

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

JANUARY 6, 2002

Our meeting will be in the usual place, the Nevada Garden Club Meeting, Washington and Twin Lakes, at the west corner of Lorenzi Park at 2 pm. Don't forget that we are having our **THIRD ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT SALE** so bring your new and used items a few minutes early so we can set up (1:40?)

Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

**CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT
MARIA PEREZ-VICE-PRESIDENT
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY
DIANA SMITH- TREASURER**

AND...

El Requa and Theresa Gerstner- Membership Chairmen
Lillian Patterson- Photographer and Historian
Leslie Doyle and Tony Billitere- Raffle Chairmen
Phyllis Bond and Eric Doi and Eileen McKyton- Special Events Chairmen
Maria Perez and Tony Billitere- Community Liaison
Dan Mumau- Hospitality Chairman
Eric Doi-Building Chairman
Tex Severance- Show and Tell Guru
Scotty Nogaim- Election Chairman

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January 6, 2002

Howard Ginsberg, world authority on phalaenopsis
"Trends in Novelty Phalaenopsis Breeding"(Eileen and
Alex McKyton, hosts)

Third Annual White Elephant Sale

February 3, 2002

Conception Boyd, Owner Orchid Connection
"Orchids of Mexico" (Maria Perez, hostess)

March 10, 2002

Virtual Greenhouse Tour

April 7, 2002	Sam Hsui, owner Orchid Inn "Growing Orchids Under Lights"
May 5, 2002	Doug Conkin, orchid genius, on "Maxillaria and Catasetum"
June 2, 2002	Norito Hasegawa, owner of Paphanatics, lecture, topic under consideration
July 7, 2002	Diana Smith, our very own orchid expert, on "Forty Orchids to Grow in Your Greenhouse"
August 4, 2002	Annual Barbecue
September 8, 2002	Mike Glikbarg returns to speak with LOTS of blooming Orchids (topic under discussion).
October 6, 2002	Film on Orchids "Fatal Beauty"
November 3, 2002	Lecture by Bill Bergstrom of Bergstrom Orchids "Orchids of Peru"(arranged and hosted by The McKyttons)
December 1, 2002	Holiday Party

It is unbelievable to think that 2002 is upon us. We wish all our dear members a year of safety, peace, good health, fun and LOTS OF BLOOMING ORCHIDS!!

On January 6, we are looking forward to the slide lecture of Howard Ginsberg, the leading authority in the world on phalaenopsis, who will speak on the new trends in phalaenopsis breeding and sell phals as well. We are also having our white elephant sale so bring something new or old- appliance, VCR tape, CD, toy, baked goods, wine, orchid, orchid-related item, Xmas present, pillow, just anything. It is for a good cause (US). Bring something, and buy something. It was lots of fun and very profitable last year.

Don't forget that your 2002 dues are due now. It is \$25 for a single, \$35 for a couple. You may pay at the meeting or send me a check made out to GLVOS (that is for Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society) and mail it to me at:

Carol Siegel 8601 Robinson Ridge Drive Las Vegas, NV 89119

Don't forget to update your address, phone, and e-mail addresses when you come to the meeting in January. Check with El, Theresa, or Diana and make sure we have the right information for you.

Looking back on our year 2001, we really learned a lot and had great fun. We attracted lots of new members and had 97 members at year's end. . We advertised in newspapers, TV, on flyers, and on business cards. We provided inexpensive quality orchids at every meeting at our silent auction. We had fabulous speakers who entertained and informed us and sold lovely, interesting plants. We made friends with Daniel Vong of Kings Orchids who spoiled us with blooming plants We raffled everything from orchids to mums to stationery. We ate great food and met wonderful new friends.

Who can forget the gorgeous blooming zygopetalum at the Holiday Party and International Food Fest that started the new year? OR the keyboard player who

different potting techniques, and Ray Contractor presented a talk on r/o systems. We sold orchid stickers, and Mike sold his wonderful plants. The newsletter had an article on Commonly Asked Questions About Cattleyas.

In May, Carol presented a slide lecture on the 32 native species of orchids growing nearby in California. Leslie brought scores of azaleas, hydrangeas and kalanchoe for our raffle, and our newsletter had an original article on orchid names. We also enjoyed a seminar on Hawaiian orchids presented by the Cooperative Extension.

In June, San Tsui, owner of Orchid Inn, delivered a slide lecture on "Paph Breeding and Culture" and sold paphs. We also had a field trip led by Dr. Pat Leary to Mummy Springs Trail to look for our native orchid, *Habenaria sparsiflora*. The newsletter had an original article on mericlone.

In July, Liz presented an interesting talk on the biochemistry of orchids and other plants and her husband John made membership cards for us (our first!) Leslie donated \$92 from a plant sale and we got a 15% discount at Tru Value Hardware and the Orchid Man. We had a silent auction of blooming cattleyas from Marty's Orchids, and the newsletter discussed mealy bugs. (No relationship between the two!)

In August, Eldine opened her lovely home in Mt. Charleston for a barbecue where Daniel sold wonderful Mexican species and Tony brought blooming orchids from the Mirage. The newsletter had an article on the orchids of Newfoundland.

In September, amid a Mexican fiesta of 15,000 people blocking our way, we persevered and enjoyed Mike Glikbarg of Orchids of Los Osos' talk on *zygopetalum* and *odontoglossum*. We thrilled to the hundreds of gorgeous blooming orchids he brought with him. The newsletter had an original article on Darwin's obsession with orchids.

In October, Sue Fordyce of Fordyce Orchids presented an exceptionally good talk on listening to orchids by looking at them, bringing a carload of her famous budding cattys with her for sale. Her funny poems on orchids appeared in the newsletter with her kind permission. We made \$400 at the Fall Garden Sale and won lots of ribbons at the Fall Garden Show. We also made lots of friends and

answered lots of questions at the Day with the Experts at the Desert Demonstration Garden.

In November, Dennis D'Allesandro, the Indiana Jones of Ecuador and Bolivia, entertained us with his slide lecture on the orchid species he discovered on his travels. He, Dan and Mike sold their wonderful plants, and the newsletter had an

We will also be participating in the Torrance Cymbidium Show at the Cal on March 29-31. There will be AOS judging so we hope many of you will participate.

Of special interest, we are having our Virtual Greenhouse Tour on March 3. Mike Levin, Carol Siegel, Diana Smith, Eileen McKyton, Maria Perez, Clarice Dean, Scotty Nogaim, Kenneth Snauwaert, Phyllis Bond, Daniel Vong, and others will participate in this slide presentation of member growing areas. We thank all those willing to participate, and especially Lillian Patterson, our photographer.

At our Holiday Party, we distributed lovely blooming phalaenopsis from Ontario Orchids . In January, we are having Howard Ginsberg speak on Phals. Therefore, I have included three sheets on growing phals. We especially thank the Tucson Orchid Society for allowing us to reprint the article by Wes Addison from Desert Magic: Growing Orchids in the Southwest Desert: A Handbook.

See you on January 6. Don't forget to bring your White Elephant treasures for the sale and KEEP BLOOMING !!

Fondly, Carol Siegel Newsletter Editor 254-4168

Phalaenopsis

fayl-eh-NOP-siss

Phalaenopsis, the moth orchid, is perhaps the best orchid for growing in the home, and is also a favorite with greenhouse growers. Well-grown plants can flower often, sometimes with a few flowers throughout the year, though the main season is late winter into spring. Average home temperatures and conditions are usually sufficient. Flower stems on certain hybrids can be forced to rebloom by cutting the tip off after the initial flowering. Only healthy plants should be induced to flower repeatedly. Culture for *Doritis*, a related genus, thought by some to be conspecific with *Phalaenopsis*, and *Doritaenopsis*, a hybrid between the two genera, is the same as for pure *Phalaenopsis*.

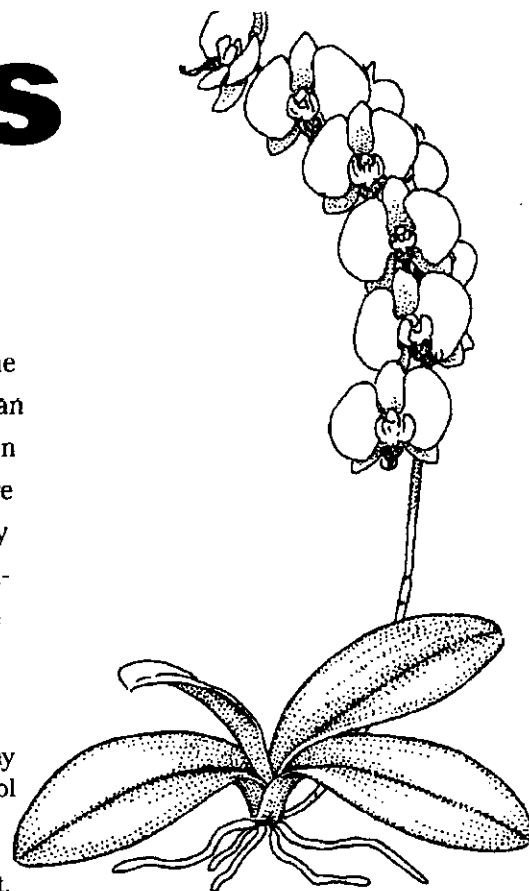
LIGHT is easy to provide for phalaenopsis. They grow easily in a bright window, with little or no sun. An east window is ideal in the home; shaded south or west windows are acceptable. In overcast, northern winter climates, a full south exposure may be needed. Artificial lighting can easily be provided. Four fluorescent tubes in one fixture supplemented by incandescent bulbs are placed 6 to 12 inches above the leaves, 12 to 16 hours a day, following natural day length. In a greenhouse, shade must be given; 70 to 85 percent shade, or between 1,000 and 1,500 foot-candles, is recommended. No shadow should be seen if you hold your hand one foot above a plant's leaves.

TEMPERATURES for phalaenopsis should usually be above 60 F at night, and range between 75 and 85 F or more during the day. Although higher temperatures force faster vegetative growth, higher humidity and air movement must accompany higher temperatures, the recommended maximum being 90 to 95 F. Night temperatures to 55 F are desirable for several weeks in the autumn to initiate flower spikes. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants

heat of summer in a dry climate, this may be every other day; in the winter in a cool northern greenhouse, it may be every 10 days. Water only in the morning, so that the leaves dry by nightfall, to prevent rot.

HUMIDITY is important to phalaenopsis, the recommended humidity being between 50 and 80 percent. In humid climates, as in greenhouses, it is imperative that the humid air is moving. Leaves should be dry as soon as possible, always by nightfall. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water, so that the pots never sit in water.

FERTILIZE on a regular schedule, especially if the weather is warm, when the plants are most often growing. Twice-a-month applications of high-nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) are appropriate where bark-based media are used. Otherwise, a balanced fertilizer is best. When flowering is desired, a high-phosphorus fertilizer (such as 10-30-20) can be applied to promote blooming. Some growers apply fertilizer at one-quarter strength with every watering; this is best for warm, humid conditions. When cooler, or under overcast



container until the potting medium starts to decompose, usually in two years. Root rot occurs if plants are left in a soggy medium. Seedlings usually grow fast enough to need repotting yearly, and should be repotted in a fine-grade medium. Mature plants are potted in a medium-grade mix. To repot, remove all the old medium from the roots, trim soft, rotted roots, and spread the remaining roots over a handful of medium in the bottom of a new pot. Fill the rest of the pot with medium, working it among the roots, so that the junction of the roots and the stem is at the top of the medium.

The American Orchid Society is the world's leading provider of information about and related to orchids. We invite you to join us and learn about the world's most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to our monthly award-winning magazine *Orchids*, a free copy of our cultural guide *Your First Orchid* and the *AOS Orchid Source Directory*, a 10 percent discount on items purchased through The AOS BookShops and Orchid Emporium.

A brief outline of our method for growing

Phalaenopsis Orchids



Phalaenopsis, the "moth orchids" are highly tropical Eastern hemisphere epiphytes. They have large, handsome fleshy leaves and beautiful waxy flowers. The following guidelines have proved successful for our operation.

Withstands temperatures as high as 80-85°F.

3 hours of morning sun with filtered light for the rest of the day. Too much direct sunlight will stress the plant severely.

High humidity.

Water twice a week. You should always water from the top. The plants also enjoy misting of their foliage. **Never allow**

to dry out with a balanced fertilizer close to 20-20-20 per instructions.

Helps retard spotting of the flowers, bacteria and mold.

Spider mites, soft brown scale, slugs, snails and bushy growth controlled by using Malathion or Diazinon. Spider mites can be controlled by using a miticide such as Kelthane. Slugs and snails are controlled with products containing Metaldehyde or Zectran. **Carefully read all instructions and follow all procedures.**

and root rot. Use Banrot, Benlate or Truban. **Carefully**

years. Young plants should be moved up as needed. Dead or damaged roots are trimmed off and the old flower spikes should be supported when they are at the second node, above the base of the plant.

helped enhance your knowledge of orchid. If we can be of further service, please don't hesitate to call.

Temperature

Maintain a minimum temperature of 53-62° at night.

Light

800-1200 footcandles of filtered light. Enjoys 2 or 3 hours of direct sunlight a day, but the heat of full, direct sunlight after midmorning will stress the plant severely.

Humidity

The more the better, but will thrive at 45-20% relative humidity.

Watering

Water at least once a week. During warm weather, water more often. Water from the top and allow the water to thoroughly drain out. **Never allow plants to dry out.**

Fertilizing

The plants should be fertilized on a regular basis with a balanced fertilizer.

Air Movement

Circulation of air, especially at higher humidities, helps retard spotting of the flowers, bacteria and mold. The sprays should gently move in the air.

Pests

The main pests of Phalaenopsis are mealybugs, spider mites, soft brown scale, slugs, snails. Mealybugs and soft brown scale may be controlled by using a miticide such as Kelthane. Slugs and snails are controlled with products containing Metaldehyde or Zectran. **Carefully read all instructions and follow all procedures.**

Diseases

The most common diseases are leaf rot, crown rot, root rot. Use Banrot, Benlate or Truban. **Carefully read all instructions and follow all procedures.**

Repotting and Staking

Mature plants should be repotted every one or two years. Young plants should be moved up as needed. Dead or damaged roots are trimmed off and the old flower spikes should be supported when they are at the second node, above the base of the plant. Use plastic pots and medium to large fir bark. Any stump below the new roots should be trimmed. Young plants should be 8-12" tall. After blooming it should be cut just above the node.

We hope this information has helped enhance your knowledge of this beautiful variety of orchid. If we can be of further service, please don't hesitate to call.

Phalaenopsis Orchids

Wes Addison

Phalaenopsis orchids are some of the most rewarding and easiest to grow of all orchids. Whether in the desert or in the most perfect growing conditions the phalaenopsis orchid can deliver months of spectacular flowers to the grower. The secret to growing all orchids is to know what they like and then to determine how to recreate those conditions.

In the desert we encounter relatively low humidity most of the year, excessively high temperatures for four months, moderately low temperatures for another four months, and light intensity all year that can bake an orchid leaf in no time at all. Phalaenopsis can easily adapt to all these conditions if they are given a little help. I think all of us would agree that four or more months of flowers are worth a little plant pampering.

Phalaenopsis (phals) orchids have five basic needs: light, humidity, temperature, watering/feeding, and air movement. Phals like relatively constant warm temperatures, medium to high humidity, moving air, relatively low light, frequent watering, and good drainage.

Light

Phals like direct, but filtered, sunlight. If you own a light meter the reading should be 1,000 to 1,500

footcandles of light. That's about 10% to 15% of direct sunlight. South or east facing window covered with a sheer curtain and light material should give a light and satisfy the needs of the north window usually won't get enough light for a good blo and a west window will not be too bright. A simple observation of the leaf color can tell quite about the adequacy of your dark green color normally the phal is receiving not enough light. Low light conditions stunt the growth of the phal and the growth of the phal and smaller and fewer flowers. green to yellow color mean much light. Too much light stunt the growth of the phal. some severe cases cause its The optimum color is a lime



your phal isn't resp... greenhouse
move it to another... range, from

Humidity

In the desert, humidity can be use...
difficult to control, but an evaporative
the summer humid... 50% humidity,
a high of 65 to 70% bacteria that
during the day. Insulating on
range can be as great as the growth
greenhouse, depending on the growth
of air conditioning...
cooler. Phals like... humidity does
so do the fungus... in a phal.
attack them. Contr... shape, and to
humidity is not critical.
of the phal, phals...
flower in dry env...
However, higher h... humidity
contribute substant...
growth, flower size...
the longevity of this is linked with

Low humidity will...
frequent watering...
will dictate a long...
watering. Some pe...
phals on pebble tra... orchids that
water to raise the... range of 62 to
in the growing area...

Temperature

Phals are warm gr...
prefer a temperature... 62 to 68
85 degrees. Even th...
maximum growing...
degrees, phals can...
temperatures of 95...
harming the plant.
temperature range...
degrees is suggeste...

... between 60 and 62...
... although I do alter my low...
... setting down to 55...
... in the early fall for a three...
... to help initiate spike...
... After the three weeks...
... temperatures I increase the...
... temperature to the 60 to 62...
... Maintaining a low...
... of 68 degrees within a...
... is sometimes difficult to co...
... to achieve a 1.5 degree...
... and low...
... a few weeks in the fall. If you...
... willing to let your house...
... drop that low, then...
... moving the phals out...
... for several weeks...
... a close eye on the weather so...
... exposed to temperatures...
... 55...

Water/Feeding

... like to have their roots...
... wet. Too much water whi...
... air from the roots. The loss...
... the roots will cause you...
... problems, the least of which is...
... healthy plant. The frequency of...
... will be determined by the...
... humidity, temperature, and air movement...
... with your growing area...
... rule is to not let your...
... roots dry out. A healthy root...
... and green to light white. An...
... foot is desiccated, brown...

be sufficient in maintaining a healthy
plant. Experience will help guide you
through the issue of when to water.
Don't be afraid to lift the plant
partially out of its pot to check on the
roots or potting media dampness. Try
to keep water out of the growing
crown. A wet crown can cause crown
rot which will kill the plant.

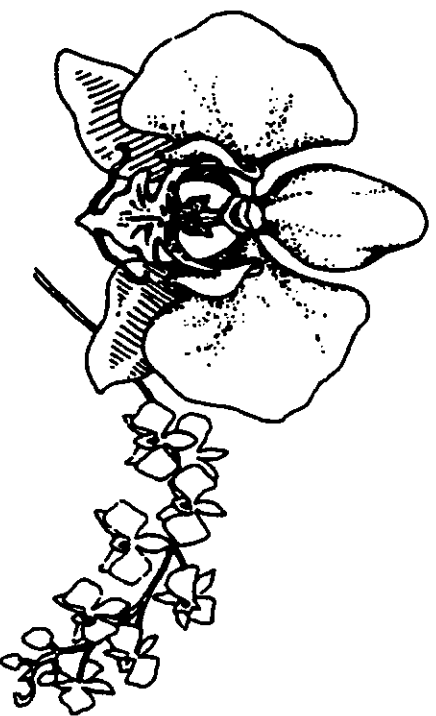
Everyone has a different opinion of
when and how to fertilize their phals.
I like to fertilize at every watering
with a 1/4 strength solution of a
balanced fertilizer. A balanced
fertilizer is one with equal or nearly
equal proportions of nitrogen,
phosphorous, and potassium. The
optimum PH of the water should be
between 6.0 and 6.5. Other growers
prefer fertilizing with higher
concentrations but less often. I also
add a small amount of trace elements
at each watering and Pro-Tek (a

plant cells against diseases.

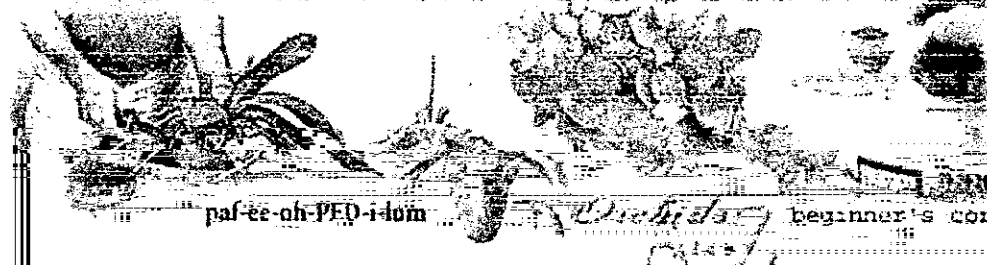
Air movement

Air movement is an essential element
in protecting the plant from bacteria
and diseases. Air movement will also
aid in strengthening the spike and
help keep the plant cool. A gentle
breeze will help your plant stay
healthy and happy.

In conclusion, I'll simply state that
the above conditions all need to be
adjusted to compensate for your
growing conditions. Phals are very
forgiving orchids that can give the
grower many months of beautiful
flowers with very little effort.
Remember that phals can adapt to
many different growing conditions
and still flourish.



All About Orchids



January/February Orchid Checklist

- Cattleya** Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.
- Cymbidium** We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.
- Lycaste** The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.
- Odontoglossums** Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.
- Paphiopedilum** The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while

in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

- **Phalaenopsis** Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.
- **Zygopetalum** For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose.

Please make selection

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