

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 1 PM
Rainbow Library
3150 N Buffalo at Cheyenne

OUR GREAT PLANS!

Sept 11 Diana "What Are Your Orchids Trying to Tell You?" 2nd Sunday PLUS Mounting Orchids

Oct 2, 2016 "A Day of Potting" Carol, Mark, Cathy, Dan, Steve

Nov 6, 2016 Steve Frowine "Growing Under Lights and In the Home"

December 4, 2016 Holiday Party

SECOND SUNDAY ALL THROUGH 2017

January 8, 2017 Ron Kaufmann "Phragmidpedium"

February 12, 2017 Fred Clarke "Orchids 101"

March 12, 2017 Carol Siegel "10 Ways to Kill an Orchid"

April 9, 2017 Peter Lin

May 14, 2017 Ron Parsons "The Orchids Of Colombia"

June 11, 2017 Art Chadwick "Cattleyas"

July 9 Barbecue Diana's house "Setting Up a Rainforest"

August 13 Mark Romansky

September 10 Mary Gerritsen "Orchids of the Lost World"

DIANA SMITH IS OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Our September 11th speaker (second Sunday!) will be our very own Diana Smith. Her power point presentation is called, "Are You Looking at Me? What Your Orchids Are Trying to Tell You." Have you ever looked at your orchids and wondered what they would say if they had a chance? Are you treating them right? Do they have what they need? This presentation shows examples of various problems that your plants might be trying to show you. Diana will also be doing a presentation on how to mount plants. We will be having a Potting Day in October, and Diana will be out of the country so she will do her part in September. We will also be selling cattleyas from Fred Clarke. We thank Steve Hochman for paying for our insurance for the quarter. So nice and generous. We thank Wanda and Bruce La Follette for paying for our wonderful piano player. We are grateful. Thank you to our food people for September, Wanda La Follette, Caroline Campbell, Joyce Fong, Terrina Petyan and Julie Rubin. Can't wait!

We had great fun at our August meeting. Thanks to me for the pizza, Diana for the paper goods, and Jeannie for the drinks. The Chocolate Bar was incredible, and we made as much noise from our sugar rush as third-graders after the Christmas Party!! Someone suggested I not allow people to eat the chocolate before the meeting. Oh, right. That's going to work out well.... You never get between a person and his chocolate- EVER!! No way! Mary Gerritsen was wonderful, entertaining and instructing us about the Orchids of Borneo, and she agreed to come back next September to speak on "Orchids of the Lost World." Thanks to Steve and Caroline Campbell for all the help with setting up the meeting. Caroline is making egg rolls at the September meeting! She taught me how to make them, and they are a huge hit in my family now. We welcomed Anthony Gibson, Bill and Jo Yocom, Dorothy Portnoy, and Leon Mckittrick (as a member!) Jeanne Powers, Lilsa Kambouris, Carol Bogan, Elizabeth La Rue and Janet Lee. Hope you come back and join, too. We have a special in September for new members- just \$10 for 2016 if you join for 2017 too (a total of \$40 instead of the normal \$60) For couples, it would be \$55 for both the rest of 2016 and 2017.

THE ATROCIOUS THING THE SUFFRAGETTES DID AT KEW GARDENS!

We think of orchids today as a thing that both males and females can enjoy. In 1913, the Orchid Review published a scathing report on the damage that suffragettes inflicted to orchids at Kew Gardens to protest male domination represented by the growing and selling of orchids. A shocked British nation heard of atrocities committed against flowers in the campaign for the right of women to vote. I thought it so interesting! I have reprinted it below....

"The daily papers give accounts of the destruction of many valuable Orchids at the Royal Gardens, Kew, England, by the militant suffragettes. It is very difficult to convince one's self that members of the fair sex, of good breeding and refined associations, could ever be guilty of such an atrocious act of savagery. ... We are sorry for the misguided marauders who imagine they can help their cause by venting their fury upon the flowers.

The above is from the issue of *Horticulture* for February 15, 1913 which has just reached us... The outrage was committed during the early hours of February 8th, and was discovered by the night stoker about 4 am, and he at once called the policeman who was on night duty... A lot of glass had been smashed, and the plants thrown about in all directions, and some of them broken to pieces, or the leaves and a large number of spikes torn off. The latter would be more easily seen in the dark. A few plants were practically ruined and many badly damaged, these including *Odontoglossums*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobiums*, *Cymbidiums*, *Coelogyes*, *Lycastes*, *Cattleyas*, *Cypripedium*... The *Anaectochili*- a good collection- were broken into fragments. It was estimated that 136 plants suffered in various ways... The marauders obtained entrance by smashing a pane in the door of the insectivorous house and climbing through whence they passed into the main range of Orchid houses. They ultimately got clean away, leaving a card- on which was written 'Votes for Women.'

Orchid Review Volumn 21: 73 (1913)

TOO FUNNY!

Some interesting articles from the newsletter at Chadwick Orchids...



Chadwick & Son
Orchids, Inc.



Epsom Salt

by: Art Chadwick

Sometimes, the best remedies are handed down from generation to generation and are practically free. Such is the case with Epsom salt, which has been used since the 16th century and currently sells for less than a dollar per pound in most drugstores. Consumers use the product for a variety of reasons - as a soaking aid for sore muscles and as a treatment for constipation - but by far its greatest contribution is in agriculture. Originally named after a town in England which has naturally occurring magnesium sulfate ($MgSO_4$) in the spring water, Epsom salt is used to fertilize thousands of acres of farmland each year.

Like most houseplants, orchids benefit from regular fertilizing. Roots, leaves, and flowers are at their best when exposed to not only the major nutrients, nitrogen (N), potassium (P), and phosphorous (K), but also to the lesser nutrients, including magnesium (Mg) and sulfur (S). These two elements alone make up nearly 25% by weight of Epsom salt. Many popular orchid fertilizers do not contain magnesium or sulfur, so a supplement is advised.



Commercial growers as well as hobbyists have been supplementing their fertilizer regimes with Epsom salt for over a century.

According to the Epsom Salt Council, the white crystalline "makes plants grow bushier, produces more flowers, increases chlorophyll production, and deters pests (including slugs)." Commercial orchid growers have been supplementing their feeding regimes for over a century and cite noticeable improvement in the bud count of their plants, particularly Cymbidium and Phalaenopsis.

The generally recommended application rate of Epsom salt is not based on exact science. A prominent brand suggests diluting 1 teaspoon of magnesium sulfate per gallon of warm water and applying it once a month. Some growers use ½ teaspoon per gallon with every

watering, while still others use a higher concentration in the autumn to encourage blooming. A general rule is to err on the conservative side since orchid roots are sensitive.

The next time your family doctor prescribes a hot Epsom salt bath, be sure to set aside a few cups of the dry granules. By any measure, the trusted remedy will heal your aches and pains, as well as your orchids.



Think Outside the Pot....

Back to School – What's In a Name??

by: Sara Nunn

The time is upon us! If school has not already started in your area, it will be shortly. With a new school year comes excitement, nerves, and apprehension for young and older students. Teachers have the challenge of learning the names, faces, and characteristics of his/her students. Students will begin learning the names of teachers, classmates, bus numbers, classroom locations, and new grade-level information; hopefully with great success.

Orchid lovers, whether new to the orchid world or seasoned growers, have the opportunity to learn the names of orchids either by sight or by nomenclature. Many plants have small labels in them with wording that can sometimes seem confusing. Even though it might look like a foreign language, it's quite straightforward.

Using an example: *Oncidium* Sweet Sugar 'Emperor'

The first part of the orchid name is genus or type of orchid (*Oncidium*). There are about 600 genera (plural of genus) in the orchid family. The genus name is in Latin and usually printed in italics and starts with a capital letter. Familiar orchid genera are: *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Vanda*, etc.



The second part of the orchid name is the hybrid or species. Most plants sold today are hybrids which mean that two different plants were bred together. Sweet Sugar is a cross between *Aloha Iwanaga* and *varicosum*.

The name of the hybrid begins with a capital letter and is not italicized.

(A species is found naturally in the wild)

The third part of the orchid name is the variety or cultivar. This usually designates the best seedling from the hybrid seed pod. This name begins with a capital letter, is in roman type and set with singular quotation marks.

Sometimes, the genera are given a nickname which hobbyists refer to. *Oncidiums*, for example, are called *Dancing Ladies* because the flowers look like a lady wearing an old fashioned ballgown.

Just like the students beginning a new year with lots of names to learn, orchid growers/hobbyists can begin to learn the names of the many plants they have come to enjoy.



Calling all birders.....

Anyone who puts their orchids outside knows that
from time to time wrens

may nest within the leaves. Recently, we had an orchid come to our greenhouse for boarding and it had two nests within the same pot! Does anyone know what type of bird nests these are? We would be interested in hearing from you.



Actually, there is a Bird's Nest Orchid

Photo Credit: Tom Schleef



(*Neottia nidus-avis*). It is very rare and found in Europe and parts of Asia within the birch and yew forests. The plant lacks chlorophyll and is the color of honey. The Bird's Nest Orchid grows about 15 inches high with leafless stems. It relies on mushrooms for its source of nutrients. Flies are its pollinators and are attracted to the dead animal aroma.

The Bird's Nest orchid isn't known for its beauty or scent. The tangle of its roots that resembles a bird's nest is unique in the orchid.



September's Orchid of the Month
Blc. Yen Corona 'Green Genie'



