



It's vacation time – no meeting in August.

Our next regular meeting will be the third Thursday in September (September 15, 2005)



NOTICE – WE NEED A NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, I will be stepping down as newsletter editor due to other obligations. If you have a familiarity with word processing software and have an interest in taking over the helm, please speak up and let our nominating committee know for the upcoming election of new officers (see below). Although I am turning this responsibility over, I promise to support the new Newsletter Editor with occasional articles. If anyone else out there is interested, we can always use your input with more articles.

Tom Bell-Games

COOS OFFICERS

President	Tom Lochner	614-487-8197
Vice President	Tom Franczak	614-868-5636
Treasurer	Chuck Hill	614-442-6995
Secretary	Jennelle Szczepanski	614-868-7309

COOS TRUSTEES

Tom Bell-Games	614-487-1623
Sue Dervin	614-866-4059
Jim Harper	614-965-1921
Matina Ross	614-263-4819
Don Weber	614-846-7712
Cathy Willis	614-847-0676

Membership	Tom James	614-231-9046
Chair, Mini-shows	Jon Young	614-272-5256
Guest Speaker/Programs	Tom Franczak	614-868-5636

Nominating Committee.

I have appointed **Tennis Maynard**, **Tom Bell-Games** and **Ken Mettler** to prepare a slate of candidates to stand for election at our October meeting. They are charged with making their recommendations in time for announcement of the slate at the September meeting.

I want to urge you to provide them with input to their task. Contact them directly, whether to bring your own skills to their attention or to recommend another. Please don't be shy. We function by the grace of volunteer heads and hands and it will always be so.

Tom Lochner

Our (last) June Show.

Next year (March 25-26), we will hold our annual show in the spring. There are plenty of good reasons for this schedule change and I'm sure you know what they are. But let's look back fondly and with some pride at what we put together this past June.



The pictures you'll see in this article show mostly our society members working at setting up the show or staffing the society information table. What you won't see are the paperwork, emails and phone calls that preceded the weekend of the actual show. But the preparations and the follow-through were equally important.



Traffic is the first order of business. Get the exhibitors' and vendors' plants and fixtures out of their vehicles, onto carts, and then up to the exhibit hall where their

display areas and sales tables have been marked off already.



The exhibitors must assemble their displays and, in preparation for ribbon judging, must register their plants. In days gone by, that meant preparing the much disparaged, (some say hideous), "yellow tags" that would identify the entrants to the judging teams. This year, however, we dispensed with those tags in favor of adding the necessary identifications (unobtrusively) to the customary plant labels and generating uniform labels on a laser printer. The process went smoothly and successfully and will only get even better in future shows.



A large percentage of the registration task was completed days ahead of time thanks to exhibitors emailing the data about their plants to our volunteer coordinators.

Thus setup proceeded much more efficiently than it has in the past.



We customarily mark off 5' x 5' areas for displays and provide a 5' backdrop of black cloth on three sides. This is now a concern because the sight lines are including a lot of unsightly distraction above the 5' level where many tall plants protrude even from floor displays. We are going to give this matter a good think in the near future.



The vendors try to get their inventory organized while early birds poke through it hoping to get the treasures they want before someone else snags them. If you sit back and watch this process from just the right angle, you'll see that it's actually a dance.



Another big part of the show is the preparation of the society's exhibit. Here, under the direction of a savvy coordinator, the volunteers responsible for preparing the display try to make an orderly and aesthetically pleasing display out of an incoherent group of plants submitted by numerous society members. Dozens of plants of all sizes, shapes, colors and textures are woven into a riveting display according to a plan that only takes shape at the same time that the display itself does. And it works.





During the show our volunteers are staffing an information table. We dispense oohs and ahhs over plants purchased by the general public along with a culture sheet appropriate to the plant. And maybe a membership app, too.



We don't have a full year before our next annual show. It takes a lot of lead time to mount a show and so we're starting now. Be a part of it. C'mon in on the ground floor.

Tom Franczak



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Dear Orchid Lover,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 10th annual Open House at Hilltop Orchids. The meeting will take place on Saturday August 13, from 11:00am to whenever you orchid buffs get tired of talking orchids.

H. P. Norton of Orchidview will be our featured speaker. He will be discussing orchid culture, with a focus on Phalaenopsis & the lady slipper orchids. As always there will be hands-on workshops for potting, dividing & general care of your plants. There will also be an opportunity to learn about lab techniques for anyone who has an interest.

H. P. will have his outstanding plants for sale, and as always, there will be a selection of Hilltop hybrids, species, stem props, compots, flasks, fertilizer and potting supplies.

There is no charge for the Open House, and lunch will be provided by Marvin's Restaurant of Greencastle, Indiana.

If you need directions to the greenhouse, or information about area motels, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,

Dick & Sandy

DRACULA - Denizens of the dark...

Originally known as the 'Chimarea' group or 'saccolabiate' section of *Masevallia*, these interesting species were broken out as a separate genus in 1978. This genus is characterized by fused dorsal and lateral sepals with extended "tails" and a hinged lip. Most have flowers covered with "hairs". The flowers on almost all are pendulous. We paid a visit to a commercial grower (Hoosier Orchids) who had a large number of these growing on benches. A look under the benches revealed scores of open flowers enjoying the high humidity, cool temperature, and low light levels. *Dracula's* are not a genus for the beginner. However, they are not as hard to grow as many think. If you can provide high humidity, relatively cool temperature (under 85 degrees), gentle air movement, indirect light, and good water (rain water or reverse osmosis water, low in dissolved solids), then these are the orchids for you.

I grow orchids in a glassed-in porch (our "plant room") and under lights in the basement. During the summer, I take many of the tougher orchids



Dracula chestertonii

outdoors for their summer vacation – the *Draculas* stay indoors as they would melt in our hot Ohio summers. During the summer, our basement is the coolest part of the house, so downstairs they go. Most are grown mounted on a small slab of tree fern; the others are grown in good sphagnum moss inside special net baskets. Both of these growing methods enable the scapes (flower spikes) to develop downward. (*Dracula soideroi* is one of the species that has upright flowers and is tolerant of warmer temperatures.) These are misted at least once a day in the morning along with my other Pleurothallids. Small fans are positioned to encourage ample air movement. I grow many of my *Draculas* inside an old aquarium with no top. When watering or misting, water

drains from the plants and collects in the bottom of the aquarium thus maintaining relatively high humidity in the area of the plants. If the room humidity is low, as in winter, I partially cover the top to help maintain humidity within the aquarium. Plants are hung from wire cloth or are set on top of plastic egg crating to keep them up out of the water.

Culture.

Draculas can be grown outside of these ranges, but these would be the ideal conditions:

Temperature	55° to 70° (up to 85° for short periods)
Light	600-1,000 ft candles (shady)
Humidity	60% to 100% (more is better) with good air movement
Water	Rain water or RO
Fertilizer	Lightly (1/4 strength)

References.

If you are interested in learning more about this fascinating group of orchids, here are some references:

- Hermans, Johan and Clare. (1997). "The Genus *Dracula*." *Orchid Digest*, Vol. 61, Number 4, 160-197.
- Holiday, Ken and Will Rhodehammel (1997) *A Dracula Cultural Guide*. USA: Pleurothallid Alliance.
- Luer, Dr. Carllyle. (1997). *Icones Pleurothallidarum X – "Systematics of Dracula."* Bradenton, FL: Missouri Botanical Garden. (out of print)

Sources.

Sources for these plants include Hoosier Orchids (Indianapolis, IN) and J&L Orchids (Easton, CT). Ecuagenera of Ecuador is the best grower I know and maintains a huge list of these and related species. Ecuagenera has a web site where you can find their current list of offerings. They visit the United States several times a year at regional shows – you can place an order ahead of time for either pick-up at the show, or for delivery to your address from the show.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FALL 2005 MID-AMERICA

The Fall 2005 Mid-America Orchid Congress will be held at King's Island this fall. This is a huge show that will include talks, vendors from throughout the country as well as South America and Asia, and, of course, ORCHIDS! This is a not-to-be-missed event that is very close to home. Our thanks to the co-hosts, the Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society. Watch for additional details in *Orchids*, the journal of the American Orchid Society.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: We need your input - please contact Tom Bell-Games at: tbellgames@burnip.com if you want to contribute an article to the newsletter or have an announcement to be included in the newsletter.

Porter's Orchids invites you to our annual Summer Open House:

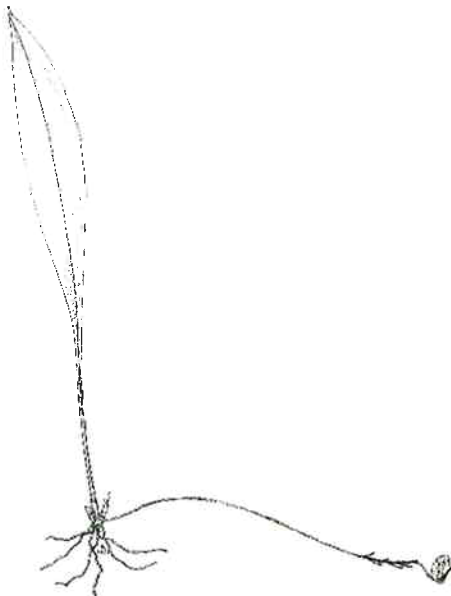
- Saturday, August 20, 2005
- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- 10868 Royston Rd., Grand Ledge, MI
- Refreshments, of course!
- Best of all, great plants at great prices: This is our annual 25% off sale, on-site only.

We hope to see you then!

Dot for Porter's Orchids

If you would like a map, please email dot@portersorchids.com, and I'll email you one. Or visit our Web Site at <http://portersorchids.com> and print the one from our site, or call us at (517) 622-4188 for directions.

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NEWSLETTER