



SOUTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON ORCHID SOCIETY
ON THE WEB: scworchidsociety.org
JANUARY 19, 2010...7 PM EDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Happy New Year. I hope you had a wonderful holiday. Since our December meeting was cancelled due to snow, club officer's election will be held at the January meeting.

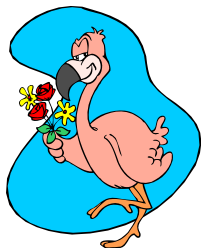
It is time to renew your membership to the South Central Washington Orchid Society: \$12 for individual or \$15 for family.

The January program will be on greenhouse construction.

Upcoming events include a field trip to Orchidaceae in College place in March, a greenhouse tour in April, and the SCWOS Annual Orchid show on May 1st & 2nd at *The Manor at Canyon Lakes*. So mark your calendar for these events.



Here's hoping that all of you had a wonderful Holiday season. It was a shame that we had to cancel the December meeting as we all missed out on some goodies, but better to be safe than sorry.



GET WELL WISHES go out to Joy Robinson (who had knee replacement surgery in December) and Ilene Franco who broke her leg several months ago. We wish you both speedy recoveries and look forward to seeing you both soon.

DECEMBER BLOOMS



Vanda Roberts Delight 'Big Blue'
Grown by Berta Thomas



Cirr. medusae
Grown by Berta Thomas

MORE DECEMBER BLOOMS



Neolauchia Puchella
Grown by Betty Wise



Hysinying Dobby X Sib (Kaoli X Eka)
Grown by Jeff Jennings



Dendrobium
Grown by Betty



Lc. Drumbeat



Paph. Red Shift
Grown by Jim and Paulette Hummer



Sogo Doll Little Angel



C. percivaliana
Grown by Betty



Blc. Anna Balmores
Grown by Betty



Oncidium Twinkle
Grown by Jeff Jenning

Don't miss the January meeting. I obtained an extra copy of a great Orchid growing book that comes highly recommended and I will bring it to the meeting. Anyone interested can put in a dollar for a raffle. (All proceeds will go to the Society)

HOW TO SAVE A DYING PLANT.....Several months ago, I was doing my usual review of the Orchid Board and a posting about growing plants in water caught my eye. I had a no name Cattleya that a friend had given me, in the hopes that I could save it. It was really on its last legs. The leaves were curling and stiff and the pseudobulbs were shriveled. So I figured I had nothing to lose by trying to grow it in water. I found an old quart canning jar and filled it with my usual strength of fertilized water. I placed it in a sunny window and let it sit for about a week. The water began to turn green with algae and then I placed the poor plant in the jar with the bottom of the pseudobulbs touching the water. I refilled the water level each week and after several weeks I noticed the nub of a root forming. In the several months since, I now have two new pseudobulbs with healthy new leaves and lots of roots. Some of the desiccated pseudobulbs have begun to plump up as well. I am planning on potting the plant in a semihydroponic pot in the near future and we shall see what happens.



Note the two new leaves and the old desiccated one. Canning jar

The moral of the story: never give up on those desiccated plants. A little water may be all you need.

EXPERIMENT: I purchased a plant from Orchidaceae last year during our spring visit. It was a Cattleya alliance called Slc. Tutankamen and was a plant I had seen in several publications. Since it needed to be divided, I decided to do an experiment. I placed half the plant in the usual bark median and the other half was potted semi-hydroponically. I can't tell which plant was the back bulb section as both are growing well. The results are shown below. The plants were placed next to one another in the greenhouse and were watered and fertilized exactly the same. Both plants have new growth and both seem to be growing well. I will continue to monitor to see if there is a difference in the blooms.

I don't grow all my plants semi-hydroponically, but the Cattleyas I grow that way seem to really enjoy themselves and they reward me with vigorous plants and beautiful, long lasting blooms.



Semi-hydroponically grown



bark grown plant

Did You Know?

Cyrtopodium punctatum holds the record for most orchid seeds in a pod, about 7½ million seeds per pod. *Barbosella australia* on the other hand, hold the record for least, at about 25,000 seeds per pod. (Koopowitz, H., *Orchids and Their Conservation*, Timber Press, Portland, 2001, p.10)



WINTER GROWING TIPS

(except from American Orchid Society Beginner Newsletter below☺ ([Bill Bair](#), check out the pink section)

Except for a few parts of the country, winter is in full swing. This week the midwest and eastern states received the first big storm of the season. The shorter and often dull days, along with cooler temperatures, affect our orchids in both good and bad ways

First the good news; cooler temperatures and/or shorter days send the signal to many orchid genera and species that it is time to flower. Inflorescences on many *Phalaenopsis* (left) and *Cymbidium* hybrids should be well developed by Christmas. Be on the lookout for bugs that think of your precious orchid buds as tasty winter treats. Mealybugs will be the most likely suspects. Fortunately, these soft-bodied pests can be easily controlled with one teaspoon castile soap (we use Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap) in a quart of water in a hand sprayer. This safe home treatment may require several applications every other day until control is achieved. Don't be tempted to mix any chemical control, even one as benign as soap, stronger than recommended.

It is a good idea to begin staking *Phalaenopsis* spikes before they get too far along. *Cattleya* species bloom on cue for the holidays, notably *Cattleya trianae* and *C. percivaliana* (although both bloom across wider seasons in nature). It is a good idea to stake cattleyas also, as the flowers will display better. Decorating the home with orchids can provide colorful accents that admired by guests. If you have any orchid at this time of year, try to make the time to and pick out a few plants that will bloom holidays for years to come.



Here are a few suggestions to keep your orchids healthy this winter;

- If you are a windowsill grower, the light will be entirely different at this time of year. Assess it carefully and make any necessary adjustments. A south window may be brighter due to bare trees and the sun being lower in the sky. Watch for sunburn and move plants back from the window or add a sheer curtain to cut down the light.
- Shorter days and gloomy weather in many parts of the country can cause plants to produce soft growths that are more susceptible to pests and disease. Some orchids will not flower if they do not receive enough light. If necessary, use a growlight on a timer to provide additional light in winter.
- Orchids grow more slowly in winter and will need less water and fertilizer. Most growers cut their fertilizer back to twice a month at half strength. Monitor orchids to keep them at their proper moisture level for their type. Generally, orchids will need about half as much water in winter as they do in summer. Some orchids must have a dry winter rest in order to flower.

- The loss of humidity as a result of forced air heating can take its toll on your orchids. Remember, most orchids grow optimally with 60-75% humidity. If your home is especially dry, and you will know by the way your own skin reacts to winter, provide extra humidity for your orchids. A tried and true method is to set orchid pots on trays of pebbles that are filled with water; just make sure your plant is not setting in the water. Misting a couple times a day can also help.
- Winter is cold, so protect plants from drafts. If buds start falling off of a *Phalaenopsis* inflorescence the first thing to suspect is a drafty window. Do not put plants close enough to a window to touch the glass!



This is a picture from the December monthly judging at Silverton, OR. This display of 15 Paph fairieanum received an AQ/AOS as well as numerous individual quality awards. The display included 2 existing AM/AOS awards and the judges added 3 additional AM/AOS awards and 1 FCC/AOS award. It was the first time I worked on an FCC award. Quite a spectacular and stunning display. Bill Jasen

For Your Information And Education: “An Award of Quality can be awarded once to a cross exhibited by a single individual as a group of not less than 12 plants or inflorescences of different clones of a hybrid or cultivated species. At least one of the inflorescences must receive a flower quality and the overall quality of the group must be an improvement over the former type.” Per AOS guide lines for judging. *It sounds like this one is not often given. Ed.*

****Our Sympathy** to Bill Jasen in the recent loss of his mother.

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