

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2005 2 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE USUAL PLACE, THE NEVADGARDEN CLUB BUILDING, WASHINGTON AND TWIN LAKES. THE BUILDING WILL BE OPEN AT 1PM.

DIRECTIONS FOR ALL THE NEW PEOPLE-If you begin at Decatur and Sahara, go north on Decatur, make a right (E) on Washington, pass Valley View a few blocks, and make a right on Twin Lakes. The slump-stone building will be immediately on your left. If you get to Rancho, you have gone too far. The building is on the western edge of Lorenzi park.

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

**CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT
CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY
DIANA SMITH- TREASURER**

AND...

Dan Mumau, Michael Lawless, Marsha Hawley - Membership Hospitality Chairmen
Eileen Mckyton and Dan Hawley- Welcome Desk
Lillian Patterson- Photographer and Historian
Dan Mumau and Tony Billitere- Raffle Chairmen
Phyllis Bond, Leslie Doyle, Shelly North and Eileen Mckyton- Special Events Chairmen
Jeri Lee and Tony Billitere- Community Liaison
Alex Mckyton -Building Chairmen and Webmaster
Tex Severance and Mike Levin- Show and Tell Gurus
Tex and Gidget Severance- Judging Chairmen
Scotty Nogaim- Election Chairman, Raffle Lady
Steve Ninemire Library Chairman Clarice Dean, Assistant Librarian
Clarice Dean- Trip Chairman
John Haydukavitch-Video Chief
Shelly North-Classy Club Apparel Chairlady

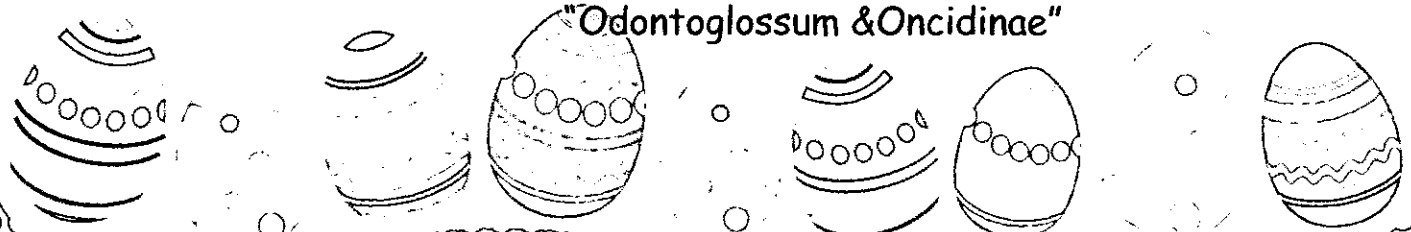
April 2, 2005

Spring Flower Show

April 3, 2005

Mike Glikbarg, Orchids of Los Osos,

"Odontoglossum & Oncidinae"



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|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 1, 2005 | Dr. Joseph Arditti "Techniques Orchids Use to Survive in the Wild" |
| June 5, 2005 | Sue Fordyce, "Sophronitis and Her Sisters/Orchid Sign Language" |
| July 10, 2005 | SECOND SUNDAY Sheldon Takasaki, Carmela's Orchids, "Cattleyas" |
| August 7, 2005 | Barbecue Eldine Stevens' home |
| September 11, 2005 | Doug Conkin, "Planning and Developing An Orchid Collection" |
| October 2, 2005 | Virtual Greenhouse Tour and Pot Party |
| November 6, 2005 | "The Adventures of Dennis D'Allesandro in Bolivia" |
| December 4, 2005 | Sixth Annual Holiday Party |
| Sometime in 2006 | Jim Hamilton, Petite Plaisance Nursery, "Growing Orchids Naturally" |
| January 8, 2006 | Jason Fischer, "Orchids of Japan" |
| February 5, 2006 | Marni Turkel "How to Grow Orchids" |
| March 5, 2006 | Doug Conkin, "Integrated Pest Management" |
| April 2, 2006 | John Salventi, "How to Grow Award Winning Plants" |
| May 7, 2006 | Harry Phillips, Andy's Orchids, "Tiny Treasures" (the Pleurothallidinae) |
| June 4, 2006 | Fred Clarke, "Cycnoches, Mormodes, And Catasetum" |
| August 6, 2006 | Barbecue in Mt. Charleston |
| November 5, 2006 | Bill Bergstrom, "The Orchids of Mexico" |
| December 3, 2006 | Seventh Annual Holiday Party |

2005 DUES

are now over DUES- \$25 for an individual, \$35 for a couple.

Unfortunately, this will be the last newsletter for anyone who has not paid up. I pay for the printing and postage for the newsletter myself so all dues money goes for club programs only. Pay at the April 3rd

meeting, or mail your check made out to GLVOS to: Carol Siegel, 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89117. Many thanks to LESLIE DOYLE for designing and providing very beautiful 2005 membership cards. Congratulations to Leslie, too, on being named editor of the SILVER STATE GARDENER, the Nevada Garden Club Publication. They are so lucky to have this talented lady!

MARCH MEETING

What a great time we had at our March meeting. Attired in tuxedos and top hats, we casually greeted the press as they wrote a splendid full-page article on our club. You can't buy that kind of publicity! For those of you who missed the article in the Review Journal/Sun, it is reprinted at the end of the newsletter. My phone has not stopped ringing with calls from excited people who want to join our club and share our obsession. In addition, the Garden Section of the Review Journal accepted an article I wrote on growing orchids in the desert which will be in the paper on Tuesday, April 5th and, naturally, makes an enthusiastic mention of our club. We're gonna have to get a bigger room if this keeps up!

Our speaker, Jerry Fischer of ORCHIDS LIMITED NURSERY (www.orchidweb.com) presented a lively and entertaining talk on the orchids of Borneo, complete with tales of snakes, Mafia chieftains, murder, gold mines and pirates (oh, and yes, orchids...) It was great fun, and we swooned at the slides of those elusive *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* with their endlessly long, curling petals. Interestingly, he said that the pollinator, a sweat bee, climbs up those petals like up Rapunzel's hair. His plants were interesting, exotic and different, too. His website is a first-rate place to buy orchids. Thanks to Clarice & Dennis Dean & Aaron Schave for picking up the speaker.

Next month, we are excited to welcome back Mike Glikbarg, owner of Orchids of Los Osos, who will speak about oncidium and

odontoglossum, their crosses and how to grow them. Best of all, Mike will bring his fabulous plants to sell. He, amusingly, is mailing his sale plants to ME to unpack since he is coming from somewhere else first. It's like sending the booze to Alcoholics Anonymous for safe-keeping. Shades of the fox in the hen house... By the way. PLEASE THINK OF ONE OR TWO OF YOUR FAVORITE ORCHID THINGS TO DISCUSS AT THE MEETING. It will be a fun way to share positive experiences in growing.

We thank Carol Spencer, Marsha Hawley, Shelly North and Melissa Knight for the feast they prepared for us and thank Christina de la Cruz, Bill Whaley, Marguerite Janes and Linda Hirschfield for next month's goodies. "Dinner and a show" would be just "show" without their generosity and effort.

We welcomed a LOT of guests- Anna Contomitros, Keith Souhrada and Dana Grue, Chris Lewis, Anne Sylvester and Maleda Barnes, Frank and Nancy Barr, and Barbara and Michael Schmidt and new members Sharon Proehl and Karen To. We were glad to see Joe Raba again, and he joined the club. Joe is the botanical genius who showed us the wonder of the spring wildflowers up in Red Rock when we looked at our native orchid, *Epipactis gigantea* last spring. Get well wishes to Eileen McKyton who undergoes surgery. You are in our hearts. We miss Scotty Nogaim and hope she is feeling well very soon. We love you, dear. Hope Carol and Ron Mendocino had a great time in Hawaii and welcome back Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless who also went to Hawaii. Finally, we wish Mike Levin a safe and fun trip to Paris. Our members are family, and we really care.

We sold beautiful orchid pads and bookmarks as well as 20 bags of Aussie Gold, a marvelous potting mix. I have put ALL my plants in it, and now I only have to water every seven days instead of every four or five. Do you wonder why I am a fan? Less work for Mother is

good. Many thanks to Daniel Vong and Mike Levin for donating lovely plants to our raffle and for selling even more great plants.

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Clarice Dean did a wonderful presentation of our Species of the Month, *Coelogyne pandurata*, which grows in the hot, damp swampy lowlands of Malaysia, Sumatra and the Philippines. Its 18-inch arching inflorescence bears a dozen amazing flowers that are from 3-5 inches across. "Pandurata" means "violin", and these flowers are shaped like a little violin! Give the plant high light to bloom well. We added five of these wonderful and expensive plants to our raffle table.

LIBRARY

Clarice also did a short book report on a new book for our library, *THE GENUS COELOGYNE- A SYNOPSIS* by Dudley Clayton which was promptly taken out by our Queen of Coelogyne, Diana Smith.

Steve Ninemire, our librarian, informed us that he had catalogued all the newsletters for the last five years so that members can access old newsletters in the library where we have two books of newsletter copies. We will be adding a new book to our library every month. The library is FREE and is the best way to learn to grow orchids.

WWW.GLVOS.COM

For members who are new to the club, Alex McKyton, Webmaster to the Stars, has created a wonderful club website. Not only do we have copies of old newsletters full of informative growing articles, but we have culture sheets on how to grow, copies of our Species of the Month, meeting information, and lots of neat links. You will also find wonderful information on how to grow on the American Orchid Society website, www.orchidweb.org. Don't have internet? Well, get it since that is the BEST way to buy orchids, our very favorite thing.

FREE ORCHID SHOWS-

We will be participating in the Easter Show at the Cal, March 25-27 with the Torrance Cymbidium Society, our wonderful sister society, in the OHANA ROOM of the California Hotel. Bring your plants and help with the display on Thursday, March 24th at 4 pm. We could win an AOS trophy and it is such fun! We hope you will participate. Diana Smith and Mike Levin won three AOS awards last year during judging, and you can, too! If you can't come down, leave your plants off at my house (254-4168), or you can leave them at Clarice Dean's house (876-2729). We thank all the members who are participating. We especially thank Dennis Dean and Phyllis Bond, our display designers extraordinaire, who do so much. We also couldn't do it without Shelly North who begs props from her friends.

Show Hours-

Thursday, March 24th 4pm to ? Set up of display

Friday, March 25th 1-6pm Show opens. Vote for best plants!

Saturday, March 26th 10-5

Sunday, March 27th 10-3

VOLUNTEERS-

Thursday, March 24th 4 pm Bring plants and set-up (so far)

Phyllis Bond, Carol Siegel, Clarice McKyton, Diana Smith, Wanda La Follette, Clarice and Dennis Dean

Friday, March 25th AOS Judging- 10am Show 1-6

Judges- Mike Levin, Tex and Gidget Severance

Clerks- Phyllis Bond & Steve Ninemire Photographer-Liz Leone

Show Ambassador-

1-3:30 Sharon Proehl

3:30-6 Marguerite Janes

Saturday, March 26th

Show Ambassador

10-1 Melissa Knight

1-5 Steve Ninemire

Sunday, March 27th

Show Ambassador

10-3 Diana Smith

You can vote for best plants on Friday afternoon. Prizes include wooden plaques and a free weekend at the California Hotel.

The Spring Flower Show will be held at the Nevada Garden Club on Saturday, April 2nd from 9-4. We will be putting in a display on the stage on Friday, April 1st at 4pm. Bring plants and help with the display. Your plants can win lots of ribbons so don't forget to bring down the plants—or leave them at Clarice's or my house. You can pick up your plant at our meeting the next day—loaded with ribbons. They give LOTS of ribbons, and everyone gets lots. Fun.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1 4PM Bring plants down and set up

So far- Dennis Dean, Phyllis Bond, Carol Siegel, Eileen McKyton, Clarice Dean, Christine DeLa Cruz and Diana Smith

SATURDAY APRIL 2

Judging- 7:30 am on Saturday

Judges- Tex and Gidget Severance

Clerks- Phyllis Bond and Steve Ninemire

Ambassadors- am Terry Wilsey and Steve Ninemire

Pm Marilyn Short

I spoke on "The Sex Life of Orchids" in Sonoma last month and got us two more wonderful speakers for 2006. I cornered Marni Turkel and Jim Hamilton, owner of Petite Plaisance, and they have agreed to speak! Nobody eludes my clutches. Many will remember Marni's series of articles in the AOS.

Following the newsletter is an article on beauty treatments for display plants, tips by Diana Smith on her favorite things, and a series of questions to help beginners get started.

Keep blooming! Love, Carol 254-4168 growlove@cox.net

PREPARING YOUR PLANTS FOR THE SHOW: GOING TO THE ORCHID BEAUTY PARLOR by Carol Siegel

If you are bringing plants for the display, take a good hard look at them before you put them in the car. Most plants need a beauty treatment before being entered for display or judging.

1. All dried sheaths should be removed so the clean pseudobulb is shown. Imperfect leaves should be removed or trimmed.
2. Old dried inflorescences should be cut off.
3. Leaves should be wiped with "fat" milk to clean off hard water spots and give a natural sheen to the leaves. Some people swear by diluted lemon juice or even beer!
4. Stake the inflorescence so the flower presents itself for best effect. Cut the stake so that it is not visible above the flower it is supporting. Hide any twist ties out of the way so they don't stick out.
5. Tuck any tags or labels down into the pot out of sight.
6. Top off the plant with a layer of fresh bark.
7. Clean the pots so they are tidy looking.
8. Leave diseased or infested plants at home.
9. Water your plants thoroughly before judging. They will get thirsty.
10. Put your mailing address labels on bottoms of pots to make it easier to find after show OR put a colored sticker on the bottom or write on a piece of masking tape. Make a list of all the plants you have brought in. Keep it at home. Make a list of all important information that is on your tags in case a tag is lost.
11. Put TWO tags in each plant in case one falls out. Put one in at an angle.
12. Don't forget to clean the stems of your orchids with a tissue

MY FAVORITE THINGS

by Diana Smith

(Her reply by email to my request for members to list their favorite orchid things... Since Diana is everybody's favorite thing, her wonderful advice is reprinted here.)

Ok, I'll give you my two cents.

My RO system is my favorite orchid product. It has made my orchid leaves clean instead of mineral covered, prolonged the life of the potting media by preventing salt concentration from building up, and kept the roots much healthier.

So far, my favorite orchid vendor is Andy's Orchids. They have such a great selection of species, and they all seem to be in great shape. I also like Countryside Orchids, but sometimes their new acquisitions are not particularly vigorous. Hausermann's Orchids is a favorite for those big, beautiful, full-sized Cattleyas. They were the first vendor I got to know back in the 1970's, and they still amaze me sometimes. My favorite orchids are the genera *Coelogyne* and *Dendrobium* and the *Vanda* and *Pleurothallid* complexes. I like the variations that I find between the species, yet they all have the typical orchid shape. I also like the strange lip growths and colorations, as well as the scents.

Rotating the types of food I give my orchids seems to really make a difference. One food is not going to be totally complete, so rotating the brands and types seems to ensure I hit everything they need at some point. I don't think I have a lot of nutritional problems.

I am still working on my worst orchid problem: getting tough with critters in my greenhouse. I'm not quite to the PROBLEM SOLVED! stage, but I'm working on it. One of the things I noticed is that certain types of orchids are more susceptible to bug problems, and that crowding definitely contributes to it. My mounted and basket plants have much fewer problems, too.

My greatest triumph with orchids was, of course, having an orchid that won an HCC. I had no trouble getting buds from the plant for a number of years. The problem was keeping them; they tended to blast during the winter. Moving it higher in the greenhouse solved the problem. Other than that, I was lucky to have a plant with such large and distinctively marked flowers.

Pests are the most difficult part of orchid growing for me. Getting rid of the critters that are attracted to my orchids and are not suitable company. I finally decided they had to go, so I'm being tough about spraying, baiting, mashing, etc. One of my problems is finding effective treatments that don't leak out of my greenhouse into the environment, since I have wildlife that depends on the water that comes out from under the base of it. It has been trial and error. Pest management is a balancing act. I am looking forward to learning more about integrated pest management.

In general, I would stress that you have to give the orchids WHAT THEY NEED, rather than what you can easily provide. Especially here in the desert, it takes work and some problem solving to grow orchids well.

That's it.

Love,
Diana

7

If It Turns Brown and Falls Off, Is It Dead?
Ten Questions You Are Ashamed to Ask
By Carol Siegel

The dirty little secret of orchid growing is that many of us love our orchids to death. Drugged by the irresistible beauty of these magnificent flowers, we keep buying orchids like a nervous tick before we really know how to care for them or what to buy. Many of us, especially new people, have so many questions about growing that we don't know where to start and are embarrassed to seem so totally clueless. Join the club (oh... you already have...) Here are some of the questions you might have wanted to ask but just couldn't.

1.If it turns brown and falls off, is it dead?

Not necessarily. New growers often confuse the dying back of the flower spike with the death of the plant. Sturdy phalaenopsis flowers can last for months, but cattleya flower spikes usually last only one or two weeks. A coryanthes, bulbophyllum or stanhopea bloom may last a few glorious days- or even less. A vanilla flower will open in the morning and be gone by noon. After that, the flower dies. Nothing you do makes them last much longer than they are genetically programmed to last. It is not your fault. The plant, however, is not dead and will re-bloom.

Sometimes, lower leaves will turn yellow and fall off. This is nature's way of reclaiming chlorophyll before getting rid of an old leaf. Healthy plants sometimes lose leaves. Worry if your newest leaves turn yellow and look bad.If a lot of leaves fall off, inspect your plant closely for scale, mealy bug or mite infestation and treat. You may not be giving enough water to your plant, or it may be getting too much, less of a problem in the desert we live in. Pull the plant out of the pot and see if the roots are mushy. Perhaps it is time to repot.

Some plants look dead, like cycnoches or catasetum, but, after you withhold water all winter, they will start to grow again.

2. What is that brown thing sticking up out of the plant without any flowers? Should I cut it off?

Like most things in life, the correct answer is, "It depends..." You can always leave the brown thing- the stem of the flower spike or inflorescence- until it gets all crispy, and there is no doubt that it is dead. Cattleya flowers and sheaths can be removed after blooming. Be careful about cutting off the spikes of paphiopedilum or phragmipedium since they may have more buds to flower. Phalaenopsis species spike should rarely be cut since they bloom year after year on a continually elongating spike. In addition, some orchids will bloom again off the same spike more than once.

Phalaenopsis will bloom again after the flowers die if you cut the flower stem half way back just above one of the nodes or little notches or rings on the flower spike. Quite often, it will branch out again in three or four months with a new spike. Most recommend to do this just once. The Butterfly Orchid, Psychopsis papilio will thrust out one wiry inflorescence that will bloom every three to five weeks every year for many years. Don't cut it off. (See "Cutting It Off and Throwing It Out", June 2004 newsletter). Make sure you read before you cut.

3. I bought an orchid at Trader Joe's and now it is kind of white and fuzzy. Is that okay?

White and fuzzy is definitely not a good thing for an orchid to be. You got an extra little gift with your plant, some scale insect like mealy bugs. Make sure you examine all new plants thoroughly under the light with a magnifying glass. Isolate your new orchids like a plague victim from a third-world country before putting it in with your other orchids. Many people spray all new plants routinely. I

don't spray them, but I do repot all new plants as soon as possible since I feel the potting medium may have all sorts of undesirables hiding. Remove the mealy bugs or scale with a toothbrush dipped in alcohol or soap or even diluted Physan. Spray if necessary with Neem oil, insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, or insecticide. Wear gloves and spray outside. (See article on insect control, February and March 2005 newsletter)

4. I have a water-softener in my house. Can I water my orchids with that water?

NO! That water has enough sodium in it to kill your orchids. You can put bags of potassium in the softener instead of sodium, and your orchid will be happy.

5. Can I use cold tap water to water my orchids?

Orchids like water that is not too cold. Tap water is not the greatest thing for your orchids. Las Vegas tap water passes through mountains of limestone and gypsum picking up lots of calcium carbonate and calcium sulfate which makes our water very alkaline. Orchids don't like all that calcium. If you must use tap water, at least flush out the plant thoroughly every now and then with bottled water—or even more tap water to remove the accumulated salts. Orchids will thrive with bottled or distilled water, reverse osmosis water, or de-ionized water. US Filter (480-797-9914) will install a de-ionized water unit for you for free if you mention the club. Then you just pay a fee to exchange the filter every few months. You can put in a reverse-osmosis unit yourself or have Culligan or Rayne do it for you. (See "How to Grow Great Orchids with Awful Water", NOVEMBER 2004)

6. I hate my orchid. It never blooms. Should I throw it out?

Oh, honey, we all feel like that sometimes. A trip to the garbage can may be answer for your hopeless cause, but consider some other

things. A new orchid may have spent a lot of time in a dark box on a shipping dock or been half-frozen in a UPS truck before it got to you. It may be horrified to have been moved from balmy Hawaii to our hot, dry desert. It may skip a season of blooming as it adjusts to this new situation. You may be expecting your orchid to bloom more often than is natural. Many orchids bloom just once a year, like daffodils, and you will be without flowers for 11 months or more a year.

Increasing light will often make an orchid bloom. Buy a light meter (www.charleysgreenhouse.com) and make sure your window, light cart, or greenhouse is getting enough light for your particular orchid. Moving the orchid to another location, adding a fluorescent light, or moving the orchid closer to the light source will often help.

Some plants, like phalaenopsis, cymbidium, and some paphiopedilum need to be chilled 10-20 degrees below yearly temperatures for three weeks in the fall in order to bloom. Buy a minimum-maximum thermometer, open the door or window a crack, or put your plant in an unheated part of the house. They will then bloom! (See "Ten Questions to Make Your Orchids Bloom" September 2004 newsletter)

Remember you will get better. I have been growing for six years, and I have finally learned what to grow and how to grow it in my garage under lights. It takes time to grow orchids in the desert.

7. How often do I have to change the soil in my clay pots?

Leave the soil to the houseplants, darlin'; your orchids don't like it! 80% of orchids in nature grow on trees with their roots in the air. Many of us like to mount our plants and let the roots hang free. You have to water a lot more often than, so, for our convenience we put them in pots. The orchids still like lots of air around the roots, so we put them in a mix that is more open than soil like bark or a bark mix, coconut chunks, sphagnum moss, or Aussie Gold, a diatomite mix that

the club sells- and likes. Most of us use plastic pots since plastic pots in the desert keep the plants wetter than clay pots do. It is generally recommended to repot your plants every year or two. If you pull your plant out of the pot, which is not as scary as it sounds, and the mix looks mushy and compacted or the roots are mushy, it is time to repot. I like to repot everything new I get. But then, I like to vacuum every day, too. If you use Aussie Gold, it is claimed that your mix NEVER breaks down. We shall see. If you pot in sphagnum moss, you will have to repot every 6-9 months since it breaks down easily.

8. I love vandas, and I keep buying them, but they just don't bloom. They are so big that I can't fit them on the shelf in front of my window, and the roots are kind of shrivelly-looking. What should I do?

(Dennis Dean grows these gorgeous ones, and I figure I should be able to, too!

Dearie, my sister wears a size 6 shoe and a size ten dress, but they wouldn't fit me at all! That doesn't mean I can't look great, but you gotta be realistic. Give yourself and the vandas a break, and start buying something that fits your conditions. Dennis has a big, bright greenhouse he built himself (clever boy!) with a water wall, misting, and lots of space. For your shelf on the window, a collection of phalaenopsis species and hybrids would be just perfect. They are in bloom for months and months at a time, take up really little room, are very tolerant of the inexperienced grower and are cheap. Get yourself a whole lot of weird and interesting bulbophyllum or pleurothallids that take up no room and need little light. Grow paphiopedilum that are spectacular with long petals or big pouches. They don't need much room or light. Get it? Make it work for you. (See "Thou Shalt Not Buy", October 2004)

9. I buy all my orchids at Home Depot for \$14.98. I notice that some of the speakers bring in much more expensive plants. Why would I ever pay more for an orchid?

My friend thinks Neiman Marcus should be called "Needless Mark-up". It is true that sometimes expensive plants are only for fools with less sense than money. However, some things make an orchid worth more. If your Home Depot orchid has all its flowers open, then you will probably have no flowers shortly after you get it home. It is worth less than one with only buds that will give you pleasure for months. If your plant has only a few flowers or those flowers are very small or misshapen, then it is really worth less than a plant with lots of big, flat flowers. If your plant has been mis-handled by the delivery guys at the hardware store, then its roots may be mushy or too dry, and your plant may be very stressed, already a bad thing. Pull the plant up when no one is looking and see if it has good roots. If your plant has only one spike of flowers, it is worth less than one with many spikes.

Also, some orchids are more expensive because they are rare and not mass-produced like phalaenopsis. You may like the common orchids, but sooner or later, you will develop a taste for designer orchids, and they are more expensive. Sometimes an award-winning plant will cost more because it is so spectacular and hard-to-find. However, orchids are like wine. If you are happy with a less expensive orchid, then you are the lucky one!!

10. I waited and waited and then the bud fell off. What did I do wrong?

Dear Friend, the rumor is that orchids have sense of humor. They think this is just hilarious. Could it be that orchids have a mean streak? What can you do?

If this happens on a cattleya, try making a little opening at the tip of the bud next time. Sue Fordyce says this helps prevent condensation from rotting the bud. Try not to get the bud wet. With paphs, make sure you do not get water in the crotch of the leaves where the bud is forming. Wipe it dry with toilet paper or q-tip or blow the water out with a straw if it gets wet. Prevent plants from getting too dry between watering by paying particular attention to these plants. Water will be withdrawn from the buds in a very dry plants, and they will blast. Avoid wide swings in temperature when the plant is in bud. Sometimes, the change in temperature when you receive a new plant is enough, sadly to drop the bud. Be careful not to expose plants in bud to car, paint, chemical or natural gas fumes. The orchid naturally produces ethylene to collapse petals and buds after pollination, and you don't want to trigger this! Sometimes, it just happens. Try again.

You have questions. We have answers. Stop any of us at the meeting, and you will be surprised at how much we have to share. Of course, many of us disagree on the answers, but that is what makes it so much fun.

