

# Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

## Phalaenopsis Presentation

The AAOS November meeting welcomed Jim Heilig to give his presentation on species Phalaenopsis.

Jim's presentation was very interesting, and centered on cultural information for the different species, the summary of which follows:

Phalaenopsis is a large genus, and is divided into 5 subgenera, and two of the subgenera are divided into sections. The notes that follow are based on Jim's presentation.

Subgenus Proboscidioides has

...continued on page 2.

## President's Message

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2007! I hope you all enjoyed your Holidays. I would like to let you know two things with this message.

I would like to welcome a few people who have taken open board and committee positions. I would like you to welcome Linda Battison. She has accepted the position as Director. Also, Randy Long will be taking over the position of Membership Chair from me. Randy has also agreed to serve on the Nominating committee along with Dee Stowell. Finally, Susan Haddock has agreed to be Hospitality Chair. Thank you all for taking on these positions. Now, here is the other thing that I wanted to tell you.

We have a show every month until April. This month is the Grand Valley Orchid Show in Grand Rapids. In February, we have the Greater Lansing Orchid Show. Our festival is March 17 - 18. Finally, two weeks after that is the Michigan Orchid Society's Palm Sunday Orchid Show.

Please mark your calendars for these shows. We will need your help with these shows.

I will see you January 14<sup>th</sup>. Kevin

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only one species, *P. lowii*, which is grown warm in summer, and a bit cooler in winter.



*P. braceana*

The subgenus *Aphyl-lae* is deciduous in nature, but grown better if not allowed to completely dry to the point of leaf drop.

The cooler growing species in this subgenus include *P. braceana*, *P. hainanensis*, *P. honghensis*, *P. minus*, *P. taenialis*



*P. wilsonii*

The intermediate grower in this section is *P. wilsonii*, and the warmer grower is *stobartiana*, which has a seasonal cooler winter.



*P. gibbosa*

The subgenus *Parishiana* has four species, two that are warm year around, (*P. appendiculata* and *P. parishii*) and two with a cooler winter, *P. gibbosa* and *P. lobbii*. *P. gibbosa* and *P. parishii* look very similar and are often confused.

The subgenus *Polychilos* is next. Do not cut the spikes of species in this subgenus, because they can rebloom. There are four sections within this subgenus.



*P. cornu-cervi*

The first section is *Poly-chilos*, which includes *P. borneensis*, *P. cornu-cervi* (has lots of flowers), *P. manni*, and *P. pantherina*. *P. manni* is grown in intermediate conditions, with the others warmer.



*P. viridis*

The second section is *Fuscatae*, which include all warm growing species. *P. cochlearis* (which is a difficult plant to grow), *P. fuscata* and *P. kunstleri* (which look very similar), and *P. viridis* are in this group.



*P. bellina*

The third section, *Amboinenses*, is very large, this section has mostly warmer growing species, exceptions are noted. *P. amboinensis*, *P. bastianii* (brightly colored flowers), *P. bellina*, *P. dower-yensis*, *P. fasciata*, *P. fimbriata*, *P. floresensis*, *P. gigantea*, *P. hiero-glyphica*, *P. javanica*, *P. lueddeman-niana*, *P. luteola* (difficult cool grower), *P. maculata*, *P. mariae*, *P. micholitzii*, *P. modesta* (fragrant), *P. pallens*, *P. pulchra* (intermediate grower), *P. reichenbachiana*, *P. robin-sonii*, *P. venosa* (intermediate grower), *P. violacea*.



*P. tetraspis*

The fourth section is *Zeb-rinae*, which has 5 species: *P. corningiana*,

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## AAOS Calendar

**Jan. 14:** AAOS mtg: Member's talks and Slides about growing areas

**Jan. 26-28:** Grand Valley Orchid Society show

**Feb 11:** AAOS mtg: Lynn O'Shaughnessy—Growing Pleurothallids

**Feb 23-25:** Greater Lansing Orchid Society show

**March 16-18:** AAOS FESTIVAL

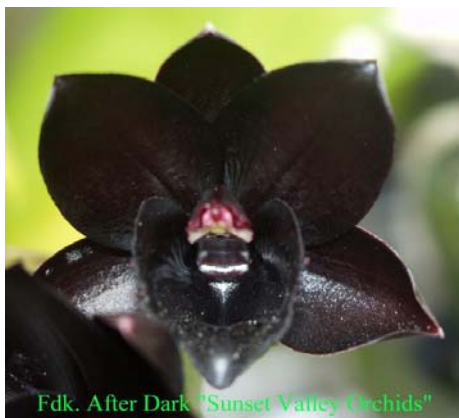
**Mar 30-April 1:** Michigan Orchid Society show

**April 15:** AAOS mtg: TBA

**May 20:** AAOS mtg: Great Lakes Judging Program: Vandas

TBA: Summer Picnic

**Sept. 9:** AAOS mtg: Fred Clarke---Catasetums & Mormodes



## Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2006-7 Officers

**President** - Kevin Griffin 248-761-1272, kahless66@yahoo.com

**Vice President** - Ann Bommarito 487-9573, AnnieBomm@comcast.net

**Treasurer** - Harry Winter 761-5859, harwin@umich.edu

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**Director** - Alex Challis 971-6186, IcePengwyn@aol.com

**Director** - Linda Battison, 810-227-0120, lcbattison@comcast.net

**Past President** - Paige Hartman 426-2704, GEHartman1@msn.com

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**Library** - Duane Duman, George Parks. duman2@aol.com

**Membership** - Kevin Griffin

**Newsletter Editor** - Denise Nash

**Orchid Festival** - Ann Bommarito & Kevin Griffin

**Orchid Shows** - Alex Challis

**Programs** - Paige Hartman

**Publicity** - Neil Foster

### Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

The AAOS meets monthly from September through May (excluding December) at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI. The AAOS Newsletter is published 8-9 times throughout the year, and is sent to all AAOS members. AAOS members and others are invited to submit articles or other information relating to orchids. The Ann Arbor Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) educational and scientific organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and with the Orchid Digest Corporation.

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*P. inscriptiosinensis* (which is an intermediate grower), *P. speciosa*, *P. sumatrana*, and *P. tetraspis*, which may not flower if it gets too much light.

The Subgenus *Phalaenopsis* has 4 sections.



*P. philippinensis*

The first section in the subgenus *Phalaenopsis* is the *Phalaenopsis* section.

The species in this section are warm growers. *P. amabilis* (standard white flowers), *P. aphrodite*, *P. philippinensis*, *P. sanderiana*, *P. schilleriana*, and *P. stuartiana*.



*P. chibae*

The second section is *Deliciosae*, which has three species, *P. chibae*, *P. deliciosa*, and *P. mysorensis*.



*P. pulcherrima*

The third section is *Esmeralda*, which are all summer bloomers that need more light than others to spike and bloom well. This section includes *P. buysoniana*, *P. pulcherrima* (which used to be the genus *Doritis*), and *P. regnieriana*.



*P. equestris*

The fourth section is *Staurglottis*, which has *P. celebensis*, *P. equestris*, and *P. lindenii*, which grows intermediate to cool.

Many thanks to Jim for a wonderful talk on these fascinating plants!

## Newsletter Deadlines

If you have an article or submission for the newsletter, please email them to Denise Nash: [djnash@comcast.net](mailto:djnash@comcast.net).

The deadlines for newsletter submissions are:

January 26, 2007

March 2, 2007

May 2, 2007

## Saginaw Valley Orchid Society Display

November 24, 2006



Thanks to everyone that made the AAOS display possible!



Study Group at Riki Marquis' House: See Page 9 for story.



## Study Group Update

The next meeting of the AAOS will be January 20 at 1:00 at Dee Stowell's home. The topic will be Paphiopedilums. Dee has very interesting growing areas and has a wealth of knowledge about her orchids. Come with any of your blooming paphs, questions and your knowledge for the group discussion. Dee's email is : deestowell@chartermi.net if you need directions.



Many thanks to Paige and George Hartman for sharing their beautiful home with us for the Christmas party again this year! The food was wonderful and a lot of fun was had by all AAOS members that attended!

## December Plant Table

### Species

Anoetochilus chapaensis (W)	Susan Haddock
Cymbidium stratiotes (W,O)	Riki Marquis
Dendrochilum cobbianum (G,O)	Laura and Duane Duman
Paphiopedilum fairrieanum (L)	Kevin Griffin

### Hybrids

Brassidium Shooting Star 'Maui Meteor' (G,O)	Laura and Duane Duman
Bc. Maikai (G,O)	Glenn Lehr
Dendrobium Nagasaki (G,O)	Glenn Lehr
Masdevallia Fuschia Dawn 'Okemos' (W)	Judy Lobato
Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Kultana' (W)	Susan Haddock
Odontoglossum Rawdon Jester (W,O)	Riki Marquis
Potinara Love Call 'Nora' (W)	Judy Lobato
Phragmipedium Franz Glanz (W,L,O)	Kevin Griffin
Phragmipedium Mary Bess (W,O)	Laura and Duane Duman
Sophrocattleya Calypso #1	Laura and Duane Duman
Vuylstekara Melissa Brianne 'Shady Lady' HCC/AOS (W,L)	Kevin Griffin

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W = Window, G = Greenhouse, O = Outside

## Christmas Flowering Cattleya



**Cattleya percivaliana 'Alberts' CCM 84**

### **MBG Collection**

*C. percivaliana* tends to be smaller in stature than other unifoliate Cattleyas, and also bears three to five smaller flowers at four to five inches across. The sepals and petals vary from soft pink to rose, the frilly lip is a deeper red-purple with a pink margin. There are other color varieties including albas (all white with a yellow-throated lip) and semi-albas (white with red to magenta colored lips). This orchid needs brighter light than other Cattleyas in order to grow and flower well.

-Alex

## What's Flowering?

### Pleurothallis tarantula



I bought this *Pleurothallis tarantula* from Andy's Orchids in September during the Chicagoland Festival. This is the third time I've tried growing it; having killed it two other times. It grows in the center of the greenhouse tucked in with a few other pleurothallids and taller, thin-leaved orchids around it. It gets watered with MSU fertilizer almost every day and grows in a net pot of sphagnum moss. I water the moss thoroughly and spray lots of water on the leaves too. I originally bought a *Pleuro. tarantula* because my daughter is very afraid of all spiders. I thought she'd "enjoy" this flower. But she missed this bloom when she flew back to California a few hours before I discovered it. The blooms are under the leaves and easily missed. I really like

the dark color and hairy petals. It definitely looks like a curled-up tarantula or a cluster of tarantulas.

- Paige Hartman

#### Want Ad

New Year sale of orchids, supplies etc.



Halogen/sodium type lamps (large hanging)

Grow light shelf (small)

2 large redwood shelf systems (each complete with lights and individual shelf units)

Fans

Orchids

Bark

Pots

Tropical Plants

Water Barrel

Etc.

After sale, donation given to Orchid Society

Call 971-4742 (start mid-January)

Cynthia Yao 971-4742

## Beyond Orchid Growing

by Neal Foster

Do you remember--when you were a beginning orchid grower--how virtually every orchid was beautiful? How overwhelmed you were by the glorious variety of shapes, colors, and fragrances at your first orchid show? How thrilled you were when you bloomed an orchid that had never bloomed, perhaps one you had won as a puny raffle plant a year or so before? Then--gradually--you became more discriminating about size, number, quality and colors of orchid blooms, and you began to appreciate the role that orchid judging and quality and other awards (F.C.C., A.M., H.C.C., etc., 9 types of awards altogether) have played in the development of the best species cultivars or clones of hybrids. According to the Royal Horticultural Society, there are more than 25,000 orchid species that have, or once had, been found in nature, and from some of these over 110,000 orchid hybrid crosses have been made and registered during the past 150 years (over 3000 new hybrids are registered by the R.H.S. annually!)

I strongly encourage any orchid grower who is deeply committed to growing orchids well and learning as much as they can about them to investigate whether becoming an American Orchid Society-accredited judge may be the right thing for you to do at this time in your life. You should be prepared to commit a certain amount of your time, space, and financial resources and to become strongly engaged with the multi-year training process, which includes challenging but usually interesting homework assignments, regular written evaluations of your judging performance by accredited judges, participating in many orchid shows, giving prepared

talks on special topics related to judging, keeping up with ever-changing trends and standards in orchid breeding, studying the AOS's *Awards Quarterly* and its *Handbook on Judging and Exhibition*, etc. You can get a gentle introduction to orchid judging by volunteering to clerk for ribbon judging at one or more of our local or regional orchid shows, whether it be in Midland, Grand Rapids, East Lansing, Ann Arbor, and/or Livonia. If you are intrigued by how the judges on your team select the best, second best, and third-best blooming orchid plants in each of the entry classes entry, that's a good sign you may be ready to kick your hobby up a notch. You can't miss observing that if they aren't outright orchid fanatics, every orchid judge is at least somewhat passionate and moderately obsessed about orchids and orchid growing. Clearly, orchid judging is a "labor of love" for these dedicated folks.

The late Ray McCullough of Livonia, an orchidological "father figure" to me who was an accredited orchid judge, once served as AOS President, and helped us establish the AAOS in 1992, encouraged me to become a student in the AOS judging training program for years, but I was ambivalent. For one thing, I seriously wondered whether the process of orchid judging might turn out to be a highly arbitrary and subjective process. Many years later, although I'm no longer in the program, I now know it to be a reasonably objective, horticulturally and aesthetically plausible and defensible, logical and well thought-out system that has slowly evolved over many, many decades. Being a student judge reinforced my feelings of respect and admiration for all orchid judges for their enthusiasm, dedication, and constant efforts to stay abreast of new

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trends and standards in orchid breeding. My most enjoyable experiences in the program were interacting with fellow students and with probationary and accredited judges. The people in the program, with few exceptions, were all terrific, and I miss their warm camaraderie and fellowship. My mentors, Don Garling and Glenda Lask, gave me much practical and supportive advice and encouragement. Although it took me four years to realize that becoming an orchid judge was not the right decision in my case, my stint as a student judge was intellectually interesting, challenging; and on the whole, a positive learning experience that forever changed the way I look at orchids. To this day I can never look at an orchid bloom in quite the same, uncritical way that I did when I bought my first orchids back in 1985.

We are fortunate that one of the oldest of the 34 AOS Judging Centers in the United States and Canada, the Great Lakes Judging Center, meets monthly (3rd Saturday) at our own Matthaei Botanical Gardens. If you have already clerked at a few orchid shows and are interested enough in the judging training program to take the next logical step, contact the GLJC Chair, Glenda Lask (email: [glendalask\\_568@msn.com](mailto:glendalask_568@msn.com)). You will be expected to attend judging sessions as an observer for a certain number of months before you can apply to be admitted into the program. For more information about the AOS judging program, visit the following website: <http://www.orchidweb.org/aos/judging/default.aspx>

## AAOS Study Group Report

*By Susan Haddock*

The Orchid Study Club met at Riki Marquis' home in November. Riki has a beautiful orchid collection grown under lights in some rooms and using natural light in others. Her premier natural light growing and display area is a two story high sunroom clerestory. This is a lovely sitting and reading room; flooded with light, but doesn't get too hot. There are orchids in bloom all around this room. This room overlooks a 50' diameter pond with an island in the middle of it which she and her husband constructed. Riki also has blooming orchids on display in her sunny dining room. Each of her orchids in bloom is in a decorative ceramic, or incised clay, or other pretty pot.

Riki grows under lights in several bedrooms and in her husband's study (what a cooperative guy). Riki grows many types of orchids but specializes in paphs, phrags and species phals.

*...And by Riki Marquis*

The study group met at my home on Friday Nov. 10th. We had a small but very enjoyable gathering. Sue Haddock, Linda Battison and a friend of mine, Petra Brown attended. Sue brought a lovely collection of Masdevallias, 2 of which were fragrant. I envy her ability to grow these finicky sweet little orchids. On the topic of what we learned about growing/flowering orchids successfully, we agreed on the importance of frequent repotting.

Looking forward to our next meeting in January 2007 to have fun and observe and learn more about how diverse and enjoyable orchid growing can be. Hope you will join us.

## Saginaw Valley Orchid Society Show Judging Results

Our 50 foot display received a third place award, with the MOS display taking first, and GLOS taking second. Congratulations to everyone involved with the display, which had a Tropical Paradise theme ( for a picture, see page 4).

The following plants were awarded with a blue ribbon, as first in their classes:

<b>Plant</b>	<b>Grower</b>
Phal heiroglyphica	Glenn Lehr
Zga. Iron Knob	Jim Cather
Cycd. Wine Delight	Kevin Griffin
Paph fairrieanum	Ann Bommarito
Vuyl. Fall in Love 'Lovely Lady'	Denise Nash
Paph Rainbow Sky	Denise Nash

The following plants were awarded with a red ribbon as second in their classes:

Onc. Sweet Sugar	Rob Halgren
Paph Doctor Jack	Ann Bommarito
erth. Grandiflora	Paige Hartman
Dtps Dyah Redita	Paige Hartman
Epi. pseudoepidentrum var. album	Paige Hartman
Bulbo. ruffinum	Denise Nash
Phrag Scarlet O'Hara	Denise Nash
Dtps Tinny Antique	Denise Nash
Cycd. Wine Delight	Denise Nash

The following plants were awarded with a white ribbon as third in their classes:

Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos'	Rob Halgren
Neo. falcata var Aojiku Chusentetsu	Glenn Lehr
Paph King Arthur	Janet Hinshaw
Catt. Chocolate Drop 'Kodoma'	Jim Cather
Ctasm barbatum	Paige Hartman
Alcra Hilo Ablaze 'HOF'	Paige Hartman
Mtssa Charles M. Fitch 'Hilo Triple Lip'	Paige Hartman
Paph Cherry Cider	Paige Hartman
Paph spicerianum	Paige Hartman
Paph Cymatodes	Denise Nash
Paph India Ink	Denise Nash