

WEST SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

JUNE 2013

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, June 19, 2013	
TIME	6:00 p.m.	Conversation, Show Table plant registration.
	6:30 p.m.	In our Culture Corner, Wayne Roberts will talk about and demonstrate the repotting of orchids.
	7:00 p.m.	Edgar Stehli will share tips on how to get the most out of your WSOS membership. We will also have a panel of experts answer any questions you have about your orchids.
PLACE	North Olmsted Community Cabin, 28114 Lorain Road, North Olmsted	

PROGRAM

SHOW TABLE	Our show table was again fabulous in May. We had 51 plants show up for judging. We started a new contest with the February meeting, so bring in your plants for judging. Again, you earn 10 points for 1 st , 6 for 2 nd and 4 for 3 rd place winners. You also can win 8 points each for best species or best miniature. Anyone bringing in a plant receives 1 point for each plant brought to the show table and registered. Remember, our goal for 2013 is to get 100% participation, we are at 23%.
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ORCHID CALENDER

WSOS Meeting

When Sunday August 18, 2013 – 12:00 PM Conversation, 1:00 PM Picnic, 2:00 PM Orchid Auction

Where Columbia Park – Rte 82 and W. River Road

Description We will have all the details for our annual picnic and plant auction in the August newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY SHOW TABLE WINNERS

GREENHOUSE Professional	First	Den farmer - <i>Thrysisiflorum</i>	Edgar Stehli
	Second	<i>C. skinneri</i>	Edgar Stehli
	Third	<i>Chilochista parishii</i>	Wayne Roberts
GREENHOUSE Amateur	First	<i>Onc sphacelatum</i>	John Rini
	Second	<i>Onc brassidium</i>	John Rini
	Third	<i>Paph Berenice</i>	John Rini
WINDOWSILL & UNDER LIGHTS	First	<i>Den aggregatum</i>	Debbie Gotsch
	First	<i>Epc Don Herman</i>	Pat Corbett
	First	<i>Paph sukhakulii x Hilo Glory</i>	Katherine Binder
	Second	<i>Enc GA Rabbit</i>	Pat Corbett
	Second	<i>Dtps Mount Lip</i>	Pam Everett
	Third	<i>Enc cordigera</i>	Robert Catino
Third	<i>Paph Enlightened Wings</i>	Bob Galaska	

FEWER THAN 20 PLANTS	First Second Third	Phal Beauty Sheena Phal Hybrid Sigmatostalix Marinii	Jerry Echols Anita Vergilii Barb Brandon
BEST SPECIES		Den amethystoglossum	Edgar Stehli
BEST MINATURE		Chiloschista lunifera	Wayne Roberts

SHOW TABLE STANDINGS FOR 2013

STANDINGS FOR 2013	Greenhouse: Pro	Points
	Edgar Stehli	64
	Wayne Roberts	39
	Greenhouse: Am	
	John Rini	77
	Under Lights/Windows:	
	Bob Lum King	47
	Pat Corbett	35
	Allan Lund	32
	Debbie Gotsch	25
	Katherine Binder	18
	Darryl & Pam Everett	14
	Chester Kieliszek	14
	Bob Galaska	11
	Dave Miller	2
	Mel Goldstein	1
	Cheryl Nader	1
	Jim Thompson	1
	Less Than 20 Plants:	
	Anita Vergilii	21
	Jerry Echols	11
	Keith Alexander	5
	Barb Brandon	5
	Robert Catino	5

Thank you to all who brought in their blooming plants for our members to enjoy on the show table and good luck with this year's contest.

Allan Lund, Bob Galaska, Pat Corbett, Marolyn Smith and myself drove to Erie for set up of the Orchid Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania Show. A big thanks goes out to Pat Corbett and Marolyn Smith who drove to Erie, PA for both set up and tear down and brought all the display material and plants back. Everyone did a very nice job as the West Shore display took first place and Best of Class. Listed below are all the winning plants. We took 22 ribbons with 26 entries. Congratulations again go to John Rini whose Vanda *dives* won an AOS Certificate of Botanical Recognition. It displayed with 1,190 flowers on it.

I would like to welcome the following new member to West Shore since the last newsletter went out – Dorothy Heger. To keep our society growing bring a friend who likes growing things to our next meeting and introduce them to the wonderful world of orchids.

We now have 73 of our current 87 members who renewed or joined West Shore 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.

From the President's desk,

Dear members,

Have you wondered why your particular orchid won't bloom or re-bloom? Why are some leaves crinkled or limp? What are these brown spots on the leaves and what has caused them? My leaves have brown bumps on them, what is that about?

By popular request the June 19th WSOS meeting will be a meeting focused on YOUR PLANTS and YOUR QUESTIONS.

We will begin at 6:30 pm with a repotting workshop. Wayne Roberts will teach about timing, potting media, sanitation, and dividing your plants. Bring YOUR PLANTS you have questions about repotting and dividing.

Edgar Stehli will share tips on how to get the most out of your WSOS membership.

The evening continues with our expert panel of professional growers answering your questions and diagnosing your plant's possible problems. Playing doctor you might say. Therefore, we need YOU to bring in your plants and whatever their malaise. We can all learn from this show and tell, but we need your plants to diagnose. (If you suspect you may have an insect problem, please bring that plant in a separate plastic bag.)

No malaise? Bring your orchid culture questions for this session is all about you.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Remember guests are welcome--if you have a friend who enjoys orchids, bring them along.

Teressa

PS: A special THANK YOU to everyone who has brought in snacks this year. Our food table looks as great as our show table! While bringing a dish is strictly voluntary, please consider taking a turn at least once a year.

Under the category of "Things I learned while looking up other stuff"; The pouches of all lady slipper species are a constant compromise of size and shape. Too big--the insect pollinator will escape, too small; the insect will not be trapped. Each species of Cypripedium, Paph., Phrag., Selenipedium and Mexipedium HAS IT'S OWN pollinator or set of pollinators who must be satisfied in order for the ladyslipper species to survive.

ORCHID SOCIETY of NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SHOW WINNERS

Exhibit		Blue, Best of Class
Bob Galaska	Bllra Marfitch 'Howard Dream'	Blue
John Rini	Blc Ronald Hausermann 'Elmhurst'	Blue, Best of Class
	Lc Time-Life x Blc Lisa Irene 'Melinda'	Red
	Blc Mem Grant Eichler 'Lennette'	White
	Paph Berenice	Blue
	Ascda Suksamran Beauty 'Bubblicious'	Blue
	Ascda Hybrid	Red
	Vanda dives	Blue, Best of Class, CBR/AOS
	Den amethystoglossum	Blue
	Onc Hybrid	Blue
Allan Lund	Encyclia Serena O'Neill	White
	Phal cornu-cervi	Blue
	Phal Hybrid	Blue

Pat Corbett	Milt Bert Field 'Eileen'	White
	Don Hermann	Red
	Enc Ga Rabbit	Red
	Iwan Apple Blossum	Red
	Mtdm Pacific Waters 'Paulie Pride'	Red
	Den Pegasus	Blue
Chester Kieliszek	Cym Pearl Easter 'McBeans'	Red
	Paph sukhakulii	Blue

Current Officers for 2013 – 2014 Contact Information

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Show Chairs:	Wayne Roberts & Chester Kieliszek		
Immediate Past President	Chester Kieliszek.		

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BEGINNERS SERIES

Orchid Culture — 2 — Growing Outdoors and in Windows

STEPHEN R. BATCHELOR

ALL ORCHID HOBBYISTS are faced with the challenge of finding – or creating - a suitable environment in which to grow orchids. Those new to the hobby don't usually build a greenhouse overnight, and with good reason, considering both the initial expense of materials and labor, and the astronomic heating costs now involved in maintenance. It is not surprising that a large proportion of today's growers, novices and veterans alike, choose one of the other less expensive alternatives for cultivating orchids. With some ingenuity and persistence, conditions conducive to the growing and flowering of orchids can be achieved anywhere - from below ground level to the tops of tall buildings, inside under entirely artificial light, or outdoors in a more natural setting.

OUTDOORS

Most of us live in areas which afford some months of the year appealing to both humans and orchids. Common sense would suggest taking advantage of what nature can provide by placing the plants outdoors during this time. It could be on a balcony or roof, if you live in an apartment building, or in the yard, deck or patio, if you live in a house. The orchids usually respond positively, whether you grow on windowsills, under lights, or even in a greenhouse, during the more inclement times of the year. During my years of growing orchids in Florida, I was always amazed by the improved growth and flowering of my plants when they were taken out of the greenhouse and grown outdoors after the threat of cold temperatures in the spring. In the patio or hanging in trees in the backyard, the plants received far superior air circulation, lower daytime temperatures, and the beneficial rains of those notorious Floridian downpours.

If you are not so fortunate as to have warm weather year around, but you do intend to grow your orchids outdoors at least part of the year, act conservatively. In the spring, wait until warmer weather is assured (night temperatures not much lower than 50°F) — you could easily save yourself a good deal of frantic effort which might be necessary to protect your orchids from a sudden cold snap. Orchids, like humans, become conditioned to their surroundings. Therefore be wary of the radically different conditions of the outdoors. Even some of the highlight-requiring vandaceous genera will surely burn if suddenly taken from

the relatively shaded environment of a greenhouse or the indoors into the bright, unfiltered sunlight of a late spring day. After all, people burn too! Unfortunately with orchids unsightly burned areas do not necessarily peel or fall off, and they can drastically reduce photosynthesizing capacity. Provide some temporary additional shading until the plants have had a chance to acclimate, then gradually remove it, watching carefully for any adverse reaction. Watering schedules which are fairly routine and unvarying indoors will be jarred beyond recognition outdoors. Watering needs will very likely be more frequent and more erratic due to the greater variation of conditions outdoors. Daily attention will be necessary until an adjustment is made to outdoor growing, both by your plants, and by yourself with respect to your own habits in caring for your orchids. Though the vandaceous genera, once acclimated, can be grown with little protection from the sun, provided they receive compensating levels of water, most other popular genera will need some shading outdoors. This can be provided by trees or other plant life, or by means of conventional shading materials such as the slats of a lath house-type construction, saran screening, fiberglass, etc. Plants can be shifted and shading altered until a proper level of light is reached, one that causes no burning and is in balance with other cultural factors that you or nature will provide. Orchids generally benefit from being off the ground, both in terms of enhanced circulation and perhaps in a lessening of pest and disease activity. Makeshift benches, hangers for trees, or some more substantial arrangement can accomplish this end.

With the approach of fall and winter and their inexorable cold, caution is again the key. Many of the widely grown genera of orchids, particularly cymbidiums, *Dendrobium nobile* and its hybrids, paphiopedilums, and even phalaenopsis, respond to the cooler nights of fall by slowed growth and, eventually, flowering. Though these orchids should be exposed to those beneficial early fall nights in the 50's F, for safety's sake all plants should be brought indoors before the chance of even an unexpected frost exists, and before night temperatures drop much below 50°F. This precaution allows the time, too, for a last good cleaning and spraying of your orchids outdoors, so that you do not inadvertently bring some of nature's less desirable creatures indoors!

There are a number of successful indoor orchid growers who very justifiably assert that "summering" orchids outdoors is not worth the additional effort and exposure to pests and diseases. Nevertheless, the favorable response of orchids to this treatment is a well-known fact, and it is worth the consideration of the beginner, especially if the collection involved is but a small one.

WINDOWS

Once nature turns a cold shoulder on you and your orchids, and the outdoors becomes once more an inhospitable place, where can your plants survive, even prosper, within the confines of your home? A logical place would be at the windows, where the sun can still shine but the cold not penetrate. Choose the windows which receive the most direct sunshine, those facing east, west, and south (particularly during wintertime in the northern hemisphere). In the event of too much light, shading can always be applied. Direct sunshine at least for a couple hours of the day is essential for adequate growth and flowering of orchids, even for the more shade-loving genera, unless the level of indirect light is very high (*e.g.*, a tall, north window, or a skylight, with a good deal of transmitting surface facing the sky itself).

A confined area receiving sunlight from windows facing two directions or more is best because of the prolonged period of direct sunlight resulting, and because of the convenience of being able to separate the area off from the rest of the living space, allowing better control of growing conditions. The smaller the space for growing indoors, the easier it is to maintain an acceptable level of humidity. I am surrounded, as I write, by an excellent example of this principle. My office, located on the southwest corner of the third floor of the American Orchid Society offices here in Cambridge, Massachusetts, receives no less than 6 hours of blinding sunlight each sunny day through an L-shaped window area. If I were not occupying this space and attempting to do some work, I could easily transform the small area into nearly greenhouse conditions simply by closing the door, pulling up the blinds and opening the window slightly for ventilation. As it is, I prefer not to sit at my desk in a perpetual sweat wearing sunglasses, despite the fact that it has been below 0°F too many days to count this winter! In spite of my desperate tampering with the blinds in order to preserve a patch of cooler shade on my desk, and the less-than-ideal humidity

which is the best that wet gravel in trays can accomplish in a room opened to a larger, heated office space, the orchids in my windows are doing quite well, even at times astonishingly well. It was a rare event, in my experience, to have two flower spikes simultaneously on an ascocenda, even in the bright sunshine of a Floridian summer. However, this is the case with an ascocenda I have here in my office. Likewise, a mixed collection of other vandaceous genera, *Cattleya* alliance hybrids, oncidiums, catasetums, and a calanthe, are all growing successfully.

It should not come as a revelation, then, to hear that many a porch has been converted into a productive "indoor greenhouse". If you have a porch or sunroom, by all means make use of it! If you don't, you can install one of the many "window greenhouses" available to hobbyists and achieve the same or better conditions, on a smaller scale (read Mary Helleiner's detailed article on window greenhouses in the December 1980 BULLETIN). Orchids in pots need a surface on which to rest, indoors as well as outdoors, and most conventional windowsills need some minor modification for this purpose. Metal braces attached to the sills at one-foot intervals very adequately support 18-inch-wide, 1 1/2-inch-deep, 4-foot-long trays filled with gravel and covered with orchids, here at the Cambridge office. These trays were purchased at a local garden center separate from the tiered light garden for which they were originally intended. As a very necessary feature they each have a plug which can be removed for drainage (in our case, into carefully placed buckets) when watering. The porous gravel, also purchased locally, not only keeps the orchids out of any residual water in the tray but also is a significant source of humidity, particularly on sunny days when the sunlight greatly raises its temperature. In a confined area, the humidity from such a source is perhaps sufficient, but if you grow or intend to grow in a larger room of your home, consider one of the many humidifiers on the market today. On the other hand, a confined area is more likely to need additional ventilation, or the circulation created by a fan. Air, particularly humid air, should be in constant circulation for the general health of your orchids, and to lessen the incidence of disease. If you are not so fortunate as to have large, sunny windows in your homes, why not supplement the existing light with artificial light — or depend entirely on man's invention? Orchids can be grown successfully under lights, and there exists a well-developed technology and technique to support you in such an endeavor. The next article for this series will deal with this ingenious alternative for growing orchids. — 84 Sherman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140.

SAVE THE DATE: ORCHIDS 'N ART OCTOBER 19-20, 2013

Have you ever thought of attending a Mid-America Orchid Congress? The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society & the Miami Valley Orchid Society will host the Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress at the Dayton Art Institute October 19-20, 2013.

The host societies are planning a fantastic weekend for those who register. In addition to AOS judged exhibits and regional vendors, interesting lectures by nationally recognized speakers have been scheduled. Holger Perner will present two lectures: "Paphiopedilum-Their Culture & Propagation" and "Dendrobiums of China." Chris Purver from the Eric Young Orchid Foundation will discuss Oncidiinae; Erich Michel's topic is "Anomalies within the Genus Phalaenopsis". Special presentations of the Congress will be "Orchids in Art and Illustration" by Angela Mirro & "Orchid Photography" by Lynn O'Shaughnessy.

Don't miss the gala banquet and the fun-filled auction on Saturday night

The topic to be discussed at the Affiliated Societies Breakfast is "Energize Your Local Society by Utilizing the Resources of MAOC."

Registration information will be on the Mid-America Orchid Congress web-site.

www.midamericanorchids.org The host hotel is the Crowne Plaza Hotel (\$109 plus tax per night.) Registrants can enjoy a Preview Party on Friday night. Additional events offered to registrants & spouses include tours of the Dayton Art Institute & the Museum of the United States Air Force.