# GREATTER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY THE ORCHID COLUMN

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

#### **BUILDING OPEN AT 1 PM**

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

What a great meeting we had in September! We all had such fun buying and eating and laughing and learning. What could be better than a perfect day spent with friends and orchids.

The food was so spectacular that we were only sorry we didn't have a bride. It was as good as a wedding. We thank Lonna and Greg Clarke, Cathy and Jim Loftfield, Becky Biondi and Pat Holland for our September treats. We thank Bill Whaley, Terry Wilsey, Philip Chen and John and Judie Tuthill for our October snacks. You are all angels to do this. Don't feel you have to go overboard- a bite to eat is fine.

Our new member Jeanne Tinsman, a former president of the Northern Nevada Orchid Society, donated 90 orchids to our raffle. Her plants were so gorgeous. We gave her a membership to our club through 2008 to thank her for her kindness. Clarice Dean and Mike Lawless and Dan Mumau very graciously picked up boxes and boxes of hotel plants, and Paula Garrett added plants from UNLV. We made \$450 on the raffle and gave Jeanne \$100 for her trouble.



The club sold five HID lights that I donated which helped pay for our speaker. Add to that the beautiful silent auction of blooming plants from Carmela's Orchids that Eileen and Alex McKyton got for us (we made \$200 profit on that!), and well, we admit it, we're spoiled.

We had the good fortune to welcome Daniela Heider and Nilma Lopez as new members. Our visitor David Hendricksen is moving here, and we hope to have him as a member. Maryetta and Michael Scinto of Maui who have emailed me about articles I wrote in the past came and visited us on their vacation. We gave them an orchid to remember us all by.

Congratulations to Clarice and Dennis Dean on the marriage of their son, Sam. Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless were their caterers, and everything was so beautiful and delicious. These two special guys in our club would love to cater YOUR special event. Call them at A Catered Affair, 362-5251.

Congratulations to Liz Leone and John Haydukavitch on their daughter's

graduation from medical school. You must be so proud.

It was such a pleasure to have Dan Hawley back at the desk greeting people with his big smile after his recent illness. It was good to see Becky Biondi recovering from her knee surgery and Chris Schaeffer so much better after her thyroid surgery. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Dorothy Billitere, Tony's dear wife, who is recovering from a stroke.

We were glad to see Roberta and Fred Schechter doing so well after their auto accident. They are awaiting with anticipation the birth of their FIFTH granddaughter. We are so happy for you.

Miles Hoffman and Gustave Mattiello have done a wonderful job with the orchid library. They are so enthusiastic about it that it is a real pleasure to have them. Take out some books. It's free-and it's a great way to make your orchids bloom.

By the way, if you live on the east side of town, Miles would be willing to care for your plants when you are away (365-6893 <a href="mailto:dogblueye@earthlink.net">dogblueye@earthlink.net</a>). If you live on the west side, Jane Green would love to help you out (255-3658 HAWK10005) as would Doc Myra Glassman (256-1788 <a href="mailto:hotshrink@hotmail.com">hotshrink@hotmail.com</a>).

Myra is the new head of the Board of Trustees of the Nevada Garden Club, and we are so proud of her. She wants us all to get involved on the state level. She is doing such a great job on the landscaping of the building and could use your help. Give her a call.

Alana Sullivan, the new president of the Rose Club (yay, Alana) is running the Garden Club Flower Show on Saturday and Sunday October 27 and 28 at our building. It is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Garden Club, and it will be very special. We will have a beautiful orchid display on the stage and a native orchid educational display.

We will be setting up on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, probably around 4:30. Shelly North, our display genius, will provide props and artistic advice. We need your plants and would love to have you. Sign up at the meeting.

Our speaker, Leon Glicenstein, did a very informative presentation on jewel orchids, those beauties grown mainly for their gorgeous leaves. Clarice Dean, busy at work on her daughter's wedding, found time to rent two special projectors for Leon's presentation.

Thanks so much, Clarice. You are the best.

Once again, Terry Wilsey, travel agent extraordinaire, kindly made all the travel arrangements for Leon. He will do it for you! Call him at 731-2114

aanswertravel@hotmail.com

The speaker spent several hours (and breakfast the next day!) at Leslie Doyle's house, unpacking his plants and

hanging out. Leslie transported his plants the next day, went to dinner with me and the speaker, and even VACUUMED. Bravo, Leslie.

Everyone knows that Leslie is the editor of the Silver State Gardener, a first-rate gardening publication that she masterminds. It is available for the ridiculously low price of \$5 a year (a YEAR...) You can pay for a subscription by sending \$5 (\$5!!!!) to Leslie Doyle 5910 Sheila Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89108. If you already have a subscription, you can renew it at our meeting or just add \$5 to your club membership renewal in December. We will pass it on to Leslie. Honest.

Our speaker for October is Helen Hersh, an expert on growing in windowsills. Many of us had to save up for even a windowsill and a greenhouse is out of the question. Yet, it is possible to have blooming success with orchids if you know how. Helen will tell us how.

You can preorder plants from her (www.mountprospectorchids.com) 908-753-4846 albinoni@rcn.com, and she will bring them to the meeting. Diana Smith kindly offered to house and transport Helen. Helen speaks about herself: I have been the owner of Hamish Hog Antiques, an antique business specializing in museum quality furniture and decorative arts from the American aesthetic movement for 30 years. I been growing orchids since 1990 when a client started giving me orchids in bloom for delivering pieces of antique furniture. I got hooked very quickly and the collection grew rapidly to hundreds of plants, then thousands. as flasks of Paphs, and Phrags, were being purchased. The eventual goal was to start an orchid business which eight years ago became

a reality with a move to New Jersey to put up a large greenhouse. The result is Mount Prospect Orchids, specializing in fine Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, as well as unusual species. I have never forgotten my windowsill days and do carry a line of plants that are both unusual and easy for home growers.

I am Trustee of the Greater New York Orchid Society, which produces the largest orchid show in the country, now held at Rockefeller Center in Manhattan. I have been a trustee for twelve years. I wrote regularly since 1992 for their newsletter on home growing culture and took over the task of newsletter editor for a few years. I have been in charge of the floral exhibitions at the New York International Orchid Show for twelve years.

I do volunteer work for the American Orchid Society and am on their Outreach Committee. I wrote an article for the AOS Gordon Dillion contest for 1994, and came in second. It was published the following spring in the Bulletin, (now Orchids). I have written six more articles that have been published in Orchids including one on Paph. Parvi's. and one on Phragmipediums. I write with a slant towards windowsiil growers.

I currently have two slide lectures that I have given to orchid societies around the country.nd Delaware, to name a few. I have been lecturing for more than ten years.

I have been married to my husband Charles Sporn for 29 years. We currently have two black cats, Rothschild, a new kitten, and Tomasso who is 13.

In November we are having a greenhouse tour featuring the lovely growing areas of Mike Levin, Shelly North and Clarice and Dennis Dean. We are excited about seeing how they do it. Shelly North promises to feed us, too!

At the end of the newsletter is an article on jewel orchids well as one other funny article printed with permission of the AOS Bulletin.

Keep blooming!

Love, Carol growlove@cox.net 254-4168

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

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Terry Wilsey- Club Travel Agent

Miles Hoffman- Library Chairman

Clarice Dean-Species of the Month

#### COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Our meetings are held at the Nevada Garden Club Building at Twin Lakes and Washington between Valley View and Rancho at the western edge of Lorenzi Park. The meeting starts at 2, but I open the building at 1 for shopping.

October 7, 2007 Helen Hersch, "Advanced Windowsill Growing"

November 4, 2007 Greenhouse Tour- Homes of the Deans, Shelly

North and Mike Levin

December 2, 2007 Eighth Annual Holiday Party Carol's house

January 6, 2008 Jim Comstock, "3D Photos of Orchids'

February 3, 2008 Jason Fischer, Orchids Limited, "Growing Orchids

From Seed"

March 2, 2008 Steve Frowine, "Miniature Orchids"

April 6, 2008 Mike Glikbarg, "Everything You Wanted to

About Orchids"

May 4, 2008 Ron Parsons, "Dendrobium"

June 1, 2008 Mike Blietz, Exotic Orchids of Maui, "The World of

Cattleya"

July 13, 2008 "Fifteen Minute Solution- Another Culture Day"

August 3, 2008 Barbecue

September 7, 2008 Fred Clarke, "The Weird World of Bulbophyllum"

October 5, 2008 Greenhouse Tour

November 2, 2008 Martin Motes, (THE Vanda Expert), "Vandas"

December 7, 2008 Ninth Annual Holiday Party

## Jewel Orchids

### These forgotten treasures are worth a look

Text and photographs by Igor V. Belitsky and Nikolai A. Bersenev

EWEL ORCHIDS DAZZLE THE eye with their often-iridescent leaves decorated with intricate patterns and lovely colors. These low, creeping plants are ideal for growing on windowsills, under lights and, in some cases, even in terrariums.

Jewel orchids embrace allied genera of the Goodyerinae subtribe, the most prominent among them being Anoectochilus, Dossinia, Goodyera, Ludisia (Haemaria), Macodes, Erythrodes (Physurus) and Zeuxine.

The plants are relatively small—some are even miniatures. Their creeping rhizomes bear rosettes of perennial leaves whose surfaces vary from glittering metallic tints to dull velvety green. Sometimes there is a pattern, ranging from one or more longitudinal veins to a netlike design that covers more than half of the leaf surface. Small, downy roots, similar to those on paphiopedilums, grow from the nodes. The flower stalks can grow 12 inches tall. The flowers, which show variation in their showiness and odor, are mostly valued for their usefulness for identifying similar-looking species.

Jewel orchids occur worldwide, reaching as far north as the Polar Circle and as high as 9,800 to 13,000 feet above sea level (*Goodyera*). Most species originate in Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, Borneo and Java. Being terrestrial, these orchids mainly occur under a forest canopy, sometimes on moss-covered boul-

**Opposite** Anoectochilus is a genus of 40 species native to the Old World Tropics. Anoectochilus sikkimensis, which is native to Sikkim, bears 2-inch-long leaves on compact plants.

ders or fallen tree trunks, normally at altitudes of 980 to 3,280 feet above sea level. As a rule, they are found in damp locations—near brook banks, waterfalls, on gulch or mountain slopes. Their roots grow into moss, leaf litter, fern roots or sometimes in the argillaceous soil of eroded slopes, with a soil pH ranging, according to some fragmentary data, from 5.5 to 6.

Hunting for jewel orchids in their native habitats can be a challenge, as they are often hidden or disguised by fallen leaves. Particularly arduous is the search for deciduous species. In most cases, plants in nature do not resemble their cultivated relatives. In the wild, plants normally have small, insect-eaten leaves with lusterless veins, while cultivated plants have a sheen to their leaves. Many species show variation in their leaf coloration and patterns.

The exceptional aesthetic qualities and relatively small size of these plants have made them especially attractive to orchid hobbyists. Although they were once popular, the diversity of available species has dropped dramatically and today only a few are readily available through commercial dealers. However, some hobbyists have amassed major collections of jewel orchids, including one collection with no fewer than four genera and 90 species and varieties, the most representative among them being the Moscowbased collection of the junior author (Bersenev).

#### Growing the Plants

Successful culture is built on three basics: substrate, temperature and light.

The simplest substrate, proposed by H. Williams in The Orchid Growers Manual (1894), is a mixture of sand or a sandy soil, crushed peat and moss. Pure live sphagnum moss also works, although bog moss is inappropriate. Plant development and foliage coloration normally depend on substrate composition. For instance, a substrate made up of peat, pine-needle mold, sand, charcoal, foamed plastic and moss promotes the above-ground portions and branching, while leaving the roots underdeveloped. At the same time, a substrate concocted of fern roots, moss, pine bark and charcoal has the opposite effect. At the moment, the most commonly used mix consists of one part peat, one part leaf mold, one part fresh sphagnum, one part pine needles, one-quarter part horticultural charcoal and one-quarter part coarse sand or foam pieces.

### Jewel Orchids

- ◆ Jewel orchids is a common name applied to members of the Goodyerinae, such as Anoectochilus, Dossinia, Goodyera, Ludisia (Haemaria), Macodes, Erythrodes and Zeuxine.
- ◆ Native worldwide, there are species native to the tropics and species native to the temperate zone. Know the origin of a plant to determine what temperatures and cultural conditions to provide.
- These orchids are grown primarily for their foliage, which features exotic coloration and patterns.
- ◆ Many will grow in low to intermediate light, but protect from hot, direct sun.
- Pot in a porous mix or in sphagnum moss that is kept moist but not wet.
- Propagate from stem cuttings started in the spring. Insert tip cuttings into sphagnum moss.
- Ludisia discolor makes a fine introduction to this group. Its rosettes of attractive leaves bear 10-inch-tall spikes of white flowers.

The orchids can be planted in containers made from any material, including clay, plastic, styrofoam — even plexiglass boxes. If you use a shallow plastic box, fill it one-third full with drainage material and then another one-third with potting mix. Cover the mix with a layer of live sphagnum moss and insert a stem or a cutting horizontally into the moss. Keep the moss alive by potting the jewel orchids in transparent plastic containers and keeping them moist with soft water. The substrate and sphagnum should be kept permanently moist, but never wet. During rest periods (normally winter) it may be advisable to water less frequently. When grown in a potting mix, fertilize sparingly; apply liquid fertilizer more liberally to plants rooted in pure sphagnum.

Most species require intermediate temperatures, although species from middle latitudes and alpine regions require cool conditions. For most species, summer daytime temperatures should not exceed 77 to 79 F, with winter temperatures staying below 68 to 72 F. Nighttime temperatures should preferably be kept at 60 to 64 F in summer and 57 to 60 F in winter. Several consecutive weeks of permanent exposure to low temperatures (no higher than 64 to 66 F) can initiate flowering of plants.

Work to achieve a balance between the correct light and temperature for best results. With insufficient light and excessive temperatures, the plants start to elongate and leaf patterns diminish. Excessive light causes the leaves to droop and the plant loses its decorative qualities.

Despite the delicate nature of the foliage, which gets easily burnt when exposed to direct solar radiation, some sun in the morning and later afternoon will not harm the plants. Locate plants indoors at a north, northeast or northwest-facing window, or grow them under artificial lights that burn 12 to 14 hours a day.

Most of these plants, except for ludisias and some goodyeras, benefit from

a humid atmosphere. Keep them in a Wardian case with inside air circulation and regular airings. Besides providing adequate humidity, the cases prevent dust from accumulating on the leaves, thus helping to preserve their attractive appearance.

#### **Multiplying Jewel Orchids**

Propagate jewel orchids during any season. However, spring seems best for propagation and it's a good time to repot the plants, too.

To propagate jewel orchids, cut a piece of the horizontal stem into lengths, each with at least two nodes. Air-dry the sections for two hours and then place them on a bed of moss and keep them moist. Roots appear in a few weeks. You can also remove the tip of a stem with roots emerging at the bottom and insert it into the bed of moss.

Just like all other living beings, jewel orchids tend to suffer from various pests and diseases. The most dangerous are mites, slugs and snails, which damage the foliage and are capable of destroying an entire collection quickly if they are not brought under control.

Among diseases, stem rot is a concern. To control it, remove the affected parts and soak the plant in an appropriate fungicide (consult with your local County Cooperative Extension agent or an orchid nursery).

#### **Hybrids**

Among the early attempts at hybridizing jewel orchids were those made by J. Veitch and Sons, who created three hybrids of excellent quality, which, unfortunately, no longer exist.

Recently, Belitsky has made several attempts to hybridize jewel orchids. First he crossed Ludisia discolor with Ludisia discolor var. dawsoniana. The first-generation hybrids had uniform leaf and vein coloration, as in Lds. dawsoniana, and retained the nature of venation and flower odor from the former plant. Thus, a dark-leaved

hybrid with fragrant flowers, which is not characteristic of natural forms, was obtained.

Next came an intergeneric hybrid (Anoectochilus sikkimensis x Ludisia discolor), which was produced in 1984. Belitsky put it down to pure good luck, for, as follows from observations, a low percentage of crossings yielded viable seeds. Unfortunately, all seedlings of this hybrid suffered the same fate as the hybrids of the previous century, and they disappeared after six years of successful culture, leaving behind only their images. Belitsky is determined to persist and, hopefully, will, eventually find a solution to the problem.

In the meantime, the state of wild-growing populations generates high concern for the fate of these species. Human, industrial and agricultural activities, as well as unchecked collecting, have a devastating effect, as has happened, for instance, in Vietnam, where even the most experienced pathfinders and orchid hunters have considerable trouble searching out these plants, where once there were thickets of them.

#### **Acknowledgments**

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the translator, Mikhail Minkov.

#### References

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Igor V. Belitsky and Nikolai A. Bersenev

presented a talk on jewel orchids at the 9th European Orchid Congress in Rome, where their display won four awards (one gold, two bronze and one diploma). One of their plants won a bronze award at the Japan Grand Prix International Orchid Festival in 1992. • PO Box 925, 125008 Moskva A-8, Russia.

answer, unfortunately, is that you will probably have to muddle through as best you can. If you get flowers, great! Keep doing whatever it is you're doing. If, like mine, your cattleyas have luxurious leaves but no flowers, try increasing the light by using a different window or moving the plants closer to the lights. Or, perhaps you're not allowing a minimal 10-15 degree difference between day and night temperatures. This situation is easy to rectify during most seasons by simply turning down the thermostat at night. Humidity is usually a problem for most areas of the country only in winter. If you keep a humidifier or vaporizer going (and you should do that anyway to help prevent sore throats -- take it from a singer), your plants will be okay. Don't despair if you don't get blooms the first year. I've found that my plants often take a year to adjust to my conditions. It's awful to have to wait two years to enjoy the flowers you've worked hard to encourage, but keep at it. That first flower that you can truly call your own will be well worth the wait.

The last category I want to talk about in cultural practice is best titled "Dumb Things I've Done and Encourage You Not to Do." The first of these is burning the leaves, best accomplished by letting plants touch the lights or windows. Those fluorescent bulbs or glass surfaces may not be uncomfortable to the human touch; but with long-term exposure your plants may prove more sensitive. The result is lovely, big, brown spots where the burns occurred. You can also manage this feat if you put your plants in direct sun after they've been under lights. Until sunblock for orchids hits the market, acclimate them gradually by putting them in partial shade. Watch those developing flower spikes, too, if you grow under lights. They can shoot up into areas of high temperature almost overnight. Either move the lights up or the plants down.

Dumb Thing Number Two is moving the plants as the flowers start to open. I have a dendrobium that decided to flower in the dog days of August. I thought maybe it was

too hot in the window, so I moved my baby down to a shadier spot. The plant was not amused. Not only did the open flower fade in a couple of days, but the remaining buds never opened fully and finally dropped off. It's not a great idea to move a plant while the buds are expanding either; buds on a spike orient themselves to the light source and you may end up with upside down or corkscrewed flowers.

The last Dumb Thing I'll admit to doing is setting up my main under-lights growing area about three feet from a gas clothes dryer. I knew that burning natural gas produces ethylene gas in sufficient quantities to cause bud blast, but I didn't make the connection until the buds on my phalaenopsis turned hard and red and then fell off. You can bet after that they got moved in a hurry.

Moving away from strictly cultural advice, there are several other things that I think every beginner should do. Reading the AOS Bulletin regularly will provide you with the most up-to-date and sage advice available on how to coax blooms out of your botanical babies. But perhaps even more important is joining a local society. Local societies usually represent growers of all levels of expertise and species persuasions. They are always willing to help with even the most basic questions. And their advice has the added plus that they are aware of the special cultural problems that occur in your area. The monthly meeting is also usually the best place to pick up supplies and purchase plants at very reasonable prices. And be sure to go to all the shows you can. I am lucky enough to live close to New York City where I can attend the Greater New York Orchid Society Show each spring. I have found the growers both in the exhibition and the sales areas to be extremely helpful. Be brave; march right up and present your questions. Orchidists are by and large friendly people, and no one will laugh in your face. Shows are also a great place to see plants in bloom that you've only heard about. If you can arrange a visit to a grower's home establishment, get ready for a fabulous experience. Even novice growers are often given a red-carpet tour. I had only been growing orchids for six months when I had the chance to visit a well-known phalaenopsis grower in Malibu. I was escorted by the owner, shown the stud house, given some ideas about their breeding program, as well some inside tips on successful phalaenopsis growing. I only wish I had known more intelligent questions to ask and had a bigger budget.

The travels that I undertake in my career do, unfortunately, have a negative side where my plants are concerned. That, of course, is my absence for periods of up to six weeks. It then falls to my wife to care for my collection. She's not overly thrilled about this assignment; but I think I've managed to convince her that orchids are the best flowering plants to grow if one insists on growing plants. They can make do on water once a week and don't need the continual grooming that many plants require. Whether you find yourself traveling on a regular basis or just taking an annual two-week vacation, let me give you some advice on how to avoid having your neighbor or relatives kill your plants for you:

- 1) Always leave written instructions. Don't rely on Aunt Matilda's or Uncle Jack's memory.
- 2) Forget your feeding schedule. Your caretaker will probably misread the fertilizer instructions and incinerate your plants' roots with nitrogen.
- 3) If your jaunt takes you away during the hottest part of the summer, do leave a fan going in the room. Don't aim it directly at the plants, though.
- 4) Don't forget to water the morning you plan to leave. This may seem like common sense, but the mad rush to the airport can make even the most organized of us somewhat crazed.
- 5) Impress on the conscripted party the fact that these plants do *not* need all the tender loving care he or she can lavish. For instance, daily watering may not kill any-

thing in a couple of weeks; but if you're off for a month or two, watch out.

- 6) Try to find someone in your local society who lives near you and with whom you can offer to trade plant-sitting duties. You may even find your collection in better shape than when you left.
- 7) Prepare yourself for the worst on your return. If you are expecting rampant destruction and ruin, you won't run as great a risk of destroying a friendship or suddenly and brutually decreasing the size of your family.
- 8) Bring back something nice for your sitter. It's quite a job to be responsible for someone else's plants.

Once you've killed your first plant or two and have an itch to expand your collection, reality often intrudes in the form of the person with whom you share living space. If, like me, you have a Significant Other who would rather see your plants in the Cuisinart than on the coffee table, let me offer you some hope. Here are a baker's dozen tips on how to increase your collection under the nose of your suspicious spouse:

- 1) Join your local society. Most of the following hinge on this first step.
- 2) Be sure your nemesis knows that your local society offers door prizes. Then, buy raffle tickets lots of them. When you're asked, "Where did that plant come from?" you can truthfully say, "I won it." If there is no raffle, get one started.
- 3) Take all your flowering plants to the meeting. You can easily tuck a few new ones in with the old, and no one at home will be the wiser.
- 4) Buy small plants. You'd be surprised how many seedlings and minis you can fit in a coat pocket or large handbag. Just be careful when you sit down.
- 5) Buy plants similar to the ones you have. A new cattleya is easy to hide among the old familiars in your collection. But a vanda will stick out like a red flag, which, of course, is what you are waving in the face of

the enemy if you don't use stealth.

- 6) Recruit your children to the cause. I overlooked this possibility. Unfortunately, and I now house a little KGB mole who smuggles news of any unauthorized new plants directly into enemy hands!
- 7) Stay late at your meetings. If the Grand Inquisitor has gone to bed by the time you get home, no explanations are necessary.
- 8) In general, don't buy plants in flower. We all like to bring home the phalaenopsis with 25 flowers or the cattleya with 10-inch blooms. But strategy demands that a plant in spike is about as far as you can go without risk of discovery.
- 9) Keep a couple of old or duplicate plants around that you can make a show of throwing out. That way you can demonstrate, when necessary, that you are making room for new acquisitions.
- 10) Bring home something pretty on holidays, for example a pink phalaenopsis for Valentine's Day. If you're a fast talker and romantic enough you might get away

with it.

- 11) Ask for plants for Christmas or your birthday. Even a heart of stone can't refuse this request, at least not every time.
- 12) Drag your non-plant-lover to some shows with you. If you're lucky maybe the orchid bug will bite a new victim. Don't, however, get your hopes up.
- 13) Get a greenhouse. Then you have the ultimate hiding place. Such a feat is, of course, easier said than done. Try convincing your partner that adding a greenhouse is preferable to sharing the bathroom, kitchen and bedroom with a few hundred orchids. You may well carry the day.

I hope I've given those of you just starting this fascinating hobby some new ideas and techniques for getting through your first years. The learning process never stops, which makes the whole thing all the more intriguing. Take courage, plunge ahead and, above all, keep reading and honing your expertise. After all, I had to practice a long time before I got to Carnegie Hall!