



Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 9, 2005 7:00 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory

March Meeting – Orchid Culture

Thursday, March 17, 2005

7:30 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory Classrooms

7:30 – 8:00 p.m., Beginners' Corner in the Library

All the way from exotic Akron, Ohio (and the University of Akron), comes Warren Stoutamire to talk at our March meeting. Warren is the pre-eminent grower of Disas in this country and you may have heard him speak on that topic in the past.

But this meeting will focus on orchid culture, including a discussion of ways to grow terrestrials. Warren told me his topic is titled "Orchids for a Cool Greenhouse." Hmmmm. I hope I got that right. Hope he didn't mean "kewl greenhouse." Skateboarding up and down the aisles?!?!? Well, I'm sure we'll learn something :-). If you aspire to becoming a Primo Grower, you have to make friends with terrestrials. Warren's talk will help.

We will have a Members' Plant Sales event at this meeting. We solicit your extra divisions, excess seedlings, flasks and miscellaneous items for the sales table. Sellers, don't forget to remit a 20% commission to the COOS treasury.

As always, we extend an invitation to one and all to join us for a bite to eat before the meeting starts. We'll be at the Old Bag O' Nails restaurant around 6. Growers of epiphytes are just as welcome as growers of terrestrials.

- Tom Franczak

Hospitality - Thank you to Norm & Lori Baldwin, Alina Bell-Games, Greg & Peggy Outcah for bringing treats for our hospitality table at the last meeting. The following people have kindly volunteered to bring something for the hospitality table for the March meeting: Chris Bednar, Rosina Bell-Games, and Dotty Burchfield. Thank you in advance!

New Vision Orchids - Longtime friends and members of the Central Ohio Orchid Society, Anita Martin and Russ Vernon have started a new orchid business, New Vision Orchids. They specialize in Phalaenopsis and Odontoglossum species and hybrids. Located in the northeastern corner of Indiana, they are open by appointment only and can be reached at: 765-759-5991

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

CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY – SPRING MINI-SHOW AND SALE *THIS WEEKEND!*

The Central Ohio Orchid Society will be hosting our spring mini-show and sale in the atrium of the Franklin Park Conservatory this coming Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. both days. Set-up will be Friday evening starting around 5:30 or so. If you have any plants in bloom, please bring them early Friday evening so we can include them in one of the exhibits. Experienced or not, we could use your help in setting up the displays. The society has purchased a good number of blooming plants for sale this weekend. In addition, members are welcome to sell their own plants. If you want to sell plants, they **MUST BE CLEAN AND INSECT/DISEASE-FREE**; you should plan on volunteering at the sales table Saturday or Sunday; and the society will retain 20 percent of all sales. Hope to see everyone at the show!

NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was extremely well attended. We had a very informative talk on new hybrid *Phalaenopsis* coming out of Taiwan. Following the formal presentation by Howard Ginsberg, he demonstrated his technique for moving seedlings from flask to community pot. This was followed by an open question and answer period on *Phalaenopsis* culture.

Among the plants noted on the show table were the following.

Cattleya and Related Hybrids

Dave Evans	<i>Brassolaelia</i> Morning Glory 'Remar' HCC/AOS	1 st
Edwina Carreon	<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Cool Purpose 'Easter Day'	2 nd
Tom James	<i>Cattleya claesiana</i> x <i>Cattleya skinneri</i>	3 rd

Cymbidium

John & Cathy Willis	<i>Cymbidium</i> [unknown]	1 st
Naila Caruso	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sleeping Beauty	2 nd
Jon Young	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sleeping Dawn	2 nd
Naila Caruso	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sleeping Dream 'Lemon Drop'	3 rd

Dendrobium

Tom Stinson	<i>Dendrobium spectabile</i> x sib.	1 st
Ken Mettler	<i>Dendrobium</i> Adrian Lonne	2 nd

Oncidium Alliance

Tom Stinson	? Parade 'Goldilocks' AM x Charles 'Janet' AM	1 st
Jon Young	<i>Odontioda</i> Monolake x Vuylstekeara Mary Cavanaugh	2 nd
Larry Samson	<i>Odontobrassia</i> Kevin Bivin 'Santa Barbara'	3 rd

Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium

Dave Evans	<i>Paphiopedilum sukhakulii</i> 'Lovesong'	1 st
Dave Evans	<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i>	2 nd
Dave Evans	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Eric Young (4N) x <i>longifolium</i>	3 rd

Phalaenopsis

Edwina Carreon	<i>Phalaenopsis stuartiana</i>	1 st
Larry Samson	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Brother Janet	2 nd

Pleurothallid Alliance

Other

Naila Caruso	<i>Coelogyne mossiae</i> 'Portland'	1 st
Don Weber	<i>Trichoglottis bataanensis</i>	1 st
Don Weber	<i>Ascocentrum ampullaceum</i>	2 nd

March/April Orchid Checklist

- ***Cattleya***

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

- ***Cymbidium***

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

- ***Dendrobium (Australian)***

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group _ bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* _ is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

- ***Lycaste***

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

- ***Miltoniopsis***

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

- ***Paphiopedilum***

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairianum background.

- ***Phalaenopsis***

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging - even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

- ***Pleurothallids***

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

UPCOMING SHOWS

The following are upcoming shows well within driving distance of the central Ohio area.

March 5-6 Greater Akron Orchid Society Show. Contact: Beth Straubhaar, 4553 Hayes Rd., Ravenna, OH 44266.

March 5-6 Central Ohio Orchid Society Mini-Show & Sale; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Franklin Park Conservatory.

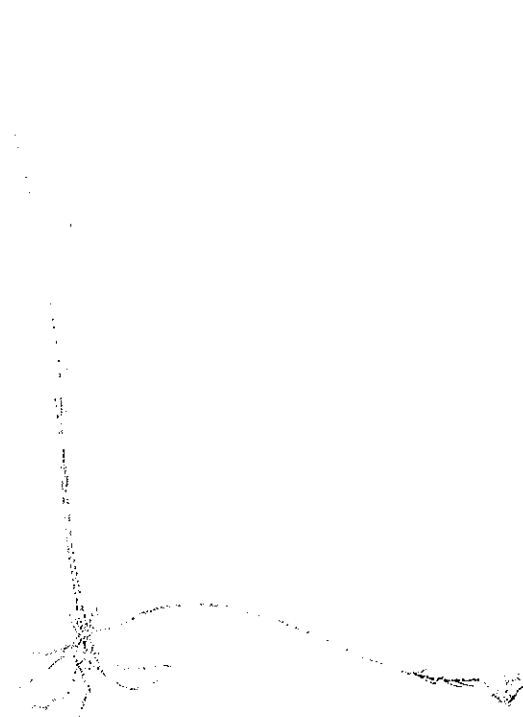
March 12-13 West Shore Orchid Show. Strongsville Recreation Center, 18100 Royalton Road, Strongsville Ohio
440-236-6000 Note: This is in a new location. Scheduled vendors include Ecuagenera of Equador.

March 19-20 Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Show. Krohn Conservatory in Eden Park, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Contact Pat June, 313-398-1332.

April 2-3 Hoosier Orchid Society. Contact Russell Vernon. 765-759-5991

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.

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CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER