



# OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY www.osgkc.org February 2009

## OSGKC February 8th Meeting: Max Thompson Presents -- "Angraecums"

By Glenn Lessenden

The title of the talk on February 8 will be "Angraecums, Madagascar Specialties." Max has retired from teaching at Southwestern College of Winfield but still runs the college greenhouses. Currently, the orchid collection there has about 2,500 plants of which 1,500 are species. Max has been president of the Kansas Orchid Society twice and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the AOS.



*Angraecum magdalenae*

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## OSGKC Award Winners for 2008

At OSGKC's annual awards banquet last December, the following members were honored with the Society's major awards:

**Orchidist of the Year** - Rick Day  
**Royal Barber Memorial Quality Award** - Deb Pate

### First Place:

*Cattleya* - Cindy Hobbs  
*Dendrobium* - Melody Eads  
*Pleurothallid* - Rick Day  
*Oncidium* - Cindy Hobbs  
*Phragmipedium* - Frank Serra  
*Paphiopedilum* - Terrence Thompson  
*Phalaenopsis* - Susie Hanna  
*Species* - Glenn Lessenden  
*First Bloom Seedling* - Ron Daly

**Beginner** [multi winners in this category]

Melody Eads  
 Marcia Lipsky  
 Rick Groom

**Miscellaneous** [multi winners in this category]

Wendy Hoch  
 Cindy Hobbs  
 Ron Daly  
 Melody Eads  
 John Burwell

## Orchids at Home -- with Tony King

### 1. What's your orchids' growing environment?

Temperature: 60-75 degrees in winter and 65-85 in summer  
 Humidity: 70-85 percent year round  
 Air Flow: A lot, with five fans running all day  
 Light: 3000-5000 Foot Candles

### 2. What's your orchids' potting media?

I use a media of 60 percent fir bark; 20 percent fine coconut husk; 10 percent charcoal; and 10 percent perlite. I use mostly clay pots for everything except Phals. I use almost everything for mounts (cork, hedge, cedar, grape vine, rocks, Cholla wood [dead cactus], tree fern)



### 3. What orchids thrive in your growing environment and potting media?

The plants that seem to thrive in my conditions are mostly in the Brassovola and Cattleya family. I have lower light sections that Phals seem to enjoy. A few high-light species, Oncidiums and Dendrobiums, thrive as well.

## Member Profile: Rick Day- Q and A

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

A. I purchased my first orchids in 2002 from Lowe's spent-bloomers area. I bought four plants for five dollars each. The rookie in me couldn't understand why they didn't re-bloom, so I visited Family Tree Nursery for advice. They had a flyer for OSGKC. I attended my first meeting and was in awe of the beauty and variety of orchids. Everyone was so incredibly nice and knowledgeable. I joined, started beginner's meetings and the "game was on."

### Q. How many orchids are in your collection:

A. I currently have approximately 200 plants of which 80 percent are Masdevallias, 10 percent are Phal/Doritis and 10 percent miscellaneous.

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

A. My favorites are which ever Masd. are blooming at any given time. I guess, if I had to pick, my top choices would be Masd. veitchiana and coccinea. Both have quite large flowers for Masd. The veitchiana is a gorgeous red/orange with purple hairs that gives an almost iridescent look. The coccinea ranges from pink to a dark red. The different hybrids using these as parents are also incredible.

### Q. Name one to three in your collection that, despite your best efforts,

has/have proven particularly difficult to grow:

A. In the six years I have been growing orchids, I have had little to no success growing any of the slippers. I have tried different lighting, different fertilizers, different temps, different media and the powdered eye of the newt. All to no avail. Truthfully, the cool to cold culture in my basement prevents me from growing much other than the coolest of growers.

### Q. Share with readers your best orchid-culture tip:

A. I am not sure I have any culture tips. I think it was about two years ago that the Godfather-of-Masdevallia-Growing, Al Clinton, turned me on to these little beauties. Al gave me four or five plants, which I placed in my basement growing area. They all spiked and bloomed almost immedi-

ately. For four years, I had been trying to force many, many different genera of orchids to grow in my culture and not in the culture they require. I guess that means culture is paramount to successful growing. I think that reinforces the Mark Prout four-year theory.

### Q. What do (or did, if you're retired) you do in life (career/work) to support your orchid addiction:

A. I am still working, and between orchids and golf, I am sure I will have to work the rest of my life. I am quite interested in working with Al on hybridizing Masds., when I find the time. It seems that you can get more bang for your buck.



*Masd. veitchiana*

## Beginners' Group

In February, we'll be talking about orchid pests and treatment. Have a problem? Bring the problem plant to the meeting, and we will try to identify the trouble. If the plant has insect problems, then bring the sample in a sealed plastic bag.

*Fred Bergman*

## OSGKC Meeting Minutes: January 11, 2009

Max Thompson will be here in February to talk about Angraecums.

March is the auction. April & May will not be held on the second Sunday, due to Easter and Mother's Day respectively.

The auction in March is the main fundraiser for the society, so we need to have good publicity to get the word out. Members are allowed to bring unlimited number of plants just make sure plants are in good shape, i.e. free of bugs and well groomed.

The society is doing an exhibit in the St. Louis Show the last weekend in January. We will also put an exhibit in the Omaha show March 21-22. The Mid-America show is March 26-29 in Cincinnati. Doug and Beth Martin have room in their car if someone wants to ride over with them.

Membership dues need to be paid by the end of January, so the information can be passed to Lance to get the yearbook out.

The society is not going to be able to put on a show this spring because of the inability to find a site within our budget. We will keep looking for a site so we can have one next year.

## Support OSGKC Sponsors:

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

## Life Style of Three Winners: Culture Tips for the Plants of the Month, January 2009

### Doug and Beth Martin

**Orchid's Full Name:** Dendrobium Susan Takahashi

**Watering:** While it's in growth, I let it barely dry out between watering. In the late fall and winter I cut back a bit.

**Temperature** (include info on differential temp needs): In winter it's in the light room with day temps low to mid 80's and a ten to fifteen degree drop at night. In the summer, it's in the lath house and gets whatever mother nature decides.

**Light:** Very bright, especially while in growth. In the summer I keep it in the southeast corner of the lath house to give it as much as possible without burning. When it's in the light room, I keep it on the floor because it's so tall. I put it under the center of the fixture with two 1,000 watt bulbs (one HPS, one MH) rotating around it. But since it's so low it only gets about 2,000 foot-candles

**Fertilizing:** 100 ppm nitrogen with every watering. In the summer it gets rained on some.

**Atmosphere** (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): Good air movement so the flower spikes move a bit. I have three fans blowing air above the plants in the light room.

### Susie Hanna

**Orchid's Full Name:** Bc. Maikai 'Louise' AM/AOS (Brassavola nodosa x Cattleya bowringiana)



**Watering:** This orchid likes freely draining material. In its eight-inch pot, I water once a week from Fall through spring, and twice a week in the summer

**Temperature** (include info on differential temp needs): Cattleya temps.

**Light:** Likes the high-end of Cattleya light. I grow it outdoors under lattice in the summer (3500-4000 fc), and directly under a high-pressure sodium light in the winter (1800 fc) for 14 hours a day.

**Fertilizing:** weekly, weakly, Peters 20-20-20.

**Atmosphere** (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): A light breeze.

**Where can this orchid be purchased?** This is a common hybrid, and readily available from many sources.

**Other helpful information about this orchid?** I got this as a small division four and a

half years ago. It has been repotted annually, but never divided. It had

**chased?** I got it at the OSGKC auction in 98.

**Other helpful information about this orchid?** Most Dendrobiums like to be pot bound. I keep it in the

### Al Clinton

**Orchid's Full Name:** Dendrobium Nagasaki 'Sunita'

**Watering:** About once a week in the summer, when the plant was outside. In the winter, in the greenhouse, less frequently, perhaps once every ten days or two weeks. Will drop leaves if overwatered. Likes a dryer spell in the fall.

**Temperature** (include info on differential temp needs): Doesn't seem to require a large temp. differential. The greenhouse ranges from the upper 50's to the upper 60s during late fall/early winter when the plant is going into bud.

**Light:** The 3000-3500 range has worked well for this dendrobium.

**Fertilizing:** Dyna-Gro 7-9-5, 1/4 tspn/gal once a week.

**Atmosphere** (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): Breezy, man.

**Special features** (i.e., scented, etc.): Very slight scent- this plant's strong point is it's ease of culture. By far the easiest nobile type dendrobium I've tried. Also, makes alot of flowers... had a second flush of flowers last year about a month after the first!

**Where can this orchid be purchased?** Pretty difficult to find, since it's an older hybrid..Santa Barbara orchid Estate is the only place I know of. Contact me if interested, I'll be dividing in the near future.



60 flowers plus more buds when shown at the meeting.

smallest pot possible. I have it in my standard Cattleya mix; 6 parts medium coconut husk, 2 medium parts charcoal and 1 part sponge rock.



**Special features** (i.e., scented, etc.): It blooms almost continually. It puts up spikes in mid-summer which open in early fall. Those flowers are just now starting to fade, but it has a couple new spikes starting.

**Where can this orchid be pur-**