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ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JIM SPATZEK, EDITOR

Sam Tsui "The Wonderful World of Parvisepalum" will brighten our January meeting!



The President's Message

BY
LOIS CINERT

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If you can read this, the world did not end, or it's not yet January 1st and we have to wait to find out. What that means is, when all the fireworks and champagne are long gone, we will all just keep going along. What was all the fuss about? We've passed a milestone in the history of the Western World, and can now officially bore our grandchildren with tales of the good old days.

But lots of the day to day stuff will be the same this year as it was last year. One of the day to day annual events is the paying of dues for your IOS membership. WE do lots of nice things with your \$20.00. This newsletter, and our monthly speakers

are just the beginning. We support the Volo Bog, the Nature Conservancy orchid restoration, the Selby Botanic Garden--especially the Orchid Identification Center, the American Orchid Society and its many endeavors, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Chicago AOS Judging Center--our center, and the Mid-America Orchid Congress, just to name a few. Not bad for just \$20.00. If you haven't sent it in yet....

Having a 2 in front of the year is a reminder that our BIG EVENT is getting closer. 2002 will be our 50th Anniversary an a year to test our devotion to our orchids and our Society. We will need all of you to give your time,

effort, and ingenuity to make it a success. A great way to practice is to participate. Bring plants to the monthly meetings, away shows, home shows; help by volunteering; bring your goodies to the meetings for hospitality. Call a board member and ask what needs to be done. It's fun!

Speaking of fun, I hope all of you got to the Hausermann's Party. The flowers were beautiful, the food--excellent, and as usual, we ate all of it. Hope you found just the right plant to buy--there are always lots. Thanks to Hausermann's for their consistently cordial hospitality; it a great place for a party, to wander and browse, and to bring home a new little jewel.



IOS Board Meetings

January 11, 2000
 March 14, 2000
 May 9, 2000
 July 11, 2000

All Board of Directors meeting are held --unless otherwise noted-- at the Johnson Bank on Green Bay Road, 2 blocks north of Tower Road in Hubbard Woods, IL at 7:30 pm. Please advise President Cinert if you cannot attend!



**AmericanOrchid
 Society**

Judgings

The judgings of the American Orchid Society Chicago Judging Center are held monthly in the Linneaus Room of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL., on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00PM(unless otherwise announced here and in the AOS Bulletin, Orchids.

January 8, 2000--1:30PM
 February 12, 2000--1:00PM
 March 11, 2000--1:00PM
 April 8, 2000--7:00AM
 May 13, 2000--1:00PM
 June 10, 2000--1:00PM
 July 8, 2000--1:30PM
 August 12, 2000--1:00PM
 September 9, 2000--1:00PM
 October 6, 2000--6:00PM
 November 11, 2000--1:00PM
 December 9, 2000--1:00PM



January Speaker

While the big Millennium celebration may be over, there is no end in sight for the great speakers coming in the year, 2000. The New Year's festivities will continue at the Botanic Garden on Sunday, January 9th. "Breaking the Ice" for this memorable year is our local talent, **Sam Tsui of The Orchid Inn** from nearby Downs, Illinois. His topic will be "The Wonderful World of Parvisepalum." Same was born in Hong Kong and came to the U.S. in 1974 at the age of 22 to study computer science at Illinois State University. Although he received his MBA and is currently an application software specialist, he is a passionate Paphiopedilum hybridizer. He first began growing orchids in 1983, the same year he married Jeanie Ting, also a student at ISU from Hong Kong. By 1985 he was a serious Paphiopedilum grower and in 1991 he began

hybridizing them. He keeps very busy making over 100 crosses each year and sending them all over the world. Attending about fifteen orchid shows and conferences annually, he recently spoke at the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver. While he has received many awards for his Paphs, his most prestigious one was an FCC/AOS for his Paphiopedilum rothschildianum "Sam's Best" in May, 1998

This year make a resolution to come to every meeting with display plants--even just 1 or 2--and goodies for the hospitality table! Be sure to arrive by Noon for this month's meeting in the multi-purpose room. Have your show plants, as well as any sales plants, arranged by 12:30pm, so the judges can finish in time to hear Sam's lecture that follows in the Auditorium. Wasn't it easy to bring something to Hausermann's for the Christmas Party? It shouldn't end there--keep up the good work and be an IOS patron with your donations to the refreshment table as often as possible throughout the year. You will warm the hearts and stomachs of our hard-working hospitality committee who gratefully accept all contributions whether store bought, homemade, or leftover! Hopefully you still have some money left after Christmas to buy some of Sam's excellent hybrids that will be for sale.

To start you on the right foot for the Millennium year, there will be a Round Table Discussion by a knowledgeable group of IOS members on any orchid related subject you may want to know more about. Send you questions ahead of time to me by Phone [847] 432-7708, e-mail at jmd@dixler.com, or fax at [847] 432-1441. This is a great opportunity to have an open discussion and share some of the ideas and techniques to grow orchids better.

Joe Dixler

Speaker for the Year 2000

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Feb 27 | Carson Whitlow |
| Mar 12 | Rudolph Jenny |
| Apr 7-9 | IOS Spring Show |
| May 7 | ??? |
| June 4 | Norito Hasagawa Paphanatics |
| July 9 | Ned Nash |
| Aug 13 | Oak Hill Picnic |
| Sept 17 | Howard Ginsberg Bedford Orchids |
| Oct 6-8 | IOS Fall Mini |
| Show Nov 12 | Wojciech |
| Kikunas | |
| Dec 10 | Hausermann's Holiday Party |

Welcome, New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the IOS, and make them feel welcome at their first meeting....

Russell C. Stevens
Dee Wingle
Anette K. Jensen



Upcoming Events in the Orchid World

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 1/28-1/30/00 | Orchid Society of Minnesota Show Como Conservatory St. Paul, MN |
|--------------|--|

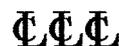
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|----------------|---|
| 2/5-2/6/00 | Wisconsin Orchid Growers Guild Show, Madison, WI |
| 3/18-3/19/00 | Illowa Orchid Soc 24th SpringShow Bettendorf, IA |
| 3/25-3/26/00 | Central Iowa Orc. Society Show Des Moines, IA |
| 4/8-4/9/00 | Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe |
| 4/6-4/9/00 | European Orchid Congress, openhagen,Den. |
| 4/15-4/16/00 | Mid America Orc Congress Livonia, MI |
| 9/6-9/10/00 | Orchids 2000 4th New Zealand Expo Hamilton, NZ |
| 9/16-9/17/00 | Mid.AmericaOrch Cong. Muncie, IN |
| 9/15-9/17/00 | 7th Chicagoland Orchid Festival |
| 10/6-10/8/00 | IOS Fall Mini Show, Glencoe |
| 10/5-10/8/00 | 4th Australasian Native Orchid Soc.Conference Melbourne,Aust. |
| 10/10-10/15/00 | 15th Australian Orchid Conference & Show Burnie, Tasmania |
| 3/29-4/1/01 | IOS Spring Show Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe |
| 4/9-4/14/02 | AOSSpring Trustees Meeting & IOS Spring Show, CBG Glencoe, IL |
| 10/18-10/26/02 | 17th World Orchid Conference Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia |



TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Tell your friends who grow orchids or wnat to grow

orchids that IOS membership right now is a GREAT deal! In addition to this great monthly newsletter, several Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association members are giving new members coupons for \$10 off their purchases. As a result, new members essentially get back their \$20 dues (\$25 for first class mailing) and more when they use these coupons!



Beginners/Cultural Group

The first orchid beginner's discussion group took place in December and was a great success! Imagine 2 hours of discussing orchid culture nonstop! We will do it again on January 18 (see directions attached to this newsletter). By the way, we are going to refer to it as the Cultural Discussion Group from now on, because we don't want people to think it is limited to just beginners. We plan to move it around to whoever will host, or it will end up at Barb's. Think about the advantages of hosting--you pick the date that is good for you, you don't have to go anywhere, experts come and see your setup and can give advice that you might need, and it forces you to clean up your growing area! Basements are the venue in many places, we know. Think about it. Carolyn Jackson is hosting in February and details will be in the next newsletter. Call Barb Bennerr (847-948-8163) if you want to host a session or plan on attending in January. We meet 7-9pm and bring plants about which we have concerns or questions, with one or two expert growers to give us tips.

News from the Net

By Barb Bennett

It's time for another episode of Cultural Tips from the Net (mostly from Orchidguide Digest)

Subject: Magnesium sulfate (epson salts) for phals

From: Genata <genatac@yahoo.com

It was suggested that I try watering my phals for 4 weeks with a solution of 1 tsp mag sulfate (epson salts obtainable from the local drug store) to a gallon water, and then switch to a bloom booster, which I did. A plant that had not bloomed in 2 years, is now in spike, and looks great. No, I have no control plant, so I can't definitively say this was the only possible cause, but I haven't changed any other conditions, so I think it may be the magnesium.

From: asfaloth7@aol.com

I have been using Mag Pro, a DynaGro product, this year. In October I started for 4 weeks watering all orchids with this. To my surprise, not only have the Phals. spiked but other orchids have also. I would not think about this being unusual, but some of the other orchids have not bloomed before. MagPro is supposed to also help the color of the blooms. Time will tell.

Subject: Repotting Dendrobiums

From: Halorch@aol.com

Because Dendrobiums love being rootbound and don't like to be repotted, don't repot too often. As much as a year's blooming can be lost when they are disturbed. Even if canes have no leaves, they are alive. Old canes without leaves are still alive if they are plump and green, and should not be removed. Yellow, dry canes are dead, and should be removed. In many species, old canes will rebloom (even those without leaves). Some people remove old, live canes with the purpose of propagating the plant. Lay it horizontally on sphagnum, keeping the moss damp. Often multiple keikis will sprout, each of which can become a new plant. This takes a while (1-2 years), so be patient.

From: "Richard D. Spencer"

<merdave@televar.com

To propagate from Dendrobium canes, remove them from the plant, cut them into pieces with 2 nodes (use sterile knife), and either lay them down about with 1/2 of the cane in the mix or stand them up with the bottom node in the mix. A simple mix is 1/2 fine and 1/2 medium bark. Don't remove too many canes as this will weaken the mother plant. You should crowd them in the pot and repot them when the roots are about 2" long.

From: Eric Muehlbauer

<e.muehlbauer@worldnet.att.net

Actually, every time I have tried to intentionally propagate a dendrobium from an old cane, I've ended up with a moldy old stick. My best luck with them was simply by discarding them on top of a shelf, or stuck somewhere where I can completely forget about their existence. When I've rediscovered them, always by surprise, several months to well over a year later, I find them with several keikis, complete with roots. (I'm only referring to phalaenopsis-types here.)

Subject: Growing Masdevallias

From: Patty Jansen

<capric@capricornica.com

I live in a climate where we are blessed with almost perfect conditions for growing Masdevallias outside most of the time. I stress 'most of the time' because summer has come upon us and it is the time during which Masdevallias suffer. Trying to keep them cool when they are growing hung from a piece of lattice underneath a shade cloth on the fence is not easy. Sure, they like a lot of wind, but it doesn't help if the wind temperature is 35 degrees [Centigrade! I am trying to keep them cool by turning the hose on them for about 2 seconds regularly during the day. I hope this will keep the leaves and the pots cool without the mix getting too wet. I don't water them at all during these hot days.

I grow all of my Masdevallias in 5cm tubes (except a few which I bought in larger pots, and summer is not the time to repot them). The pots are

filled with 100% sphagnum. I do not use any 'artificial' components in the pots, because cockroaches like to eat perlite and polystyrene.

They do like a bit of light, and the ones that are heat tolerant seem to prefer being hot and light to being cooler and dark. Some people seem to think the key is in getting the night temperature down. I may yet have to build an orchid house with an evaporative cooling system

From: Joehrend@bellsouth.net

A fellow grower who grows superb masdevallias gave us the tip to mist cool-growing masdevallias in the evening(!) to simulate the evening mist they get in their natural environment. He grows his masdevallias hanging in front of his evaporative cooler.

From: Jim Zablotny, Lansing, MI

Most Masdevallias are easy to grow given that you have ideal conditions. Temperature and humidity are important factors to consider when growing members of this genus. I grow intermediate to cool/intermediate Masdevallias and I tend to lose a few when extreme temperature changes occur. Stressed plants are prone to bacterial and fungal rots and can drop all of their leaves within 12 hours after being stressed. The key is to provide these plants with an adequate temperature drop at night. My temperatures ranges between 68-78 during the day and down to 55-48 degrees F at night. Humidity is maintained between 45 and 70 %. For potting, I use a mix composed of 3 parts chopped tree fern, 3 parts fine fir bark, 1 part shredded red wood fiber, and 1 part coarse perlite. Repot plants whenever the mix starts going bad and repotting generally works best when growing conditions are favorable. My favorite species include M. strobellii, M. exquisita (delicate), M. amanda, M. decumana (good grower once established with great flowers!), and M. tricallosa. For hybrids, I do not grow many but I like the hardy Masdevallia "Misfit"—a

good grower, flowers not too flashy but makes lots of them!!

Subject:: Cazy catasetum

From: sprovinas@cnet.com

I got my first catasetum in full spike in September. Two pseudobulbs, each with two leaves, and one giant flower spike. It's a hybrid—Catasetum Raymond Lerner. I watered it fairly regularly during flowering, until flowers began to drop. Leaves dropped, as expected, and flowers dropped, as expected, and then I put it on top of my refrigerator to ignore for the winter about 3-4 weeks ago. Last night, I noticed that one of the pseudobulbs looked brown and bruised. I picked up the plant to see if this was rot, and much to my surprise, I found another spike!! have several questions. Do I begin watering again because there's a spike? How much? Any fertilizer? What I saw was indeed rot on one of the pseudobulbs. It's kind of mushy at the bottom, but still firm at the top. Do I need to remove it? If so, when? Right away, or after this next flowering cycle? Is it OK to just leave the rotting bulb alone? The second bulb is fine.

From: fredrick@well.com

The rot won't get any better if you do nothing. There is a good chance it will take the whole pseudobulb, maybe the whole plant. Growing too cool is what I think causes a lot of the rotted bulbs of Catasetums. What I would do is remove the bulb, cut off the rot and a bit more and treat the cut surfaces with cinnamon powder (the spice). You can then seal the cut surface with a dip in melted wax or a wipe of lanolin. There is a chance that the bulb may sprout from an eye if you can save it. If this is too much trouble just toss it. Don't fail to treat the point of attachment where the bad bulb joined the good one. You should water the plant a little until it is through blooming, no fertilizer, and then you can keep it dryer but not totally dry and do keep the poor thing warm. It is a hot tropical lowland

plant, likes 65 deg F (18 C) minimum. Repot in the early spring and resume biweekly watering when new growth is a couple of inches high.

Subject: Stanhopea culture

From:

pmitchel@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu

Stanhopea oculata is an easy-to-grow species, good --along with S. wardii, another Mexican/Central american species-- as beginning species of the genus to try.

Stanhopeas like to be moist and never dry out completely for an extended period. If they are allowed to go dry for much longer than a week, the pseudobulbs begin to shrivel, more so the longer that the plant goes without water. Shriveled bulbs on a Stanhopea will never recover and re-plump. However, if proper moisture is given, the subsequent growths will mature into normal, plump pseudobulbs during the next growth cycle.

If bulbs are shriveled, roots may have been lost due to old sour medium that no longer drains well. The lack of aeration and a possible salt build-up in the medium have an adverse affect upon the health of the roots. If, however, the roots are still good and the mix is still in reasonable condition (it should not have an earthy smell, especially in the middle), just make sure that that plant stays slightly damp until new growth begins in spring.

If you must repot it and there are no live roots on it i would suggest you line a wire basket with about 2 to 3 layers of newsprint (don't use glossy pages with color photos if you can help it), then fill the basket loosely about 1/3 of the way with moistened New Zealand sphagnum. Place your Stanhopea, cleaned gently of the old medium to preserve as many live roots as it might still have, on the surface of the sphagnum and fill the basket loosely the rest of the way up to about an inch below the rim. The

base of the plant will now be partly buried; this is what you want. (Don't worry. In nature Stanhopeas often grow their roots straight up to catch leaves, twigs, etc., building a trashheap on top of themselves for both food and to help hold some moisture around themselves.)

With the basket full, (the newspaper should extend up beyond the sphagnum that last inch trimmed even with the basket rim) now press the sphagnum down just enough to hold the plant in place then hang the basket in a shaded area away from strong drafts (to keep from drying out too fast) and keep damp. Mist the plant several times a day if possible and try not to chill it, now that winter is upon us.

Incidentally, the newspaper will eventually turn black, but that's okay. That shouldn't hurt anything. The paper lets you put the sphagnum in loosely (without having to pack it tightly so it won't fall from between the wires of the basket), plus keeps the sphagnum from drying too quickly.

I have had very good luck growing and establishing Stanhopeas this way. The important thing is to give them fresh loosely packed sphagnum, plenty of moisture, a buoyant, humid atmosphere, and a shady situation until their roots can take hold.

Once your Stanhopea is repotted, take a screwdriver and gently poke 2 or 3 small holes through the paper at the bottom of the basket just enough to allow the water to drain from it and not pool in the bottom. The newspaper will help keep the sphagnum from rapidly drying out. BTW, if you know anyone in south Florida who could send you some, there is one thing better than newspaper, and that is punk tree (Melaleucca) bark. It is papery, waterproof to a large degree, lasts well, and like the newspaper, allows the flower spikes to pierce it and emerge without restraint. Just peel

