



# ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS

*A Communication Instrument for Society Members and Others*

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**Orchid Society  
of Greater  
Kansas City**

*As a non-profit organization to...  
...Promote interest in and to  
disseminate information in  
culture, development, and  
hybridization of orchids.....*

**The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas  
City meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.  
Annual dues are \$25 for Individuals and  
\$30 for Household.**

President: Jean Rogers  
[jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)

Vice-president: Kristy Charland  
[charland.ek@outlook.com](mailto:charland.ek@outlook.com)

Treasurer: Joy Prout  
[joy.diane.prout@att.net](mailto:joy.diane.prout@att.net)

Editor: Jean Rogers  
[jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)

## Project Plant Recap & Update

No new Project Plants blooms to report. Sunset Valley Orchids provided the offsprings of (C. Fire Fantasy 'H&R' x C. Cosmic Delite 'SVO' HCC/AOS), now registered as C. Warpaint. Six of these mini-catt crosses have bloomed. Please share pictures when yours blooms. Kristy Charland has formed an 'album' on our Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page where we can see how different the flowers can be. Please go to the website listed below to keep up with the blooming. Fun, Fun!!!!



## June - August News!

### Auction

Mark your calendar – September 26<sup>th</sup>, Zoom Auction. August is the time to look over your orchids. What would you like to part with so you can have room for new ones. What could use dividing to give it a fresh start. Please think of preparing some orchids for donation - \$5, \$10 or auction. More details on this to come.

### Facebook Group

Our Facebook page, Orchid Growers of OSGKC, is a great place for us to communicate, share, learn from each other. All through the month we have orchids that bud and bloom and we get so excited and want to share it, and the meeting is sooooo far away!! Use the Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook Page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878999427064/?ref=share> It is easy to post your precious orchids and get oooohhhs and ahhhhs from other members. Or something is going on and you want to ask someone – post it on this website. If you need Facebook help (I know I did and still do!!) contact Kristy ([charland.ek@outlook.com](mailto:charland.ek@outlook.com)). She'll be glad to help. **If you want to email us**, please look at March's Newsletter for contact information of willing helpers in the Society and their 'specialty'. This is all especially important since we can't meet in person.

## Meetings

Hope you enjoyed Ross Hella of Deerwood Orchids in July who shared with us how to grow, divide and transplant Paphiopedilums. (See notes below from his presentation.) For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, there was an orchid sale, by way of raising hands. It worked very well as both hand raising and chats appear in consecutive order as they happened. This was a good precursor to our Auction on September 26<sup>th</sup>!!

### This from Susie Hanna, Program Chair:

***Sunday, 2 p.m. August 9, 2020 Virtual Orchid Tour***

Join us on August 9 via Zoom to view up close and personal, three growing areas of OSGKC Members.

**Jean Rogers** will share her growing areas: orchids grown in windows with supplemental lights and her outdoor summer-growing area.

**Eric Shirling** has a poly-greenhouse in his basement where he is growing a variety of plants with artificial lighting.

**Susie Hanna and Al Clinton** will give you a glimpse into what can finally happen if you have a serious orchid addiction. Al will show his custom-made cool growing room designed to mimic cool, misty climates for Masdevallias. They also have a greenhouse/grow room attached to their house, as well as three outdoor growing environments.

### Meeting Speaker Notes, courtesy Kristy Charland

Paphiopedilum Care by Ross Hella

1. Light 1500 foot candles, similar to phalaenopsis. Mottled leaf plants can grow well under lesser light. Complex and solid leaf may require more light. Be sure you have good air movement, especially if you are pushing the light level. Leaves are susceptible to burn.

2. Water RO or distilled "clean" water with low dissolved solids. Using hard water can cause calcium deposits on the hairs of the roots. Plants should never dry completely. Keep moist but not very wet. Flushing thoroughly is very helpful. Every fourth watering is a good rule of thumb. He generally waters once every 5 days in summer, every 10 days in winter. They should be watered whenever they approach dryness.

3. Temperature 40-90 degrees F Maudiae types can be warmer. Cooler temperatures help initiate flowering. Extended lows of 70+ degrees can be detrimental to certain complex hybrids.

4. Fertilizer MSU type fertilizer for RO water applied at the rate of 75-100 ppm once a week. In general, they are light feeders. Occasionally flush with epsom salt at 1 T per gallon can be helpful. If you are using lower light levels, use less fertilizer. Reduce feeding in the winter, but don't eliminate it.

5. Repotting REPOT OFTEN. They seem to thrive on repotting, and it definitely isn't bothersome to them. Timing doesn't matter, but less desirable in winter. The mix you use depends on the pot. Use fine bark up to a 4" pot. A medium bark up to 6", and large above that size. Use charcoal and sponge rock in your mix and coconut husk can be helpful to maintain moisture. Let the root ball determine the pot size used. If your plant is wobbly, it must be stabilized for growth. Use wooden skewers on either side of the plant in order to stabilize it. If you use a dry mix when repotting, water daily for one week after. Can presoak the medium instead if you desire.

6. Tips Limp leaves: check the roots, repot Pale leaves: more fertilizer or less light Growths die back: Increase light Plant won't bloom: a. Try cooler night temperatures b. Check roots and repot c. increase light d. Patience e. If a rothschildianum hybrid, extra sun, cut back water in February. In other words, make the environment cooler, brighter and use less water.

### June Meeting Speaker Notes from Megan Mayo's and Mark Prout's talks

**Megan**

**1)Supplies: Which orchids do you use the small for and which the "semi hydro clay balls"? Are these also called leca? And the pots???**

I'm going to use the small size for Onc. because of the tiny roots. I haven't had very good luck with the Onc. and big clay balls. The smaller size clay pebbles are from Amazon. They are: Bonsai **Jack** - Red/Maroon 1/4 inch Horticultural Lava Rock Soil Additive for Cacti, Succulents, Plants - No Dyes or Chemicals - 100% Pure Volcanic Rock. Leca is the name brand and is more expensive. I like the irregular and broken chunks. Growit clay pebbles are the larger semi-hydro clay balls I use from amazon. There are many sources for these but amazon is so easy. They come in several quantities. The plastic containers can be purchased at HyVee separately from food, or with food in them. They have them on amazon. There are also heavier plastic cups with lids type in 16 oz plastic deli cups with lids. That will take you to all sorts of sizes to choose from.

**2)You said something about root placement that was very important.?????** Yes, place the roots just above the clay pebbles and the water hole. I found that this was the 'trick' for me because of the different type of root necessary to take in water like that. Info from Lori Walters and her beginner classes.

**3) Do you put anything else in the bottom of the container?** Just the clay balls.

**4) I believe you said the holes in the container are 1 inch up and 1 inch apart, one set. Is this correct?** The holes are about 1 inch above the bottom and I like to put 3 holes maybe 1/2 inch apart from each other

**5) Do you flush the pots to clear fertilizer salt build-up? If so, how often?** I should, you're supposed to do this 1 x a month. In a perfect world

**6) How often do you water?** The catt. and phal. types 1 x weekly. All the others are thirsty guys and I water them 2 x weekly, depending on if the water is down. This will be my first year with Den. in semi hydro. I will quit watering them when the 'time' comes. They are a work in progress. So far, several are coming into bloom. They are thirsty guys.

**Do you use tap or RO?** I use Brita filtered water. Except on my little carnivores and they get RO water from HyVee. One of them is in tiny clay gravel and doing well but not making babies (buds?) like Iva's which is planted in moss. I put it in more light.

**7) How do you tell they are VERY Thirsty? Is there no water in the bottom and then you water?** Yes, the speed of emptying. It's an observation for me, I don't measure. If I water on Monday and they are empty or nearly so on Wed or

Thurs, that is my definition of thirsty. During the winter, every plant slows down a little. I have 1 plant that is almost empty daily or every other day. The Phrags are needing water 2 x weekly and the Paphs and butterfly Onc (psycops) get water 2x weekly . My Butterflies are very thirsty, they could probably do well getting 3x weekly. They are in recovery this year from scale. It got warm in my house and the scale started crawling again. GRRRRRRRRR

Iva told me about a home made spray that is 1 tsp. Tide (I use unscented), 1 tbsp. mineral oil and mix in hot water (emulsify) and pour mixture into 1gal. of tepid water. No Alcohol. ( was getting desperate and was ready to try neem oil, which is smelly) WOW, this really works on mealies and scale and spiders. I can spray as often as I need to or want. I sprayed it inside the house and it didn't hurt anyone (birds, me, dog... no smell) Because of emulsifying, the Tide and mineral oil stay in solution, just shake a little and the water becomes slightly milky again.

**8) How often do you fertilize?** every time I water **What strength?** 1/4 tsp. **Brand?** MSU

I read an article recently about a 1930 watering project using VERY weak fertilizer without first watering with plain water. The article said that once the roots have absorbed the amount of water they are going to absorb, they are done absorbing and won't take in any more liquid no matter how wonderful your fertilizer is. It made good sense to me and I have started doing this with my neos and they are responding quickly...amazing. It's what I do with the semi hydro plants anyway. I will water the neos in plain water the first of every month starting Aug. 1. The article said that was very important and also the semi hydro folks said it was very important too. A couple of the neos have several babies started. AMAZing !!! Very new (old) info and interesting. No burned roots...VERY weak fertilizer though.

### **Mark's**

Bark is usually the basis of the mix. Match the size to the size of the roots – for example, fine for Phrags. and Paphs., medium to large for Cattleyas. Add some charcoal and sponge rock or coarse perlite for aeration. Add some coconut husk if the plant is more water loving like Phrags. Again, match the size with the roots.

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## *Judging Notes...*

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### *Upcoming Shows & Judgings Around Our Region*

If you have an orchid blooming that you think is FANTASTIC – Contact Mark Prout or Doug/Beth Martin. If it is time for a meeting at the Judging Center – they could take your plant to be evaluated for an award (and/or give you their best opinion if it indeed should be looked at). There are Judging Centers all-across America. The one closest to us is the MidAmerica Judging Center in St. Louis, MO. It holds monthly judging on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. The mission of the Judging Centers is to provide orchid growers in the region with the opportunity to have their plants evaluated and judged for AOS awards. These include HCC, AM, FCC, JC, AQ, CBR, CHM, CCM, and CCE.

#### **Stay Tuned:**

**August 8, 2020**      **Mid-America Judging Center**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**September 12, 2020**      **Mid-America Judging Center**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**October 10, 2020**      **Mid-America Judging Center**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**November 14, 2020**      **Mid-America Judging Center**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**December 12, 2020**      **Mid-America Judging Center**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

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### *June OSGKC Judging*

9 members submitted 36 blooming orchids for judging and show.

**Blue Ribbons** were received by: Kristy Charland for Phrag. besseae, Kristy Charland for Phal. Gan Lin Sunlight, Linda McBride for C. Warpaint, Jean Rogers for Brascidostele (Bcd.) Gilded Tower

**Red Ribbons** were received by: Kristy Charland for Caulocattleya (Clty) Ethyls Paradise, Kristy Charland for Cattleychea (Ctyh.) Mae Bly, Donna Klehm for Oncostele (Ons.) Firecat, and Donna Klehm for Phal. NOID white with pink lip



**White Ribbons** were received by: Heidi Stoker for Oncidium Peacock and Donna Klehm for Phal. NOID white with yellow lip.



**May Plant of the Month** (drum roll)  
C. Warpaint grown by Linda McBride

**Members Choice:**

C. Warpaint grown by Linda McBride. gets 3 free raffle tickets for July raffle.

**“Just for Viewing Pleasure”** – Thanks to; Susie Hanna, Al Clinton, and Mark Prout, for submitting their blooming orchids for our enjoyment in June.

## June Digital Ribbon Judging

1) **Ribbon judging** will be by designated ‘judges’ from the society based on 2 pictures – a close up of the best flower and a picture of the plant showing all flowers/plant. Both pictures need to be submitted in order to be in the judging. Ribbon winners will receive digital awards which, if they desire, can be traded for real ribbons when we meet again.

2) **Members' Choice** – members have **5 days** from date newsletter is emailed, to send your nomination (vote) in for the orchid of the month that is your favorite, again, based on the two pictures in the newsletter. Please send your nomination (vote) to Jean Rogers at [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) **This month - Send by the end of the day Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>**. Winner will receive 3 free raffle tickets to use the following month.

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**Blooming Orchids for Show and/or Judging. Deadline for submissions was July 22<sup>nd</sup> at midnight. Watch for the August dates in an upcoming email. Huge thank you to all the members who sent pictures. Orchids for Judging: (Send your “Member’s Choice” to [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) by 7/30<sup>th</sup>)**



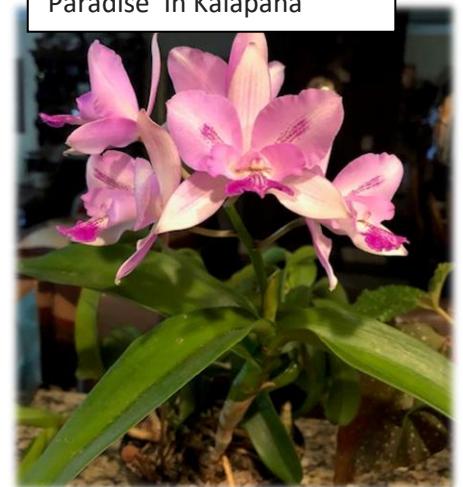
Brassocattleya Kosh Wallis  
'Paradise' HCC/AOS



Cattleya Ports of Paradise  
'Emerald Isle' FCC/AOS



City. (Caulocattleya) Ethels  
Paradise 'In Kalapana'







Ctsm. Double Down 'XDPYL' x  
Ctsm figrinum 'Very Wide Petals'



Masd. Redwing



Masd. Ken Dole



Ctsm. tenebrosum 'Ed Wise #2'  
AM/AOS  
X  
Ctsm. callosum 'SVO Black Lip'  
AM/AOS







Neofinetia falcata 'Shachikouryu'



Neofinetia falcata 'Eboshimaru'



Neofinetia falcata 'Kutsuwamushi'



Neofinetia falcata 'Taiyouden'



Holcostylis Pink Yawi

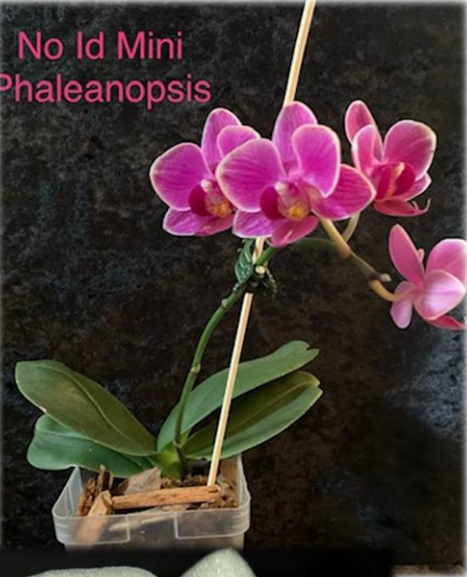




Phal. Mituo Bellina



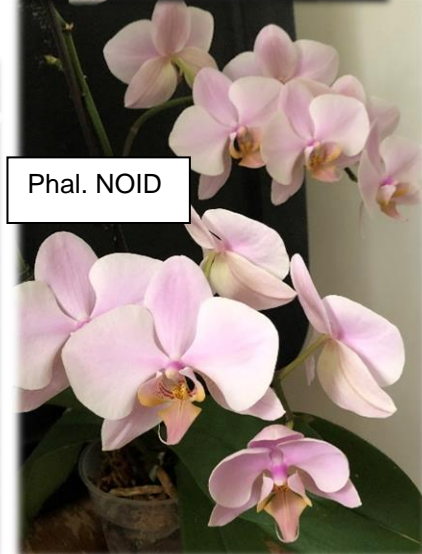
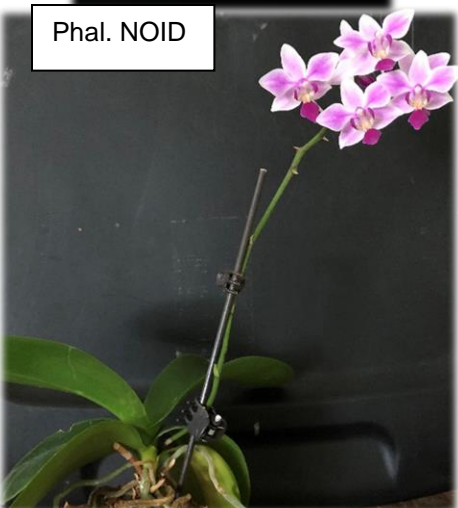
Phal. NOID



Phal. NOID



Phal. NOID



Phal. NOID





Goodaleara Stellar 'Hoku' (Odontioda Mem. Dale Lawless x Degarmoria Jay Yamada)



Oeceoclades Kaleidophyte (Oeceoclades peyrotii x Oeceoclades maculata)



Bulb. lobbii 'Lenny'



Dendrobium Joyce Kelly

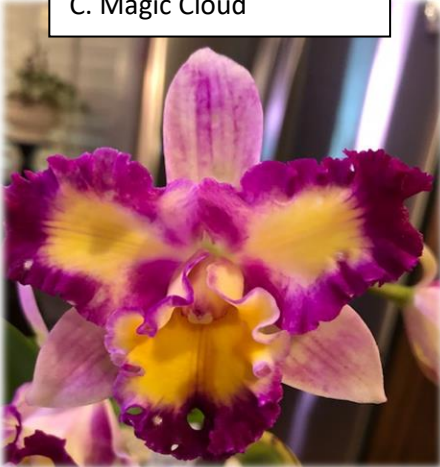




**NOT for JUDGING – just for your VIEWING PLEASURE!**

**From Jean Rogers**

C. Magic Cloud



Oncidesa Jihbao Gold, Tolkien



Miltassia Shelob 'Tolkein'



Oncidium Sharry Baby



**From:**

**Kristy Charland**



Oncidesa  
Hwuluduen chameleon '2'

**From Al Clinton**

Masd. Machu Picchu



Masd. Redwing



Masd. Magenta Zinger







Dendrobium Nagasaki

From Anne Heath



From Mark Prout



Ctt. Sierra Nugget



Phalaenopsis Liu's Cute Angel  
'KF#7' AM/AOS



Phalaenopsis OX Golden  
Lottery 'OX1665' FCC/AOS



# Orchid Growing Tidbits (How I Grow It.....)

## Some individual genera – Blue Ribbon Winners and special orchids

### - How I grow it:

From Jean Rogers

#### **Bcd. (Brasidosteale) Gilded Tower**

This is in my growing room on a table against the chimney brick, with 2 T5, 4' growing lights above it. It gets watered once a week (usually) with water from my dehumidifier. I use ¼ teaspoon per gallon general orchid fertilizer. There are 3 humidifiers running in the room and that typically yields about 55% humidity. There is a ceiling fan on medium and 2 other oscillating fans plus the fans on the humidifiers. I last repotted in 2/19 in a mix of medium bark, charcoal, sponge rock, and Leca clay beads.



#### **From Kristy Charland - Species**

##### **Phragmipedium besseae**

Growing Notes: It's potted in a tall clear dixie cup, using Mark Prout's Phrag. mix, limestone gravel at the base, fine bark, charcoal, & small sponge rock. I got this plant from the raffle table in fall 2018. Mark was kind enough to repot it for me that November. March 2020 was the first time it had flowered for me. Took over a year, so be patient! I keep it in my small greenhouse (found at Aldi) with LED grow lights about 3-4" above the longest leaf. I keep it very wet, and also water sits in the tray it's in. Use only RO or distilled water, and I fed it 20-20-20 weakly weekly. I usually flush it well once per month. The greenhouse is in my basement, so temperature doesn't vary a lot, and is generally between 67-70 degrees.

Humidity is over 65% and I keep a small fan running within the greenhouse 24/7. It produced 3 flowers in succession, and was very rewarding to grow. I've heard that it is a difficult species to flower, so I think I got lucky. I recommend growing a Phrag. Lots of fun!



#### **From Kristy Charland**

##### **Phal. Gan Lin Sunlight 'DF1350'**

Growing notes: Dtps Gan Lin Sunlight I purchased this plant "in flower" from David Bird, November 2017. This is the first time it's rebloomed, and it began opening 5/2020. I think what did the trick was very good LED grow lights and a seedling heat mat. I grew it over winter in my basement, so the temperature doesn't vary much, 67-70 degrees. I had it outside in the fall, but I thought it needed extra encouragement, so I set it in a tray on top of the heat mat that was programmed to go off and on at the same time the lights do. I base the length of time under lights on the current length of day. Generally watered it once a week

with tap water, but I was careful not to let it dry out since it was receiving extra heat at the base of the pot. I used weak 20-20-20 every watering, and it's potted in the phal mix sold by Lowe's, I believe it's the Better Gro brand. I love these blooms!



#### **From Susie Hanna**

##### **Coelogyne xerekes**

Coelogyne are a very under-appreciated orchid, and very worthy of growing. Some are cool-growing, while others are warm-growing, some are compact, and some are very large, so it pays to know more before you acquire one.

Coelogyne xerekes is very easy. Intermediate temperatures, slightly higher light than a Phalaenopsis. Compact growing. Needs to be in a hanging basket, or have the pot elevated as the inflorescence wants to cascade downward. Can be grown in sphagnum, sphagnum mixed with bark, or in small bark. Water when almost dry. Prefers good quality water. I used MSU Formula fertilizer once a week during growing season, 1/4 tsp per gallon. In winter, the plant's growth

slows down, and you reduce watering and fertilizer, but you don't let it remain dry. I purchased my plant from Edgar Stehli, Windswept in Time Orchids. He was our speaker in the Fall of 2019.

For more information on Coelogyne, there's an excellent webinar by Charles Wilson that was just released in June 2020. Available for viewing at AOS.org.

It seems to be the season for orchid issues. An internet search can produce many helpful ideas. Here is one article you may find worthwhile.

# Home Remedies

Reprinted from First Rays with permission from Ray Barkalow. You

can also go to his website for information on many, many helpful orchid raising topics: [firstrays.com](http://firstrays.com)



A lot of folks are big believers in trying to be as “organic” as possible when controlling ailments in their plant collections, or just trying to spruce them up. We strongly recommend AGAINST preventive use of insecticides and fungicides, as there is a fairly strong tendency to breed resistant strains. Instead, we suggest that you take the time to carefully inspect your collection, and treat problems as soon as they arise.

Below are a number of home remedies – concoctions that come highly recommended, but please remember that you’re using them at your own risk, and that of your plants, and the I can take no responsibility for the outcome.

## **INSECTICIDES:**

Your choice of home-made insecticide should be based upon what you’re trying to eliminate.

### Soft-bodied bugs, such as aphids & mealie bugs:

- Straight 70% or 90% isopropyl rubbing alcohol – touch insects with a soaked cotton swab, or for larger infestations, spray the entire affected plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every 3 days for about 2 weeks. (I have never experienced any problems with buds, flowers, or any part of the plant when using an alcohol spray.)
- Garlic/pepper spray – liquefy 2 bulbs of garlic and 2 hot peppers in a blender 1/2 to 2/3 full of water. Strain to remove the solids and add enough water to the garlic/pepper juice to make 1 gallon of concentrate. Use 1/4 cup of concentrate per gallon of spray. To make garlic tea, simply omit the pepper and add another bulb of garlic. Add two tablespoons of blackstrap molasses for more control.

### Insects that have hard shells, such as scale, and thrips:

- Mix 1 teaspoon (5 ml) each cooking oil and liquid dishwashing soap or detergent in a quart (liter) of water. Concentrations are not critical – some recommend a tablespoon (15 ml) of oil be used. Shake well, and spray the plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every 3 days for about 2 weeks. (The soap breaks down the waterproof, waxy coating on the insects’ shells, and the oil will smother them.)

### General-purpose insect spray:

- One cup (250 ml) each Formula 409 or Fantastik household cleaner/degreaser and isopropyl rubbing alcohol and 2 cups water, making a quart or liter of spray. Use the same as the formulas above. (I’ve not tried this one.)
- Mix three tablespoons of Dr. Bronner’s Peppermint Pure-Castile Soap and 3/4 cup isopropyl rubbing alcohol in a quart bottle, then add water to fill it up. Supposed to be a good, general purpose insecticide.
- Orange Plus, a household cleaner made from byproducts of orange juice production, can be sprayed directly on plants to eliminate insects. (I suspect other concoctions made using citrus oils may also be effective, but have no knowledge or experience concerning them.)
- in a 1 quart spray bottle mix 1 tsp Murphy’s Oil Soap, 1 tsp Sunspray (or cooking oil), 1tbs lemon juice, and fill the rest with 1/2 water and 1/2 alcohol.

### Ant eliminator:

- Melt about 1/4 pound of candle wax, then slowly stir in about 1/4 cup sugar and 4 ounces boric acid powder (available at your local drug store). When thoroughly mixed, pour into a pan, creating a 1/4” to 1/2” thick slab. Cut or break into chunks, and distribute around the greenhouse. If you decide to try this indoors, be sure to keep them away from children and animals.
- A surprising – and no doubt smelly – ant repellent is fermented cow manure tea. Put about a gallon volume of fresh manure in a 5-gallon bucket and top it up with water. Cover and let stand for a couple of weeks or more until it’s fully “cured.” Spray around the greenhouse and under the benches. (at least one person claims this keeps fire ants away down in Houston, and if it works for them...)
- Here’s another volunteered from the world of cyberspace: raw grits or corn meal! Sprinkle them in an area where ants are attracted, and they will gobble them up. Later they will swell in their bellies. (Need I say more?) Another contributor



verified that the grits or corn meal works, but only for larger ants. For the small ones, try sprinkling some bath powder around.

- Along those same lines, a 50/50 mix of powdered (confectioner's) sugar and baking soda is supposed to be effective against ants.
- OK, another one volunteered by a reader – aspartame! You know...Nutrasweet, the sugar substitute? Apparently it is attractive to them, is taken back to the colony, and kills the lot. This one is even supposed to be effective against fire ants. You may find it necessary to dampen the powder or granules to make it attractive to the critters.

#### Insect Repellant:

- Place small, open containers of eucalyptus oil in the growing area. The vapors will discourage critters from approaching. (Yeah, it's going to smell like a Hall's Cough Drop factory, but it's good for opening your sinuses, too – a la Vick's Vapo-Rub.) Eucalyptus oil has also been shown to be an effective fungicide, but I know that a dispersion in water and alcohol, when sprayed directly on the plant, will damage flower buds, so I can't recommend that use.

#### **FUNGICIDE:**

- Those of you who frequent the internet orchid forums know of my "crusade" for the use of cinnamon as a fungicide. I've done a lot of digging, and it turns out that the chemicals in the bark have all sorts of medicinal applications (I've even cured athlete's foot with my alcohol extract!) Choose the consistency that is best for your situation:
- Powder: Apply normal, household cinnamon powder directly to the affected part of the plant by dusting heavily. This has proven to be a good way to control slime mold and mushrooms in the mulch in my outdoor flower beds, too!
- Poultice: Mix cinnamon powder with sufficient casein-based glue (Elmer's) to make a thick, brown paste. Apply to the wound and let dry. The Elmer's Glue is water soluble, but resists washing-off quite well. This is the preference for mounted plants that get watered or misted frequently. An alternative to the Elmer's Glue, but just as waterproof and long-lasting is made by mixing cinnamon powder and cooking oil to form a thick paste.
- Spray: You can prepare a cinnamon spray using either alcohol or water as your solvent. The alcohol infusion is faster to prepare, and offers some insecticidal properties as well. This is my preferred method, and has been effective at eliminating all sorts of fungus problems, including damping-off of deflasked seedlings.
  - Put 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of cinnamon powder in a pint (500 ml) of isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Shake well and let stand overnight. Filter the solution to remove the sediment (coffee filters work well), and use the brown liquid as a spray. (While it's not a big problem for most orchid growers, I've heard that this is good for powdery mildew, as well.) or...
  - Put the cinnamon powder in hot water. Shake well and let stand for several days. Filter and use as above. (Some feel that the alcohol can be too desiccating when used on seedlings.)
- Here's another alternative – Ground Corn Meal. Place one cup of whole ground corn meal in an old sock or panty hose leg and immerse in a gallon of water. Let stand for a couple of days, then use the liquid as a spray.
- Hydrogen Peroxide – If your phals look like they're starting to get crown rot, sometimes simply pouring some straight-from-the-drug store hydrogen peroxide on the wound can stop the process. Just be sure to tilt the plant and drain the grown after about five minutes so it can dry.
- General Purpose Spray: Put one cup of the alcohol cinnamon-extract in a pint bottle, add two tablespoons of liquid dishwashing detergent, and top up with water. Use as a spray. The soap and alcohol are good insecticides, while the cinnamon is a fungicide.

#### **MILDEWCIDE:**

- Mix approximately 1/3 cup milk into a quart of water, and spray. I have not tested this one, but even if it doesn't work, you end up with shiny leaves!
- Mix 3 tablespoons cooking oil, 1 tablespoon liquid dishwashing detergent, and 1 tablespoon baking soda in a gallon of water; spray at three-day intervals for powdery mildew.

#### **SLUG & SNAIL TREATMENTS:**

##### **Killer:**

- Trap: Put a plate or plant saucer full of fresh beer on the floor; snails and slugs will be attracted to it, fall in and drown. (Stale beer, has apparently been shown in university studies, to be a repellent, not attractant!)
- Spray: Mix one cup household (non-sudsy) ammonia with water, and spray directly on the critters.
- Spray: Don't throw away the left-over coffee! Mix it 50/50 with water (some say use it straight), and spray. I add about 2 ounces per gallon rubbing alcohol to keep mold from growing on the liquid surface when the stuff is stored. Seems to work great on Bush Snails.

##### **Barrier:**

- If you suffer from slugs climbing up onto the benches and attacking your plants, there are several ways of blocking their path, ranging from mechanical to chemical:
- Mechanical: Spread a layer of Diatomaceous Earth on the benches, around your plants. The material – the skeletons of microscopic sea creatures (diatoms) – is almost pure silicon dioxide, and has very sharp points and edges that

discourage the passage of the creatures. The material sold as a microfiltration medium for aquariums probably won't do much. If you can find horticultural grade material, it is coarser and has much sharper edges that make a great barrier.

- Mechanical II: Staple extra-coarse wet/dry sandpaper to the legs of your benches, grit side out.
- Mechanical / Electrochemical: Tightly wrap the legs of your bench with a 2" (5cm) wide strip of copper foil, being sure to apply it tightly enough to avoid gaps. The copper is supposed to create some sort of uncomfortable electrochemical effect when in contact with the "slime" secreted by the critters. I suppose it's like biting on a piece of foil if you have metal fillings in your teeth!
- Chemical: Apply a thick layer of the product Tree Tanglefoot around the legs of the bench. Available at most good garden centers, it is sold as a bird repellent for ornamental trees, it contains a castor-bean extract that repels slugs and snails.

Bait:

- If you just want to lure the critters away from your plants so you can dispose of them, try putting slices of raw potato near the potted plants on the bench. The slugs and snails can be found on the underside in the morning. (Thanks to Janet Price.)
- Boil approximately 2 cups of water, 2 teaspoons or a packet of yeast, and 2 tablespoons of honey together. The relative proportions aren't important. Mix, and then put it out in shallow trays or pans for the snails. Refresh every week or two.

**ALGAECIDE** (for cooling pads): Place one cup of whole ground corn meal in an old sock or panty hose leg and tie a knot in it to contain the meal. Place in the water tank for the cooling system. The algae will dissolve in a few days. Note: I have no idea if this methodology can be used for algae growing in pots.)

**HERBICIDE:** Spray full-strength household vinegar on weeds, repeat daily as needed. This is NOT to be used for weeds growing in the pots of your other plants, but is good in driveways, walkways, the greenhouse floor, patios, etc.

**GENERAL-PURPOSE DISINFECTANT:** Add one ounce of household chlorine bleach to a gallon of water and spray on utensils, benches, even your plants to control a wide variety of pathogens. It even helps control algae.

**LEAF SHINE:** If you live in an area where the water has a fair amount of dissolved minerals, or if you mist with a fertilizer solution, the leaves of your plants can become dull in appearance. Folks may warn you that these treatments can clog the pores (stomata) on the leaves, but I've never seen a problem.

- Pineapple juice, or any citrus juice (lemon, lime, orange), when rubbed onto the leaves with a soft cloth or paper towel will also remove such deposits so your leaves will be nice and shiny. I suppose the acidity reacts with the mostly alkaline deposits. (Thanks to CJ Maciejewski)
- It has been reported that stale beer may also be used for shining up leaves, although we're both at a loss for how to get stale beer, as it never gets that way around our house!
- Mix about a 50% dispersion of whole milk in a quart of water. Using a soft cloth or paper towel, wipe the leaf surfaces with the dispersion.
- Similar to the milk above, dilute mayonnaise with water to form a thin paste. Again, apply using a soft cloth or paper towel, being sure that you wipe off as much of the paste as you can.

#### **"DO EVERYTHING" SPRAY:**

Fermented Compost Tea – take about one- to two cups of some really well-composted organic matter (the stuff at the bottom of the pile), place it in a cloth bag (an old sock will work), and immerse it in a gallon of water at room temperature. Let it stand overnight or longer until you have a dark liquid. Remove the "tea bag" and let the container sit outdoors for about two weeks.

Remove the scum that forms at the surface, filter the liquid and spray.

Supposedly, this brew will be loaded with bacteria and other microorganisms that attack pretty much all of the fungi and diseases that harm plants. (It has also been suggested that the unfermented brew from above, once diluted to about 20% in water, is as close to the food source an orchid sees in nature as you can get!)

#### **CROWN ROT TREATMENT:**

Crown rot is caused by letting water sit in the folds between leaves, resulting in a bacterial or fungal infection, or even both. Prevention is the key, so water or mist early in the day so the stuff has time to dry by nightfall. If you do get a case of crown rot:

- Pour a liberal amount of hydrogen peroxide in the wound and let it stand for about 5 minutes to kill the infecting agents.
- Tilt the plant to pour the liquid out of the crown.
- Let the plant dry completely.
- Sprinkle with dry cinnamon.
- Treat the plant normally, being sure to keep the wound dry.



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## For Fun and Learning!!

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Hey all you Phalaenopsis lovers, here is a great group that you can join. Go to **PhalFanatics.com** to learn more, become a member, then join the Facebook group.

**August 15-16, 2020 is the next big event:**  
**Phalaenopsis Growers Symposium with speakers on a variety of topics.**  
**On-line Auction of some great plants.**  
*More details coming soon.*



**PhalFanatics®** was formed in 2019 with these goals in mind:

- 1) Enhance and demystify the Phalaenopsis growing experience.
- 2) Increase the member's appreciation through shared experiences and networking.
- 3) Sharing knowledge on different Phalaenopsis species and their contributions to breeding new hybrids.
- 4) Provide scholarships each year to Horticulture students.
- 5) Most importantly have fun and enjoy everlasting friendships through the love of Phalaenopsis.

The PhalFanatics® Board Members:

President: Jeffery Young  
Vice President: Roger Lee  
Secretary: Marlyn Lee  
Treasurer: rBrian Joey Huang  
Membership Secretary: Jamie Fang Lee

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## The Raffle!!

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Get ready and excited for another Remote Raffle.

To help me with organization and follow through, there will be just 3 items in the raffle again this month and **they are some beauties!!** I'll have a page with a 'numbers list' for each item. When you put your check in the mail, you email me how many tickets you paid for and how many of your tickets you want placed for which raffle item. Cost will be same as at meetings \$1 per ticket, \$5 for 6, \$10 for 12, and \$20 for 25. You'll have **5 days** from the date the newsletter is emailed, to send your money and choices. So if the newsletter goes out on **Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>**; **you have till end of the day Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup>**. Send your money to Joy Prout at 129 NE. Edgewater Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64064. Send your raffle choices to me ([jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)) and I will add your name on the designated plant sheet in the order I get your designations. Ideally, winners will be drawn on the day following the voting, or at the virtual meeting if we have one that month (so this time it would be on the **31<sup>st</sup>** (unless I get tied up with something on the farm ☹)). When you are ready to get your plant, we can do like we did for Project Plant – We'll connect and figure out if you want to pick it up from the porch of Joy and Mark - east (phone 816-304-2889), Jean Rogers - central (214-402-6958) or Cindy Hobbs -west-ish (913-220-5684).

Play the Raffle. Here are the 3 beauties.



1)Dendrobium Sea Mary, a nobile. 4 canes, 1 new growth 1”



### Dendrobium Nobile

Dendrobium nobile hybrids being sold today are not at all like the wild species. The requirement for a “cold treatment” has been bred out of them. The modern hybrids now can be bloomed in any home environment if one can get a brief period of 55 F to 60F at night in autumn or early winter. Key elements: pot in the smallest pot that the roots will fit into. They love to be "pot-bound". In summer give them warmth, Cattleya level light, plenty of water and regular fertilizer when roots appear until top leaf appears on the canes. When Fall approaches, reduce water, give high light, and cool temperatures 45-60 at night. During the winter months, little or no water and no fertilizer. 'Nobile' Dendrobiums drop their leaves when blooming or shortly after the bloom season. This will result in leaves turning yellow and sometimes having black spots on them before they drop and the plant is in semi-dormancy until Spring.. This is the normal life cycle for a 'nobile type' Dendrobium. After dropping the leaves new growths will develop with fresh leaves from spring to fall. The old canes without leaves remain green and stay with the plant as they contribute to the growth of the other flowers.



**Phrags – Pure Water Needed:** Most like a lot of pure water: daily or even set them in a dish of water that you refill when it starts to get low. Warm temperatures: 70°F-85° by day, with a drop of 10-15° or more at night. More light than *Paphs*, around 2500-3000 foot candles. South or East windows are a good choice.

One of the finest gentleman and orchid growers in our area, Tom Larkin, Whippoorwill Orchids/Past President of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks, had this to say about growing Phrags:

*"Remember, Phrags take more fertilizer than paphs; however, too-heavy feeding will cause the leaf tip to burn. It's important to thoroughly water plants each watering to leech out accumulations of salts. Phrags should never completely dry out. Leaf tip burn can also occur as a result of drying out of the plant too severely, then when the plant is watered, the salts present in the media rush to the tips and cause burn."*

Tom liked DynaGro products, so he said from Mid-February through September use 1/4 tsp. of DynaGro 7-9-5 per gallon of water that is low in minerals (R.O., distilled, rainwater, etc.), plus 1/4 tsp DynaGro Pro Tekt with each watering. Then October-Mid February reduce fertilizer. Be sure to flush thoroughly with clear water every 4th or 5th watering.

Other growers prefer Michigan State Fertilizer (MSU Formula), 1/4 tsp per gallon of water used as above.





3)Clowesia Rebecca Northern



**Clowesia Rebecca Northern**

From Orchid Wiz

Cl. Rebecca Northern is composed of species of which 100% take high light and 75% take medium light. Grow this hybrid in dappled light to bright indirect light conditions.

Cl. Rebecca Northern is composed of species of which 100% take warm temperatures and 100% take hot temperatures. Grow this hybrid in warm to hot conditions, or 66°F to 85°F at night.

40%-60% humidity. Water heavily when plant forming new leaves; first reduce and then stop watering as pseudobulbs mature, and leaves start to yellow and drop. Commonly grown in pots. Fertilize regularly with dilute fertilizer. Common media: sphagnum moss.

## ***News from the AOS***

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We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these AOS Corner items in our newsletter! Even if you're not an AOS member, there are lots of free resources available to everyone...and of course we encourage you to join. AOS membership includes digital access to ORCHIDS magazine, including digital archives of more than 350 issues dating back to 1932!

### **Carving Out a New Normal**

As societies get the go ahead to meet in person with social distancing protocols in place, it will be interesting to note the development of our new normal. Will members show up wearing masks and gloves? Will we continue to share refreshments as we once did? Will we bother to bring our bloomers to the table for show & tell? How will we welcome new members without shaking hands or high-fiving? Will we instead offer a gentle fist bump? How about the flat handed Vulcan Salute - Live Long and Prosper? Now, that is a good thought for both our society members and our orchids!

Some societies may find that meeting remotely fits their membership better than meeting in person and may choose that option for the near future. I recently sat in as a virtual guest on a west coast (USA) orchid society meeting. There were seventy-five viewers signed on that night. They shared their orchid show & tell table, allowing members to talk about their entries, and had a well-known guest speaker from a different time zone give a great talk. They had giveaway gift certificate drawings for their members. It worked well in this disconnected time of uncertainty. We all have to find what works best.

Our local group has about 127 members. We rarely get more than forty at our in-person meetings. For our late in the month June meeting, we are going virtual! We look forward to better attendance without our members having to fight traffic and weather. From our 500 plus Facebook group members, we have invited viewers to be our guests for the night. The objective is gaining new members for our society at our monthly meetings, whether they are on Zoom or in person. Our ultimate goal is to have fun while learning about orchids. Failure is not an option. Drop me a line and let me know what's working for you.



Published since 1932, ORCHIDS (formerly known as the AOS Bulletin) is among the many benefits of an AOS membership. Exploding with glorious full-page color photographs, each monthly issue is packed with topics of current interest for both beginners and advanced orchid growers.

#### AWARDS GALLERY

MEMBERS are privileged to VIEW the beauty and diversity of awarded orchids in every issue of [ORCHIDS magazine](#).

<http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

PLUS everyone can check the [most recently awarded orchids on the AOS website](#).

<https://secure.aos.org/orchid-awards.aspx>

To view flower details, measurements, and a description of each awarded orchid or exhibit, go to [aos.org](#), sign-in, then select [Orchid Pro](#) from the drop down menu on your membership status box.

<https://op.aos.org/>







**Award No: 20205055, Date: Feb 21, 2020**

American Orchid Society Show Trophy 'J & L Orchids' ST | AOS (86 points)

Event: Amherst Orchid Society Show (Northampton, Massachusetts)

Exhibitor: J & L Orchids, Photographer: Joseph Maciaszek

Exhibit also received a Silver Certificate: Award No. 20205056



**Award No: 20205478**

Masdevallia Galaxy 'Alma del Bosque'

AM | AOS 80 points)

(*Masdevallia triangularis* x

*Masdevallia Kimballiana*)

Exhibitor: Daniel Piedrahita-Thiriez

Photographer: Bryan Ramsay



**Award No: 20205475**

*Platystele beatricis* 'Diego'

CCE | AOS (93 points)

Exhibitor: Pascal Arrondeau

Photographer: Bryan Ramsay

AOS members have access to over 2,050 articles published between the years 2003 - 2009 and 2011 - 2018 through the [digital archives](http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx).  
<http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

**Worth the Read - ORCHIDS July Preview**

For the Novice - Soluble Salts by Sue Bottom Sue shares practical advice in easy to understand terms. Her contributions to ORCHIDS through the years have been invaluable to novice and experienced growers alike. You will come away with new knowledge, or a refresher course, on how to grow your orchids better. Catch her words of wisdom and more in the July issue of ORCHIDS.

- The New Refugium Botanicum - Encyclia alata by Franco Pupulin and associates
- Collector's Item - Bulbophyllum section Lepidhoriza by Charles Wilson
- Orchids Illustrated - Bulbophyllums of du Petit-Thours by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- Orchids of Bhutan - Spathoglottis by Stig Dalström, et al.
- Orchid Treasures of the Northwest Amazon - In Search of Scuticaria steelei by Nicola Flanagan
- The Orchids of Guanahacabibes National Park, Cuba by Lawrence W. Zettler, et al.

**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** An Affiliated Society may use recorded webinars for presentations at their monthly meetings. With Wi-Fi access, it's easy! Webinars are an internet-connected audiovisual presentation. You can view from anywhere that you have an internet connection via Mac, PC or even your mobile device. It's easy to find the [scheduled webinars](http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx) and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

# Webinars-Coming Attractions!






<b>When</b>	<b>July 14, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>July 22, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Wednesday	<b>August 26, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Wednesday	<b>RECORDED WEBINARS</b> at your convenience
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Digital Resources Orchid Culture Insights from the Internet	<i>Maxillaria</i> Not just <i>tenuifolia</i> anymore	Culture, Judging, Pests and Diseases, Greenhouse Chats indexed by topic
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Bill Bodei</b> Committee Chair AOS Membership & Marketing, Technology Chair Deep Cut Orchid Society	<b>Eric Sauer</b> Awarded Maxillariaologist & Greenhouse Grower	AOS Members, Judges, Concerned Conservationists, Scientists & More



To view **REGISTRATION is REQUIRED.**

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)

*Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.*

Remember to check in with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS/>

<https://instagram.com/americanorchidsociety?igshid=16ixfciczky01>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/>



### CULTURE CONNECTION

**CULTIVATE**, to grow in a prepared medium

Visit the AOS website for a **Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care**

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/july-august-checklist.aspx>

### July: The Month of Portals

By Thomas Miranda

WHEN I WAS STILL a little tyke, my mother went to great lengths to encourage my interest in natural history, biology and the sciences. Widowed when I was only five, she took my development very seriously and made many a sacrifice to help me on my path. Even though funds were very tight, she managed to find ways to feed my curiosity and nurture the interests that would eventually lead to my career in orchids. I was recently reminded of this when I found my old, well-worn and used *Orchids A Golden Nature Guide*. Held together now with a rubber band, dog-eared at the edges and the covers scratched and fading. This little \$2.95 purchase (over 40 years ago) at the American Museum of Natural history bookstore was perhaps one of the most precious things she ever gave me.

One never knows what effect the gifts we give may have on the recipient, especially if the receiver is a young sponge, with a pliant, impressionable mind. In my case, this tiny book was a portal to another world I'd never imagined, a passport to tropical jungles, cloud forests, swamps and alpine meadows full of exotic beauty and mystery. That book was practically memorized in a week and is still the initial base of knowledge of what I know today. While modern research has changed much in the orchid world since (e.g., where the genus *Neocogniauxia* fits in phylogenetically); this basic

knowledge absorbed at such a tender age has served me well into adulthood. Do not hesitate to nurture those around you, especially the young ones, with your orchid knowledge.

**INTERFACES** Often orchids exist at the edges: near the tops of trees, by the side of the road, on banks of streams and the like. This is because of the simplest basic needs of orchids: light, water and air. Every orchid needs some mysterious combination of the three to be grown optimally. Finding the correct interface is always a challenge, especially in a mixed collection in a part of the world where the seasons change drastically through the year. Our job is to make seasonal transitions as seamless as possible for our orchids.

**GREAT OUTDOORS** Depending on where you live, the best place for your plants in July may very well be outside under a tree. The greenhouse may be too hot and stuffy, while the windowsill may be too dry due to air conditioning. It can be a really delicate balance. Still, a little scouting in your yard will indicate many microclimates suitable for orchids. The area under the maple where sun peeks in for two or three hours in the morning, may be the perfect place to summer cattleyas, while the shady canopy covering your back porch may be ideal for paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis, which should never let water or debris fall into their crowns in summer.

**WORMHOLES** Always place plants off the ground, even terrestrials like cymbidiums, or they will be invaded by a variety of critters you would not want to bring back inside when the fall weather comes. Ants, sow bugs, earthworms and a plethora of other nasty things can ravage your plants if you do. Periodically flood your plants thoroughly, this will not only discourage colonization, but will also purge your orchids of any excess fertilizer salts that may have built up from earlier in the growing season.

**COMING OF AGE** Your orchids have been growing earnestly through April, May and June and by this month, many new growths are starting to mature. Feeding is still important in July as we must fatten up any new pseudobulbs and harden off any tender new leaves generated earlier in the spring. July, with its often extra-hot weather, can be challenging in this regard. If high temperatures predominate, search for areas with deeper shade and excellent air movement to compensate. Some cooler growing plants might even be better off brought inside to a more temperate space until the extreme heat dissipates in the early fall. *(As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 84, NO.7, July 2015)*





**Orchid Society  
of Greater  
Kansas City**

**OSGKC.ORG**

**A non-profit, educational organization  
stimulating interest in orchids and their  
culture**

**ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY**

**President** – Jean Rogers

[jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)

**Vice-president** - Kristy Charland

[charland.ek@outlook.com](mailto:charland.ek@outlook.com)

**Membership:**

Visit [www.OSGKC.org](http://www.OSGKC.org) and click the  
“membership” link, and then under PayPal  
click donate

Dues \$25 Individual, \$30 Household

Membership chair: Iva Stribling

[ivastribling@hotmail.com](mailto:ivastribling@hotmail.com)

**Editor:** Jean Rogers

9941 Marty St

Overland Park, KS 66212

[jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)

214-402-6958

**On the web at:**

[www.OSGKC.org](http://www.OSGKC.org)

Webmaster: Ariel Paulson

**On Facebook:**



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878999427064/>

**Like us, post your pictures or  
comments, join the community!!**

## What’s Ahead ...

While we try our best to promote our unique hobby and continue to engage the interest of our orchid growing members, your safety and health must be our primary concern. We plan to do events by zoom until Health Officials report it’s safe to gather again, and OSGKC Board determines likewise. Please check [www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) for updates and changes to our program schedule.

### August 9, 2020

Virtual Orchid Growers’ Tour of 3 members growing sites

### September 13, 2020

OSGKC meeting –

2:00 Brief meeting chat followed immediately by Peter Lin of Big Leaf Orchids, Dallas, on “Novelty Phalaenopsis”

### September 26, 2020

Orchid Auction Digitally for Members of OSGKC

### October 11, 2020

OSGKC meeting –

2:00 Brief meeting chat followed immediately by Russ Vernon, speaking on “Lycastes and Their Culture”

### November 11, 2020

OSGKC meeting –

2:00 Brief meeting chat followed immediately by Dr. Robert Marsh, University of Texas, Dallas, on “Growing Barkerias”

### May 7-9, 2021 Southwestern Regional Orchid Growers Association

Show Kansas Orchid Society in Wichita

See:kansasorchidsociety.com