



THE GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY  
THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR

SUNDAY, June 2, 2013  
Piano music at 1 Rainbow Library

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

June 2, 2013 Jason Fischer  
"Australian Orchid Conference"  
July 7, 2013 Alan Koch "Orchids to  
Grow with Your Cattleyas"  
August 4, 2013 Barbecue  
September 8, 2013  
Greenhouse Tour Mary&Barry King  
Cathy Loftfield Aaron Schave  
October 6, 2013  
Cathy Loftfield "Orchids of  
Guatemala"  
November 3, 2013 Carol Siegel  
"Orchidmaniacs: The Historic  
Legends Of the Orchid World"  
December 1, 2013 Holiday Party  
January 5, 2014 Ron Parsons  
"Orchids of China"  
February 2, 2014 Fred Clarke  
"Aussie Dendrobium"  
March 2, 2014 Diana Smith "Coelogyne"  
May 4, 2014 Dr. Harold Koopowitz  
"A Fantastic Voyage Through Paphs"

#### JASON FISCHER (HANDSOME GUY ABOVE) SPEAKS ON THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE

He's back for the ninth time! I guess you can tell we love Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited. He is such a nice guy, smart, cute, intelligent and a really good speaker that who can blame us. (He is shown above with *Phrag kovachii*, named for **James Michael Kovach** of Virginia who travelled to El Progreso in Peru. After being offered three pots of the magnificent orchid by a man at a flower stand, Kovach illegally brought them into the United States to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens which should have known better. Atwood, Dalstrom, and Fernandez published its description in 2002, and they all got into big trouble, paying fines and offering public apologies. It has been called the most spectacular orchid of the last 100 years. Jason and his dad Jerry were subsequently allowed to propagate them legally. No wonder he is proud.) Jason Fischer will be giving a presentation on the 19th Australian Orchid Conference that was held in Perth, Australia in September of 2012. The lecture will cover the show, but more importantly, the culture and wild orchids of Southwest Australia. Amazingly, Southwestern Australia hosts the most 'true blue' flower plants in the world!

Jason is welcoming pre-orders from his website ([www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com)) at a 10% discount. If you place the order online, simply put "GLVOS: in the notes before checking out, and they will adjust the fee before processing the order. You can also call in your order. Of course, shipping will be free since he will bring it.

## Biography of Jason Makoto Fischer

Jason Fischer works and helps manage Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota USA with his father Jerry Fischer. Orchids Limited opened in 1978 in Minnetonka in a small retail greenhouse off of Highway 12. In 1983, Orchids Limited moved to Plymouth where they have grown into a mid-sized operation of 4 greenhouses with 15,000 square feet of growing space, a shade house, and laboratory.

Jason has had a life-long education in orchids mainly from the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. Jason's educational interests were strongly influenced by Japan. He studied the Japanese language and culture for 6 years in high school and at the University of Minnesota. Jason lived in Kyoto, Japan from 2001 to 2003, and upon return decided to import Japanese orchid species and add a new niche to the business.

Having worked for his father since the age of 5, Jason has learned the orchid world from the business and hobbyists perspective. He took interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with phalaenopsis, which later on lead to paphs, phrags and miscellaneous hybrids.

Jason's first lecture on *Neofinetia falcata* at the Minnesota Orchid Society in 2004 was the kick-off for an amazing journey of lectures across America and Canada. He has a passion for orchids, and the communication skills he developed in Japan as an English teacher have helped him create interesting lectures that won't put the audience to sleep.

Jason enjoys photographing orchids in situ, and has photographed orchids in situ in Japan, North America, Singapore, Malaysia and Western Australia.

### Experience:

- Has lectured for over 30 different orchid societies in the US, Japan and Canada.
- Speaker for the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conferences
- Speaker at 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Orchid Council Conference, Perth
- Coordinated the Orchids Limited laboratory from 1998 to 2000
- Currently in management, breeding and marketing for Orchids Limited

OBSSESSION

O Heavens above-- I'm obsessed and I'm crazed  
More often than not I go about dzed  
My orchids have multiplied like rabbits in heat  
I try to contain them, but they've got me beat.

I started out small—a gift from a friend—  
An innocent hobby—a fabulous trend—  
Soon my countertops were crammed, and I added a rack  
And said, "No more room!"—but my resolve was to crack.

A greenhouse window was installed—and a Bay for good measure  
And, lo, skylights were added for the light that they treasure.  
The humidifier was next—and some fans for the breeze  
(‘Cause the mold it was causing was making me sneeze!)

I invested in Molly bolts and dozens of hooks  
To hang up my Vandas like I read in the books  
Soon my shower and tub was filled to the brim  
(And my social life suffered and became very dime.)

On the john I installed a fertilizer injector—  
A few coupling here and a hose to connect ‘er.  
She works gosh darn well, though the output is small,  
But I have to go to the neighbors to heed nature’s call.

Throughout my kitchen—I pitched it all on a lark—  
(But I did save the oven for sterilizing the bark)  
The cabinet doors had to go—they were abandoned with glee—  
Inside I put grow lights—what an ingenious me!

Loud speaker are rigged to play a rain forest tune  
(The hoot of some monkeys, the cry of a loon)  
I’m sure the plants love it—they never complain  
(Which is more than I can say for my neighbor’s refrain)

I pilfered a street light from just down the road  
And put it on a timer in my humble abode—  
Now my rooms are aglow, and its worth every watt  
But the cops raided my place—they suspect I grow pot!-

In my closet I’ve riggedup, by pulleys and chains,  
A gaggle of hoses and a series of drains.  
I sleep in a bunk bed with my clothes in some bags  
Cause the top bunk houses my collection of phrags.

My plants take lots of time—but I don't need to fret—  
If there are plants to be purchased—there's always the Net.  
I find orchids to buy and chat with crazies like me  
They give good advice (and they don't charge a fee)

If there's a program to join called "Orchid ANON"  
I'd check myself in—I'd surely be drawn.  
But alas—none exist—there's no hotline to dial—  
For most orchid fanatics are all in denial.

I'd build me a greenhouse, but I'm poor as a mouse  
You see—I just rent this apartment—I don't own a house  
The landlord is coming to evict me next week.  
(My neighbors below me claim their light fixtures leak.)

So here's my sad story, my little hobby gone mad,  
But I've met great new friend- and that's not so bad—  
In fact, dear ol' friend ol' buddy so true.  
I'd like very much to come live with you.

## WE HAD A GREAT TIME AT OUR MAY MEETING...

We had a great time at our May meeting. Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids gave a FABULOUS talk on how to grow orchids and answered all our many questions. He is a big fan of "growing on a stick," mounted orchids that he says grow much more naturally when their roots are exposed. He saturates his orchids with good quality water and then comes back again and does it twice more until the roots are green with water. He thinks it is just fine to water in the evening (since it rains then in nature). He has excellent suggestions on growing on his website [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com) as well as gorgeous plants to buy. He did bring a lovely selection for us.

We thank Ole and Tony for bringing so many lovely raffle plants. We could not do it without you! We thank Steve Hochman for picking up and bring back our speaker to the airport. So nice of you! The food was marvelous thanks to Don Gault, Carol Siegel, Marilyn Short, Doris Fairchild, Esther Gesser, Stella Charvet, and Shelly North. We thank in advance for our June feast Wanda La Follette, Nita Bragg, Eileen McKyton, Vi Carlos, and Kathy Lindsay.

We were happy to welcome new member Holly Bailey and guest Chantal Nacalaban.

Below is an article I wrote on "Cutting It Off and Throwing it Away."  
See you June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Love Carol

CUTTING IT OFF AND THROWING IT AWAY... BELOW

## CUTTING IT OFF AND THROWING IT OUT

Carol Siegel

They say an orchid expert is someone who has killed more than a thousand orchids so you would think we would be experts on when something is dead. However, when it comes to orchids, you can be fooled. Plants that look dead sometimes are just resting, and flower spikes that look finished often come back and produce flowers for months.

I get calls all the time from very upset people who say that all the leaves have fallen off their orchids. They wonder what they have done wrong. Well, some orchids naturally lose their leaves. The bottom old leaf of an orchid like a *Phalaenopsis* often dies and turns yellow. It is not your fault when some other pseudobulbs sit there all naked for months on end. In October or November, the leaves of plants like *Lycaste* begin to turn brown and fall off, preparing for the dormancy of the plant. *Catasetum* and some *Calanthe* like *Calanthe Rozel* lose their leaves at a time when the dry season would naturally occur. Reduce watering to a bare minimum and keep the plant on the cool side if possible. One day, a little green sprout will appear, and you can resume watering and fertilizing normally as the green sprout seems to mature overnight. Some like *Pleiones* require a completely dry rest and shut down for the winter.

*Cynoches* species and hybrids, called the “Swan Orchids,” are deciduous, too. One of the most beautiful is *Cynoches chlorochilon* whose male flowers really does look like a swan. It has several huge green-to-yellow flowers up to six inches across with a white lip and a column forming the shape of a swan. Don’t be upset when the leaves fall off. In a few months, another swan will appear.

*Mormodes*, related to *Catasetum* loses its leaves as well. Although the growth looks just like a *Catasetum*, the flowers are highly unusual. The lips always twist, and the flower spike is often slightly pendant with fragrant flowers. *Mormodes*, *Cynoches* and *Catasetum* all have heavily-perfumed flowers that drive male euglossine bees wild. They collect the fragrant waxes on the lips with their little brushes on their front feet, become drunk staggering around, losing all muscular control—and pollinating the orchid.

*Dendrobium loddigesii* and the nobile-type *Dendrobium* as well as the *D. anosmum* group should all be allowed to get dry so that the leaves fall off. Usually there is a bract around all or part of the pseudobulb that will turn brown when the plant has stopped growing. The can also makes a terminal leaf at the top to show that it is complete. It then rests until a new shoot appears at the base of the most recent pseudobulb. Until then, just give enough watering to prevent shriveling or flower production will be way down in the spring. Relax and enjoy your rest, and don’t water for a couple of months.

*Galeandra* is a small jewel which fools us twice. Like *Catasetum* and the like, it loses its leaves but fools us again by blooming again on an old spike like an equitant *Oncidium*. You think the spike is dead, just all played out, and then it will bloom again. DON’T CUT THAT SPIKE! This small orchid can be in bloom for long periods before ending its blooming cycle. The pseudobulbs are only an inch wide with the inflorescence rising from the middle of its six-to-eight soft, matte-green leaves. *G. baueri* and *G. batemanii* are easy to grow and flower. As the plant matures, it blooms consecutively for longer and longer periods, throwing clusters of five or six blooms. I had a *Galeandra divas* that had some buds blast, and I despaired, but soon more buds were forming.

What are some of the orchids that will bloom again on an old spike? The Butterfly Orchid, *Psychopsis papilio* (*Oncidium papilio*) thrusts forth one rigid elongated oval leaf, and a long, wiry inflorescence emerges from the bases of the pseudobulbs. Good growers can have as many as 10 or more spikes, each of which can bloom every three to five weeks all year for many years until the old spikes die. Don’t cut the spike, or you miss all that fun. The spike may look dead—but it is not!

*Encyclia cochleata* (*Prosthecea cochleata*), the Clamshell Orchid, can also bloom consecutively for several months on the same spike. The sheath emerges from between two sword-shaped skinny leaves on top of the oval pseudobulbs and can take several months before they flower. When mature, this orchid can bloom year-round, emitting a sweet fragrance. The flower looks like a clam shell, usually with an almost black, purplish shell top and lime-green petals radiating from the base of the shell. Even if you repot this plant when in bloom, it will continue to flower. This one loves to bloom.

There is a group of *Masdevallias* that re-bloom when you don't cut the spike off. The easiest to grow is *Masdevallia infracta*, normally with a small purple and white flower with yellow tails. Its re-blooming traits are transmitted to its hybrids, such as *M. Pixie*, which can have 10 or more flowers open 3-4 times a year. Another beautiful *Masdevallia* that will send out a bud weeks after the first has fallen is *Masdevallia Red Wing*. The flowers are intensely-colored and rise high above the lovely foliage.

The perfect orchid to bloom for the home grower is *Phalaenopsis* which has several species which re-bloom. *Phalaenopsis amboinensis*, *P. lueddemanniana* and *P. celebensis* are some of the species that keep blooming after the first flowers have faded. Most of the phal species sold by growers like Norman's Orchids will re-bloom for months. In addition, cutting back any *Phalaenopsis* hybrid flower spike (like those we get from the hotels) to just above a lower node will get you a second blooming six weeks later about 50% of the time. A single plant can be in bloom for as much as nine months. No wonder phals are the best-selling orchids in the world.

My personal favorite among all orchids is anything *Phragmipedium*. There is a group of species that do the sequential blooming trick, and the spikes last as much as six months. The spike continues to elongate, producing flower after flower after flower. I had a Sorcerer's Apprentice where I finally had to cut off the spike because it had elongated so much that it touched the ceiling! Talk about value. Some of the easy to cultivate species are *P. longifolium*, *P. pearcei*, *P. sargeneanum*, and *P. schlimii*, although the slightly more difficult *P. besseae* and *p. boissierianum* are just lovely. All their hybrids keep their flowering habit. I especially like *P. Eric Young* and *P. Dick Clemens* and *P. Grande* and... Get it?

Another slipper orchid that sometimes sends out bud after bud is the genus *Paphiopedilum*. *Paph chamberlainianum*, *P. glaucophyllum*, *P. primulinum*, *P. victoria regina* are some of the sequentially-flowering paphs. Many of their hybrids like *P. Pinocchio* (*primulinum x glaucophyllum*) will act in the same way.

There are many other orchids with spikes that rebloom and leaves that fall off. Just remember that when an orchid or its spike looks dead, it may be just the beginning.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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