

Overtures

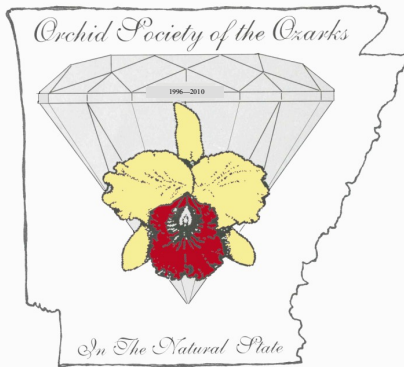
A Communication Instrument for Society Members and other Interested Parties

Volume XV Issue 2

February 2010

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Spotlight on Water Quality: ZERO Water Cathy Marak



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

Special Points of Note

- Zero Water
- Notes from the Program Chair
- January Meeting Highlights
- Rf Orchids —Auction Donor
- Oak Hill Gardens —Auction Donor
- Sarah's Musings
- In Memory—John Fugedy

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.

Suzanne Hobbs, President
37 N. Palmer Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72701
suzannehobbs@swbell.net

Editor: T. Larkin
Phone: 479-925-2228
Email tslarkinjr@yahoo.com

Editors note: OSO is constantly looking for information that will be beneficial to the members. With the costs and installation issues of RO systems for the smaller grower, nothing could be more timely and helpful than this research effort by Cathy.

All the OSO talk about orchid water quality has made me sensitive to all ads and articles about water filtering systems. I go into stores and I have to walk by and see what water filtering products are available. I saw a commercial on television for a “Zero Water” water filter pitcher. Its tagline was “If it’s not all zeros-it’s not Zero Water.” The “zeros” it is referring to is zero TDS (total dissolved solids) which is one of the tests (along with pH) that was done on member’s water at the last meeting. In the ad the pitchman is using what looks like a TDS meter (as you saw last meeting) which is included with the purchase of the pitcher. Of course we

had to try it so off to Target we went and picked one up.

We tested the Zero Water pitcher with our tap water and we used both the TDS meter that came with the pitcher and Steve’s which he had at our January meeting. Zero Water lived up to its name. It lowered our tap water from around 80 ppm (parts per million) dissolved solids to 0. We double checked the meter with Steve’s meter (which has greater precision than the Zero Water TDS meter but similar accuracy) and the results were consistent (0.2). We also tested the pH (meter was not included, we used our own) and it was lowered from around 8.5 to around 7.5. If you remember this is a pretty good range for orchids especially as adding fertilizers lowers the pH even more and maximum pH for absorption of nutrients is around pH 6. The maker claims the water produced is of similar purity to RO (reverse osmosis) water.

The cost of the pitcher, the TDS meter, and one filter is around \$35.00. The pitcher will hold 2 quarts of water at a time and for our water (85 ppm



TDS) we should be able to get 25 to 40 gallons from one filter. With the cost per filter of \$15.00, that works out to 38 to 60 cents per gallon (not including the initial pitcher cost) versus about 90 cents at discount stores for distilled water (and no transportation costs).

One use we have thought of for this filter pitcher is for Steve’s office. He has been hauling distilled water up in order to water the few plants he has there. Keeping a pitcher there would eliminate the need to purchase distilled water (and remember to take it in). We also may use it for particularly sensitive plants that need better quality water than we can produce at this time (we’ve been buying distilled water).

We think this is a pretty good deal for small collections or for especially sensitive plants within a larger collection.



Notes from your Program Chair Sarah Waddoups

Looking Forward:

February 28, 2010: A 50-year obsession with orchids! Our own Olin Karch will present photographs of orchids in situ that he has encountered in the US, Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, and along the Amazon and in the Andes in Peru. It has quite literally taken Olin a lifetime to prepare this presentation, and it will be wonderful to see orchids where they really grow.

March 28, 2010: Repotting and Media Sales. Last year's media sales was such a hit that we are going to do it again this year. We've learned too that we need to make more media available as we ran out. Volunteers to repot the bulk quantities into smaller-sized bags were requested at the January meeting. *If you have a specific genus you would like to have discussed or specific media or repotting questions, please either tell Sarah at the February meeting or email her at rswad-doups@yahoo.com.*

April 11, 2010: Larkin's Orchid-fest. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., the Larkins will open their greenhouse for food, fun and fine friends. As those of you who have attended in the past know, Barb cooks up a delicious lunch and there are many, many wonderful orchids available for purchase at great prices. *Please note the date, time and location change.* The Larkin's home is located at 9790 Larkin Lane, Rogers, Arkansas.

May 23, 2010: Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn will be our guest speaker and will have plants to sell. You can visit his website for a preview at www.orchidinnusa.com. Sam offers a wide selection of cutting edge paph breeding and long-time favorite paphs.

June 27, 2010: Tom Nasser of Carolina Orchids will be our guest speaker and will have plants for sale. www.carolinaorchids.com – and there are many, many orchids that aren't listed, so email or give him a call if you are hoping for something in particular. Tom offers a wide variety of species and genera.



2010 AOS Members Meeting & Show
April 28 – May 2

Hosted by:
The Oklahoma Orchid Society

Meetings of the:

- ☺ American Orchid Society
- ☺ Southwest Region Orchid Growers Assn.
- ☺ International Phalaenopsis Alliance
- ☺ Slipper Orchid Alliance
- ☺ Pleurothallid Alliance
- ☺ Orchid Digest Corporation
- ☺ Keynote speaker: **Joyce Stewart from Great Britain**

Vendors include:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Andy's Orchids | Paphanatics Unlimited |
| Oak Hill Gardens | Ecuagenera Cia. Ltda |
| Faith, Hope & Orchids | The Orchid Gallery |
| Orchid Inn, Ltd. | Prairie Orchids |
| Clown Alley Orchids | WareWolf Arts |
| Okie Orchids | New Vision Orchids |
| Dawn Vertrees Jewelry | Bird's Botanicals |

Show & Sales open to the public
April 30 – May 1 - 10AM-5PM, May 2 - 10AM-4PM
Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center
737 S. Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73108
www.clarionokc.com

Details & Show Registration: <http://2010aosshow.oosorchids.org>

OOS 1950-2010 AOS SWROGA

January 25th Meeting Highlights

Sarah Waddoups, presented a program on water quality, its importance and various methods of securing quality water as well as the testing modes. Several members brought water for testing and other members furnished equipment for the testing.

Pictures courtesy of Cathy and Steve Marak and Shari Loftis.

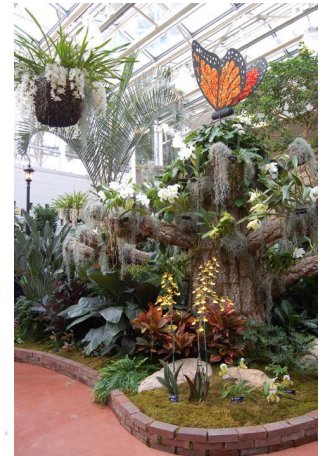


MoBotGd & Missouri O.S. Orchid Show Suzanne Hobbs

There is nothing more satisfying to me on a cold, snowy day than walking into a warm, humid, orchid filled space. Once again, the Missouri Botanical Gardens has provided me with this treasured luxury. This is a "must see" for every orchid lover...

Annually, The Missouri Botanical Gardens holds an orchid show. With changing themes and constant rotation of specimens, each year provides a new experience. This is a chance to enjoy well grown plants, hone your photography skills and appreciate the artistry involved in exhibition. And, in my case, to discover new "must have" plants! If you have a chance to visit Saint Louis between now and March 28th, don't miss this French inspired tour.

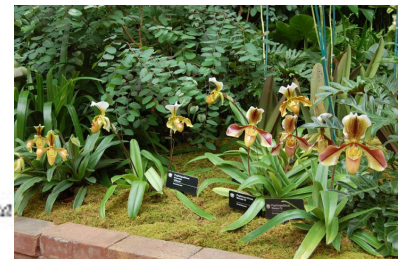
For more information on this event, please visit <http://www.mobot.org/events/orchidshow/default.asp>



Orchidée du jour

Sample listing of orchids in the show. Please note: not all genera will be on display at any one time.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Angraecum</i> | <i>Dendrochilum</i> | <i>Phaius</i> |
| <i>Ascocenda</i> | <i>Doritaenopsis</i> | <i>Phalaenopsis</i> |
| <i>Brassocattleya</i> | <i>Epidendrum</i> | <i>Phragmipedium</i> |
| <i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> | <i>Laelia</i> | <i>Potinara</i> |
| <i>Bulbophyllum</i> | <i>Laeliocattleya</i> | <i>Prosthechea</i> |
| <i>Cattleya</i> | <i>Maxillaria</i> | <i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> |
| <i>Cymbidium</i> | <i>Oncidium</i> | <i>Vanda</i> |
| <i>Dendrobium</i> | <i>Paphiopedilum</i> | <i>Vanilla</i> |



Chez nous

Orchids are the Garden's largest living collection, with over 8,000 plants and 2,500 varieties. Some specimens date back more than a century, such as the vanilla orchid *Vanilla planifolia* (the species used in vanilla extract) which debuted in 1904. The genera *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Epidendrum*, *Oncidium*, *Paphiopedilum*, and *Phalaenopsis* are emphasized because they can withstand St. Louis's blistering summer heat.

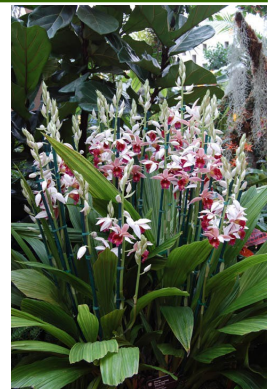
The show is designed anew each year by the Garden's floral display team. Construction and installation of the show begins immediately following the annual holiday flower and train show, although the Garden's Horticulture Division and volunteers prepare for the show months in advance.



Missouri Show continued....



Use your cell phone to access a free audio tour. You'll hear intriguing stories about orchid lore and history and learn how to care for your own plants. Call **(314) 558-4357** and follow the prompts (the call is free, but minutes apply).



La famille Orchidée

- Orchids are the largest flowering plant family in the world, with 30,000–35,000 species.
- Orchids come in all sizes— from pinhead to football!
- Orchids grow wild on every continent except Antarctica.



Préservation de l'Orchidée

Orchids are extremely vulnerable to extinction in nature. All orchids at the Missouri Botanical Garden have been carefully and legally acquired in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Garden researchers work throughout the world to preserve the ecosystems orchids depend upon. Help the Garden protect these rare treasures with your donation to the Henry Shaw Fund at the Membership Services Desk today, or visit www.mobot.org.



Chez vous

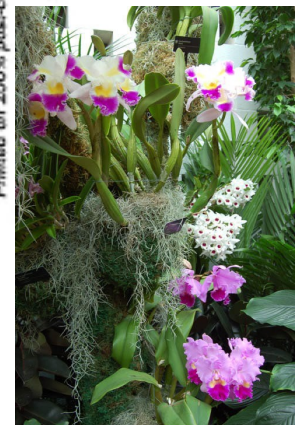
Visit the Garden Gate Shop to purchase fine orchids, decorative pots, and more. All proceeds benefit the Garden.



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Please return to the holder, if you do not wish to keep this card.

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Oak Hill Gardens



Oak Hill Gardens' diversified business includes plant boarding, some plant rental, gift plant deliveries to Chicago and suburbs, house plant walk-in trade (both retail and wholesale) as well as the mail order shipping portion. Species orchids are a strong feature of the firm as well as hybrids of the unusual type for the hobby grower. Expansion has brought a total of over 20,000 sq. ft. under glass in eight greenhouses.



Oak Hill Gardens is proud to celebrate it's 37th year in business in 2010.

Orchids!

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Suzanne's Musings!

Wouldn't you know it, my first meeting and some real serious business arose. You will see in the supplement the proposed change to the Constitution and By-laws, which will be voted on this month. Be sure to check it out. While you all were buried in snow, I was buried in Orchids at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, check out my account of that experience on pages 4 & 5. See you Sunday!

Cheers, Suzanne

What's Ahead

February 28, 2010

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd.,
Springdale AR. 1:30

Program: Water Quality

March 28, 2010

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd.,
Springdale AR. 1:30

Program: Repotting and media Sales

About OSO...

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 Suzanne Hobbs 479-236-0760 email shobbs@sellingnwa.com, or, visit our website at www.oso-web.org and click the "Join" link.

Back Porch In Memory—John Fugedy

OSO member John Fugedy passed away on Jan 19, 2010. John was one of the original OSO founding members and has been an avid contributor and supporter since our beginning in 1996. John will be sorely missed by all his "orchid buddies".



Ble. John Fugedy

John Fugedy Trophy 2008 OSO Show

BUSINESS NAME

Suzanne Hobbs, President
37 N. Palmer Ave
Fayetteville, AR 72701
suzannehobbs@swbell.net

Phone: T. Larkin
Fax: 479-925-2228
E-mail: tslarkinjr@yahoo.com

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

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www.oso-web.org

Webmaster: Bruce Brown

webmaster@oso-web.org

