



New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter

April 2016

Our next regular meeting will be:

April 3, 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



**April Program: Orchids of
Costa Rica and Panama by
NMOG Member Jonah Wynn-
Lenetsky**

In April we will feature NMOG member,
Jonah Wynn-Lenetsky speaking about the

orchids of Costa Rica and Panama. Jonah has lived and traveled extensively in the area. It should be a very interesting presentation!

Plants from Clown Alley Orchids will be available at the April meeting for sale and Raffle

From the President's Desk:

April 2016

Thanks so much to NMOG member Daniel Perry for what is being called “ one of the BEST programs ever”. His March meeting presentation on growing orchids from seed was interesting and educational. We enjoyed a demonstration and then hands on participation with members actually pollinating an orchid. Daniel deflasked phal seedlings he had pollinated and grown. Members then had the opportunity to pot the seedlings and take them home.

Our April meeting will be on the 3rd which is THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. Jonah Winn-Lenetsky will speak on the orchids of Costa Rica and Panama. Jonah is an NMOG member and has lived in Central America. He will show photos of orchids in situ and talk about his experiences.

The grower’s forum will be on preparing and properly classifying your plants for the show.

Our annual show and sale, A Fairy Tale Garden, will be held at the ABQ Bio Park Botanic Garden on **April 29th through May 1st**. Plant check in will be Wednesday, April 27th from 9-11 AM and 4-6 PM. Ribbon judging is at 9 AM on Thursday, April 28th. Members in good standing (i.e. wearing a current membership badge) will enter the Bio Park free of charge and be able to purchase plants at any time during the show with a 15% discount. Please see the events section of the NMOG web site nmorchidguild.org for a full schedule and plant classification list.

See you April 3rd

Keith

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

March Show and Tell Winners

Photos taken by Sean Houtman

You can access the Show and Tell form by clicking [HERE](#)



Advanced Division--First Place
Sean Houtman
Dendrobium Super Ise



Advanced Division--Second Place
Sean Houtman
Dendrobium linguiforme



Advanced Division-- Third place
Judith Richey
Dendrobium Aussie's Child



Intermediate division--First place
Jane Nagel
Wilsonara Aloha Sparks 'Edna's Flame'



Intermediate division-- Second place
Kelly McCracken
Masdevallia ayabacana



Intermediate division-- Second place
Ana Benscoter
Paphiopedilum lowii



Intermediate Division Third place
Debbie Lieberman
Phal NOID



Novice Division-- First Place
Dorothy Duff
Potinara Ocone Circle



Novice Division-- Second Place
Diana Williams
Phal NOID



Novice Division-- Third Place
Dorothy Duff
Dendrobium kingianum

Interview with an NMOG member

By Kelly McCracken

These Greenhouse Interviews have turned out to be a very popular section of the newsletter. I am very please to be offering you continued insights into the grow areas of NMOG's membership, but frankly, I'm running out of people willing to have their grow space photographed! If you enjoy reading this section of our newsletter, consider volunteering to have your grow space photographed, or recommend someone who you would be interested in. The interview usually takes about 30 minutes, and I can come to your house at your convenience.

Please, don't be shy! No matter where or how you grow, we are interested in YOU!

If you are interested in being featured, please call Kelly at 505-231-6816 or email kelly@dunnassoc.net

Rick & Diana Williams



Rick and Diana live in the foothills and grow in a pre-fabricated 10x12 greenhouse in their backyard.

How long have you been growing orchids? I've been growing orchids since 1994, over 20 years.

What got you started? There's not any one thing that got me started, but I can remember the drive out to Xanadu Orchids in San Antonio, TX on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, and was immediately hooked. I still have the receipt from my first orchid purchase, and went back within two months and bought more! Orchids & Ferns in Houston was another favorite place.

Why orchids ? Why not another plant? I don't know ... orchids are just so unique. I sometimes get the feeling that me and orchids just go together.

What genus/type do you most like to grow? Why? I guess I most like to grow Phalaenopsis, especially the big ones, because (I'm from Texas) and they're fabulous and they make a statement and they bloom more than once a year. The older the plant, the more gnarly it becomes, and it's all that more interesting to me.

What do you least like to grow? I've already managed to lay one to rest, but I'm very weary of the ones that go dormant, although I have learned that if you don't throw them away when they look dead, then they surprise you one day when you least expect it! I'm very pleased with the Habaneria that's come back twice now for me.

Do you have a favorite orchid? Long ago in the earlier days of my orchid fever, I once saw a big picture of a beautiful red/orange *Masdevallia veitchiana* with those sleek lines and long tendrils growing on a tiny stem, and I thought it was one of the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen. I decided right then that it would be my favorite ... not knowing when, where or how it was actually grown ... and not so easily here!



Here you can see the free-standing custom wood structure that Diana hangs her plants from. Up here, she grows a few Cattleyas and various Vandas.

Could you tell me about your grow areas? Up until my husband built the greenhouse, my growing areas encompassed the living room, dining room, and both of our guest bedrooms. Running out of places to live, he said we needed a greenhouse, so we bought a kit 10' x 12' kit at Harbor Freight and broke ground on March 30th, of 2014. He braced it thoroughly inside and out,

and built free-standing wooden structures on the outside for the shade cloth, which is sandwiched by chicken wire for stability. And he built another free-standing wooden structure on the inside so I could hang plants from the top without everything swaying with the strong canyon winds we get in the Foothills. I also grow a few cooler-growing Masdevallia orchids in one of the guest bedroom windows that faces the West and is protected by wooden blinds, and I watch it closely.

What do you use to keep the place cool/warm? For heating, we dug a trench and installed a new gas line from the side of the house down to the greenhouse at the bottom of the back yard, and we (meaning Rick) installed a gas heater inside the greenhouse, then we called in a professional to hook it all up properly. For the Winter, we also slide a long cover of bubble-wrapping up onto one side of the greenhouse, over the top and down the other side, then secure it all around with bungee cords. (Definitely a two-person job). Oh, and I somehow manage to plug in a little electric heater and for the colder nights to offset the cooler temps at the bottom of the greenhouse. For cooling, Rick built an external wooden stand, and he mounted and installed a swamp cooler above the entry door. We also have an oscillating fan and a floor fan that both run 24/7 throughout the Fall/Winter for heat and air circulation, and we have the swamp cooler for the Spring/Summer. I manually work each of the four top vents throughout the year, as needed. It's all still a very hands-on process and we're slowly learning how to automate, but it takes time.

How do you combat the low humidity here? We bought a nice fogger unit (that looks a little like a mini R2D2 from Star Wars) that blows a very fine mist throughout the greenhouse, and aides in cooling, as well. I also sometimes mist everything using the hose wand and I give the gravel flooring a good drench for additional humidity. We also have a mister system mounted at the top of greenhouse, but I don't turn it on much because I seem to think it doesn't distribute the mist evenly enough, especially to the plants toward the back on the middle and bottom benches.



The fogger. This contraption is capable of humidifying the whole room in just a minute or two.



Diana's plants are situated on three levels of wood-slat shelves.



She had so many blooming plants!

Do you use city water? Rain water? R/O water? During the Spring, Summer and early Fall we run water through a hose from a faucet on the side of the house through a couple of filters we (Rick) installed just prior to entering the greenhouse. Then for the late Fall/Winter season we shut off all water going into the greenhouse, remove the filters and disconnect the swamp cooler. We buy gallon jugs of distilled water and hand-carry it to the greenhouse for watering and for the fogger unit.

How often do you water? I usually deep-water every individual plant by hand with the hose wand once every week-and-a-half. And I mist or top-water as needed in the interim as I check each plant.

Do you fertilize? How do you do that? Yes, but I know I don't do it as often as I should. I have several different types of fertilizers and I use each of them at different times. My (imperfect) thinking is that a change-up in the food supply may provide a broader range of nutrients over time. And I can use up my stock



Maxillaria tenuifolia. The plant was specimen sized and filled with blooms!

Apart from actually blooming the orchids, what is the biggest challenge of growing orchids? Finding the space and the time for everything associated with maintaining my passion for growing orchids without neglecting the normal, everyday things that have to be done and people who would like to be appreciated as much.

Where do you learn about orchids? Do you google? Books? I recently subscribed to the American Orchid Society's software called "Orchids Plus" and have accumulated a very nice library

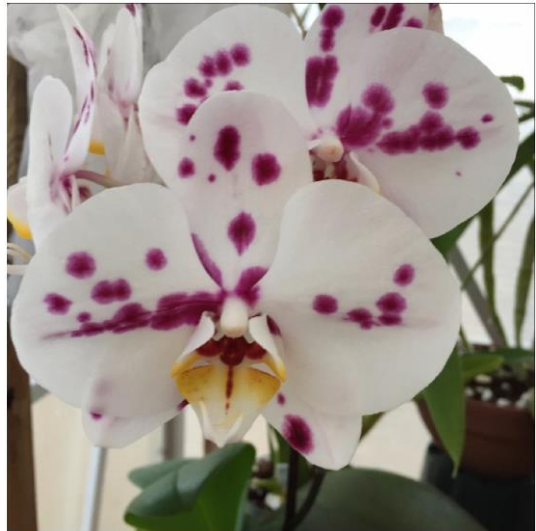
of orchid books that I refer to often. I very much like the older books, although information on the newer species and hybrids isn't covered. In fact, my prized possessions are three Sanders books Rick found at a thrift store in a little town in Northern Georgia:

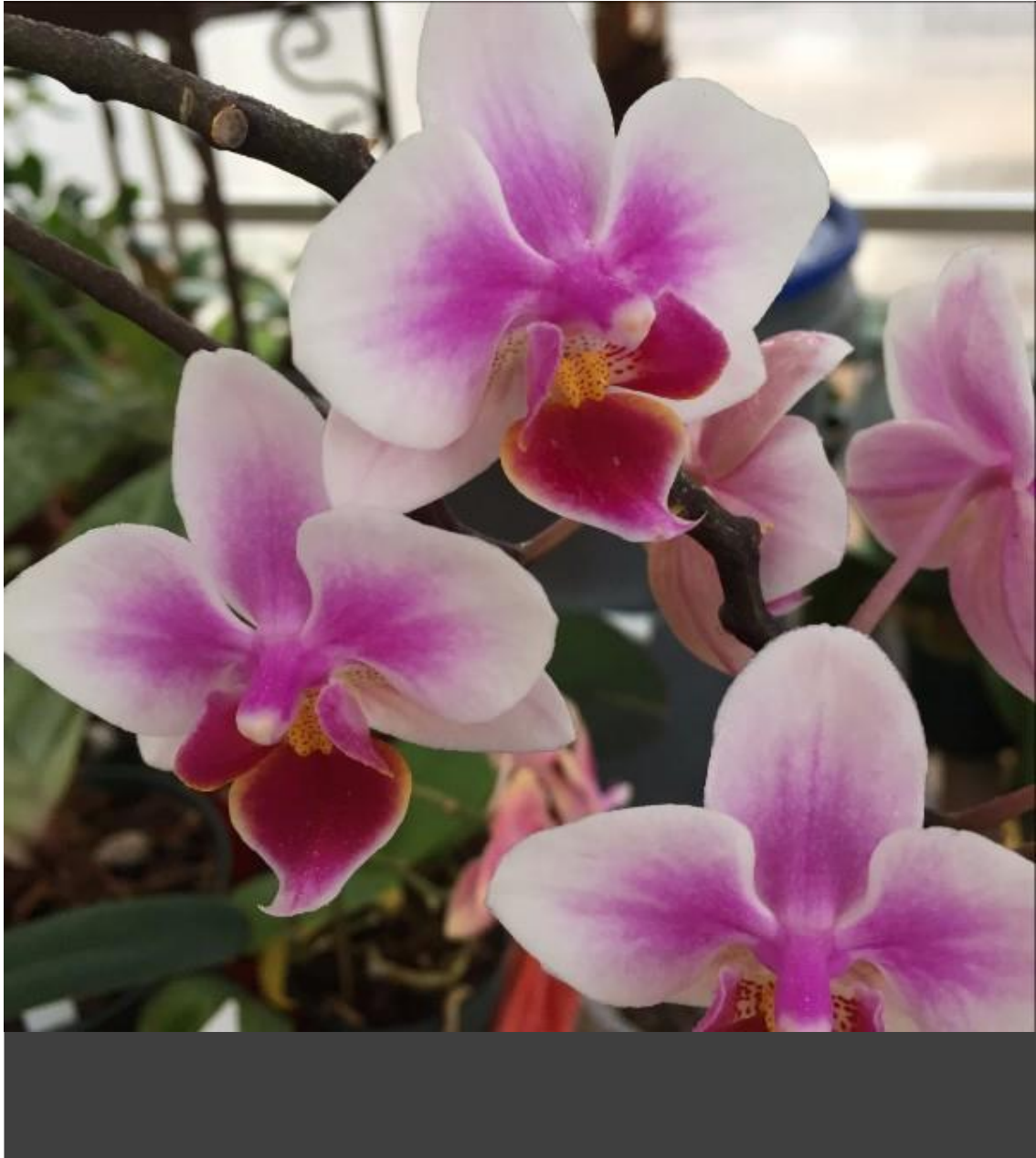
1. "Sanders' Orchid Guide, Revised (1927) Edition", printed in Belgium by Ch^s Geo. Kohler Printers & Publishers, Established in 1875
2. "Sanders' Complete List of Orchid Hybrids containing the Names And Parentages Of All The Known Hybrid Orchids Whether Introduced Or Artificially Raised to January 1st, 1946", printed in St Alban, Great Britain
3. "Sanders' List of Orchid Hybrids Addendum 1961-1970 containing the Names And Parentages Of All Orchid Hybrids registered from 1st January 1961 to 31st December 1970", compiled by The Royal Horticultural Society

Otherwise, I google. :)



Diana grows a respectable mix of varieties, her favorites being the large-flowered Phalaenopsis.





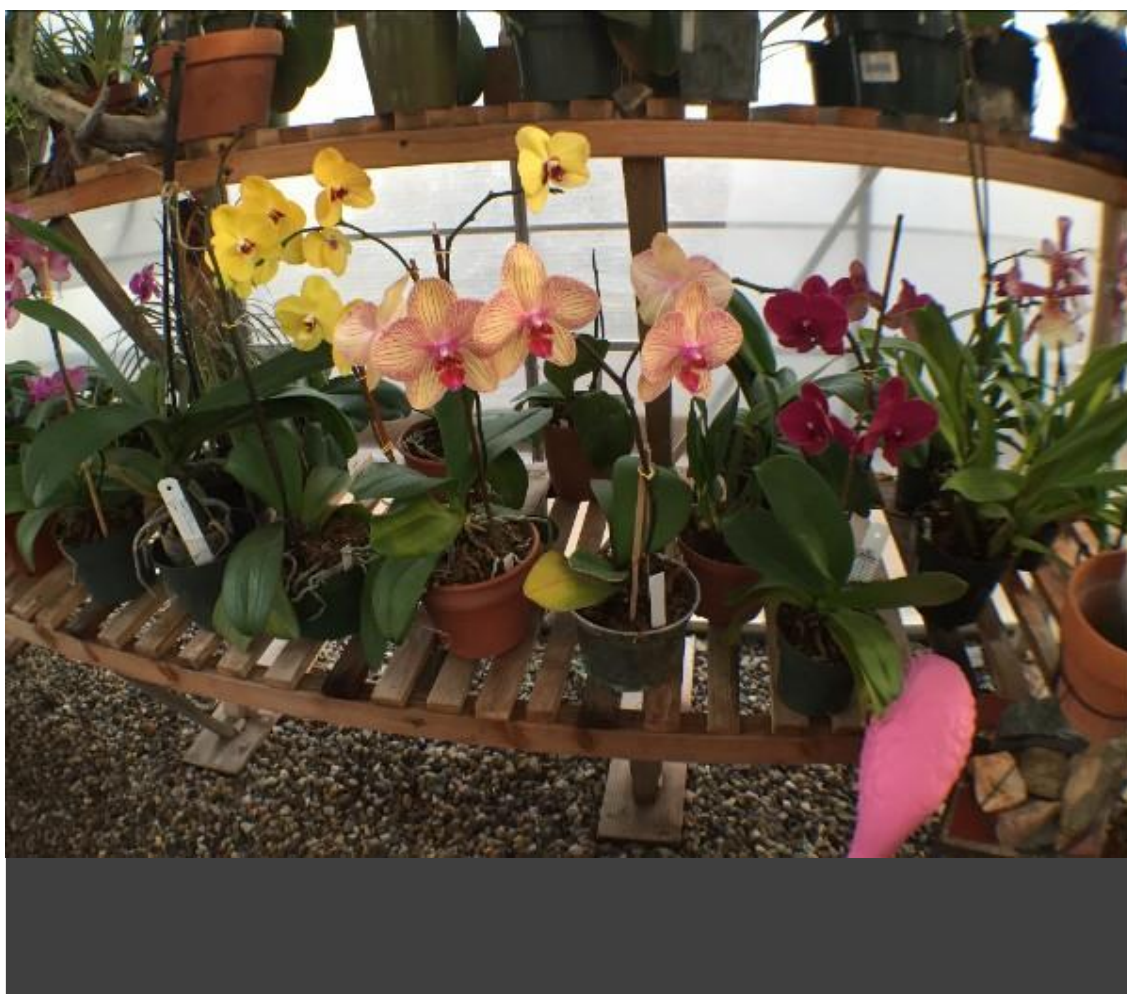


What would you tell a person who is thinking of growing orchids? It's really easier than you think! You just have to learn to respect each plant's native surroundings and the natural cycle of rest, root growth, inflorescence (spike) growth and rhizome, pseudobulb and leaf growth, per the "Orchid Clock" taken from the American Orchid Society (AOS) website. Their website has some very good

information and offers great free webinars.

What is your biggest adversary in growing? Bugs? Fungus? Humidity? Cats? If I say “bugs”, then everyone will be suspect the next time I bring a plant for Show&Tell. Sure, I have them and am very diligent in sending them to their next life, alas. The same for fungus, although I'm loathe to toss any plant unless it's on it's last leaf, literally (but I will isolate that plant until such time). I'm one who occasionally “saves” discarded plants I find at the grocery store, Home Depot/Lowes, but I've become pretty picky about those now because I have many others in good health and don't want to jeopardize them. Again, I isolate any “outsiders” for at least one month. Humidity, yes – cats, no.

Do you have any other hobbies? Or are you in any other clubs/guilds? Other than being a couch potato and re-watching the entire Downton Abbey series on DVD, I have no other hobbies at the present time. I was fortunate enough to have attended an Ikebana workshop at the Garden Center last year and enjoyed it thoroughly. I'd love to me a member but they meet on a week day afternoon and I can't seem to get my scheduling right ... Life Happens.





A panoramic shot of the whole greenhouse

Rick and Diana took great care and thought in the design of their fabulous greenhouse. Although the basic structure is a pre-fabricated product, they customized it and braced it perfectly to suit the variable New Mexico climate. Rick's thoughtful design for the greenhouse combined with Diana's experience and talent for growing orchids, make for a truly impressive grow area.

A special thanks to Rick and Diana for allowing me to visit their greenhouse.

If you are interested in being featured, email Kelly@dunnassoc.net

Cold Damage

By Susan Jones

Generally temperatures between 50° and 80° F (10° to 27° C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100 F (38 C) or drops even into the 30s (0 C) will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold injury includes damage from temperatures above and below freezing. Chill injury is that which is caused by low temperatures above freezing, and freeze injury is damage from temperatures at or below freezing. Frost damage takes place when dew freezes after it has condensed on leaf surfaces if the air temperature drops below freezing.



Necrotic spots on leaves and dry, brown pseudobulbs are symptoms of cold damage.

Plant Response to Cold Temperatures

Consider cold hardiness when adding new orchids for your landscape or collection. This is the measure of the orchid's resistance or ability to adjust to cold stress. The degree of cold hardiness is determined by environmental conditions and the plant's genetic makeup. Some species are always killed by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.

Cold Injury Symptoms

Cold injury symptoms usually become visible, not during the cold snap, but some days after exposure to critically low temperatures. The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment afterward. Continued cool temperatures and high humidity after exposure to cold may slow the development of symptoms, while high light intensity and warm temperatures may accelerate symptom development.

Chilling Many chilling-injury symptoms are common to other stresses such as lack of water, root-rot diseases, chemical phytotoxicity and heat and light stress; as such they may be difficult to diagnose. General symptoms of chilling injury are as follows:

- ~ Surface lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration. Water-soaking in tissues, usually followed by wilting and browning.
- ~ Internal discoloration (browning).
- ~ Accelerated rate of natural death.
- ~ Increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria.
- ~ Slowed growth, or limited growth flush. This may be difficult to detect without non-chilled plants for comparison or a thorough knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate.

Freezing Symptoms of freeze injury include desiccation or burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves and death of sections of the plant or the entire plant. Obvious symptoms may not be present until after the plant has been stressed by warm temperatures



Like a phoenix arising from the ashes, *Zeuxine strateumatica* flowers from a pot on a bench of cold-damaged orchids.

Also note, before winter arrives, which orchids in your collection hate cold. Many commonly grown orchids tolerate winter temperatures of about 55° F (13° C) at night, including some hardier Vandas, Stanhopeas, Oncidiums, Lycastes, Miltonias, Odontoglossums, Masdevallias, some Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Catasetums and cool-growing Paphiopedilums. Most Cymbidiums can take winter night temperatures in the 40's (4° C), and many need such a stimulus to bloom well.

White or yellow Vandas, as well as some Dendrobiums (Phalaenopsis and antelope-type), are especially sensitive and do not like temperature drops below 60° F (16° C); they can be particularly prone to losing leaves when exposed to cold temperatures. Cattleyas tend to be more hardy.

Seedlings and immature plants, particularly those in flasks or compots, are usually much more sensitive to cold temperatures than their mature counterparts. Items to keep on hand to quickly transport your orchids in an emergency include boxes, plastic flats or small crates and possibly a wagon or cart.

Treatment of Plants After Cold Stress

The environment to which plants are subjected after cold stress affects the degree of injury and rate of symptom development. Importance of post-exposure environment varies with the severity of cold stress. Damage to plants exposed to extreme temperatures may be influenced by post-stress handling.

Intense light, low humidity and high temperatures following chilling of some tropical plants result in increased water loss through transpiration. Extreme water stress can develop if the chill exposure has disrupted water absorption, temporarily or permanently.

Cold injury to roots may not be evident until spring, when plants are stressed by higher temperatures. Failure to initiate a spring growth flush may be the only visual symptom of winter injury, and little can be done to minimize its effects by this time. Weakened or injured plants are more susceptible to disease attack, so growers should keep an eye out for symptoms and possibly use a preventive fungicide. Increased shade may also reduce heat or water stress during the recovery period.

After the Fact

If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, do not assume that they

are dead. Allow the medium to dry, and keep the plants in a humid environment out of direct sun and high temperatures. Do not water until new growth sprouts. Watering may be resumed at this time, first with plain water, followed by a light dose of a fertilizer with a full compliment of minor elements as new roots develop.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

The Black Market for Orchids Is Moving to Social Media, Study Says

Written by

KEITH WAGSTAFF

When people think of the illegal wildlife trade, it's mostly elephant tusks and rhino horns that come to mind. But there is also a black market for wild orchids that, according to a new study, is increasingly moving onto social media.

Some of these plants can fetch tens of thousands of dollars. Once, in an offline auction, a rare orchid sold for \$150,000. TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network, found that tens of thousands of flowers are traded illegally across international borders every year.

"It's very secretive," Amy Hinsley, a member of the University of Kent's Durrell Institute of Conservation, told Motherboard. "We know it's happening, but unlike the ivory trade, not much attention has been paid to it."

Photos of dead elephants are heartbreaking. They have inspired celebrity-endorsed campaigns aimed at stopping the slaughter of around 35,000 animals each year, according to numbers from a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Orchids, on the other hand, seem commonplace. Anybody can buy one at a flower shop or a grocery store. The problem is that people are buying wild-collected orchids, many of which are rare. Some are even endangered.

Before the internet, these flowers were sold exclusively in open-air markets in countries such as Indonesia and Thailand

The hottest sale items are orchids that can't be mass-produced, such as *Paphiopedilum kolopakingii*. It's a rare species of the popular lady's slipper orchid that grows naturally at high altitudes on rocky cliffs overlooking river gorges in Borneo. Recreating the conditions of its natural habitat is difficult, to say the least, so simply growing more of them elsewhere isn't an option.

“There are plenty of examples of species being over-collected almost to the point of extinction,” Hinsley said.

She and her colleague David Roberts monitored a social media network, which they legally could not name, for mentions of orchids. They found that 22 to 46 percent of the posts included species that were most likely collected in the wild. Their findings were published earlier this week in *Conservation Biology*.

Before the internet, these flowers were sold exclusively in open-air markets in countries such as Indonesia and Thailand or through private traders who were found by word of mouth. Now the trade has moved to eBay and various social media networks. Sellers range from casual collectors who pick up flowers in their spare time to serious traders who make a living by satisfying foreign buyers, many of whom are located in the United States, EU, and Australia.

It’s illegal to sell orchids without a permit across international borders. Since you can’t get a permit to sell wild-collected orchids, all global trade in the flowers is technically forbidden. But it’s not a high priority for border officials and even if they spot a shipment of wild orchids, they have to be able to tell them apart from the mass-produced kind.

Hinsley knows that shutting down the entire black market is a fool’s errand. She does hope, however, to convince social media companies to become more vigilant when it comes to shutting down illegal sales. Raising the public’s awareness of the problem could also boost resources committed to stopping the wild-collected orchid trade.

Why should ordinary people care about this problem? Because wild orchids are so sensitive to environmental factors in very specific locations, they often serve as the canary in the coal mine to warn scientists when a habitat has degraded.

“Plants have great ecological, cultural and economic value,” Hinsley said. “Even though they aren’t fluffy or cute, we need to take threats to them seriously.”

Classifieds

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



I have a new/open box humidifier (Honeywell 890). I love the design and it is easy to fill but the noise level is too much for our open living area. Perfect for a room where you do not need to hold a conversation. I also have an extra filter.

Will trade for any orchid with a tag.

Contact Dorothy Duff at duffsdales@gmail.com if interested



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