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Orchid Society of
Greater Kansas City

OSGKC News

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May 18 Program: David Bird Presents a Review of the 2008 World Orchid Congress in Miami

The following profile is from Bird's Botanicals website and was provided by Doug Martin, OSGKC Program Chair

David Bird has been growing orchids for 31 years. On a family trip to Hawaii when he was a kid, he bought his first five orchids. Working at the Denver Botanical Garden with orchids and managing the orchid greenhouse in college, just made the addiction all the sweeter. Finally, getting a BS degree in Horticulture at North Dakota State University, David started his horticulture career at the International Peace Garden and enlarged the orchid collection to 800 plants. The Des Moines Botanical Center needed a new horticulturist and David developed a large Oncidium collection. On to Powell Gardens just outside of Kansas City, David started an orchid exhibit that is still an annual event.

Finally, the orchids took over and David started Bird's Botanicals and made the orchids a new career. Still fascinated with Hawaii, [David's] collection has grown to over 4,000 plants, and he makes annual trips to Hawaii working with growers on new and improved

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The Salvation of Nomenclature: A Report from the 19th World Orchid Conference

The following is by Dr. Wes Higgins from Selby Gardens

Horticulturists have thrown up their hands in despair over all the changes in orchid names. First it was the species and then the hybrid names which began to change. The purpose of a classification system is to facilitate communication. It is a user tool based on scientific data, but it must be user-friendly. With the advent of molecular systematics, we have new insights into relationships within the orchid family. The DNA data has caused taxonomists to re-examine the morphology and to rethink generic concepts. What is a genus? How big should it be? Can it be too small to be useful? Unfortunately many of the recent changes in genera did not consider the impact on horticulturalists (the users).

The lectures at the 19th World Orchid Conference reflected a new trend where scientists have started consulting the users of the classification system. New data has mandated changes in orchid names, but the changes need to be compatible with the needs of the end users.

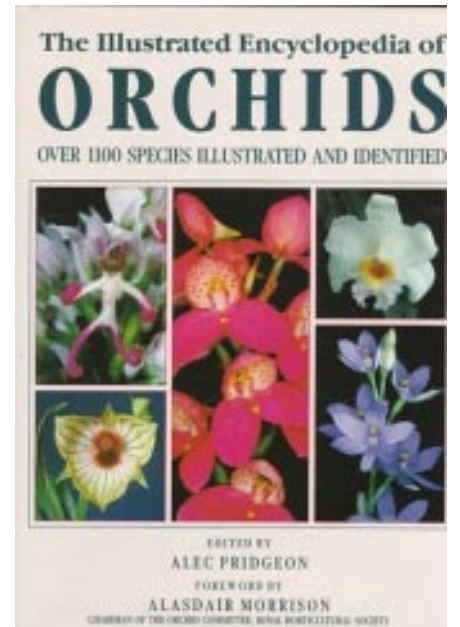
At the general meeting of the International Orchid Commission, Cassio van den Berg proposed moving the Brazilian Laelias into *Cattleya*. This recommendation was well received by the group. This change will greatly help with the nomenclature of this widely hybridized group. Alec Pridgeon stated that a supplement could be included to *Genera Orchidearum V* to rapidly disseminate this change. The only dissenter was someone who wanted to do away with nothogenera and use just breeding groups. The *Cattleya* proposal was forwarded to the Royal Horticultural Society (the hybrid registrar) for consideration.

What do we have to look forward to:

- A large *Cattleya* genus,
- A large *Epidendrum* genus,
- A large *Pleurothallis* genus,
- A large *Oncidium* genus....and a stable system of hybrid names.



Alec Pridgeon, author of
The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids



Beginners' Group

The beginners will discuss visiting growers facilities, grooming plants, and the culture of Dendrobiums and Cymbidiums. Come early -- we have a busy schedule.

Fred Bergman

Step Softly: Environmental Stewardship: Part II

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

By Marilyn H.S. Light
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How do we minimize any damage we may cause to orchids and other plants when we encounter them in their natural habitat?

- A. Consider the habitat and its relative fragility. Wetlands are especially vulnerable and should be visited with great caution and preferably not in large groups.
- B. Consider the orchid and its rarity. While we may want to see the 'rare' ones, it might be best to leave a fragile site or a small population completely undisturbed. When in doubt, please don't.
- C. Consider the orchid and its ecosystem. Orchids do not live in isolation. They have a complex life cycle and a reliance on particular habitat conditions to survive. Human visitation can lead to soil compaction, changes to the soil microflora and loss of vulnerable species.
- D. Walk softly and carefully. Even common orchids like the Hellebo-

Treasurer's Report

Because the distribution of Society's news is primarily via email, the Board has decided to provide the treasurer's report at each meeting. In addition, the treasurer's report is available upon request to the treasurer or any officer.

Cindy Hobbs, OSGKC Treasurer

Orchid Trivia

From *Orchids to Know and Grow*, by Thomas J. Sheehan and Robert J. Black

The hollow pseudobulbs of *Myrmecophila*, named from the Greek *myrmeko* (ants) because ants nest in them, are used as horns in Mexico and Central America to call the cattle home.

Salep, the powder obtained from the tuberoids of some European orchids, has been used medicinally for its nutritive value in cases of malnutrition.

Epipactis helleborine deserve our consideration and respect if we expect to learn something meaningful about their behavior. Ever since I began a study in 1985, I have



limited my visits to the absolute minimum needed to gather data, have walked on exposed rocks wherever possible to minimize disturbance, and have resisted moving companion plants that were spoiling my view. I wear running shoes which are less potentially damaging than hiking boots.

E. Be an exemplary environmental steward. Stay on paths and walkways where they are provided and especially where the park respectfully requests that you do so.

Photograph at left: *Epipactis helleborine*
[For a full description of this orchid, visit <http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/galleries/epipactishell.html>]

May program, Bird's Botanicals, con't from page 1

orchids. Bird's Botanicals started as a home based greenhouse business with 400 square feet of growing space. David told his wife he would never need more space than that. Any orchid grower knows there is never enough growing space for the orchids. Now [Bird's Botanicals] 6,000 square feet (soon to be 7,000 square feet) in a cave with HPS lights.

Support OSGKC Sponsors:

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

OSGKC's Ribbon Winners in Omaha and St. Louis

by Beth Martin

OSGKC entered two outstanding exhibits in recent orchid shows in Omaha and St. Louis, winning the coveted AOS Show Trophy in Omaha, as well as other trophies and ribbons. Congratulations to the OSGKC members whose plants received a total of 66 ribbons in the two shows! Every member who

entered a plant in either show won at least one ribbon. Special congratulations to Joy and Mark Prout, whose *Dendrobium lindleyi* won the Best Dendrobium trophy in the St. Louis show. In Omaha, our exhibit received the trophy for Best Orchid Society Exhibit and a blue ribbon for its class. Our St. Louis exhibit also won a blue ribbon for its class.

Many thanks to Cindy Hobbs, Joy Prout, Mark Prout and Doug Martin for setting up and tearing

down both exhibits. We also greatly appreciate the help we received from Tony King, Jason Thoren and David Bird, who hauled staging materials back to Kansas City after these shows. OSGKC should be proud of the work done by these dedicated volunteers!

The trophy and ribbon winners from each exhibit are listed below.



March 28-30, 2008

Omaha Ribbons and Trophies

Owner	Class	Plant	Award
OSGKC	6	EXHIBIT	Blue, BOC, AOS Trophy
Harold Basye	11	Encyclia cordigera	Red
	21	Cattleya Lydia Oliveau	Red
Cindy Hobbs	23	Gsl. Gold Digger	White
	48	Angreacum leonis	Red
	44	Phrag. Deliverance	White
Doug & Beth Martin	14	Rhyncholaelia digbyana	Red
	35	Paph. Magic Lantern	Red
	33	Paph. Amelia Hart Alexander	Red
	98	Den. Susan Takahashi	Blue
Alex McConnell	23	Thw. Fordyce Fantasy	Blue
	23	Sc. Final Touch 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS	White
	41	Paph. Scott Ware 'Lone Jack' AM/AOS	Red
Jami Parkison	20	Sc. Drumbeat 'Heritage' HCC/AOS	Red
	22	Thw. Hsinying Catherine 'Hakucho'	Blue
Joy & Mark Prout	19	Guarianthe aurantiaca	Red
	43	Phrag. Inca Embers	Red
	64	Phal. Classic Beauty	Blue
	96	Den. lindleyi	Blue
	38	Wössner Goldegg	Red
97	Den. Red Emperor		
Jan and Tom Reagor	15	Guaritonia Why Not	Red
Frank Serra	11	Encyclia bractescens	Blue
	43	Phrag. Jason Fischer	Blue
	71	Phal. Brother Little Yellowboy	Red
David Sosland	62	Dtps. (Phal. Devon Ace x Dtps. Devonshire Charm)	Blue
	70	Phalaenopsis hybrid	Blue
Terrence Thompson	28	Sc. California Ember	White
	34	Paph. Prelude	White
	34	Paph. Transvaal	Red
	35	Paph. Diane Vickery	White
	36	Paph. Varuna	Blue