

WEST SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2013

- NEXT MEETING** Wednesday, December 18, 2013
- TIME** 6:00 p.m. Conversation,
6:30 p.m. Show table judging.
7:00 p.m. Dinner.
7:30 p.m. Program: Distribution of plants, show table, & distribution of
show table awards for this year.
- MENU** Due to the many volunteers who have offered to share their cooking talents, the buffet will include:
Main dishes - Spiral Sliced Honey Ham, Chicken, and Rigatoni with Meat Sauce
Sides - Sweet Potatoes, Scallop & Au gratin Potatoes, Green Beans and Baked Peas: all with a mixed green salad and rolls.
Appetizers – Shrimp Cocktail, Spinach Dip, Sauerkraut Balls
Beverages – Coffee, Tea, Pop & Water
- RESERVATIONS** Elaine and Bob Galaska will be the contact for the December 18th meeting. Email to: emgalaska@hotmail.com as the preferred response if you are coming or Elaine's cell phone as a second means - **330-842-7097**. Quantity decisions will be made on Dec. 16th, Monday afternoon, so please contact them before then.
- COST** The cost of dinner will remain \$10 per person. We need members with last names starting with A – H to bring an appetizer, I – P to bring a veggie side dish and Q - Z a dessert. Each dish should feed 8 - 10 people, which should take care of our needs. If you are writing a check, please include dinner and dues (\$20.00 per single or family membership) together. This makes it easier on the treasurer.
- PLACE** North Olmsted Community Cabin, 28114 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

PROGRAM

- SHOW TABLE** We had another beautiful show table with 48 orchids on it at the November meeting and there is one more show table left this year, so as you can see we have some tight races in the different categories. Remember, you can't win if you don't bring your plants to the show table for judging, so if it is blooming, bring it in to the December show table. Everyone in attendance enjoys seeing the different orchids in everyone's collections and besides that you earn points for the annual contest. We will go back to the show table having two of the members judging the different categories to speed up the judging process for the December meeting.
- 2014 SURVEY** Please fill out and return the attached survey for 2014 along with your membership dues for next year and we do hope all 99 members renew. Note that we are looking for at least 30 volunteers for the IX Center or we will not attend the show, as a number of volunteers had to work multiple shifts this past year.

ORCHID CALENDER

Open House - Robert's Flower Supply

When Friday & Saturday Dec. 6 – 7 & 13 – 14, 10 AM – 4 PM

Where Wayne & Nancy Robert's greenhouse, 12390 Root Rd., Columbia Station, OH Tel. 440-236-5571. Always open, just call ahead of time.

Next WSOS Meeting

When Wednesday Feb 19, 2014 – 6:00 PM, Speaker 7:00 PM

Where North Olmsted Community Cabin, 28114 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

Description Barbara Tisherman, an AOS judge from Pittsburg, will be our speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER SHOW TABLE WINNERS

GREENHOUSE Professional	First	Coelogyne rochussenii	Edgar Stehli
	Second	Paph Michael Koopowitz	Wayne Roberts
	Third	Habenaria Regnierii	Edgar Stehli
GREENHOUSE Amateur	First	Vanda RB's DL Blue	John Rini
	Second	Lyc Shoalhaven x self	John Rini
	Third	Cattleya Portia	John Rini
WINDOWSILL & UNDER LIGHTS	First	Cat. Benimusume	Bob Galaska
	First	Phrag Grande 'Mem. William Schroer	Allan Lund
	Second	Paph Super 'Eureka'	Bob Galaska
	Second	Onc Sweet Sugar	Fred Hetzel
	Second	Masd Machu Pichu	Bob Lum-King
	Third	Neostylis Blue Moon	Bob Lum-King
FEWER THAN 20 PLANTS	Third	Phrag Fritz Schomburg	Bob Lum-King
	First	C Fire Magic 'Solar Flare' x Tokyo Magic 'Fire Fantasy'	Wilma Kelch
	Second	Phal No Name	Anita Vergilli
	Third	Onc Sharry Baby	Keith Alexander
BEST SPECIES	Third	Phal No Name	Wilma Kelch
		Barkeria scandens	Edgar Stehli
BEST MINATURE		Dockrillia rigida	Katherine Binder

SHOW TABLE STANDINGS FOR 2013

STANDINGS FOR 2013	Greenhouse: Pro	Points
	Edgar Stehli	140
	Wayne Roberts	88
	Greenhouse: Am	
	John Rini	172
	Under Lights/Windows:	
	Allan Lund	86
	Bob Lum King	82
	Bob Galaska	48

Pat Corbett	35
Katherine Binder	35
Debbie Gotsch	31
Darryl & Pam Everett	28
Chester Kieliszek	18
Fred Hetzel	7
Dave Miller	6
Mel Goldstein	1
Cheryl Nader	1
Jim Thompson	1
Teressa Nemeth	1

Less Than 20 Plants:

Anita Vergilii	30
Wilma Kelch	27
Keith Alexander	22
Jerri Echols	19
Marc Rothenberg	16
Barb Brandon	5
Robert Catino	5
Joyce Shramo	1

Bring in your blooming plants to our next show table in December.

I would like to welcome the following new members to West Shore since the last newsletter went out: Stephanie Gordon and Bob Heidelman become our 98th and 99th members of the year joining at our November meeting.

We now have 78 of our 99 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.

Congratulations go out to Edgar Stehli who won the Fred Hillerman 2012 Award (the Best Angraecoid exhibited in 2012.) for his Aerangis mystacidii "Windsept White Waterfall' CCM 84." The award was announced at the AOS Trustees Meeting in Coral Gables, FL. Edgar noted that the plant was from the collection of long time West Shore members Glen & Cathy Cowgill and was given to Windswept in Time by their children after their passing.

Show season will be here before you know it and this is a time to show off your orchids. I hope more people will bring their blooming plants to the now 5 events we are looking forward to entering. With that said, we would like to get more people involved with the setting up and tear down of our displays. The more people you have, the quicker things get done. It is a lot of fun and can be rewarding as we took several first place ribbons in the display judging this past show season. If you are interested in participating in any one or all of the display set ups, let one of our officers know and we will be sure to keep you informed on the various shows. And no, you don't have to have any orchids entered into the display to help assemble it.

From the President's Potting Bench,

Greetings friends,

As our last meeting of 2013 approaches, I reflect back on how much I have learned in the "Culture Corner" and the "World Tour of Orchids", how much I have learned from YOU, your personal growing habits i.e., the micro-climates you set up in your homes. I am inspired by you and in awe. You are passionate about growing orchids and it shows in the selections brought each time to the show table.

The December show table is no exception; it has one of the largest displays of blooms. The grand prize winners will be announced as it literally pays to bring your blooms in!

As we renew friendships over dinner, I hope you will renew your membership in the WSOS. Wayne has some great programming lined up for next year...Edgar is working on topics to better educate us and Nancy will challenge us to a competition to see who can get the first bloom. (more on that later).

December is the time when we ask you to be generous in volunteering your time and talent. Your contribution of time and talent makes the WSOS as great as it is and enriches your own life as well. Please give generously of yourself when filling out your questionnaire for 2014 events. One of the meeting's highlights is the FREE orchid given to members turning in a questionnaire. Sixty blooming orchids, or in spike, will be distributed that night. No member family should go home empty handed.

So come and celebrate YOUR successful growing year, enjoy a fantastic pot-luck dinner and add one more orchid to your collection.

See you on December 18th.

Teresa

The following is an article taken from the American Orchid Society website. They have a checklist for what you need to be doing month by month to your orchids as well as a number of orchid related articles.

Killing Orchids: Dealing with the Inevitable

Larry Litwin

The following article first appeared in the June 1991 *American Orchid Society BULLETIN*, Volume 60

I have grown orchids for what seems like a long time, 17 years. My collection started as meagerly as you could imagine; single, standard-size, lavender *Cattleya* hybrid that was simply labeled "blue." I got it at a farmer's market in Syracuse, New York, for \$10.00. I grew that plant for about a year before it flowered. Once it did, all hope was lost. I began to purchase orchids with a vengeance. After all, "I now could grow and flower them." My collection swelled dramatically from that lone orchid. That lasted just over two years. An unexpected freeze dropped it back to one plant in a single night. Since then, the number of plants in my collection has varied between a low just under 20 and a high of several hundred. The collection now stands at around 75. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to grow orchids in climate-controlled growth chambers, greenhouses, outdoors, under lights and on windowsills. Throughout, I have managed to kill a lot of orchids. I feel qualified to offer reassurance to the beginner who has some apprehension. I would advise you not to worry. It might take some practice to get really good at it, but you can kill orchids!



Along with pests and diseases, root loss due to over or under-watering is one of the main causes of orchid deaths.

At first you will probably kill them mostly by accident. You will repot something at exactly the wrong time. You will both overwater and underwater. You will heavily fertilize a plant that is salt-intolerant. You will give shade lovers too much sun and sun lovers too much shade. This is unavoidable. Some mistakes will be made because you just didn't know any better. Others will occur because you followed well-intentioned advice which was inappropriate for your conditions.

Much of orchid growing depends on your experience. Experience takes time. You can't get everything you will need to know from reading. That is not to say that reading is not important. It most certainly is! However, while it is possible to illustrate clearly what sunburn looks like and to list most of the conditions which cause it, there will always be some peculiarity of your environment that was not discussed. This is the one that will get you. Until you happen to run into that one unusual, and perhaps rare, condition, you will have no way of knowing you are putting a plant into danger. Then all of a sudden sunburn will strike. You will probably be able to identify the cause, but it is doubtful that you could have anticipated it. This is experience. As the saying goes, "it must be seen to be appreciated." The more experience you have, the more mistakes you will have made, the more problems you will be able to anticipate and avoid.

Nonetheless, reading and talking to other growers is very important. Learning what has worked for other people is only one of the benefits. This also exposes you to considerations which may not have occurred to you otherwise. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands of good articles on orchid culture. There are bound to be a fair number of these that apply directly to the type of orchid to which you are attracted. By all means, read all of them that you can get your hands on. Unfortunately, you may find there may not be complete agreement among the experts, except concerning general cultural requirements. This is not to say that an expert won't offer very specific, and possibly emphatic advice. Moreover, usually that advice will be entirely accurate, if your conditions are exactly the same as those of that particular expert. Believe me, they almost certainly aren't! Your only recourse is to balance all advice against your experience with your own conditions. Find out why the advice is given. Determine the cause-and-effect basis for the advice. Then analyze how that relates to your situation and conditions. Modify the advice as necessary and apply it. You won't go too far wrong. The important thing is to understand the "why" of it rather than the "how" or "what." Above all, be prepared to make mistakes.

It is difficult to predict the effect of every environmental condition that you will encounter. It is often possible to gain a feel for what is going on in retrospect. Often you won't be able to remember much about past conditions by the time you observe an effect. It is impossible to observe and remember every fact that might have an effect on growth. It is likewise unreasonable to expect to be able to take daily measurements of every environmental variable that might be important. Still, it's much better to do something rather than nothing. My advice is to keep some sort of journal. It should be just detailed

enough to keep your interest but not so detailed that it becomes a chore. Don't get caught up in forcing yourself to make "standard entries" or to adhere rigidly to a specific set of observations. Your perception of what is meaningful will change over time. Use the journal as a scratch pad to record things that you notice about a particular plant, the general weather conditions, anything out of the ordinary or anything which you suspect might be important. Eventually, you will begin to recognize which factors are most important, how the individual conditions influence the plant and how these factors are related. You will probably find agreement with the general principles that you read about. The specifics will be unique to your conditions, your plants and your growing style. For the fine points, you're mostly on your own. Your success will depend on how closely you observe, on how much experience you have.

Experience has its downside, though. As you kill fewer plants by accident, your collection will grow in size and finally exceed carrying capacity. Everyone's does eventually. The carrying capacity for your collection is the number of plants that can be grown well, given your resources. Some resources are, more or less, infinite. For example, you can probably supply far more water than any collection of orchids will ever need. There are also resources that are finite. They are available in limited quantities. Examples of this type of resource are light (within a defined space), space and money. These types of resources can become limiting to growth as they are spread over an ever-increasing number of plants. For example, there might be space to squeeze one more orchid into a windowsill growing area that is already at capacity for light. The result will be that some plant(s) will get a little less light. Sometimes this small amount of change will be enough to push one or more plants into decline. At this point, light is limiting to growth. The collection is above carrying capacity. Of course it's never as simple as that. Changes in air circulation affect the rate of drying and the amount of COT available to the plant. Other factors may come into play. Even though the changes are nominal, a plant that is near the edge anyway might be pushed over.

At some point it will become impossible to squeeze any more plants into the available space and light. If money is not a limiting condition, you can expand the space that you have available. You could add some lights to a window area, build another growth chamber, add to the greenhouse or even build another greenhouse. Even with quite a lot of money, your collection will still exceed carrying capacity. One limiting resource that is often overlooked is the amount of time you have to devote to your collection. Though there are ways to become more efficient, sooner or later you will hit the wall. You won't be able to spend adequate time with your plants. If you ignore this limit, your orchids will suffer. You will experience an increase in the number of plants that you lose from disease or poor culture. It takes time to discover the outbreak of a pest in time to prevent damage. It takes vigilance to monitor the state of each plant. If you don't have enough time to do this kind of preventive maintenance, you will kill a lot more plants than necessary. The worst part of losing plants this way is that it is a random process. Your most favorite orchids go just as easily and as often as those you could live without. A good rule of thumb is that you should be able to give each plant a casual examination at least every third day and a detailed inspection twice a month.

To bring your collection back into balance once it has exceeded carrying capacity you will have to learn to kill (i.e., remove from your collection) orchids intentionally and reliably. While killing orchids by accident, inattention or carelessness is easy, it takes skill to do it deliberately. It requires a certain amount of dedication and discipline to develop a true executioner's spirit. Although a great deal has been written on growing orchids properly, there is little advice available on when and how to kill them appropriately. I will attempt to remedy that at least in part. Probably the most emotionally difficult way to eliminate an orchid is actually to kill it. Nonetheless, there are some plants that are so inferior that they must be destroyed. Others, suffering from poor health, might take an unacceptable share of the available resources to recuperate. Some may never recover no matter what is done. A plant may become infected with virus. Cultivate the ability to put this type of plant in the garbage can.

Next there are those plants that just don't measure up to personal preferences. They aren't bad enough to simply discard. They aren't good enough to keep. Terminate these plants by giving them to someone who wants to try growing an orchid. They might as well have something that is less than exquisite on

which to practice. More often than not, they will succeed in growing the plant, and you will have expanded that person's horizons. You will also have developed a valuable resource. Once hooked, this person will gladly take those plants which no longer interest you.

Another category covers those plants that are good enough to keep but for which there is no room. Sell these, usually at a high discount to ensure that they move. This partially covers the costs of new acquisitions. An alternative is to make them gifts to experienced orchid-growing friends. Unfortunately, most of their collections are probably at or above carrying capacity as well. An additional option is to use the plants in experiments designed to expand your skill in managing your collection. For example, when you think it is time to move the orchids outside for summering, set these out first as a test. When you decide to try a little more sun to see if you can boost growth even further, these are the plants to use. You can push these plants beyond any limit to determine more closely just where that limit is.

Obviously some of these plants won't make it, but their loss provides enough value in information to make it worthwhile. The knowledge gained might help prevent the loss of the 1 % or so that are truly irreplaceable. In my opinion, only the smallest percentage of the orchids available will be so good that their loss is tragic. If you look honestly at any large group of plants, you will find that, though each plant may be unique, most are relatively interchangeable. You can obtain another, equally good or even better, very easily. It would be catastrophic to kill one of these precious finds. Sacrificing a few lesser plants in experimentation is a small price to pay if it keeps even one of these exceptionally superior orchids alive. Obviously, the extraordinary orchids are the ones of which you keep multiple divisions. You will want to grow enough copies of these plants to insure against their complete loss. As these plants grow larger and begin to take up more space, variety will become increasingly important. After all, no matter how good an orchid is, you wouldn't want a collection composed of 100 identical plants. Disposing of these plants is probably the most perplexing problem of all. They are so good that you really would like to hang on to them, but you absolutely have more than enough divisions for safety. Plants such as these can usually be sold at a fairly good price. If they are really very excellent you might consider donating a division or two to a breeder or the national collection in Washington, D.C.

How do you determine which plants fit into which group? The exact balance that you determine will be strictly personal. My experience has shown three things. First, strict adherence to rules based on objective measurements do not work. For example, one rule that I tried to follow was "If it fails to bloom two years in a row, it's gone." Another was "If the flower doesn't last more than four weeks, it's history." These were logical, but there were too many exceptions. Second, subjective guidelines are not much better. I developed a way to rank orchids based on plant size, growth habit, frequency of bloom, size, number and quality of flowers, all estimated subjectively. These types of schemes are every bit as difficult to adhere to as vigorous objective standards. Third, no matter what your tastes and conditions are today, they will change. The composition of your collection will evolve to reflect your tastes and environment as these change over time.



Orchids with virus are not worth keeping. Their steady decline cannot be stopped and they may contaminate other orchids.

The only thing I have found that works is a very simple principle. I must accept that my time, abilities and resources are limited. I established a rigid restriction on the maximum size that my collection can attain. This limitation is not based on space occupied nor the number of plants in the collection. The sole criterion is the health of the plants taken as a whole. As long as I can grow all the plants well, there is no need to cull. The control comes into play whenever a resource becomes limiting to good growth. As soon as even one orchid suffers, the limit is reached and something has to go. I evaluate all the available plants in the collection and select those that can be removed. Exactly what I scrap depends on which factor is limiting and on the contribution of the individual plant. If I am running out of space I may go for the larger plants. However, the largest plant that I have is one that I refuse to include in the culling process. If it is time that is limited, I might target those plants that take the most time to care for properly. Again, there are plants that I would keep, no matter how much time they required. However, I force myself to reduce the collection to the extent necessary.

Eventually, with practice and dedication you will be able to kill enough orchids to maintain your collection at somewhat less than the absolute maximum possible. I try to keep about 10% of the available space free to "try out" new plants. Almost every orchidist has the never-ending craving for just one more. Resign yourself to the quest for the one that is just a little better. Keep looking, keep culling and don't fret too much over the ones you kill. It really can't be helped.

Current Officers for 2013 – 2014 Contact Information

President:	Teresa Nemeth	gardenguru@centurytel.net	440-233-8757
Vice President:	Wayne Roberts	rfs@orchidmix.com	440-236-5571
Treasure:	John Rini	jrini@sbcglobal.net	216-990-4960
Secretary:	Bob Galaska	emgalaska@hotmail.com	330-562-2943
Trustee:	Edgar Stehli	edgarstehli@sbcglobal.net	440-838-5757
Newsletter:	Chester Kieliszek	kieliszekc@ferro.com	330-467-3731
Librarian:	Allan Lund	allan.lund320@gmail.com	
Show Chairs:	Wayne Roberts & Chester Kieliszek		
Immediate Past President	Chester Kieliszek.		

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West Shore Orchid Society - Annual Survey – 2014

Please fill out and return at the December meeting with your renewal dues of \$20.00 per year per address or send to: John Rini, 6490 E. Vancey Dr., Brookpark, OH 44142. Please include this questionnaire.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Tel. _____

Email address _____

Please check areas where you would be willing to help. This isn't a commitment, but it is helpful to those organizing the events and making the phone calls.

Staff the WSOS booth at the Great Big Home & Garden Expo at the IX Center, Sat. Feb 8 through Sun. Feb 16. Shifts are 3 to 4 hours long. We schedule beginners with experienced growers. This is a fun event. Bring a friend and see the show.

Preferred times: _____ Day _____ Evening

Preferred days: _____ Weekday _____ Weekend

Help with the WSOS Orchid Show, Friday, March 7th, Saturday & Sunday, March 8-9 at the Strongsville Recreation Center.

- _____ Set-up backdrops & sales tables, **Friday 9:30 AM March 7**
- _____ Help exhibitors carry material ___ in on Friday, ___ out on Sun.
- _____ Help with West Shore display on Friday – begins at 11AM
- _____ Organize food for Friday
- _____ Contribute a food item, especially on Friday
- _____ Organize food for Saturday morning (juice, rolls, coffee)
- _____ Clerking Saturday, 7:30 AM to about 10 AM. Educational as well as fun.
- _____ Entrance table ___ Saturday ___ Sunday
- _____ Tear down Sunday evening 4 PM – about 2 hours

Help with the WSOS Displays:

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society show at the Cleveland Botanical Garden on February 15-16

_____ Set up on Friday, Feb 14, _____ Tear down on Sun, Feb 16

Greater Akron Orchid Society show at Donzell's in Akron on March 1-2

_____ Set up on Friday, February 28, _____ Tear down on Sun, March 2

Central Ohio Orchid Society show at Franklin Park, Columbus, March 29-30

_____ Set up on Friday, March 28, _____ Tear down on Sun, March 30

Orchid Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania show in Erie, PA, May 10-11

_____ Set up on Friday, May 9, _____ Tear down on Sun, May 11.