

Overtures

A Communication Instrument for Society Members and other Interested Parties

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Stimulating interest in Orchids and their culture as a nonprofit, educational organization...

Special Points of Note

- New slate of officers elected
- Annual Holiday Luncheon
- Introduction from president Steve Marak
- Into the New Year
- Discouraging fungus and bacteria during the winter months

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks meets the 4th Sunday of each month. Annual dues: \$10.00 for individual and \$15.00 for joint membership.

Steve Marak, President
3460 Roma Drive
Springdale, AR. 72762
smarak@osoweb.org

Editor: L. Aszod
Phone: 479-754-3262
webmaster@osoweb.org

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants...

By Louis Aszod

As most of you know, several months back, Tom Larkin asked if I would take over the editing of our *Overtures* newsletter.

I have to be honest: at the time, I wasn't very gung-ho about the idea. First off, I was already contemplating the closing of our commercial nursery, River Valley Orchidworks, with all of the hassle that such a thing entailed, not least of which was the necessity of finding a real job—one that actually paid. Taking on more work—more work of a *non-profit nature*--wasn't exactly high on my list of priorities. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, if I were to assume the responsibility of acting as the newsletter's editor, I would

be—well, following Tom. My input would be held up for scrutiny under a lamp whose “orchid glow” was and is far brighter than mine could ever be, and the thought of trying to illuminate where Tom's light left off quite frankly terrified me.

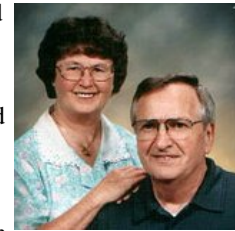
Yet, months later, here I find myself, with a new, decently paying job well underway. I am an orchid *hobbyist* once again, putting together my first issue of the OSO's *Overtures* at the beginning of the OSO's tenth anniversary year.

It's a heady challenge. The January issue is usually filled with ticklers—

highlights of programs we anticipate putting on over the next several months, but this year, we're going to put those decisions to the membership during our January meeting. I was also left with the freedom

to change the newsletter's format, its look and feel, its tone and its temper, to put in or leave out the “traditional content” as I saw fit. Such a prospect is exhilarating and freeing, but it's also intimidating—as any blank slate can be. We are under the leadership of a new executive board—so much newness, all at once!

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Barbara and Tom Larkin

A Presidential Introduction

By Steve Marak

I hope 2006 finds you all well.

I'm amazed that we are within a few months of the 10th anniversary of the OSO.

I hope you have all enjoyed

our society as much as I have. I grew orchids before there was an OSO, but having this group has added so much to my enjoyment of them.

We've had great speakers, great auctions, great plants, and a lot of fun. I've

learned a lot, and met some extraordinary growers, and - like most of you - I have many more orchids now than I did then.

Last year was an outstanding one for the OSO,

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Shoulders of Giants

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But when I get excited and frantic and feel like I can do nothing else but wring my hands at the prospect of all this, I just have to remember that we still have Tom, and we still have Barbara.

Rather than having to “illuminate where Tom’s light left off” I find that, actually, I am standing on the shoulders of giants.

Tom and Barbara were not only critical to the founding of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks ten years ago, but their unswerving dedication and tenacity, even through some potentially life-threatening setbacks, continues to make our society and the furthering of orchid

knowledge an integral and steadfast part of our lives.



I want to make very clear that whatever positive contributions I might add here

stem from the already great body of “excellence pursued” which is rooted solidly beneath my feet and continues to help support us, even through our tenth anniversary year. Tom and Barb, I could not have accomplished any of this without you.

So let’s get underway! It is my great and sincere pleasure to present to you the Orchid Society of the Ozarks’ new *Overtures*. Some of it will be comfortingly familiar, some of it, intriguingly different. But I hope that you, our readers, will find all of it educational and thought-provoking still, and will consider me worthy of editing it.

Sit back, take in the scent of that freshly-opened Cattleya out there on the sun porch, and enjoy!

Presidential Introduction

(Continued from page 1)

one of the high points being the very successful spring SWROGA show under Barbara’s and Tom’s leadership. It took tremendous effort from the whole society, but we should all be proud of the outcome. Speaking for myself, it was work, but it was fun.

I know this year is starting out a busy one

for many of us, but I hope you’ll come to the

January meeting and help us plan for 2006. There will be plenty of opportunity to help out in other ways, too!

“It took tremendous effort from the whole society, but we should all be proud...”

Best wishes for 2006, may all your orchids be beautiful (or in my case, bizarre and unusual).

—Steve Marak, President, Orchid Society of the Ozarks

What’s On the Slate for January 22nd

January’s meeting will be one of the most important of the year, as we’ll be putting together ideas for programs and outings we want to see happen over the months ahead. This type of **Open Forum** requires active participation from our membership!

What speakers would you like to hear? Is there a particular genus of orchids on which you’d like some expertise? Native

orchids will be coming into bloom over the next several months: how about some outings or field trips to enjoy them in their natural habitats? What shows should we make it a point of participating in?

All of these questions and more will be put before us,



West Indies, Soufriere Hills Volcano, in January. At the base of these slopes, orchids abound...

more than likely in a fun and interesting game where prizes will be up for the winning, so don’t miss this important day!

Food theme for the January meeting will be chili, prepared as creatively as you can imagine it. Meeting will take place at NTI, 1:30 p.m., so make it a point to be there!

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: December 11—Holiday Luncheon & Election

Thirty two members and several guests turned out for our annual Holiday Luncheon and Election of Officers on Decem-



ber 11. We had quite a feast! Many thanks to all those of you who signed up in November to prepare different portions of our menu. We would also like to extend a special “thank you” to Vickie and George Knight, Pauline Keegan, and Liz Hillbrand, all of whom arrived early to decorate our NTI meeting room in holiday attire. They did a superb job giving the space a warm and festive air, and the Luncheon wouldn’t have been half the gala event it was without their efforts.



After lunch, president Barbara Larkin brought the meeting to order, and after briefly reviewing



the Society’s accomplishments over the past year—not least of which included the hosting of the Spring 2005 SWROGA—turned the meeting over to Nominating Committee Chair Tom Larkin who called for the Election of Officers. The slate for the year 2006 was presented, and when no further nominations from the floor were forthcoming, the election was held.



The following Orchid Society of the Ozarks members were voted in to serve during 2006:

- Steve Marak, President**
- Bruce Brown, Vice President**
- Janice Samson, Treasurer**
- Tina Brewer, Secretary**
- Kathy Judy, Executive Board**
- Jean Schroter, Executive Board**

Barbara Larkin ceremoniously “passed the gavel” to newly elected President Steve Marak, who, in turn, presented Barbara with a gorgeous, crystal cube bearing a three dimensional Paph. bloom laser etched in its center and set on a small, octagonal mirror. The crystal trophy was presented for Barbara’s exemplary service to the Society during her tenure.



Each attending member then received door prizes consisting of various, fine Paph. and Phal. seedlings, after which the fun and games began.

Members had been asked to bring a gift to the meeting worth approximately \$15.00 and were handed a raffle ticket in return. When a member’s number was called, he or she could either choose a wrapped gift from the front or “steal” an already chosen, already unwrapped gift from another member. Only the member who wound up with a particular

gift on the third “steal” was allowed to keep the item permanently.



Needless to say, the orchids which had been brought in—several stunning Cattleyas in bloom, among various other, very fine plants—were the most sought after. Chuckles

gave way to uproars of laughs as members in possession of a plant tried to “hide” their prize from possible competitors.



The meeting adjourned with rounds of congratulations and applause, and the year 2005 was closed amidst wishes for happiness and good health in 2006.



We would like to extend a special “Happy and Healthy New Year” to Evelyn Schroter, who had suffered serious injuries in a horseback riding accident last November, and to Barbara Larkin, who had undergone surgery during the same time period. May the new year bring you healing and grant you both peace from worry or care.



**ORCHID SOCIETY OF THE
OZARKS**

Steve Marak, President
3460 Roma Drive
Springdale, AR. 72762
smarak@osoweb.org

Editor: Louis Aszod
Phone: 479-754-3262
E-mail: webmaster@osoweb.org

***A non-profit, educational
organization stimulating interest in
orchids and their culture***

We're on the web!

www.osoweb.org

Webmaster: Louis Aszod

webmaster@osoweb.org

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks came into existence with the Organizational Meeting of April 28, 1996, in which ten local orchid growers met with the purpose of forming the group. Since then, the Northwest Arkansas based Society's membership has grown considerably and now consists of over 100 members.

The OSO meets on the 4th Sunday of each month. Annual dues are: \$10.00 for an individual membership, \$15.00 for a joint membership.

For more information, please contact Membership Chairperson Lou Jasper at 479-855-4762, or, visit our website at www.osoweb.org and click the "Join" link.

What's Ahead

January 22, 2006

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd.,
Springdale AR. Regular Meeting
1:30 P.M.

Program: *Open Forum, events.*

Food: *Chili*

February 26, 2006

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd.,
Springdale AR. Regular Meeting
1:30 P.M.

Program: *TBA*

Food: *TBA*

Webnotes...

Orchid Society of the Ozarks member **Olin Karch** has submitted quite a bit of material on Arkansas' native orchids, including detailed descriptions and photographs of plants taken in situ. The website will be updated shortly with Olin's articles and pictures under the "Arkansas Native Orchids" link on the right of each web page.

The website's Members Only area is password protected. If you have forgotten the Society's username and password, please email webmaster@osoweb.org to have it sent to you.

You must be a member to request an @osoweb email address, reserve library books, or obtain an OSO Gallery login.

Don't wait; join today!

The Back Porch: Tips, tricks and tidbits for orchid growers

Discouraging fungus and bacteria during winter

If you grow plants outdoors during the summer and bring them in to a greenhouse or growroom for winter, it's easy to pack them too tightly in an effort to get everything protected and under cover. *Nothing is more encouraging to fungal and bacterial growth than stale,*

warm, damp air around plants pressed too closely together!

To discourage outbreaks of these contagions, add a fan or two to your growing area. Moving air will help retard the spread of these annoying diseases. Water your plants early in the morning so that their leaves have a chance to dry off before nightfall. If you cannot wa-

ter until late in the day, use a Physan solution mixed at 1/10 the recommended strength. While such a low concentration will not be strong enough to actually kill any harmful organisms, it will be strong enough to create an adverse micro-environment that will discourage their spread.

Submit questions for this column to: webmaster@osoweb.org, or to: tlarkin@osoweb.org