

Overtures

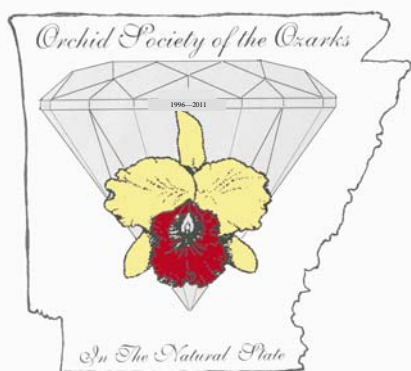
A Communication Instrument for Society Members and other Interested Parties

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Volume XVI Issue 6

June 2011



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

Special Points of Note

- Pollination biology
- Memphis MAOC
- Notes from the Program Chair
- Suzanne's Musings
- Back Porch - Orchids Plus

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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“The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids” ... Dr. Doug Martin



(Editors Note: OSO ranks have changed over the last 5 years with lots of new members.. Occasionally a great program comes along that bears repeating especially in light of the new faces. Doug presented this program back in November of 2006. It was so impressive to me and left such a mark on my memory, having seen other versions of the same issue, that I thought posting Dougs biography along with the write up I did in response to the presentation. Doug has since presented this at several societies with similar receptions. This is absolutely a program you don't want to miss.)

The OSO June 26 program will feature Dr. Doug Martin on pollination techniques before ‘toothpicks’ or officially “The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids: Pollination Biology”.

Doug will explain how orchid pollination works, then discuss the various rewards and deceptions that orchids use to induce birds, bees and other beasts to take the place of toothpicks. He will also describe some of the tricks orchids have developed to prevent self pollination and hybridization.

Doug was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. He went to college and graduate school at Clarkson College in Potsdam, NY where he earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry. While there he also got married and had two daughters, Karin and Kristin (Karin now grows orchids, too!). After graduate school, he became a Postdoctoral Fellow in Molecular Biochemistry at Yale Medical School. He was there for fourteen years, eventually becoming a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Therapeutic Radiology where he studied experimental cancer therapeutics. In 1985, he moved to Kansas City and KU Medical School where he was the Director of Research for the Brain Tumor Institute of Kansas City. In 1988, he moved to St. Louis and sold genetic research equipment and supplies.

In St. Louis Doug met Beth and discovered orchids. His life hasn't been the same since. He remembers being at the Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show and thinking “These are much more interesting than african violets!” Beth and Doug were married in 1990, and in 1991 Beth, bowing to the inevitable, bought Doug an orchid (from Orchids by ViCli) for Valentine's Day. Doug immediately bought himself a second orchid and a week later while visiting friends in Little Rock they

Cont'd "The Birds, The Bees and the Orchids"..... Dr. Doug Martin

bought three more. In 1992 Doug quit sales and opened Biosource Orchid Lab to do seed flasking and stem propagation for orchid growers. For five years people sent him orchid seed and paid him to play with it.

In 1997 Beth took a position with State Street Bank in Kansas City. They moved from St. Louis to Kansas City, Doug closed the lab and started teaching Chemistry at Penn Valley Community College. They have spent many, many hours remodeling the house they bought, and it is finally a comfortable home for them, their yellow Lab, Mina, and their cats Batman and Carlos.

Doug and Beth have about 200 orchids, about half species and half hybrids, which Doug grows under lights in a 18 x 20 foot room in the basement. In the past he has grown them on windowsills and in a greenhouse. His favorites are species and the slipper orchids. Although many people think he really likes the "little weird ones", which have sometimes been referred to as "Doug Martin plants", in fact he grows those mostly for Beth. His true orchid passion is the native orchids which he loves to find and photograph in the wild and is attempting to grow in pots.

Doug has been President of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, chairman of the Mid-America Orchid Congress Conservation Committee and Vice President of the Missouri Orchid Society. Doug most recently served as President of the MAOC. His favorite orchid experience is the collecting trip he and Beth took to Belize in 1996.

Outside of orchids, Doug's interests include science, scuba diving, and history, particularly medieval English history.



PART II: *(Editors Note: This is the write up I did for the December 2006 Newsletter after the Presentation in November. If you accept what I say about my experience with presentations on this subject (from presenters such as Dr. Cal Dodson, Dr. Robert Gillespie & Dr. Robert Dressler, then you realize the value I place on Doug's version.*

AGAIN, YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS PROGRAM.

The OSO November (2006) program featured Dr. Doug Martin on pollination techniques before 'toothpicks' or officially "The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids: Pollination Biology".

Doug's Talk, based on Charles Darwin's book published in 1862 entitled "The various Contrivances by which British and Foreign Orchids are Fertilized by Insects", elevated this topic and program to a must for all societies. Doug's mastering of the subject was stupendous, his method of presentation, blending light humor with science, was a delight.

This topic has been presented by some very famous folks but never with this command of the audience's attention.

All the tricks of Nature were revealed in great detail. The mimicry, the traps, the out and out deception that orchids perpetrate on innocent unsuspecting

insects is described and depicted in both slides and detailed drawings.

Doug cited several books available besides Darwin's (although it is available in reprint). Some of the most notable are *The Biology of Orchids* by Dodson and Gillespie and *Orchid Flowers Their Pollination and Evolution*, by Van der Pijl and Dodson. I for one have seen programs on this subject presented before and by some of the authors of the books that are published. Never have I been as captivated, amused and entertained as I was with Doug's rendition of the subject.

Just enough Science to make it valid, enough humor to make it light and appealing and enough audio visual effects to make it very educational. And add to this Doug's obvious mastery of the subject and you have the makings of an outstanding program. Those of you out there who read this and are in the position of arranging programs for your society should take note, your society members will love you for it.

It is always a pleasure to have Doug and his Lovely wife Beth as presenters and we look forward to the next program they develop.



Memphis 2011 MAOC Steve & Cathy Marak



(formerly *Brassavola digbyana* which is one of my favorite orchids – there is no more lovely fragrance, and I think the huge fimbriated (fringed) lip is beautiful. Doug Martin received a Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) of 90 points

While OSO members were hosting Peter Lin at our May meeting, Cathy and I headed east to the Mid-America Orchid Congress' spring meeting, hosted by the Memphis Orchid Society. This was during the spring monsoons, so weather was definitely on our minds, but we checked and the hotel was on the other side of Memphis from the Mississippi River so we left the ark at home and took our car.

Ironically, we drove through lots of rain going and coming, but while we were there the rain stopped and the sun shone. We were so busy at the show we didn't actually get outside between check in and checkout, but there was real sunlight coming in the windows.

The Mississippi River had crested a few days before, but was still hugely swollen. At the I-40 bridge it was miles out of its normal banks, and was simply awe-inspiring ... not in a good way like the Grand Canyon or the Rockies, more like frightening recognition of how powerful nature is, and how little we can do about it.

Fortunately, there was plenty at the show to distract us. There were more than 300 plants exhibited, and – if I have my statistics right – there were 37 pulled for AOS judging and 11 AOS awards, showing that there were a lot of quality plants. Nathan Bell took best in the *Cattleya* class for a *Rhyncholaelia*

for his specimen *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (an *Ophioglossum* is a fern relative, so this is a *Pogonia* that resembles an *Ophioglossum* and indeed the leaves do).

We were not able to attend all of the talks, but the two we did attend were both fun and interesting. The first was Troy Meyers, of the Meyers Conservancy. Their mission is the propagation, and through propagation conservation, of species orchids. It's a very unusual business model, and I encourage you to check it out at:

[https://lab.troymeyers.com/flaskin/g/article.php?about=Unusual Flasking Program](https://lab.troymeyers.com/flaskin/g/article.php?about=Unusual%20Flaskin%20Program)

Troy talked about their work and showed slides of the process they go through. (Troy is also the only other person I've met who first became interested in orchids from reading Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe books.)

Then Jay Pfahl spoke – Jay is the person behind the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (IOSPE) web site, a fantastic resource that as a species nut I use almost daily. As of June 4, 2011 his site has pictures of 12,960 species of orchids in 812 genera, with information on taxonomy, habitat, and cultivation – a truly monumental effort of compiling information and pho-

tos. If you search the Internet for any species there's a good chance Jay's site will be on the first page of results – even things like *Vrydagzzynea tristriata*. If you haven't already, check it out at:

<http://orchidspecies.com>

I encourage you to visit both of these sites, and if you like what they're doing, consider supporting them.

Along with the more normal items for sale in the vendor area was something very different – wood-work orchids, made of many different woods in their natural colors and with incredible detail and workmanship in the inlays – on a *Bulbophyllum* flower, the lip even wobbled just like on the real flower! The ones with which I was familiar, such as the Florida ghost orchid (it's gone by at least 5 names, but I think the currently accepted one is *Dendrophylax lindenii*), were about life size. Truly works of art.

We almost always attend the banquets at shows, and we almost always enjoy them. You never know who will wind up at your table – sometimes you have a group of people you already know, so it's like going out to dinner with friends. Other times you may not know anyone at the table before you sit down, so you meet new people. Either way is fun and you can learn the most interesting things. Both at Shreveport a few weeks ago and here at Memphis we were at tables with people we didn't previously know, but we had a great time and fascinating conversation and we'll definitely be keeping in touch with them.

Our compliments to the Memphis Orchid Society and the MAOC – we had a great time.

Pictures from the Memphis MAOC Steve & Cathy Marak



Pictures from the Memphis MAOC Steve & Cathy Marak



Pictures from the Memphis MAOC Steve & Cathy Marak



Notes from your Program Chair Sarah Waddoups

June 26, 2011

Growing Forward 2 p.m.: Fertilizer & Proper Fertilizing

Michigan State University (MSU) Fertilizer. Some of you have asked about it recently. This is the fertilizer that can be used year-round, rather than switching between a “grow fertilizer” and a “bloom booster.” As always, please bring your questions.

Program 3 p.m: Doug Martin, The Birds, the Bees and Orchids

Doug Martin, and OSO member from Kansas City will speak to us regarding the evolution of orchids and their pollinators. Doug has given this presentation to a number of other societies—all of whom have recommended it highly.

July 24, 2011

Growing Forward 2 p.m.: TBA

Program 3 p.m: Linda Wilhelm, Woodland Orchids

Linda will be giving a presentation on Oncidiums. Given how those seem to fly off the auction bench and sales tables, I'd say that folks like those big showy flowers. She will also have plants to sell. You can visit her website at www.woodlandorchids.com. Oncidiums are of course listed, but Woodland Orchids also has a variety of other species and genera.

August 28, 2011

Growing Forward: TBA

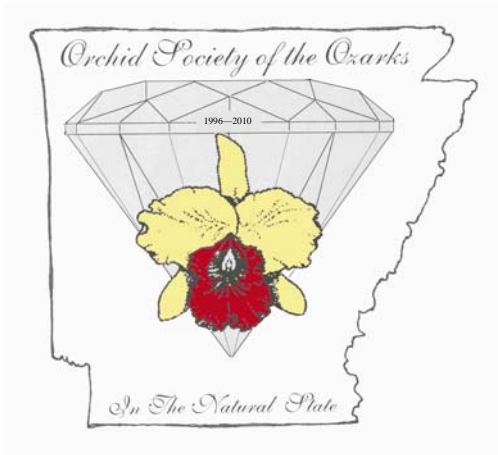
Watch for announcement as to meeting times in the July newsletter.

Program: What's in a name? That which we call an orchid by any other name would smell as sweet. This month we'll talk about deciphering orchid names—gleening lots of helpful information from your orchid tags. Please bring a few orchid plants or their tags and we'll talk about the names of your plants.

September 18, 2011: 15th Annual Orchid Auction

Please note that as usual the auction is held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. There will be a plant preview beginning at noon, with the auction beginning at 1 p.m. We anticipate another year of fantastic plants. Do I hear five dollars?

(There will be no Growing Forward this month. As those who have attended in the past will attest, the auction is quite a lot for one afternoon.)



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.oso-web.org

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Back Porch

ORCHIDS PLUS This update was furnished by Ron McHatton Those interested can see Tom Larkin for a Demo on his computer.

At the present time, the new website is now live. To access members material and Orchidsplus requires, as the old one did, email address and password. There are instructions on the homepage for logging in the first time since the new site passwords are different than the old one. Users can now change all contact information including email address without AOS having to intervene. Obviously AOS is still working to bring all the old material over to the new site but site building really never stops.

OrchidsPlus on the website is now closed to only AQ Plus subscribers. At intervals, the plan is to open it for trial periods Access to AQ Plus subscribers is through login to the site. Their email addresses and passwords are linked to subscription so when an AQ Plus subscriber logs into the site, the OrchidsPlus button at the top of the homepage becomes visible. OrchidsPlus now has almost all of the 1000+ awards just added to AQPlus in that update mailed a couple of weeks ago. There are a few issues with data clarity that we're working on so there are a few that are still missing.

The goal is to produce the offline version of OrchidsPlus in late summer. I can't be more specific than that simply because there are too many unknowns. My goal is to have this last update of AQ plus be the last and the next thing mailed would be the offline version of OP.

Lastly, the links across the homepage to things like Affiliated Societies, Orchid Information, etc. are pull-downs. If you hover over the link, the pull-down appears. We know that some people can't see those pull-downs and it appears that it's a combination of Windows XP (or older) and IE7 or older. The solution is to download IE8 (do not download IE9 if offered - IE9 is in test mode and causes all sorts of problems).

Suzanne's Musings!

I am really sorry to miss Doug's presentation but the coastal waters of the Carolinas just got the best of Sean and I and we had to get away. I know all will enjoy the program, as the Martins are always educational and entertaining. Stay Cool !! (if you can)



Cheers, Suzanne

What's Ahead

June 26, 2011

(Please note TIME change)

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale AR.

Growing Forward: 2pm

Program: Dr. Doug Martin

Meeting time: 3:00 pm.

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.

July 24th, 2011

(Please note TIME change)

NTI, 709 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale AR.

Growing Forward: 2pm

Program: Linda Wilhelm,

Woodland Orchids

Meeting time: 3:00 pm.

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.