



OSGKC  
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Orchid Society of  
Greater Kansas City

# OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY [www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) July 2009

## OSGKC July 12th Meeting: Annual Picnic

By Glenn Lessenden

Summer has arrived so it must be time for the OSGKC picnic. Cindy Hobbs will host the OSGKC's July Annual Picnic, Sunday, July 12 at 1:00. Cindy lives at 5633 Cottonwood, Shawnee, KS. [See map at right.]

This is a potluck. In addition to bringing a side dish and a lawn chair, don't forget to bring your swim suit because Cindy's backyard pool will be open.

## Say It Loud and Clear – BUG OFF!

From the June AOS Newsletter

With June came the warm summer months (at least in most parts of the country) and with the summer's warmth comes a requirement for diligent observation of your plants. What starts out as a minor insect infestation can very rapidly become a major outbreak.

The warmer the temperatures, the shorter the time between insect generations, and it may seem to be only a blink of the eye between noticing that first insect and a full-blown insect assault. Take for

**Will you be attending? Please contact Cindy by Monday, July 6. [tincan1201@aol.com](mailto:tincan1201@aol.com)**



instance aphids. When the weather is warm, female aphids give birth to live young, all themselves female and all pregnant — you do the math.

Also be on the lookout now for fungal and bacterial diseases that are favored by wet, warm conditions. This is the onset of Erwinia season in phalaenopsis. Phals, while tropical, do not like constantly hot, humid conditions and, if stressed from perhaps late potting or a weakened root system, are subject to a particularly nasty bacterial infection called Erwinia. The

disease appears first as a water-soaked, somewhat yellow-green or light-tan lesion on the leaf and will progress to the death of the plant within days. Diagnosing the disease is not difficult because the bacterial organism produces a really offensive odor, like those old cut-flowers you left too long in the vase, often likened to spoiled fish. If your plants develop this, be exceptionally careful. It's spread by splashing water (as is the fungus which causes crown rot) and by ANY liquid from the infected lesion.

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## Life Style of a Winner: Culture Tips for the Plant of the Month\*, June 2009

**Orchid:** Dpts. Fred's Contrast (Phal Fred's Catwalk x Dtps City Girl).

**Grower:** Fred Bergman.

**Watering:** Every three to six weeks, when just dry at the surface.

**Temperature** (include info on differential temp needs): It needs a minimum 62 degrees and a high around 90 (as low as I can keep it.) My conditions provide the required 10 degree differential for blooming..

**Light:** 1250 to 1500 F. C.

**Fertilizing:** Fertilizing is based on nitrogen with various formulas (whatever is available), using 300 ppm of nitrogen at every watering, all year long.

**Atmosphere** (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): Keep very breezy. I use two fans continually. Also heating is

with a fan and cooling with evaporative cooling, using two high-speed 24" fans.

**Special features** (i.e., scented, etc.): It is a cross made for commercial purposes. White with colored lips almost always make seed, germinate well, and grow fast.

**Where can this orchid be purchased?** It is my hybrid.



*Fred's winning orchid is shown at the right of the group of Phalaenopsis that he brought to June's meeting.*

**Other helpful and/or interesting information about this orchid:** This cross was made 6/24/04, sown on 7/16/05 and first bloomed on 3/4/09. It was a first bloomed seedling.

\*Frank Serra's Disa was the June's second Plant of the Month

"Bug Off," con't from pg. 1

Simply dribbling any of this liquid on a healthy plant is almost guaranteed to infect the second plant. At a minimum, immediately remove the **WHOLE** infected leaf and then hope for the best. Bacterial diseases are exceptionally difficult to control and treat because the rapidly multiplying bacterial culture clogs up the plants transport systems and the damage is typically done before symptoms are visible. Cinnamon, while effective for crown rot, is worthless for the control of this bacterial infection. I know of nothing that works well in controlling this disease, although soluble copper formulations like Phyton 27 may give some control.

Be on the lookout for water standing in the crown of phalaenopsis and in the center of new growths. It is an invitation to some serious fungal infections. It's important to make sure that plants dry adequately between watering as well because roots damaged by

being kept overly wet are susceptible to several root rotting fungi.

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### Can you help?

We need two more treat volunteers: one for our October meeting and one for November.

Please contact Michael Wheeler [senor\_miguel@att.net] or Jami Parkison [parkisonja@everestkc.net]

### OSGKC Meeting Minutes: June 14, 2009

by Holly Hall

**T**he picnic is next month and will be hosted by Cindy Hobbs.

The society was contacted by the Greater KC Lawn & Garden show to do a show in conjunction with them. It would be a great opportunity if we can negotiate a deal on being able to set up during the day Friday. The dates would be February 12-14<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The fall Mid America meeting is in Franklin, Tenn. OS of Middle Tenn

The spring Mid America meeting is the Omaha show.

The fall AOS meeting is the same date as our October meeting.

The spring AOS is in OK City the end of April.

The first divisions from the MO Botanical Gardens came and were distributed.

Frank Serra's tank [cool-growing box] is looking for a new home. If interested contact Doug Martin.



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