

Orchids

GRAND
VALLEY
ORCHID
SOCIETY
NEWS



Grand Valley Orchid Society serves the greater West Michigan area with informational programs and fellowship.

Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, September through May.

*Location: Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park
1000 East Beltline Grand Rapids, MI*

December News

Our December 17th meeting will be our annual "Potluck." Please plan to be there along with your favorite dish (food-like thing, not your girl/boy friend)! Of course, bring your spouse or significant other!

You are asked to bring your own place setting and silverware. If you forgot what you signed up for, you can contact Joan Shipaila [jbshipaila@sbcglobal.net].

Main dishes, salads, and desserts are needed.

Beverages will be provided.

This is a great time to bring your checkbooks ---why?

#1 - renew your membership for 2010 - \$15 single, \$20 couple

#2 - reserve your Phal. from the ever present pyramid

#3 - Michele will have a good supply of items to purchase.

If you want something in particular, let her know.

[saindonm@msu.edu]

This is also a good time to bring your "problem" plant as well as one you would like to show off. This society is YOURS - participate by bringing plants, but also by bringing your questions. We have a lot of expert and amateur advise - all of it helps us grow - as people and as plant people.

GVOS Orchid Show - News and Preparation

Now is the time for all good GVOS members to stand up, sit down, run, walk, be present and accounted for!!
Target date is January 2010 - can you believe it? - 21st - 24th.

Set-up of tables is Thursday, January 21st at 7:00 pm. This should not take a great deal of time.

The potluck for vendors is on Friday, January 22nd. If you did not sign up with Joan, please do so now. There are quite a few vendors; we need them to attract visitors to the show and they come tired and hungry! Please call Joan at 616-459-4739 or [jbshipaila@sbcglobal.net], or see her at the picnic to help out.

Several people are needed to help vendors unload their cargo all day Friday. They come as early as 9:00 am, but also later in the evening. Contact Mei Ling if you are willing to help for a few hours. Most of the vendors arrive in the afternoon. [clemensmei@aol.com]

Help is needed during the show at the membership table. Please call Larry Larkin at 269-795-2207 or [larrylarkin1@gmail.com].

NOW is the time to start preparing plants you hope to enter in our display. Make sure you groom them well by removing dark foliage and any "bugs." You can also begin training blooming spikes to best show them. Advise is always available from our members. If you have only ONE flower, plan to bring it! It will fit in somewhere and greatly enhance our show.



Our GVOS Orchids of the Month

Our orchids of the month for the November were:

Species: *Cymbidium aloifolium*
brought by Jade Vandervele

Hybrid - Paph. William Ambler
(*rothschildianum* x *wilhelminiae*)
brought by Norm Goebel



Please don't hesitate to bring your orchids to each meeting. Even if your orchid is not selected, it will be appreciated by all of us. We enjoy seeing what other club members are growing.

★ Please update your contact information, including your email address to gjgriff@sbcglobal.net and larrylarkin1@gmail.com

Fundraising Information - from Michelle Saindon [\[saindonm@msu.edu\]](mailto:saindonm@msu.edu)

- ☀ - We are now able to "sell" plants, etc. at our orchid meetings. Please bring anything you would like to share or sell to the picnic.
- ☀ - Continue to save your **Spartan Brand UPCs**. Let your friends and family know that we would appreciate their help with saving these barcodes. We really need to increase participation as it takes 1,000 UPCs to earn \$20.00. We are up to 583 UPCs so we have crossed the half-way point!
- ☀ - Keep bringing **your plants** to sell to benefit GVOS at our monthly meetings.
- ☀ - As 2009 comes to an end, please consider making a **donation** to GVOS and AOS. AOS donations help fund money and awareness for orchid conservation, support HIV/AIDs related education and care giving efforts, raise money for pediatric patients with HIV/Aids and other worthwhile causes. See www.aos.org for details. Source is Carol Holdren AOS Trustee affiliated _societies@aos.org.
- ☀ We have received a letter from **Tindara Orchids**. All of us are able to receive a **15% discount** on any order, any size, and any time. The coupon code is **GVOS15**.

We have several donors who have been extremely generous to us.

Littlefrog Farm - www.littlefrogfarm.com

Oak Hill Gardens - www.oakhillgardens.com

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate - www.sborchid.com

Design 1 - www.design1.com

Jim's Supplies - www.jimssupplies.com

Robert's Flower Supply - www.orchidmix.com

Calwest Orchid Supplies - www.orchid-supplies.com

RePotMe - www.repotme.com

Carter & Holmes - www.carterandholmes.com

Tindara Orchids. www.tindaraorchids.com

Orchid Supply Company - www.orchidsupply.com

Please visit their websites



“Culture of *Pleurothallidae* or How to Grow Weeds”

Presentation by Lynne O'Shaugnessy

We were treated to a last minute and brilliant presentation on this genera by Lynne. Lynne is member of the AOS Speaker's Bureau, and certified judge for 9 years, and a friend of GVOS. If you missed this presentation, you missed a great deal. I will attempt to fill you in on the content of the presentation.

Most of the *Pleurothallids* originate in the cloud forest of Equador. The cloud forest is, of course a very humid environment. In the clearings other *Pleur.* grow in full sun. The *stellis* grow on rocks in full sun where it is frigid at night, but with hugh humidity. None of this group have pseudobulbs and do require extra care. A good start for those interested in growing the *Pleurs.* would be advised to try the hybrids. Some of the species are very touchy - *Masdevallia*'s!

Lynne's best advise is the “listen to your plants.” Having not learned to do this, I would try looking at them first. The *Pleurs.* grow at various temperatures.

Warm growing	68-80° (day)	53-65° (night)
Intermediate	55-68° “	48-56° “
Cool	50-62° “	40-53° “

They do need a day-night temperature difference. For many orchids a 10° difference is helpful. An orchidarium, a modified fish tank, or a plastic tub are all helpful in maintaining the special needs of these plants. Most species do not like direct sun, but need humidity and air movement. A mini-greenhouse that can be closed or a terrarium with moss uncovered is ok. The roots do not like to stand in water. An aqua-fog fan helps to circulate the air and regulate temperature. If you have drier conditions, look for plants with thicker or crisper leaves. These can generally tolerate less humid conditions. Plants that have the “waffle” effect on the leaves probably have not had consistent humidity. The humidity in Lynne's greenhouse is 70%, but should be at least 50%.

Work with lights. Lynne has used the standard light fixtures with one gro-lite and one cool light about 2 1/2 inches above the leaves. The plants can be closer on light carts. She has also used *Dendrobiums* to shade the *Pleurs.* The blooms follow the lights, so set them in an open area for fuller bloom. Be careful not to use and water softeners; RO water is preferred. Often spots will appear on the leaves. These are calcium deposits and can be cleaned off with milk and sphagnum moss. Watering is a trial and error process. Fertilize with MSU fertilizer. It is the best balance for *Pleurs.* Fertilize every 2 weeks. They are not high feeders.

Potting or mounting is both possible. The plants do not prefer bark. She uses sphagnum moss for the little plants and “Aussie gold” for the bigger ones. For the large ones she uses bark and peanuts or perlite. Clay pots hold water well and may be a better choice. Remove yellow leaves and spent flowers. Also remove any brown and spotted leaves. If leaves are yellowing, it may indicate stress. If there are black spots, the plant is saying it doesn't like something. Virus is off course the worst problem and can't be fixed. It usually appears a mottling - 2 toned leaves with sunken and silvery areas. As always sterilize cutting tools. Use razor blades and then throw them away. Aphids will spread virus, so be aware of them. It is possible to use ladybugs or spray “Exlude.” Keep plants humid with good air movement. Spider mites don't like humidity and will eat the underside of the leaves if plants are allowed to dry.

Here are some varieties that Lynne suggest might be easier to grow.

Acronia - called “frogs” because the flower sits on the leaf - they are easy to grow, need a brighter area and can dry out more than others

Dryadella - has thick leaves - pot is sphagnum moss and in tiny pots - they are resistant to drying out

Myoxanthus - easier to grow - have stiff leaves

Zootrophion - warm growers - good for beginners

Restrepia - a good beginner plants - tolerate heat - need consistent or high humidity

Orbis truncata - flowers on neglect - tolerates brighter light

Pleurothallis - leaves bloom over and over again
Barbosella - easier to grow, mount or pot
Panmorphia - has thick leaves, more tolerant
Ancipitia - a good beginner plants - has crisp leaves
Dracontia - easier to grow
Stelis - easy to grow -- multifloral inflorescence
Parroglossum muscosum - easier to grow - has a trap lip
Masdevallia - hybrids are easier to grow (try *Triangularis*,
constricta, or *Decermana*)



Now, if that isn't enough to try, you must be a collector, so then, try whatever you wish. Good luck!

TIDBITS

- * Here's a good website for all of us to use. [<http://www.orchidweb.com/>] You can subscribe.
- * Mei Ling noticed that AOS is now on Facebook. There are a handful of members on facebook, and you might be interested in joining them.
- * The Greater Lansing Orchid Society (GLOS) need clerks to assist the judging teams for their February show. The date is Feb. 27th beginning at 7:30 am and lasting until about 11:00 am. About 30 clerks are needed. Clerks will be provided with a breakfast and admittance to the Judges' Luncheon at noon. To volunteer contact Chair of Judging Activities Doris Asher at asherdoris@juno.com. Having participated as a clerk several times, it is a great way to learn more about orchids and orchid culture, and is a lot of fun.

Results from the Saginaw Valley Orchid Show

GVOS Orchid Display: Second Place Lisa Albert

Best of Class: Paph Hsinyling Magic Voodoo AM/AOS x Red Shift Mei Ling

First Place: Phal Maniac Lisa Albert
 LC Ruth Loveless Mei Ling
 Paph Hsinyling Magic Voodoo AM/AOS x Red Shift Mei Ling

Second Place: Phal royal queen Lisa Albert
 Phrag longifolium Lisa Albert

Brassocattleya binosa 'wabash valley' Gordon Griffin
 Paph spicerianum 'heavy metal' fat boy Gordon Griffin
 Paph stone lovely 'tierra' ice castle 'mystic' Gordon Griffin

Ascda malini x denisoniana Mei Ling
 BLC Golden Tang BLC Waikiki Gold x BL Richard Mueller Mei Ling
 C hybrid unknown Mei Ling

Third Place: MTSSA Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi' AN/AOS Lisa Albert
 Paph Supersuk eureka x raisin pie Hsinyling Gordon Griffin

The Grand Valley Orchid Society entered a display in the Saginaw Valley Orchid Show in Midland, November 27-29. Lisa Albert set up the display on Friday, and Sara Ham, Ron Ham, and Juan Flores took the display down on Sunday. The number of flowers made for an impressive display. We were complimented by the Saginaw group for our display and the number of flowers that we sent.

