



May Meeting – Russ Vernon – A Visit to Eric Young Orchid Foundation and Growing Odontoglossums
Thursday, May 20, 2010
8:00 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory Classrooms
7:30 to 8:00 p.m. Beginner's Corner

A Daily Double...the Eric Young Orchid Foundation and Growing Odontoglossums...



Blc. Haadya Delight

Russ Vernon will be our speaker this month. Many of you know Russ as he is a former member of our Society and a frequent vendor at our shows. He always has some very impressive plants in his displays. His Subject will be, "A visit to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation and growing Odontoglossums". Russ has traveled to Taiwan, England, Central and South America, in pursuit of orchids and orchid knowledge. His greenhouses grow a variety of Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums, Lycastes and other genera.

Russ is an orchid judge as well as a hybridizer and micropropagator of the plants he sells. He will be bringing plants for sale so bring your wallets and your appetite for new plants.

And, as usual, we will be having our pre-meeting meet-and-greet dinner at Aladdin's on East Main Street just east of FPC at 6PM; all are welcome.

President's Message

Now that it is May, it is almost time for my orchids to go to "summer camp". Several years ago my creative (and frugal) husband made a 4-tiered rack for my orchids out of stair risers and hardware cloth. It sits outside on the east side of my house, where it receives beautiful morning sunshine. I look forward to sending my plants outside so that they can recover from their time indoors where conditions are less than perfect. It is also so much easier to take care of them. I am a sloppy waterer at times, and spilling water on the dirt is not the problem that spilling water on the floor is. My vandaceous plants benefit the most from their time outside. The higher humidity and natural rainfall have them sending out new roots and leaves, and in the fall they will bloom in profusion for me. Watering them is even easier, since I dunk them in my rain barrels and then hang them up to dry. It is like doing green laundry twice a day. Yes I dunk them twice, once in the morning when I leave for work, and Richard dunks them when he comes home for lunch. Raising Vandas without a greenhouse is not for slackers! While they are outside my Cattleya alliance orchids thrive on benign neglect. I water them only when we don't receive enough rain, or I remember them, which ever comes first. My Phals are another story. I never leave them out in the weather to be watered by the rain. I have lost several beautiful plants to crown rot in the past, and I am very wary of evening rains. My Phals have to stay up on my porch to be watered by hand. In the fall, leaving my Phals outside as the temperature drops also helps induce them to set spikes for flowering. Some have even bloomed for me as early as Christmas. Sending my plants outside for the summer also gives me the opportunity to really clean up my orchid room and all of my benches. For those of us without greenhouses, I highly recommend the great outdoors as a pick-me-up for your orchids.



Mokara Clark Huan

Nancy Wagener

Our membership year is January to December. If you joined the society and you paid your dues in November or December of 2009, you are covered for 2010 as well. For all of the rest of us, it is, as has been noted, time to renew. You can pay your dues at the April meeting, or you can send a check to our membership chair. (made payable to "Central Ohio Orchid Society") **John Geslak (8498 West Ohio State Lane, Lancaster, OH 43130)**. Please support the society by renewing as soon as possible. Your contribution enhances the society and what it is able to do for you. The dues are \$15.00 for Individuals and \$20.00 per household.

Dates for Orchid Judging at the Cincinnati Center: Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati, 2715 Reading Road, Cincinnati. Registration of Plants at 12:00, Judging starts at 1:00. June 13, July 11, and August 8, 2010..

Welcome New Members

No new members this month. Bad.... No one to officially welcome as a member of the Central Ohio Society of Orchid Addicts. Are you not tired of hearing this from me? Remember that there are new members out there; they just don't know it yet. We just have to find them and make them one of us. It is up to us to invite people to join us. Making a new orchid friend is a really neat thing and as you should know by now, if you aren't growin' your dyin'. Let's keep growing. Find a new orchid friend and invite them to join us.

2010/2011 COOS Officers - Terms of Office are from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011

President:	Nancy Wagener		614-276-8890
1 st Vice President:	Ed Davis	Program Chair	937-393-3200
2 nd Vice President	David Markley	Home Show Chair	614-471-5437
3 rd Vice President:	Dallas Ingram	Away Show Chair	614-344-5091
Secretary:	Rosina Bell-Games	Recorder	614-487-1623
Assistant Secretary:	Bill Cavanaugh	Newsletter Editor	614-878-1745
Treasurer	Screll Jones	Collect/Disburse Monies	614-864-7924
Assistant Treasurer:	John Geslak	Membership Chair	614-837-3556

COOS Trustees – Terms of Office Expire December 31st of the Year Shown.

Lori Baldwin	2011	740-246-4713
Eilleen Ansley	2011	614-457-7774
Jim Harper	2013	614-965-1921
Don Weber	2013	614-846-7712
Tennis Maynard	Immediate Past President	614-252-5710



Paph Pisar



Paph Shireen

Notes from the April Meeting.

The April meeting must have been a beauty, to bad I missed it. But I can surmise from the fact that sixty-nine plants were shown, and from looking at the variety demonstrated in the show table slips that it was indeed an impressive event. Throw in an excellent speaker, I really did want to hear about ways to improve my ability to grow under lights, and it had to be a heck of a meeting. And even better, we did not lose a single show table slip. Well, maybe one, as I can not identify a first place winner in the Dendrobium category. Sooo...If you had that plant, let me know. As I am sure you are aware, we continue in another iteration of our annual growing contest and below you will find an updated list that includes this month's show table but for the nonce, does not include any new away shows, a situation I hope to remedy by next month.

As always, we encourage you to bring your blooming plants to the show table and share your skills and the beauty of your plants with your fellow members. I don't know who the judges were this month but it is apparent that they did the usual excellent work and we thank them. Where the judges thought it appropriate additional place awards were made. We will continue to need a little assistance from the membership to facilitate the show table results and the contest tally. Would you please **print** your name and the name of the plant clearly? The tally keeping is a difficult job and time consuming as well. It is even harder if someone has to guess at the name of the plant or of the exhibitor. It would make life a little easier if everyone included all of the info in an easily readable form. So please help out. Don't forget to note your entry status, greenhouse or other. Props to Screll Jones for the plant of the month, that would be the beautiful *Cypripedium Hank Small*.

Plant of the Month

Screll Jones *Cypripedium Hank Small*

Cattleya Species

Tom Stinson	<i>Epi stamfordianum 'Dab of Dav'</i>	1 st
Tennis Maynard	<i>Laelia sincorana coerulea</i>	2 nd
Tennis Maynard	<i>Laelia milleri</i>	2 nd
Scott Bever	<i>Lepotes bicolor</i>	3 rd
Ken Mettler	<i>Encyclia cordigera var rosca</i>	3 rd

Cattleya Large

Diana Wears	<i>Lc Manila Atlantis</i>	1 st
Tennis Maynard	<i>Potinara Afternoon Delight 'Magnetism'</i>	2 nd
Diana Wears	<i>Cattleya unknown</i>	3 rd

Cattleya Small

Tennis Maynard	<i>C Brabantiae</i>	1 st
Tennis Maynard	<i>Epcl Orange Crush</i>	2 nd
Tennis Maynard	<i>Cattleya Walkerinter coerulea</i>	3 rd

Phalaenopsis White/Pink

Screll Jones	<i>Phal Melody</i>	1 st
Tom Stinson	<i>Phal (Anna Hernandez x Double Delight) x Winter Dawn x Roseheart)</i>	2 nd
Margaret Borden	<i>Phal Pirate 311150</i>	3 rd

Phalaenopsis Yellow/Sunset

Tom Stinson	<i>Phal Brother Lawrence x Malibu Harbinger</i>	1 st
Tom Stinson	<i>Phal Brother Saragold</i>	2 nd
Scott Bever	<i>Dtps Jihbao 'Queen Diamond'</i>	3 rd

Cypripediums

Screll Jones	<i>Cypripedium Hank Small</i>	1 st
Screll Jones	<i>Cypripedium Emil</i>	2 nd

Oncidiae

Don Weber	<i>Cyrtopodium punctratum</i>	1 st
Tom Stinson	<i>Wilsonara Vangold</i>	2 nd
Scott Bever	<i>Psychopsis mendenhall alba 'Yellow Butterfly'</i>	2 nd
Tennis Maynard	<i>Mtps Morris Chestnut</i>	3 rd

Phragmipedium

David and Edna Markley	<i>Phrag Jason Fischer</i>	1 st
Screll Jones	<i>Phrag besseae</i>	2 nd

Masdevallia

Tom Stinson	<i>Masd coccinea 'R'</i>	1 st
Tom Stinson	<i>Masd coccinea alba 'Snowbird AM/AOS'</i>	1 st
Tom Stinson	<i>Masd Sunset Jaguar 'Purple Sunset' HCC/AOS</i>	2 nd
Dallas and Ashleigh Ingram	<i>Masd Copper Angel</i>	3 rd

Trichopilia

Tennis Maynard	<i>Trichopilia Maria</i>	1 st
Tennis Maynard	<i>Trichopilia tortilis</i>	2 nd
Tennis Maynard	<i>Trichopilia sanguinolenta</i>	3 rd

Paphiopedilum Species

Tennis Maynard	<i>Paph hirsutissimum</i>	1 st
Tennis Maynard	<i>Paph lowii</i>	2 nd
Tennis Maynard	<i>Paph xwenshanense</i>	3 rd

Paphiopedilum Hybrids

Tom Stinson	<i>Paph delenatii 'Three Flowers' x vietnamense 'RB'</i>	1 st
Screll Jones	<i>Paph glaucophyllum x Formosa Lady</i>	2 nd
David and Edna Markley	<i>Paph Shingletown 'Blushing Bride x callosum 'Aromas'</i>	3 rd

Dendrobiums

Unknown	<i>Unknown</i>	1 st
Justin Pepperney	<i>Den hybrid unknown</i>	2 nd
Scott Bever	<i>Den Taksin Baby x Niraporn Romance</i>	3 rd

Other

Don Weber	<i>Sarcoglottis grandiflora</i>	1 st
Tennis Maynard	<i>Ansellia africana</i>	2 nd
Don Weber	<i>Luisia macrotis</i>	2 nd
Tennis Maynard	<i>Ansellia africana 'Yellow Fountain'</i>	3 rd
Screll Jones	<i>Sarcoglottis Sceptrodes #2</i>	3 rd

As we have always noted, collecting and posting the winning plant info is sometimes an inexact science. If you think you had a plant that was recognized that we have not mentioned, please let me know.



Phrag Prince Caspian



Phrag Jason Fischer

Here, reprinted with permission, is another contribution to our general knowledge of orchid growing provided by Ray Barkalow at First Rays Orchids. Ray can be found on the web at www.firstrays.com.

Humidity

We often hear of the importance of humidity in the culture of orchids, but that has often raised the questions as to which is more important, relative- or absolute humidity, how do we determine what humidity level we have, and how do we control it

Absolute and Relative Humidity

Absolute humidity is defined as the mass of water held in a certain mass of air.

Relative humidity is defined as the ratio (usually expressed as a percentage) of the mass of water in a given mass of air divided by the maximum mass of water that can be held by that same mass of air at a given temperature. That maximum increases with increasing temperature, which is why for example, we see the RH drop as lights heat a growing area.

One of the functions of the plant's cells is to regulate the flow of moisture into and out of the plant, and they do so in response to the gradient between the inside and outside of the plant. If we take that at face value, one might be inclined to think that the absolute humidity is what's important, as the same number of molecules of water are present no matter what the temperature.

However, as gases such as moist air expand upon heating, warmer air will have fewer water molecules *per volume* than cooler air will, and as our plants do not similarly change volume with temperature, the gradient is shifted to one favoring the loss of moisture from the plant, rather than an uptake of moisture. It is for that reason the relative humidity is the factor of interest in orchid growing. (Before folks take issue with that, let's consider that we tend to grow our orchids in a fairly narrow temperature range, so controlling the relative humidity also constrains the absolute.)

As an aside, it's that physical expansion upon heating that makes warmer air capable of holding more moisture, as there is physically *more room* to fit more molecules in the mix. Upon cooling, the molecules get closer together and have a greater chance of bumping into each other, and when they do, they ultimately condense into droplets, which we see as fog, dew, or rain.

Determination of Humidity

There are several ways to determine the humidity level in your growing area. The simplest is a *reactive* method, in which we simply observe the aerial roots of our plants; if the roots are plump and their tips are green, the humidity is just fine.

Going to the other extreme is the use of a sling psychrometer, in which two thermometers - one dry, the other maintained wet by a wick and reservoir of water - are whirled through the air for a period of time so that the cooling effect of evaporation from the "wet bulb" can be compared to the absolute temperature of the "dry bulb" thermometer. By finding the intersection of those two temperatures on a *psychrometric chart*, one may determine the absolute and relative humidity levels of the air.

For the hobby grower, resorting to such means to measure the humidity seems a bit extreme, and there are a number of devices available that do an adequate job. Just remember that the accuracy may be questionable in less-expensive devices, and if you select a stationary wet-, .dry bulb thermometer, you're going to need a breeze from your circulation fans to get a reasonably accurate reading.

Controlling Humidity

For the orchid grower, we can usually equate "control" with "supplement," as many of our plants come from regions more tropical than our individual geographies. If you are an outdoor grower, you're pretty much at the whim of nature, but if you do need to add moisture to the air, frequent misting is a good method.

In the greenhouse, there are a number of techniques available, such as misting, fogging, or evaporative cooling, and there are a multitude of devices available for that purpose. I use a combination of overhead misting, fogging with an atomizer device, and evaporation from a wet gravel floor after watering to maintain humidity levels around my collection.

For those who grow their orchids indoors, in a controlled environment under lights, many of those same options are available. For the *in-home* grower whose plants are grown in the main living area of the house, the challenge is a bit greater.

Certainly, hand misting several times a day is good - if transient - but just don't leave them wet as night draws closer. In fact, it's more effective to mist the air in the growing environment rather than the plants themselves. Some growers move their plants closer together, so that the localized humidity of the moisture evaporating from the plants and growing medium benefits the entire cluster.

Another good alternative is the use of an evaporator of the type used to ease folks with sinus congestion. A few comments about those: if you select a "cool mist" evaporator - the kind that atomizes the water using a rotating disc - or an ultrasonic type, you may experience the formation of a white film on your plants, furniture, and floor from the minerals in your water. Wipe your plants down periodically with a good leaf cleaner (our Rise & Shine works well, and has other benefits), and they'll be fine. The console-type humidifiers that utilize a sponge or moving wick belt to enhance evaporation of the water achieve the same effect without the fear of mineral buildup on your plants and furniture, but it will, instead, build up in the evaporator, requiring periodic cleaning or replacement of the sponge or wick. The same is true of "warm mist" room humidifiers, where the mineral buildup will occur on the heating element.

The use of "humidity trays" is another common recommendation, but one with which I do not concur. With those, waterproof trays containing pebbles are half-filled with water and placed under the plants. The theory being that as the water evaporates, it raises the localized humidity. The reason I do not recommend them is explained below.

A general *caveat* about all of the humidity-enhancing methods described for in-home growing: remember that unless your growing area is sealed off from the rest of your home, any effort to raise the humidity level around your plants is actually trying to raise the humidity of your entire house or apartment! Because of that, especially if there is air circulation due to fans or forced air heating, the passive methods like the humidity trays appear to be of very limited value, if any, and room-type humidifiers might offer only a minimal

improvement. If you really want to do this right, consider closing off the growing room, or find a means to humidify your entire home, and remember that for many plants it is not necessary to have tropical humidity, but that we are shooting for a sufficient humidity to keep the plants from desiccating. If you're interested, we have a **calculator** that can tell you the maximum amount of water - in milliliters or gallons - that the air in a closed room can physically hold. As a reference point, at 70°F, it takes about a gallon of water "dissolved" in the air to maintain 75% RH in 1000 square feet of a typical home. This is also a very simplistic **explanation of the science of evaporation and humidification**.

Maintaining a reasonable humidity in your home has several non-orchid benefits, as well: it keeps your wood furniture from drying and splitting, reduces "nail pops" in drywall, and keeps your skin from drying out. One more thing - and this may be the biggest benefit of all - if you maintain the relative humidity in your home around 50% to 60% during the winter, you will be able to lower your thermostat a bit, as the evaporation of moisture from your skin is reduced, and you *feel* warmer at a lower temperature.

2010 COOS Calendar

May 20	Meeting – Russ Vernon - A visit to Eric Young Orchid Foundation and growing Odontoglossums.
June 17	Meeting – Speaker to be determined
July 18**	Picnic – Not set for Franklin Park Conservatory grounds - Tentative
September 16	Meeting – Speaker to be determined
October 21	Meeting – Speaker to be determined
November 6-7	Mini-show
November 18	Potluck Dinner

Board Meetings. Board meetings will be held the second Tuesday of odd numbered months at 7:00 P.M.

January 12	July 13
March 9	September 14
May 11	November 9

** Tentative picnic date

Annual Growers Contest

Well...we are back at the tally of your talents and we will go forward despite the loss of the March showtable results. We will do our best to get it right the rest of the year. That said, the tally below includes the show table results through April (minus March) and only the Dayton and Akron shows to this point. We don't have results for the Cinci and ensuing shows. We are efforting the acquisition of those results and as soon as we have them we will include them. Bring your plants to the show table and send them to away shows. If you have any disagreements with the totals let me know as soon as possible so that it can be set straight. In the meantime, keep showing those orchids.

Green House Division

Tom and Pat Stinson	651	Dallas Ingram	12
Tennis Maynard	289		
Screll Jones	114		
Harold Blazier	36		
Don Weber	25		

AYO (All You Others)

Bill Cavanaugh	109	Thom Weiland	10
Justin Pepperney	63	Wauneta Kerr	10
Dave and Edna Markley	54	Sandra Stohr	10
Scott Bever	50	Larry Samson	10
Ken Mettler	44	Nancy Heath	4
Nancy Wagener	20	Elly Campbell	3
Ed Davis	18	Margaret Borden	3
Clif Hynum	18	Sue Allison	1
Diana Wears	13	Wauneta Kerr	1

Keep growing and showing. Our new champion will be crowned at the November meeting.

Away Show Bulletin!

It's been a bit of a tough row to hoe for this away show season as finding folks to put up and tear down away shows was more difficult this year. The good news is the Spring away show season is over. We will try to familiarize you with the intricacies of doing a display in the near future in the hopes that if more folks are acquainted with the art and process of setting up an away show, it is fun as well, we might garner more interest in doing one. Time will tell.

Upcoming Nearby Shows:

OK, No shows soon but the Cinci Speakers day is always a good event. You should go sometime.

July, 2010

10 - *The Ohio Valley Orchid Seminar, Civic Garden Center, 2715 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Janice Yates; (513) 45-9771; jyates11@earthlink.net.



C Granier's Felicity 'Blue Honey Plum'



Paph Black Rook x Raisin Magic

It's Showtime Away Show that is....

If you think you read this last month...you are right. We are abbreviated. Much to my dismay. We await the results of the away shows that we have attended, we may even have the results to one show if I can find them in my computer. It has been a less than ideal month...not your problem, mine. But we will have more for you next month. Really, really, really!!!! I have a month to get it right...I hope.

Editor's Corner:

It is Wednesday night and I don't have a lot to say this month. Unusual, I know. You noted in your e-mail notification that two newsletters, April and May, are now posted. For those of you who visit the web site, you know that the April issue has been up for a while. Unfortunately, it did not go up until after the April meeting. Please accept my apologies. April, other than the fact that I did not have to pay Uncle Sam...barely, was not a good month for the editor. My problem, not yours. I am still working hard to catch up as is demonstrated by the lateness of this month's newsletter. I have, however, tried to maintain the quality and hope that I have not fallen too short of the mark. I will strive mightily to get this puppy back to the ten day prior to the meeting schedule. If I don't you are entitled to chastise me but gently dear reader. . .

Bill C.

Hospitality

We would like to thank Scott Bever, Tom and Pat Stinson and Lori and Norm Baldwin for the fine array of goodies at the April Meeting. Well done as always.

I would like to offer the usual huge thank you, in advance, to all of you who have signed up to provide snacks and goodies for the upcoming meetings but...there are currently still some open spots for volunteers for future meetings...like everything beyond May. Some volunteers is good, more volunteers is better, but no volunteers is bad. You can reduce my whine-age by filling the vacant slots. Come on folks, we have a fine spread at every meeting and if each of us volunteered once, we would only have to contribute every five years or so. If you haven't volunteered in the last three years...take a turn. Check the list below and you will see that as is ever the case, the spots highlighted in red and reading **Volunteer Needed**, have no volunteers.

David and Edna Markley are our mavens of hospitality. So, for those of you who just can't wait to participate, please give the Markley's a call or sign up at the next meeting. Let them know you would like to add your name to the merriment roster.

If you have to cancel try to get a person from the following month to switch or ring David or Edna to change months.

David and Edna Markley, our hospitality committee chairpersons, can be reached at 614-471-5437 You can also reach them by e-mail at dmarkley5868@wowway.com.

May	Tom and Rosina Bell-Games	June	Volunteer Needed
May	Terry and Sandra Stohr	June	Volunteer Needed
May	Nancy Wagener	June	Volunteer Needed
July	Summer Picnic	August	No Meeting
September	Volunteer Needed	October	Volunteer Needed
September	Volunteer Needed	October	Volunteer Needed
September	Volunteer Needed	October	Volunteer Needed

If you have already volunteered for one of these dates, bless you and I will list your name as soon as I have it, just as a reminder.



Cypripedium Hank Small - Plant of the Month
Grown by Screll Jones

THE CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY
c/o BILL CAVANAUGH
4965 OLD TREE AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OH 43228

FREE CATTS! Oops ... I mean CATS. You see, last December a little gray cat began showing up at the back door for a handout. She was also intrigued by the cat on the other side of the sliding glass door. She looked like a small watermelon on legs and it was obvious she was eating for more than just herself. We named her Minnie. She joined the household in March after I borrowed a trap from the vet and on April 10 ... despite having made a birthing box and furnished it lavishly for her ... she produced her litter under the bed. Five gray kittens which we are handling every day to insure they will make good lap pets.

So this is where YOU come in. Around about the third week of June, these wonderful kittens will be looking for permanent homes. If you work during the day and there is no one else at home, you should consider adopting 2 or 3 of them as they will keep each other company while you're at work. But if someone is at home to dote on the kitten, you could adopt just one. Minnie stays with us ... we gave her a name, therefore she is ours. Besides, she really likes Grimalkin, and he enthusiastically barely tolerates her. Let me know as soon as you've picked a name(s) for your kitten(s).

Tom Franczak

