



September Meeting – Hydroponic Orchid Growing

Thursday September 27, 2007

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

7:30 – 8:00p.m., Beginners' Corner

Help me I'm drowning...my orchids?

We all know orchid roots need air, right? But do we really know as much as we think we do? Come to our September 27 meeting and hear Dr. Todd Zimmerman declaim on the heresy of growing orchids hydroponically. Recently Professor of Biology at Long Island University, Dr. Zimmerman has lectured previously on this subject at the 22nd annual S/CEA Hydroponic and Organic Grower's Conference in Orlando. He has been active in local orchid societies being previously a member of the Board of Trustees of the Manitcock Orchid Society and the Long Island Orchid Society, and the past editor of the Long Island Orchid Society Newsletter. In 2004 his plants won two ribbons, one for 1st place and the other for second, at the New York International Orchid Show at Rockefeller Center in New York City.



Please join us for this informative talk, and to buy some of the plants that Dr. Zimmerman will have

for sale. And of course we will be having our usual pre-meeting meet-and-greet, this month at Aladdin's on East Main Street in Bexley at 6:00. Come and join in the camaraderie.

Tennis Maynard

Above - Lc. Dinard 'Blue Heaven'

President's Message

Well, wasn't the picnic at the Harpers' fun? A special thanks to Helen Harper for her gracious welcoming of about forty of us to her new home.

At the recent Speakers' Day in Cincinnati I had the opportunity to eat lunch with **Larry Sanford**, AOS judge and frequently invited speaker at our meetings. We were discussing the trend that many of us have observed over the years ... the preponderance of displays at orchid shows provided by vendors and societies versus the dwindling number of displays entered by individuals.



Phrag. warszewiczianum

Larry reminded me of a venerable old judging category discarded by MAOC several years ago ... sorry, I can't remember the class number ... exhibits submitted for their artistic merit and using from 1 to 5 orchids, no more than that. Informally sometimes called the "5 orchid exhibit," it could be presented as a tabletop, half tabletop, or 25 sq. ft. floor display, no larger. Subdued, elegant props were integral to the construction of such a display. It was its own thing but I used to see a few such exhibits every year and I thought some of them borrowed inspiration from Ikebana. Larry and I reminisced about exhibits that Wojciech Klikunas would construct in that category.

We mentioned how useful that category also was for the individual society member who, for lack of a dozen or more blooming plants, simply drops off his or her few plants to become part of the society display ... a service to the society, sure, but quite possibly a disservice to the plants which would be better showcased in an individual display. And which would allow the individual exhibitor the opportunity to express an artistic vision of his or her own. While I was regretting the passing of this useful judging class, Larry interjected that any show chair has the authority to add judging classes to the schedule. Now I knew that ... paph species were often subdivided in the past by show chairs as multi- or unifloral, phrag hybrids were often split between those with or without besseae parentage ... but I had forgotten all that. What Larry was telling me was have our show chairs go ahead and resurrect the "5 orchid display" in our show schedules!

We discussed this at the July board meeting and pretty much agreed that we don't need to be told twice. :) Expect to hear more about this and tabletop exhibits in general in the coming months. We really do want to see more individual or team exhibits in future shows. Having just a few plants in flower for a show will no longer be an excuse.

Speaking of the board meeting, we found that, with your voted approval, we can change the COOS Constitution in time to apply to the October election of officers and trustees. We sent an email announcing the specific change to everyone with a working email address and presented the change to the membership again (in writing) at the July meeting. A copy of the proposal is included in this newsletter. So doing satisfies the requirements that the Constitution imposes on us to be able to hold a vote at the September meeting. I will call for that vote as the first order of business. If you approve the change that the board is unanimously recommending, it will take effect immediately.

Tom Franczak

Please remember that our membership year is January to December. If you joined the society and you paid your dues in November or December of last year, you are covered for this year as well. If you have paid your dues already, bless you. If you have not paid your dues as yet, please renew your membership in the Central Ohio Orchid Society **TODAY**. Please send your check (made payable to "Central Ohio Orchid Society" to our **membership chair, Jon Young (1752 Marsdale Avenue, Columbus, OH 43223)**, OR bring your check to the next meeting. Please support the society by renewing as soon as possible. The dues are \$15.00 for Individuals and \$20.00 per household.

Ye Olde Orchid Glossary

Tepals- this term was coined to apply to both the sepals and the petals of an orchid, excepting the lip or labellum.

Terete- Type of orchid growth wherein the stem and/or leaves are circular in cross section.

Terrestrial- In orchids, growing in the ground or in the loose substrate atop the ground.

Tetraploid- Genetic aberration wherein the plant has twice as many chromosome sets as normal, often resulting in very vigorous, large plants and flowers.

Texture - The features of a flowers surface which enhance appearance, sparkly, velvety, etc.

Throat- The inner portion of a tubular orchid lip as in a Cattleya.

Tissue culture- Artificial propagation of plants via laboratory mericlone, also known as meristemming.

Tree Fern - A potting media. Chopped trunks of tropical ferns (primarily Cyatheaceae family).

Unifoliate- Bearing one leaf per pseudo bulb.

Vandaceous- Term used to describe any large monopodial orchid, particularly used for *Vanda* and its closely related orchids.

Variety- A subdivision of a species that groups plants with a distinct form that is passed along to the progeny.

Vegetative propagation- The creation of additional plants through division, encouragement of keiki formation, or any various meristematic techniques, but not via seed.

Velamen- The thick layer of cork- like, water-absorbing cells surrounding the roots of epiphytic orchids. It serves to protect the roots and also as a rapid water absorption device.

Warm temperature- For orchids, a minimum winter nighttime temperature of 60 F, with daytime temperatures 15-25 F higher; very warm would be a night minimum of 65 F, with daytime maximum highs in the 90s.

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. August 12, September 9, and October 14.

AWAY SHOW BULLETIN

More news when we have news, which will be in the fall.

2006/2007 COOS Officers - Terms of Office are from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007

President:	Tom Franczak		614-868-5636
1 st Vice President:	Tennis Maynard	Program Chair	614-252-5710
2 nd Vice President:	Tom Bell-Games	Home Show Chair	614-487-1623
3 rd Vice President:	Naila Caruso	Away Show Chair	614-868-5861
Secretary:	Nancy Heath	Recorder	614-294-6722
Assistant Secretary:	Bill Cavanaugh	Newsletter Editor	614-878-1745
Treasurer:	Dawn Mettler	Collect/Disburse Monies	740-380-3023
Assistant Treasurer:	Jon Young	Membership Chair	614-272-5256

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

Jim Harper	2009	614-965-1921
Screll Jones	2009	614-864-7924
Ken Mettler	2007	740-380-3023
Nancy Wagener	2007	614-276-8890
Tom Lochner	Immediate Past President	614-487-8197

HID Light Fixtures

Chuck Hill has graciously donated several used HID fixtures to the Society. They are large and heavy, (as are all HID fixtures), and are temporarily being stored in my garage. There are supposed to be some 250w fixtures and some 400w fixtures. Some are thought to be in good working condition but the condition of others is unknown. How they are jumpered for voltage (110, 220, etc.) is not known. Some need wiring. To be used in a grow room, they would have to be suspended from a ceiling. I'd estimate their weight in the range of 50 to 75 lbs.

If there is an electrician in the society that would like to test these lights and bring them all to good, working condition, please contact me. If not, they will have to wait until the next visit of my all-purpose contractor, (usually only when something major breaks, overflows, leaks, explodes, peels, sinks, cracks, etc.), and I can get him to look them over while he is here.

HID fixtures for horticultural use are typically sold new for \$250 to \$400 each. We'd like to sell them to society members for \$25 + the cost of bringing them to good working condition if they are not already there. Which means \$25 each as is, if you like. The \$25 amount would benefit the Society.

HID lights are excellent for growing paphs, phrags, phals and lots of other genera in your basement. They can also be installed in greenhouses as insurance against cloudy days or dull, winter days.

We thank Chuck for his donation and hope some of you will put them to good use. I personally have 6 HIDs in my basement (2 400w sodium vapor and 4 250w metal halide). If you need to examine how they are suspended, contact me.

Tom Franczak



Phrag Evening Blaze (Twilight 'Rising Rocket' x Waunakee Sunset)



Phrag St. Ouen

Below is the language of a proposed amendment to the COOS constitution initiated and presented by your Board. Copies were distributed at the July picnic and will be available at the September meeting. Please take the time to review and consider this proposal.

To the members of the Central Ohio Orchid Society:

At the July 10, 2007 meeting of your board we unanimously decided to ask your approval of an amendment to our Constitution. Article IV Section 3 sets the requirements for election to a Trustee position. In particular, it establishes a 6 year membership requirement as a prerequisite. We feel that this requirement, a holdover from prior constitutions, needlessly deprives the Society of the services of qualified members whose contributions would be of benefit to the Society. Accordingly, we ask you to change the prerequisite to 2 years membership, as shown below:

Change:

Section 3. A Board of Trustees shall consist of four (4) duly elected or appointed members to serve for a term of four years, but their respective terms shall be staggered so that two of such terms shall expire and be filled by a vote of the members at each biennial election. All nominations for election to the Board of Trustees shall be made by the Nominating Committee or the membership at large. To be eligible for Trusteeship a

member must have been a member of the Society in good standing for a minimum of six years and/or have previously held an Executive Office in the Society. A Trustee may succeed himself/herself if duly elected according to the Constitution.

to read:

Section 3. A Board of Trustees shall consist of four (4) duly elected or appointed members to serve for a term of four years, but their respective terms shall be staggered so that two of such terms shall expire and be filled by a vote of the members at each biennial election. All nominations for election to the Board of Trustees shall be made by the Nominating Committee or the membership at large. To be eligible for Trusteeship a member must have been a member of the Society in good standing for a minimum of two years. A Trustee may succeed himself/herself if duly elected according to the Constitution.

(The prior service as an officer is deleted as redundant since terms of office are two years in length.)

In accordance with the provisions within the Constitution for amending it, we submitted the amendment at the July meeting. We will ask for a vote on the amendment as the first order of business at the September meeting. If you approve the amendment, it takes effect immediately. Later in the September meeting the Nominating Committee will announce the slate of officers and trustees that it is recommending for your consideration in the biennial election coming up at the October meeting. Whether the Nominating Committee chooses to anticipate a favorable vote on the amendment or not, (they must report two nominees for Trustee positions), is a matter of their discretion.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Franczak, for the Board
7-17-07

What are orchid judges looking for?

So, you grow orchids. You take them to society meetings and shows. Some of your orchids may have received ribbons or other awards. But when you walk around an orchid show, you see a bewildering assortment of colors, sizes and shapes. Some have ribbons or other awards, and some don't. Why did this one get an award and not that one? How do you make some sense out of this? Is there a system at work here? What are the rules?

Firstly, the orchids must be worthy of exhibition and judging. Any plant that is visibly diseased or infested with parasites is not eligible for judging. Plants and pots should be clean, and any dead leaves and pseudobulbs should be removed. Inflorescences may be staked for transport and or exhibition, but any staking present during judging should be as unobtrusive as possible. Flowers should be free of damage or defects. Some unavoidable damage to flowers that may occur during transportation should be overlooked by judges.

Orchid judging is a combination of objective and subjective standards. Objective standards are easily measured attributes of the object being judged, like number of inflorescences, flowers and buds; flower size; color; shape and position of sepals and petals; and presentation and arrangement of flowers. In theory, these attributes should be able to be described and/or quantified by anyone. They are what they are.

Subjective standards are what these traits mean to the observer. In short, is it pleasing to look at? Is the color or color contrast pleasing? Is the shape attractive or distracting? Does the plant grab a hold the attention of the observer? Of course, the evaluation of these qualities is going to vary from one observer to another. Judges do

not always agree on these characteristics, and sometimes the team captain will cast the tiebreaking vote to resolve a disagreement.

American Orchid Society (AOS) flower quality awards are fairly objective, and are based on a 100 point scale. Flowers are scored on three main characteristics: flower form, color of flower, and other characteristics (size, substance, arrangement and floriferousness). The judges research the species or hybrid, and compare the plant to any previous awards. If there is no previous award, the judges consult taxonomic references for species, or look up awards and descriptions for the parents of hybrids.

General characteristics of nine major groups of orchids are described in the AOS Handbook on Judging and Exhibition. Judges use this information as well as their own observations and personal experience when judging a plant.

AOS flower quality awarding has sometimes been oversimplified as “big, flat, full and dark.” While this hardly does justice to the process that judges perform, it does give a general idea of what makes a quality flower. If two flowers that vary only in size are compared, most people prefer the larger one. Flat form is generally desirable since it gives you the greatest visual impact from the same sized flower segments. Fullness is the degree that the petals and sepals touch or overlap so that you do not see gaps in the flower. “Dark” is an extreme oversimplification of color. Rich, vibrant colors, pristine whites, and colors that combine or contrast in a pleasing manner are preferable to weak or muddy colors.



Renanthera bella

Arrangement and presentation are qualities that can be affected by the grower. Proper staking and lighting (either all around or coming from one direction, as appropriate) will make sure that the inflorescence will not be bent or broken, and that the flower or flowers will present themselves to an observer for their best advantage. Flowers that are too crowded, too sparse or twisted out of alignment do not portray the plant’s capabilities in the best light.

Ribbon and showtable judging can be far more subjective. Plants are placed into related groups for judging. Even so, the judges may be comparing vastly different flowers, especially in the catch-all “other” category. As Jim Harper is fond of saying, judges may be comparing apples, oranges, grapefruit and a Winnebago. Judges are comparing different plants against each other, instead of against others of the same species or line of breeding. Judging begins along the same lines of reasoning as AOS judging, but other factors can also come into play. How do you compare a plant with a few large flowers against a plant with many smaller flowers? In many cases, judges may use their knowledge of what is expected from that particular species or hybrid to make their decision. Judges may also take into account how well a plant is grown. A difficult to grow plant that is growing and blooming well will be given extra attention from the judges.

Judges may give multiple ribbons (two blue ribbons, for example) if they feel the plants warrant it. Conversely, judges may withhold any or all ribbons if they don’t feel that the plants warrant placement.

Two of the best ways to become more familiar with the judging process are to serve as a clerk for a judging team and to observe an AOS judging session. Clerks and observers should not interfere with the decisions made by the judges, but can ask questions afterward to learn about the plants and the judging process. As an

added bonus, clerks may be asked for their opinion during ribbon judging if one or more judges need to excuse themselves from a class due to a conflict (for example, if a judge has a plant entered in that class).

Ken Mettler

It's Showtime

Shows, shows, shows... no more 'till fall, unless Naila has a sudden attack of insanity and just has to drive 300 miles to a show. More when the Fall Show Season, short as it is, arrives.



Lepanthes myiophoria



Pleurothallis volans

Notes from the June Meeting.

The show table was an excellent effort especially for the summer picnic. The best that I have seen at that event and I have been to three of them now. Really, it was a very nice collection of blooms. Congratulations to all who participated. As ever, 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. The judging was done by Ken Mettler and Screll Jones. They did their usual excellent job. Wei-Yi Chen, your contest point tabulator extraordinaire is on sabbatical and Tom Weiland, who is filling in while Wei is gone, will have a current tabulation elsewhere in the newsletter. Props to Tom Bell-Games for the plant of the month, a really excellent *Disa uniflora*.

Plant of the Month

Tom Bell-Games *Disa uniflora var. flava*

Cattleya Alliance Large

Bill and Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Blc. George King 'Serendipity'</i>	1 st
Bill and Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Lc. Dinard 'Blue Heaven'</i>	2 nd
Bill and Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Lc. Crystelle Smith 'Aileen'</i>	3 rd

Cymbidium

Oncidium Alliance

<u>Slipper Alliance</u>			
Tom and Pat Stinson	<i>Phrag. longifolium 'Red' x self</i>		1 st
Tom Bell-Games	<i>Paph. Pinocchio x delenatii</i>		2 nd
Bill Cavanaugh	<i>Paph. Petula's Ghost</i>		3 rd
<u>Phragmipedium</u>			
<u>Dendrobium</u>			
Tom and Pat Stinson	<i>Den. Salaya Fancy</i>		1 st
Tom and Pat Stinson	<i>Den. Ruby Red</i>		2 nd
Tom and Pat Stinson	<i>Den. unknown</i>		3 rd
<u>Pleurothallids</u>			
Ed Davis	<i>Dracula unknown</i>		1 st
Ed Davis	<i>Masdevallia unknown</i>		2 nd
<u>Vanda Alliance</u>			
<u>Angraecum</u>			
<u>Other</u>			
Tom Bell-Games	<i>Disa uniflora var flava</i>		1 st
Tennis Maynard	<i>Onc. Sharry Baby</i>		2 nd
Ken Mettler	<i>Spiranthes vernalis.</i>		3 rd

Annual Growers Contest

The year is winding slowly through the dog days and our friendly competition continues unabated. It is good to see so many folks bringing plants for the show table. Just so you remember, in our continuing first and hereafter annual growers contest, points are awarded for plants that ribbon and/or are shown at the monthly show table and also for plants that are awarded/ribboned/shown at the various away orchid shows that COOS attends. Wei-Yi Chen, our master statistician and overall point guru, has compiled the updated results. These totals include the show table through July as well as the Dayton, Lansing, Akron, West Shore, Cincinnati and Central Indiana shows and the Spring MAOC show in Illinois. Show those plants.

Grower	Points	Grower	Points
Thom Weiland	302	Elly Campbell	20
Bill & Ruth Cavanaugh	249	Harold Blazier	20
Tom Bell-Games	208	Jim Fagan	15
Tennis Maynard	202	Ed Davis	15
Tom & Pat Stinson	171	Lori Baldwin	13
Screll Jones	116	Waunita Kerr	12
Naila Caruso	92	Dianna Wears	11
Don Weber	76	Nancy Wagner	9
Tom Franczak	68	Ken Mettler	9
Dave Evans	60	Sue Dervin	6
Edna Markley	54	Dan Willis	5
Clifton Hynum	46	Ann Rehark	5
Russ Vernon & Anita Martin	45	James Feibel	3
Edwina Carreon	29	Steve Pendleton	3
Susan Allison	28	Margaret Sweschel	2
Lawanda Martin	22	Wei-Yi Chen	1

Sarah Binder	1
Barbara Parmalee	1
Dennis Eifel	1
Deb Parkman	1

As the gathering of tags to identify plants shown and/or awarded has been a somewhat inexact science to date, we may have missed someone or someones. If you showed plants and you feel you were not credited, please contact Wei so that he can update the tally.

2007 COOS Calendar

September 20	Meeting – Marni Turkel – Dry rest orchids
October 18	Meeting – Ron Parsons – Dendrobium species
November 3-4	Mini-show
November 15	Potluck Dinner

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

January 9	July 10
March 13	September 11
May 8	November 13



Lepanthes discolor



Porroglossum eduardii

REGIONAL SHOWS: The following are upcoming shows within a reasonable distance from the central Ohio area:

September 29 - 30	Kentucky Orchid Society Show. Contact: Jim McCulloch, 302 Caroldale Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40243-2002.
October 20 -21	Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Show, Krohn Conservatory, 1501 Eden Park Dr. Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Patricia June, 5794 Butler Warren Rd. Mason, Oh. 45040.

Editor's Corner:

Just to echo our esteemed pres, boy did we have a good time at Jim Harper's place. Just a beautiful Summer day and the company of society members coupled with good food and a touch of vino not to mention tons of laughter and good conversation. Hard to beat!! Those of you who have never come to a society picnic need to put it on your calendar for next year. An added treat was an impromptu wedding reception (OK we just provided a nice cake) for our host and his new bride. Jim introduced us to his new bride, Helen, and shared the highlights of their journey from meeting to married. Helen is a charming person and thanks to the photographic wizardry of Dan Willis we get to share with you the enclosed picture of Mr. and Mrs. Harper. We offer our congratulations to both Jim and Helen and offer our hope that they have a long and happy life together. After all, Jim still has seven years to go to catch Bob Bee the current oldest society member who is 91 by his own admission. I should be so lucky as to live so long and to age so well.



On another topic, I must say, will wonders never cease. After all of my pleadings, not just one but two different people approached me and asked if we could address a topic in the newsletter. They both asked for the same topic but hey, it's a start. And, as promised, since the request fell outside of my very limited areas of expertise, I got someone really, really smart to answer it for me. Thus we have Ken Mettler's article on judging in this issue. Now if some more of you will take pity on your newsletter editor and suggest topics or issues

you would like to see addressed, I will enter Nirvana. OK maybe not Nirvana...but it would please me greatly. Again, this is your newsletter and you can influence the editor. No bribes necessary but if you feel the need they will be graciously accepted. :>))

Bill C.

Hospitality

Our thanks goes to all of you who provided so many different and tasty dishes for the annual summer picnic. It was a picnic gourmet's delight. Also a huge thank you, in advance, to all of those who have signed up to provide snacks and goodies for the upcoming meetings. Below is a list of who has signed up for future dates and the month they signed for. As is ever the case, the spots highlighted in red and reading **Volunteer Needed**, have no volunteers. So for those of you who have a burning desire, or not, to volunteer in September and October, you will note that these months have almost NO volunteers. We need you to give Naila a call or sign up at the next meeting to let her 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 Naila to change months.

2007
August No Meeting

September Tom and Rosina Bell-Games
September Volunteer Needed
September Volunteer Needed

October Volunteer Needed
October Ruth Cavanaugh
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.

Picnic photos courtesy of Dan Willis



Bob Bee and Jim Harper – Two founding members Of COOS and about 100 years of orchid growing experience. .



What is a picnic for if not relaxation?



What more needs to be said?

THE CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY
c/o BILL CAVANAUGH
4965 OLD TREE AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OH 43232



CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

WDC