

August 2016 Newsletter

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# New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter

August 2016

Our next regular meeting will be:

August 14, 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

Cover photo is Paph. grown by Richard Bennett

Main Program: Dr. Martin Motes of Motes Orchids

Dr. Motes will speak on Vanda cultivation and new trends in Vanda hybridization

Growers Forum: NMOG members will speak on growing Vandas in New Mexico. Growers forum starts at 1:00

## From the President's Desk:

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### August 2016

Those of you unable to attend the July meeting missed out on some really “yummy” ice cream and treats. Thanks to all who brought homemade ice cream and toppings for us to enjoy.

Lesson learned and my apologies for the “box burn” evident on some of our sale and raffle plants. We won't be shipping FedEx ground via Phoenix again during summer months!

It has been a few years since Martin and Mary Motes have joined us. I am so anticipating their visit to our **August 14<sup>th</sup>** meeting. Martin is an internationally known speaker and vanda hybridizer. He will speak to us about Vanda cultivation and new trends in vanda hybridizing. Mary is the author of the comic novel *Orchid Territory*.

Martin is accepting preorders to be delivered at the meeting.

If you order on line ([www.motesorchids.com](http://www.motesorchids.com)) please use these codes at checkout (they are not case sensitive): NEWMEXICO = (tells them to bring the order to New Mexico and removes shipping charge)  
NEWMEXICO10 = (10% off)

If there is something you want that is not on the website please email Bart at [bmotes@gmail.com](mailto:bmotes@gmail.com)

The cut off for preorders is noon on *Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>*.

Our **September 11<sup>th</sup>** meeting will feature another of the films by world renowned orchid taxonomist and artist Stig Dalhstrom. We will be viewing *Wild Orchid Man in the Land of the White Bear*. Dalhstrom travels to Manitoba in search of rare orchids and learns about the wildlife, history and environmental challenges facing this remote part of the world. With filmmaker/composer Darryl Saffer, Stig takes the audience on a once in a lifetime journey. Please join us.

Our **October 9<sup>th</sup>** meeting will feature the popular hands on repotting program.

It is hard to believe but it is time to begin planning our 2017 show and sale. The dates will be May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. We are seeking a volunteer to chair the show committee and folks to assist in creating the display. If you are interested in helping with this fun and challenging project please contact me. We also need a theme!

Members of your board of directors have recently been impacted by "life events". Some enjoyable and exciting.....some not so much. We would like to know if there are members out there willing to share their talents, at least temporarily, to assist the board as secretary and someone to help with the procurement, preparation and transportation of our supply offering at the monthly meetings. Again, please contact me if you are able to help.

As many of you know the board of directors has tried unsuccessfully to administer a policy discouraging the sale of plants by individuals at our monthly meetings. It is unfair that certain members conduct this activity clandestinely while others adhere to the rules even though I believe some would appreciate the ability to openly offer plants for sale.

I am of the belief that these sales may negatively impact the sale of plants NMOG provides for sale and lessens our ability to meet our financial obligations and continue to provide quality programs and speakers.

Beginning at our August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and on a trial basis the board has decided to allow members to sell their plants during the monthly meetings via silent auction. Members wishing to sell plants will fill out a bid sheet listing a minimum bid. Bidders will place their bids on the sheet and at the close of the meeting (after our raffle) winners will collect their plants and pay the person selling the plant. If a plant does not sell the owner simply takes it back home. NMOG will collect 20% of the sale price. This is on the honor system and is more equitable to all members wishing to participate and to NMOG.

If you have plants to sell but do not want to participate in the silent auction you may send your information to our newsletter editor, Kelly McCracken at [kelly@dunnassoc.net](mailto:kelly@dunnassoc.net). She will list them free of charge in the classified ad section of our monthly newsletter. The transactions must be made privately between the seller and buyer however we kindly ask that these exchanges not be made during our meetings.

I have been severely remiss in failing to publically thank those members who routinely help after the monthly meetings by staying to put away tables and chairs and clean up. Rick and Diane Williams, Beth Kuyper, Cathy Hanson, Tim Wright, Daniel Perry and anyone I might have overlooked mentioning..... THANK YOU!

One last request, if anyone knows how to perform a rain dance, please do so!

See you in August  
Keith

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

# July Show and Tell Winners

Photos taken by Barb Beil



Advanced Division--First Place  
Daniel Perry  
Pot. Mem. Irene Feli 'Ruby Red'



Advanced Division-- Second Place  
Judith Richey  
Encyclia 'Coral Miss'



Intermediate Division - First Place  
Diana Williams  
*Vascostylis Mishma Lime x Cristensonia Vietnamica*



Intermediate division-- Second place  
Diana Williams  
*Phalaenopsis Sogo Yukidian*





Novice Division--First Place  
Marge Meyer  
Ascda. Suksamran Sunlight 'Sunkiss'



Novice Division -- First Place  
Kay Horton  
Brassavola Nodosa

## Foliar verses Root Feeding

Fertilizer myth-busting by Ray Barkalow of Firstrays.com

- Because many orchids have evolved to be very conservative with their water, they have developed thick, waxy, cuticle layers on their leaves to retard water loss. It's particularly evident in phalaenopsis, for example. Those layers tend to be very water repellent, so would prevent the rapid absorption of the aqueous solutions.
- The areas of the leaf surface that DO absorb are closely associated with stomata (which don't absorb liquids), but again, as a water conservation adaptation, they tend to be on the undersides of leaves, which tend to see less solution exposure.

Orchids vary all over the map, so some plants may absorb nutrients better through the foliar route better than others, while all absorb them well through their roots.

### A Little Science

- Growth of a plant is more about fixing carbon than anything else. That primarily comes from CO<sub>2</sub> in the air, but water availability affects that capture.

- There is an enzyme within plants that can react either with oxygen or carbon dioxide. If it binds with carbon dioxide, there is growth. If it binds with oxygen, the plant's energy is wasted.
- When the water supply is readily available at the root system, hormones signals are sent upward telling the leaf stomata to open, which allows the "inhaling" of more fresh air, and the "exhaling" of the excess O<sub>2</sub> freed during carbon fixing.
- If the water supply is lacking, as happens when we water infrequently, those hormone signals are not sent, the stomata stay closed, and the CO<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> ratio decreases, lessening the probability of that enzyme to fix nitrogen, hence slowing growth.

If one does the calculations associated with carbon fixing, in order for a plant to gain pound of mass, it must process roughly 25 gallons of water, and only about a teaspoon of fertilizer elements.

- Orchids are about 85% water, 14% carbon and nitrogen, and 1% everything else, combined.
- Analyses of the "throughfall" and "trunk flow" of water cascading from the leaf canopy and down branched to epiphytes has been shown to be <25 ppm total dissolved solids (TDS), with almost all of that being nitrogen.
- There is no such thing as a "bloom booster". A plant is genetically programmed to bloom to its maximum potential, and a well-grown plant will do so. The best we can try to attain is to not do something that detracts from that.

Rotating fertilizer formulas – unless you have poor ones – is a waste of time. That plant in nature sees a nearly identical "diet" at every feeding for its entire life, so if you've found a fertilizer that seems to work, stick with it and don't complicate your life..

Thanks to Ray Barkalow [firstrays.com](http://firstrays.com)



# Classifieds

Email [Kelly@dunnassoc.net](mailto:Kelly@dunnassoc.net) to list orchids for sale or trade, orchid related items, or "In Search Of" posts



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

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

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

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