



# ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS

*A Communication Instrument for Society Members and Others*

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Volume II Issue 11  
November/December 2020



**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.**

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## November- December News!

### Comments from Jean Rogers, President

*Hope you enjoyed our November 8<sup>th</sup> program: Dr. Robert Marsh "Growing Barkerias". Aren't they amazing plants. I love their 'crown'. The problem is, we have a Paph. speaker and I want them. We have a Tolumnia speaker, I want them. We have a Barkeria speaker, I want them. I WANT THEM ALL!! Where will I put them – I DON'T KNOW!!! 😊😊😊 It is so fun sharing this addiction with you!!!*

*December meeting will be as much fun and rewarding as we can make it virtually. **THERE WILL BE: AWARDS, GIFTS, DRAWINGS, SPEAKER.** Don't forget to have your own 'beverage of choice' in hand so we can CELEBRATE!!! And eating a feast is totally acceptable – Richard and I will probably have cheese, crackers and wine. 😊😊*

*We were so please to get the Round Table going again, and that so many participated in it. Please remember that if you don't want to wait till next meeting, you can always post to Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page and get help from other members. And If you don't do Facebook but you are an AOS member, you can send pictures to the Greenhouse Chat (see AOS Webinar Chart below) and experts will help you during the Webinar Chat AND follow up with you. If you are not an AOS member, please consider becoming one. You can do that at their website. <https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew> And for any help, please contact Mark Prout, AOS Rep for our Society. Also, please remember that Dues are due during December. Unpaid memberships go delinquent after the February meeting. Happy orchid growing.  
Jean*

## Project Plant Recap & Update

Sunset Valley Orchids provided the offsprings of (C. Fire Fantasy 'H&R' x C. Cosmic Delite 'SVO' HCC/AOS), now registered as C.



Warpaint. 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. In November Judy Harris has had her 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Warpaint bloom. Isn't it amazing!! Please go to the website listed below to keep up with the blooming. Fun, Fun!!!!

## 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 oooohhs 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'. (Can't find the March issue – email [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)). This is all especially important since we can't meet in person.

## Meetings

### Upcoming speaker - From Susie Hanna, OSGKC Program Chair:

Our featured speaker for our December 13 meeting is David Bird, Birds' Botanicals. Many of our members know David. For 18 years, he's been selling orchids, and a variety of other plants, to enthusiasts, florists and other businesses in the Kansas City area. He's been a supporter of OSGKC and has been a great presence at area orchid shows. He had a unique location in an underground storage cave, but tragically in the Fall of 2018, the Cave and his business suffered severe fire damage, forcing closure. Since then, David has been growing a variety of plants at his greenhouses just outside the metro and is selling at local farmers' markets, and wholesale to other businesses.

David will be sharing his knowledge of orchid growing with us. The focus of his talk, "Improving Your Orchid Culture" is on increasing your growing skills. There will be plenty of time for questions. You can learn more about Birds' Botanicals at their Facebook page.

*Never Defeated, David and Birds'  
Botanicals are Flying Along*



### Last Month's Meeting Speaker Notes by Cindy Meyer and Crystal Remington

Dr. Robert Marsh took us on a wonderfully educational journey through southern Mexico and Central America to learn about the fascinating orchids, Barkerias. They can be so prolific in these areas that locals often consider them weeds, unless they are of the coveted alba strain, or white in color. One of the wonderful things about Barkerias is that there are fewer species than other orchids (16-18), but can still have very small flowers and large 3" flowers. Dr. Marsh categorizes them into 3 groups:

1. Scandens and Uniflora; which have a 180 degree petal rotation
2. Obovatas; which have petal that projects over the lip
3. Whartoniana and skinneri; which have petals that pull up to make a crown

When it comes to their care, Bakerias can be separated into 2 groups; warm growers and cool growers. The warm growers include the Obovatas and the Whartonianas. They prefer temperatures between 55F-95F and can handle light intensity similar to cattleyas. They can be mounted or put in net pots. If you are going to pot them, no media is required he suggests using packing peanuts. They need more water in the summer months and take less in the winter. A 20-10-20 is a good fertilizer to use for them; keeping in mind phosphate might need to be added in the fall.

Cool growers include the scandens, they should be potted in terracotta pots also using packing peanuts. Make sure not to over water, their roots should always be dry by nightfall. If leaves begin to redden, reduce light. Some of the thinner-leaved Barkerias do better with light between what's required for Phals and Cattleyas.

The key to successful growing of Barkerias is to observe their winter dormancy. As winter approaches and the days are shorter, the intensity of light is less, and the nights are cooler, Barkerias will stop growing. Initially, watering should be reduced after the new growth matures, Rainfall in their natural habitat is quite low during the prolonged dry season from late Fall through early Spring. However, the environment is quite humid and the plants are frequently covered in heavy dew in the mornings. In the wild, Barkerias are deciduous and will drop their leaves. In cultivation, some will hold onto some leaves. Cultivated plants should not remain completely dry, but should receive occasional spritzing of water to imitate early morning mist. As the days lengthen and new growth becomes evident, then regular watering and fertilizing can be resumed.

Do not use Neems oil with Barkerias as it could be fatal. Please visit his website [masorchids.com](http://masorchids.com) for more information.

# 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:

- January 13, 2021**      **Mid-America Judging Center**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- February 3, 2021**      **Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis Show**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- March 10, 2021**      **Mid-America Judging Center**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- March 17, 2021**      **Springfield Orchid Society Show**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- March 24, 2021**      **Greater Omaha Orchid Society Show**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- April 14, 2021**      **Mid-America Judging Center**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- May 12, 2021**      **Mid-America Judging Center, Business Meeting**  
Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

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## October OSGKC Judging

16 members submitted 52 blooming orchids for judging and show in October.

**Blue Ribbons** were received by: Sue Bondurant for Cattleya Bob Betts 'White Lightning', Merri Archibald for Paph. (Super Maud x Hsinying Majakun), Kristy Charland for Vanda falcata 'Chouseiden', Brian Donovan for Phal. equestris 'Prarie 1', Dr. Dan Schozman for Masd. Redwing var. alba in Pleurothallids category, Jen McAroy for Den. NOID, Donna Khelm for Brassia NOID in Oncidium category, and Ariel Paulson for Coelogyne fimbriata in Miscellaneous category

**Red Ribbons** Ariel Paulson for Cattleya Warpaint #1 - Dr. Dan Schozman for Cattleya Warpaint #2, Brian Donovan for Paph. Tyke, Brian Donovan for Phal. equestris var. aurea, Dr. Dan Schozman for Masd. Redwing in Pleurothallids category, Dr. Dan Schozman for Den. Tiny Bubbles, Jen McAroy for Wils. Firecracker 'Lucky Strike' in Oncidium category

**White Ribbons** were received by: Jen Winter for Rth. Ruby Suisse x (C. Pole Star x C. loddigesii), Donna Khelm for Den. NOID, and Pei Kuan for Onc. Sharry Baby



**October Orchid of the Month** (drum roll)  
Brassia NOID grown by Donna Khelm!!!



**Members Choice:**  
Merri Archibald for Paph. Super Maud x Paph. Hsinying Maiukun – gets 3 free raffle tickets for November raffle.

“Just for Viewing Pleasure” – Thanks to; Susie Hanna & Al Clinton, Jean Rogers, and Mark Prout, Anna Archibald and Jen Winter for submitting their blooming orchids for our enjoyment in August.

## November 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 Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Winner will receive 3 free raffle tickets to use the following month.

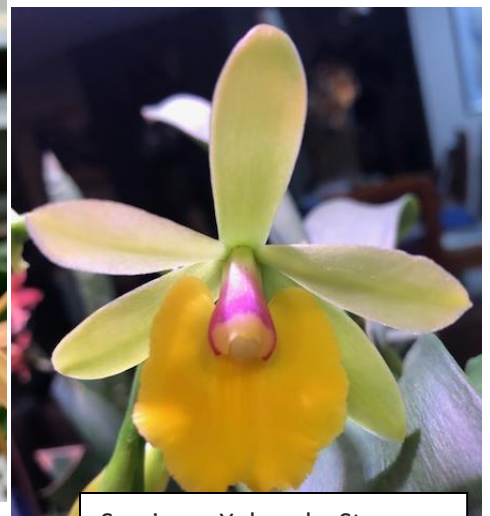
**Blooming Orchids for Show and/or Judging. Deadline for submissions was November 16<sup>th</sup> at midnight-early so awards could be figured. Watch for the December/January dates in an upcoming email. Huge thank you to all the members who sent pictures. Orchids for Judging: (Send your “Member’s Choice” to [jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) by December 7<sup>th</sup>**



Rlc. George King ‘Serendipity’ AM/AOS



Rby. Golden Tang



Sergioara Yokosuka Story



Cattleya percivaliana 'Curtins'  
(Summit' FCC/AOS x self)

Rth. Roy's Magic

Cattleya NOID





Rlc. Sa-Knob Delight 'Kraitit'



Rth. Carolina Orange D'or x. Love Sound



Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite 'Parkside' AM/AOS



Phal. (Nobby's Green Eagle 'Montclair' x Jennifer Palermo 'Blue Hawaii')





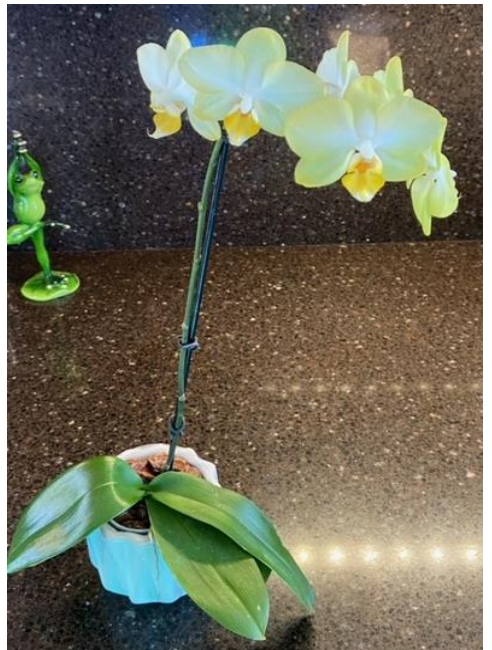
Phal. Jiaho's Pink Girl



Phal NOID #1



Phal. Pylo's Sofia 'Peter's Pride'

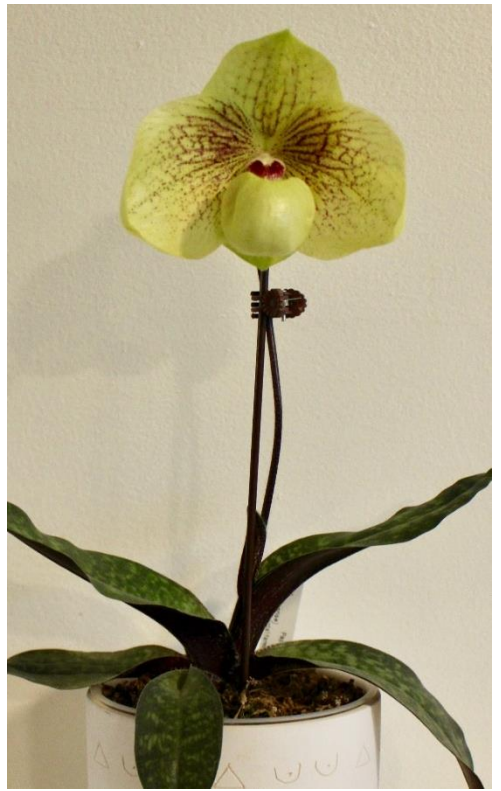




Paph. Deperle (delenatii x primulinum)



Paph. Yellow Tiger x glanduliferum



Paph. Mint Chocolate







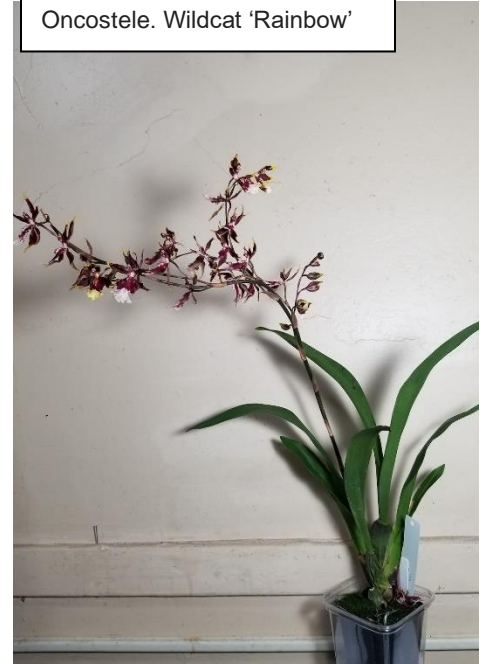
Wils. Space Mine 'Red Rendezvous'



Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy'



Oncostele. Wildcat 'Rainbow'



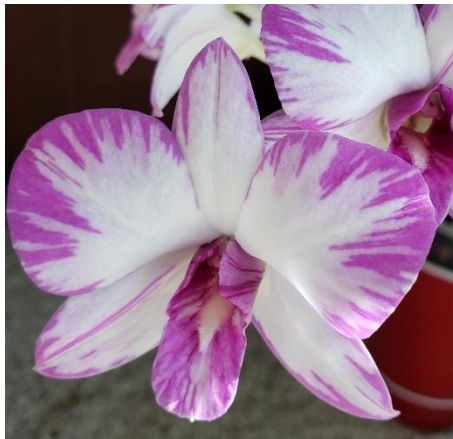
Howeara Lava Burst 'Puanani'



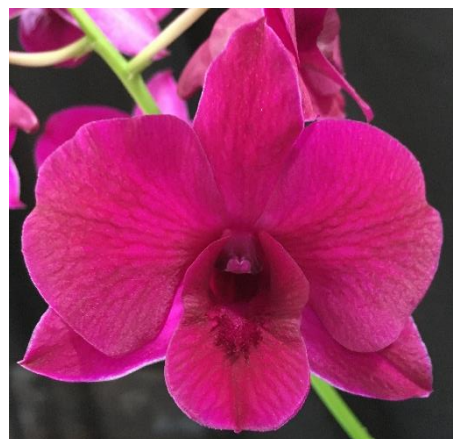
Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' (#1)



Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' (#2)



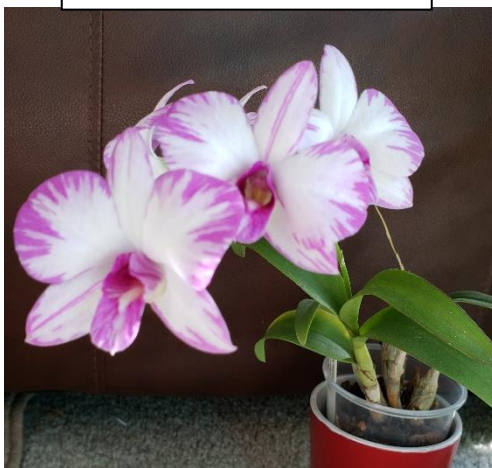
Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash'  
AM/AOS



Den. Piper Red



Den. Velvet Midnight 'Winter Wine'



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

**From Jean Rogers**

Oncostele Wildcat



C. intermedia orlata coerulea



Den. Enobi Purple 'Little Plum'



Slc Circle of Life x Life's Melody



Den. Razzle Dazzle



**From: Sue Bondurant**

Burrageara Living Fire 'Glowing Embers'

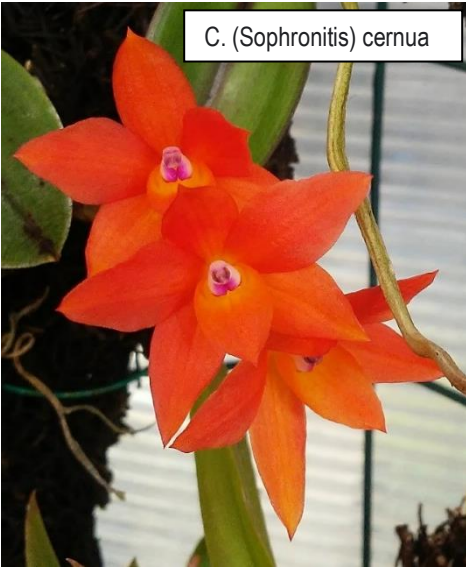


Phal NOID #2



**From Al Clinton and Susie Hanna**

C. (Sophronitis) cernua



Bc. Green Bird



Barkeria Kathy

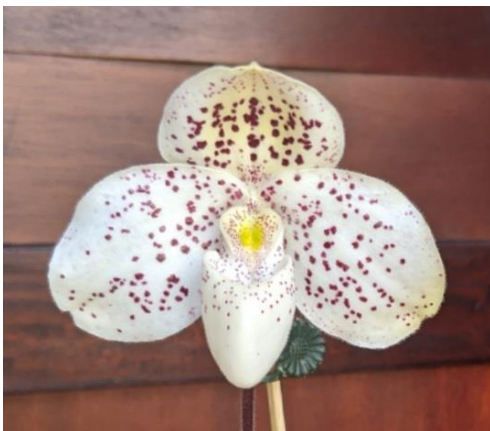


Rodrumnia Bravo 'Nalo Beauty'



**From Mark Prout**

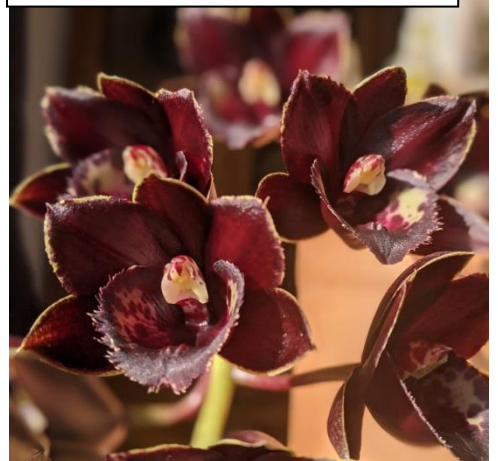
Paphiopedilum Phyllis Prestia



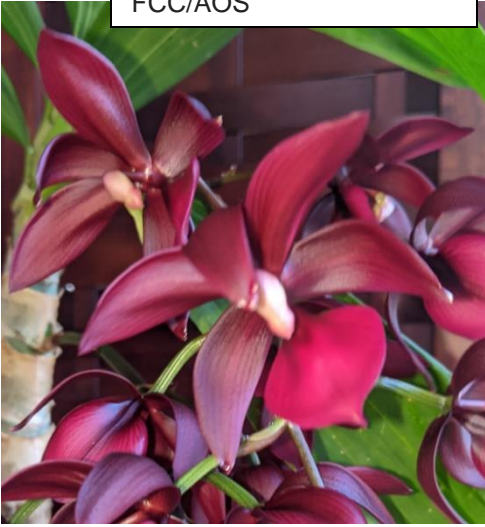
Tolumnia variegata



Fdk. L'amour de vie de Sue or in English - Sue's Love of Life



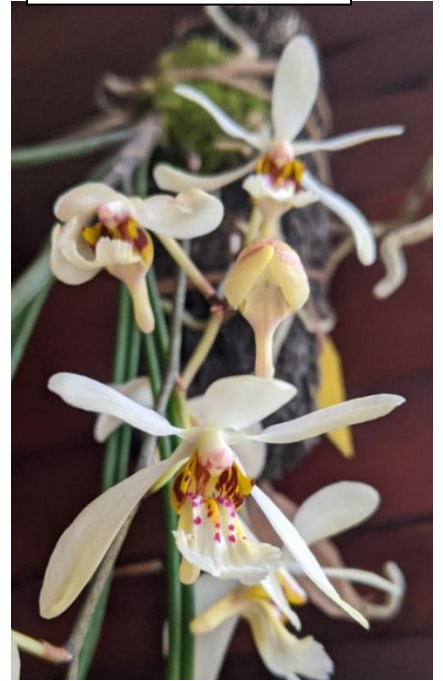
Cyod. Wine Delight 'J.E.M.'  
FCC/AOS



Ctsm. (Portagee Star x lucis)



Holcoglossum wangii



Rth. Susan Fender  
'Cinnamon Stick' AM/AOS

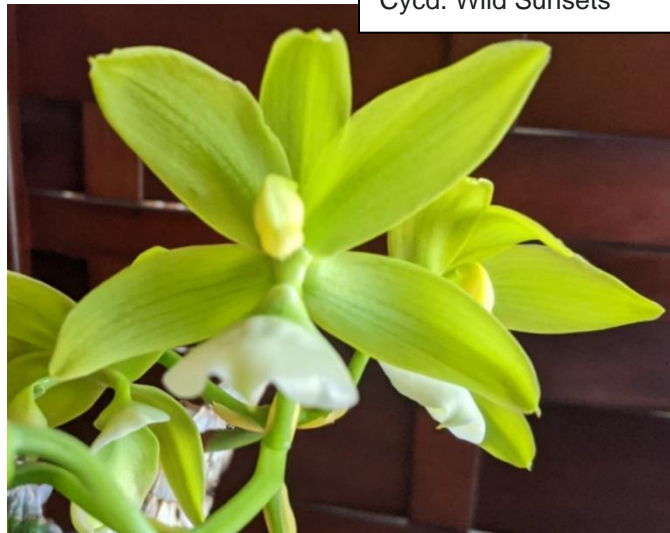


Lcn. [(Dialc. Silver Star x  
Lc. Angel Heart) x L.  
Finckeniana]

Habenaria rhodocheila



Cyod. Wild Sunsets



**From Sabrina Markese**

Phal. NOID



Phal. NOID



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## ***For Fun and Learning!!***

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

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**Some individual genera – Blue Ribbon Winners and special orchids - *How I grow it:***

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**From Merri Archibald**

**Paph. Super Maud x Paph. Hsinying Maiukun**

My Paph is on my kitchen window sill that faces to the west. It is on the inner row of plants so the light is fairly indirect. I water weekly with light fertilizer, and I used rainwater this summer. It's potted in a mixture of orchid bark mix with some extra sphagnum moss. The average temperature on the window sill ranges from 65-75. Since it is above the sink, I imagine there is quite a bit of humidity that occurs naturally. Otherwise, I spritz some of my other plants and roots that are on the sill, but don't have a humidifier or anything like that.



**From Kristy Charland**  
**Vanda falcata 'Chouseiden'**

Growing tips for Vanda falcata 'Chouseiden'

I grow this plant in sphagnum moss in a net pot. It's grown in a miniature indoor greenhouse to keep the humidity up. I use lights from the Orchid Hobbyist, about 8 inches above the plant. I used mostly clean water when it's almost dry and MSU fertilizer, weakly, weekly. This plant had the two spikes peeking out since Spring. I finally decided to repot it in the summer, and after that, the spikes began to grow.



**From Donna Klehm**  
**Brassia NOID Oncidium category**

My orchids sit in an east window in my bedroom on the upper floor of our split level. That way I notice them more!

We keep our house heated at 66 day & 62 night. AC temps are similar.

It sits closest to the window so it gets the most sun.

They are all in an 18" x 30" plastic storage tub that has a layer of gravel so I can add water for humidity. I water heavily once a week-I pour water thru it twice and usually water once during the week since it dries out quicker since it's in the sun. I lightly fertilize twice a month. Every couple of months they all go in the shower for a good rinse out and to get the dust off the leaves.

I repot or at least replace the bark annually.

Donna Klehm



**From Ariel Paulson**  
**Coelogyne fimbriata**

I just got this from Ross recently, but since then it has been in his medium bark mix, 70-80F, 50-60% humidity, 12hr light cycle, 4400 lux at media surface (15" from 1000 lumen LED bar). Stays in Tupperware with no more than 1cm water, rewater when dry. RO/tap mix and very light fert, usually Miraclegro.



**From Jen McAroy**

I grow mine in my office with ambient light, augmented about 4 hours a day. The nighttime temps get into the 50s. Humidity is ambient.



**From Brian Donovan**  
**Phal. Equestris 'Prarie 1'**

I think Phal. equestris is the most rewarding Phal species to grow because it's always doing something (in flower, in bud, or making a keiki). Lori Walters -- an expert Phal grower -- once described Phal equestris to me as a very "smart" species. They will tell you if you're doing something wrong if you "listen" to them. Therefore, it's a relatively easy species to grow. I grow mine in a chunky bark mix. Nothing fancy. I water once a week. I keep the roots crowded. Bright LED light. 30-10-10 fertilizer, weakly weekly.



**From Sue Bondurant C. Bob Betts**

I grow under lights. My lights are High Intensity 2-Tier LED full spectrum grow lights. We have adjustable shade tubes on each of the light tubes. As you turn the shade tubes you can adjust the lights from full light all the way down to about 20% light, so we have different foot candles set for our four different shelves depending on what we are growing on that shelf. The shelf that this orchid is on receives about 3,000 foot candles of light. The lights come on at 7:30 am in the morning and turn off at 6:30 pm at this time of the year. They stay on an hour longer in the spring and two hours longer in the summer. I check all my orchids (I only have 31) every day or every other day to see who needs water. They are all growing in various bark mixtures except for a couple of newer ones that I will have to wait until early spring to repot. This orchid is growing in a fairly coarse bark mix. I feed at

1/2 strength most of the year, but only 1/4 strength this time of the year. I use a mixture of orchid food, Cal-Mag and Epsom salts. I use only distilled water and leach the pots once a month to avoid salt burn from fertilizer.



**From Dr. Dan Schlozman**  
**Masd. Redwing v. alba**

I tried a total of three plants in semihydroponics. Two of the three grew vegetatively; but this one started blooming two years ago and has never stopped. Clearly these plants can be grown in this fashion; although I have stuck with all Clinton's method of tightly packed sphagnum long fiber moss. I water this with K light, kelp, and probiotics as described by Ray Barclay. Phalaenopsis light augmented somewhat with T8 fluorescent bulbs was the light I used. I also have a small air conditioner to try to keep the temperatures down in the summer and the nighttime lows in the winter a little bit lower. This is for the masdavallias only. Except for this plant, I repot them between September and December.



# Outside OSGKC Resources

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## *Kristy's Korner*

November 15, 2020

### Hello orchid fans!

This month, I'll introduce you to two orchid sources that are small and not well known.

The first is Dr. Bill's Orchids. The proprietor is Dr. Bill Udziela who is a medical resident in Chicago. He specializes in Phalaenopsis species and hybrids, Paphiopedilum species and hybrids and Phragmipedium species and hybrids. He imports, buys from domestic wholesalers and also hybridizes on his own. He's a very kind man. Always willing to answer questions and help growers. And he will occasionally do a live, for instance he filmed himself deflasking some of his plantlets. He accepts PayPal only. Find him on Facebook at Dr. Bill's Orchids, or at [www.drbillsonchids.com](http://www.drbillsonchids.com)

The second source is called Orchid Classics, run by Peter Breed and Joe Elder. I found them by participating in various orchid groups on Facebook. I complimented a plant, and the response was, I sell them and I have more! Web address is [www.orchidclassics4u.com](http://www.orchidclassics4u.com) They specialize in vandaceous plants, but also have Phalaenopsis, and a little bit of everything. Biggest bonus, FREESHIPPING! I couldn't believe this one, but it's true!

Please tell the proprietors that I sent you if you if you decide to purchase from them. And also mention, OSGKC!

BE WELL!

Kristy

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**Several of you have indicated problems that seem calcium and magnesium related so, looked this up and Sue Bottom sent me this to print:**

We thank Sue Bottom and the St. Augustine Orchid Society for allowing us to print any of her Care and Culture articles from their website in our newsletter! If you have not checked out St. Augustine website, please do so. <https://staugorchidsociety.org/>

## The Other Macronutrients

by Sue Bottom, [sbottom15@hotmail.com](mailto:sbottom15@hotmail.com)

St. Augustine Orchid Society [www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org) Calcium and Magnesium –

My understanding of what is and what should be in the fertilizers we use for our orchids has evolved over time. First you learn that the three letters on fertilizer container represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium present in the fertilizer. Then you get treated to a missive on the nitrogen forms, the nitrate and ammoniacal nitrogen that are available to your plant and the urea nitrogen that is not easily used by your orchid. Then you learn about micronutrients, the trace amounts of iron, copper, boron and all the rest.

The current buzz is about the calcium and magnesium required for your plants to thrive. They may be present in your water supply in adequate amounts although you will only know this if you have your water tested or if you learn to recognize the signs of their deficiency. Calcium and magnesium are considered macronutrients along with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. If you remember your high school chemistry, calcium and magnesium are both listed in the

second column of the Periodic Table so they tend to react similarly in chemical reactions. However, they are absorbed and used in your orchids very differently.

**Calcium and Your Orchid.** You know that we people require calcium for healthy bones. Orchids use calcium similarly, to build cell walls among other things. It is absorbed through the root tips and pulled through the plant via the xylem during the transpiration process, being transported from the roots to the leaves and newly growing parts of the plant. It is phloem immobile, so it cannot be translocated from older leaves to newer leaves. Thus calcium deficiency will first appear at the most rapidly expanding tissue, like new growths and leaves.

**Examples of Calcium Deficiency in Cattleyas**

The most rapidly expanding tissue is affected first, You might think your plant has black rot, but this such as new growths and leaves problem is physiological rather than pathological



Calcium deficiency occurs when there is rapid plant growth in the absence of sufficient calcium. If you like fresh tomato sandwiches from your garden, you've learned that calcium deficiency is what causes blossom end rot in tomatoes. Cattleyas are the orchids most prone to calcium deficiency, particularly those that grow very rapidly during the warm, sunny, moist summer season. You may mistake the symptoms of calcium deficiency for the dreaded black rot that can plague your cattleyas during the hot season. But this tissue damage is not from water molds, it is caused by insufficient calcium to produce new tissue. Roy Tokunaga of N&R Nurseries reports that supplying sufficient calcium to your plants will not only reduce the incidence of black rot but may even protect the plant from infection by the water molds that cause black rot.

**Magnesium and Your Orchid.** Your plants use magnesium to produce chlorophyll, which is used in the photosynthesis process as well as other metabolic processes. Like calcium, magnesium is absorbed by the roots and carried through the plant in the xylem during normal transpiration. Unlike calcium, magnesium can also be carried in the phloem that transports organic nutrients like sucrose throughout the plant whenever needed. This means the magnesium deficiency will first occur in the older leaves that are sacrificed for the new growth.

**Calcium and Magnesium Supplements.** There are lots of option for supplying additional calcium and magnesium to your orchids, from prepackaged fertilizers to special additives. You can also top dress pots with powdered dolomitic lime that will supply both calcium and magnesium to your plants although it may also raise the pH of your potting mix. Gypsum (calcium sulfate) is an alternative for supplying calcium without raising the pH of the mix. There are controlled release fertilizer formulations that also contain calcium and magnesium. You can add water soluble supplements like calcium nitrate and Epsom salts, though you would never add the calcium and magnesium supplements concurrently because they will react and precipitate into a sludge. The amount of calcium and magnesium supplied by several supplements is given in the table below. I am not aware of any calculation for estimating the amount of calcium or magnesium that is released to your plants from top dressing with timed release fertilizer.

**Examples of Magnesium Deficiency**



Cattleyas grown in bright light with insufficient magnesium may exhibit mottling indicative of chlorophyll damage

Leaves may turn a reddish purple after exposure to cold if they are magnesium deficient. Correct this with a mega dose of Epsom Salts (1 tsp/gal)

Some Water Soluble Supplements for Supplying Calcium and Magnesium				
	Addition Rate (tsp/gal)	Concentration (ppm)		
		Nitrogen (N)	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)
Peters Excel	1/4	49	16	6

Cal Mag Special 15-5-15 5% Ca 2% Mg	1/2	97	32	13
	1	194	65	26
Calcium Nitrate	1/4	50	62	-
	1/2	101	124	-
Epsom Salts (Magnesium Sulfate)	1/8	-	-	16
	1/4	-	-	33
	1/2	-	-	66
	1	-	-	130
	3	-	-	395

The amount of calcium and magnesium present in your water will define how much supplementation is required. You can send a sample of your water to JR Peters for analysis and they'll throw in a fertilizer recommendation or you can send a sample of your water to a laboratory like QAL for analysis, at a cost of less than \$40. Approach your orchid society for sponsoring water tests on local water supplies so a general recommendation can be made for what fertilizer regimen is optimum in your area. In St. Augustine, our shallow well water is very alkaline, high in total dissolved solids and calcium but has very little magnesium. I use pond water during the warm season. It is a mixture of well water and the more pure rainwater so it is low in alkalinity, dissolved solids, calcium and magnesium.

<b>Fertilizer Regimen to Provide Full Suite of Plant Macronutrients</b>			
	Target Nutrient Levels (ppm)	Summertime - Pond Water (ppm) 1/4 tsp/gal Cal Mag Fertilizer 3/32 tsp/gal Epsom Salts	Wintertime - Well Water (ppm) 1/8 tsp/gal 21-5-20 Fertilizer 3/16 tsp/gal Epsom Salts
Nitrogen	40 - 100	52	40
Phosphorus	10 - 20	13	4
Potassium	40 - 100	43	32
Calcium	40 - 80	41	164
Magnesium	20 - 40	23	29
<b>St. Augustine Water Quality</b>			
Constituent		Well Water	Pond Water
Alkalinity (ppm)		430	46
Total Dissolved Solids (mmhos/cm)		1.02	0.32
Calcium (ppm)		164	26
Magnesium (ppm)		7	4

Clearly the water in our area is calcium rich and magnesium poor, so using Epsom salts should be an integral part of our fertilizer regimen. I set a target nitrogen level of 50 ppm suitable for cattleyas, and use additional timed release fertilizer on my heavy feeders like the catasetums. In the growing season when watering using the low alkalinity pond water, I use about ¼ tsp/gal of cal mag fertilizer plus a little less than 1/8 tsp/gal of Epsom salts. During the winter resting season when watering with the warmer, highly alkaline well water, I use 1/8 tsp/gal of 21-5-20 fertilizer and almost ¼ tsp/gal of Epsom salts. I fertilize every time I water, and I should be more rigorous about flushing the pots monthly with fresh water.

Once you know the calcium and magnesium content of your irrigation water, it is easy to tailor a fertilizer regimen for your specific conditions. For those of us in Florida with highly alkaline, high calcium and magnesium deficient water, fertilize with equal parts of a balanced fertilizer like 20-20-20 or 20-10-20 and Epsom salts. Your plants will reward you with increased vigor and loads of flowers.

We thank r.f. Orchids, Inc. for allowing us to use Care and Culture articles from their website in our newsletter! If you have not checked out r.f. Orchids, Inc., please do so. They have contributed generous donations to our auctions and have amazing orchids for sale. Robert Fuchs, President, is currently AOS President. <http://rforchids.com/>

## Caring for your orchids.



## HOW WE GROW DENDROBIUMS, PART 2



Dendrobium aggregatum

In this “chapter” on growing dendrobiums, we’ll cover the species in Section Callista. These are spring-blooming orchids native to mainland Asia, most commonly northeast India, northern Thailand and adjacent areas. Although the flowers typically last only about a week, they are among the most spectacular orchid displays you’ll ever see. Botanists include about 10 species in this section, and we grow most of them.

### **Cultural requirements**

Fortunately, the most popular species in the group all have broadly similar cultural requirements. They grow robustly during spring and summer; growth stops altogether in late fall, but the plants do not drop their leaves during the winter resting period. Most of these orchids have upright pseudobulbs with a cluster of a few leaves at the top. The stems are usually spindle-shaped. *Den. farmeri*’s stems are 4-angled, *Den. chrysotoxum*’s are swollen and ridged. In the spring, the inflorescence develops from a node on the stem just below the leaves. *Den. lindleyi* and *Den. jenkinsii* have shorter, more flattened pseudobulbs and typically

only one, or at most two, leaves per pseudobulb.



Dendrobium chrysotoxum

**Temperature.** In their native habitat, these orchids experience mild to warm daytime temperatures in spring and summer, and generally cooler temperatures in the winter. For most, the winter night temperatures range from about 45°F to about 55°F. Like the species in Section Dendrobium (described in “[Part 1](#)”), these dendrobiums do well for us with our normal winter night temperatures, which are usually in that range. *Den. chrysotoxum* does best on the warmer end of that range, while *Den. densiflorum*, *Den. lindleyi* (*aggregatum*), *Den. jenkinsii* and *Den. thyrsiflorum* prefer the cooler end of it.



Dendrobium thyrsiflorum

**Light.** While actively growing, give the plants plenty of bright but filtered light. Most will grow well under the same light conditions as most cattleyas. Many of these dendrobiums grow attached to deciduous trees in their native habitat, so they want higher light in winter. *Den. chrysotoxum* and *Den. lindleyi* need more light; provide as much light as possible without burning the leaves. We grow these two under near-vanda light levels. It is normal for the pseudobulbs of *Den. chrysotoxum* to be more yellow than green.

**Water.** As with the species in [Part 1](#), watering may be the most crucial element to success with these orchids. Their native conditions are fairly wet during the late spring, summer and early fall. Rainfall can be quite heavy for a few months, but it tapers off in the late fall, and winter months are fairly dry. Water the plants regularly when they are actively growing; mounted plants can be watered daily if air circulation is good. When the new pseudobulbs have matured in the fall, gradually reduce watering, and allow the plant to dry between waterings. There’s some moisture in the habitat at this time, so the plants do get a little water from dew or fog; a light watering every few days is all they need. It is normal for the pseudobulbs to shrivel

somewhat during the resting period, but don’t allow the plant to dehydrate completely! During the coolest periods in winter, keep the plants fairly dry.



Den. farmeri

**Fertilizer.** These dendrobiums benefit from regular feeding when they're actively growing. Any balanced, water-soluble fertilizer can be used, diluted according to package directions. Jack's Classic 20-20-20 is a good option; we feed once a week during the growing season. Reduce feeding in the fall and eliminate it completely when the plants are resting in the winter. Resume feeding when the plant begins to grow again.

**Potting.** Because most species in this group have upright pseudobulbs, the plants can be grown in pots or baskets, or mounted on a sturdy substrate like driftwood or teak root. Mounted plants can be watered daily in summer if the air circulation is good. In a pot or basket, use a very well-drained epiphyte mix; we prefer an inorganic product like expanded clay, as these orchids do best when their roots are undisturbed. We usually grow them in baskets, or on mounts. *Den. jenkinsii* and *Den. lindleyi* (*aggregatum*) do best mounted.



Den. jenkinsii

**Problems.** These dendrobiums have few really major pest problems. Snails and slugs may damage the leaves and canes, and occasionally during wet weather you may see some minor damage from leaf-spotting fungal diseases. Scale insects can be a problem, particularly on plants of *Den. lindleyi* (*aggregatum*) and *Den. jenkinsii*. Mites are a possible problem on the softer-leaved species such as *Den. farmeri*. Stale or decayed potting medium can lead to root problems, as with any potted orchids.

If a mature plant doesn't bloom in the spring, something in its environment is not correct. This may be too much water during resting; the plants need a little watering during this time but they must dry completely for two or three days between waterings. It may also be a temperature problem...these dendrobiums want mild to warm days in winter, but much cooler nights. And they need higher light in the winter, too.

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## Cal-Orchid Inc

Last month, Russ Vernon spoke to us about Lycastes. Cal-Orchids also have Lycastes as a specialty. Here is an article that may be of interest from them. We thank Cal-Orchids for allowing us to use any Care and Culture articles from their website in our newsletter! If you have not checked out Cal-Orchids, please do so. <http://www.calorchid.com/>



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Here at Cal-Orchid, Lycastes are considered the most beautiful orchids in the world. The flowers are large, shapely, and come in the most attractive colors. The genus is relatively small, approximately 40 species, and separated into three groups: *deciduosa*, *macrophylla*, and *fimbriata*. Recently the *fimbriata* group was separated into a new genus of its own, first *Ida* and now *Lycastesuramerica*. We are not real fans of this new taxonomic trend. If you want to learn more, please

look to Dr. Henry Oakley's fantastic book; *Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa*. Everything you need to know about Lycaste species can be found in this book. Since the beginning of orchid growing in the 1800s, Lycastes have held a special place for orchid growers. (The name of the genus Lycaste is in honor of the daughter of Priam, the last king of Troy.) At our nursery, we grow mainly hybrids bred from *Lyc. skinneri*, generally considered the queen of the genus. In Guatemala, where *Lyc. skinneri* is native, the alba form is called 'La Monja Blanca', the White Nun, and is the National Flower. *Lyc. skinneri* was conspicuously featured in *Reichenbachia*, the very famous books by Fredrick Sander, printed in 1888. He wrote "Among the numerous tropical plants with which our gardens were enriched 40 years ago by the celebrated traveler, G. Ure-Skinner, there is none which has become so popular than the glorious Lycaste, which bears his name.". He later refers to it as "the Drawing Room Orchid" as the flowers last exceptionally long and the foliage is so elegant and handsome. The flowers of *Lyc. skinneri* come in almost every shade of pink as well as alba. By all accounts, and for over a hundred years, this has been considered a truly glorious plant.

On a recent trip to Guatemala, Laurie and I hiked for quite some distance, over wet, densely forested, slippery terrain to see *Lyc. skinneri* in situ. This was a real highpoint of our careers as orchid growers and certainly gave us a better idea about the cultural conditions under which these plants prefer to grow. The fact that we hiked for hours before finding a single specimen was a clear indication of the extreme local pressure placed on this plant due to its high popularity among the locals. It used to be fairly common to find bareroot plants available in the town mercados for sale. From the beginning, in the 19th century, these plants were over-collected, by the hundreds of thousands, and to a lesser extent, this local pressure continues.

We do not grow many of the species, but prefer instead to cultivate the finest of new hybrids primarily based on *Lyc. skinneri*. Such a breeding program is not new; it was practiced earnestly in the last mid-century in England with nurseries like Wyld Court Orchids, and later by McBeans Orchids. In time, Mr. Fred Alcorn of Australia carried on and produced some very good lines. By the 1980s, when I worked at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, they became a leader in Lycaste breeding. Since the 1990s, we feel the finest quality breeding has been done in Japan. Mr. Hideki Nagai had bought many flasks from America and based on these plants, launched the finest line of hybrids ever seen. We are very fortunate to have him as a friend and until he retired recently, enjoyed blooming many of his seedlings. Much of the best breeding is currently being done is by Mr. Abou, and his manager, Ms. Hara. We travel annually to



purchase the best of these new hybrids to establish and offer for sale to our customers. Ideally, we would like to continue our own breeding program here, but unfortunately the quality of flasking by American laboratories is too poor and we do not have the space to build our own facilities. We are content to continue our arrangement with our Japanese friends to import new crosses each year. The quality of flowers continue to improve with large size, better shape and a wide assortment of colors. It is our hope that everyone appreciates this genus as much as we do and enjoys growing them.

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## CULTURE

**Temperature**--As was referenced in *Reichenbachia*, the best looking specimens are grown at a night temperature of 55-60 degrees. This is a little cooler than most intermediate greenhouses. As *Lyc. skinneri* is a mountain species, the daytime temperatures also do not rise to any extreme. We keep them around 80 degrees in the Summer, although the greenhouse occasionally reaches the mid 80s. Maybe an easy way to think about it is to just think of the conditions as "sweater weather". If you live in a very warm climate, it is advisable to grow members of the deciduous, or yellow-flowered, group.

**Light**--After observing *Lyc. skinneri* in nature, we have made some adjustments for the light levels. We recommend filtered light, even on the slightly shady side, but be careful to give enough light. The leaves will be a nice emerald green. If too much light is given, there will be some stress to the plant so it will be necessary to keep in in a much cooler area. It's a fine line, but once obtained you will see robust plants with strong spikes.

**Humidity and Air Movement**-- These are very important criteria for good culture. During the growing season higher humidity is best. In the area where *Lyc. skinneri* grows, a phenomena known as the 'chipi-chipi' occurs. This nick-name refers to a mountain fog that often blows in during the afternoons and bathes the plants with high humidity. On dry Southern California days, even though we are just 2 blocks from the ocean, we will often spritz the plants down during the dry afternoons. Maintaining this higher humidity requires good air circulation as well to prevent any type of disease from flourishing.

**Water and Fertilizer**-- Since Lycastes are seasonal in their growth, there are also two distinct watering schedules. During the late Spring, Summer, and early Fall, when they are in active growth, these plants require thorough and abundant

watering; perhaps every 4-6 days. This is the season of the tropical rains in Guatemala. Finally, the Wintertime, the bulbs are formed, so water should be considerably reduced to alleviate any potential for rot. Give just enough to prevent shriveling of the bulbs. Do this until new growth is seen pushing. If too much water is applied during this drier season, edema, or small blisters, may affect the new bulbs. Simply open the blister with a sterilized tool to prevent spread. Lycastes love good nutrition during the long growing season. We fertilize almost every watering.

**Potting**-- Lycastes can be grown in a wide variety of media. Just try some different types until you find what works best for you under your conditions. We are currently using redwood fiber for the adult plants. The seedlings are put in a mix of large grade fine fir bark, perlite, and charcoal. In Japan, where the culture is exceptional, only New Zealand sphagnum moss is used.

All potting should be done when the new growth is about 3-4 inches high and new roots can be seen

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## December 2020 Sunset Valley Orchids Catasetinae Growing Tips

Now that winter has really set in, your *Catasetums* and *Cycnoches* will have matured their growths and finished flowering, but there are always a few late bloomers that soon should be on their way to dormancy. *Mormodes* will be finishing up their bloom season, and now it's time for many of the *Clowesia* hybrids to flower.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture. The yellowing and dropping of leaves signal the beginning of dormancy. Now is the time to stop fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency, simulating the end of the wet season in nature. This change in culture will cause the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off, cease watering altogether. This marks the start of the dormant period. Those of you in Florida and the southern states will have dormant plants now, and it's possible that some of you may start to see the first beginnings of new growth.



These six plants illustrate the progression of *Catasetinae* into dormancy, from left to right: 1) leaf tip yellowing, 2) leaf yellowing, browning and abscission, 3) more yellow leaves, tip die back and leaf drop, 4) obvious missing leaves at base, 5) two leaves remaining, 6) leafless plant. Not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

The onset of dormancy generally occurs naturally; however, when plants are cultivated in consistently warm growing areas, such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged. I have found that managing irrigation is one of the best tools to trigger dormancy. If you still have plants in December with a full complement of green leaves, it's time take a more aggressive approach. Allow the media to become dry, regardless of the number of green leaves. Let the media stay dry for 3-4 days then water sparingly, about one or two ounces of water. The water may flow right through the media, and that's okay. Allow the media to dry and wait 4-5 day before following the same stingy irrigation procedure. Repeat this process, increasing the dry interval between waterings. This will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the transition.

By late December, it's important to get your *Catasetinae* into the dormant stage and provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season that will help them to develop big bulbs and lots of flowers!

I've been getting questions about indoor light levels during dormancy. It is best to keep the plants in nearly the same light levels as in the growing season: target 2000-2500 foot candles. It is easy to download a Foot Candle Reader app for your phone. If you're growing under lights, you do need to adjust the day length throughout the year, as all *Catasetinae* experience changes in the number of daylight hours per day. This adjustment is important for all your orchids that come from areas where day length changes during the year.

**Light level management Indoors**

Growing under lights for optimal results:

- April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.
- November: reduce light schedule hour to = 14 hrs.
- December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.
- January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.
- February: add one hour = 13 hrs.
- March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.
- April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

I shared this idea with the last newsletter, and it's worth sharing again. If you've had challenges overwintering your *Catasetinae* plants, it is most likely due to excessive dehydration, perhaps caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution being used successfully by some ingenious growers in locations with low winter humidity.

Set the pot in a jar with water, making a loose-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot. The reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, even while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers who are using this method.

As my *Catasetinae* go to "sleep" for the winter I am reminded of the words of Shelley: "*If winter comes, can spring be far behind?*"

**Your support as customers and friends is truly appreciated!**  
**I am always available to take your calls and E-mails, so please feel free to contact me. I love to talk orchids!**



And as always, Good Growing!

Please join our Facebook page:

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[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)

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## 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!



**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** It's easy to find the [scheduled webinars](#) and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here:

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:**

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! *Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.* We digitize the webinars and they are 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)**

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#### AWARDS GALLERY

AOS MEMBERS can review the beauty and diversity of awarded orchids in every issue of [ORCHIDS magazine](#) and also in the most up to date [OrchidPro](#) awards database.

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

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

#### 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/september-october-checklist.aspx>



## 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

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**Vice-president** - Kristy Charland

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### Membership:

Visit [www.OSGKC.org](http://www.OSGKC.org) and click the  
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Dues \$25 Individual, \$30 Household

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**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.

### December 13, 2020

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – David Bird from Bird's Botanicals "

A Zooming Holiday Event full of SURPRISES!!! 😊

### May 7-9, 2021

Southwestern Regional Orchid Growers Association  
Show Kansas Orchid Society in Wichita

See:kansasorchidsociety.com

### January 10, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Carri Raven-Riemann: "Moss Growing Demystified"

### February 14, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Sarah Hurdel, "Growing Habenarias"

### March 14, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids, "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 1"

### April 18, 2021

Annual Auction

### May 16, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids, "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 2"

### June 13, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Jim & Yvonne France, Oakwood Orchids, topic to be announced

### July 11, 2021

Tour of Orchids, area members' growing spots

### August 15, 2021

Picnic??