

WEST SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

AUGUST 2011

- NEXT MEETING** Sunday, August 21, 2011
- TIME**
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| 12:00 p.m. | Conversation, opportunity to check out plants for sale. |
| 12:45 p.m. | Plant sale begins. This is a great opportunity to acquire plants at bargain prices. |
| 1:00 p.m. | Picnic |
| 2:00 p.m. | Auction. We will have about 25 plants from Hawaii in bud or in flower. These will include a very broad range of genera – something for every taste. Donated plants in bud or flower are usually auctioned as well. |
- PLACE** Columbia Park – Rte 82 and W. River Road
- MENU** Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & Veggie Burgers, prepared by Chef John Rini. John promises that his grill will light up this year.
- MEMBERS BRING** Last names: A through K: appetizer, vegetable or salad
L through Z: cheese, fruit dish or dessert
- CLUB PROVIDES** Table settings, hot dogs, hamburgers, coffee, pop, condiments and bread.
- COST** Free to members, \$2.00 for guests. Pick up your bidding number for the auction.
- RESERVATIONS** Call Clara or Chester Kieliszek at 330-467-3731 by Friday August 12. Give the number in your party. We need to know how many people to prepare for.

PROGRAM

- SHOW TABLE** We had 31 beautiful plants on the June show table which were all nicely grown. This made it hard on our show table judges Teresa Nemeth and Nancy Roberts to pick the evenings winners, but they did a great job noting that every plant there should be a winner. We could still use more plants on the show table, so if it is blooming, bring it in to the next show table. Everyone in attendance enjoys seeing the different orchids in everyone's collections. There is no show table at the picnic (just a lot of orchids for sale at bargain prices), but there are three more show tables left this year so it is still anyone's race to win the different categories. Remember, you can't win if you don't bring your plants to the show table for judging.

ORCHID CALENDER

The Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association presents the 2011, nineteenth Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival

The festival takes place simultaneously at four different orchid greenhouse locations within the suburbs of Chicago. Spanning a three day period, the greenhouses of Oak Hill Gardens, Windsong Orchids, Orchids by Hausermann, and Natt's Orchids will be open to the public during the festival.

Friday, September 23th 8am-5pm
Saturday, September 24th 8am-5pm
Sunday, September 25th 10am-3pm

The festival features a vast array of plants for sale by "guest growers," presentations by world-renowned orchid specialists, refreshments, special bargains, and the opportunity to stroll among the most exotic and beautiful plants found in nature.

The festival is sponsored by four well-known growers and certified members of the Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association (COGA). All four sites are within a 40-minute drive of each other and are run by experts in the field of orchid horticulture. To find out more about the flowers and events available at each location, contact the COGA members or check out their website at www.chicagolandorchidfestival.com

October 15-16 - Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL. Contact: Jeanne Beacker, 901 Sunset Ct., Deerfield, IL 60015; (847) 945-8107; beckerjeanne@hotmail.com.

October 15-16 - Niagara Frontier Orchid Society Show, Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, Buffalo, NY. Contact: Susan Charles, 91 Milford St., Hamburg, NY 14075; (716) 649-6455; scc1959@verizon.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE SHOW TABLE WINNERS

GREENHOUSE Professional	First	Gongora flaveola	Edgar Stehli
	Second	Paphinium majestic	Edgar Stehli
	Third	Vanda Kasem's Delight Sompon x (suntan x thospel)	Wayne Roberts
GREENHOUSE Amateur	First	Lc Golddigger x Ctna. Why Not	Mel Goldstein
	Second	Encyclia cochleata	Mel Goldstein
	Third	Lycaste Leo Maggie x Diane Barrett	John Rini
WINDOWSILL & UNDER LIGHTS	First	Paph delanatii x Pine Glow	Teresa Nemeth
	Second	Wilsonara Pacific Perspective	Teresa Nemeth
	Third	peloric Phal., no name	Joseph Hruby
FEWER THAN 20 PLANTS	First	Den. atroviolaeceum	David Less
	Second	Psycopsis papillio	David Less
	Third	Blc Pratum Green 'Bonsern'	James Croniger
BEST SPECIES		Bulbo tingaberinum	Edgar Stehli
BEST MINATURE		Oeceodades spathalifers 'Windswepts Snakeskin'	Edgar Stehli
STANDINGS FOR 2011	Greenhouse: Pro		Points
	Edgar Stehli		70
	Wayne Roberts		54
	Greenhouse: Am		
	John Rini		70
	Mel Goldstein		20

Under Lights/Windows:

Teresa Nemeth	26
Mary Beth Mansour	10
Debbie Gotsch	10
Chester Kieliszek	10
Jane Stroomer	6
Chester Gordon	6
Dan Dolney	4
Mary Jo Marshall	4
Joseph Hruby	4

Less Than 20 Plants:

David Less	26
Barbara Brandon	18
Lyn Michaels	10
Gina Moore	10
Christine Knott	4
James Croniger	4

Thank you to all who brought in their blooming plants for our members to enjoy on the show table. It is nice to see some new names as show table winners and just goes to show you, most members have some very well grown orchids sitting at home just begging to come in to a show table. Bring in your blooming plants to our next show table in October.

I would like to welcome the following new member to West Shore since the last newsletter went out: Marolyn Smith who becomes our 93rd member of the year.

We now have 64 of our 93 members on email. Anyone not receiving a newsletter email and wanting one can request it by emailing Chester Kieliszek at kieliszekc@ferro.com and I will put you on the email list.

Our new website is still under construction, but we are making progress. We are looking for someone to take pictures of our upcoming show tables and show so we can add them to the site. If you have pictures you want added to the site, please email them to Chester Kieliszek at kieliszekc@ferro.com and I will get them added to the site. You can check it out at www.westshoreorchidsociety.org.

We are looking for plants for the auction and plant sales. We would like society members to donate repotted divisions, plants that have not bloomed, or plants that are not wanted anymore. We had a large selection of plants at last year's picnic due to one of our members closing down their greenhouse. This year we will need some new volunteers if we hope to see another large selection on the sales table. Edgar Stehli will price and handle the volunteered plants at the picnic. If you donate a plant or plants and know what color flowers, bloom date(s) (Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall) or any other information on the plant, please jot it down on a piece of paper and fasten it to the pot to help the new owner out.

The following is an article taken from the American Orchid Society on a problem most orchid growers have had experience with. Reprinted from the NOVEMBER 2001 issue of *Orchids* -- The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society. Copyright American Orchid Society -- www.aos.org

Scale By Paul J. Johnson, PhD

Scale is probably the most important insect pest of cultivated orchids in northern climates. According to a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services publication, there are at least 27 species of scale identified from cultivated orchids. Fortunately, only the most common soft scale, usually referred to as brown scale or brown soft scale, regularly survives in the north on indoor or greenhouse plants. The soft brown scale (*Coccus hesperidum*), and possibly the similar elongate soft scale (*Coccus longulus*), seem to be the most observed species. Boisduval scale (*Diaspis boisduvali*), an armored scale, can infect orchids in the greenhouse and the home, and should be guarded against.



Boisduval scale is the most common type of scale found on orchids and can multiply rapidly

The adult brown scale is recognized by light yellowish to dark brown oval to circular shells appearing on leaves, petals, sepals, petioles, pseudobulbs, and sometimes rhizomes and roots. Mature female Boisduval scale are rounded and light colored, while aggregations of males are identified by their cottony appearance, which may cause them to be confused with mealybugs if not examined closely. The immatures, or crawlers, of all species are tiny and yellowish to pinkish, and not easily seen without a magnifier.

The most common way of acquiring scale is purchasing an infested plant. Scale is easily transmitted to clean plants when plants are crowded and crawlers move from plant to plant. Colonization by windblown crawlers may occur when plants are outdoors, but this can also happen indoors and in greenhouses when crawlers float on currents from circulation and heater fans. This can produce pockets of infestation where air currents are weakest when crawlers settle on plants.

Life Cycle

Scales have three life stages: egg, larva (or nymph) adult. Eggs are laid under the female's shell and remain there after she dies. These hatch into mobile nymphs, called crawlers, that can move between plants. After finding a suitable place, crawlers settle to feed. The females then form a light yellowish protective scale covering, which enlarges as the insect grows and darkens to tan or brown as it matures. Male Boisduval scale form an armored scale while those of brown scales are small winged creatures. The primary role of males is to mate and die.

Scales have short life cycles, but may cycle many times a year. Typically, a month or more is required for completion of a scale generation, but a mere two to three weeks is possible in favorable conditions. The overlapping generations create the biggest scale-management problem. All control methods are at their greatest effectiveness against crawlers. By the time the scale has matured the hardened shell, it is too late to easily kill those adults with chemicals. Also, the largest dark brown colored scales with a powderlike substance inside are dead and the shells are often full of eggs.

Management

Scale management is usually a protracted and serious effort, and never fun. Light infestations restricted to one or a few plants can be treated with household products rather than concentrated insecticides. When possible, immediately isolate infested plants from others to prevent the crawlers from moving among them.

The key to control is persistence. Management methods least toxic to people, pets and plants are the most time consuming and laborious. Chemical methods, including oils, soaps and synthetic

insecticides are progressively more toxic and expensive, but less work. Regardless of method or chemical used, remain vigilant and expect to make at least 2 to 3 applications 10 to 16 days apart.

Due to plant costs, owners' personal attachment to orchids, and many growers' desire to avoid insecticides when possible, a number of effective home remedies for scale are available. However, noninsecticidal treatments may not be highly effective for eliminating scale - they should be viewed as controls, not eradicators. Also, many chemicals for home use are toxic to humans, pets and plants even in diluted forms, often proportionately more toxic than the feared insecticides.



Soft brown scale is a difficult pest to eradicate

Rubbing Alcohol A popular home remedy is swabbing plants with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Do not use other alcohols such as ethanol or methanol; they will penetrate the plant tissues and cause considerable damage. On hard-leaved plants, remove scale by gently rubbing with fingers or an infant's soft toothbrush, with or without alcohol. Afterward, repeat the alcohol treatment to remove recently hatched crawlers. Pay particular attention to the mid rib, other veins and leaf edges. (On soft-leaved orchids, such as some *Oncidiinae*, isopropyl may damage the leaves.)

Another method is to spray alcohol with a misting bottle or small pump sprayer. When so applied, a few drops or a short squirt of liquid soap are added to the alcohol. Some growers also like to add some horticultural oil, mineral oil or neem oil to this solution. Use caution, as a detergent that is too strong or applied in excessive amounts, or use of an ammonia-based chemical cleaner, may damage your plants particularly buds and flowers. Also, alcohol sprays are not effective against eggs beneath scale coverings, hence physical removal of scales by hand is suggested.

When air movement increases evaporative cooling, rapid evaporation of alcohol may over-cool plant tissues, creating zones of dead mesophyll cells that can become necrotic. On warm or breezy days, especially with low humidity, wipe residual alcohol with a tissue instead of allowing it to evaporate.

Repotting During extreme infestation, scale may develop on roots and rhizomes. Consider replacing the potting medium, which can harbor eggs and crawlers. Dispose of it in a compost pile or in the garbage. When repotting, a close inspection, and, if necessary, a gentle clearing and spraying of the roots is essential.

Oils, Soaps and Sterilants Horticultural, neem and mineral oils, and insecticidal soaps form the next stage of chemical control. All of these solutions are generally considered safer for humans, pets and plants than insecticides. None provide absolute control over pests, but frequent applications reduce insect populations to below self-sustainable levels in small orchid collections.

Oil solutions smother insects, so complete coverage of all sprayed plants is essential. These oils are mixed with water and a plant-safe detergent for enhancing spreading and sticking. Never apply these solutions to plants on hot days (over 85 F).

Insecticidal soaps, while considered safe, may still damage some plants, particularly tender new tissues, and when the soaps are mixed with hard water. They can also cause allergies and respiratory problems for users.

Insecticides Persistent or heavy scale infestations may require the use of synthetic insecticides. Few insecticides are tested on or specifically registered for use on orchids, but several common, inexpensive, home-and-garden chemicals are labeled for ornamental plants.

Some of the more effective insecticides available to home growers are Orthene (wetable powder), Malathion (liquid), Diazinon (liquid) and Carbaryl (water-based emulsifiable concentrate). Always follow label directions and never exceed the minimum recommended concentration given in mixing directions. Orchids are tough, but sensitive to many chemicals. While certain species may not react to a given formulation, others might, so advance testing is advised.

In the home, growers who must apply insecticides during inclement weather need special care for applications. If outdoor spraying is not an option, spray plant(s) inside a large plastic bag, remove the bag after the spray has settled, and let the plant(s) ventilate where fumes will not invade the home or work area.

Never apply any liquid pest treatment in direct sunlight or high heat. To prevent burning of tissues, always shade plants until the solution dries.

Growth Regulators and Chitin Inhibitors Insect-growth regulators, such as Enstar II, are synthetic forms of insect hormones that interrupt normal development in insects, including scale. While there is little reliable information on their use on orchids, there have been no plant health problems noted thus far. An increasing number of growers are reporting satisfactory results with Enstar II.

Azadirachtin (Azatin and Neemazad) is a plant-derived (neem tree) chemical or botanical insecticide. It inhibits development of chitin, a primary component in insects' exoskeletons, causing mortality. There is little information available on its use on orchids, but it is approved for a wide variety of ornamentals and is labeled for greenhouse applications.

Final Considerations

Heavy infestations of scale may require other control methods. In such situations, a synthetic insecticide may be useful. On the extreme side, for a plant showing signs of decline from scale, consider whether the low likelihood of rejuvenating the plant justifies the expense and effort of continued treatments. After all, the destruction of a sick plant can be used to justify the purchase of a new and healthier one.

To minimize risks of developing a treatment-resistant pest population, change methods and chemicals occasionally; do not use the same chemical mix more than 3 to 4 times sequentially. For example, if an insecticide was used for previous treatments, switch to an oil, soap or different insecticide.

Never use an insecticide not labeled for ornamental plants, and do not use less than the minimum concentration of a mixture. Too little of a chemical enhances resistance, while too great a concentration may damage plants. Never use chemicals as a routine preventative; this wastes chemicals (and money), and allows resistant pests to develop. Continue manual removal of scales during treatment - removing egg-laying adults is as important as killing nymphs. Finally, always monitor the cycling of the scale population to optimize spray effect and minimize total number of sprays.