

March 2010

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Next Meeting March 9, 2010

Speaker: *Stig Dalstrom*

Topic: *“Orchids from the land of the Tunder Dragon”*

There is a famous line from a popular movie that came out a few years ago that said, “Life is like a box of chocolates.... You never know what you’re going to get.”

That’s a bit like what Tuesday’s meeting is going to be like as I haven’t received a bio or description of the talk. I can only tell you that Stig is well respected in the orchid world so, it should be an enjoyable presentation. -Ed.

Blooming Seasons - by Leise Butler Oak Hill Gardens

Sumer, Fall, Winter, Spring. Any season of the year you can find blooming orchids. The majority of orchid varieties bloom during the winter and spring months; beginning around November and winding down by May. This is when most of the large, showy varieties bloom, i.e. Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, and Oncidiums.

However, one can walk into our greenhouses any day of the year and see something in bloom. The spring and summer months are when the orchids do most of their growing, putting out their new root and plant growth. However, even during those hot days of summer there are a few little species somewhere in our greenhouses in bloom.

Spring bloomers, for instance, usually bloom mid-March to mid-June. However, they may bloom as early as February or as late as July. Much depends on the weather before and during that period. Normally, the longer day length, warmer temperatures, and stronger sunlight that come with spring promote flowers on "spring bloomers." Similarly, the shorter days, cooler temperatures, and lower light is what initiates the spikes on the "winter blooming" orchids. Many times our seasons don't exhibit the weather that they are supposed to. Last year, for instance, we did not have a very nice spring season. The days were dark and cloudy and the temps remained cold well into June. Because of this, many of our spring bloomers flowered late - and some, not at all. When this happens, the plants will sometime bloom out of season, or sometimes skip their flowering for that year.

We can help nature along a bit by providing supplemental grow lights during dark, cloudy spring days, or turning our thermostats down in fall and winter to provide the natural cooling effects of nature. However, not all orchids can be tricked that easily. Orchids are living plants that are greatly influenced by their surroundings. Natural changes in seasons, individual growing areas, climates, and potting materials all contribute to the happiness and vigor of orchid growth. The stronger and happier our orchids are, the better blooms we will see.

Meeting Schedule

- 7:00—7:30
Show Table Entries
- 7:30—8:00
Show Table Review/
Refreshments
- 8:00—8:15
Business Meeting
- 8:15—9:00
Program
- 9:00—9:25
Show Table Commen-
tary, Raffle, and Door
Prizes

THE DELAWARE ORCHID SOCIETY

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News and Notes...

Upcoming speakers:

April 13th - Peter Tobias - The Orchid Conservation Alliance and its Projects

May 11th - Carrie Raven-Rehman - Paphs

June 8th - Somewhere... we're going to have our annual banquet! Current potential sites include Greenville Country Club and The Executive Banquet and Conference Center.

The Library Lady....

The DOS Library will have two new books on display at the Library Table in March.

Bloom-Again Orchids is written by Judy White (author of Taylor's Guide to Orchids). She describes 50 easy-care orchids that can flower again and again--from Angraecum to Zygopetalum, with information on light needs, temperature range, potting needs, and bloom time. And, perhaps best of all, she does it with a sense of humor, which we can all certainly use now and then.

Our second "newbie" is Gardener's Guide to Growing Orchids by Wilma and Brian Rittershausen. Opening with an historical account of early exploration for orchids, it continues with sections on botany and the interesting development of hybridization. Practical advice is given on growing indoors, outdoors, or under glass as well as guidance on care, cultivation, growing mediums, etc. Full of information on many levels, it can be helpful for both beginning and experienced growers.

I want to remind members that --no matter what orchids you grow--AOS "fact sheets" are available at the Library Table for any DOS member. They describe the light, temperatures, water schedule, humidity, fertilizing needs, and potting methods for 13 different orchids--from Catasetums to Vandas. Any member can take copies home to keep for his/her use. If you have any questions...come see me.

The Library Lady

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 1006 Wilson, Wilmington at 7 PM. Visitors are always welcome.



SAVE THE DATE!!!
D.O.S. Annual Auction
Saturday April 17, 2010 Doors open at 11 - Auction at 12:00
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

PLANT	FEBRUARY SHOW TABLE	GROWER
	<u>Greenhouse</u> <u>Windowsill/Lights</u>	

Special Auction Item

Duane & Judy Erdmann came across some antique orchid china and purchased it for inclusion in the auction. It is believed to have some value substantially more than what they paid. To research it, see pictures below:



SAVE THE DATE!!

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
1006 Wilson Road
Wilmington, DE

11:00 AM April 17, 2010



DELAWARE ORCHID SOCIETY

Delaware Orchid Society's Annual Auction



The Delaware Orchid Society is conducting its annual auction on Saturday, April 17th, 2010. Doors open at 11 for previewing items and the live auction begins at noon. The auction will be held at the society's regular meeting site, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church located at 1006 Wilson Road, conveniently off the Marsh Road exit of I-95. Over 200 items are expected to be available for live and silent auction. It's a great, inexpensive way to acquire new plants or get your foot in the door of a rewarding new hobby.

Highlights

- Exciting Plants from nurseries' such as Waldors, Parkside and Oak Hill
- Member donated plants
- Orchid related paraphernalia including a set of rare orchid print china

For more information, or questions, please check www.delawareorchidsociety.org or call



Don't forget to bring your plants for the show table!

Delaware Orchid Society

c/o 505 N. DuPont Road
Wilmington, DE 19807

We're on the web!

www.delawareorchidsociety.org



The 2010 Philadelphia International Flower Show - Passport to the World

The upcoming Flower Show is going to be a special one on many levels. Most obvious is the name change. In 2010, PHS will present the Philadelphia International Flower Show, an acknowledgement of the Show's global scope, participation, and reputation, which have been growing for years.

The internationally inclusive Flower Show is also meant to include you, the first-time exhibitor with one plant or the experienced exhibitor with many entries. Competing in the Horticult, the mini-Olympics of horticulture, is an experience you'll never forget!

For easy guidance on how to be a part of the 2010 Show, you can go to the official Show web site and download the Exhibitor's Guide and the step-by-step User's Guide for registering your plants online. Preregistering your plants by January 31st is strongly encouraged so that your official entry cards can be prepared in advance. In addition, you will receive a mailing from PHS in advance of the Show with instructions for where and when to bring your plants on entry days.

To go directly to the Flower Show site to view the Exhibitor's Guide and User's Guide, go to:
<http://www.theflowershow.com/Exhibits/ccinfo.html>

At Longwood Gardens: Orchid Extravaganza – January 23 through March 31

Immerse yourself in a dazzling world of orchids as Longwood transforms its Conservatory into a lush oasis showcasing the divas of the plant world. Highlights include a romantic Valentine's Dinner in the Conservatory, family-friendly OrKID Days, the Jazz Club featuring Grammy-winning trumpeter Terence Blanchard and vocalist Jane Monheit, a Clivia Show, a celebration of Samuel Barber with Curtis on Tour, and the return of the International Orchid Show and Sale in March.



Random Pics from past show tables since we were snowed out last month.