

THE MEMPHIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2013

www.memphisorchids.org

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Congratulations - Marcus is expecting twins! Phalaenopsis seed just out of their pod.

Photos by Marcus Valentine

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Forrest Brem

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Charles Pintner

President's Column

Hello my Fellow Orchid Lovers,

Welcome to another year of fun, friends new and old, and fabulous orchids with the Memphis Orchid Society in 2013. This year will be the start of my seventh year with the MOS and I'm confident that it will be, as always, another great one. Our new VP and Program Chair, Jim Harwell, has worked very hard to put together another year of awesome programs and I am excited to see the year unfold.

The New Year is typically a time for resolutions, and I want to put forth a resolution for the MOS that I think we can all get behind. Help make the MOS the best society out there. With the hard times seen by many of our fellow Societies in recent years, it is more important than ever to support the group that we love, and growth and support can come in so many ways. Here's just a few:

Help grow our membership. If you have a friend or family member that is interested in orchids, invite them to a meeting.

Help grow our treasury so we can continue to provide high quality programs and support our Regional Societies by exhibiting in their shows. If you have a little extra at the end of the month, make a small donation (or a big one, it's all deductible!!!). When we don't have a speaker selling plants, bring in some auction items, when we do make a small purchase. Donate to our Christmas Party Fundraiser. Help us earn credit with The Memphis Botanic Garden by donating a little time.

Help strengthen our Society by reaching out to a new member or someone you don't know as well as you could. Help by donating time and food to make our show a success.

Make the extra effort to bring in plants for show and tell, after all, we're all there to see and learn about orchids.

Finally, I want to flood Charles and Susan with blooming orchids for their exhibits, they do such a great service for us, let's thank them by giving them more orchids to exhibit than they know what to do with.

Have a great year everyone; I look forward to seeing everyone for the start of New Year this week!!!

Forrest

The Program's Chair

Hello.

Most if not all of you know of me by now. My name is Jim Harwell and I am pleased to be your new Vice President for the ensuing year 2013. I have been a member of this Society for a short two years now but have had a fascination with orchids since growing my first at the ripe old age of 16.

I am indeed excited about being chosen for this post. I pledge to work with each of you with the same enthusiasm and zeal as I have for growing orchids.

Speaking of exciting, I hope each of you will find the line-up of speakers and topics very interesting, informative, and enjoyable.

Here's to sharing another great year with you!

Jim Harwell, V.P., M.O.S

MEMPHIS ORCHID SOCIETY

2013 CALENDAR

Jan.	1/27 MBG	2:00	'The Judge, The Hunter, The Thief, and The Black Orchid' Film	
Feb.	2/24 MBG	2:00	Ernie Enlightened Orchids	<i>Growing Orchids The Enlightened Way</i>
Mar.	3/24 MBG	2:00	Orchid Swap	
Apr.	4/28 MBG	2:00	Peter Lin Diamond Orchids	<i>Wild, Weird, and Wonderful Orchids</i>
May	5/17-19		30th ANNUAL MEMPHIS ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE Memphis Botanic Garden	
June	6/23 MBG	2:00	Dr. Forrest Brem Green Growers and New Member	Appreciation / Orientation Day
July	7/28 MBG	2:00	Dr. Martin Motes from Motes Orchids	<i>A Bright Future For Vandas</i>
Aug.	8/25 MBG	2:00	Art Chadwick from Chadwick and Sons Orchids	<i>First Ladies & Their Cattleyas</i> <i>1929 to Present</i>
Sept.	9/22 MBG	2:00	Linda Wilhelm	<i>The Magnificent Stanhopeas</i>
Oct.	10/27 MBG	2:00	Harry Phillips Andy's Orchids	
Nov.	11/24 MBG	2:00	Tom Mirenda from The Smithsonian Institute	
Dec.	12/8 MBG	2:00	Christmas Party	

Cymbidiums HTC & Standards

I would like to pass on some information re pests that might be of interest to others with greenhouses. As some of you know, Memphis, along with other cities has recently experienced an increase in rat populations. In the process of doing repair and other work on our old house, workmen have at times left openings unprotected, which have provided an entry place for rats. This also may occur in greenhouse construction, where openings sometimes are hidden or not apparent, allowing an infestation that may be difficult to overcome. If they gain entrance to your orchids, it can quickly become catastrophic. Over several years, I have found that they are very selective on which genera they will feed. Unfortunately for me, their favorite appears to be Cymbidiums. They will start feeding on new shoots and tender leaves, which on young seedlings may result in the entire plant being chewed off just above the potting media.

There are several ways to control them. I have used the old fashioned spring rat traps, cage traps, glue boards, and poison baits. If you have pets, the poison baits likely should be avoided. I have had good luck with Catchmaster 48R glueboards, and with cage traps having a door at one end or with doors at both ends. Usually it will involve making a funneling run for them to pass over a glueboard or thru a cage trap. If using a glueboard, it is best to set it on a hard flat smooth surface with the glueboard taped down from underneath, and enough space away from the glueboard that any rat stuck on it, cannot drag it away to where it can pull itself free by grabbing onto some immovable device. The surface should be smooth enough, where they cannot gain a hold with their nails. They will pull hard enough to rip the fur off of them to gain freedom. They also are quite intelligent, and if they escape from your set the first time, you will have a very difficult task catching them again. I have used an infrared trail camera that will photograph their movements at night. Every case has its specifics, so to improvise is the key. One other method that I have used is to shoot them with a .22 caliber rifle using pepper shot cartridges. Pepper shot, as the name implies, is extremely small #12 pellets, that give little penetration, so are relatively safe to use, but due caution must be used to not endanger life or property. At a range of 5 to 10 feet, they will kill a rat effectively. Good luck!

Eric Kuhnel
ericfishing@hotmail.com

Conversion of Doritis and Doritaenopsis to Phalaenopsis

Dear All,

Just to let you know that yesterday Robert Hacker, our IT consultant, successfully made the transfer in the orchid registration database of all x Doritaenopsis and Doritis hybrids to Phalaenopsis. As a result x Doritaenopsis will no longer be available on the on-line search, but will appear in the synonym box as appropriate.

All registration applications for x Doritaenopsis hybrids will now be registered as Phalaenopsis from today onwards.

It would be useful if you could make this announcement known in your news items area on websites and other publications.

Many thanks
Best wishes
Julian Shaw
International Orchid Registrar, RHS

Contributed by Charles Wilson

Debra Talks Cash

It is time to review your membership dues for 2013. Dues are \$25.00 per family and you can renew with a check or cash. If you won't be at the meeting you can mail it to me at 3617 Graves Road, Memphis, TN 38116. Your renewal includes the monthly newsletter, meeting and guest speaker reminders, upcoming out of town shows, and the occasional informational emails.

Also if you would like a Memphis Orchid Society Name Tag, the cost is \$8.00 for a pin tag and \$10.00 for a magnet tag.

I'll see you at the meeting!

Debra Baker
Treasurer

Weather It's Cold...

While our orchids are presently snug in our greenhouses or homes away from freezing temperatures, remember that our heating systems will remove humidity from the indoor air. Even with the rainfall we had the past week or so and the outside humidity was 90 to 100%, the humidity in my house was hovering in the mid 30% range (it's 29% as I write this). This is not good for orchids. It is generally agreed that the humidity should be at least 50 to 60% to maintain healthy conditions for your plants. There are several ways this can be achieved; I use a combination of humidity trays and a humidifier in my 'orchid' room, and I use plant saucers with pea gravel in the bottom so I can keep water in the saucer without having the medium in the pots constantly wet. Frequent mistings of your growing area may help, just don't drench your plants unless you have good air movement.

One disease that water on your plants can lead to is the fungus, botrytis. Botrytis causes unsightly brown spotting generally on older blooms and foliage and winters on dead or dying plant material which starts producing spores during cool damp periods, so keep your growing area free of debris and your potting medium fresh. While Phalaenopsis and Cattleya blooms are extremely susceptible to the disease, all orchid genera can also be affected by this fungus. Finally, be on the lookout for scale and mealy bugs which, in my experience, are more likely to infest your orchids under cool, low humidity conditions.

Chuck Pintner

2013 Show Schedule

January 25-27, 2013

Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show
Gautier, MS

March 15-17, 2013

Springfield Orchid Society Show
Springfield, MO

May 17-19, 2013

Memphis Orchid Society Show
'Orchids Around the World'
Memphis, TN

The Detling Report

Since December was Party Time, we ended the visitor count for 2012 in November. We had a total of 34 visitors, some of whom became members.

There were two visitors at the November Meeting. We welcomed Viva Murray who has five orchids and was interested in learning more about them. Also, we met Carolyn Crum who has no orchids now, but has three kitties who LOVE orchids! Having hosted our two grand kitties for one whole summer, we do understand the problem, Carolyn. Throw in one traumatized Chihuahua, and yes, the orchids did suffer some.

So continue to invite your friends, relatives, acquaintances, and anyone standing near the orchid display at Kroger. Let's make 2013 the best year yet for MOS.

Bill and Nancy

Memphis Show Schedule for 2013 is Short

Memphis Orchid Society will be participating in only two out of town shows in 2013 because there are only two sanctioned shows in our region or nearby that we normally do.

The Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show starts our season the same weekend as our monthly MOS meeting. Nashville, Little Rock and Pensacola are not holding shows in 2013, and the HODOS show in Huntsville is not going to be an AOS sanctioned show. Our next sanctioned show will be in Springfield, MO (15-17 March) - details later.

The lower show budget for this year can help offset expenses for the wonderful slate of speakers we have coming. Hopefully 2014 will once again have a greater number of show potentials.

Work is progressing on our home show May 17-19 'Orchids Around the World' with many vendors returning. Please keep in mind we will be needing sponsors for trophies (which can also be in honor, memoria, or just anonymous). Sponsorships are only \$25 and can be paid to Debra Baker at your convenience.

Thanks! Charles and Susan Wilson

Monthly Checklist for January & February

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30°F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard *Paphiopedilum* *insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a clean-up. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

The AOS and MOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Contributed by Chuck Pintner.



In the fall *Phalaenopsis* should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

LYNN FULLER

AOS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

AOS has gone digital. Starting with the January issue, Orchids is available for download to your computer, smart phone, pad, or tablet. All you need is a valid email address connected to your membership and your personal login. If you have explored the members only section of the AOS website, you are all set! If not, there are instructions on the site how to set up your own account.

The Spring Trustees and Members' Meeting (including the annual elections) will be held in tandem with the San Diego Orchid Show in San Diego, California, March 21-23 at the Scottish Rite Temple. The meeting will be held between the Sheraton Mission Valley Hotel and the Show. More information and registration will be available on the AOS website soon. The AOS proxy card for the annual elections was included in the January issue of Orchids. If you are not planning to attend the meeting in San Diego in March, please return your vote to AOS Headquarters at your earliest convenience so your vote may be counted at that meeting. An important part of membership is the privilege of voting.

The Affiliated Societies Committee would like your tips, suggestions and/or ideas on how you grow your Societies' membership and methods you have to keep your Society's members active and engaged. Please send them to the affiliated_societies@aos.org email address and we will organize and catalogue them on the Affiliated Societies section of the AOS website so we can all share your successes.

Best wishes and happy growing for 2013.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee