

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

September 13th Speaker: Ernie Gemeinhardt of “Enlightened Orchids”

Ernie has a background in Marine Biology and Aquaculture, and currently works in Biomedical Polymer Science Laboratory (Biopharmaceutical Sciences, University of Illinois , Chicago). He has been growing orchids under lights since 1997, and is interested in a wide variety of orchids (Paphs, Phrags, Phals, Catt. alliance, etc).

He will give a presentation on growing sequential flowering paphiopedilums, and sharing his personal experiences with different orchids. Plants will be available for sale.

Welcome, Ernie!

In this Issue

Sept. Speaker	1
President’s Message.....	1
Valentine’s Day AAOS Meeting.....	2
Proposed Budget 2009-2010.....	2
Newsletter deadline.....	3
AAOS Calendar.....	3
Officers.....	3
Collecting Rainwater	4
Pest Update “Welcome Back”.....	5
Membership Form.....	6

President’s Message

Membership dues are now due! We'll have a special drawing in October for all who have paid up by then.

As of last year, all new members get a free orchid seedling. If you did not get one, please let me know. In the words of Steve Martin - we forgot.

Matthaei Gardens is now much closer to planting their new woodland wildflower garden. It has taken them several years to get rid of some really noxious Japanese Knotweed. They plan on growing some of Michigan's native orchids, as well as other native plants. With that we will be getting our Orchid Conservation Committee back in gear. If you are interested in helping please let us know.

Got some interesting or funny stories about orchids? Orchids blooming you never thought would? Plants form the raffle table now in bloom? Tales of Squirrel woe? Feel free to send Denise any of YOUR stories or pictures for our newsletter.

Alex

Proposed Budget 2009-2010

Income

Membership	\$1,500.00
Festival Income	\$2,100.00
Ways and Means	\$2,000.00
Total Income	\$5,600.00

Expenses

Administration	\$ 600.00
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 600.00
Festival Expenses	\$1,300.00
Member Services	\$ 700.00
Programs	\$1,800.00
Shows	\$ 600.00
Total Expenses	\$5,600.00



Marked as *Bulbophyllum giriwoense*, but there is some question if that is accurate.

VALENTINE'S DAY AAOS MEETING

Our AAOS meeting for February falls on Valentine's Day. Wouldn't it be fun for each of us to submit to Paige the name and picture (if you have it) of The Orchid(s) "You Love The Most" or orchids with a love name?

Our meeting would include showing the pictures, and members could tell why they love their "special" orchid so much, if it has any special meaning, and how they grow it. The success of this meeting and topic is dependent on how much members participate. So we need many members to contribute! I think it could be great fun hearing about each other's favorites. If you don't have a picture, I am sure we can find it on some website and download it.

My list will begin with Bulb. *echinolabium*, and I have so many more favorites with a love theme! There's Blc. Love Knot, Colm. Hot Lips, Dtps. Fureshing Pretty 'Lover', Masd. Prince Charming (that's George!), and I think we all can find some more.

Please let Paige know if you'll help with our February "Love is in the Air" meeting.



AAOS Calendar



September 13: Ernie Gemeinhart: *Cochlopetalum Paphs* (sequential bloomers)

October 11: Bill Thoms, *Bulbophyllums*

November 8: Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids - Subject to be announced

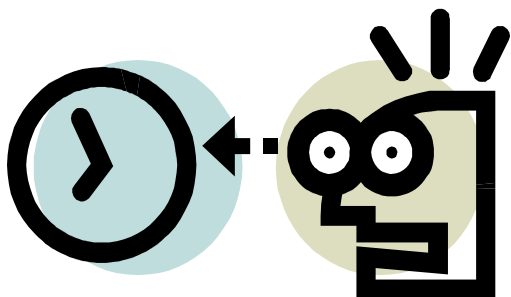
December: Holiday Party TBA

January 10, 2010: Russ Vernon, Lycastes

February 14, 2010: Orchids You Love

March 14, 2010: Alex Challis, *Dendrobium*s

April 16-18, 2010, AAOS FESTIVAL



Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline is October 3. Please contribute any orchid related articles to Denise Nash at djnash@comcast.net

Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2007-08 Officers

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

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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.

Reprinted with permission from the Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter V42, No 7 (July 1993). The author is: **Tom Franczak**.

I'M ALWAYS AMAZED . . .

by the bizarre and weird things people will do if they think it's:

- a) a form of foreplay
- b) tax deductible
- c) conducive to weight loss
- d) good for their orchids

Knowing your interests, I'll limit this article to item (d) above.

Rainwater. Let's talk about rainwater. It's obviously good for your orchids; and it's also the best thing to wash your hair with. Commercial nurseries and botanical gardens often have cisterns to store thousands of gallons of the stuff. The HSD wants to expand Deep Tunnel to store a billion or more gallons of rainwater. (For my collection that's about a 45,000 year supply assuming I sell off or give away divisions to keep everything in 6-inch pots.)

It's relatively pure, not significantly removed from a 6.0 to 7.5 pH range, and, knock on wood, the new administration has yet to propose taxing it. Trouble is, though, when you turn on your faucet at home, it's not rainwater that comes out. No, you have to collect it yourself. The best place to collect rainwater? From a downspout fed by the gutter on your roof. Use a shallow tub that will fit beneath the downspout and just empty it into any number of five gallon buckets. But don't strain your back; rainwater weighs just as much as tap water,

about 8 lbs. per gallon.

Select a downspout, if you can, out of sight from your neighbors. One of our members uses heavy duty plastic garbage bags to collect the water which he then empties into buckets. He makes quite a picture, he once told me, crouching by a downspout in the early morning hours in his pajamas and bathrobe holding a plastic garbage bag full of rainwater all the while getting soaked himself. So far, his bewildered neighbors merely stare in wonder and point. It's a progressive and sociable neighborhood and, as of this writing, the neighbors have not had him committed.

Surprisingly enough, the best time to collect rainwater is when it's raining. All you really need is a repertoire of plausible reasons and excuses for leaving work early, standing up your date, or arriving late for a holiday dinner. But, if your inventory is getting low . . . Let it rain for 15 minutes or so before you start collecting. You want the loose grit from the shingles, the errant toss from the newspaper delivery boy, those old bird nests, and other assorted gunk to wash out first. If it's still raining after 15 minutes, go for it.

November rain is just as important as June rain, but wear a hat or you'll catch your death of cold. Or wear a helmet. Sometimes the rain keeps company with hail. Storing rainwater in those one gallon plastic milk cartons is probably the most convenient way. (A rain barrel would be meta-

Continued on page 5.
September 2009

I'm Always Amazed, continued.

physically more satisfying, I suppose.) It's better if the plastic container previously held apple or berry

juice than milk, but a little diligence in cleaning can make a milk carton acceptable. Your nose will tell you if you succeeded. You can easily ladle through a funnel into the plastic cartons. If you stuff a few coffee filters into the neck of the funnel, you'll remove almost all of the residual gunk that the rainwater picked up from your roof as well as earning bonus perfectionist points from me.

Finally, second only to the joy of showing off your orchids to family and friends is the exquisite smugness you experience when you flaunt your wealth of gallon jugs full of rainwater, over a hundred of them, neatly placed on sturdy shelves built just for them, recently replenished and ready for use. Your orchid growing friends will shudder with envy. Your other friends, however, will just shudder. But what do they know?

Yes, rainwater is good for your orchids. But there are 'limits, aren't there? Aren't there? Tut tut. Next time we'll discuss the merits of getting up in the middle of the night and sneaking up on your orchids. At the last minute you shine your flashlight on them, thereby detecting mealy bugs, if there are any, before they can hide from the light.

Welcome Back!

I always miss our monthly meetings in the summer months, and I am happy that our meetings have begun again. I have had some great success with my plants this summer and I hope you have, too.

In a short follow-up from my article last fall about spraying for scale insects, yes, they are back. But not in as great a number as they were last year, after "the great spraying". I can see that no matter how well you spray, there will be one or two that survive on some plants, and they wreak havoc when the weather becomes hot.

I have separated out the plants with recurring scale and made the difficult decision about whether to keep them. Some go into the compost bin! But it's better to compost them than to experience a full outbreak of scale like I had last year!

I plan on spraying them all with Orthinex this fall before bringing the plants back into the greenhouse, and I will remind myself to spray again in spring. The best I can do is to manage what is an ongoing problem. The key is to persevere.

~Denise

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