

December 2007

Volume 6 Issue 12

Paph druryi 'Truford'

New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter

Next Meeting:

- December 9th at 12 pm
- Scheduled Program: Holiday Luncheon
- Location: The Savoy Bar & Grill 10601 Montgomery NE
- Located on the North side between Morris and Juan Tabo.

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2007—YEAR IN REVIEW

Take this quiz to see how closely you were paying attention to NMOG activities this year. All questions can be answered either True or False. The answers are found below:

1. Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru are all members of the Pleurothallid Alliance.
2. Roger Easton won the People's Choice Award for horticulture at NMOG's spring show for his *Cirrhopetalum Wine Delight*.
3. On our Sandia orchid hike, we saw hundreds of blooming *Epipactis* orchids.
4. Our host for the July ice cream social is known for her 3-D art and her interest in vanilla.
5. Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids in Riverside, CA.
6. Alan uses *Sophronitis coccinea* in his breeding program.
7. An orchid species with floribundum in its name will probably have more flowers than one labeled sparsiflora.
8. *Dendrophylax*, *Dracula*, *Caladenia*, and *Mormodes* were featured as Halloween orchids.
9. Iron and zinc are now considered macronutrients and have been added to the numbers on fertilizer labels.
10. The 20th World Orchid Conference will be held in January 2008 in Orlando, FL.

Answers to quiz:

1. False—These are countries where many of the orchid genera (*Masdevallia*, *Pleurothallis*, *Restrepia*, etc.) that comprise the Pleurothallid Alliance are found.
2. False—Roger won the People's Choice award for *Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum x wilhelminiae*. However, in subsequent months, he was a Show and Tell winner with *Cirrhopetalum makoyanum* and *Cycnodes Wine Delight*.
3. True
4. True
5. False—Alan's Gold Country Orchids is located in Lincoln, CA.
6. True
7. True
8. True
9. False—Calcium and magnesium have been added to the labels of some fertilizers as macronutrients. Iron and zinc are considered to be micronutrients.
10. False—The 19th WOC will be held in Miami, FL in January.

DECEMBER REMINDERS

Don't forget NMOG'S 4th annual Holiday party on Sunday December 9th starting at 12 pm at the Savoy Bar and Grill. You can still sign up no later than Tuesday December 4th by contacting Nona Church at 839-0746 and paying 25.00 per person at the door. However, no plant presales will be taken. Steve will also introduce the new Board members and announce the year's Show and Tell Winners for all three divisions.

January will soon be here and time to renew your yearly dues. They will remain the same at 25.00 for email and 30.00 for snail mail per household. The membership form is on page 7. Make checks payable to NMOG and mailed to: **PO Box 12938 Albuquerque NM 87195.**

REPOTTING YOUR ORCHIDS – CYMBIDIUMS

BY SUSAN TAYLOR, BELLONLINE.COM

As a general rule, Cymbidiums should be repotted every two to three years unless they are in semi-hydroponic culture or some media that does not break down. In that case they should be repotted when the plant becomes too big for its container. If you are a superb grower, you will have large plants with multiple leads and many leaves. These plants should be put into larger containers, or divided into several smaller pieces. Dividing Cymbidiums is a major operation and some big plants require pruning shears to cut them up. You also should be aware that when you divide a plant it may be a couple of years before they will bloom again – but the blooms will be spectacular!

Enthusiasts use special pots that are one and a half times deeper than they are wide to encourage good roots on the plants, so rather than a standard orchid pot see if you can find one that is deeper than normal. These plants get big and heavy so the taller, larger pots will help provide stability as well as give the plant the proper environment to grow.

Cymbidiums form dense clumps of pseudobulbs as they grow and will have many leafless bulbs in the middle of their pots when they're ready to be repotted. Wait for the plant to finish flowering in the spring. This will generally occur anywhere from April to June in most plants. Remove the plant from its container and wash off all the roots being sure to eliminate any media attached to them. Hold the plant and roots up to the new container and determine what length will be about three-quarters into the new pot and then clip all the roots that will be going in the pot to encourage new growth.

This class of orchids requires moisture retentive but quick draining soil, as they are naturally terrestrial. A mix of bark and charcoal mixed half and half with a terrestrial orchid mix will provide what they need to be happy.

Any medium you use for repotting your orchids should be soaked for approximately 24 hours prior to use. It needs to have enough time to absorb water so that the newly planted roots are not desiccated. Prepare the pot with drainage material at the bottom of the pot, and place a portion of medium over it at the bottom. Place your plant into the new pot and then carefully pour the medium around the roots. Tamp down carefully with your fingers, or a bamboo stake. I like to put bamboo stakes or shish kabob skewers on two or three sides of a plant to hold it in place until the plant has taken hold and becomes established in the pot.

Put the plant in a warmer and lower light position than it had been growing in before to encourage it to grow new roots and then move to its normal position in about a month.

ICU FOR YOUR ORCHIDS

SUSAN TAYLOR, BELLAONLINE.COM

As a last ditch effort to save a favorite orchid or to try to save one given to you in the last stages of life by a friend, putting together an intensive care unit in your growing area may just do the trick.

Most plants in the end stages of life got there by over-watering and therefore the roots are rotting away. After the roots have rotted, the plant has no way to get nutrients into it and will slowly wilt lose leaves and then die.

Your ICU unit can consist of almost any kind of container which can be covered and partially sealed to hold in humidity. An old terrarium will work well if you have the space for it. Some people use the plastic containers available in markets which have tops. There are trays available in gardening centers too which can be used for this purpose. In actuality, almost anything will work as long as it is tall enough to accommodate your orchid. Cut and put a piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting or carpet padding or other water retentive material in the bottom of the container. Wet with water until the minutes in some kind of antifungal agent. Replant in a small pot with sphagnum moss only. Sphagnum has natural antifungal properties and should keep the root rot from occurring again.

Once you have plants in the unit, you will only have to water them about once a week since the humidity will be high. Do not put your unit in direct sunlight or the plants will be steamed to death in a very short time. You will need to place your hospital in a location that receives diffused light, but less than the plants usually need. Use a very weak solution (one-half to one-quarter strength) fertilizer every other week and make sure that you spray on the leaves so that additional nutrition can be absorbed through the leaf openings. Be sure to allow air to circulate after misting so that the leaves may dry before enclosing the plants again.

You should see new root growth in about a month if the plant is going to survive. Once root growth is restored, slowly move the plant into your regular growing area and move back to normal light sources. Give this a try with your next plant that seems to be doing badly!

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RANDY GLEICHER

EXCERPTS FROM AN EMAIL

<http://www.firstrays.com/> You can buy an 8-ounce bottle of K-L-N Rooting Hormone for \$10.00 at this site. However, since I tend to go through it really fast, I have been on the lookout for any place where I can get a better deal on it. This stuff works like a charm too! Any plants that you are having problems with, by using some of this in regular waterings, for several times, this stuff 'cures' those problem plants and makes them 'purr' like pussy cats after awhile!

<http://www.dyna-gro.com/quick.htm> Here you can purchase FOUR TIMES the amount for just \$30.00! They have 3 different prices for this product. One 8 ounce bottle for \$10.00, One quart (which equals 32 ounces (which is '4' 8-ounce bottles)) for \$30.00, or one gallon (which is '16' 8-ounce bottles) for \$100.00

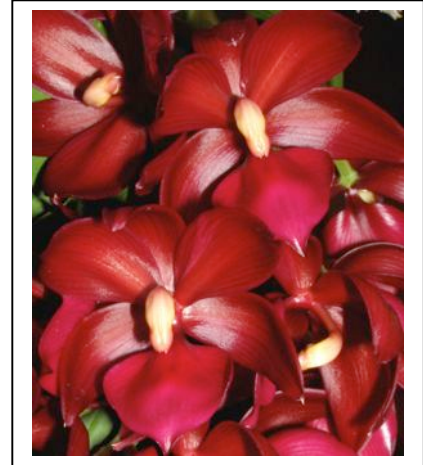
And, for those people who have any one-leaf phalaenopsis plants and are on the verge of throwing away their plants because they are afraid that they are going to lose the plant because of this problem, there is new hope for your plants 'if' they catch the plant at an early enough stage of this problem. If they go to Chula Orchids and purchase a vial of 'keiki paste' (mind you that this is kind of an expensive product, but a little goes a long way) and put a little bit on the node where the old leaf dropped off, wait for a long time, and usually a new leaf will start to develop where the old, dead leaf dropped off. Also, if any of you are interested in trying to produce little babies (hence the name 'keiki'), off an old flower spike, all they have to do is to carefully cut back the covering where the node it and expose the bud. Carefully put a little bit of the keiki paste on the bud, and in a few days they will notice a keiki starting to appear on that node. It takes several months for a complete keiki to develop with roots before you can cut it away from the mother plant, but it does work!



Glptm. Giant 'Rhein Moonlight'
Owner: Adrienne Carroll Div. III
Photographer: Kathy Mancini



Cyncodes Wine Delight 'Jem' FCC/AOS
Owner: Roger Easton Div I
Photographer: Mark Vaughan, Detail: Kathy Mancini



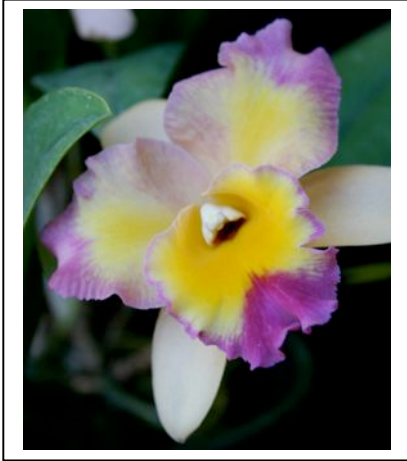
The Galeopetalum belongs to the group zygopetalum and is a cross between Zygopetalum Arthur Elle and Galeottia grandiflora, first registered in 2005. Five different species make up this hybrid. The sepals and petals are green, heavily overlaid red for appearance of brown, green apices; lip white, overlaid purple for a blue-purple appearance indoors with its appearance more red blue in the sun. The petals have a waxy substance, lip is velvety, texture heavy with a fragrance similar to Lily of the Valley. It usually blooms in April and May preferring 40-70% humidity. Water and fertilize it heavily during growth. DO NOT water in the winter if it loses its leaves. Dappled or indirect light is best.

Cyncodes Wine Delight 'Jem' is a cross between the species Cynoches lehmannii and Mormodes sinuate, first registered in 1990. In 2001 it was awarded a FCC (First Class certificate) by the AOS, the highest award that can be given. The sepals and petals are a vibrant burgundy or deep wine color with a heavy waxy and lacquered appearance. The lip is slightly brighter, solid, flat and rigid; the column base ruby red fading to cream colored. Each spike usually bear 10-15 cherry fragrant flowers lasting a month or longer. It likes medium light but can take higher light in the winter if you live more than 30 degrees north of the equator. It prefers int. to warm temps with 50% or higher humidity in the summer and 35% in the winter after it loses its leaves. During growth and flowering do not let it become bone dry. They go through a dry season in nature beginning in Dec and lasting until April or May. Just keep the pseudobulb from shriveling, watering every 2-3 weeks. Once new growth begins, resume more frequent watering. Repot in the spring when new growth emerges. If during the late summer to early fall the plant becomes top heavy, simply remove it from the plant without disturbing the root and mix, setting into a larger pot and filling in with a medium grade bark mix.



The species Phalaenopsis equestris is found in the Philippines and Taiwan at low altitudes. It was first describes by Schauer in 1843 under the name Stauroglottis equestris. In 1848 Lindley changed it to Phal. rosea and underwent 4 more name changes until it was finally called "equestris". The alba variation is white with some buttercup coloration on its callus extending to the lobes. Flower substance is firm with a crystalline texture. It produces keikis very easily and will produce flowers several years in continuation and is very easy to culture because of its small size. It flowers in nature between Feb. and May. It likes good drainage, year round humid conditions and warm temperatures.

Phal. equestris
Owner: Jane Cole Div II
Photographer: Kathy Mancini



Blc. Momilani Rainbow 'The Gypsy'
Owners: Donna/Walter PrahI Div II
Photographer: Mark Vaughan

Brassolaeliocattleya Momilani, Rainbow 'The Gypsy', made from 22 species, is a cross between Lc. Mari's Song and Blc. Orange Nugget. Both parents of this hybrid have earned many awards and their finest qualities show in this orchid. It responds to intermediate temperatures, copious water and diluted fertilizer when actively growing. This lovely, very fragrant, splash-petaled, hybrid blooms in late spring or early summer and has repeated blooming in the fall in my greenhouse.
-Walter



Catt. labiata
Owners: Donna/Walter PrahI Div II
Photographer: Mark Vaughan

The species, *Cattleya labiata*, is found in the Brazilian mountains and caused a great sensation in Europe at the beginning of the 19th century. The first specimen arrived into cultivation as packing material in the collection of Mr. Cattley. He recognized the plant as being different from anything he had seen so he carefully nurtured it until it flowered. It caused a sensation and was thus named after Cattley and it has achieved fame unlike any other orchids. Because of the cattleya, people wanted to know more about these exotic plants. Unifoliate, the plant can grow up to 2 ft. It looks like the typical corsage orchid. It has a large, ruffled lip and is deep rose lavender with dark lines leading to a pair of yellow spots in the throat. The flowers are long lasting and respond to the shorter days in the fall to initiate flower blooms.
-Walter supplied some of the info.



The Miltonia Charles Fitch 'Izumi' is a primary cross between *Brassia verrucosa* and *Miltonia spectabilis* first registered in 1961. Its parents are found in very warm and humid areas around the Amazon Basin. The flowers give off a strong grassy fragrance. The green coloration, spotting and long narrow tepals come from the *Brassia*, while the *Miltonia* supplies the purple coloration. It is considered to be an easy to grow orchid. It likes full sun and 60% humidity. If the plants has thin roots, water more than if the roots are thick. Water medium as it starts to dry out and more heavily during its growth,

ORCHID NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Taiwan: Orchids, whose complex shapes and colors and exotic and inaccessible homes in swamps and tropical forests, are a \$2 billion a year global business. Taiwan, which already produces about a quarter of the world's orchids, aims to turn orchids into an everyday item, using the genus of orchids known as phalaenopsis, or moth orchids. Orchids often begin in labs in the US or Japan, are shipped by air in glass flasks to places like Thailand to grow, and then shipped close to their market to be potted and grown in greenhouses for the last six to eight months before they bloom. USDA in summer 2004 allowed potted orchids to be imported from Taiwan, and the government there created the Taiwan Orchid Plantation near Houbi, near the hometown of Taiwan's current president.

Thailand is the leading supplier of cut orchid flowers, such as those used in the leis given to tourists in Hawaii. Taiwan, the Netherlands, and Hawaii are the main producers of potted orchid plants.

Continued page 6

North Dakota: FOR LACK OF A MOTH, THE ORCHID IS LOST

The western prairie fringed orchid stands as one of the gems of North America's remaining tallgrass prairies. This flowering orchid may grow to 4 feet tall, comparable in height to the surrounding prairie grasses, and may have up to two dozen white to creamy white fringed flowers.

Curiously, the regal appearance of this plant does not attract insects to pollinate the plant during the daylight. Rather, as night descends over the prairie, the orchid's flowers increase its fragrance to attract the roaming moths. Shrouded in this cover of darkness, the long-tongued hawkmoth rises to visit the intoxicating flowers.

"Ironically," notes Kathy Martin, a botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Bismarck, North Dakota, "this moth is unremarkable in appearance and coloration. What's unusual about it is its uniquely evolved tongue for harvesting the orchid's nectar. The orchid's white fringed petals direct approaching moths to the spur and the plentiful supply of nectar it holds." As the moth hovers with its long tongue extended into the spur, two specialized pollen-bearing structures brush pollen onto the eyes of the moth. The western prairie fringed orchid nectar spur is the longest of any North American orchid.



The western prairie fringed orchid nectar spur is the longest of any North American orchid. Only those species of hawkmoths with suitable length tongues and properly spaced eyes can act as pollinators.

After attaching to the eyes, the pollen may be deposited upon the next orchid flower the moth visits. This transfer of pollen among orchids results in fertilization and ultimately the production of seeds.

The remarkable relationship between the long-tongued hawkmoth and western prairie fringed orchid has been continuing successfully for centuries until European settlers settled the heartland of North America. "They found the tallgrass prairie yielded fertile soils, ideal for raising a variety of crops," said Martin. "Millions of acres of America's prairies were rapidly converted for cropland. Today we have only about two percent left of the tallgrass prairie and less than 40 percent of the original western prairie fringed orchid populations."

Today, tallgrass prairie has generally been reduced to small islands in a sea of cropland, and the orchid, facing potential extinction, was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 1989.

The fragmented prairie landscape created by man poses the greatest obstacle for these insect-oriented orchids. The expanses of cropland act as a barrier for free movement of hawkmoths between different orchid populations, reducing genetic diversity of isolated stands. Pesticide drift from nearby cropland also poses a threat to non-targeted insects such as the hawkmoth. In some areas, hawkmoth numbers are so depleted that only a very small percentage of flowers are pollinated and produce seed.

These remaining tallgrass prairie tracts must also be intensively managed to prevent native trees and shrubs from invading and shading orchids out, or by exotic weeds such as leafy spurge that can displace the orchid and other native prairie vegetation.

Approximately a quarter of known western prairie fringed orchid sites are protected in preserves or other publicly-managed areas. Land managers are concentrating their efforts on meeting the orchid's needs through implementing long-term management plans.

Providing hawkmoth "corridors" of native prairie between orchid populations could offset the immediate threat that faces isolated populations. However, some orchid preserves are isolated tens or even hundreds of miles apart. For these secluded populations, pollinating the plants by hand can buy the orchid some time until their prairie habitats can be rejoined and pollination can be reclaimed by its original masters.

Long-term survival of this tallgrass prairie gem requires not only protecting its habitat but also insuring the survival of the orchid's only means of reproduction, the long-tongued hawkmoth.

Since this article was written, The Nature Conservancy and Forest Service have teamed up with N. Dakota University to study the orchid's chance for survival. In 2003 they recorded the first evidence that spurge hawkmoths are now pollinating the orchid. This discovery illustrates the importance of biodiversity and increasing the recruiting of new pollinators.

Thanks to Thea for bringing the article about the Western prairie orchid.



2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE/CELL: _____

ORCHIDS CURRENTLY GROWING: _____

ORCHIDS YOU WANT TO ACQUIRE: _____

VOLUNTEERING: _____

AMOUNT DUE: _____

Remit to: **NMOG**
PO Box 12938
Albuquerque NM 87195



Nona Church Treasurer
PO Box 12938
Albuquerque NM 87195

PHONE:
(505) 839 0746

News Contributions:
E-MAIL:
smith_nmog@earthlink.net

Board meeting

There will be no Board meeting scheduled for December.

We're on the Web!
 See us at:
www.nmog.org

NEW MEMBERS

We have more new members to welcome. Please give Walt and Donna Prah a warm NMOG welcome.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Nancy Gleicher has taken over membership so any corrections, additions will need to be sent to her email at gleichr@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Board elections and officers were held on November 26th and new members will be introduced at the Holiday Luncheon on December 9th. Steve received a letter from a gentleman in Santa Fe whose grandfather wanted to donate his collection of orchid books to NMOG. Arrangements will be made to meet in Santa Fe for pickup. Upcoming meetings will be on orchid judging, phrags and a speaker, Ron Coleman, scheduled for March. Ron, who lives in Tucson, has written a book on the wild/native orchids of Arizona and New Mexico. Thanks to Kathy for making the arrangements.



There were many orange shirts at the October meeting but Preston and Phyllis really got into the spirit of Halloween.