

WEST SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

JUNE 2012

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, June 20, 2012		
TIME	6:00 p.m.	Conversation: WSOS will provide drinks and sandwiches for the meeting.	
	6:30 p.m.	Since it's that time of year, Wayne Roberts will talk about summering your plants outside during the warm weather.	
	7:00 p.m.	Program: We will hold a question and answer session with a panel of growers to field any questions about growing orchids. If you bring in any plants for disease identification or bug problems, please put them in a sealed plastic bag to avoid passing a NOT so good thing around to other plants. Windswept in Time and Roberts Flower Supply will be bringing in plants for sale.	
PLACE	North Olmsted Community Cabin, 28114 Lorain Road, North Olmsted		

PROGRAM

SHOW TABLE Our show table was again fabulous in May. We had 59 plants brought in for display. June will be the next show table and I hope to see even more plants showing up for judging. The results from the judging are listed below. We would like to thank our judges, Dave Miller from the Greater Akron Orchid Society and Steve Frowine, our speaker, for their effort in making some tough decisions in picking this month's show table winners. If there are any errors, please let me know and adjustments will be made.

MAY SHOW TABLE WINNERS

GREENHOUSE Professional	First	Cyp plectrochilum	Wayne Roberts
	Second	Ascocentrum ampullaceum	Edgar Stehli
	Third	Max tenuifolis	Edgar Stehli
GREENHOUSE Amateur	First	Phrag Granor	Bill Cruces
	Second	Rossioglossum Grande	Bill Cruces
	Third	Phal No Name	John Rini
WINDOWSILL & UNDER LIGHTS	First	Paph villosum x spicerianum	Katherine Binder
	Second	Den Nobile type	Debbie Gotsch
	Third	Den Yellow Song 'Canary'	Amanda Hill
FEWER THAN 20 PLANTS	First	Phalaenopsis Unknown	Karen Nader
	Second	Pot Paradise Beauty 'Marcella'	Wilma Kelch
	Third	Brassia Rex	Christine Knott
BEST SPECIES		Ascocentrum ampullaceum	Edgar Stehli
BEST MINATURE		Rossioglossum Grande	Bill Cruces

SHOW TABLE STANDINGS FOR 2012

STANDINGS FOR 2012	Greenhouse: Pro	Points
	Edgar Stehli	60
	Wayne Roberts	58
	Greenhouse: Am	
	John Rini	58
	Bill Crus	27
	Under Lights/Windows:	
	Katherine Binder	28
	Pat Corbett	19
	Bob Lum King	17
	Jim Thompson	17
	Chester Kieliszek	16
	Alan Lund	12
	Debbie Gotsch	10
	Martha Bell	8
	Marolyn Smith	7
	Amanda Hill	7
	Teressa Nemeth	5
	Pam Everrett	4
	Colleen Croniger	1
	Rene M Doubrava	1
	Bob Galaska	1
	Less Than 20 Plants:	
	Anita Vergilii	18
	Karen Nader	17
	Barbara Brandon	10
	Marc Rothenberg	8
	Wilma Kelch	7
	Christine Knott	5

Thank you to all who brought in their blooming plants for our members to enjoy. For those of you who missed bringing in plants for the May Show Table you get another chance at the June meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to welcome the following new member to West Shore since our last meeting – Keith Alexander. Remember if you have a friend interested in growing plants bring them to one of our meetings to show them what orchids are all about. We are always looking for new members and this is one way to grow our membership which now stands at 89 members for 2012.

West Shore put up a display at the Orchid Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania Show. Pat Corbett, Marolyn Smith and Chester Kieliszek put up a display for West Shore on May 12th & 13th. We thank Marolyn Smith and Pat Corbett for setting up **and** bringing the plants and set up materials home from the show. We had 24 plants in the display representing a wide variety of orchids. We did very well as you can see from the attached list of winners. Our display won Best of Class for the third time this year due in part to all the well grown orchids supplied for the shows by our members. Thank you to all that helped with the Erie show as well as all the other shows we participated in this year.

ORCHID SOCIETY of NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SHOW WINNERS

Exhibit		Blue & Best of Class
Pat Corbett	Phal Maki Watenabe	Yellow
	Wils Aloha Sparks 'Halloween	Blue

	Pot Blazing Gold 'Hot Flash'	Yellow
	Slc Jewel Box 'Sheherazade'	Blue
	Wils Aloha Sparks 'Peles Glow'	Red
	Dtps Hsinying Little Voodoo 'Stripe x	
	Brother Little Hatter	Yellow
John Rini	Ascda Kuliaptee Fragrance	Blue
	Vanda Dr. Anek 'Bai'	Blue
	Onc sphacelatum	Red
	Phal No Name	Red
	Den densiflorum	Blue & Best of Class
	Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless'	Red
	Aer houllerianum	Blue
	Angcm Magdalenae 630-2	Blue
	Cat aurantiaca	Red
	Slc Love Castle 'Kurenai'	Yellow
	Vanda rothschildiana	Blue
Marolyn Smith	Paph No Name	Red
Chester Kieliszek	Phal Black Butterfly 'Orchis-01'	Red
	Lc Puppy Love 'True Beauty'	Blue
	Onc Pacific Paladium 'Pacific Lava'	Blue
	Epi Rioclarense	Yellow
	Phal Jiahos Pink Girl	Yellow

Included with the news letter is our current membership list. If there are any errors, please contact me at the meeting or email me at kieliszek@ferro.com and I will make the necessary corrections.

We now have 62 of our 89 members on email. Anyone not receiving a newsletter email and wanting one can request it by emailing Chester Kieliszek at kieliszek@ferro.com and I will put you on the email list.

December 31st is the end of the service time for our current officers. If anyone is interested in running for office, please contact Edgar Stehli, who is on the nominating committee Tel. 440-838-5757 and let him know the position you are interested in. Officers will be elected at our December meeting and will serve for two years.

Current Officers for 2011 - 2012

President:	Chester Kieliszek
Vice President:	Wayne Roberts
Treasure:	John Rini
Secretary:	Bob Galaska
Trustee:	Edgar Stehli
Newsletter:	Chester Kieliszek
Show Chairs:	Wayne Roberts & Chester Kieliszek
Immediate Past President	Chester Gordon

Edgar Stehli has informed me that Alan Lund has volunteered to be our new Librarian to manage our collection of orchid related books and videos. We are in the process of updating our current list of orchid related material to include the material donated by Al Gugeler's estate. Any member can borrow anything we have in our library.

A reminder, there will be no newsletter or meeting in July. Our next gathering will be our summer picnic and orchid auction tentatively set for Sunday, August 19th. We are again looking for plants for the auction and plant sale. We would like society members to donate repotted divisions, plants that have not bloomed, or plants that are not wanted anymore. We normally have a pretty good selection of plants at bargain prices for sale. Anything in bloom usually is auctioned off. So while you're now repotting, put a few divisions aside for the plant sale.

Windswept in time requested the following message be sent to the West Shore members:

Windswept in Time Orchids says, THANK YOU!

We have been in "tough economic times" since 9-11. Many people have lost their jobs, or had to live on less. The Orchid business is no different. The costs of running the business keep going up, and the sales remain flat, and the price of the plants remains the same. Only with hard work and expansion of the business are we able to keep from losing money during the year. Many orchid businesses have decided to close their doors in the past ten years. Lenette's Greenhouse, Cat Orchids, Summerfield Orchids, Windsong Orchids, just to name a few. Other businesses, like Oak Hill, are selling out.

The business world is an ever changing landscape. New types of orchids come and go, along with various companies selling them. But the people in the "orchid world" remain dedicated to learning more, doing better with their plants, and satisfying their curiosity. In short they are interesting people from all walks of life.

Most of you know Kim and I take our plants to shows to sell them. We also give lectures to societies and garden clubs. Twice a year we have an open-house, where we encourage orchid lovers to visit our green house. The Open-house we just finished was our BEST EVER! We had visitors from all over Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan; one group came from Maryland on their way to Michigan. Many visitors found the bargain tent irresistible with mature plants at just ten dollars. Others were looking for the odd or unusual plant to round out the collection. Most found something they had to add to the collection, after all, 'there is always room for one more'. Thank You for your support. We would not be in business without people like you.

Happy Growing,
Kim and Edgar Stehli
Windswept in Time Orchids

The following are answers to frequently asked questions taken from the American Orchid Society website.

Why are my orchid's leaves wrinkled and leathery?



This orchid has lost its roots, probably due to overwatering, and cannot take up water.

Shriveled leaves indicate a lack of water to plant tissue. The next step is to determine why the plant is not getting sufficient water. First, look at the roots. If they appear a healthy white or green and are plump, and the medium is in good shape, suspect under watering, especially if the roots are white and the pot is very light. If, on the other hand, the roots are in poor condition, suspect root loss. If the plant has no roots, it cannot take up any water, no matter how much you give it. In this case, the cause may be root loss owing to overwatering or medium deterioration, or a recently repotted and poorly established plant. The immediate solution is to raise humidity in the plants' vicinity to reduce stress on whatever roots there may be, and then deal with whether to repot or to simply wait until the plant establishes in the fresh medium.

Why won't my orchid re-bloom?



Like all plants, orchids require sufficient light in order to produce flowers.

Insufficient light is the most common cause of failure to re-bloom your orchid. Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom.

How do I water my orchid?



Use a pencil or wooden skewer to determine whether an orchid needs to be watered.

Avoid overwatering which leads to the demise of many more orchids than under watering. Constant wetness will cause the roots to rot, which leaves the plant without a means for taking up nourishment which then causes the leaves to droop and will eventually kill the plant. The classic advice is to water the day before the plant dries out. If you have to let the plant go dry to figure out what a dry plant weighs, it will not kill the plant and will make you a better grower. Another measure is to use the pencil trick (the point of a sharpened pencil, when inserted into the medium, will darken with moisture if the plant has enough water). And, there's always the old standby - put your finger in the mix. If it feels wet, it is wet. If you aren't sure whether it is time to water, wait one more day.

"Evenly moist," while the most commonly given advice on watering, is the least easily explained. Because most plants are grown in plastic containers a good diagnosis is the weight of the plant: heavy - does not need watering; light - does require water. With a little practice, one can easily tell the amount of moisture remaining in the container.

Water your orchid early in the morning. This insures complete water evaporation on the foliage as well as the crown by nightfall. If your home is very warm or has low humidity you will most likely need to water more often. The best place to water your plant is in the kitchen sink. Use lukewarm water (do not use salt softened or distilled water) and water your plant for about 15 seconds and be sure to thoroughly wet the media. Then allow the plant to drain for about 15 minutes. It may appear dry but it has had enough water. After the plants are watered, they should be placed so that the pots do not stand in water. Some people like to place the pots on "humidity trays" or in trays or saucers of gravel or pebbles and water. The pot is placed on the pebbles above the water line. This helps to insure that the base of the pot

is not immersed in water, increases humidity for the plant, and provides some air circulation under the pot.

How do I feed my orchid?



Experienced orchid growers fertilize their orchids weakly, weekly.

Orchids need to be fed regularly. Growers suggest using a "balanced" fertilizer such as 20-20-20 that includes all "necessary trace elements." Regardless of the fertilizer formulation you choose to use, it should contain little or no urea. If you are unsure of what fertilizer to use, you can generally use any fertilizer you would for your other container plants. Orchids will do far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. Many growers recommend the "weakly, weekly" approach, applying a dilute (1/4 strength) fertilizer each time they water, rather than applying a full dose once a month. Also, it is best not to fertilize a completely dry plant as the fertilizer can burn the dry roots. Water first then follow with fertilizer solution.

Where do I cut the flower spike when it is finished?



Phalaenopsis will often produce a secondary flush of flowers from a node on the inflorescence.

Of all of the more commonly available orchids, only *Phalaenopsis* (the moth orchid) will re-bloom from its old spike. *Phalaenopsis* will generally re-bloom given a little extra care. When the last flower fades, you can leave the spike (stem) on and it will still continue flowering but the stem gets very ungainly and the flowers get smaller. Some people believe it is best to cut off the stem entirely at the base where it comes out of the leaves, and it will bloom again in several months. You can also cut off the stem leaving two nodes (those little brown lines on the stem below where the flowers were) on the stem. One of these nodes will then initiate and generally produce flowers within eight to 12 weeks. Younger or weaker plants may not rebloom and some *Phalaenopsis* are genetically incapable of reblooming from the old spike. These are usually those that flower with branched spikes. It's always worth a try. Orchids, like animals, are susceptible to viruses, so whenever cutting an orchid plant always use a sterile tool to prevent the spread of virus. A straight edged razor blade is a good tool to use for cutting flower spikes.