



Central Ohio Orchid Society
Reporter



Newsletter Editor: Katrina Heap

July 2015

**July Meeting ~ Our Annual Potluck Picnic
@ Justin Pepperney's house
Sunday the 19th, start time at Noon**

Justin and Wendy have graciously offered to host our annual potluck picnic at their home.

Please bring lawn chairs and a side dish or dessert of your choice. And don't forget your blooming orchids.



President's Message

A Dying Breed

Oak Hill is gone. Taylor's is gone. J&L is for sale. Windsong and Hoosier are gone too. The great species houses are disappearing. The loss cannot be calculated. I remember the first time I went to Oak Hill. It was a jungle, there were overgrown plants everywhere. You had to just root around to find things - and oh, what things you could find there!

Species or Hybrids?

Many have debated the relative merits of these two groups, for more than a century, since orchid hybridizing began. Some devote themselves to one or the other, most of us have both. Hybrids will never cease being made. There will always be humans who want to tinker with nature to produce what they deem an improvement over nature. But species, well, if not enough people are growing them, people will stop reproducing them, and they may die out in cultivation.

The bigger danger is that many of them now exist ONLY in cultivation, having gone extinct in the wild from over collecting, agricultural expansion, deforestation (can you say 'palm oil'?) and the 'progress' of ever-advancing 'civilization', i.e., roads, cities, airports, etc.

So if these stop being grown in cultivation, stop being reproduced, they are gone forever.

I have both species and hybrids, though as time has gone on the percentage of species in my meager collection has risen steadily. There's just something about looking at an awe-inspiringly beautiful flower and thinking that someone walking along somewhere in the world in whatever its native habitat is, could just stumble onto that exact same flower in the wild. And the wonder of knowing nature made that amazing beauty all by herself. They come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. There are odd bug-like things, weird alien-looking things, from the awe-inspiring giant stately flowers of cattleya to the tiny, incredibly fascinating lepanthes and other pleurothallids. There's even a species or two which grow entirely underground - and flower there, too! The plant of the month for June, *Trichopilia galeottiana*, as well as the plant which received an AOS award at the same meeting, *Encyclia tampensis*, were both species!

If you are not familiar with many species, the Internet Orchid Species Encyclopedia is a great place to start browsing. There are species-specific areas of online orchid forums, including a species-specific Facebook page. The IOSPE, at orchidspecies.com, is a great way to spend a bit of time - just flit through the alphabet and see what strikes your fancy. Try growing some species that look appealing to you. You might find it addictive! Buy species and keep the remaining vendors that carry them in business so next year, and years after, you and others will still have places to find these natural gems!

Tennis Maynard



2014/2015 COOS Board Members

Term of Officers – January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| President: | Tennis Maynard | |
| 1 st Vice President: | Bill Cavanaugh | Program Chair |
| 2 nd Vice President | Dave Markley | Home Show Chair |
| 3 rd Vice President: | Ken Mettler | Away Show Chair |
| Secretary: | Justin Pepperney | Recorder |
| Assistant Secretary: | Katrina Heap | Newsletter Editor |
| Treasurer: | Edna Markley | Collect/Disburse Monies |
| Assistant Treasurer: | Tom Bell-Games | Membership Chair |
| Immediate Past Pres | Tom Franczak | |

COOS Trustees

Term of Office Expires December 31st of year shown

Lori Baldwin	2015
Eileen Ansley	2015
Screll Jones	2017
Elly Campbell	2017

2015 COOS Calendar

General Meetings – Third Thursday of the month...excluding July, August and December.

July – picnic – Justin and Wendy's
Aug – No meeting

Sept 17th
Oct 15th

Nov 19th Potluck Dinner
Dec – No meeting

Board Meetings – Board meetings will be held the second Tuesday of odd numbered months. 7:00- 8pm.
All members are welcome to observe.

July 14th
Sept 8th

Nov 9th

Hospitality

We need volunteers, folks! Please email or call Terry and Sandra and let them know where and when you can help out.

Volunteer are needed for both Sept and Oct.

Show Table Results

I'm happy to announce that I finally managed to get the show table results tallied and updated. For all three months...April, May and June!

A big congrats goes out to Tennis for his AOS award at the June meeting – Encyclia tampense alba 'Orchid Court' AM/AOS.

Also, a ginormous thank you goes out to Ken for everything he did to arrange to do the judging/training for our June meeting. I'm sorry I missed it, Ken...I hear it was a great learning experience for everyone. Thank you so much!

Plant of the month - APRIL

Scott Bever

Gltia grandiflora

Phalaenopsis

Edy Gunawan

Phal Orchid World

1st

Scott Bever

Phal heiroglyphica 'Tejas Canary' x Sogo Manager x Yu Pinacacia

2nd

Scott Bever

Phal Pinlong Cheris

3rd

Dendrobium

Scott Bever

Den Roy Tokunaga 'Spots'

1st

Tennis Maynard

Den (unknown nobile hybrid)

2nd

Tennis Maynard

Den moniliforme

3rd

Paphiopedilum

Dave & Edna Markley

Paph St Swithin x philippinensis

1st

Tennis Maynard

Paph hirsutissimum

2nd

Dave & Edna Markley

Paph Oberhausen Diamant

3rd

Oncidium

Tennis Maynard

Vuylstekeara Taida Clement 'Runawa Strut'

1st

Scott Bever

Vuylstekeara Celtic Sun 'Blushed'

2nd

Tennis Maynard

Tol Sundown Reef 'Spotted Ewok'

3rd

Others

Scott Bever

Gltia grandiflora (POM)

1st

Dave & Edna Markley

Phrag schroderae

1st

Tennis Maynard

Trichopilia Charles x ramonensis

2nd

Tennis Maynard

Ansellia africana 'Wendy'

2nd

Tennis Maynard

Ansellia africana 'DBI'

3rd

Scott Bever

Aerangis citrata

3rd

Plant of the month - MAY

Tessie Steelman

Cattleya mossiae

Phragmipedium

Scott Bever

Phrag Red Baron 'Windy Hill'

1st

Dave & Edna Markley	Phrag Living Fire	2nd
Dave & Edna Markley	Phrag Eric Young 'Rocket Fire' x Phrag Beauport 'Rose Rocket'	3rd
<u>Vandaceous</u>		
Scott Bever	Ascf Cherry Blossom	1st
<u>Cattleya</u>		
Tessie Steelman	Catt mossiae (POM)	1st
<u>Others</u>		
Scott Bever	Spathoglottis 'Grapette'	1st
Plant of the month - <u>JUNE</u>		
Screll Jones	Trichopilia galeottiana	
<u>Phalaenopsis</u>		
Suzanne Cavazos	Unknown phal	1st
Tom and Pat Stinson	Phal Sogo Champion x Sogo Peak	2nd
Screll Jones	Phal cornu cervi flava x Tsay's Evergreen	3rd
<u>Cattleya</u>		
Tennis Maynard	Enc tampense alba - <i>received an AM award at the June meeting officially now - Encyclia tampense alba 'Orchid Court' AM/AOS - Congrats to Tennis!</i>	1st
Tennis Maynard	Laelia purpurata v carnea	2nd
Tom & Pat Stinson	Epi Rosi Valley 'Cardinal'	3rd
<u>Oncidium</u>		
Tennis Maynard	Tol Sundown Reef 'Spotted Ewok'	1st
Dave & Edna Markley	Brsdm Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	2nd
Tennis Maynard	Rdrdm Windsong x Tol Elgin Star	3rd
<u>Paphiopedilum</u>		
Justin Pepperney	Paph superbiens	1st
Tom & Pat Stinson	Paph St Swithin	2nd
Elly Campbell	Paph St Swithin	3rd
<u>Phragmipedium</u>		
Tennis Maynard	Phrag Lutz Rollke	1st
Justin Pepperney	Phrag bessae	2nd
<u>Trichopilia</u>		
Screll Jones	Trichopilia galeottiana (POM)	1st
Tennis Maynard	Trichopilia galeottiana	2nd
Tennis Maynard	Trichopilia punicea 'Orchid Court' CHM/AOS	3rd
<u>Angraecum</u>		
Tennis Maynard	Angraecum magdalenae	1st
Tennis Maynard	Angraecum germinyanum	2nd

Masdevallia

Tom & Pat Stinson

Masdevallia 'Gunpowder Falls' HCC/AOS

1st

Others

LaRioja Vannoy

Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'

1st

Tennis Maynard

Bulb macranthum

2nd

Dave & Edna Markley

Bulb lilacinum

3rd

Diane Faridad

Den Roy Tokunaga

3rd

Year to date contest standings:

We're more than halfway through the year but a lot can happen between now and November so keep up the great work and continue to bringing those blooming 'chids!!

Greenhouse Division

Tom & Pat Stinson	292
Tennis Maynard	276
Tessie Steelman	51
Screll Jones	43
Don Weber	14
Dennis Eifel	10

AYO

Dave & Edna	151
Scott Bever	112
Katrina Heap	97
Justin Pepperney	11
Suzanne Cavazos	10
Edy Gunawan	10
Elly Campbell	6
Ken Mettler	4
Diane Faridad	3
Naila Caruso	1

Beginner

LaRioja Vannoy	32
Gary & Deb Walker	21
Larissa Boiwka	10

The Importance of Humidity and Air Movement in Successful Orchid Culture

The simple secret to good orchid growing is achieving a balance between the six or so factors; light levels, temperature, humidity and air movement, watering, potting and potting media, and nutrient supply, as they relate to your plants. This isn't really difficult, but it does require knowledge, understanding and careful observation. Humidity and air movement are best handled together because they are intimately linked in both positive and negative ways. First let's look at each factor individually and then we'll take a look at their relationship to one another.

Humidity

Virtually all orchids do best when humidity ranges from 40% to 70%. Even those that are adapted to growing under rather desert like conditions such as *Zelenkoa (Oncidium) onusta* are exposed to periods when the humidity is in this range. In this particular example, the species flourishes in coastal deserts where breezes from the pacific bring nightly dews and resultant relatively high humidity even though it may not rain for long periods.

Investing in an inexpensive humidity gauge is a necessity for all but the smallest collection if you want to grow orchids well. In virtually all parts of the United States outside of Hawaii and Puerto Rica, at some part of the year, it will be necessary to add supplemental humidity to the growing area. In some parts of the country such as the South and Southeast, humidity during the summer months will be adequate to even excessive while winter humidity levels may be too low, especially following strong cold fronts. In the Pacific Northwest, the situation may well be reversed with humid, cool winters and relatively low humidity during the warmer summer months. If you grow your plants in areas where supplemental heating is a requirement such heat sources dry out the air making humidity measurements critical. Having a simple humidity gauge takes the guesswork out of the growing area. Also keep in mind that humidity is usually highest at night and lowest during the afternoon peak of sunlight and warmth.

There are a number of ways to increase humidity in your growing area. If you only have a couple of plants, addition of some ferns or other houseplants to your growing area may be sufficient. These plants do a reasonable job of adding humidity to the air around them. For small collections grown under lights or windowsills, humidity trays may be sufficient. These trays are nothing more than a water-holding tray filled with small gravel (aquarium gravel works well). The gravel-filled trays are filled with water to a level just below the surface. To prevent plants sitting on constantly wet gravel the plants are placed on small saucers or pieces of plastic or metal grid placed on top of the trays. The next step up in the humidity game would be an ultrasonic humidifier or one of those fog-generating ultrasonic devices you see sold for terrariums. If you are fortunate enough to have a greenhouse or grow your plants outside, you might want to invest in a set of misting nozzles connected to a timer or humidistat but just simply wetting down the growing space during the mid to late afternoon may be sufficient.

Air Movement

Orchids like air movement. Indoors, an overhead paddle fan set on the slowest speed or a small oscillating fan set to face AWAY from your plants may provide adequate air movement. Air movement at night is just as important as air movement during the daytime so fans should run continuously. One of the mistakes that new growers make, especially those with new greenhouses, is to put their fans on a timer and shut them off at night! Don't forget that what you are trying to simulate is a buoyant atmosphere and close, humid nights are anything but buoyant. If you don't believe that, try walking on the beach in August in Miami without a breeze.

What is adequate air movement? The answer depends on humidity to a certain extent (see below), however in general enough to cause GENTLE movement of thin foliage is about right. A hurricane is a hurricane - not air movement. If the leaves of your cattleyas are moving you might have too much air movement depending on humidity levels.

How are the two factors related?

Simply put, the higher your humidity, the higher can and should be your air movement. Air movement is beneficial to your orchids but, under certain circumstances it can be detrimental as well. If you have adequate humidity, air circulation helps to carry stale air away from your plants and replace it with fresh air. This is especially important on hot humid nights. High humidity coupled with minimal air movement is a terrific recipe for the growth of fungus or physiological problems created by the buildup of moisture within the leaf tissues.

Moving air keeps leaf temperature down. Some orchids close the pores that allow transpiration of air and water from their leaves during the day. The leaves of these plants can rapidly become overheated and damaged without adequate air movement to cool them. Air movement avoids the stratification of cool moist air below the growing area and warm dry air above, where the plants are and "dead spots" are minimized and, equally important, damp stagnant areas - breeding place for disease - are eliminated.

However, where natural humidity is low rapid air movement can be destructive by draining away humidity in the growing area, drying out the plants and retarding growth. Under these situations the roots of the plants simply cannot take up enough moisture to balance that lost through the foliage resulting in shriveling of the leaves and growths and, in the worst cases death of the plant.

When balance of humidity and air movement is achieved, coupled with adequate water at the roots, your orchid plants will thrive and their physical appearance will clearly be healthy. That look is hard to explain but it's one of those things that once you've seen it you will recognize it. Many orchids have growth cycles that involve the formation of pseudobulbs that are full and smooth in their early stages followed by the formation of features like angular edges or furrows at maturity but outright wrinkling isn't normal. Even the pseudobulbs of *Dendrobium sulcatum* that are curious, flattened canes that look like they've been pressed are still smooth and firm when these factors are balanced. Many orchids have thick, fleshy leaves but their surfaces should be smooth and their texture should be firm. Leaves that appear to be wrinkled or crumpled aren't normal. Lastly, the roots of plants grown in an environment with balanced humidity and air movement will be plump and their tips will remain green and active throughout the growing season.



Trichopilia galeottiana, grown by Screll Jones