

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

October 11 Meeting

Our speaker is Bill Thoms, who is giving a presentation entitled: ***Bulbophyllums—Bizarre and Beautiful***. Bill is a renowned orchid grower, world traveler and nationally recognized speaker.

Be prepared to learn more about this fascinating group of plants than you ever dreamed! Bill Thoms and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for almost 40 years and have received every award granted by the AOS, as well as more Awards for Culture than just about anyone else in the world—67 in over 20 genera, including 25 in the bulbophyllum alliance, capped off with a 95 point Certificate of Cultural

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President's Message: My Favorite Orchid

Our meeting in February just happens to fall on Valentine's Day. So the program committee decided to try for something completely different. We're not sure exactly how it's going to work, but it seems like a fun way to have a meeting.

Pick one orchid - it can be a species, hybrid, or even a particular plant. It doesn't even have to be one you own. We'll have any member who is at the meeting tell us why that orchid is their favorite - if you're not there we'll go through those as well. "Just because" is a perfectly acceptable reason. By the January meeting, please send me the name of your plant and why you like it, along with a picture if you have one. If it's a photo I can scan it, if digital a jpg is preferred - if you don't have a picture I'm sure we can take or find one. I'll put them all into a Power Point.

Alex

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October Meeting, cont.

Excellence for *Cirr. rothschildianum* 'A-doribil' FCC/AOS and a 93 point CCE for *bulbophyllum* Icicles 'A-doribil route 66'.



Crphtm. A-doribil Candy

Bill is the only person to receive an Award of Quality for a *Bulbophyllum* hybrid (named for

Doris), as well as receiving the hybridizer's dream—an Award of Distinction for a *Trias* hybrid. Many of his crosses are winning awards around the country. The AOS has just added a yearly award named for him for the best *Bulbophyllum* exhibited. Bill has originated a total of 96 orchid hybrids, 49 of which are in the *bulbophyllum* alliance, making him the most prolific *bulbophyllum* hybridizer in the world.

Bill's presentation will be spiced with funny stories, so whether you grow thousands of orchids, only a few, or none at all, you will have a very entertaining time. Many of the most important requirements for growing world class plants are made easy to understand and remember.

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn how to grow these fascinating plants and to hear one of the most knowledgeable, interesting and funny speakers in the orchid world.

Growing *Encyclia cordigera*



I have tried to grow this plant several times, and when I saw this article on it's culture, I thought I would pass it on. Perhaps some of us might be successful one day!

Its natural habitats are low-elevation oak forests that are fairly dry and bright. It can be grown in the intermediate temperature range but will do equally well in warmer conditions. The best flowering will occur if plants are grown bright but they will grow and flower under as little as 2000 foot candles. Plants can be potted in a coarse open media but if you have a tendency to overwater, a mount or basket is a preferable option and will maintain healthy roots better. This species does not tolerate stale, dank potting media. The tightly clustered pseudobulbs can be as big as an onion on healthy plants but a mature plant does not take up much space and can be accommodated even in small collections. Like all encyclias, be alert for scale between those tightly packed pseudobulbs. It can get well established before you notice, and then it is more difficult to eradicate. Keeping dry sheaths peeled away makes inspection easier. - *AOS Publications Committee*

AAOS Calendar



October 11: Bill Thoms, Bulbophyllums

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

December: Holiday Party TBA

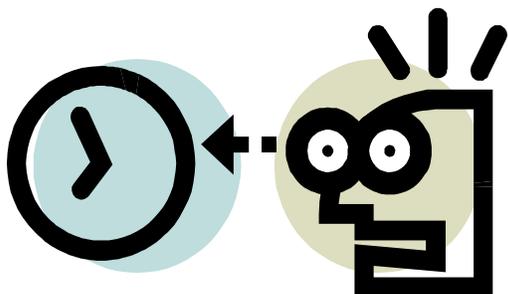
January 10, 2010: Russ Vernon, Lyrcastes

February 14, 2010: Orchids You Love

March 14, 2010: Alex Challis, Dendrobiums

April 16-18, 2010, AAOS FESTIVAL

May, 2010: Judging Seminar



Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline is October 31. Please contribute any orchid related articles to Denise Nash at djnash@comcast.net

Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2009-10 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.

Most Important? Plant Placement!

By Denise Nash

Since I got my greenhouse several years ago, my biggest challenge is growing as many different types of orchids as I can, as successfully as possible. I love them all, so it is difficult to decide which I want to grow!

How I envy those people that can individually water their plants and get it right each time. That is not my usual watering style. After growing several hundred plants in the house, and spending 2 days a week watering them, I knew when I got my greenhouse that the watering time would drastically be reduced. Little did I know I would need to wear water shoes and a raincoat with a hood to water my plants! Oh yes, a water fight ensues when it's time to water in the greenhouse.

You see, I didn't realize that plants needing to dry out between watering would have to be hung up near the fans so they would get hit with more air movement and sun. So Cattleyas and Oncidiums are hanging plants in my growing area. And they drip on me.

I decided to try plants that had distinct seasonal dry resting times, and I had to find an area that wouldn't get hit with water accidentally in winter. So that meant that one corner of the greenhouse is rarely watered from November until March. In that area I put catasetum types, and some of my species dendrobiums. Oh yes, and things that might or might not be dead.

But what about the wet growing? Of course, I found some draculas that I wanted to try. I pot them in sphagnum moss and put them in an area where they can easily be closely watched. I am careful about which ones I buy, because my greenhouse is intermediate with a winter low of 56 degrees, and some draculas like conditions much colder.

What I have found is a wonderful attribute of intermediate masdevallias and draculas: they don't require much light. So I put them under the benches in the summer time, where they get less light (which equals less heat). With less light, the slower they dry out. It's a win-win situation!

When George Hatfield visited the AAOS last year, I bought some wonderful cymbidiums. They are very large, however. Even the seedlings I purchased will one day be rather large! The nice thing about growing cymbidiums is that they are happy outdoors for much of the spring and summer, and even into fall. By the time they come back into the greenhouse in fall, the sun is on its decline, moving closer and closer to the horizon. When the sun is low in the sky, it throws some very nice light under the benches on the south side of the greenhouse! So that is exactly where the cymbidiums go. Did I also mention that the closer you get to the floor the cooler the temperature? Warm air rises!

Continued on page 5.

Plant Placement, continued.

I've now discussed what I grow everywhere other than the bench tops themselves. I have about 80% of that area populated with slipper orchids. Oh, I have such a love-hate thing with these plants. Some have never flowered for me. I am a glutton for punishment.

The paphs grow normally, while in winter I put the Phrags into plastic saucers to keep them moist. I recycle lids from Peanut butter, etc. for this duty. In summer, the water in the saucers gets too hot! So, I only use the saucers in the winter.

I also grow sobralias and nobile type dendrobium hybrids. I try to keep the sobralias moist and the dendrobium hybrids dry. Sometimes I get it right. When I do, this is what happens:



Sobralia crocea



Dendrobium Oriental Smile

It's always a nice surprise to see flowers!

Wear this beautiful Orchid Pin with pride...and thank you for supporting the AOS with your purchase!

In June, the AOS introduced a new pin to benefit the Society. This unique pin makes a wonderful gift and can be worn and enjoyed by any orchid enthusiast.

The 1 1/2-inch- (3.7-cm-) wide pin is pewter with a faux rhodium finish and comes with a converter so it can be worn as an attractive necklace. The text reads, "American Orchid Society Est. 1921." (Thank you to Dawn Vertrees, award-winning orchid jewelry artist, for her original design and assistance in manufacturing. www.dawnvertrees.com) **Cost: \$25** (price includes the pin as well as a converter to also wear this pin as a necklace, as well as shipping and handling.) To order, visit: www.AOS.org



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