

# *New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter*

April 2008

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## Next Meeting:

- April 6th- 1:30 pm
- Scheduled Program: New Mexico Orchid Show.
- Location: The Bureau of Land Management 435 Montano NW It's almost a mile west of Interstate 25 (take the Montgomery/Montano exit). Go past Bob Turner's Ford Country but not past the Sonic Drive-In. Turn at the Sonic, one block east of Edith, and you'll see a dark brick building on the north side of the street. The conference room is straight ahead once you enter.
- As always there is a potluck with a plethora of wonderful food.

NMOG offers its members the opportunity to learn about orchids each month!

## Table of Contents

March Speaker	1
What's In A Name #3	2
Carl Linneus	2
Show and Tell	3-4
Outdoor Orchid Growing	5
Moving Orchids Outside	5
Orchid News From Around	
The World	6-7
Pictures	7
Misc	8

## MARCH SPEAKER: RON COLEMAN

By Barbara Smith

On March 1st, Ron Coleman and his wife, Jan, joined twenty three NMOG members at the home of Marcia Santillanes to partake of "goodies" provided by Marcia, Jane Cole, Kathy Mancini and Barbara Smith and to spend some "one on one" time getting to know Ron and Jan. The evening was planned by Kathy, who arranged for Ron to share his love of the wild orchids of Arizona and New Mexico. Sunday afternoon, seventy two NMOG members and members of the Wild Flower group showed up to hear Ron speak and enjoy his slides.

In 1970, Ron joined the Santa Barbara Orchid Society and it wasn't long afterwards that he built his first greenhouse and started winning orchid awards and writing articles. Meanwhile, he continued camping and discovering native wild flowers with Jan and their family. One day he came across a book about wild orchids and he quickly forgot about wild flowers, developing his passion and the chase for the wild orchid.

Orchid Societies in general are not interested in wild orchids since they are something that can't be grown in the home. Ron was glad to hear that NMOG's members are interested in reestablishing New Mexico's wild orchids. Some wild orchids are becoming available as legal seedlings not just for that purpose but for those who think they may be able to grow them. However, Ron, believes most will die since the orchid is a parasite for part of their life, needing fungus to feed on. Orchid seeds do not have an endosperm to feed upon so that is why they need a specific fungus per species which to gain their nourishment. If in the wild they lose the fungus, they no longer are able to maintain photosynthesis and perish.

Ron also belongs to the Native Orchid Conference, Inc, a 501 nonprofit organization interested in the preservation of wild orchids throughout the United States. Membership is 25.00 for an individual and 30.00 for a family. You will receive a quarterly magazine/newsletter and the ability to attend their annual 4 day conference held in different parts of the country. The first two days are spent listening to speakers and the last 2 days consist of field trips with guides. You may reach them through email: [ncorchid@yahoo.com](mailto:ncorchid@yahoo.com), through the mail: Native Orchid Conference, Inc., P.O. Box 29010, Greensboro, NC 27429-9010 or by phone: 336 996 2324.



Ron and Jan Coleman  
Photographer: Barbara Smith



Adrienne and Ron  
Photographer: Kathy Mancini

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?—PART 3

By Steve Fischer

In the last installment, we learned that the real arbiter of an orchid species name is the consensus of the scientific community. This is not the case with orchid hybrids.

Sander & Sons Orchids of St Albans, England, started a system for the registration of orchid hybrids and published the first volume of Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids in 1906. This became the international authoritative list of orchid hybrids and was taken over by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1962. Sander's List has now become the International Orchid Register that can be searched online at: [http://www.rhs.org.uk/seedlist/registration\\_orchids.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/seedlist/registration_orchids.asp). To register a hybrid with the RHS Orchid Registrar, the name must be in compliance with the rules found in the Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration.

So let's consider what effect recent orchid name changes are having on hybrid names. How about our old friend *Cattleya* Chocolate Drop? This grex's parents are *Cattleya guttata* and *Guarianthe* (formerly *Cattleya aurantiaca*). So this orchid is now properly called *Cattlianthe* (Ctt.=*Cattleya* x *Guarianthe*) Chocolate Drop.

You will remember from the last installment that *Laelia purpurata* is now *Sophronitis purpurata*. This means that *C. mossiae* x *L. purpurata* which used to be *Laeliocattleya* Canhamiana now becomes *Sophracattleya* Canhamiana.

And look at what has become of the intergeneric name *Colmanara*. This genus combines *Oncidium*, *Miltonia*, and *Odontoglossum*. *Colmanara* Jungle Monarch was *Oncidium maculatum* x *Miltonia warscewiczii* x *Odontoglossum cariniferum*. Well, the *Miltonia* is now called *Oncidium fuscatum* while the *Odontoglossum* is now *Oncidium cariniferum*. Therefore, Jungle Monarch is simply an *Oncidium*. To make matters worse, there is already an *Oncidium* Jungle Monarch in the RHS system (*Onc. sanderae* x *Onc. kramerianum*). It gets even more complicated since both of these *Oncidium* species have been transferred to the genus *Psychopsis*. Welcome to the land of Oz, Dorothy.

Keep your seat belts buckled folks, we're in for a wild ride. Because of the magnitude of the orchid world, the only way we're going to be able to keep up is through programs like OrchidWiz or online resources. By the way, at the World Orchid Conference during a question and answer session with a noted taxonomist, there was a lively discussion of orchid name changes. While the conversation remained mostly civil, the mood of the crowd made me visualize a riot of angry orchid growers, raised fists tightly gripping their plant tags.

## PEOPLE IMPORTANT IN ORCHID HISTORY: CARL LINNAEUS

By Steve Fischer

Carl von Linné, or Linnaeus, was born in Sweden in 1707. He became the most eminent natural historian and botanist of his time and the father of modern taxonomy. His most important accomplishment was developing the binomial system for scientifically naming plants and animals that is used to this day. He is personally responsible for the scientific names *Canis familiaris*, *Felis silvestris*, and *Turdus migratorius*, or dog, cat, and robin.

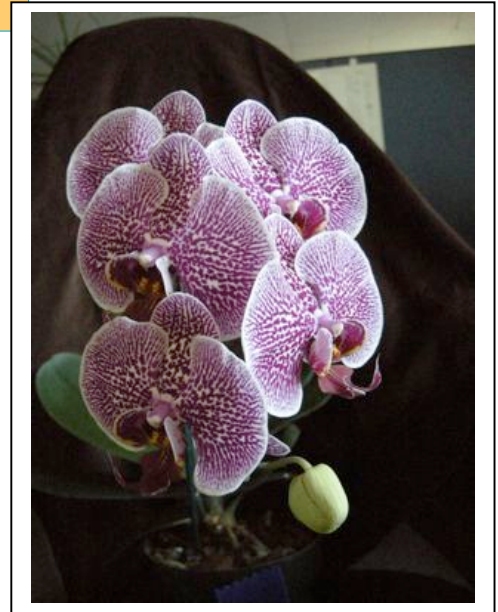
He entered the university to study medicine in 1727 and spent most of his time collecting plants. Training in botany was a part of the medical curriculum. He mounted a botanical and ethnographic expedition to Lapland which resulted in his publication, *Lapland Flora*.

He finished his medical degree in the Netherlands and returned to Sweden to practice medicine, specializing in treating syphilis. He was eventually awarded professorships in medicine and botany at the prestigious University of Upsala. He arranged for 19 of his students to set out on voyages of discovery, including accompanying the round-the-world travels of Captain James Cook.

Linnaeus' classification of plants was based solely on the arrangement of their reproductive organs, which was controversial. One opponent, Johann Siegesbeck, called it "loathsome harlotry." Linnaeus got his revenge by naming a small, useless weed *Siegesbeckia*.

In 1740, he published the first technical names for orchids by genus and species in "Species Orchidum." In the 1750s he described 59 species of orchids within 8 genera. Seven of the 8 were native European terrestrial types. The eighth, *Epidendrum*, included all of the known epiphytes. He predicted that 100 species of orchids might someday be known. He would probably be shocked to learn how far that prediction has been surpassed. He died in 1778 after a series of strokes.

Doritaenopsis Leopard Prince is a cross between Dtps. Leopard Prince and Dtps. Formosa Rose, first registered by Jiun Ming Su of Taiwan in 2004. It is made up of 12 different species with the 4 largest percentages being that of Phal. amabilis, Phal. rimestandiana, Phal. schilleriana and Phal. aphrodite. Together they compose about 84% of the genetics. It has beautiful Harlequin markings. Debbie purchased this particular orchid at Target in 2006 in bad condition. There were no blooms on it at the time and she was very pleasantly surprised to see it likes her growing conditions and bloomed for her.



Dtps. Leopard Prince  
 Owner: Deborah Thomas Div II  
 Photographer: Debby Lieberman

Missing picture. If anyone took this orchid and also 2<sup>nd</sup> place in div II please email to me. Thank you.

Lycaste lasioglossa is a large terrestrial species mainly from Guatemala with some also found in Honduras and Southeastern Mexico. There are 31 species and 3 natural hybrids in this genus. It has egg shaped pseudobulbs and thin, plicate or pleated leaves with 3-4 inflorescences appearing at the base of the

mature bulb in the spring. They need plenty of water, fertilizer and humidity during their growing season. A 4-5 inch waxy, textured flower with chestnut colored sepals and yellow petals will appear. Its furry labellum gives it the "wooly lipped" or "shaggy lip" common name. While the leaves do not like to be misted it does like the higher humidity. Deborah grows this orchid in fir bark. She got it at a NMOG meeting in May 2006 and this is the third time it has bloomed for her. It as a previous winner.

Deborah keeps ALL her orchids in an atrium with 70% humidity and temperatures between 90-60 degees. She waters all her orchids with water that has been warmed in a 5 gal tank with an aquarium heater to keep it at 80 degrees. To the tank she adds 1 tsp SUPERTHRIVE and 1 tsp each of EN & EA Mycorrhizal and Bacterial Inoculant. They get also get fertilized about once a month

Lycaste lasioglossa  
 Owner: Deborah Thomas Div II  
 Photographer:



Phaiocalante Kryptonite "Ursula" is an intergeneric mericlone hybrid cross between the Calanthe Rozel from which it gets it deep maroon coloring and the species Phaius tankervilleae of which makes up 50% of its composition. It has plicate leaves and numerous inflorescences allowing for more than 20 blooms at a time. There is some white edging on the lighter lip with yellow in its interior. It likes medium light so dapped light conditions are perfect. Temperatures range from 58 to 75 ant night. Barbara gives it a lot of water growing under a sky light facing north.

Phcal. Kryptonite "Ursula"  
 Owner: Barbara Kenemuth Div I  
 Photographer: Barbara Smith





*Phalaenopsis schilleriana* is endemic to rainforests to moderate altitudes of the Philippines. It was discovered in Manila in 1858 growing on trees, usually high up on the branches and trunks held by flattened roots. In cultivation these roots grow to considerable lengths along any firm surface within their reach, and are almost impossible to release without breaking. As they mature they develop a beautiful silvery sheen. It produces a decorative plant with its 18 inch or more deep green, marbled and blotched in silver leaves. The 2-3 inch flowers are of a delicate rose purple and a mature plant can produce upwards of a 100 flowers on branching spikes. It is not unknown for a spike to grow to 30 inches. The *schilleriana* is used extensively in hybridization. It likes a cool period in winter in order to flower and does very well mounted.

*Sophrhalaeliocattleya Jewel Box*  
'Dark Waters'  
Owner: Walter Prah Div I  
Photographer: Barbara Smith

This orchid has been renamed *Guarisophleya Jewel Box* 'Dark Waters' having been registered back in 1962 as a *Sophrhalaeliocattleya*. Fifty percent of the orchid is composed of *Guarante aurantiaca* and the *Sophrhalaeliocattleya Aztec*. The remaining fifty percent is made from 5 other species. It derives its vivid, crimson color from the *Sophrhalaeliocattleya* while its shape is reminiscent of the *Lalelia*. It is a neat grower and easily becomes a specimen plant as it produces several new growths from one pseudobulb. It has been blooming since mid-January. Walter grows this orchid in a hanging basket close to the roof of his greenhouse in bright light. It gets fertilized weekly with a weak solution of any standard fertilizer anytime it is actively growing or in bud. It and all the rest of his orchids get a foliar feed once a month from a spray tank containing his own special fertilizer mixture. Walter also believes that a 15-20 temperature difference between day and night is important for the orchid's well-being and for the bloom cycles. He keeps it between 60-80 degrees. It likes 55-70% humidity and 55% shade in which he maintains in his greenhouse.



*Phragmipidium Don Wimber* is a cross between *Phrag. Eric Young 'Rocket Fire' 4N* and *Phrag. besseae*. It was originally made by the Eric Young Foundation in the United Kingdom. This genus of about 15 species is related to *Paphiopedilum* and *Cypripedium* with phrags.. being the largest. They range from southern Mexico to Bolivia and Brazil, growing in moist, shady areas in a range of location. They are mainly terrestrials, with a few growing as lithophytes and even rare, epiphytes. The size of the flowers is large and the shape is quite excellent and flat. The colors are a nice red-orange and as a parent produces some very interesting hybrids. The erect inflorescence is usually unbranched with a few flowers that open one at a time. The inflated lip is slipper shape with united lateral sepals. They like intermediate conditions, year round watering, semi-shade, humidity and well drained but moisture retentive potting medium. These can have "wet Feet". Pam grows this beauty in an atrium with good light and a humidifier. She waters it 1-2 times per week and fertilizes it every 3-4 waterings.



*Phrag. Don Wimber*  
Owner: Pam McKenzie Div III  
Photographer: Kathy Mancini

## OUTDOOR ORCHID GROWING AREAS

By Susan Taylor, Bellonline.com

If you are a relatively new grower and have accumulated a number of orchids over the winter, it may be time to think about putting them outside once the temperatures have warmed enough in your area. It is really good for your plants to have a summer vacation outside since they will get more light, better humidity (in most cases), and good air circulation. Depending upon your circumstances, this may be handled several different ways.

If you only have a balcony, you will have to watch and determine how much sunlight that balcony gets. If it's a western exposure, you will not be able to put your orchids outdoors unless you provide them shade—either with shade cloth, other plants in front of them, or some kind of artificial shading such as lattice. If you have other exposures, you will not have as much of a problem but you'll have to watch that sun as it moves so that your plants will not sunburn. This is more of a cosmetic problem than anything else, but do be aware of it.

If you have a back yard to work with, then you have many more options. Some people hang plants in trees which is an excellent solution since it closely resembles the natural habitat of epiphytes. They can also be placed on the ground around pools where the humidity will be really good for the, but you must be careful that they receive shade during the hottest part of the day.

One of the best sites I've found on the internet for good ideas for structures is provided by Broward Orchid Supply. These are examples of excellent design for growing your plants outdoors. The tiered benches will keep the bugs away from your plants in a much better fashion than putting them on the ground as well as providing a good looking arrangement once the benches are filled. Notice the shade cloth covered top to the bench so that it can be put in full sun while still providing shelter for your plants.

Of course, the large shelter would be the ultimate for any orchid grower – a place to have your orchids grow as well as be able to enjoy them while sitting at a table. Notice the lattice which allows the grower to hang pots all over the inside and outside of the structure. This also is a good way to keep pests such as slugs, snails and ants from invading your orchids.

Now's the time to start thinking of what you could do outside so you will be able to build and have it all ready once the weather is right!

## MOVING YOUR ORCHIDS OUTDOORS

By Susan Taylor, Bellaonline.com

It's time to start moving your orchids outdoors if you have a place to put them where they will not get baked in the sun. Orchids will appreciate a move outdoors where they can get good air circulation, a bit more light, better humidity and more temperature differential than they can get inside in most environments.

For Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Phrags and Oncidiums this is a real joy. Phals and Paphs should be moved outdoors only under ideal shady conditions. Their leaves will burn much more easily due to their lower light requirements and the large leaf surface in the case of the Phals.

The best exposures are those in the East which will provide early morning light for your plants, but most exposures can be made to work. Think about ways to provide extra shade if you have too much direct light on a patio or porch. Placing plants around or under a larger plant such as a tree will give them a better environment. Putting those orchids that like more light on the brighter side of your spot, and then those that like less next to them in their shade will also help.

If your temperatures at night are still below 55 degrees Fahrenheit, or 12.75 degrees Celsius, then you will need to bring your orchids in when the temperature drops. Once the nighttime temperatures have stabilized, then leave them outside.

When you decide to move outdoors, be sure to acclimate your plants for light as well as temperature. Start with bright shade for a week; then move them so they're getting about 30 minutes of early morning sun; keep on increasing the light at about 30 minutes per week until the plant is showing slight yellowing or a reddening of its leaves. Then reduce the sunlight slightly -- you've got the maximum amount for that plant. When this has been achieved, your plant should be receiving the correct amount for optimum growth and flowering in your conditions. Watch for changes in the amount of light as the sun moves so that you do not bake your plants as the summer progresses and the temperatures rise. Watch your watering schedule as your plants receive more light. They will need more moisture as they start to grow in the new environment.

Watering is much faster and easier outside than inside because in most circumstances you can just use a hose. Be sure

Continued page 6

that you don't just stick to a strict watering schedule if your orchids are getting any rain at all. Watering plus rain can add up to too much water and then of course rot. Use the "weight of the pot test." Pick up a pot after you've watered it and get used to the feel of it. Then when you're ready to water again, pick up the pot to feel how it weighs when it's dry. It won't take you long to be able to gage whether the plants need watering or not. When in doubt, give them another day to dry out.

## ORCHID NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**VietNam:** – An old saying goes, "Vua Choi Lan, quan Choi Tra" (A king collects orchids, a mandarin collects camellias). Now, anyone with VND40,000-50,000 (US\$2.50-3) can buy a pot of orchids - and many Hanoi residents are doing so. But that doesn't mean anyone can grow them. To successfully make an orchid bloom, enthusiasts say, the gardener must have a pure heart and the patience of a saint.

Orchids won't bring their owners material wealth or social status, they explain. So those with enough dedication to tend to these delicate flowers and wait for their fleeting blooms must do so simply to enjoy the personal challenge and test of their patience.

Duong Xuan Trinh, chairman of the Ha Noi Orchid Association, says this challenge gives orchids their appeal. Sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity, orchids demand daily care, which some varieties reward with their colorful blossoms only two weeks a year. Others make their owners wait years for a rare blossom.

As orchid owners slowly coax their babies to bloom, they can have temporary respite from the stresses of daily life. For a few minutes a day, orchid owners can forget blaring motorbike horns and grumpy clients and concentrate their attention on a single quiet, deliberate task.

"Nurturing orchids relieves my anxiety after the working day," says Vu Quoc Viet, a 37-year-old orchid lover.

For the retired, tending orchids provides a perfect form of personal entertainment.

"Growing orchid plants is suitable for the elderly as it doesn't require too much time or physical exertion," Trinh says.

Orchids have become so popular that they are joining the list of plants used as Tet (Lunar New Year) decorations, which has long been limited to peach-blossom branches and kumquat trees.

From a handful of original members, the Ha Noi Orchid Association has expanded to over 200 enthusiasts. The group, mostly retired people and amateur orchid growers, meets every two months to exchange ideas and techniques for growing the many varieties of orchid. Such a community is vital for orchid owners because of the flowers' fickle nature, which member Tuan Anh learned the hard way four years ago. He bought all the orchid plants that a group of Taiwanese businessmen had brought to an exhibition on ornamental trees and flowers. Half of them died soon after due to the long journey home and his ignorance about tending to the flowers.

Orchids need light but can't stand direct sunlight, he explains. Their environment must be airy but not too windy, humid but not water-logged. People often use a special net to protect orchid plants from intense sunlight and put charcoal and coconut fibres under their pots to prevent waterlogging. Neglect an orchid for a day or two, and one may return to find a fungus has destroyed the plant.

For some, domesticated orchids don't pose enough of a challenge. Vietnam's forests beckon to amateur and professional botanists from all over the world who thrive off the thrill of capturing a rare species.

"Many people think that China and Thailand are the centres of orchid growing, but based on the diversity of orchid species in Vietnam, it could be said that Vietnam is the world's cradle of orchid growing," says Tran Tuan Anh, an orchid hunter with 20 years' experience. With a length of 1,650km, Vietnam encompasses a variety of climate zones, making the country suited to growing a shocking diversity of orchid species. According to the 2003 statistics of Russian researcher Leonid V Averyanov and his daughter Anna L Averyanova, there are 897 orchid species in Vietnam. Tuan Anh puts the number over 900, saying that a number of species in the forest and his garden haven't yet been identified.

Every successful orchid grower is dedicated, but Tuan Anh's commitment puts ordinary hobbyists to shame. Tuan Anh's orchid-searching adventures in Vietnam's most remote areas have produced a garden with over 300 types of orchids - more varieties than any other garden in Hanoi, he boasts. He even helped to identify four orchid species in Vietnam (and then named three of them after himself): Hoang thao Tran Tuan (*Dendrobium trantuanii*), Vanda Tuan Anh (*Vanda tuananhii*), Lan hai Tuan Anh (*Paphiopedilum trantuanhii*) and Hoang thao Viet Nam (*Dendrobium Vietnamica*).

Continued page 7

Tuan Anh still remembers his first glimpse of lan hai (*Paphiopedilum*) on a trip to Son La, a mountainous province in northern Vietnam, in October 2003. At an elevation of 1,000m above sea level, he happened to spot a bundle of flowers that were distinct from any he had ever seen. The large blossoms were brownish red in colour, with white calyxes in the front and green in the back. Struck by the beauty of the flowers, he shot photographs until he ran out of film and then hurried back to Hanoi.

Considered a local expert, Tuan Anh has set up a website on Vietnam's orchids and assists both researchers and amateurs with information. With only a handful of experts like Tuan Anh, however, Vietnam's orchid-growing industry remains in its developing stages. Breeding technology and training in Vietnam remain limited, so some orchid growers have headed to Thailand for education.

Le Xuan Truong spent two years learning from the expertise of a Thai grower, and the 38-year-old now owns a 1,000sq.m garden and 2ha farm producing dendrobium. Every day, between 5,000 and 7,000 branches of flowers are sold wholesale, and sales hit 100,000 on special occasions like Women's Day. With branches selling for VND30,000 (\$2) a piece, Truong's business has proven lucrative. As word gets out that business is booming, others will like follow suit to supply the many people who have fallen for the flower that plays hard to get.



Steve Fischer and Carlos Fighetti (AOS Pres.) taken at WOC.



Photographer: Dick Templeton

Barbara Kenemuth admiring Show and Tell orchids.  
Photographer: Debby Lieberman



### NEW WEB ADMINISTRATOR/DESIGNER NEEDED

Due to the continuing poor health of Peggy Merrill and Lloyd Stout, Peggy has resigned from the webpage. They will no longer continue as members at this time, as the travel from Portales is getting harder. We are sorry to lose them. They grew wonderful orchids and worked hard on the shows. When Peggy took over the job several years ago she knew nothing about putting together webpages but took over with the philosophy that she could master it. It had 42 pages and is now around 113. She will send info to whomever takes over this job. **THANKS PEGGY AND LLOYD FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND WE WILL MISS YOU.** Who is going to supply with me with horse manure now?

**Keith Mead Treasurer**  
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**Board meeting**  
**April ??, 2008, 6:30 pm at**  
**the home of Joanne**  
**Bodin. All members are**  
**welcome to attend. If**  
**you want to express an**  
**opinion, bring up ideas,**  
**etc, you must be on the**  
**agenda.**

**Contact Debby**  
**Lieberman at**  
**[deblieberman@earthlink.net](mailto:deblieberman@earthlink.net)**  
**or 286 0915 no later**  
**than 03/10/08**

**We're on the Web!**  
**See us at:**  
**[www.nmog.org](http://www.nmog.org)**

### NMOG DIRECTORY AND NEWSLETTERS

Any changes/additions to the NMOG Directory are to be made to Nancy Overdick who can be contacted at [enchanted93@yahoo.com](mailto:enchanted93@yahoo.com). If your email changes I need to be also informed as well of your address so that you may continue to receive your email/snailmail. I do not have the time to go through the directory to make sure the email or addresses are the same. If there are more than two members in a household and they wish to receive their own copy of the newsletter, I also need to know. The Directory should be updated each time a new member joins and then sent to you with a new date so as not to confuse you about the current directory.

### YEARLY DUES ARE DUE

Now is the time to pay your \$25/year for membership, which includes the newsletter emailed 11-12 times a year. Those choosing snail mail at \$30/year will receive a B/W copy in the mail. Please pay at either the meetings or send checks to Keith Mead, PO Box 12938, ABQ NM 87195. Checks should be made out to NMOG. Deadline is March 2nd. After that date you will no longer receive your newsletter. This will be your last newsletter!

### THE MAY ORCHID SHOW

Vickie Haskins will give a short update on the upcoming show and will need you to think about ways you can help. She has written up job descriptions and will need a lot of volunteers to make the show a huge success. The committees have been working the last few months to finalize their projects. This year there will be a brown bag lunch and talk prior to the show, given by Diann O'Neill. Steve will also give a presentation on Saturday during the show. We haven't seen the presentations in the last few years. Something new this year is a hands-on exhibit for the children. They will be able to plant their own seedling.

### CANCER CENTER ART SHOW

Steve has ordered some orchids to sell. We hope to have a few volunteers to come exhibit their orchids and talk to visitors to the art show about growing orchids. Call Vickie 344-2407 if you will be coming next Sunday, Mar 30<sup>th</sup>. The orchid guild will get some good publicity and we will help a good cause-the New Mexico Cancer Center Foundation which helps patients pay extra costs of becoming ill, food, utility bills, child care etc. that are not covered by insurance.