

The Blooming News

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

Website: www.gcos.org

JANUARY 2010.

Happy New Year everyone! Let's hope the next decade is better than the noughties.

Our Christmas party was a lot of fun and we had a wonderful turnout. All members that attended received a gift plant, the food generally received a thumbs up and several awards were given. Dawn and Rich Schlote did an outstanding job with the gift plants this year. Plants were selected for each growing group, novice, intermediate or advanced. Each plant was in excellent condition and placed in a giftbag with identification and cultural information. Dawn & Rich get a BIG round of applause for their hardwork.

The following awards were presented by president, Tom Peckis:

Show Table Winners:

Novice:	Linda Vinney
Intermediate:	Helen Peckis
Advanced:	Edgar Stehli

Grower of the Year:	Helen Peckis
Attendance Award:	Glenn Sobola

Message from the President:

Well, the holidays are over, so now the only thing we need to worry about is snow and cold. These single digit temperatures really wreak havoc on the greenhouse growers. And speaking of temperatures, the cooler than normal summer seems to have had an effect on the blooming cycle! We have so many plants that are blooming earlier than normal, we could use a show right now!

I am getting a lot of mail from the Exhibition Center regarding the upcoming Home and Flower Show. There are a number of things that need to get done prior to the show, but the biggest concern I have is the schedule. We still have a number of slots open, especially in the afternoons. Please look at your schedules and be ready to sign up at our next meeting, on January 11th due to the MLK Holiday.

Although this is the time when we have a tendency to curl up with a good book and snuggle under the covers, it is time to start thinking about the upcoming show season. It is not too

early to start waking up the plants and get them in a blooming mood. March is only two short months away.

Tom.

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Orchid Growing Tips

Try a couple of plants in S/H

Move some of your plants into a semi-hydroponic (S/H) growing environment. S/H culture requires less watering and provides more constant moisture for the plant. Most orchids can be grown this way with the notable exception of Tolumnias or equitant oncidiums. Try a couple of your plants to see if this is an option for you.

Spaghnum moss and S/H culture

If you are trying semi-hydroponic (S/H) culture and notice that the roots of your newly potted plants are dying at the point where they are entering the media, it may be due to dry conditions. Put some sphagnum moss on top of the media to keep the roots moist until they can establish in the new growing conditions.

Try a time release fertilizer

One truly useful tip is to use a time-release fertilizer such as Nutricote or Dynamite instead of using other fertilizers. These new fertilizers are used once or twice a year and provide your orchid with small doses of fertilizer each time you water. The more you water, the more fertilizer is distributed so that your orchids will get and use more during the warmer growing months and less when they have slowed down during cool months. It is truly a time saver.

Layer your orchids

Most orchid growers quickly run out of room to contain all their plants. One solution, either inside or in a greenhouse, is to layer your plants. High light plants can be grown closest to the light source with lower light varieties should be placed below them. Try to group types of plants that like the same humidity and temperature, such as Vandas and Phals, so that you can provide the growing conditions they need.

Be sure to let fresh air in your greenhouse

When possible during winter months, try to get some fresh air into your greenhouse or growing area. A stagnant environment will provide a breeding ground for mold and mildew spores which will attack your plants. Good air circulation will help, but if you don't vent out some of that air you are simply moving the problem all over your growing area. The best time to do this is on a sunny day when your greenhouse has warmed up from the sun and you expect the sun to stay out long enough to keep it warm. Allow a small amount of outside air in and out to replace the air in the enclosed environment.

January Meeting.

DATE: Please note the date change due to MLK Day. Our meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2010.

Time: 6.30pm.

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

There will be a show table so bring your blooming plants (if you dare brave the weather!).

GCOS Orchid Show

Our show will be held at the South Euclid Community Center on the weekend of April 24 & 25th. We have received a good response back from the AOS judges and Frank Feysa has kindly agreed to be our Judging Chair again this year. As always, we need a lot of help[to make this event a success, so please sign up to volunteer to join the show committee and/or help at the weekend of the show itself. We will have a kick off show committee meeting at 6.30pm the evening of our next meeting January 11 and a sign up sheet will be available at that time.