



SOUTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON ORCHID SOCIETY
ON THE WEB: scworchidsociety.org
NOVEMBER 17TH, 2009...7 PM EDISON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: It is time to think about electing officers for next year. If you would like to be an officer and would like more information about the office, please contact one of the officers and they would be happy to tell you about the officer responsibilities. This month Erin and Steve Nelson from Small Hill Orchids in Spokane will be at our meeting with orchids and supplies for sale. They will talk on Dendrobiums A big thanks goes to Paulette and Jim Hummer for opening their home for the club's meeting in October. Also, thanks to Lois and Jim Huffman of Jolah Orchids for bringing their orchids and supplies for sale. Lois talked on Coelogyne.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: October 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Due to a snafu in access to the Edison Elementary School our meeting was held at Jim and Paulette Hummer's home. A huge thank you to the Hummer's for their hospitality!!

Randy Scheele reported on tentative vendors for the orchid show in May: Jolah Orchids, Sorella Orchids, Botanica Orchids, JC Orchids, and Small Hill Orchids.

President Tom Walker introduced our special guests, Lois and Jim Huffman from Jolah Orchids who gave a presentation on the Coelogyne genus.

NOVEMBER 17th PROGRAM: The folks from Small Hill Orchids, Spokane will be joining us. They will be presenting a program on dendrobiums and will also be bringing a selection of orchids for purchase.

A BIG Thank you goes to Paulette and Jim Hummer for the generous last minute (literally) offer to host our October meeting in their home. Their spur of the moment decision saved our meeting and was much appreciated. Thanks again Paulette and Jim....You are awesome...



CULTURE CORNER: The Oct. 2009 edition of Orchid Digest focused exclusively on Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums. If you want to learn how those big bull dog Paphs are hybridized, this is a must read. Along those lines, there are some interesting suggestions for potting mix and for a watering schedule. I have included those below.

Nick Tannaci of Nick Tannaci Orchids (www.tannaci.com) published a watering schedule for Brachypetalum but I would think it would apply to almost any Paph in your collection.

Step One: Water ALL plants thoroughly, running the water through the mix, wetting the mix thoroughly. 30 to 60 minutes later, water lightly again with ½ to 2/3 strength fertilizer solution.

Step Two: Before the roots dry out (two to five days later depending on your growing conditions) water again copiously with plain water.

Step three: Allow the plants to dry out (four to seven days) before another copious application of water only.

Step Four: The plants are allowed to dry out again before going back to step one.

Remember to water/fertilize in the morning to allow the leaves to dry by nighttime. Along with regular fertilizing, some growers suggest the occasional supplement with Epsom Salts solution and in the summer months, some suggest a supplement with fish emulsion and /or kelp extract. Both are nitrogen based foliar feeds.

There were two different recipes for Paphiopedilum mix and they are listed below. Remember that good water is the key to Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium growth. RO or rain water is great if you can get it.

Nick Tannaci's Brachypetalum Mix

7 parts fine fir bark
1 part #20 sand
1 part horticultural charcoal (size of fine bark)
1 part #3 perlite.

The bark is pre-wet with hot water and mixed with the sand. This coats each piece of bark with sand which keeps the bark separated with air spaces and prevents pre-mature decay. They the charcoal and perlite are added and mixed in. The perlite grabs water quickly and slowly releases it to the rest of the mix.

Glen Decker's Phragmipedium Mix

7 parts medium grade fir bark
11 parts fine grade fir bark
3 parts horticultural charcoal
4 parts sponge rock or large perlite
1 part calcium chips or cracked oyster shells (optional)
1/8 part pelletized limestone (optional)
1/8 part bone meal (optional)

Go to the local feed store to get some of your products like oyster shells. It's used for chickens. It comes in large bags so share it with your orchid growing friends. Limestone and bone meal can be found in the garden center.



Does anyone want to make a bunch of mix and then all could share the cost? It might be advantageous to do something like this for specialty mixes. Think about it and we can bring it up at the next meeting. ...editor

WEB SITES TO CHECK OUT.....

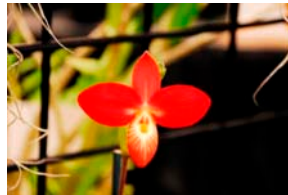
www.phragweb.info

www.staugorchidsociety.org

www.orchidmall.com/windy.hill/index.html

www.houstonorchidsociety.org/judging/judging.html

Below are some paphs and phrags from my picture files, grown by our society members.



Welcome new member: Bob Louie has joined our ranks. His email address is blouie1@charter.net Bob lives in Kennewick and grows his orchids in his home. Please make him welcome at the next meeting.

I believe that the poem below is pretty much right on. I can relate to almost all of it!
editor

OBSESSION
By Susan Fordyce

*Oh Heavens above - I'm obsessed and I'm crazed
More often than not I go about dazed
My orchids have multiplied like rabbits in heat
I try to contain them, but they've got me beat.*

*I started out small - a gift from a friend -
An innocent hobby - a fabulous trend -
Soon my countertops were crammed and I added a rack
And said "No more room" - but my resolve was to crack.*

*A greenhouse window was installed - a Bay for good measure
And, lo, skylights were added for the light that they treasure.
The humidifier was next - and some fans for a breeze
('cause the mold it was causing was making me sneeze!).*

*I invested in Molly bolts and dozens of hooks
To hang up my Vanda's like I read in the books.
Soon my shower and tub were filled to the brim
(And my social life suffered, and became very dim).*

*On the john I installed a fertilizer injector -
A few couplings here and a hose to connect 'er.
She works gosh darn well, though the output is small,
But I have to go to the neighbors to heed nature's call.*

*Throughout my kitchen - I pitched it all on a lark -
(But I did save the oven for sterilizing bark).
The cabinet doors had to go - they were abandoned with glee -
Inside I put grow lights - what an ingenious me!*

*Loud speakers are rigged to play a rainforest tune,
(The hoot of some monkeys, the cry of a loon).
I'm sure the plants love it - they never complain
(Which is more that I can say for my neighbors refrain).*

*I pilfered a street light from just down the road
And put it on a timer in my humble abode -
Now my rooms are aglow, and it's worth every watt
But the cops raided my place - they suspect I grow pot!*

In my closet I've rigged up, by pulleys and chains,

*A gaggle of hoses and a series of drains.
I sleep in a bunk bed with my clothes in some bags
'Cause the top bunk houses my collection of Phrags.*

*My plants take lots of time - but I don't need to fret -
If there are plants to be purchased - there's always the NET.
I find orchids to buy and chat with crazies like me
They give good advice (and they don't charge a fee).*

*If there's a program to join called "orchids ANON"
I'd check myself in - I'd surely be drawn.
But alas - none exist - there's no hot line to dial -
For most orchid fanatics are in denial.*

*I'd build me a greenhouse, but I'm poor as a mouse.
You see - I just rent this apartment - I don't own a house.
The landlord is coming to evict me next week.
(My neighbors below claim their light fixtures leak).*

*So here's my sad story, my little hobby gone mad,
But I've met great new friends - and that's not so bad -
In fact dear ol' friend, ol' buddy so true,
I'd like very much to come live with you!*



Jerry Swett's October Bloomers





Tom's October bloomers



Betty's October bloomers



Mojo loves to smell the orchids...



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Did You Know?

Left: *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* 'Holly' HCC/AOS (syn. *Den. biggibum*)



In 1890 Frederick Sander ordered orchid hunter William Micholitz to New Guinea in search of a variety of *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* (then known as *Den. schroderianum*, now known as *Den. biggibum*) which was very coveted at he time. After suffering many difficulties he found himself a guest in a native village and was invited to watch a war dance. After awhile, he became bored and while walking about, stumbled across some ritual sacrifices. Feeling horrified and sick, he rushed towards the jungle where perched on the boughs of trees, *Den. phalaenopsis* was rediscovered. Large quantities were removed and readied for shipment to England. While en route, fire broke out on the ship and the precious cargo was lost. Ordered back to find more plants, Micholitz grudgingly returned to New Guinea and in June of the following year on some rocks in a small village, he once again found plants growing on bare limestone between a large number of human skulls and bones. After bribing the reluctant natives with trinkets he had brought from England for this purpose, every plant in the area was collected. Despite his promise to Sander to not send any bones or skulls with his precious cargo, one plant attached to a skull arrived in England where it created quite a sensation when it was put up for auction. Swinson, Arthur, Frederick Sander: *The Orchid King*, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1970, pp. 103-106.

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