South Jersey Orchidist

South Jersey Orchid Society | www.geocities.com/sjosus | Volume 23 Number 8 | May 2007

Next Meeting
Sunday May 20 2007
1:00 pm

Growing species Phals
(and hybrids too !)

Charles Ufford is an avid orchid grower and photographer who enjoys phal species among others in his Upstate NY apartment under lights and on windowsills. He works as part of the growing team at the Utica, NY site of the family-owned Kurt Weiss Greenhouses, Center Moriches NY, which is a wholesale flowering plants facility. He has grown orchids since the '80's, and has now learned a little about how to not kill so many of them.
He will be going over the highlights of a culture sheet and what's important on them, where they can be found. His program will introduce us on how to use the culture sheets for better species growing culture and to find out which ones would be the easiest to grow in any particular conditions.
In his spare time, Charles also likes to photograph tropical and native orchids.

May Refreshments

Evey Block
Sherron Davis

Our memories of Pat

Pat to us was half of 'Pat and Ernie'

Pat was one of my biggest challenges as an orchid society judge – but he really did stake his orchids ……well, sometimes! He said he liked them 'ala natural'.

I find it hard to remember him by his hair since he changed the style and color monthly. I always wanted Pat to cut and style my hair but to tell you the truth I was too scared to try it.

They may have removed his sternum but not his heart

He'll never be known for not speaking his mind (regardless of how far Ernie would crawl under the table)

My scooter memories – wheeling around the King of Prussia mall with Pat crashing into everything. Then, finally thanking Ernie for buying the scooter even though he insisted he "wasn't handicapped"

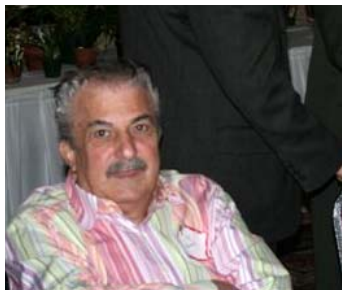
Memories of great dinners and restaurants - of course with Pat and Ernie

Having on call my own 'personal' master gardener who always knew the answers – did I know you had to smash not cut the stems???? He did!!!

Pat being just a 'tad' flamboyant whenever he could be; for instance:
I was told he wanted to wear a blond wig so he could pretend he was me when asked to substitute at our orchid show table judging

And finally, Pat, you will **never**, **never,** be gone from our memories**.**

With love,
Nancy Volpe



A few words from Kathleen Harvey

As the weather warms and the days lengthen, now is the time to transplant and divide your orchids. When dividing, please keep our society's annual auction in mind for the fall. The auction is our primary fund raiser for the year, and we need your divisions to help pay for speakers and the Christmas banquet.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our dear friend and Vice President, Pat DiSanto who lost his battle with lung cancer on May 4. Pat held many officer and trustee positions at South Jersey Orchid Society, including past president.

Pat was an accomplished orchid grower who received an AM/AOS at this year's Philadelphia Flower Show for Paph Yerba Buena, and a best of the blues rosette for a cattleya at Longwood this past March. As a master gardener, Pat also belonged to numerous garden clubs and was frequently bombarded with requests to identify plants and recommend how to care for them. Pat and Ernie opened their home and gardens to us for the annual SJOS awards picnic for many years. Their spectacular gardens and ponds are one of the finest in the area, and we were lucky to have him as our host and friend. His smile, sense of humor, and design flair as our artistic director for shows will be sorely missed. -

April 2007
Show Table

Cattleya	
Lc Springtime	Carla Vandegrift
Lc Orange Glory	Carla Vandegrift
C Caribbean 'Orange Bowl' HCC/AOS	Carla Vandegrift
Slc Tutankamen 'Pop' AM/AOS	Bob Taylor
Lc Mini Purple 'Candy Tuft'	Bob Taylor
Iwan Appleblossom	Dianne Haaf
Paphiopedilum	
Paph barbigerum	Kathleen Harvey
Paph Muriel Constance	Kathleen Harvey
Paph Onyx	Kathleen Harvey
Paph Ho Chi Minh	Kathleen Harvey
Paph Harold Koopowitz	Frank Heiler
Phrag besseae 'Sun Fire'	Frank Heiler
Phrag Jason Fischer	Kathleen Harvey
Phrag Jason Fischer	Frank Heiler
Phrag Jason Fischer	Frank Heiler
Phrag wallisii x Phrag warscewiczianum	Kathleen Harvey
Phrag wallisii	Carla Vandegrift
Oncidium	
Onc splendidum	Kathleen Harvey
Misc Hybrids	
Masd hybrid	Carla Vandegrift
Misc Species	
Sarco hartmannii	Frank Heiler
Phalaenopsis	
Dtps Brother Cortez Red	Frank Heiler
Dtps Taida Pearl	Frank Heiler
Dendrobium	
Den Yellow Song 'Canary'	Frank Heiler

2007, 10th Annual Summer Orchid Fest

Dates: July 28 & 29
Saturday 9am to 5pm & Sunday 9am to 3pm
at Parkside Orchid Nursery in Ottsville, PA

Presenters:

Linda Wilhelm	Woodland Orchids
Roger W. Mustalish, Ph.D.	The Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research. (ACEER)
Arthur Katz	Chairman and Mid Atlantic Regional Judges

For Info
call 610-847-8039 or on the web at www.parksideorchids.com

May/June Orchid Check List

The AOS thanks Ned Nash for this essay ...

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

(Continued on page 4)

ALLELOPATHY IN ORCHIDS

By Mike Meads (Taken from The Deep Cut Orchid Society Newsletter)

Have you orchids that just sit in their pots and do not appear to grow or flower and appear stunted?

In fact they have been like that for so long that they now have a thick carpet of moss on top of the bark or mix! Do you lose many of your flasked and replated seedlings? If so, read on as you are probably suffering the effects of allelopathy.

What is Allelopathy? Allelopathy is a chemical process that a plant uses to keep other plants out of its space. There are several types of chemical allelopathy. In one kind, the plant that is protecting its space releases growth compounds from its roots into the ground. New plants trying to grow near the allelopathic plant absorb those chemicals from the soil and are unable to live. A second type of allelopathy releases chemicals that slows or stops the process of photosynthesis. An allelopathic plant may also release chemicals that change the amount of chlorophyll the plant has in it. When a plant's chlorophyll levels are changed, it cannot make the food it needs, and the plant dies.

Allelopathy refers to the harmful effects of one plant on another plant by the release of chemicals from plant parts by leaching, root exudation, volatilisation, residue decomposition and other processes in both nature and in our glasshouses.

There are several ways in which an allelopathic plant can release its protective chemicals:
Leaching - All plants lose leaves. Some plants store protective chemicals in the leaves they drop. When the leaves fall to the ground, they decompose. As this happens, the leaves give off chemicals that protect the plant.

Exudation - Some plants release defensive chemicals into the soil through their roots and those chemicals are absorbed by the roots of orchids near the allelopathic one .. As a result, the nonallelopathic orchid is damaged.

Volatilisation - Allelopathic plants release a chemical in the form of a gas through small openings in their leaves. Other plants absorb the toxic chemical and die.

First widely studied in forestry systems, allelopathy can affect many aspects of plant ecology including occurrence, growth , plant succession, the structure of plant communities, dominance, diversity, and plant productivity. Early research grew out of observations of poor regeneration of forest species, crop damage, yield reductions, replant problems for tree crops, occurrence of weed-free zones, and other related changes in patterns of vegetation. My purpose here is to introduce the concept of allelopathy in cultivated orchid species.

Nature of Allelopathy: Commonly cited effects of allelopathy include reduced germination and seedling growth. Like synthetic herbicides, there is no common mode of action or physiological target site for all allelochemicals. However, known sites of action for some allelochemicals include cell division, pollen germination, nutrient uptake, photosynthesis, and specific enzyme function.

Allelopathic inhibition is complex and can involve the interaction of different classes of chemicals like phenolic compounds, flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, steroids, carbohydrates, and amino acids, with mixtures of different compounds sometimes having a greater allelopathic effect than individual compounds alone. Furthermore, physiological and environmental stresses, pests and diseases, solar radiation, herbicides, and less than optimal nutrient, moisture, and temperature levels can also affect allelopathic suppression. Different plant parts, including flowers, leaves, pseudobulbs, stems, roots, and your potting medium, can have allelopathic activity that varies over a growing season. Allelopathic chemicals can also persist in bark mix and medium, affecting both neighboring plants as well as those planted in succession if you reuse your bark mixture.

What can I do to protect my orchids? --.

Replate seedlings often and do not leave seedlings in compots too long or you will end up with a few healthy ones and a lot of runts. Many orchids contain allelochemicals, particularly roots, but few if any have been tested.

Repot regularly. If you use bark, ensure that it has been well soaked to free it of all allelochemicals. The bark of most Pinus species is heavily loaded with allelochemicals.

When you water, flood the pot to flush any salts and build up of chemicals. Make sure all of your pots have good drainage. Make sure that water draining from your vandaceous plants does not spill into other orchids below as many of the vandaceous contain allelochemicals.

Sphagnum moss contains antibiotics and is generally free of phenolic compounds and allelopathic inhibitors. However, not all orchids like to grow in sphagnum moss. Phragmipediums adore it!

Remove all signs of any other mosses and ferns. The tight compact moss may keep the surface of your potted orchid looking tidy, but this moss has one the worst allelopathic effects. A carpet of moss can kill phalaenopsis seedlings or more mature plants can become severely stunted. Without repotting, plants will never reach flowering size. Repot it without the moss and watch it suddenly respond.

Ferns too are loaded with allelochemicals. A small paphiopedilum orchid struggling to survive against the inhibiting chemicals of a strong growing fern. Venture into any of our New Zealand forests and note how nothing else grows where there are ferns. Kidney fern in beech forest is a good example.

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Orchid Calendar of Events

May 20 SJOS Mnthly meeting

June 17 SJOS Montly meeting

Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29,
The 10th Annual Summer Orchid Fest**2007**

Nov 9 & 10 2007 Merrit Huntington Memorial Symposium

Symposium Program Features

Rob Griesbach ~ Moderator
Linda Thorne ~ Merritt Memories
Jeff Bradley ~ Classic Cattleyas
Carri Raven-Riemann ~ Phalaenopsis
Yin-Tung Wang, PhD ~ Nobile Dendrobiums
Dr. Norito Hasegawa ~ Paphiopedilums
National Capital Judging Center November AOS Judging

(Continued from page 2)

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.