



FALL MINI-SHOW AND SALE !!!

November 5th and 6th , 2005
Franklin Park Conservatory

It's that time of year for our fall mini-show and sale. We will be setting up stanchions and displays Friday evening starting around 4:30 or 5:00. If you have any nice plants in bloom or would like to help set up the show, please stop by the Conservatory. We'll be in the main lobby area.

The Orchid Society has purchased a variety of plants for sale this weekend. Members may sell plants from their collections, provided the plants are healthy, clean, and free of insects. The orchid society will retain 20% of your sales. If you would like to participate, please help out by volunteering some time during the weekend to help with the sales and information tables. If you have extra plants, come and sell them. If you don't have extra plants, come and buy some!

November Meeting – ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

Thursday, November 17, 2005

6:30 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory Classrooms

Please note earlier meeting time

The November meeting of the Central Ohio Orchid Society will be our annual pot-luck dinner. This will be held in the classrooms of the Franklin Park Conservatory. Everyone is asked to bring a dish (or two!) with a serving spoon if needed. Tableware, cups, and plates will be provided. This will be our last meeting of the year.

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, our newsletter will be converting to electronic format in January. We intend to upload the newsletter to the website and send an e-mail to members notifying them that it has been so posted. This e-mail will go out every time a new issue is posted. We will be doing this this way since so many people have different operating systems and many e-mail inboxes might be overloaded with the size of the document. **Please send your current e-mail address (along with your name) to the new newsletter editor, Bill Cavanaugh at:**

brobdingnag@prodigy.net

We may have copies of some old newsletters available for you to look at electronically at the mini-show so you can see how it looks.

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

November/December Orchid Checklist

- **Cattleya** Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

- **Cool-Growing Orchids** One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from Masdevallias to Odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.
- **Cymbidium** Finally we begin in earnest the main *Cymbidium* season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.
- **Oncidium crispum Complex** This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.
- **Paphiopedilum** The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While Paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With Paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

- **Phalaenopsis** Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in *Phalaenopsis*. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our *Phalaenopsis* will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results.

Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

- **Vandaceous Genera** Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose. Reprinted by permission.

2006 COOS Calendar

January 19, 2006	Marguerite Webb – Masdevallias and other Pleurothallids [http://www.jlorchids.com]
February 16	Brian Gerhard, Australian Orchids [http://www.duno.com.au]
March 16	Meeting (speaker to be determined)
March 25-26	Annual Show
April 20	Meeting (speaker to be determined)
May 18	Meeting (speaker to be determined)
June 3-4	Mini-show
June 15	Meeting (speaker to be determined)
July 23	Picnic, tentatively set for Franklin Park Conservatory grounds
September 28	Meeting (speaker to be determined)
October 19	Meeting (speaker to be determined)
November 4-5	Mini-show
November 16	Potluck Dinner

Board Meetings. Board meetings will generally be held the second Tuesday of odd numbered months with the exception of September:

January 10	July 11
March 14	September 19
May 9	November 14

New COOS Officers

The following officers were voted into office at our October meeting. These positions will take effect with the start of the new year.

President:	Tom Franczak	4-year Trustee:	Jim Harper
1 st Vice President:	Tennis Maynard	4-year Trustee:	Screll Jones
2 nd Vice President:	Tom Bell-Games	2-year Trustee:	Ken Mettler
3 rd Vice President:	Naila Caruso	2-year Trustee:	Nancy Wagener
Secretary:	Nancy Heath	Past President:	Tom Lochner
Assistant Secretary:	Bill Cavanaugh		
Treasurer:	Dawn Mettler		
Assistant Treasurer:	Jon Young		

Growing Tips With the onset of cool weather, most of our growing areas are in transition. This is true whether you're growing indoors or in a greenhouse. Sunlight is changing – many grey days can be followed by one very sunny day. As the angle of the sun lowers, areas that had been a bit shady may now see full sun. With air conditioners off and furnaces on, those of us that grow in our basements will notice a change in temperature and possible humidity. Keep an eye on all the little micro-climates in your growing area and consider moving plants around to provide conditions that best suit their needs.

See the November/December Orchid Checklist on the next page for a list of things you can be doing to grow your plants better.

NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting included a talk on growing hardy terrestrial orchids. Although we didn't get the paper slips on all of the plants awarded at the show table, it looks like we got most of them:

Cattleya and Related Hybrids

Ken Mettler	Slc. Final Touch 'Mendenhall'	1st
Bill & Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Brasavola nodosa</i> x Blc. Mem. Robert Strait 'Blue Hawaii'	2nd

Dendrobium

Sue Dervin	<i>Dendrobium</i> Killea Ruby	1st
Bill & Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Dendrobium</i> Sum Light	2nd

Oncidium Alliance

Bill & Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Oncidium</i> Sharri Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	2nd
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Paphiopedilum

Bill & Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Supersuk 'Eureka' x(Raisin Pie 'Hsinying' x sib)	1st
Tom & Pat Stinson	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lynleigh Koopewitz	2nd
Tom & Pat Stinson	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Black Briar 'Condor Berry Black' AM/AOS x Harmana Wave 'Condor Nocturne'	3rd

Phalaenopsis

Bill & Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Brother Showpiece	3rd
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Phragmipedium

Tom & Pat Stinson	<i>Phragmipedium longifolium</i> 'Red' x self	1st
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Other

Lew Beman	<i>Haraella retrocalla</i>	1st
Ken Mettler	<i>Platanthera ciliaris</i>	1st
Jon Young	<i>Cycnoches</i> Jean E. Monnier	2nd
Ken Mettler	<i>Spiranthes odorata</i>	3rd

Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress



Central Ohio Orchid Society Display
(Sandy Denman's nice *Isochilus* was pulled for judging when this photo was taken)

The fall Mid-America was co-hosted by the Greater Cincinnati and Miami Valley Orchid Societies in Mason, Ohio. Team COOS did a great job putting together a



Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Display

very nice display. A wide variety of speakers were on hand to give folks a break from looking at the displays and sales tables. Vendors from throughout the region, the east coast, the south, and South America brought in some amazing plants for sale.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered with the display and for those that loaned their plants for the effort.