

Overtures

A Communication Instrument for Society Members and other Interested Parties

Volume XI Issue 3
March 2006



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

Special Points of Note

- How to read your orchid's label
- Laura Poore's Show and Tell
- OSO Mini-Auction, 2006
- On the Slate for March
- Website Updated: Arkansas Native Orchids now Online

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.

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Don't Lose That Name!

In the orchid world, your orchid's name means everything. Fortunes can be made when an orchid plant receives an award, and, without its name, your orchid's value can be seriously diminished.

An orchid plant originating from a reputable grower will have retained in its pot the grower's label. This label sets forth the plant's identification, and the information there is vital.

But how do you read it?

Let's look at an orchid's ID tag. Each word written there conveys a piece of information that lets you pick out not only your plant's name, but its heritage and, if it's awarded, the award it has received.

A fully written-out label will look something like this:

Paph. Hsinying Macasar 'Divinity' (Macabre 'HOF' HCC/AOS X Paph. Pulsar 'Fang Pacific')

The first word, **Paph.**, is the abbreviation for your plant's genus name, in this case, Paphiopedilum. This tells you that your plant is part of the slipper alliance. There are hundreds and hundreds of orchid genera (the plural of the word genus), and listings of the abbreviations for each genus can easily be found by searching the web.

Following the plant's genus name is the plant's *grex name*--in this case, **Hsiny-**

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Show and Tell

Photo, text, and grower:
Laura Poore

Editor's Note: Members who would like to see their orchid-growing efforts exhibited here may send a picture or two of their plant, along with a brief, possibly researched synopsis of its care and needs to:

lja@osoweb.org

Paphiopedilum liemianum

.I would like to tell you about one Paphiopedilum that has caught my eye...

The tiny, colorful flowers just melted my heart!

These slippers are among the easiest to grow and flower. No special care is

required for any of the taxa included in the Subgenus Cochlopetalum so general Paphiopedilum care will insure success.

Paphiopedilum liemianum will grow just fine sitting in



your brightest window, no direct sun... just bright

light... mine are growing in an east window.

Paphiopedilum liemianum needs to be watered often. Never let the potting mix dry out completely.

I grow Paphiopedilum liemianum in a bark mix and water just before the mix approaches dryness.

Paphiopedilum liemianum is not a heavy feeder, so I fertilize ¼ teaspoon to a gallon of water for 3 waterings and run clear water through the pots on the fourth watering.

I use the cal-mag fertilizer which supplies additional calcium, magnesium, and other micronutrients.

Name

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ing Macasar. Here, the first letters of this name are capitalized, telling you that this particular plant is a *hybrid*, a cross that has been artificially produced and does not occur naturally in the wild. If the first letter of the grex name had been in lower-case, as in *lowii*, this would have identified the plant as a naturally occurring, wild species. To recap, lowercase first letter in the grex means species. Uppercase first letter in the grex means hybrid.

Next comes the *cultivar name*, or *clonal epithet*: **‘Divinity’**. This name uniquely identifies the plant’s genetic makeup. In other words, many hybridizers may have propagated the grex Hsinying Macasar by crossing the parents which produce it. But the only plants that can bear the ‘Divinity’ epithet are those which are genetically identical to the original ‘Divinity’ cultivar when it was first

named: either vegetative divisions of the original plant, or cellular clones of the original plant. The clonal epithet or cultivar name is always enclosed in single quotation marks.

In many cases, the cross which produced the plant will be listed next, in parentheses. The *pod parent* (the parent which carried the fruit and produced the seed) is always listed first, followed by the *pollinating parent*, the plant whose pollen was used to make the cross. In this case, the pod parent is **Macabre** (a hybrid) **‘HOF’**,

and this parent has received an **HCC** award from the American Orchid Society, hence the abbreviations **HCC** (Highly Commended Certificate) / **AOS**. Then, the pollinating parent is listed following an “X”, meaning, “these two plants have



been crossed.”

“Without its name, your orchid’s value can be seriously diminished...”

Plants whose flowers have earned quality awards conferred by the American Orchid Society are much more desirable to own and, very often, are much higher in price as well, depending on the number produced. Recent

developments in cloning have put awarded orchids (which at one time would have only been accessible to the very wealthy) into the hands of the general public at reasonable prices. But nobody will ever know what orchid you have unless your orchid’s tag follows it through repotting, and plants with no

identification are not allowed entry into AOS sanctioned shows for judging.

So, whatever you do, don’t lose that name!

The AOS confers the following Quality Awards, among others. A full list can be found on the American Orchid Society website:

AM (Award of Merit): A flower scoring 80 to 89 points on a 100-point scale. This flower-quality award is a fine though lesser achievement than the FCC.

CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit): The beginning orchid grower may hope to attain this award because it recognizes the grower, rather than flower quality. The CCM/AOS may be given more than once if the plant continues to thrive and increase in both the size and number of flowers.

FCC (First Class Certificate): The highest flower-quality award, given to flowers scoring 90 points or more on a 100-point scale.

HCC (Highly Commended Certificate): The HCC is granted to a flower scoring 75 to 79 points on a 100-point scale. The great majority of awarded orchids receive this award, which implies that, while the flower is outstanding, there is room for improvement.

JC (Judges’ Commendation): Given for distinctive characteristics that the judges unanimously feel should be recognized but cannot be scored in the customary ways.

What’s On the Slate for March 26th

The Orchid Society of the Ozarks puts on several **mini-auctions** over the course of the year where only plants of the highest quality, donated by our supporting vendors, are offered for sale. By purchasing at one of our mini-auction events, you not only see exactly what you’re buying, you can come across grexes to which you may never have been exposed--plants with which you may just fall in love!



Let the bidding begin! OSO members and guests preparing to buy!

Our March meeting brings us the first of such auctions for 2006, and we hope you’ll attend! These auctions are the society’s primary means of raising money to fund speaking

engagements and shows, so besides the chance of acquiring orchid plants at incredibly reasonable prices, you will be helping the Orchid Society of the Ozarks continue its mission and work. This month brings us some fantastic, blooming-sized **Cattleyas**, **Phalaenopsis**, and **Oncidiinae**, many of which are in bud or spike. Bring a discerning eye, and don’t forget your checkbook!

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Slate for March 26

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Additionally, we will be hosting a demonstration and discussion panel on orchid potting techniques. Several different potting medias will be brought in, some with which you may already be familiar, and we will be discussing the properties of each medium: its water-retention, drainage, the implications of its grade or coarseness, its biological breakdown, as well as the appropriate fitting of various medias to different plant types and re-

quirements. This program will offer OSO members and guests a great chance to learn about why orchids are potted in certain media, and what methods can lead to success or failure. Between this program and our mini-auction, the March meeting is one you will want to attend!



The food theme this month will be cen-

tered around chicken, and, as always, side dishes, desserts, sodas, and ice are necessary.

See you all **Sunday, March 26th at 1:30 p.m.** Auction plants will be set up prior to the meeting's start, so come early to give each of these plants a good look. Don't forget to bring your questions about orchid potting and medias, and if you have the chance, bring a guest along too! See you there!

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: February 26—Show Slides and Growers Panel

Thirty-two members and two guests attended our February 26 meeting, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to **Sue Hucklebee** and **Wanda Dugan** for giving one of our meetings a try. We hope you both become members!



Whippoorwill Orchids set up a very nice table of blooming and near-blooming-sized Cattleyas for members to buy, and once **President Steve Marak** brought the meeting to order, several items of note were put forth for discussion.



First and foremost, we have offered to host the **spring 2008 SWROGA Business Meeting and Show** which would take place on the **2nd, 3rd, and 4th of May, 2008**. Given the response we received for our 2005 effort, our offer was met with some excitement! We are still waiting for official approval from the SWROGA board, but in anticipation of a positive outcome, we are holding off on scheduling a third speaker for 2006 so that we can build up our treasury.



We have firmed up a speaking engagement with **Dottie Woodson** of the Dallas area USDA who will be speaking on *Integrated Pest Management* at our May meeting. **Gene Crocker** from **Carter and Holmes** will be speaking to the membership in October.

The membership also elected to bring back our monthly **Orchid Judging**, and we look forward to starting this tradition up again at our March meeting.

Members **John Fugedy**, **Jamie Holden**, and **Olin Karch** brought in several very nice plants for **Show and Tell**. The group drew quite an audience as they explained their trials and techniques for ultimately growing their plants successfully! (Show and Tell has now been moved to the Newsletter: please submit a photo or two of your plant along with a brief description of its needs to: lja@osoweb.org).



OSO member **Olin Karch** treated members to slides taken of the **Missouri Bo-**

tanical Gardens orchid show as well as to pictures of several **Arkansas native orchids** the membership anticipates seeing during the **Buffalo River field trip**



Olin will be hosting for us on the first weekend of May.

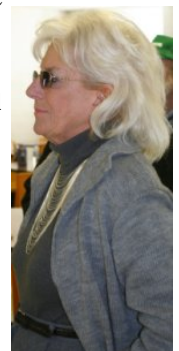
Many thanks to all of our members who brought food and drink in February!

After an excellent lunch, our Grower Discussion Panel was convened. Topics were diverse, ranging from the effective treatment of scale and using Neem oil as a pesticide to salvaging orchids with no roots, staking Phals, bud-blast from gas, and symptoms of over-fertilization.

Raffle tickets for plants donated by **Tropical Orchid Farm** as well as by **Tom and Barbara Larkin** were purchased by the majority of the members, and

several people went home with some very nice, not commonly seen orchids!

Important note: We will be holding our first Mini-Auction for 2006 at our March 26 meeting! Be sure to attend at 1:30 p.m. Don't miss out on some excellent buys!





ORCHID SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS

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

We're on the web!

www.osoweb.org

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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

March 26, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale AR. Regular Meeting.
Program: Mini-Auction, Potting Techniques and Medias.

Food: Chicken dishes, salads, side dishes, desserts. Please bring sodas and ice!

April 23, 2006, 11:00 a.m..

9th Annual Orchidfest to be held at Whippoorwill Orchids, 9790 Larkin Lane, Rogers, AR. Contact **Tom or Barbara Larkin** at 479-925-2228 or visit

www.wiprlark.com/directions.htm for driving directions.

Webnotes...

If you haven't done so already, be sure to check out the OSOWEB's **Arkansas Native Orchids** link. OSO member Olin Karch has graciously supplied photos and descriptive text regarding dozens



of native plants he has found growing within an hour's walk of his woodside cabin. In early May, Olin will be hosting this year's Field Trip for members in good health to see native orchids blooming in situ.

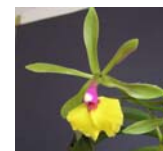
The Back Porch: Tips, tricks and tidbits for orchid growers

Avoiding Brown Leaf Tips

Leaf tip browning can be caused by two main culprits: fungal infection, or the rushing of salts to a leaf's edge after watering. If a fungal infection is to blame, the browning will fade to yellow before reaching the healthy, green part of the leaf. Salt burn, on the other hand, is evidenced by a crisp line between the brown

tip and the leaf's healthy green, with no yellowing or *chlorosis*. On Phrags, Paphs, and other plants which generally should not dry out between waterings, brown leaf tips can be avoided by keeping the plant's medium evenly moist. Fertilizer salts *already in the leaves* can rush to the tips and kill them when watering is resumed after roots have been allowed to dry out! Water more often using a weaker fert. solution.

Apologies...



Editor's Note: In putting together last month's **Show and Tell**, I completely neglected to give **Barbara Chance** due credit as the grower of the lovely Epc. Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower' HCC/AOS that was featured on the front page. Barbara, please accept my apologies, and thank you so much once again!