

# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

## THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR

NOVEMBER 12, 2017



**FABULOUS PHALAENOPSIS  
STEVE FROWINE NOV 12 1PM**

*The Coffee Shop*

**Our October meeting was a lot of fun as Keith Davis taught us everything we need to know to grow fabulous orchids. For those who were not there, you missed a great talk, but I have attached his excellent handout of tips and tricks to the email so you can have one, too. Later in the newsletter is information about Purely Organic, a product our speaker heartily recommended. Thanks so much to Lee Kirschbaum, Cathy Lofffield, Cheryl Sago, Shirley Grieg, Janet Quinlan, Diana Smitha and Gail Harris for the lovely food for October. The orchids from Hilo Orchid Farm were a big hit, and we thank Ole and Ken for the lovely hotel plants. We made \$100 on each of those fundraisers. Every little bit helps pay for our programs. Our speakers are expensive (Keith was \$800 so don't forget to pay your 2018 dues...) We thank Steve Hochman for housing, feeding and transporting Keith. So nice of you. We thank Wanda La Follette, Jeri Lee, Cathy Lofffield, Jeannie Powers, Marge Redman, Janet Quinlan, and Julia C for providing food for November. We welcomed Gary Klein and Odile Cadiou as guests and Karen Regin as a new member. We are so happy you have joined us and hope to see you again. There is only one person signed up for food in January. Can you help? Please tell me.**

## CLUB EVENTS

We usually meet the second Sunday of the month at the Rainbow Library 3150 Buffalo at Cheyenne at the Meeting Room. Live Piano music at 1. Meeting 2.

November 12 Steve Frowine “Fantastic Phals”

December 10 Holiday Party Home Carol Siegel

January 14, 2018 Tom Mirenda “Orchids of Costa Rica”

February 11 Jason Fischer “Growing on a Log”

March 11 Ron Kaufmann “Orchids of Tropical America”

March 24, 2018 “A Passion for Orchids” Show

April 8 Carol Siegel “Orchids of Hawaii”  
And Luau Dancers and Singers!”

May *Epipactis gigantea* walk Calico Basin

May 13 Harold Koopowitz “Slipper Orchids”

June 3 Peter Lin

July 8 Norman Fang “Harlequin Orchids”

August 12 Mark Romansky

September 9 Diana Smith Barbecue

Oct 14 Fred Clarke “Modern Cattleyas and How to Grow Them”

Nov 11 Cathy Loftfield “Lycaste”

December 9, 2018 Holiday Party

April 14, 2019!! Ketih Davis





**COME TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY 12:30 Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at my house (earlier than usual meeting time)** We are excited about our Holiday Party to be held at my home on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm. Bring some canned goods or boxes of food for us to donate to the needy at the holidays. My house is 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive in Canyon Gate Country Club (which is opposite the Lakes) on Sahara between Durango and Ft. Apache Everybody will bring a dish- side dish, dessert, vegetable, main dish for 10-12 with serving spoons, heated and cut up if necessary.

The following people have kindly agreed to bring meats:

Ham- Bettye and John Williams

Pork roast-

Salmon-

Marinated shrimp-

Turkey-

Fried turkeys

Beef

Pasta-

**There will be valey parking as parking is only permitted on the side of the street closest to the houses. I will provide paper goods, a margarita machine, champagne, drinks and wine, various food, and entertainment and 2017 club key chains. I personally will provide a new man on keyboard and Carol Joyce (Mendocino) to sing. She is just wonderful. I will provide a lady and a gent to put tinsel in hair and glitter tattoos wherever, , a nail artist painting orchids on nails (guys, too!) , and lot of flashing, blinky toys. I am excited! As is tradition, the club will have a raffle where everyone will get a blooming orchids for**

**\$6. Remember if you have too many margaritas, we will put you in a cab and we will not let you drive. We love you! It is always the most fun, a chance for us to have fun together and celebrate another successful year. Every year people call me and ask if they can bring their mate, partner, relative or friend. SURE!! You don't have to ask! We just ask that you bring an extra dish, side dish, main dish or dessert, so that we will have enough food for the extra people who come. We sell raffle tickets to the guests as well for \$6, but our club members go into a special bucket so that they can choose first. Seems only fair... People also ask if they can have an holiday orchid reserved for them if they leave early from the party or don't come. Holiday orchids are only available when we call the raffle tickets, and you must be at the party to get one. It avoids conflict.**



Our elections for 2017 will be held at our November meeting. The following people are willing to serve again:

Carol Siegel President    Cathy Loftfield Vice President  
Mark Romansky Secretary    Diana Smith Treasurer

If you would like to run, too, please notify Myra Glassman, Election Chairlady, at 702 256 1788.

## **PURELY ORGANIC**

**There was considerable interest in the product described by our speaker Keith Davis at the last meeting. It costs \$20 for 25 lbs of the product plus \$18 for shipping. Since you don't know if it works for YOU until you try it, I bought 100 lbs. and put them in 50 small plastic bags of about 2 lbs each. I will donate the product personally, and you can just take one and see if you like it for your orchids and other plants. We ask couples to take just one so others can try it, too. It is a peculiar product. This is how Keith uses it (from an email to me):**

I originally used panty hose as shown in that slide. However, later on, I just sprinkled it on top of the pot and fogged/lightly misted the top. I did this once on day one and again on day two. It seems that after that process, it sort of forms a gel and then adheres to the potting mix particles. One of the ingredients is collagen from animal hoofs and this is probably what helps it form the gel. If you just sprinkle it on the top and water it like normal, it will wash through the mix and out the bottom. Tea bags probably work great, I just have not used them myself.

Of course the plant has to have good live roots to be able to take up the hormones/nutrients. I have had a few rescue plants with no roots and in that case, I made a tea of the Purely Organic and soaked the withered plant for about an hour totally submerged. All plants that I treated this way lived. I did this on really bad plants that had no visible eyes left alive. Most plants will have tiny eyes under the rhizome that you can't see and will seldom sprout, but the hormones soaked into the plant from the PO worked like a charm. Remember that I do not use this as normal fertilizer on orchids, but rather a boost to get weak plants to break new eyes so that lots of new roots can be grown. Remember my slides. I do find that the PO is most effective when there is a bit of new growth evident on the plant such as a new eye swelling. The PO will then stimulate several other back eyes to break.

The PO is excellent on garden plants, trees, perennials, etc. Remember that it was specially formulated for professional rose growers. Also, on orchids that grow in more of an organic mix such as cymbidiums, you can use it as a growth fertilizer. People tell me that on cymbidiums they have had the best growth and blooms ever. I don't grow cymbidiums, so I can't testify to this myself, but that was feedback from orchid society members where I had spoken. Sue Bottom did quite an extensive write up on it a few months ago in Orchids.

**The handout from the company says that it is a carefully blended combination of alfalfa meal, cotton seed meal, fish meal, feather meal, blood meal, steamed bone meal, soybean meal, finely ground rock phosphate, sul-po-mag, kelp, greensand. For roses, 3 cups applied to each rose bush at pruning and again when buds appear. Add 2 cups every six to eight weeks throughout the growing season. Miniature roses just 1 cup.**

**They also recommend 3 cups over each square yard of plant bed incorporated into soil for annual and perennial plant bed.**

**For orchids, they say to tie a tablespoon of Purely Organic in cheesecloth. Attach this sachet to the top of the root area, then water the plant through this sachet so the roots receive the solution.**

**Manufacture by Purely Organic  
4658 Augusta Hwy Gilbert, SC 29054  
Owner Jim Young 803 892 2651**

# Steve Frowine: The Orchid Man

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By Charlie Nardozi Thank you, Charlie for this great article!!

Steve Frowine is a self-proclaimed "plant nerd." Ever since he was a kid he's loved plants. "I started helping my neighbor, 'Miz' Connell weed her garden when I was a youngster," says Steve. "I've had my nose in plants ever since." His dad, a successful lawyer in Portsmouth, Ohio, wasn't sure that horticulture was a field his son should study. To test him, he got young Steve a job at a local florist, instructing the owner to "pay him a Pepsi a day and work him hard." It backfired. Steve loved the job so much he was bent on studying horticulture in college and making it his career.

His fixation with orchids started in junior high school when his dad brought one back as a present from Florida. Now Steve grows more than 100 orchids in his home in Connecticut. Usually Steve has little patience for plants that don't bloom, but not so with orchids. "I've been growing a division of a lady slipper orchid (*Paphiopedilum Langley Pride* 'Burlingame') for 26 years. It finally bloomed for the first time this winter," he says. Now that's obsession!

## Mr. Horticulture

Steve's resume reads like a list of the top organizations and companies in the U.S. horticultural world. He has worked at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, Cleveland Botanical Garden, Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center, W. Atlee Burpee, White Flower Farm, Etera, International Garden Products, Dutch Gardens, and his own company ? The Great Plant Company. He's written books and articles for most major gardening magazines and has been on the boards of the Garden Writers Association (GWA), National Gardening Association (NGA), and American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA). But through all these changes and years in horticulture, one area that has remained constant is Steve's love of growing orchids. Now, the passion for orchids has caught on with amateur and professional gardeners alike.

## And Why Grow Orchids?

"The popularity of orchids is exploding," says Steve. In the horticultural Mecca of Holland, it is the most popular potted plant grown. In the U.S., orchids are currently second behind poinsettias as the most popular flowering potted plant. The reasons for this rise in popularity are many. "It used to be you'd need a greenhouse to grow orchids, and only the very wealthy would be involved," says Steve. "Now, with modern plant breeding and cloning, new and superior orchids are available for a lower price. Plus, many are easy to grow," he adds. "Orchids can bloom for months indoors in winter ? right when you need a flowery burst," says Steve. Some, such as the moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis*), is well adapted to indoor lighting and temperatures, often blooming without much effort. Breeders are creating more compact-growing orchids that are perfect for windowsills. And orchids make a major fashion statement. "They signify elegance and a good life," says Steve.

The next wave in orchid mania is fragrant orchids. Most of the orchids widely available to home gardeners look beautiful but have no scent. Like other garden flowers, such as roses, fragrance has been bred out of many modern varieties. But there are orchids that smell like vanilla, chocolate, cinnamon, citrus, gardenia, and even rose. Steve, in fact, is working on a book called *Fragrant Orchids*, which will be published in 2005 by Timber Press.

## Orchid Growing Tips

The easiest orchids to grow at home are the moth orchids. If you don't have a sunny windowsill, the best way to get your orchids blooming is to grow them as Steve does, under fluorescent lights. Steve also likes to place his orchids outside in summer in a shady area or lathe house. "The orchids increase in size, and the cool night temperatures help stimulate flowering in fall and winter," he says.

So what are an orchid guru's favorite orchids? Here's Steve's short list of easy-to-grow, fragrant orchids to try at home.

Five easy and very fragrant orchids:

*Oncidium 'Sharry Baby'* (Chocolate Orchid). This widely available orchid smells like chocolate and vanilla.

*Brassavola nodosa* (Lady of the Night). Its glistening, white flowers have a heavenly evening fragrance.

*Neofinetia falcata* (Japanese Wind Orchid). This orchid is revered by the Japanese for its jasmine scent. It's a small grower perfect for windowsills or under lights.

*Rhyncostylis gigantea* (Foxtail Orchid). A larger orchid best suited to a sunroom or greenhouse, this one will fill up a room with its pungent citrus-like intoxicating scent.

*Encyclia cordigera* (Butterfly Orchid). It has a sumptuous scent that is a blend of vanilla and honey.

**BELOW IS THE HANDOUT FOR STEVE'S TALK ON  
PHALAENOPSIS**

# Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society

November 12, 2017 Steven A. Frowine

## Phalaenopsis Suppliers

### Local Vendors

If you are lucky enough to have them, please support them! There is nothing to compare to visiting a greenhouse full of orchids and picking out just the ones you want. Unfortunately, this is a dying breed.

### Orchid Show and Club Meetings

Super places to meet growers and vendors.

### Big Leaf Orchids

Web site: <http://www.bigleaforchids.com/index.htm>

Proprietor: Peter Lin

By Email: [phal@bigleaforchids.com](mailto:phal@bigleaforchids.com)

By Text Message 817-754-0465 Phone: 817-754-0465

By Mailing P.O. Box 92841, Southlake, TX 76092

Peter Lin is well respected in the phalaenopsis circles. He offers a wide range of species, primary hybrids and complex hybrids, both seedlings and clones. His web site is very informative and has an extensive photo library and a very informative forum. He sells on his site and EBay.

### Louisiana Orchid Connection

Web site: [www.LAorchid.com](http://www.LAorchid.com)

Proprietors: John Nelson and Tin-Wein You

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

E-mail: [John@LAorchid.com](mailto:John@LAorchid.com)

Phone: (225)-388-0850

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Louisiana-Orchid-Connection-364440533568026/>

They offer a broad range of cloned and seedling plants of some of the newest hybrids. Much emphasis is placed on dwarf and smaller growing species and their primary hybrids. They also regularly offer their plants on EBay.

### Norman's Orchids

Web site: <http://www.orchids.com/>

Proprietor: Norman Fang

Phone: 909.627.9515 (Mon-Sat 9AM-5PM PST) or Fax: 909.331-4222.

Email: [support@orchids.com](mailto:support@orchids.com)

Mailing address: 11039 Monte Vista Avenue Montclair, CA 91763

Norman Fang and his family's nursery probably offers the largest selection of all types of phalaenopsis of anywhere in the US. Their website is top of the line in terms of ease of use, visual presentation, and plant selection capability.

### Phoenix Orchids

Proprietors: Eric and Mary Goo

Website: [http://phoenixorchids.com/frame\\_set.htm](http://phoenixorchids.com/frame_set.htm) 2807 West Villa Rita Drive

Phoenix, AZ 85053

Phone: (602)938-3741

Email: [egoo1@cox.net](mailto:egoo1@cox.net)

Phoenix Orchids offers only Phalaenopsis and Doritaenopsis stem propagations. They have continued to expand the selection of red, purple and yellow novelties. In addition, they have reduced prices on many items. They are especially pleased to be able to offer stem props of several cultivars of the Award of Quality crosses Phal. Ben Goo, Phal. Mary Tauscher-Goo, Phal. Mem. Sam Goo and Phal. Ruth Tauscher.

### The orchidPhile

Proprietor: Carrie Raven Riemann

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/orchidphile](http://www.Facebook.com/orchidphile)

E-mail: [orchidphile@optimum.net](mailto:orchidphile@optimum.net)

Phone: 203-329-7255

Established in 1985, the orchidPhile specializes in miniature and novelty Phalaenopsis orchids.

She offers many new and cutting edge varieties from some of the smaller innovative Taiwanese phalaenopsis breeders. E-mail her to receive her periodic list of offerings.

### **EBay**

Various vendors. Check their ratings. They should be in the high 90's. Don't buy unless the listing shows the **actual plant** being sold not just an example. Watch out for exorbitant shipping fees.

### **Home Stores and Super Markets**

They mostly sell phalaenopsis with no names (NOIDS—No IDs)

These plants are generally very inexpensive and are great as beginner plants to learn how to grow phalaenopsis.

Try to buy ones that have not been in the store too long and that are in good condition. Don't buy ones that are scraggly: they are not bargains.

### **Garden Centers**

They usually offer larger plants in presentation baskets or planters that are great as gifts.

### **Acrylic Shelves**

<http://beautifulviews.net/>

### **Translucent Window Film**

Home Stores or online <https://www.amazon.com>

## **Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society**

### **Fabulous Phalaenopsis November 12, 2017**

Steven A. Frowine

#### *Image List*

#### **Phalaenopsis Species**

*Phalaenopsis amabilis*

*Phalaenopsis bellina*

*Phalaenopsis equestris*

*Phalaenopsis gigantea*

*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica*

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*

*Phalaenopsis schilleriana*

*Phalaenopsis stuartiana*

*Phalaenopsis tetraspis*

*Phalaenopsis venosa*

*Phalaenopsis violacea*

#### **Novelties**

*Phalaenopsis* Hannover Passion

*Phalaenopsis* Pixie Star 'Norman'

*Phalaenopsis*. Shin Fly Eagle 'Wilson'

*Phalaenopsis* Buena Jewel (*violacea* x Gelblieber)

*Phalaenopsis* Purple Martin

*Phalaenopsis amboinensis* and hybrids

White and Pinks, Stripes and Spots

*Phalaenopsis* Cygnus 'Renaissance'

*Phalaenopsis* Minho Princess

*Phalaenopsis* Happy Ending

*Phalaenopsis* Akebono 'Ching Ruey'

*Phalaenopsis* Leopard Prince 'Ching Ruey'  
*Phalaenopsis* Chinruey's Stripes 'Ching Ruey'  
*Phalaenopsis*---Striped Flower-Variiegated Foliage  
*Phalaenopsis* Fong Tien's Elegant Lady 'Ching Ruey'  
*Phalaenopsis* Flight of Birds  
*Phalaenopsis* OX Yellow Lip 'OX 1648'  
*Phalaenopsis* K S Jadegreen 'Sweet'  
*Phalaenopsis* Perfection Is 'Chen' AM/AOS  
*Phalaenopsis* Orchid World  
Waxy Purple-Reds  
*Phalaenopsis* Sogo Cock 'Oriental Beauty'  
*Phalaenopsis* Ken Avent  
*Phalaenopsis* Ruth Tauscher 'Garnet Beauty' HCC/AOS  
Harlequin *Phalaenopsis*---Every Flower Slightly Different  
*Phalaenopsis* Golden Peoker 2 | Page

*Phalaenopsis* Sunrise Red Peoker  
*Phalaenopsis* Ever Spring Prince  
*Phalaenopsis* Everspring Fairy  
Possibilities Seem Endless  
Miniatures, Multiflorals, Novelties  
Multi-floral *Phalaenopsis*  
Other Mini *Phalaenopsis*  
*Phalaenopsis* Pelorics---Petals Replicate Lip Big Lipped *Phalaenopsis* ---Reverse Pelorics-Lip  
Replicates Petals  
*Phalaenopsis* Culture

Light is probably the most critical and frequently the most limiting factor in growing orchids well.

Bright Light vs. Low Light

Sunroom with Extended Windowsills (Plastic Composite Decking)

Window Orientation

Bow Window-Light from multiple directions and angles

Light Angle

Leaf Shapes and Thickness Give Clues for Light Needs.

Plants Tell you If They are Getting the Right Amount of Light.

Floppy foliage like this indicates insufficient light.

Too much Light

This shows up as yellowish leaves or, in extreme cases as large oval black spots. Lights, especially, T5's CAN burn foliage if they are placed too close to the lights, Never let the foliage actually touch the lamps.

Feel the leaves under the lights. They should never be hotter than warm.

This is a "burned" orchid leaf.

The Right Amount of Light

1. Plants are stocky. Internodal length is short.
2. Foliage color is light green.
3. The orchid is flowering at its normal time.
4. The flower color is normal---not washed out.
5. The leaves are more roundish rather than long and stretched.

Artificial Light You can grow orchids anywhere. All orchids can grow and bloom solely under artificial light sources.

T5, Compact fluorescents

Other Lighting Alternatives HID-Metal Halide vs HPS Metal Halide is available in more natural light color-5000K

Proven Watering Technique

1. Thoroughly water the orchid in its pot.

2. "Weigh" the pot by picking it up. 3 | Page

Now you know how heavy it is when it's saturated with water.

3. Wait a day or so and "weigh" it again by picking it up.

You'll feel the difference in the weight as the potting material becomes drier.

4. Repeat Step 3 each day until you judge, by looking at the surface and sticking your finger into the top 1 inch (2.5 cm) or so of the potting material to see if it's damp, that it is time to water.

Keep in mind whether this type of orchid prefers to be on the damp or dry side.

5. Note what this dry "weight" is now.

Now the orchid is ready to be watered thoroughly.

#### **Insect Pests**

**Mealybugs**

**Aphids**

**Mites**

**Scale**

**Thrips**

#### **Diseases**

**Crown Rot-Bacterial**

**Leaf Spots**

**Anthracnose**

**Botrytis Petal Blight**

**Mesophyll Collapse**

#### **Most Common Reasons Phalaenopsis Die**

**1. *Over watering***

**2. *Under watering***

**3. *Too much light or heat***

**4. *Leaving orchid foliage wet overnight***

**5. *Too much fertilizer***

**6. *Improper use of pesticides***

**7. *Bad infestation of insects or disease***

**9. *Purchase of sick plants***

**10. *Poor water quality***

**11. *Inadequate ventilation***

#### **Why Phalaenopsis Do Not Bloom**

**1. *Too little temperature differential between day and evening.***

**2. *Not dry enough during the winter***

**3. *Not enough light***

**4. *Too low or too high of temperatures***

**5. *Plants are not yet mature***

**6. *Too low of humidity***

**7. *Disease, insect, or mice problems***

**8. *Improper watering***

**9. *Recently transplanted and divided***

