

OUR NEXT MEETING

February 11, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Beginner's program at 6:30 p.m.:
Choosing the right pot
by Graham Wilmore

University of Washington
Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street
Seattle, WA 98105

Who's to judge?

I don't know about the rest of you but the judging of orchids has always had a shroud of mystery about it to me. A specialized group of people who speak a foreign tongue, with their rulers, magnifying glasses and nomenclature.

Now let the shroud be lifted. Our program this month is all about judging. Jeanette Brashear, one of the accredited AOS judges among our membership, will be presenting an AOS slide show on Orchid Judging. After the presentation judging forms will be passed out and a mock judging can take place. For those of your whose interest is sparked, AOS Judging Handbooks will be available for \$10.

-Jamie Notman

Northwest Orchid Society

P.O. Box 51021
Seattle, WA 98115-1021
(206) 781-5805

E-mail: nworchidsociety@yahoo.com

www.nwos.org

Have something to include in the newsletter?
Send it to nwosnews@attbi.com. Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the month.

Successful Phragmipedium culture

Phrags grow naturally in humid, boggy environments, in fast-draining media, and with fairly high light and good air movement. Flowers in the caudatum alliance tend to open almost simultaneously, but other Phrags are sequential, multi-floral bloomers and can bloom for many months. Each flower lasts about two-and-a-half to three weeks before dropping, while still fresh. Not to worry if you find a fresh bloom on the ground or at the edge of the pot. When they're time is up, they simply fall off.

In order to duplicate Phrag growing environments as closely as possible and still meet the requirements of greenhouse or in-home culture, the following method will encourage fast growing plants and early flowering:

1. Water and fertilizer

Phrags are bog-type plants. Some growers water frequently, even daily, especially in summer. In the Northwest, I water weekly, but I grow in a humid greenhouse. They're sensitive to water quality so collected rain-water is best. This is especially true if your water is well water. Here in the Northwest, tap water is usually very satisfactory. It is good to add a minute quantity of fertilizer (1/16th of a teaspoon per gallon of a quality orchid fertilizer) and Superthrive may be added (this is a plant-friendly vitamin B). Peters 30-10-10 and Peters Excel Cal-Mag can be alternated weekly, although other fertilizers will work equally well. Remember to flush the plants with clear water once a month to wash out the salts that collect in the media.

Because of their high water requirements, Phrags do well when their pot is placed in a container or on a saucer during the months of April to October (the exception is caudatums, which should drain freely, never in standing water). Water plants directly onto the bark, allowing the water/fertilizer mix to drain into the container, where it will be taken up slowly by the lower roots. Discard the standing water at least monthly and wash the container or saucer each time.

2. Potting media

The best mix is one that is fast draining. The mix that I use is a mix of 3 parts medium sterile orchid bark, 1 part fine sterile orchid bark, 1 part medium charcoal and 1 part medium natural perlite. Some growers also add sponge rock and tree fern fiber in an attempt to match the natural growing medium.

3. Repotting

Phrags resent a stale medium, and because they have very fast-growing roots and are watered frequently, it is best to repot smaller plants and seedlings every five to six months. For my mature plants, I repot every 10 to 12 months. After their bloom cycle finishes is a very good time to repot.

Continued on page 4 ►

FROM THE PRESIDENT

With January gone and February here, it is time to start thinking about spring. The first sign of spring in the Northwest is the Flower and Garden Show. This year the show will be Feb. 6-10, 2002 at the Convention Center, as always. Although the Society will have a much smaller presence and involvement this year, we are still counting on all our volunteers to make it a success. We will be hosting a membership booth and running the plant hotel. If you have signed up for a shift, please be sure and show up and on time. This is necessary not only to keep the show staffed but is also a courtesy to those people you are replacing. I look forward to seeing lots of our folks there. Thank you in advance to everyone who has volunteered.

I don't know how many of you made it out to the Tacoma and Olympia Societies' show at Windmill Gardens in Sumner, but it was a nice, if somewhat small, show. The NWOS had a very good display set up by George Grantham. These shows only work with the dedication of many people. Also, those who offer plants to put in the show are important as well. Without the flowers, there would be no show. I encourage each of you to try and find a few plants to send to the upcoming shows when George puts out the call.

Looking ahead, we have our Spring Orchid Sale (SOS) coming up April 27-28, 2002. This will be our major fundraiser for the year, so plan on participating now. Members will be able to sell plants there as well as buying them. Robin and the entire show committee are working very hard to make this a success. If you have any ideas or would like to get more involved, talk to Robin or me at the next meeting. The show committee is always looking for fresh ideas and warm bodies.

Hope to see everyone at the Flower and Garden Show and at the meeting in February.

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 6-10, 2002

Northwest Flower & Garden Show
Washington State Convention & Trade Center

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2002

Mt. Baker Orchid Society Show
Skagit Gardens Nursery, Mt. Vernon, WA

MARCH 9-10, 2002

Cherry City Orchid Society Show
Capital Manor Retirement Community, Salem, OR

APRIL 27-28, 2002

NWOS Spring Sale
UW Center for Urban Horticulture

Bring your primary hybrids to the plant table

Michael Corn, our plant table judge, has requested that at the next meeting members try to bring in hybrids in which at least one parent is a single species. Primary hybrids (both parents a separate species) often excel in vigor, flowering and adaptability. In addition, unlike the DNA jumble that goes into a complex hybrid, primaries are a simple combination and frequently exaggerate the desirable species characteristics of their parents. So, if you are fortunate enough to have any of these interesting hybrids in bloom, bring them in (but please do not forget to bring in your other blooming plants as well).

In vitro cloning of *Paphiopedilum* orchids

Paphiopedilum species and hybrids are the only commercially-grown orchids not currently cloned by tissue culture, largely because of the difficulty in removing bacterial and fungal contamination in explants derived from greenhouse plants. But L.-C. Huang and colleagues of Academia Sinica's Institute of Botany in Taiwan report that they have overcome the contamination problem by using aseptically established seedlings as explants.

By systematically assessing and modifying the nutritional supplements used in an earlier orchid micropropagation medium, they have developed a mericlone protocol that results in multiplication and rooting of *Paphiopedilum* orchids in one step or in the same culture medium (*Scientia Horticulturae* 91(1,2):111-121, 2001). The new micropropagation medium consists of Murashige-Tucker vitamins, glycine and inositol; 13 μM BA; 1.6 μM NAA; 0.15 mM adenine sulfate.2H₂O; 1.23 mM NaH₂PO₄.H₂O; 0.18 M sucrose and 15% coconut milk from very young fruits. When unavailable, the coconut milk can be replaced by casein hydrolysate (1 g/liter) or potato tuber sections (10 g/liter).

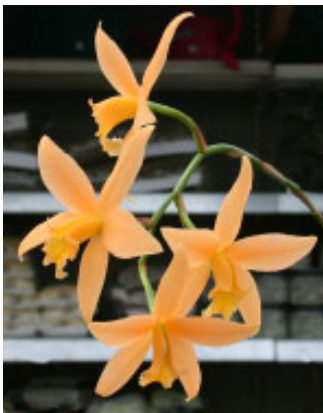
According to the researchers, "The one-step protocol produces an average of 12 new plants per culture in two passages, or 12 weeks, which extrapolates to 100 plants from each culture per year. Since each culture begins with two 3-shoot clusters, a doubling of plants may be expected every 12 weeks. This clonic rate is quite substantial for *Paphiopedilum* orchids."

Excerpted from an article by Ed Herman in Agricell Report (January 2002). For more on the Academia Sinica, visit their web site at <http://botany.sinica.edu.tw/>.

Orchid shows past and future

The Tacoma-Olympia Show was held on Jan. 19-20 at Windmill Gardens in Sumner. It was not a large show, but there was a nice variety of interesting things in both the show and sale area, and everyone I talked to was glad they had braved the traffic and weather to get there. Our exhibit covered two tables and was a marked success judging by the ribbons and awards we garnered and by the “oo’s and ah’s” of the crowd.

We had a total of 55 plants in our exhibit, and I would like to thank the following people for sending plants: Bill Carley, Mike and Donna Foster, Rob Lucas, Mark Srull, Caroline Mann, Jamie Notman, Jay Perez, my wife Cylvia and myself, and Mike Pearson and Abigail Chang. I would like to especially thank Mike and Abigail and also my wife Cylvia for helping to register the plants and set up the exhibit. We counted 18 blue ribbons, 13 red ribbons and 7 whites, for a total of 38 ribbons. About 70% of our plants earned ribbons!



Special awards given to plants in our exhibit were as follows:

- Cylvia’s and my plant, *L. Canariensis* ‘Ariel’ (pictured at left) was awarded an HCC/AOS and also was judged best Cattleya alliance plant in the show.

- Mike and Donna Foster’s *Phrag Noirmont* won best first bloom seedling.

- Mark Srull’s *Renanthis Penang Miami* “Srull” won best Vandaceous plant.

- Mike Pearson and Abigail Chang’s *Masdev. Razzle Dazzle* won best Masdevallia.
- Mike and Abigail also got best Pleurothallid for a stunning *Dracula* species with several flowers which stayed fresh throughout the show.
- Caroline Mann’s *Odont. Red Nugget* won best Oncidium alliance.

All of the above “Best of” awards carry a cash prize. Winning “best of show” in six categories must be some kind of a record!

Cylvia and I were surprised and thrilled to win the AOS quality award on *L. Canariensis*. It had four peach-colored flowers on a tall spike. We have owned the plant for several years. Unfortunately, we can’t remember where we got the plant, but believe it was either from a raffle or a society auction. We love the plant but did not think of it as potentially awardable.

Northwest Orchid Society 2001-2002 Board

OFFICERS

Bill Carley, President
Jamie Notman, First Vice President
George Grantham, 2nd Vice President
Tim Towner, Treasurer
John Corya, Secretary
Christine Peterson, Past President

TRUSTEES

Darrow Chan, 01-03
Pat Gossler, 00-02
Jerry Hoffmeister, 01-03
Rob Lucas, 00-02
Bonnie Mecham, 01-03
Greg Sliman, 00-02
Mark Srull, 01-03
Judy Vincenzi, 00-02

COMMITTEES

Membership – John Corya
Plant Sales – Pat Gossler
Librarian – Caroline Mann
Show Chair – Robin Kempf
Plant Table Judging – Michael Corn
NWOS Logo Gift Sales – Chris Peterson
Scholarship Fund – Kathy Murray
AOS Representative – James Notman
Meeting Hospitality – Mary Nichol
Newsletter Editor – Brian Anderson

Thanks again to everyone for making our presence in this show such a success!

The **Mount Baker Orchid Society Show** is coming up Feb. 23-24. I expect to be gathering plants for an exhibit on Feb. 21, so please mark your calendars if you would like to send some plants to this show.

The **Cherry City Orchid Society Show** will be March 9-10 in Salem, Oregon. We do not plan to send an exhibit to that show. There are also shows in Billings, Montana, and Boise, Idaho, in March that we will not participate in.

The **Spokane Orchid Society Show** will be Mar. 23-24. We are planning to take an exhibit to that show and will be gathering plants on March 20. So again, please mark your calendars for that show.

Would You Like to Help? It is fun and rewarding to help with NWOS exhibits in out-of-town shows and it does not require extensive knowledge or experience. Please contact me if you are interested in helping in some way with future shows.

– *George Grantham*

Successful Phragmipedium culture

► *Continued from page 1*

4. Light and temperature needs

Most Phrags are light lovers. They thrive in conditions similar to Cattleyas, but with slightly less light. Phrag besseae, schlimii and pearcei prefer more shaded conditions. Although they can tolerate short periods of high temperatures, Phrags are most comfortable when winter temperatures are in the 60s and summer temperatures are in the 80s. Because of the type of orchids I grow, my greenhouse night temperature is 57° and Phrags grow just fine at that winter temperature. My greenhouse can get to 80° on especially hot days, but that usually is only for a few hours. It is essential to have good air movement at all times of the year.

Other comments

It is not necessary to mist the leaves, but water directly onto the bark media. Phrags in the caudatum alliance (including wallisii and some caudatum hybrids) are prone

to rot if water lodges in the lower leaves. This is why misting can be harmful. Any leaf with a light to medium brown soft rot spot should be removed immediately and the area sprayed with a systemic fungicide.

In my greenhouse, I use a prepared solution of either Benomyl or Consan, 1/4 teaspoon of either in a quart of water, and I keep this in a spray bottle. Benomyl is my fungicide of choice, as I have never experienced any damage from using it.

There are many pesticides on the market today. I prefer 1 1/4 teaspoon of Safer Insecticidal Soap plus 1/2 teaspoon of Orthene, mixed together in a quart of water. I also keep this in a spray bottle to drench plants that may have an insect problem.

Remember, whatever fertilizer, fungicide or pesticide you use, wear a mask and gloves for this type of work. Do not breath the fumes and always follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly. Grow well!

– Rob Lucas

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Light fixtures for sale

Arthur Pinkers has several dozen 8- ft. long, double-tube, fluorescent light fixtures that were used for indoor orchid growing. He would like to sell them for \$5.00 each to people who would like to set up indoor growing systems. **Anyone interested can contact him at arthurtscout@aol.com or 253-854-5754.** He will deliver the fixtures to the people who purchase them.

NORTHWEST



ORCHID SOCIETY

Northwest Orchid Society

P.O. Box 51021
Seattle, WA 98115-1021

See your name in print!

Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of each month.
E-mail to nwosnews@attbi.com