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Orchid Society of
Greater Kansas City

OSGKC News

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

Orchid Growers Tour - April 13

By Doug Martin

We will visit the growing areas of Paul Kreutzer, Terrence Thompson and Mark Prout. Directions, maps and times are on page 4. See you there!

Step Softly: Environmental Stewardship: Part I

The following article was originally published in the Native Orchid Conference Journal and is made available through AOS

By Marilyn H.S. Light
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada
mlight@igs.net
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Spring is in the air! Native orchid enthusiasts are gearing up for another year of discovery and enjoyment of their favorite blooming beauties. Photographers are hoping to find the species that eluded them previously. Others including myself are looking forward to initiating or continuing long term tracking studies. Now is a good time to consider the relative impact of all those feet on the orchids and their environment.



Dactylorhiza maculata
Common name:
Heath Spotted Orchid

Believe me, even one person moving carefully through the forest has an impact. Several people following in those same footsteps multiplies the trampling effect. Damage to fragile ecosystems such as bogs and fens may be more quickly apparent but all habitats are vulnerable to foot traffic. Ironically, it is the recent popularity of the 'great outdoors' that exacerbates the problem. The very orchids that interest us may disappear as a result of our forays unless we consider the impact of what we do (Penskar and Higman, 2000; Meleg, 2003).

Studies in Finland, Ireland and Switzerland have measured the effect of trampling on forest trees, tree seedlings, ground cover plants and on the soil microbial community. The first plants to disappear are tender herbs like mosses. "With only minimal trampling 20 peatland species are lost" (MacGowan, 1996). In a Finnish study, the microbial community structure of the humus layer in an urban forest was affected by a cascade of events beginning with trampling then extending to changes in vegetation and litter quality which ultimately affected humus pH (Malmivaara-Lämäsa and Fritze, 2003).

The Swiss study by Waltert et al. (2002) investigated the impact of trampling on the mycorrhizal roots of seedling and mature trees. Not

Inside...

Officers' Reports:	pg. 2
Plant of the Month	pg. 2
Member Profile	pg. 3
Tour Information	pg. 4

Field Trip to Bird's Botanicals

By Doug Martin

Sunday, April 20
1:00 to 4:00 PM

Interstate Underground
8201 E. 23rd St.
Kansas City, MO 64129

David Bird will open his orchid cave to OSGKC members on Sunday, April 20th. All members are invited to tour the greenhouses and shop for orchids. David has just purchased a 2,000 orchid collection of mostly species. We'll be the first group to have a chance to purchase these plants from David.

Directions:

From I-70 take I-435 north to exit 61, East 23rd St. Turn right and then right again into Interstate Underground. Follow the driveway to the end and then follow the signs to the cave.



*A Look Behind:
OSGKC Meeting --
March 9, 2008, Minutes*

By Holly Hall

Jason Ward presented 501c3 status. Members voted to have Board of Directors sign a resolution to remove the sale of orchids from the standing rules article 1 section 3 of the by laws for the purpose of filing for 501c3 status.

Cindy presented the Treasurer's report: She combined MAOC account with the general account.

Deb presented the proposed budget: We are proposing less income for the raffles, and we will lose the income for the mini-auctions, close to \$2,000. Some expenses will be less also. Publicity will be \$90 less, Website and newsletter will be much less, and picnic will also be less. Yearbook costs will increase, as will show expenses. Show expenses will increase to cover mileage due to price of gas. The

society will have a net operating deficit of about \$1,500 for 2008. A motion was passed to accept the proposed budget.

Updates from committee chairs:

Everyone needs to renew their membership to get their names in the yearbook. Tony is going to coordinate new vendors putting ads in the yearbook.

Doug presented the programs for the next few months. March was the potting program, April is the growers' tour, Terrance Thompson, Mark and Joy Prout, and Paul Kreutzer have agreed to let us come to their houses. In May David Bird is going to talk about the World Orchid Congress. June is Tom Larkin's *Cattleya* talk from February. September is Tom Nasser from Carolina Orchids talking on *Bulbophyllums*. Picnic is in July and the auction is in August.

No beginners group next month due to the growers' tour.

An exhibit did not happen at

the Springfield show. The spring SWROGA show is the first weekend in May. They are having a raffle to raise money for the show.

The Family Tree Nursery open house is March 15 and 16. We need people to work the booth.

Spring MAOC is in Troy, MI, the fall one is in Cincinnati.

Doug presented to the society having an annual show starting in late February 2009. A local show is less work because it is smaller. The show would end up with a loss of about \$2,500, a worse case scenario. The motion was passed. A discussion over the requirements of a facility where we could have the show, 2500 to 3000 square foot space is a requirement.

Fred Bergman donated \$56 to the society, from his open house proceeds.

The open house at David Bird's caves is tentatively scheduled in late April.

Life Style of a Winner: Culture Tips for the Plant of the Month: March 2008

Melody Eads' Dendrobium Winter Frost

Describe the conditions you use to grow this winning plant:

Watering: Once a week in the winter, and two times in the summer. The greenhouse has high humidity and runs between 75 % and 85 %. We open the hot tub for extra humidity.

Temperature (include info on differential temp needs): The temperatures fluctuate between 76 F in the day and 69 F during the night in the winter months. During summer months, the temperature usually stays about 85 F during the day and the night time is approximately 80 F.

Light: I use HPS 400 watts, and it sits in a west window with some shade in summer, but receives full sunlight in winter from the windows and about 4,000 foot-candles in the winter from the lights.

Fertilizing: I fertilize every time I water.

Atmosphere (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): I have constant air circulation, using three stand-alone fans, a

ceiling fan and also a temperature-regulated fan.

Special features (i.e., scented, etc.): I have not separated this plant since I purchased it, and each year it seems to have twice the blooms as the previous year.

Where can this orchid be purchased? I purchased this from Birds Botanicals four years ago.

Other helpful and/or interesting information about this orchid: It sets on the highest shelf with maximum light exposure and most times it is ignored. I had it bloom twice a year for the last two years.



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only did they report that trampling caused considerable damage to forest floor vegetation but it especially affected seedling trees and their mycorrhizal fine roots.

We do not yet have a measure of the indirect effect of trampling on orchids but there are reports of the deleterious effect of leaf damage and removal. When leaves of *Dactylorhiza maculata* and *Tipularia discolor* were removed in whole or in part experimentally, plants became progressively smaller and were less likely to flower the following year (Whigham, 1990; Vallius and Salonen, 2000). Effects of human visitation and touch on plant growth and herbivory have been documented for species other than orchids (Cahill Jr., Castelli and Casper, 2002; Hik et al. 2003). Because we do not yet know enough about the impact of human visitation on orchids, we must minimize disturbance when we visit sites to photograph or otherwise study them. We must take care.

[Read May 2008 OSGKC Newsletter for Part II, "Ways to Minimize Danger to Orchids in the Wild," and the article's references.]

Member Profile: Monica McNamara

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

A: I was given a dendrobium orchid (by a well-meaning girlfriend) for my birthday in March 2001. I managed to kill my first orchid in only a couple of months. I then bought a couple of orchids at Family Tree Nursery and in no time they were

looking very sad and eventually died. I became determined to successfully grow and bloom an orchid. So Julie Morrison and I attended a three session class on Growing Orchids at Powell Gardens with David Bird as

the instructor in January 2002. We inundated David with questions and were such eager students that he invited us to "The Cave." We began volunteering at the cave—repotting, staking, etc. and helping with sales at shows and in return David continued to mentor us and help supply our orchid collections.

Q. How many orchids are in your collection?

A: I now have over 250 orchids in my collection.

Q. Give a brief description of their growing environment:

A: I have a light room in my basement with two high pressure sodium lights on moving tracks.

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

A: My collection mostly consists of phrags, paphs, cattleyas, and some odd species.

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

A: A favorite orchid in my collection is my *Encyclia bractescens*. I

bought a jungle-collected mounted piece at a St Louis show many years ago. I was delighted when it was awarded "Orchid of the Month" at one of our society meetings. It was also my first and only orchid to be awarded hardware at an orchid show. It even made a brief tv appearance!



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

A: One of my most frustrating orchids is *Shomburgkia splendida*. I've had this mounted orchid for at least 5 years and have not yet seen it

bloom.

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

A: In my day to day life, I work as a clinical psychologist to support my orchid addiction. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. I specialize in medical/rehabilitation/neuropsychology. I go to several different hospitals in the Johnson County area and primarily see people who have had strokes, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, heart attacks or other medical problems that have caused major disruptions and stress in people's lives.

My other hobbies include scuba diving. I am recently back from a trip that involved snorkeling with humpback whales at Silver Banks in the Dominican Republic. I also help rescue retired racing greyhounds with REGAP (Retired Greyhounds as Pets). My four babies are: Candi, Cayman, Quin, and Peggy Sue.

A Look Forward: SWROGA Show and Meeting in Rogers, Arkansas

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks 2008 Spring Show and SWROGA meeting are just around the corner. Make your plans now to attend these exciting events May 2-4 in Rogers, Arkansas. OSGKC will exhibit in the orchid show, and we hope to have many of our members there as well.

The sales area will be packed with fantastic treats from Andy's Orchids, Cal-Orchids, Gold Country Orchids, Oak Hill Gardens, Clown Alley Orchids, Roberts Mfg. Jewelers, Windy Hill Gardens, Prairie Orchids and J&L Orchids. Two great speakers will fill the Saturday afternoon time slot with Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids on "Understanding the Rupliculous Laelias" and Jim Rose of Cal-Orchids Inc. who will present a program on "Modern Reedstem Epidendrum". On Sunday morning, John Stubbings, owner of Clown Alley Orchids, Pasadena, TX and International Phalaenopsis Alliance president, will speak on "New Directions in Multiflora Phals". Such talent alone makes the trip to the show worthwhile. A very special treat is in store for the attendees of the Affiliated Societies Breakfast, with Dr. Ron McHatton, PhD, AOS Director of Education, Research and Regional Operations.

Please visit the OSO website, www.OSO-web.org, for more details, registration forms, and a link to the Embassy Suites information for hotel reservations. Hotel rooms are going fast. (The deadline for early registration wasv April 1st.)

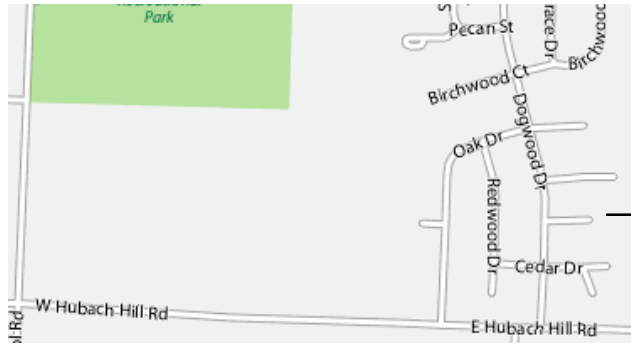
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609 Rosewood Circle
Raymore, MO 64083-9487

From I-435 take **Rt. 71 south** to **Rt. 58** (E 17th St.).
Go **east on Rt. 58**. It will turn to the right (south) and become **N. Madison St.**
After about 0.3 miles it will curve back to the east. Take the **first right, West Walnut St.**
Go **one block** and turn **left** (south) on **S. Madison**.
Go south on Madison for **1.3 miles** to **W. Hubach Hill Rd.**
Go **left** (east) on **W. Hubach Hill Rd.** Go about **0.4 miles** to **Dogwood Dr.**
Turn **left** (north) on **Dogwood**. Go **two blocks** to **Rosewood Circle**.
Turn **right** on **Rosewood Circle** and go to **#609**.



Rosewood Circle



Walnut Street

Terrence Thompson 4312 S. Davidson Dr.
Kansas City, MO 64055

From Paul's:
Return to corner of **Dogwood Dr. and Hubach Hill Rd.**
Turn **left** (east) on **Hubach Hill**. Go about **3.3 miles** to **Rt. 291**.
Go **left** (north) on **Rt 291** to **I-470**.
Take I-470 north to **Exit 16a, US 40**.
Take 40 west about 1.5 miles to **Lee's Summit Rd.**
Go **left** (north) on **Lee's Summit Rd.** about **0.2 miles** to **E. 43rd St.**
Turn **left** on **E. 43rd St.** Go about **0.5 miles** to **S. Davidson**.
Turn **right** and go to **#4312**.



S. Davidson Drive

Joy and Mark Prout 129 NE Edgewater Dr.
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

Return to I-470.
Go south on I-470 to **Exit 12, Woods Chapel Rd.**
Go **right** (west) on **Woods Chapel Rd.** about **0.75 miles** to **NE Channel Rd.**
Turn **right** on **NE Channel Rd.** Go one block to **Ne Shoreview Dr.**
Turn **left** on **NE Shoreview Dr.** Go about **0.2 miles** to **NE Edgewater Dr.**
(First street after crossing water.)
Turn **left** on **NE Edgewater Dr** and go to **#129**.

129 NE Edgewater Dr.

