

# WEST SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

## OCTOBER 2012

NEXT MEETING Wednesday, October 17, 2012

TIME 6:00 p.m. Conversation: WSOS will provide sandwiches and drinks for the meeting. Anyone wishing to bring goodies in is more than welcome too.

6:30 p.m. Edgar Stehli will demonstrate how to stake your inflorescences to make your plants look their best for the up coming show season.

7:00 p.m. Program: Russ Vernon, owner of New Vision Orchids and an AOS judge will speak on the culture and care of Phalaenopsis. Russ grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Early on he had an interest in plants, helping in the yard and growing cacti purchased with his allowance. His parents and grandparents were all interested in various aspects of horticulture.

When Russ was 12 years old, his uncle arrived with 6 orchids saying, "If you can grow those darned cacti, you ought to be able to grow these." And a career was launched.

Russ is a graduate of Ohio State University majoring in horticulture/floriculture. He has worked for Orchid by Hausermann, A&P Orchids, Ball State University and the Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank, and Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield the Cat.

In 2004, Russ and his wife Anita started New Vision Orchids. The company specializes in Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums and their intergenerics, Miltoniopsis and Lycastes. The biggest area of focus is hybridizing and of course, wholesale and retail sales.

Russ is a judge of the American Orchid Society and is past President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance and committee chair of the Conservation Committee, Mid-America Orchid Congress. He and Anita have two daughters.

Russ would be happy to take pre orders. Members should email him to make sure what they want is still available. If it isn't, he can offer alternatives. Email address: [newvisionorchids.com](mailto:newvisionorchids.com)

PLACE North Olmsted Community Cabin, 281 14 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

### PROGRAM

SHOW TABLE There was no show table at the August picnic, but there are three more show tables left this year so it is still anyone's race to win 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 October show table. Everyone in attendance enjoys seeing the different orchids in everyone's collections and besides that you earn points for the annual contest.

# ORCHID CALENDER

## Illinois Orchid Society Show

When Oct 13 – 14, 2012

Where Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL

Description Contact: Rose Matchen 38374 N. 9th St. Spring Grove, IL 60081 847-587-6525

[goldrosey@att.net](mailto:goldrosey@att.net)

## Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Show and Plant Sale

When Oct 20 – 21, 2012

Where Krohn Conservatory, 1501 Eden Park Dr., Cincinnati, OH

Description Contact: Patricia June, (513) 265-2074; [rogerjune@aol.com](mailto:rogerjune@aol.com)

## Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Fall Festival

When Oct 20 – 21, 2012

Where Phipps Garden Center, 1059 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh, PA

Description Contact: Virginia Mortimer 1122 Park Ave., Tarentum, PA 15804 724-224-4012

[vmortimer@comcast.net](mailto:vmortimer@comcast.net)

## Kansas City Orchid Expo & Sale and Mid-America Orchid Congress Fall Meeting

When Oct 27 – 28, 2012

Where Hilton Garden Inn, 19677 East Jackson Dr, Independence, MO

Description More details <http://kcorchidshow.org/> Contact; Mark & Joy Prout 816-478-7087

[paphphal@att.net](mailto:paphphal@att.net)

Guest speakers for the Mid-America Orchid Congress:

Ed DeVogel, PH.D. Bulbophyllums of New Guinea, Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

Dendrobiums of New Guinea, Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

Mary Gerritsen, PH.D. Selected Masdevallia Species & How to Grow Them, Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

Thomas Miranda - Orchid Travels in Costa Rica, Banquet lecture, Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

## Open House - Windswept in Time Orchids

When Saturday & Sunday Nov 3 – 4, 2012 - 11:00 to 5:00 both days

Where Edgar and Kim Stehli's greenhouse, 8066 Skyline Drive, Broadview Hts. Tel. 440- 838-5757.

Description This is just west and north of the Wallings Rd. and I-77 interchange.

**November 15** – Added West Shore meeting will feature Edgar Stehli who will speak on Bulbophyllums

## Open House - Robert's Flower Supply

When Friday & Saturday Dec. 7 – 8 & Saturday Dec 15, 2012

Where Wayne & Nancy Robert's greenhouse, 12390 Root Rd., Columbia Station, OH Tel. 440-236-5571.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PICNIC

Our annual picnic and auction was held on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful summer day with an abundance of food and orchids. We had 52 people attend and Chef John Rini grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and Bob Galaska boiled sweet corn which Chester Gordon had brought to the picnic. Everyone else provided us with an assortment of food. A large number of orchids were donated for the sales table which were sold at great prices. Thanks to all who donated plants and to Edgar Stehli for handling the plant sale. A big thanks also goes out to Wayne Roberts again for obtaining the impressive orchids for the auction. Again, thanks to all who attended.

## SHOW TABLE STANDINGS FOR 2012

STANDINGS FOR 2012	<b>Greenhouse: Pro</b>	<b>Points</b>
	Edgar Stehli	92
	Wayne Roberts	65
	<b>Greenhouse: Am</b>	
	John Rini	93
	Bill Cruce	27
	<b>Under Lights/Windows:</b>	
	Katherine Binder	38
	Pat Corbett	21
	Teressa Nemeth	19
	Bob Lum King	17
	Jim Thompson	17
	Chester Kieliszek	17
	Alan Lund	16
	Debbie Gotsch	11
	Pam Everett	10
	Martha Bell	8
	Marolyn Smith	7
	Amanda Hill	7
	Dan Dolney	6
	Colleen Croniger	1
	Rene M Doubrava	1
	Bob Galaska	1
	Mary Beth Mansour	1
	<b>Less Than 20 Plants:</b>	
	Marc Rothenberg	22
	Barbara Brandon	22
	Anita Vergilii	19
	Karen Nader	17
	Wilma Kelch	7
	Christine Knott	5

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: Sharon Coghlan who becomes our 94<sup>th</sup> member of the year.

We now have 69 of our 94 members on email. Anyone not receiving a newsletter email and wanting one can request it by emailing Chester Kieliszek at [kieliszekc@ferro.com](mailto:kieliszekc@ferro.com) and I will put you on the email list.

We are still looking for people interested in running for office to take over some of the West Shore leadership as the two year term for the current officers' ends at the end of the this year. If you are interested, contact one of the current officers, or Edgar Stehli, head of our nominating committee. We would like to announce the candidates at the November meeting as voting will take place at the December meeting.

It is with great sadness that I bring the news of Chester Gordon's passing. Chester passed away suddenly on September 16, 2012. He was a long time West Shore member (since 1972) and immediate past President. He helped a great deal with registration at our shows. He loved growing orchids and will be missed by all.

I am also sad to say that Lynn Michaels recently lost her son Aaron in an accident.

## **TAYLOR ORCHIDS – BIG CLEARANCE SALE**

Ron Ciesinski has been growing orchids for over 50 years, and commercially as the owner of Taylor Orchids for 25 years. After much thought Ron has decided it is time to scale back the greenhouses to a more manageable (semi-retired) size. Therefore he will be reducing his inventory again this year as he did last year. He will have one greenhouse with over 1,000 plants on sale. Regular inventory plants will be marked at \$10, \$15, \$20 & \$25. He will also have some rare orchids and stock plants tagged at 25% off. Some plants may only have one or two available. At this time Ron still plans to continue to grow and sell orchids.

Ron Ciesinski - Taylor Orchids

3022 Bluebush

Monroe, MI 48162

734-243-0180

Saturday, Oct. 6 - 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday, Oct. 7 - 10 am to 2 pm

### **Phragmipedium Kovachii**

**By Edgar Stehli**



Most of you know about the discovery of *Phragmipedium Kovachii* just ten years ago. Not only was it perhaps the most significant orchid find of the previous few decades, but also the most controversial. For those of you who may have forgotten or perhaps never knew, I'll touch on a few of the details.

The year was 2001 and Michael Kovach was in Peru gathering orchids to bring back to his business in Virginia called Southwind Orchids. Michael met up with a friend of his named Lee Moore, who also traded orchids. Lee told Michael he had a new plant for him that would make him famous. Michael purchased the plants, got them all cleaned up and brought them back to the United States. He came through customs in Miami Florida and drove straight to Selby Botanical Garden with his new find. As luck would have it all the right people were in attendance. The orchid bloomed, was described to science and published in the "Selbyana" magazine on June 12, 2002. The name of the new orchid was *Phragmipedium Kovachii*. The flower was a hot-pink to purple color and much larger than any other *Phragmipedium* species, almost five inches across.

Now, if that was the end of the story, Michael would have been famous in the orchid world. However, there was another chapter or two ahead. A few weeks before Michael brought the orchid to the Selby Gardens for identification Eric Christenson also found the orchid and wrote up a description and sent the article off to the American Orchid Society for publication in the Orchids Magazine. The AOS magazine has about a six week lead time for publication. So, to make a long story a little shorter, Selby published first although Eric Christenson wrote the description first. The rules state that the first published description of a new species is the name that sticks, all others are synonyms. The end result is that the name is *Phrag. Kovachii*, or is it?

Here is where the story gets ugly. The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) states that all slipper orchids are on the list of plants that require both export permits from the exporting country and import permits from the receiving country. Unfortunately Michael didn't get them. He figured, "How can the plant be declared endangered before it is described to science?" A legitimate question if you ask me. But as we all know rules are made to be followed, no matter how stupid they may

be. So this got Michael Kovach and the Selby Botanical Gardens into a lot of trouble. Michael got two years probation and a thousand dollar fine. The Gardens and others didn't get off quite so easily. Legal fees were estimated at \$200,000. Fines were paid, and reputations lost. Although part of the legal judgment was to rename the orchid, the U.S. legal system has no authority in the area of plant nomenclature.

All of this brings me to the latest and final chapter of the long saga. Many of you know The Greater Cleveland Orchid Society brought Eric Christenson up to speak two and a half years ago. You may also know the West Shore Orchid Society brought Michael Kovach up to speak in 2003. The Greater Akron Orchid Society and the combined show of WSOS/GCOS at Southpark Mall both had Southwind Orchids (Michael) as one of the vendors. Sadly, Eric Christenson passed away in April 2011. Michael Kovach just lost his battle with cancer August 26, 2012. Both men were known for their strong opinions, and personalities, and both were an asset to the orchid community, I will miss them both.

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.

## Monthly Checklist for September and October



*Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the green swan orchid.

### **Cattleya**

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.



Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

### **Cycnoches**

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

### **Cymbidium**

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.



*Dendrobium Burana Stripe* is a popular and easy phalaenopsis-type hybrid.

### **Dendrobium**

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

### **Rhynchostele biconiensis**

Both *Rhynchostele biconiensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele biconiensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum*, *Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in Odcdm. Bittersweet and Odm. bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

## **Paphiopedilum**

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

## **Phalaenopsis**

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

## **Rossioglossum grande**

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.



*Rossioglossum grande* shows off its large, dramatic flowers.