

November 2016 Newsletter

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New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter November 2016

Our next regular meeting will be:

November 13, 2016 at 1:30pm

Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas
Blvd NE

*(Just West of Eubank on the South Side of
Lomas in Los Altos Park)*

As usual, please bring something to share.

Cakes, cookies, and other snacks are
appreciated

Members are encouraged to wear their
membership badges



**Main Program: Francisco
Miranda speaking on
Rupicolous Orchids of Brazil**

Growers Forum: Preparing Your

Cover photo is Paph. grown by Richard
Bennett

**Plants for Winter. Forum begins at
1pm**

From the President's Desk:

November 2016

We certainly had an enthusiastic group for our hands on repotting program at the October meeting. Many orchids went home happy in new pots and media. Thanks to our veteran members who assisted those less comfortable with the repotting process.

Join me in welcoming our newest member of the Board of Directors, Diana Williams. She joins us as secretary replacing Debby Lieberman. Thanks ~~Debby for all your years of service to NMOG and all the great memories. We~~ look forward to your continued involvement with NMOG and especially at show time.

Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids in Florida will be our guest at the November 13th meeting. His topic will be Rupicolous Orchids. There are a multitude of rocky habitats in Brazil, and on most of them orchids can be found. Although most people associate rupicolous orchids with the rock-growing laelias on the mountains, and indeed several of them grow like this, there are many many other types of orchids growing under these conditions. In fact, rocky habitats are by no means restricted to the mountains and thus this is a very interesting subject both by their type, range and orchid types.

Francisco will accept pre orders placed by October 31st. Pre orders will enjoy a 10% discount and be delivered at the meeting. Email your order to info@mirandaorchids.com . If you don't see what you want he may still have it so ask. He will be bringing a nice selection of plants for sale. Visit his website at Mirandaorchids.com

Our November grower's forum will address how to treat your orchids during the winter.

Shortly you should receive an email with a reservation form for our annual Holiday Party on December 11th at Season's restaurant in Old Town. Again this year you have the opportunity to purchase gift plants to be picked up at the party.

See you on the 13th.

Keith

NMOG Website: <http://www.nmorchidguild.org/>
American Orchid Society Website: <http://aos.org>

October Show and Tell Winners

Photos taken by Barb Beil



Advanced Division-- First Place
Daniel Perry
Dendrobium Enobi Purple 'Splash'



Advanced Division--Second Place
Susan Yamamoto
Bc. Sonia Digbyana X C. Hesta



Intermediate Division - First Place
Lauren Stephens
Blc. Krulls Lemonade Sunshine



Intermediate division-- Second place
Kelly McCracken
Masdevallia erinacea



Novice Division--First Place
Matthew Polmanter
Oncidium Midnight 'Volcano Queen'

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.



Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and

flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.



Neofinetia falcata will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Classifieds

Email Kelly@dunnassoc.net to list orchids for sale or trade, orchid related items, or "In Search Of" posts

Randy Gleicher is looking for some assistance in assembling his greenhouse kit. Please contact Randy at gleicherrandy@gmail.com if you are willing to help.



For Sale: Various orchid books. For a full list of available books, plus prices, contact : Madelin Coit 505-989-1670 or mc@madelincoit.com

Orchidaceae

text - P. Francis Hunt plates - Mary A. Grierson Bourton
Press 1973
144 pp including index burgundy fabric sleeve gold on
unbound edges

Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated

Vol 1- 1959
Dunsterville & Garay, Deutsch ltd pub.

Orchidacea Brasilienses -Band 1, Band 2

G.F.J. Pabst, F.Dung Brucke Verlag 1977

Orchid Flowers, Pollination and Evolution

L. van der Pijl and Calaway H. Dodson Atlantic Printers and Litho. 1966

Orchids, Flowers of Romance and Mystery

Text Jack Kramer, photos Burgess, Wilson et cetera
Abrams - 1927

Encyclopaedia of Cultivated Orchids

Alex Hawkes, Faber & Faber, 1965.

Genus Phalaenopsis Herman Sweet PhD Orchid Digest, Vol

1. 1980

More books available