

The Blooming News

*Newsletter of the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
oldest affiliate of the American Orchid Society, since 1946.*

Website: www.gcos.org

February 2010

I had a lot of fun manning our booth at the Home & Garden Show at the Euclid Expo Center. Even though the weather wasn't wonderful, though what do we expect in January, I believe the members that volunteered to work the booth enjoyed it. It was nice to be able to chat to so many people about orchids, listening to their success stories and not so successful stories. I believe the comment we heard most was.....'I put three ice cubes once a week on my orchid', and it sent chills down my spine, probably in sympathy with the unfortunate Phalaenopsis plants! According to Tom Peckis, we sold over \$5000.00 worth of plants, supplies and books during the show and earned over \$700.00, before expenses, for the Society. We also passed out over 1500 show date flyers and 80 membership forms.

Tom sent a very nice note to all the volunteers, however, the biggest Thanks should go to Tom. He organized everything and was at the booth all day, every day, sometimes by himself when other volunteers couldn't make it. So a big round of applause for Tom and for all the volunteers that made the event a success for our society.

Membership Renewal

Hi everyone - It's dues time again. Please go to your checkbook RIGHT NOW and write a check for \$20 payable to GCOS and BRING IT to the next meeting. Consequences will be DIRE if you don't follow these instructions EXACTLY!!!!!! (please please please). All kidding aside, it is that time again. If you can't come to a meeting anytime soon, please mail to:

Ruth Chapman

1164 Plainfield Rd., So. Euclid, OH 44121

If any information on your membership has changed, please include a note.

Thank you - Ruth

Spring Show Update:

We have a really great team who are working hard to make our spring show a success. Terry Taggart has designed a very nice flyer and you can see it on our website, www.gcos.org. We will ask members to start distributing flyers and posters toward the middle of March.

Don't forget Akron has their Spring Show March 6 & 7 and West Shore's show is the following weekend, March 13 & 14. We will be putting an exhibit into both of these shows and we will need blooming plants for the exhibits. See show information below.

January Show Table Winners

Intermediate

- 1st Bob Petersen, Calanthe Rozel
- 2nd Rich and Dawn, Rhv. Herbert Kurihara 'Pink'
- 2nd Sharen Branham, Den. harveyanum
- 3rd Rich and Dawn, Rhyncholaelia glauca
- 3rd Daniel Dolney II, Den. aberrans

Experienced

- 1st Paul Toppelstein, Den. superbum

Congratulations to our ribbon winners!

February Meeting

Place: South Euclid Community Center, 1370 Victory Drive, South Euclid.

Date: Monday, February 15, 2010

- Time:** 6:30 pm. Show table setup
7:15 pm. Society business reports
7:30 pm. Show Table Judging
7:45 pm. Program.

Tonight's program will be 'Orchid Pests and Diseases' presented by Wayne Roberts. Wayne will share his tremendous knowledge on this subject with us and this program will be valuable to all members and should not be missed. Wayne will be bringing plants for sale. Also you may browse Wayne's online store, www.orchidmix.com and preorder supplies by email at RFS@Orchidmix.com or calling 440-236-5571.

March Calendar

February 27 thru March 28.

Cleveland Botanical Gardens

“Orchid Mania”

March 6 & 7

Greater Akron Orchid Society Spring Show

Donzell's Greenhouse & Garden Center

937 E. Waterloo Road

Akron, OH. 44306

Please bring plants for the GCOS exhibit on Friday March 5 from 12 noon until 3:00 pm. If you need help getting your plants to the show please call Tom Peckis 440-247-2789 or Margaret Evans 330-656-1798.

March 13 & 14

West Shore Orchid Society Spring Show

Strongsville Community Center

18100 Royalton Rd.

Strongsville, Oh.

Bring your plants for the GCOS exhibit on Friday, March 12 from 12 noon until 3:00pm. Again, if you need help getting your plants to the show call Tom or Margaret, as above.

March 20 & 21

Orchid Society of Western Pa. Show

Phipps Garden Center

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Illinois Orchid Society Show

Chicago Botanic Gardens

1000 Lake Cook Rd.

Chicago, Il.

March 27 & 28

Michigan Orchid Society Show

Michigan State Mgmt. Education Center

811 W. Square Lake Rd.

Troy, Mi.

March 27 & 28

Great Cincinnati Orchid Society Show

Krohn Conservatory
1501 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Oh.

Orchid Growing Tips

AOS has video clips

The AOS has added clips on a number of orchid care subjects to their site at [The American Orchid Society](http://www.theamericanorchidsociety.org). These are well produced and very informative videos. Check them out.

Don't worry if your Dendrobiums lose their leaves

Dendrobium orchids will sometimes lose their leaves during cooler winter months, especially if they are in cool greenhouses. The leafless canes will sometimes produce inflorescences and even if they do not they continue to provide energy to the rest of the plant. As long as they are green leave them on the plant. If they turn yellow or dark brown, cut them back.

Clean up your plants

Get a head start on spring repotting by cleaning up your plants. Remove dried sheaths from Cattleyas and make sure that no unwelcome pests are hiding in them. Remove dead backbulbs so that will not need to be done at repotting time. Clean off leaves with lemon juice to remove any mineral or fertilizer buildup. This will make them look better as well as allow your plants to absorb more sunlight.

Divide plants in the pot

If you're going to repot a plant that is growing out of its pot, go ahead and make the cut with a strong pair of shears. Be sure to use a sterile cutting tool such as disposable razor blades or sterilized shears. Spray the wound with a fungicide and place a marker such as a plastic plant tag in the cut to keep it from growing back together. Precutting your plants will speed up the production of side shoots on the back bulbs as well as encouraging new growth on the growing side.

Check your name tags

Name tags on your orchids will generally survive for about 3-4 years. If you have been doing well with your plants for that length of time, check the status of your tags. Replace old tags with new ones before you are no longer able to read the old ones. At the same time if you have not repotted the plant, check the media to determine whether or not the plant needs to be repotted.

Dispose of plants that are not growing well

Every grower has some plants that are simply not doing well in his or her environment. Take the time to identify these plants and decide whether or not to continue to spend your time and money on them or to give them to someone with a different growing environment who might be able to do better. There are probably some plants in every collection which are close to death which simply need to be disposed of. Weak plants, in addition to taking up time, also will attract bugs and rots which can move to healthy plants.