society of  
Greater Kansas City

# OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

www.osgkc.org

March 2008

## Orchid Habitat Loss, Preservation, and Restoration

The following article is from Orchid Conservation Coalition (OCC),  
and made available through AOS

As orchid growers we mimic the natural habitat of orchids in our green

houses and windowsills. As we know, the closer to ideal cultural conditions the better our orchids



*Calochilus pulchellus* and its original habitat before rescue. This habitat is lost to development. photos by Alan Stephenson

will grow. So it is the same with orchids in their natural habitats. We also know for the most part that orchids are niche growers. They need specific cultural requirements or natural elements to survive. The natural habitat for many orchids has been degrading in the last century and a half at an ever-rapid pace. There are many pressures that have been growing that are taking their toll on the environment. Changes in temperature, humidity, rainfall and weather

pattern, all falling under the heading climate change or global warming, slowly degrade habitat but are fast enough so that orchids cannot evolve to the conditions or spread to more favorable areas. Development like road building, agriculture and housing directly destroy orchid habitat. We need to be smarter with the resources that we have.

The Orchid Conservation Coalition has started a new initiative to document and bring stories of orchid habitat loss, preservation and restoration to the orchid growing community and the public. The first seven orchid conservation stories



can be seen at: <http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/hl/index.html>.

The stories include three from Australia about *Calochilus pulchellus*, *Corunastylis superba*, *Prasophyllum affine* and *Cryptostylis hunteriana*. *Corunastylis superba* is known from one area, part of which has been wiped out by the placement of a gas line. Road building may have done in the rest. On these

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## A Look Ahead: March 9th Program Potting Roundtable

By Doug Martin

For our March meeting, three of OSGKC's best growers will lead a discussion of orchid potting.

Some topics that might be considered are: when to pot, what size pot to use, what medium to use and "secret" techniques.

Please bring your favorite potting medium recipes and be ready to ask questions about all aspects of orchid potting.

## OSGKC's Monthly Meeting: March 9, 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.

## OSGKC Needs Your Help!

by Beth Martin, Show Chair

We need your help to set up the OSGKC exhibit in the Springfield orchid show. Anyone interested in orchid shows and exhibits is encouraged to join us. You can also plan to stay over in Springfield and clerk during show judging on Saturday morning. Show set-up is on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and we will be at the show site at 5:00 pm. If you can take orchids and/or staging to Springfield on Friday afternoon and help set up the exhibit, please contact Beth and Doug Martin at 913-248-8669 or [bethdougm@kc.rr.com](mailto:bethdougm@kc.rr.com).

## Report from the President, Monica McNamara

I was sorry at having to cancel the February meeting. It seems that our weather is not "in sync" with our orchid activity schedule this winter!! It brightened my day to enjoy the beautiful orchid photos that many of the members sent by email. Thanks for sharing!!

I also wanted to remind everyone to review the 501(c)3 information that Jason Ward presented at the January meeting and in his follow-up email, as we will be facing a time crunch to vote on important

by-law changes at the March meeting. Contact me, Jason Ward or an executive committee member regarding questions.

Hope to see you in March,

Monica McNamara

## OSGKC - Budget Matters

OSGKC's proposed budget for 2008 will be presented at the March meeting.

Deb Pate,  
Budget Chair

## Orchid Judging by the American Orchid Society

The following article by Mark Prout originally appeared in the January 2008 issue of the quarterly publication, *Master Gardener*

The OSGKC's recent show was sanctioned and judged by the American Orchid Society (AOS). Judging shows is a service of the AOS to its members and affiliated local societies to promote the enjoyment of orchid growing and encourage advancement in cultivation and hybridization.

An orchid show features two different kinds of judging. Show judging compares entered orchids according a schedule of categories determined by the show organizers. In OSGKC's case, they used the show schedule developed by the Mid-America Orchid Congress.

When judging shows, judges compare plants for their visual impact, looking for the "Wow!" factor. This usually gives the blue ribbon to the best color and form and most flowers on a healthy, well-groomed plant. One plant may not possess all the attributes, but one should stand out above the rest. Sometimes, a category may feature plants that are sub-par and judges may then choose to award no blue ribbon and give only red and white ribbons. In a show schedule with 110 categories, there are usually several with few or no entries. It isn't unusual for the only plant in a category to get the blue or if it's

found wanting, only a red or white or no ribbon at all. Since, one of the objectives of judging is encouragement and enjoyment of the hobby, show judging awards ribbons fairly freely and sometimes awards multiple ribbons in categories where numerous plants are obvious contenders.

Categories are grouped according to genus and best of class trophies awarded to the best of the blue ribbons in the class. The organizing society sometimes offers trophies beyond the best of class. The OSGKC show gave a best of show. Following show judging, judges select plants for further consideration for AOS awards. AOS judging evaluates the plant according to exacting standards developed for its genus. Judges must have a broad knowledge of the major genera, the species that comprise them, and how they interact genetically in their hybrids. Judges will discuss a plant's attributes in comparison to the standards, which generally emphasize color, roundness, symmetry, fullness and floriferousness. They compare the plant to ones of the same species or hybrid that have received past awards, consulting the published record. If one of the judges on the team considering a plant nominates it, they then score the plants using a 100 point scale quantifying its qualities. The highest flower quality award is a First Class Certificate (FCC) for plants receiving 90 points or more. An Award of Merit (AM) goes to plants scoring 80-89 points and a Highly

The orchid-topped mannequin pictured below is the award-winning exhibit created by OSGKC members, Tony King and Jason Thoren, at the OSGKC/MAOC Show, November 2007.



Commended Certificate (HCC) for 75-79 points.

Slc. (*Sophrolaeliocattleya*) Yellow Warbler 'Hoosier' provides a good illustration of show and AOS judging. In the show, its color, floriferousness, and presentation first won the blue ribbon in its category, then the best of class trophy for the Cattleyas, although there were other larger, even more floriferous plants in the class. [See the January 2008 issue of the OSGKC newsletter for a

Conservation con't from page 1

web pages you can read about the struggle to save *Calochilus pulchellus*, *Prasophyllum affine* and *Cryptostylis hunteriana* from development. Only formally described in March 2007, *Calochilus pulchellus* was known from 25 plants before five of those orchids were threatened by destruction from development. The story tells of relocating the orchids literally in front of the earth clearing machinery. The ultimate success of this



*Dendrobium vogelsangii* regenerating on a burned tree in Central Sulawesi. Photo by Peter O'Byrne

relocation is yet to be determined.

There is a picture of deforestation in Bolivia near where the second ever plant of *Masdevallia vasquezii* was found and the only site for *Masdevallia burianii*. The story from Ecuador is about the commercial growing of naranjilla in the Pastaza River valley. This is the same valley that the EcoMinga Foundation (<http://www.ecominga.net>) is trying to save in part with it's Rio Anzu Reserve.

From Indonesia, there is a story about the regular burning of fields and forests in Central Sulawesi. This forest is very rich in orchids, many of which are still undescribed and known from nowhere else.

From Nebraska, USA, there is a story about the saving by volunteers and Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo of *Cypripedium candidum* from a habitat that had become a lost cause because of development of roads and houses. This site is only one of seven

known sites of *Cypripedium candidum* in Nebraska.

It is relatively easy to change and control our growing areas in *ex situ*, especially when compared to the elements in a natural orchid habitat. In our growing areas we can change things quickly. In the wild it is harder to reverse damage to orchid's natural habitat and even harder once that habitat has been destroyed and you're trying to reestablish an orchid species. Our growing area does not stop at the edge of our windows or the door of our greenhouse. The earth and it's habitats are our collective greenhouse. We are responsible for much of the damage to the cultural conditions of this greenhouse. It is up to us to change and correct the natural habitat the best we can so that orchid species can continue to grow for future generations.

If anyone knows or wants to add habitat

loss, preservation or restoration stories to this initiative, please contact the Orchid Conservation Coalition at: [information@orchidconservationcoalition.org](mailto:information@orchidconservationcoalition.org)

*OSGKC members provided ribbon-winning plants for the St. Louis show in January. The table-top exhibit was created by Tony King, Melody Eads and Jason Thoren.*



### Support OSGKC Sponsors:

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

Judging con't from page 2

photograph of SLC Yellow Warbler.] Judges then deemed its combination of qualities superior to all the other bests of class and gave it the Best in Show Trophy.

The team of judges that considered the Cattleya class also chose the plant for AOS judging, recognizing that it was a remarkable example of breeding, crossing Slc. Love Fresh, itself a successful hybrid of two of the best parents in miniature yellow Cattleya breeding, with *Sophronis cernua*, a species with tiny red-orange flowers. The average of five judges scoring it was 86, adding an Award of Merit to its show wins.

It takes a minimum of six years to become an accredited AOS judge, three years as a student judge and three as a probationary judge, perhaps longer if a candidate's accredited colleagues require it. Students write and present two papers a year to their judging center. In monthly judging sessions at the judging center, students learn about judging through practice and get the opportunity to demonstrate their own knowledge. They attend lectures and read as widely as they can in orchid publications and books to expand their knowledge.