

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

Teacup Paphiopedilums

Dr. Rob Halgren

March 14, 2010

Dr. Rob Halgren, of LittleFrog Farm in Stockbridge, will discuss "Teacup Paphiopedilums" the latest trend in tropical lady'slipper breeding. The "teacups" are the smaller species and hybrids especially suitable for underlights growing.

Rob received his Ph.D. in 1998 from Northwestern University in cancer biology. More specifically, on potential new biological therapies for multiple myeloma. His postdoctoral work was in genomics and toxicology.

Continued, page 2.

In this Issue

March Speaker	1
Festival Volunteers.....	2
AAOS Festival.....	2
Newsletter deadline.....	3
AAOS Calendar.....	3
Officers.....	3
Ceramics Classes.....	4
February Plant Table.....	6
Greater Lansing Orchid Show Report.....	7
Phrag. Amitabha 'Tika' HCC/AOS.....	8
Membership Form.....	9

President's Message

Hi folks - our show is only a month away (set up is April 16), and we still have many holes to fill to make it a good show. We still need various show volunteers, food service, help with our own society orchid display and a few other needs. Sign-up sheets will be passed around for these at this Sunday's meeting. We need about 12 members to help with clerking on Saturday morning. It's an easy job and you get to learn a little more about orchids!

If you can't attend this Sunday's meeting, please contact the following people:

- Volunteers - April Pedit
- Food - Paige Hartman
- AAOS Display - Randy Long
- Trophy Sponsoring - Alex Challis
- Clerking - Alex Challis

Continued on page 2.

In Rob's spare time, he grows orchids and raises poison dart frogs.

Festival Volunteers Needed!

Our 2010 Orchid Festival is only 2 months away. Now is the time to step up and volunteer some of your time. Even an hour will be of great help. We will have sign-up sheets for the following at our meeting next Sunday.

AAOS Display

We need all sorts of help with our own display, and of course would love to have your blooming orchids presented. You can bring your orchids ahead of time to Matthaei Thursday evening, April 15 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Auditorium. If you bring your plants on Friday, please get them there by 2 pm.

Clerking

We need clerks to help with ribbon judging. Saturday morning at 8 am until about 11:30 am.

Festival Helpers

The Orchid Festival needs a lot of helpers to have it run smoothly from start to finish. If you have one or two hours to spare over the course of the weekend of our show, please help! People will be needed from mid-morning on Friday through the Sunday tear-down of the displays and clean-up.

AAOS Festival

Our 15th annual Orchid Festival will be held at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens April 17 & 18.

Set up is Friday April 16 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. We will have a potluck diner around 6 p.m. for exhibitors and festival volunteers.

Show hours for exhibits:

Saturday noon to 4:30 pm

Sunday 10 am to 4:30 pm

Plant sales are open from 10 am to 4:30 pm both days.

Orchid displays, educational displays, artwork and arrangements with orchid flowers will be in the auditorium.

Orchid plants for sale will be in room 125 (west end of the building) and in the west lobby.

Demonstrations and talks on popular orchid genera and topics will be held in room 139.



AAOS Calendar



March 14: Rob Halgren,
Teacup Paphiopedilums

April 16-18, AAOS FESTIVAL

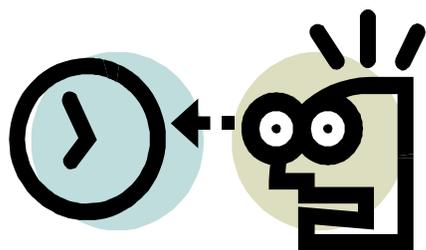
May 16: Orchid Workshops

June: Judging seminar: Dendrobiums

September 19 - tentative - Ray Barkalow, First Ray's Orchids on Semi-hydroponic Orchid Culture

October 10 - Dawn Schlote - The Weird & The Wonderful

November 21 - Brenda Oviatt, Angraecoid Orchids



Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter deadline is April 9, 2010. Please contribute any orchid related articles to Denise Nash at djnash@comcast.net

Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2010 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 - Bob Desoff 734-323-9729 r.desoff@ieee.org

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

Past President - Paige Hartman 734-864-3718 GEHartman1@msn.com

Hospitality Queen: Riki Marquis 248-486-1540 marquisdj@juno.com, and Vivian Lin

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 - *We **Need your help!!!!***

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.

Ceramics Classes

By Duane Duman

There is some interest in learning how I have been making those flower pots and vases. Doing a short class about this is trickier than it seems. The problems relate to the materials I choose to work with, workspace, tools, and scheduling.

Clay body selection. There are basically three levels of clay.

Earthenware: Low temperature. Very porous. Matures around 1800 degrees F or below. Most of the hardening is caused by the clay shrinking as the heat forces out the water. Degrades easily. Glazes are available which do not change color when they are fired. This is the starting point for anyone who wants to paint pictures on dinnerware.

Terra Cotta: Medium temperatures. Matures between 1850 and 2000 degrees F. Usually iron rich clay with some glass like components which melt as it matures. In its lower temperature range it remains porous, but the fused glass contributes a lot of strength. This is the best red flower pot temperature range. The pot wicks water away from the roots, and evaporation from the pot keep the roots cool on hot days. Near the top of it's range it completely fuses and holds water like any other glass.

Stoneware: High temperatures. Usually matures between 2100 and 2350 degrees F. Porcelain is a subset of stoneware. The silicates (glass) in both are completely fused. You can think of a stoneware vessel as a glass form with a lot of sand mixed into the glass. Stoneware clays are built with whatever properties are needed. Very plastic for throwing on a potter's wheel, or very stiff for hand building. Any of the clays can be diluted and used for casting. (At this time we are not outfitted for casting.) Porcelain must be more than 51 percent Kaolin. It is very stiff, often cracks if you bend it, and is very difficult to throw. The top of the line porcelain producers are happy if 20% of their output can be used with their name on it.

We cannot mix types of clay in the same firing. The required temperatures are too different. We are going to use a white stoneware which is plastic enough to throw, but stiff enough to hand build. The glazes are chosen to meld into one another as they flow down the clay surfaces. The clay is my canvas. Gravity mixes my colors. At stoneware temperatures all the chemicals react with all the other ones. The amount of oxygen available makes major differences. For example, as the amount of oxygen reduces, copper goes from light blue-green to very deep blood red. Every pot is an adventure.

Continued on page 5.

Ceramics class, continued:

Workspace.

The class size must be limited because I now have space for one (me). I only have one potters wheel. I can handle perhaps five students. If the weather is nice we might move outside.

Tools.

Tools used in building clay structures are limited only by your imagination. I will create some sort of repository of what my imagination can select for you. There will be one potters wheel with its own tool set.

Class Description.

Some lecture: some hands on. Let me define "Leather Hard". When wet clay is used to form a pot, it is too sloppy and floppy to finish. If you set it aside over night, the next morning it is leather hard. It is not yet brittle, but still easy to handle without breaking it. Knives etc. can be used to trim the top or bottom. It is easy to drill the holes into flower pots. This is the step where you finish the form you are trying to make. No more clay is going to be added to it. Now it dries for about a week.

When the clay is dusty dry it breaks very easily. The final finishing room should be painted blue so the words floating around do not show so much. Each pot is examined, perhaps sanded, rough spots are cleaned up, dirt is removed, every effort is made to remove any dust, etc.

I single fire so glazes are selected which mature at the same temperature as the clay. Find a brush, select some glazes, and create. There is a slop sink in the potting area. (Oh my God! I'm going to have to clean that sink.) The glazed pots are allowed to dry for a few days. The evening before I fire I stack the kiln and slowly warm it up to 225 degrees F for two hours. This makes sure that the kind of pots I make will be completely dry. Next day I start the kiln about 8:00 AM. It takes 12 hours to heat to 2260 degrees, and twelve hours to get cool enough to touch with hands inside an old tea shirt. We get together, open the kiln, and retire to the basement to start grinding off the glazes which ran all over the kiln furniture and such things.

Schedule.

Class is limited to five people; first come first served. I will consult with them to set the first class date. If someone can't make the class times, I will call whoever came in sixth. In the first class you will listen to me talk for a while

Continued on page 6.

Ceramics class, continued.

and then you will form clay pots. You will not be able to trim the pots you make because they are not leather hard. Some potters speed this step with propane soldering torches. Leather hard pots which I made the day before will be available (free). You can prepare them for the first drying period. At this class we will decide when to meet again.

The next class is clean-them-up-and-glaze-them and decide when to meet again.

Final class is to open the kiln, clean up the firing damage to the pots, and discuss the results.

If you are interested please respond (or have a friend respond) by E-mail (Duman2@aol.com). That way I will have a request date and time when deciding who to call next. AAOS Members only. Cost \$20.00

Plant Table, February 14, 2010

22 plants from seven members were on our Valentine's day plant table. We interchanged both the location and the timing of the plant table and raffle, so that members could see all the nice plants up front, and more were around when the presentations were given - a nice change we should have conitered a long time ago..

<i>Coelogyne cristata</i>	G-O	Duane & Laura Duman
Degamoara Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy'		
Odontioda Yellow Parade 'Alpine'		
Paphiopedilum [Anna Szabo x Bill Eilau]		
Paphiopedilum Bo-Ying Chow		
(P. Pinocchio 'Yellow Cloud' x P. <i>bellatulum</i>)		
Potinara Memorial Gold		
<i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i>	G-O	Neal & Meredith Foster
Hamiltonara Golden Harry 'Kamuela'		
Oncidium Gower Ramsey		
Masdevallia Tasmanian Devil	W	Marilyn Lee
Paphiopedilum [Cherry Master x <i>sukhakulii</i>]	RP	
Paphiopedilum [Virgo x Satin Veil]	RP	
Rodrumnia (Rodricidium) Orchidom Valentine		

Continued page 7.

Orchid Table, cont.

(Rdmn Orchidom Red Love x Onc (Tolm) Aleka) Masdevallia Angel Tang <i>Phalaenopsis intermedia</i> Phalaenopsis Sogo Grape	L-O	Vivian Lin Riki Marquis L-O
<i>Chysis bractescens</i> <i>Dendrobium ruckeri (ramosum)</i> <i>Lycaste skinneri</i> var. <i>alba</i> Potinara Hwa Yuan Gold	G	Denise Nash
Phalaenopsis Beauty Sheena 'Rin Rin' Phalaenopsis Brother Apollo		Dottie & Harry Winter L-O

Conditions: G, greenhouse; L, Lights; W, Windowsill; O, outdoors in summer; RP, recent purchase (in spike or flower).

Harry Winter

Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show MSU Plant & Soils Bldg, Feb. 27-28, 2010

We had a good crew, despite the snowy weather, to set up our 50-ft² display at the GLOS show at the MSU campus. Denise Nash & Paige Hartman were again in charge of the design and each arrived with staging materials and plants. Robin Johnson, Randy Long, Riki Marquis and Harry & Dottie Winter also brought plants & helped with set-up. The display was similar in design to the one at the Grand Valley show and again was awarded a second place ribbon, finishing behind the GVOs exhibit among the four exhibits in the class. Plants won a trophy, an AOS award, and half of the 46 plants entered for judging received ribbons:

Trophy (best of class):

Masdevallia Angel Tang Riki Marquis

AOS Award (HCC):

Phragmipedium Amitabha 'Tika' Riki Marquis

First Place:

Miltonia Breathless 'Brilliant' Linda Battison
Ascocenda [Haad Ravai x Yip-Guo Chia Long] Robin Johnson
Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Blc) Ports of Paradise Robin Johnson
Clowesia Jumbo Grace 'Jumbo Orchids' BM/TOGA Randy Long

Continued on page 8.

GLOS Show results, cont.

Phalaenopsis Taipei Gold 'Gold Star'	Randy Long
Masdevallia Angel Tang	Riki Marquis
Phragmipedium Amitabha 'Tika' (first bloom seedling)	Riki Marquis
Cymbidium Eastern Beauty	Denise Nash

Second Place:

Vanda Manuvadae	Linda Battison
Dendrobium Maiden Charlotte	Robin Johnson
Brassolaeliocattleya Pratum Green 'Bonserm'	Randy Long
Phalaenopsis Cinnamon Gold 'Orange Bead'	Randy Long
Paphiopedilum [Vanguard x <i>niveum</i>]	Riki Marquis
<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Denise Nash
Odontocidium Cherry Fudge	Denise Nash

Third Place:

Zygonisia Cynosure	Duane & Laura Duman
Laeliocattleya [Blue Lady x Indigo Mist]	Paige Hartman
Maxillaria Maui Sunset	Paige Hartman
Phalaenopsis Golden Peoker	Paige Hartman
Epidendrum Moon Valley	Robin Johnson
Phalaenopsis Sogo Rose	Randy Long
Phaius <i>calanthes</i> 'Kryptonite'	Riki Marquis
Phragmipedium [<i>besseae</i> x Patti MacHale] (class)	Riki Marquis
<i>Dendrobium aggregatum</i>	Denise Nash

Abby Skinner and Dottie & Harry also contributed plants for the display.

Dottie, as is her wont nowadays, also prepared and entered 3 cut flower arrangements, and a potted plant+cut flower arrangement in the new "Pot-et-fleur" class; in the latter she won a second place ribbon, and all of her cut arrangements won first place ribbons (in three different classes)!

At takedown time Paige, Denise & son Jeff, Abby and David Skinner, Linda Battison, Randy, and Dottie & Harry all helped pack up, and we were on our way with carloads of plants and staging shortly after 5 pm.

Next up: the MOS show at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, MI March 27-28, with setup March. 26. We have another 50 sq. ft display planned.

Hope to see you there - Harry Winter

Volume 18 Issue 3

March 2010

Phrag. Amitabha 'Tika' HCC/AOS

By Riki Marquis



Tika

On 2-27-2010 I received a call from Joe Petersen, an AOS judge, congratulating me on my HCC award for the Phrag. Amitabha which was included in our exhibit at the GLOS Show. He informed me that it needed a clonal name. Without hesitation I told him it is 'Tika'

Here is the story behind the name: In July 2007 I had purchased the small Phrag. seedling at English Gardens. According to my web search the cross Phrag. Patti MacHale x Phrag. besseae was made by Black Dragon Orchids and was registered in 2003 under the name Amitabha. Amitabha loosely translated means Buddha of limitless light.

The seedling grew well and finally developed an inflorescent. Around the time the first bud began to swell my beloved dog Tika at age 16 came to the end of her life. On 2-5-2010 the first bloom opened and that evening Tika died peacefully in my arms. That day I had already secretly named that Phrag. 'Tika' in her memory.



**Phragmipedium
Amitabha 'Tika'
HCC/AOS**



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