

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

October 10 Meeting

1:30 Set Up, 2:00 Meeting

Dawn Schlote from Mystic Orchids will be providing a presentation about Weird & Wonderful Orchids. Welcome, Dawn!

Please bring plants for the show table, as well as our raffle & silent auction tables. If you have any problems with your orchids you may bring them to a meeting. If you think a plant or plant part may spread disease or pests please bring the plant or sample in a zip bag.

Orchid Shows

The Orchid Show Season is upon us. The AAOS creates displays for 5 shows a year. Set up for the shows is on Friday. The displays are judged on Saturday morning. Then on Sunday, the displays are disman-

tled and everything is brought home. We depend on member plants for the display, as well as help installing and tearing down. This is not difficult to do, just time consuming.

If you can help installing or dismantling the displays, we need to hear from you! Any help is very much appreciated, because the "tried and true" volunteers are getting a bit burned out on both installing and tearing down displays.

The Annual Saginaw Valley Orchid Show is quickly approaching. Every year, the AAOS takes plants, tables, backdrops, and props to Midland. The show set up is the day after Thanksgiving, November 26. The tear down is November 28, at 4 or 5 p.m. We need volunteers!

For this show, it is difficult to get enough people to volunteer. We need to register for the SVOS show soon. First, we need to know if anyone can *please* volunteer for the tear down. If we don't get a volunteer for tear down, we will regretfully have to miss this show, and it will be doubtful that the SVOS will put a display up at our Festival in March. We would hate to miss this show, it is a delightful one! But without anyone to help haul things back, it is impossible to accomplish. Please let Alex, Paige or Denise know if you are available to help tear down or set up! We really appreciate the help!

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Plant Table, September 19, 2010

23 plants from eight members were on our September plant table, not a bad showing for a late summer meeting. Note that nearly half of them were species. We hope it bodes well for this season's shows.

<i>Angraecum magdalenae</i>	Alex Challis
Ascocenda Blue Tahourdin x <i>Neofinetia falcate</i>	G-O
<i>Eurychone rothschildiana</i>	
Paphiopedilum (Dragon Mint x Silver Fleuret) x <i>philippinense album</i>	
<i>Pleurothallis grobyi</i>	

Angraecum Lemförde White Beauty	Duane & Laura Duman
Cattleya [SLC] Fire Lighter	G-O
Paphiopedilum In-Charm Grace [<i>niveum album</i> x In-Charm White]	
Vuylstekeara Mem. Mary Kavanaugh 'Mercury'	

Claudehamiltonara [Otaara] Hidden Gold	Marilyn Finkbeiner
	W

Encyclia <i>atrorubens</i> [<i>diota</i> v.] 'Little Frog Princess' CCM	Rob Halgren
Rodrumnia Orchidom Lovely Lady	G-O
Rodrumnia Orchidom Red Planet [Orchidom Red Love x (Wimpy Sniffen)]	

<i>Dendrobium mortii</i>	Paige Hartman
	W

Cymbidium Strawberry Hill 'Petite Surprise'	W-O	Vivian Lin
Paphiopedilum Marianne	W	

<i>Catasetum expansum</i>	Denise Nash
<i>Ceratostylis rubra</i>	G-O

<i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i>	
<i>Coelogyne ovalis</i>	
<i>Dendrobium ceraula</i>	
<i>Epidendrum longicaule</i>	
Phalaenopsis hyb.	Abby Skinner
	W-O

Conditions: G, greenhouse; L, Lights; W, Windowsill; O, outdoors in summer; RP, recent purchase (in spike or flower). Names in brackets are the synonyms under which they were labeled. Harry Winter

AAOS Calendar



October 10 - Dawn Schlote - The Weird & The Wonderful

November 21 - Brenda Oviatt, Angraecoid Orchids

December - Christmas Party TBA

January 16, 2011 TBA

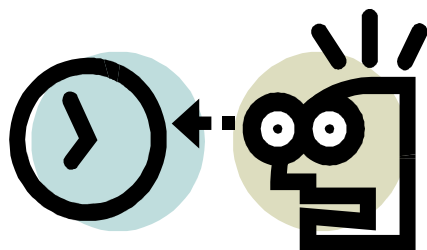
February 13, 2011 - Jack Shumaker - Orchid Trip to Borneo

AAOS Festival - March 18, 19, 20, 2011

April 10, 2011 TBA

May 15, 2011 TBA

September 18, 2011 Russ Vernon, Odontoglossums



Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter deadline is November 12. Please contribute any orchid related articles to Denise Nash at djnash@comcast.net

Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2010-11 Officers

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

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

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

Orchid Festival - *We **Need your help!!!!***

Orchid Shows - Alex Challis, Paige Hartman, Denise Nash

Programs - Paige Hartman, Alex Challis, Denise Nash

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.

Fall-Blooming Cattleyas by Alex Challis

Cattleya bowringiana

This is one of the easiest *Cattleya* species to grow and bloom. It is native to Belize and Guatemala, and was first described in 1885. It is somewhat similar to *C. skinneri*, which blooms in the spring. Most plants bear flowers which are rose-purple in color with a darker lip. Color variations may be found, from almost white to soft lilac-pinks to deeper tones, as well as the blue-toned *coerulea*. Flowers are 2-3" across, bearing five to twenty flowers on an inflorescence. Young plants will sometimes produce one or two flowers. The plant grows 12-24" tall, with a characteristically swollen base of the pseudobulb from which the roots emerge.

In nature they are found growing on rocky cliffs near rapid streams and waterfalls. Give this plant an abundant supply of moisture, especially during the growing season. *C. bowringiana* needs bright light, and will tolerate lower humidity.

Cattleya aurea and *C. dowiana*

These two orchids are very similar in growth and flower, but are separated geographically. *C. aurea* comes from Colombia, while *C. dowiana* hails from Costa Rica. They have some of the most spectacular flowers of the genus, bearing from one to five, 6-8" flowers which are fragrant in the morning. The petals and sepals are primrose-yellow, deeper in color in *C. aurea*, while in *C. dowiana* they are also often speckled or feathered with crimson markings. The lip is a deep, velvety crimson-purple, streaked and lined with gold. *C. aurea* has more yellow in the lip.

These two species prefer warmer conditions, with good humidity and bright light. Water should be given in moderate amounts while in active growth, then reduced until buds are formed. Water again moderately as flowers open. After flowers fade, water sparingly until new growth is observed. These plants should only be repotted when new roots are about an inch long.

Cattleya labiata

This Brazilian species was introduced in 1818, and bears two to five

flowers from 6-8" across, blooming in late autumn. This species is quite variable in color, with more than 70 named forms. The common form has bright rose flowers, the lip deep magenta-crimson, frilled with a wavy margin, with a yellow throat. Color forms include alba and semi-alba, coerulea, and those with a deeper rose color. A wide variation of the color patterns in the lip can also be found.

C. labiata prefers intermediate to warm conditions with bright light. Give it plenty of water during the summer, and drier conditions in the winter after the flowers have fallen. This species flowers in response to daylength, so if grown under lights, decrease the duration of light beginning in late summer.

Other fall-blooming Cattleyas:

- C. bicolor
- C. deckeri
- C. dormaniana
- C. eldorado
- C. gaskelliana
- C. loddigesii
- C. schofeldiana
- C. velutina

In Memoriam

The AAOS lost a good friend when Don Garling passed away September 27, 2010. He had serious health problems over the past year, but you wouldn't know it from his pleasant demeanor. Don retired from MSU in 2009 after 30 years of service as a professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. He was active in the Greater Lansing Orchid Society and Chairman of the Great Lakes Judging Center. In addition to growing orchids he also grew and bred daylilies, and was an avid home-brewer. Don gave a talk on Home Pest Control at our annual orchid show many times over the years - the only compensation he ever asked for was a good beer.



In his honor our show will have a new award - given to the "Nicest Green (or White) Flowered Orchid".

Plant Table, May 16, 2010

27 plants from eight members graced our May plant table not a bad showing for the last meeting of the season. Note that many of the plants go outdoors in the Summer – we hope they all enjoyed the warm (or HOT) weather this summer, and that we'll have a great display of plants at our first meeting of the new season.

Ascocenda Blue Tahourdin 'Bronze Grape'	Alex Challis
<i>Brassavola</i> sp.	G-O
Cycnodes Taiwan Gold 'Orchis'	
<i>Dendrobium johnsoniae</i>	
Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Bluebird'	
Odontioda Lovely Penguin	
<i>Schoenorchis manipurensis</i>	
Vandofinetia Blaupunkt	
Paphiopedilum Winston Churchill 'Redoubtable'	Duane & Laura Duman
Phragmipedium Memoria Dick Clements	G-O
Vanda [Jimmy Miller 'Robert' AM/AOS x Fuchs Fanfare 'Robert' AM/AOS]	
<i>Ascocentrum garayii</i>	Rob Halgren
Tolumnia Orchidom Stun Gun	G-O
Tolumnia Orchidom Valentine 'Sweet Caroline' HCC/AOS	
Paphiopedilum Yosemite Moon	G
Stenorrhynchos glicensteinii	Paige Hartman
Barkerara (Dgm) Flying High x Odontocidium Purbeck Gold	G-O
Paphiopedilum Gege Hughes	Judy Lobato
Phalaenopsis Bedford Innocence [Timothy Christopher x Ho's Amaglad]	W
<i>Sedirea japonica</i>	
<i>Cattleya percivaliana</i>	Riki Marquis
Coelogyne hyb.	W-O
<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i>	
Paphiopedilum Jamie Chantry 'Green Elf' x 'New Year'	Lee & Don Meyer
Paphiopedilum Puppentanz	G
Paphiopedilum Hardi	
Phalaenopsis Carmela's Wild Thing	W-O
	Abby Skinner

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

Harry Winter

My Backyard Orchid Growing Area

Even when the shades are rolled all the down, my greenhouse begins to get too hot and dry starting in May, and it gets even worse in the Summer. I have an evaporative cooler but it needs repair and I haven't gotten around to taking care of that. Hence it's essential that virtually everything in my greenhouse gets moved to an outside growing area where it all stays from about mid May to early October.

My outdoor growing area (for orchids, bromeliads, aroids and other tropical plants) evolved over the course of many

years. The orchids get the sunniest location (in the morning) while most other plants get mostly dappled shade. I have several old, tall lilac trees at the back of our lot and the when the morning sun comes up it really brightens that area of the yard. I started with two Day's benches (tiered, heavy duty wire rack on galvanized pipe-frame base) placed against the base of the lilacs, then supplemented these with some plastic pallets placed across 2 x 4's which in turn rest on some saw-horses. Last winter my neighbor down the street gave me several



wood-framed screen-bottomed orchid growing shelves that a relative had had made years before but didn't use any more. I ended up resting these horizontally on a combination of overturned plastic garbage cans, very large heavy-duty nursery pots, large clay flower pots, etc. I am not handy an building stuff but quite resourceful at making use of available materials to set things on (see photo, taken when the morning sun strikes the rack from the east).

The advantage of growing your plants outdoors are:

- (1) good bright natural light (I think east light, because it's the coolest, is best);
- (2) a substantial temperature drop every night;
- (3) higher relative humidity;
- (4) usually breezes are blowing over or through the plants;
- (5) a bunch of small predators such as wasps and other critters that hunt for prey (scale, aphids, or other plant "cooties") among your plants;
- (6) drenching rains to water your plants;
- (7) supplemental watering can be done with your garden hose and feeding the plants can be done

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My Backyard Growing Area, cont.

with a siphon mixer drawing from a bucket with a stock solution of your favorite fertilizer;

(8) bird droppings raining down provide supplemental food for your plants.

Disadvantages of growing your plants outdoors are:

- (1) unless gradually acclimated to intense sunshine, plants can get sunburned (portions of certain leaves heat up so much that the chlorophyll in them is destroyed and the leaves become unsightly);
- (2) plants are susceptible to damage or worse from severe storms unless well secured (such as setting each pot within a larger clay pot for stability);
- (3) critters such as red or grey squirrels may do mischievous things such as knocking plants over or off the rack, or nibbling on parts of them;
- (4) if the pots are placed too close to the ground, slugs may invade the pots or lay eggs in them;
- (5) labels can become knocked out and perhaps lost unless you have some backup identification system such as an inventory system in which all the plant pots are also assigned individual numbers (which I finally did for the first time in 2010);
- (6) scale, aphids, or other noxious pests may colonize some of your plants while they are outside then

be brought back into your greenhouse unless you take proper precautions, such as spraying the plants with a good insecticide before you bring them inside;

(7) at least in my case, the surface of the potting medium gets sprinkled with dead leaves, twigs, and berries of buckthorn (a nasty invasive shrub) or Virginia Creeper.

Finally, every fall, when the weather person starts to warn us about "patchy frost" or worse, I join my fellow procrastinators all over southeastern Michigan and hurry to bring my tropical plants back into the greenhouse. This year I finished bringing in the last orchids just as the sun was setting, but there have been some years when I had to use a flashlight to make sure I had rescued all the most tender orchids or other plants. When you leave some plants out in really frosty weather, you risk losing all the effort that you have invested into growing those plants into really fine specimens. For example, developing blossoms may be irreparably damaged in Cattleyas and some new growths may be completely killed. Better-organized people bring in their plants well before the weather gets frosty, but--alas--I am not one of them. (Nor am I...editor).

--Neal Foster

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