

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

November Speaker

Our speaker on November 9 is Ed Hoyas, who will be talking about "Growing Paphs Under Lights".

Ed lives in Monroe, Michigan with his wife Paula. He has been growing orchids for about 12 years but has been involved with the hobby for about 17 years. Ed's primary interests are paphiopedilum rothschildianum and leucochilum. His annual orchid trips typically include the Paph. Symposium in Orlando and the Paph. Guild in California, where Ed has been exposed to growers such as Jason Fisher, Sam Tsui, Olaf Grus, Hadley Cash, Terry Root,

Continued on page 2.

President's Message

So what does it take to get an AOS award on your orchid? Think you may have one that is worthy? Or would you simply like to see pretty pictures of newly awarded orchids? For answers to these questions, please come out to the Great Lakes Judging Center at Matthaei Gardens. We meet in Room 125 on the third Saturday of each month. Official AOS judging starts at 1:00 p.m., but we usually have an educational session starting around 11:00 a.m. Sometimes it's one of the judges with a short talk, other times it's pictures of recently award orchids from around the country.

This month on November 15 we have Fred Clark speaking on judging the Catasetum alliance. The talk should start around noon, right after our business meeting.

December 20 will be even more fun! It's our annual Bizarre Bazaar & Open House starting at 11:00 a.m. Lots of Orchids, Holiday Decorations & other items will be auctioned off to support the judging center. It's your chance to get some interesting items

Continued on Page 2.

In this Issue

November Speaker.....	1
President's Message.....	1
Show Update.....	2
Join Us for Lunch.....	2
Holiday Party.....	2
Newsletter deadline.....	3
AAOS Calendar.....	3
Officers.....	3
October Plant Table.....	4
Blast from the Past—September 1998.....	5
Travel Fun.....	7
Membership form.....	8

November speaker, cont. from page 1.

Nick Tannaci, Frank Smith, Fred Clark, June Hill, H.P Norton and others. Each of them has provided valuable information that has bettered his growing ability. Ed has also traveled to the recent WOC in Miami and Tokyo Orchid Show which he strongly recommends.

Welcome Ed!



Join Us!

We are taking Ed out before the meeting on Sunday, November 9 at noon. We are meet-

ing at Applebees on Green Road. RSVP to Denise via email: djnash@comcast.net or phone me at 248-349-5482 so we have some idea of numbers.



Show Update

Our next orchid show is the Saginaw Valley Orchid Society show on Thanksgiving weekend in Midland. Set up is Friday, November 28 and tear down is Sunday November 30. Please arrange your calendar to be available on one of these two dates to help with set up or tear down. Or both! It's always great fun!

Volume 16 Issue 8

President's message, cont. from page 1.

at a good price! And of course there will be plenty of edibles.

As our November speaker will be talking on growing under lights, the articles on artificial light culture have been postponed - in the mean time I dug out an article written by Sean Eaton on a talk given to us by Ron Ciesinski 10 years ago this fall.

Alex



Holiday Party

The annual Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 14th, at noon at Vivian's house (710 Watershed Drive, Ann Arbor, MI, 48105). Bring your blooming plants to show off, and a dish to pass!

In case of a blizzard (like we had last year--wasn't sure we were going to be able to get Linda's car unstuck!), the make-up date will be December 21, same time and place.



November 2008

AAOS Calendar



November 9: Ed Hoyas, Growing Paphs under Lights

December 14: Holiday Party at Vivian Lin's home. 710 Watershed Dr., Ann Arbor 48105

January 11, 2009: Lynn O'Shaughnessy: Warmth Tolerant Pleurothallids

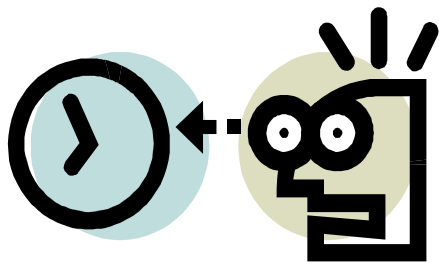
February 15, 2009: Alex Challis, Miniature Dendrobiums

March 8, 2009: TBA

April 17-19, 2009: AAOS FESTIVAL!

May 17, 2009: Tentative: Judging Seminar--Oncidiums. Eduardo Sanchez, from Cuenca, Ecuador

September 13, 2009: Ernie Ge-meinhart: Cochlopetalum Paphs (sequential bloomers)



Newsletter Deadline

Please contribute to the AAOS Newsletter! The next deadline for contributions is January 3, 2009!

Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2007-08 Officers

President - Alex Challis 734-971-6186, IcePenguin@aol.com

Vice President - Vivian Lin, 734-741-1984, VHL@umich.edu

Treasurer - Linda Battison 810-227-0120, lcbattison@comcast.net

Secretary - Robin Johnson 734-482-6416, robinjo@umich.edu

Director - Ann Bommarito 734-418-3134, AnnieBomm@comcast.net

Director - April Pedit, 734-528-1860 apedit@mac.com

Past President - Paige Hartman 734-846-7864 GEHartman1@msn.com

Hospitality - Vivian Lin, Susan Haddock 734-994-0756 shaddock@comcast.net, and Riki Marquis 248-486-1540 marquisdj@juno.com

Reception Committee - Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859, harwin@umich.edu

Library - Duane Duman, George Parks. duman2@aol.com

Membership - Randy Long, 810-599-0384, Boomerj2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor - Denise Nash, 248-349-5482, djnash@comcast.net

Orchid Festival - Ann Bommarito & Kevin Griffin

Orchid Shows - Alex Challis, Paige Hartman

Programs - Paige Hartman, Alex Challis

Publicity - Neal Foster

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter - The AAOS meets monthly from September through May (excluding December) at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI. at 2:00 p.m., set up at 1:30. The AAOS Newsletter is published 8-9 times throughout the year, and is sent to all AAOS members. AAOS members and others are invited to submit articles or other information relating to orchids. The Ann Arbor Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) educational and scientific organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and with the Orchid Digest Corporation.

Plant Table

October 12, 2008

Although we had a great attendance at the meeting, the plant table was quite sparse, only ten plants from six members. Nevertheless, there were some nice plants to see, and we were assured that many members have things “on the way”, so we hope next month we’ll have full tables.

Cycnoches Jean E. Monnier L-O Linda Battison
Odontocidium Dorothy Wisnom ‘Golden Gate’ HCC/AOS

Cattleytonia (Guaritonia) Why Not G-O Alex Challis
Laeliocattleya (Sophrocattleya) Pink Lady ‘Hihimanu’

Phragmipedium Sorcerer’s Apprentice G-O Laura & Duane Duman
Rhynchosphrocattleya Mem. Shirley Moore ‘Mendenhall’

Tolumnia (Oncidium) Teipei’s Gold G Neal Foster

Paphiopedilum leucochilum (syn. *godefroyae* var. *leucochilum*)
(‘Krull’s Perfection’ x ‘Frank’s Big Fatty’) L John Olszewski

Dendrobium Maiden Charlotte L-O Dottie & Harry Winter
Epidendrum Joseph Lii

Conditions: G, greenhouse; L, Lights; W, Windowsill; O, outdoors in summer. All plants from a member are under the same conditions, unless shown for each plant.

Harry Winter

~*Blast from the Past*~
September 1998 Meeting Recap
“How to Grow and Not to Grow Orchids”

By SEAN EATON

Ron Ciesinski of Taylor Orchids was our featured speaker at the September 27th meeting. In the business of growing orchids for over 15 years, on has won numerous awards for his plants, (He has more awarded plants than we have plants in the house!), and has been a frequent supporter of the chapter's various activities. "People ask me about the awards and trophies," Ron said, "but it's all in the growing". Despite the concerns of managing his greenhouse in the Monroe area, at heart he says, "I am an orchid grower," and "these are my plants."

Ron showed us several beautiful slides of various species and hybrids from a broad selection of genera, among them Cattleya, Laelia, Sophronitis, Oncidium, Brassidium, Brassia, Odontocidium, Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium, Miltonia, Lycaste, Masdevallia, Dracula, Phalaenopsis, Peristeria, Scuticaria, Coryanthes, Sarcochilus, Bulbophyllum, Angraecum, Aerangis, Neobatheia, Mystidium, and Plectrelminthus. He recommended a number of plants, advised against a handful of others, offered numerous growing tips, and had plenty of stories about prizewinning plants and plant buying expeditions.

There were many useful comments regarding watering and fertilizing schedules. "Orchids need lots of air, water and sun. You should water only enough so that it can be used up in the next two or three days. The mix should be almost dry. Otherwise the bark breaks down from the bacteria, turns to mush, and then the roots die."

Regarding Oncidiums, Ron described how when in flower they tend to show shriveled, dehydrated pseudobulbs. Growers are tempted to overwater them at this time, but doing so risks rotting the eyes, where future growth occurs, possibly killing the plant. Another problem is that extra water at the wrong time can force the plant into new growth at the wrong time in the plant's seasonal cycle, exhausting the plant's potential for future blooms.

He recommended reducing water during bloom time. Look for new roots and growth, and then increase the watering. In particular, watch the roots. If green tips at the ends of the roots are showing, go ahead and water. "Grow the front bulb because that's where the flowers grow."

Continued on page 6.

Cont. from page 5.

In general, "Worry about the bottom of the plant", he advised, because a strong healthy root system helps the plant produce good flowers. Watch the roots for signs of growth or decay. When people tell Ron their orchids won't flower, he suspects it may be a problem of water stimulating growth at the wrong time, thus weakening growth. "Cool them off and dry them out" he advises. To grow good plants, watch the medium, repot as needed, and fertilize the plants well.

Regarding fertilizer, he discussed how growing conditions, the weather, and the season will affect plants' needs for fertilizer. Ron recommends using a balanced, mixed fertilizer once in awhile, and to vary brands. It is especially important to alter the nitrogen content of the fertilizer used based on where the plant is in its growth cycle. One member asked for the best time of year to change the nitrogen content, (ie the first number in the sequence of three on fertilizers specifying relative percentages of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium). Ron recommends "Spring up, fall back", in particular, reducing nitrogen around Labor Day and shifting perhaps to a "blossom booster" type of fertilizer. But be careful--plants that fall over may be receiving too much fertilizer, or not enough light.

A few miscellaneous comments:

1. Ron has also experimented with crossing some of his favorite species and hybrids. He had these suggestions for those who would like to try this: "It takes six months for seeds to ripen--six months to sprout, six months to grow, three to six years to bloom. Do something safe." (See also the September issue of **Orchids**, p 928, "10 Tips for Beginner Hybridizers")
2. When propagating Lycastes from backbulbs, Ron recommends laying them sideways in moss and not putting them in pots until you can see about two inches of new growth.
3. "How long do orchids live? Some of mine are 36 years old. Some may live longer than me."

While reviewing slides of his plant, and later assisting with the plant display table, Ron was not at all hesitant to offer his advice, and then some. He also advised against a number of species and hybrids, or at least suggested they be approached with caution. These more challenging orchids included: *Cattleya guttata* ("Needs a lot of light--stay away from it.") *Sophrocattleya* `Acker's Lucky' ("I got tired of this one--it's not my favorite anymore.")

Continued on page 7.

Cont. from page 6.

Paphiopedilum stonei
Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum
Paphiopedilum emersonii
Miltonia (“Hard to grow in hot weather--have to pray in summer.”)
Scuticaria (“Nasty one to grow.”)
Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis ‘Pleasant Dreams’ (“Stinks--I grow it for the leaves.”)

Ron recommended the following species and hybrids as worthwhile and relatively easy to grow:

Cattleya walkeriana
Laelia sincorana
Brassidium (Brassia x Oncidium) Aloha
Paphiopedilum callosum (“If you kill this, don’t grow orchids!”)
Paphiopedilum tonsum

Taylor Orchids is located in Monroe.

Fun Orchid Travels

September is the month for the Chicagoland Orchid Festival. There are four orchid nurseries in the Chicagoland area, and they all host other vendors during the Festival. Natt’s, Oak Hill, Hausermann’s, and Windsong are chock full of wonderful plants! The other vendors bring in fantastic plants, too!



Paige, Robin and Barb having fun selecting bargain plants at Oak Hill

Paige, Denise and Robin all had a terrific time shopping. Barb Larime, a former president of AAOS, came in from Colorado and joined them in the shopping spree.

Denise had such problems with orchid pests this summer, she had to replace several favorite plants. At least, that was the excuse she used.

Luckily, Barb rented a minivan, so there was a lot of space to fill!



November 2008

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone (Home):

Phone (Work):

E-mail:

_____ Individual (\$20)

_____ Senior Individual (\$15)

_____ Household (\$25)

_____ Senior Household (\$20) Senior rates apply for those 70 and over.

New Membership

Renewal

New Address

Beginner

Advanced Grower

Commercial Grower

What is your growing environment?

Greenhouse

Artificial lights

Windowsill

Other _____

Would you like to receive you newsletter via email only? Yes No

Member of the American Orchid Society? Yes No

Member of the Orchid Digest Corporation? Yes No

Please make checks payable to the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. You may bring this application to any meeting, or mail it to: AAOS Membership, P.O. Box 3006, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3006