

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

**February Speaker
February 13, 2011**



"Orchid Trip to Borneo." by Jack Shumaker has been canceled, due to an illness. The AAOS hopes Jack recovers soon!

Alex Challis will stand in as speaker. He will talk about some of the "blue" color forms of Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis and other orchids, as well as the little-known orchids with true-blue pigmentation.

Alex will have plants for sale. Please bring plants for the silent auction and raffle tables!

President's Message

The Ann Arbor Orchid Festival will take place this year March 18th, 19th and 20th. This event couldn't be possible without a small army of volunteers giving their time and talent to planning and running the show. To those of you who have already volunteered to help during the show, thank you! It's no small feat to put on an event like this, and every person willing to show up during the weekend and give a few hours (or more!) of their time is appreciated.

On Friday March 18, we will need people to help with set-up - as well the AAOS display. During the show, we will need people to be at the hospitality table in the display area, work at the auditorium door, and serve as hosts.

Even if you have not volunteered before, or are new to the society, or think that you don't know how to help, please don't let that stop you!

Blue Orchids are IN! Blue Orchids are IN!

It was inevitable. Phalaenopsis, one of the major orchids to give someone for Valentine's Day now come in blue. Are they bred this way? No. Are the genetically enhanced with a little Delphinium DNA? Nah.

Cont. on page 2.
February 2011

In this Issue

February Meeting.....	1
President's Message.....	1
Festival Food.....	2
Tales of Orchids, Romance and ???.....	2
AAOS Calendar.....	3
Newsletter Deadline.....	3
AAOS Officers.....	3
Huge February Raffle.....	4
January Plant Table.....	5
Picture: GVOS Display.....	5
GVOS Show Report.....	6
All About Orchidwiz.....	7

President's message, cont.

Spray-painted perhaps? Nope - Have you seen the blue-dyed Dendrobium cut flowers that have been around? Same color dye, injected into the plant while the flower spike is developing to make white flowers turn blue. How do they look you ask? Different. Very different. Will they be the next big seller in orchids?

Hmm....

Please remember to volunteer for our Festival in March!



Festival Food Needed!

IT'S PLANNING FOR FESTIVAL TIME!! Paige will be passing around a clipboard with lists of the many many food items needed and helpers needed for our wonderfully successful orchid festival. Start thinking of helping with serving or clean up.

Items always needed are soda/pop, main dishes, fruit, salads, sandwich items, and desserts. We serve dinner on Friday, Saturday breakfast for judges and helpers, Saturday lunch for workers and vendors and Sunday lunch for vendors and workers.

Just a reminder that we do not serve breakfast on Sunday. The Ann Arbor Orchid Society is the best at serving wonderful meals for our vendors, workers and judges. Thank you in advance for all your help!!



Tales of Orchids, Romance & ??? by Alex Challis

The orchid has fascinated and inspired humans throughout recorded history. Its real and imagined qualities are reflected in the folklore of many cultures, much of it concerning health and reproduction.

The ancient Greeks gave the family its name, based on the appearance of the tuberous roots of a terrestrial species. The Greek word orkhis meaning testicle. In classical mythology, Orchis, the son of a satyr and a nymph, was turned into a flower after his death.

In his *Materia Medica*, the first century A.D. Greek physician Dioscorides hypothesized that orchids influenced sexuality. Ever since, people have associated the plant with virility, fertility, sex determination, and other aspects of reproduction, inspired perhaps by the exotic appearance, fragrance, and frankly erotic aspect of its flower's sexual parts.

The male Crestless Gardener Bowerbird of New Guinea is the only animal, besides man, that uses orchids for their beauty. The orchid blossoms are used to decorate the entrance of the bower, made of sticks and vines, that the male bird builds for his courtship display. The orchids are placed on a carpet of moss laid down at the bower entrance and the Bowerbird periodically replaces the wilted blossoms with fresh ones, thus impressing and winning the female of the species.



Happy Valentine's Day!

AAOS Calendar



February 13 Alex Challis-
Blue Orchids

February 25 Set up Greater
Lansing Orchid Show

February 27 Tear Down
Greater Lansing Orchid Show

AAOS Festival - March 18, 19, 20

April 10 Ron Ciesinski, Taylor Orchids.
Orchid repotting, Culture and a Few Sto-
ries

April 15 Set up MOS Orchid Show

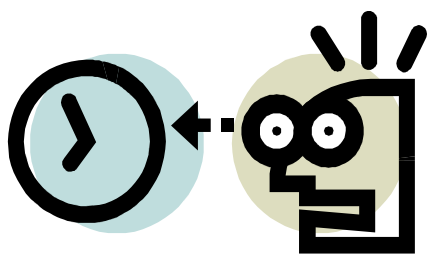
April 17 Tear down MOS Orchid Show

May 15 Leon Glicenstein - Some Native
Orchids and Meat Eaters of Florida

September 18 Russ Vernon, Odontoglos-
sums

October 9 - Alex Challis - The Slippers of
Venus

November 20 - Ernie Gemeinhart - Grow-
ing Orchids The EnLightened Way: Gar-
dening Under Fluorescent Lights



Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter deadline is
March 12, 2011. 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

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Past President - Paige Hartman 734-864-3718
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Hospitality Queen: Riki Marquis 248-486-1540
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Membership - Randy Long, 810-599-0384,
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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, De-
nise 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 organiza-
tion, affiliated with the American Orchid Society,
the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and with the
Orchid Digest Corporation.

HUGE FEBRUARY RAFFLE

GRAND PRIZE: ORCHIDWIZ program plus one year of updates (donated by Orchidwiz) See Page 7 for more information!

Other prizes:

Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice `Littlefrog Princess' HCC/AOS
(Division donated by LittleFrog Farm)

Paphiopedilum Freckles
(Division donated by Ron Ciesinski of Taylor Orchids)



Oncidium T-Shirt from Costa Rica (Donated by Alex)

2 packs of Orchid Potting Supplies - each with 15 pots, orchid labels, 1 cubic foot of orchid mix & fertilizer



2 Orchid Society Tote Bags

(the following items donated by Neal Foster)
Phragmipedium custom hand embroidered denim shirt



Native Plants T-shirt



2 Humidity Trays



Any tickets drawn for prizes will be added back for the Grand Prize drawing of the Orchidwiz Program.

You do not need to be present to win!!! If you can not attend and wish to buy tickets please contact Alex or Dottie.

Plant Table, January 2011

Only about 9 plants were on our January plant table just 6 of which, from two members, were identified with plant table tags. Just a reminder - when you put plants on the plant table, be sure to fill out a plant table tag, and leave it on the table when you retrieve your plant, if it (the tag) is still there - we'll get them so we can write up this article for the next newsletter. We hope the rest of you were protecting your blooming plants from the cold, so they'd be good for the display at the Grand Valley OS show in Grand Rapids the next weekend.

Paphiopedilum (Hellas 'Sunset' x Brunswick 'Antique Gold')	Emma Edge
Phalaenopsis 'Snow Appel'	L-O
<i>Ascocentropsis (Ascocentrum) pusilla</i>	Paige Hartman
Masdevallia Helene (Monarch x rex 'Golden Gate')	G
<i>Masdevallia princeps</i>	
<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>	
Mormodes Virgen del Valle (<i>sinuata x hookeri</i>)	

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. (?)*, Hybrid or species name not, or incorrectly, recorded; probable name based on web search of clonal name and/or appearance. Harry Winter



The AAOS Display at the Grand Valley Orchid Show. Thanks to all who allowed us to use their plants for this display!

GVOS SHOW 2011

On a c-c-c-c-cold weekend in January, we had a good crew to set up our 50-ft² display at the Grand Valley OS show at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. Denise Nash was in charge of the design, and its set-up was accomplished with the help of Robin Johnson, Randy Long, Abby Skinner, Riki Marquis, Linda Battison and Harry & Dottie Winter. Most of them also brought plants. Since Paige was in California, Dottie made the plant labels, Harry saw to registering all the plants for judging, while the others did staking, arranging, mossing, and other tasks necessary to create a fine display (also buying more plants for next year's displays). The display was similar in design to the one at the SVOS show, and it was awarded a third place ribbon, finishing behind the exhibits from SVOS (which also won the trophy for society exhibits), and the GLOS exhibit. The 35 plants entered for judging garnered 14 ribbons, and a trophy. That seems low compared to our last outing, but the competition included almost twice as many plants (almost 500 were registered for judging!)

Trophy - Best Cymbidium

Cymbidium Eastern Beach 'Yozakura'	Neal Foster
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First Place:

Cymbidium Eastern Beach 'Yozakura'	Neal Foster
Renanthera Tom Thumb	Denise Nash
Laeliocattleya (SLC; Herbertara) Cat's Meow	Denise Nash

Second Place:

Cymbidium Leodogran 'Villa Park'	Linda Battison
<i>Coelogyne cristata</i>	Denise Nash
Epidendrum Panama Ruby	Denise Nash
Paphiopedilum hybrid	Riki Marquis
Rossioglossum Rawdon Jester	Riki Marquis

Third Place:

Epicattleya Rene Marques x <i>Epi. pseudoepidendrum</i>	Neal Foster
Rhyncholaeliocattleya George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS	Neal Foster
<i>Coelogyne cristata</i> (specimen plant class)	Denise Nash
<i>Maxillaria variabilis</i>	Denise Nash
Phragmipedium Calurum	Denise Nash
Paphiopedilum Ruby Charles	Abby Skinner

Dottie & Harry Winter, Janet Hinshaw, and Randy Long also entered plants. Dottie also made two cut flower arrangements, with which she won a first and a third place ribbon. Another society member, Marilyn Lee, also entered three arrangements, and won the trophy & three firsts. Several members were judges, including Pres. Alex Challis, Mid-American Rep. Doris Asher, Marilyn Lee, Rob Halgren, and Kris Garling. Take-down was rapidly accomplished Sunday afternoon, thanks to Harry & Dottie, Denise, and April Pedit and her husband, who fortunately had a big SUV to carry the staging materials. We were down and on our way just after 6pm. Our next show will be the Greater Lansing OS show, Feb. 25-27, at the Plant & Soils building on the MSU campus.

What is OrchidWiz



OrchidWiz is an easy-to-use software application for orchid research, discovery and to help growers keep track of their orchids. It was designed with three primary goals in mind: (1) Ease-of-use; (2) Accuracy; and (3) Completeness.

OrchidWiz is so intuitive that anyone who can use a computer mouse can benefit from it. There are thousands of OrchidWiz aficionados around the world. Many world-class institutions use OrchidWiz for their basic research needs, i.e., Selby Gardens, the Smithsonian Greenhouse and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. More than 200 orchid nurseries and 330 Orchid Society judges have licensed OrchidWiz, another testimony to its breadth and accuracy.

Discover Orchids



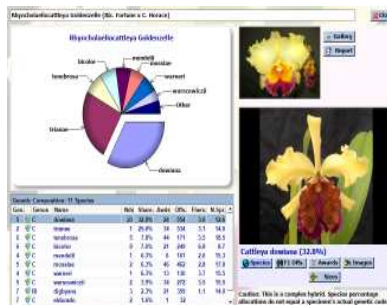
- Inventory and track your own orchids in the OrchidWiz Journal

Volume 19 Issue 2

- Add your own photographs into the Journal.
- Almost 40,000 color photographs of orchids.

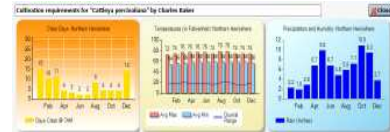


- Photographic references for almost 16,000 species.
- Look-up orchids by new taxonomic names or by older more familiar Sander's names
- Information on more than 29,000 species.
- Genealogy charts for more than 127,000 hybrids.



- 16 distinct breeding groups provided for ease of search and analysis.

- Geographical distributions of over 26,000 species.
- Month-by-month flowering times for more than 5,300 species.
- Data from 2,649 Charles Baker cultivation sheets displayed in graphical form.



- Light intensity and night temperature recommendations for 4,100 species.

C. Petite Purple

2 Awards

Flwr Qual: 2
Cultures: 2
Others: 0

FQ High: 83
Cult High: 2

FCC's: 1
AMC's: 1
HCC's: 1

Averages

Flowers Per Stem: 1.0
Natural Spread: 8.9 cm.
Nat Spread Vert: 8.9 cm.
Dorsal Sepal W: 2.4 cm.
Dorsal Sepal L: 4.9 cm.
Petals Width: 4.3 cm.
Total Length: 4.8 cm.
Lat/Syn Sepal W: 2.3 cm.
Lat/Syn Sepal L: 4.7 cm.
Lip or Pouch W: 4.3 cm.
Lip/Pouch L: 3.7 cm.

- Award data from the AOS, CSA, AOC, and the OCNZ, a total of more than 73,000 awards.

Excited about Orchids

"I have observed an interesting reaction in myself since I started using OrchidWiz to inventory my collection. . . I am actually getting EXCITED again about my orchids in a way I haven't felt in awhile." –Cynthia Hill

February 2011