



Orchid Society of
Greater Kansas City

OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

www.osgkc.org

September 2008

September 14th Program: Tom Nasser of Carolina Orchids Presents Bulbophyllums

The following is taken from the Carolina Orchids website.

At Clemson University, South Carolina, where Tom Nasser completed his Ph.D. in Textile Chemistry, Tom and Shan Nasser got their first greenhouse in 1979. Their business began in 1980 as Clemson Orchids. For more than 20 years, Tom taught and Shan worked in the chemical industry. They live in Fort Mill, SC and their occupation is Carolina Orchids. The name Clemson Orchids was changed to Carolina Orchids to avoid the assumption that Clemson Orchids must be in Clemson rather than in Fort Mill, SC. Tom has given talks on Bulbophyllums and Angraecum to many societies for many years, and these talks are upgraded into PowerPoint with new pictures.

Doug Martin writes:

Discounts on Orchids!

Tom has agreed to give OSGKC members a 15% discount on preordered orchids delivered at the meeting. Please visit his website: <http://www.carolinaorchids.com/>

Dinner with Tom Nasser

OSGKC members are invited to join us for dinner Saturday, September 13th, 7:00 pm at Hereford House in downtown Kansas City, (20th & Main Street). Please contact Doug by Friday the 12th, if you can join us. [bethdoug@kc.rr.com or 913/248-8669.]



Cultural Tips for Bulbophyllum

from Elanbee Orchids, Australia

Most Bulbophyllums, including the Cirrhopetalum, are easier to grow mounted and to us present a more natural appearance. Most are rambling growers and resent being disturbed; however, they do not seem to mind an occasional clipping of a few unruly leads to keep them neat.

In growing most Bulbophyllums, we have found sphagnum moss pads mounted on the backside of cork slabs to be an excellent growing method. The recurved shape of the cork retains more moisture in the moss pad, which the Bulbophyllums love. We have found the easiest method is to tie the plant with 6 lb. test nylon fishing line. There are almost as many ways of mounting Bulbophyllums as there are Bulbophyllums.

After the plant has recovered from its self-imposed pout and the new roots have gained a foothold, the nearly invisible fishing line can be removed. The fishing line, however, does not seem to injure the Bulbophyllum, and is usually left in place. Other mounting materials are wood slabs, driftwood, cactus wood, tree fern plaques, tree fern, tree fern totems, and tree fern balls. Wood baskets with sphagnum moss are a close second choice.

If a potted Bulbophyllum is your choice, they will enjoy any loose well-drained media. The bulk of Bulbophyllums have numerous short roots which do not penetrate the media deeply, so shallow media is a must to avoid root rots.

In our experience most Bulbophyllums are in continual growth, except for a brief rest in the cool of the winter. They usually bloom on the matured new growth. If there is a peak bloom period it is probably spring and early autumn.

The majority of Bulbophyllums are comfortable in a temperature range of 7° C to 35° C [45°- 95° F] Some of the higher elevation Bulbophyllums,



Bulbophyllum lassiochilum

such as those from the Himalayas and New Guinea mountains prefer cool temperatures for part of the year and can be a little difficult in warmer areas.

Preferred light conditions are bright shade. If adjusted slowly, full morning sun up to noon is enjoyed by most Bulbophyllums. If you can comfortably read a newspaper without squinting or straining to see then you have the right light.

Bulbophyllums prefer to be evenly moist, except a slight drying in the winter. During growth period, the Bulbophyllums should be given heavy watering, so they are never dry.

Because of the wet conditions loved by the Bulbophyllums, fungus can be a problem. A monthly preventative spray of your favorite fungicide is desirable to ward off problems.

Good air movement is a must to keep leaf fungus down, because of the heavy watering regime.

Fertilization is simple - Bulbophyllums love to eat, 1/4 strength at each watering is sure to keep them happy. We have found organic fertilizers, such as fish emulsion, cow manure teas are enjoyed as well as salt-based fertilizers. If you use the salt-based fertilizers ensure no salt residue is left in the roots. Always flush, with clear water, monthly to protect the short tender roots from fertilizer burn.

While not insect resistant, Bulbophyllums seem to rarely be bothered by insects other than an occasional scale or mealy bug infestation, which can be easily handled by a 70% isopropyl alcohol and soap drench, or your favorite insecticide.

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AOS CORNER

By Melba Butler, AOS Representative

Orchids currently seem to be more important and more rampant than ever. If you grow them, as we do, as hobbyists, you probably have them all over house, your desk at work, on the patio, in the greenhouse, on the fence, in flower beds, maybe even on the front porch or entrance. We all see orchids everywhere: they are in the grocery store, hardware store, home repair store, orchid society meetings, shows, and workshops. All the magazines use them in their ads from furniture to jewelry and scented candles and room fresheners.

Their beauty attracts attention and accents bathrooms, bedrooms, living rooms, and virtually any landscape looks better with orchids.

For the beginning hobbyist, orchids probably seem mostly mysterious. In the beginning, there is so much to learn and so many directions to take, like which ones to grow, how to grow them, where to find another one because the ones you have aren't blooming now. You have concerns and questions and your fascination goes on and on...

If you judge them, you are probably trying to keep up with the continuous and challenging name changes. You think you can remember what it was before it became what it is now and then you get an e-mail or read in a bulletin that it has changed again.

Many years ago, people died trying to retrieve them from dark jungles and rain forests and delivering them across oceans or continents for the rewards they would be paid by wealthy horticulturalists. The orchid fever goes on even today as some become so possessed with orchids that they break the law to buy and sell them. We read in the news that some are being prosecuted, pay fines, and even go to jail because they became foolish and greedy.

In some countries, orchids are the livelihood of many people. They provide work for thousands who

propagate, cultivate, market, and ship orchids across oceans and around the world for more people to continue their distribution, for orchid vendors, hobbyists, households and offices to enjoy.

For us, orchids began with just wanting a few orchids for our own enjoyment in our home. How could we know they would become so important? Now we even write about them.

Whatever your reason for being involved with orchids, by now you know that the variety, vastness and even the mystery of orchids is endless. Let's continue to enjoy their beauty, read about them, study them, grow them, go to meetings, workshops and shows,



Latest issue of AOS Orchids Magazine

and join even more societies! Let's share them with friends and family. Surely their main purpose in this world is to be admired and shared.

Find loads of orchid information on the AOS Web site at www.aos.org. Join the AOS and receive **Orchids** magazine each month...it's for orchid lovers!