

The Calypso

Volume 46 Issue 3 May 2023

The Newsletter of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society

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CALYPSO DEADLINE:

July 8 for the July '23 issue

The purposes for which the Society is organized are to create an awareness of orchid culture; to foster the preservation of native species of orchids; to support research and development of orchid culture; and to hold meetings, lectures, and exhibitions.

MAY 13 MEETING: In-Person

2 42 Community Center at 2630 Bennett Rd, Okemos



Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for:

- Plant shopping
- Experienced Society members will be available to answer questions and help problem solve orchid growing issues
- Please have refreshments in place prior to start of meeting.

Meeting will start promptly at 6:00

For the time being, and according to the CDC Guidelines for Covid 19, we are making masks optional for our meetings.



Gordon Griffin will give a talk on Coelogyne orchids. Gordon is a member of the Grand Valley Orchid Society and is a member of the Great Lakes Judging Center.

COELOGYNE is a genus of over 200 sympodial epiphytes from the family Orchidaceae distributed across India, China, Indonesia and the Fiji islands, with the main centers in Borneo, Sumatra and the Himalayas. They can be found from tropical lowland forests to montane rainforests. Wikipedia

Scientific name: Coelogyne

Higher classification: Coelogyninae

Family: Orchidaceae

Order: Asparagales

Subfamily: Epidendroideae

Tribe: Arethuseae

A Gallery of Coelogyne orchids: <https://pbase.com/glazemaker/coelogyne>

REMINDER:

We are meeting in the auditorium, with access through the front door of the facility.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- May 2023 -- Pete Ostlund

This is my last month as president of GLOS (I've been term-limited). You learn a lot about the workings on an organization by serving on their board. I've been a director a few times (I think), treasurer, vice president several times, and now president. These positions all carry out responsibilities that our society needs (as do the other positions of the board I haven't served in). I'm proud of the work we've done as a board, and of the workings of the board (we make a good team). We each contribute what we can, and are willing to receive input from others.

In the last 3 years we've dealt with COVID and trying to maintain our organization through regular meetings (learning how to use Zoom), we dealt with changes in how MSU let us operate our annual show, and we addressed new ways to advertise our show (we used to rely on TV, this year we relied heavily on social media). Through all of this, the board and membership have come together to address our needs.

GLOS has managed to maintain its membership levels for many years (around 100 members plus or minus). That is something unusual. Many orchid societies are in decline. It is important that you, the members of GLOS, continue to provide input to the board on what you'd like from GLOS. What are you getting from GLOS that you like? What are you not getting from GLOS that might provide a better experience? If you have ideas or suggestions, please pass them on to the new board. The board functions best when it hears from its members. Thank you for being part of our organization.

GLOS ROSTER**Welcome, New Members!**

Marge Barkman, Robin and Andy Bolig, Christine Hampton,
Chris Edwards, Betty Miller, Josiah Tang, Taylor Patterson,
LuAnn Williams, Jill Wood and Marla Marsh

→ OUR May MEETING IS IN-PERSON, BUT IT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE VIA OUR NORMAL ZOOM LINK FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND IN-PERSON:

Greater Lansing Orchid Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Coelogyne orchids with Gordon Griffin

Time: 06:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/701683513?pwd=REQzYnpxaTZjb3p6dDNZNWxCOS8xUT09>

Meeting ID: 701 683 513

Password: 20-Orchids

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,701683513# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 701 683 513

GLOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 13 @ 6:00 - Gordon Griffin will talk about Coelogyne Orchids.
- June - No meeting. Regular Judging on the 17th. Anyone that is interested should contact Doris.
- July 29 GLOS ANNUAL PICNIC & PLANT SALE
- August 12 @ 6:00 - Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids - TBD
- September 9 @ 6:00 - Kristen Uthus - TBD
- October 14 @ 6:00 - TBD
- November 11 @ 2:00 - Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids - TBD



MARCH 11, 2023 MEMBERSHIP MEETING - submitted by Becky Thayer, Secretary

Pete called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM. This was an in-person hybrid meeting with 29 members present and 6 attending on Zoom.

Announcements: Doris greeted our new members, Marge Barkman, Robin and Andy Bolig, Christine Hampton, Taylor Patterson. LuAnn Williams and Jill Wood. And we had one visitor, Marla Marsh.

Pete reported that there is still time to submit names and support information for the awards committee to consider. Please contact Pete Ostlund, Steve Kemp or Abby Skinner.

Up coming shows are:

Ann Arbor on March 18 & 19. Dot will be collecting plants at her house.

The MOS show will be April 1 & 2. Ioana with the help of Carol Ann will be setting up our display please contact Ioana if you have plants to send.

Our next meeting will be April 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM (note the time change) with Bill Overton speaking on and demonstrating mounting orchids.

May 13 will be our annual business meeting with board elections and awards if appropriate. Gordon Griffin will be speaking on Coelogyne Orchids.

Starting in May our meeting will be in the auditorium (the room next to our current room) for a few months. The church will be hosting Meridian Township in the smaller room while their offices are being remodeled.

Thank you to Ioana Sonea and Mary Henman for providing refreshments. Volunteers for the April meeting refreshments are Marilyn Porter, Carol Ann Stucht, Michele Bridges and Marge Barkman.

The plant table was populated with beautiful plants brought in by several members.

Our speaker this month was Russ Vernon speaking on Lycaste orchids. Russ was interesting, informative and entertaining.

Finances for this meeting were: Income of \$82.00 (raffle: \$60; silent auction: \$22).

Expenses: \$282.50 (rental on room: \$157.50; Speaker fee \$125). Total expense for the meeting was \$200.50.

Meeting ended at 4:15 PM.





AAOS 2023 SHOW REPORT

- submitted by Carol Ann Stuht

Ann Arbor Orchid Society (AAOS) held its annual orchid show at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, March 18 – 19, 2023. AAOS members carried out a well planned and executed show. Their society orchid display was a wonder of tiered supports (think Legos on steroids). Congratulations on earning the AOS show trophy. The vendors were very busy. As in the previous two shows this year, vendors had little left to carry home.

Dot Barnett collected orchids for the GLOS display at her home, and planned the 25 square foot table display. Dot and Lee Barnett delivered the plants to Matthaei Gardens where Ioana Sonea, Jerrie Nichols, and I put it together. The display was filled with winning plants and garnered a first place in class six. Orchids in our display earned a total of 8 trophies (out of 11 orchid plant trophies) and two AOS awards. Congratulations are in order for the trophy and award winners especially Dot, who took home five trophies. Wow! That has to be an AAOS show record. Pete Ostlund received an AM/AOS with 84 points for his Tolumnia Jairak Flyer ‘Corona’, and Dot Barnett received an AM/AOS with 84 points for her Paph. Gorgon ‘Wacousta’. Well done Pete and Dot.

The display was dismantled by Dot and Lee, Ioana, Jerrie, and myself. Thank you, everyone who contributed to the success of the GLOS display. Every GLOS member that sent plants for the show received a ribbon. Plant award list follows:

GLOS Display		Class 6	1st
Dot Barnett	<i>Prosthechea bueraremensis</i>	11	1st
	<i>Chysis bractescens</i> Trophy Misc. Genera	109	1st
	<i>Paph. haynaldianum</i> Trophy Cyp. Alliance Species	29	1st
	<i>Paph. Gorgon</i> Trophy Best Seedling	37, 112	2nd, 1st
	<i>Paph. Temptation ‘Wacousta’</i> FCC/AOS Trophy Best of Cypripedium Alliance, Trophy, Best in Show	113	2nd
Bill Cadman	<i>Paph. Quick Charlie</i>	41	3rd
	<i>Paph. Petula’s Distinction</i>	42	1st
	<i>Paph. In Charm Topaz</i>	39	1st
	<i>Paph. Graciously Hawaiian #1</i>	41	1st
	<i>Paph. Graciously Hawaiian #2</i>	41	2nd
	<i>Den. Red Emperor ‘Prince’</i>	90a	2nd
Jerrie Nichols	<i>Cattleya Bride’s Pearl</i>	20	1st
Pete Ostlund	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i>	18	2nd
	<i>Den. pendulum</i>	94	2nd
	<i>Tolumnia Jairak Flyer ‘Corona’</i> Trophy Onc. Alliance, <i>Schoenorchis gemmate</i> Trophy Vanda Alliance	84 77	1st 1st
Ioana Sonea	<i>C. Cosmo-Roebling</i>	26	1st
	<i>Phrag. Jason Fischer</i>	44	1st
	<i>Phal. Montclair Valentine</i> Trophy Phal. Alliance	54	1st
	<i>Phal. NO ID</i>	55	1st
Carol A. Stuht	<i>Paph. dianthum</i>	29	3rd
	<i>Paph. Prime Valley</i>	39	3rd
	<i>Paph. Jade Dragon</i>	33	1st
	<i>Paph. Big Island ‘Pepper’</i>	38	1st
	<i>Phrag. Jason Fischer #2</i>	44	3rd
Bill Bergman	<i>Paph. Lex Luthor</i>	40	1st
David Madison	<i>Leptotes pohlitinocoi</i>	16	1st

Photo by Dot



Photo by Carol Ann Stuht

2023 MOS SHOW REPORT -

submitted by Ioana Sonea

Dot Barnett, Carol Ann Stuht and Jerrie Nichols met at Ioana Sonea's home to plan the display for MOS on Thursday March 29th. This was a lot of fun: it involved grouping plants of similar colors together, then trying to arrange them so there was a nice flow from hue to hue, while making sure each plant was shown to its best advantage. We then photographed the mock display, and Dot made a very useful map with plant names that we used as a reference during set up the following day.

On Friday, Carol Ann, Michele Bridges and Ioana drove to the MOS show site, and set up the display, modifying it as needed to fit the

display area. Bill Overton had done a great job of organizing the show site, societies and vendors had plenty of room to set up and there were quite a few beautiful displays. And of course, there was time to browse the vendors' offerings, scooping up some of the choicer items as they brought them in!

Thanks to Thursday's planning, setup was pretty quick, and we were on our way back home by 5pm

All GLOS participants earned one or more ribbons, and the society walked away with 5 trophies. Bring your flowering orchid to the next show: if you like it, chances others will too!

Carol Ann drove back to MOS on Saturday after judging, removing the tags and noting ribbons and trophies earned, as well as watering plants. Jill Wood watered our more needy plants on Sunday morning (thank you, Jill!).

Please consider joining us to set up a display in the next show season: it's a creative and collaborative effort, and a lot of fun!

	Orchid Name	Class	Ribbon	Trophy
GLOS	AOS Society display (25 sq ft table top)	6	2	
David Madison	Leptotes pohlitinocoi	16	2	
Dot Barnett	Lycaste Dainty	104	2	
	Epi. stamfordianum v. roseum	11	1	Trophy classes 11-12
	Kulwadee Fragrance	74	1	Trophy classes 63-78
	Paph. Duke of Burgundy	37	1	
		112	2	
	Phal. mannii v. black	48	2	
	Polystachya paniculata	109	3	
	Vandachostylis Roll on Red	69	1	
Carol Ann Stuht	Paph dianthum	29	3	
	Oncostele (Ons.) Masai Red "Red Star" (syn Midnight Miracle)	85	2	
Pete Ostlund	Den. Liana Chiemi Matsumoto	90a	1	
	Den. Carly Hera	90a	2	
	Tolumnia Jairak Flyer 'Super Bright'	84	1	
	Sarco. ceciliae	77	3	
	Enanthleya (Guaricyclia Kyoguchi x L colombiana)	22	1	Trophy classes 17-27
	Caulaelia Wild Rose	15	3	
Jerrie Nichols	Cattleya maxima	18	1	
Bill Cadman	Paph hainanense	28	2	
Ioana Sonea	Phrag besseae	43	1	
	Phal Montclair Valentine (pink w markings)	54	1	Trophy classes 53-62
	Phal no ID pink	62	1	
	Phal no ID white w markings	51	2	
	Phal japonica	48	1	Trophy class 48
	Phal Star's Sweetie	61	2	
	Rlc (Jersey Summer x Hisako Jewel) #1	24	3	
	Rlc (Loud Nine x Rubescent Fire) #2	24	2	

BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 3, 2023 - submitted by Becky Thayer, Secretary

This meeting was held by Zoom and there were 8 people in attendance: Pete Ostlund, Doris Asher, Becky Thayer, Jerrie Nichols, Bill Cadman, Dawn Kittle, Abby Skinner and Ioana Sonea

Pete called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Treasurer's Report: Doris reported that for the period February 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023. There was net expense of \$2,279 and income of \$2,824. Total Assets of \$19,523, of which \$14,023 is in 9 CD's with varying maturity dates; checking account has \$5,495. A more detailed report can be found elsewhere in the Calypso.

Membership Report: Doris reported that since her previous Report on February 6th, we have gained six new members at the February Show, including a life membership from Christine Hampton from Okemos. The other new members: Marge Barkman from Lansing, Chris Edwards from Lansing, Betty Miller from Mason, Josiah Tang from East Lansing, and Jill Wood from Zeeland, MI. In addition, we got three new members at our March meeting – Robin and Andy (mother and son) Bolig, and LuAnn Williams.

On February 24, 2023 we learned of the shocking death of Georgian Franczyk in October 2022.

Our membership numbers are now 109 members in 101 households. At this same time last year, we had 101 members in 93 households.

Old Business: We reviewed the past meeting and agreed that Russ Vernon did a very nice job.

Past shows: It was noted that the GLOS show seemed to have more attendance that last year. At the AAOS show GLOS entries dominated the awards. The MOS show had a better set up than last year and GLOS got a second place award on the display.

The to do list was reviewed and all items were completed.

New Business:

Future meetings:

April 8 at 6:00 PM Bill Overton will speak and demonstrate mounting orchids. There will be a member's sale table with 10% of proceeds going to GLOS.

May 13 at 6:00 PM Gordon Griffin will be speaking on Coelogyne

August 12 at 6:00 PM Thanh Nguyen speaking on Introduction to Paphs.

September 6 at 6:00 PM Kristen Uthus topic TBD

October 14 at 6:00 PM has been reserved if we want to schedule someone. Pete suggested we do a display set up demonstration.

November 11 at 2:00 PM Peter T. Lin topic TBD

Pete said that Vivian Lin is eager to schedule speakers with us but he told her she had to wait until the new president is elected.

Show follow up:

Jerrie reported on the attendance survey: there were 100 visitors surveyed during the 2 days of the show. The survey showed:

- There were slightly more new visitors (54) than returnees (46).
- All types of advertising methods were seen by some visitors.
- Social media and word-of-mouth were the most frequently seen/used show information sources.
- New visitors and returnees used social media for information at about the same rate (17 to 12).
- However, new visitors relied more on word-of-mouth for show information than did returnees (17 to 8).

It was decided that we would continue with everything we did this year and expand the social media effort for next year and that we would not need the MSU group to assist us. Pete reported that if all the vendors return next year we should have a full house. After discussion it was decided that we could keep the table price the same for next year even though the site fee nearly doubled this year; the advertising fee will be significantly less next year.

DeWitt Millennium Garden Club contacted Pete and asked if someone from GLOS could be a speaker for their club on February 8, 2024 for approximately 30 minutes. We decided that it would be a good event for us to participate in with the speaker being decided closer to the event.

General meeting: Pete suggested that when we have a speaker selling plants that we start the meeting 15 minutes later to accommodate plant sales, after discussion it was decided that we would try it and see how it works. Pete also said that there has been a request for a Q&A session for members to ask about problems they are having. It was decided that we would try to have this after the speaker is done if time permits. We have to keep in mind that we only have the room for a set amount of time.

We reviewed the election protocols and methods.

We approved the GLOS Website SSL certificate 1-year renewal cost.

To do list:

1. Pete will contact Jenn about setting a meeting time to review the temporary meeting room.
2. Jerrie will send Pete an email about the plant she is dividing.
3. Jerrie will arrange a dinner for Gordon on May 13 (possibly at Ozzy's)

The next meeting will be June 5, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned 8:25 PM

GLOS EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO LYNN O'SHAUGHNESSY

Lynn lost her husband Bob on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Arrangements are being handled by Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes, MacDonald Chapel in Howell, MI. A private family service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Robert's honor to Howell Gun Club and Starting Over Airedale Rescue. Memories and online condolences can be shared at www.WatkinsFuneralHomes.com.

We are so very sorry, Lynn

DUES FOR 2023/24 MEMBERSHIP YEAR ARE NOW DUE - The Membership Committee

Since the Society's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of each year, it will soon be time to renew your membership by sending in your annual dues -- \$8.00 for an individual plus an additional \$4.00 for each additional household member. For members who want to save significant dues over time, the Society offers a life membership for a one-time payment of \$80.00. Forty-eight people have already taken advantage of the life membership.

Please make checks payable to GLOS and send them to me at 277 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Thank you for sending in your dues prior to the deadline. We do not want you to miss even one issue of The Calypso. Please consider receiving your newsletter electronically at no cost to the Society. Or perhaps you could make a special donation to help offset the expense of photocopying and mailing – each issue costs GLOS \$1.23 to provide in hard copy for a total cost per year of \$7.38. Help the Society keep its dues low!

(Members who have already paid for the coming year have their names highlighted in yellow on the mailing label of this issue. Such members do not need to pay at this time. If you get your Calypso via email, Dot Barnett will let you know if you have already paid or if you still need to do so when she sends the newsletter to you.

Save yourself a stamp and pay Doris in person at our May meeting – checks or cash are both good.

GLOS CLERKS VOLUNTEER AT THE ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW - Doris Asher

Many of the people who clerked for us at our own Show in February traveled to Matthaei Botanical Garden in Ann Arbor on Saturday, March 18th, to clerk for the Show of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society as they were having difficulty obtaining enough volunteers.

Thanks to Michele Bridges, Bill Cadman, Teresa Fowle, Vivian Lin, Taylor Patterson, Ioana Sonea, Carol Stuht, Josiah Tang, Nick Villarreal and Jill Wood. Doris Asher chaired the judging for that Show, and she recruited Bill, Teresa, Ioana, Carol and Jill to serve as lay judges in order to have enough ribbon teams to get the work done in a timely manner so that the Show could be opened to the public.

Thank you, one and all!

GLOS ELECTION SLATE:

President	Jerrie Nichols
Vice-President	Dawn Kittle
Secretary	Doris Asher
Treasurer	Teresa Fowle
Director	Michele Bridges
Away Show Chair	Carol Stuht
Calypso Editor	Dot Barnett



Please be sure to come to the May meeting so you can cast your vote. If you cannot come to the meeting, you can vote via email: just send your vote to our secretary, Becky Thayer, so she gets it by Friday evening before the meeting.

APRIL 8, 2023 MEMBERSHIP MEETING - submitted by Becky Thayer, Secretary

Pete called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM. This was an in-person hybrid meeting with 27 members present and 6 attending on Zoom.

Announcements: Doris welcomed 2 visitors and new member Marla Marsh. Our next meeting will be held in the auditorium next door.

Carol Stuht announced the election slate for board members:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| President | Jerrie Nichols |
| Vice-President | Dawn Kittle |
| Secretary | Doris Asher |
| Treasurer | Teresa Fowle |
| Director | Michele Bridges |
| Away Show Chair | Carol Stuht |
| Calypso Editor | Dot Barnett |



The election will be held at the May meeting. Should anyone that is eligible wish to add their name to the nominees they may do so at the May meeting. E-mail voting is available; watch your e-mail for your ballot. In-person voting will take place at the meeting.

Next meetings: May 13 at 6:00 PM Gordon Griffin will be speaking on Coelogyne.

July 29 Picnic at Granger Meadows Park; watch the Calypso for more information.

Thank you to those who generously provided refreshments for this meeting.

The plant table was filled with beautiful plants from several members.

Bill Overton presented a fun and lively demonstration on mounting orchids. He generously donated his demonstration plants to the raffle table.

There was a lively member question and answer time.

Finances for this meeting: Income: \$125 (Raffle \$56, Silent Auction \$36, Member sales \$20, Pete's Miltonias donation \$13)

Expenses: Room rental \$157.50

Meeting ended 8:15 PM

Photos courtesy of Becky Thayer



NOTES FOR TREASURER'S REPORT GLOS APRIL 3RD - Doris Asher, Treasurer

Note: This report is the fourth of our new fiscal year – 2022-2023 – only three months remain in this fiscal year – ending June 30

Current period – February 1, 2023 – March 25, 2023

- a. Net expense of \$2,279
- b. Income -- \$2,824
 - i. Show -- \$2,224 (vendor table fees -- \$1,275; Information Table -- \$532; donation -- \$300; trophy sponsorships -- \$75)
 - ii. Donations -- \$224
 - iii. Dues -- \$200
 - iv. March Meeting -- \$82
 - v. Credit Union Interest -- \$25
- c. Expenses -- \$5,104
 - i. 2023 Show -- \$4,810 (site rental final payment -- \$2,039; food -- \$1,324; advertising -- \$674; trophies -- \$445; \$200 – flowers for floral designs)
 - ii. Meeting – March -- \$283
- d. Total Assets = \$19,523, of which \$14,023 is in 9 CD's with varying maturity dates; checking account has \$5,495

Year-to-Date Report – July 1, 2022 – March 25, 2023

- b. Net expense of \$2,241
- c. Income -- \$8,431
 - i. Show -- \$4,929 (vendor table fees -- \$2,045; food donations – 1,530; Information Table -- \$532; trophy sponsorships -- \$500)
 - ii. Picnic -- \$1,631
 - iii. Dues -- \$636
 - iv. Meetings -- \$521 (September -- \$112; November -- \$175; January -- \$152; March -- \$82)
 - v. Donations -- \$403
 - vi. Credit Union Interest -- \$241
- d. Expenses -- \$10,672
 - i. 2023 Show -- \$7,733 (Site Rental -- \$2,539; Advertising t -- \$1,844; Food -- \$1,324; Ribbons \$596; Trophies -- \$595; Publicity Cards -- \$377; flowers for floral designs -- \$200; AOS Judging \$130)
 - ii. Meetings -- \$2,147 (August -- \$200; September -- \$478; October -- \$200; November -- \$780; January -- \$208; March -- \$283)
 - iii. Donations -- \$350 (Great Lakes Judging Center \$150; Michigan Nature Association \$100; Nature Conservancy \$100)
 - iv. Administrative Expenses -- \$154 (copying -- \$50; postage newsletters -- \$47; Checks -- \$22; Michigan Nonprofit Report \$20; website \$15)
 - v. Moss – GLOS exhibit in Grand Rapids Show -- \$126
 - vi. 2023 Picnic – Pavilion Rental -- \$115
 - vii. 2023 Dues – Mid-America Orchid Congress -- \$48

Report on 2023 Show – February 25-26, 2023

- a. Income -- \$4,929
 - i. Vendors' Sales Tables -- \$2,045
 - ii. Donations for Food -- \$1,530
 - iii. Information Table -- \$532
 - iv. Trophy Sponsorships -- \$500
 - v. Donation -- \$300
- b. Expenses -- \$7,733
 - i. Rental of MSU Show Site, Tables, Chairs -- \$2,539
 - ii. Advertising -- \$1,844 (MSU 42 Seven -- \$1,800; Facebook -- \$44)
 - iii. Food -- \$1,324 (Judges Luncheon Catering - \$910; Groceries – Teresa Fowle - \$262; Friday Pizza - \$153)
 - iv. Ribbons -- \$596
 - v. Trophies -- \$595 (Calypso Art Glass -- \$250; Cash @\$15 - \$95; Mei-Ling Clemens -- \$150)
 - vi. Postcards -- \$377
 - vii. Flowers, Supplies – Orchids in Use -- \$200
 - viii. AOS Judging Fee -- \$130
- c. Net Expense -- \$2,803 (Note: for 2022 Show, had net expense of \$19.00)

Concluded on p 10

BUDGET RECONCILIATION YEAR-TO-DATE JULY 1, 2022 – MARCH 25, 2023 - concluded from p. 9

- a. Actual income = \$8,431 (compared with budgeted amount of \$8,020)
- b. Actual expenses = \$10,672 (compared with budgeted amount of \$11,250)
- c. Over budget = \$2,241

FROM RAY BARKELOW OF FIRST RAY'S ORCHIDS NEWSLETTER

Feeding and the origin of K-Lite

I receive many inquiries about orchid nutrition, by email, in forums, on Facebook, and while visiting orchid societies, with the most common question being "what is the best orchid fertilizer?", so I thought it might be a good idea to summarize what I've learned on the subject.

First and foremost, we must appreciate that fertilizer is an extremely minor aspect of orchid growing and a little chemistry can explain that. "Growth" in plants is all about fixing carbon from the air. The "Calvin Cycle", as it is known, consists of three chemical reactions that ultimately turn carbon dioxide into sugars - the building blocks of growth. If you do a mass balance with those chemical reactions, in order for any plant to add a pound of mass, it only needs to absorb and process about 5 grams (~ 1 teaspoon) of NPK. Considering how slowly orchids grow, you can see the demand for fertilizer is minimal. (The plant, however, must process about 200 pounds of water, as well, to gain that pound.)

Nitrogen is the most important nutrient, with everything else pretty much "tagging along for the ride". If you look at the chemical analysis of wild collected orchids, C, O, H, & N make up about 99% of the dry mass. P, K, Ca, Mg, & S make up most of the remaining 1%, with the "trace elements" being the tiny remainder.

That suggests that the formula is not critical, which is basically correct. As long as there is plenty of nitrogen and the formula is complete with all of the minor and trace elements, the ratios are relatively unimportant.

With the exception of calcium (Ca), the other minor and trace elements are stored by plants and can be easily translocated to newly growing tissues. Once calcium is absorbed by the plant, it is pretty much fixed in place, so it must be supplied regularly when the plant is in active growth.

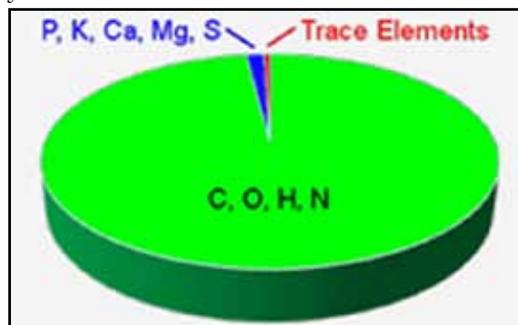
Most municipal and well water sources contain plenty of calcium and magnesium, but with many orchid growers utilizing purified water as a substitute for the rainwater the plants are exposed to in nature, there was a market need for a fertilizer formula containing them. The original MSU fertilizer was the first one formulated with calcium and magnesium and marketed to orchid growers, and is an excellent product. I used it exclusively on my own plants for years before the advent of K-Lite Orchid/Epiphyte Fertilizer, which is a derivative of that original MSU formula.

The K-Lite concept was sort-of serendipitous, having been based upon two widely-different, non-plant origins.

I am a ceramic engineer and ceramist, with knowledge of how potassium can act as a powerful flux in glass and ceramic systems. It interferes with the O-Si-O bonds, which lowers melting and working temperatures, but also adversely affects the physical and chemical properties. Rick Lockwood, another orchid grower, is a microbiologist who was working on toxicity in freshwater mollusks, specifically trying to find a way to control the zebra mussel population choking the Great Lakes. He found that excessive K, especially when coupled with diminished Ca, was fatal. The two of us put those disparate thoughts together and said, "what about orchids?".

A bit of research suggested that there might be some validity to the concept:

1. The solutions that epiphytes see in nature are typically no more than 15 ppm N or so and contain very little else - but they get it every time it rains - and it is supplemented by host tree exudates and microbial secretions.
2. Nitrogen, potassium, calcium and magnesium compete for uptake by plants; too much of one can lead to a deficiency in others. That is not only applicable to the applied solutions, but also includes what's already in the plant and what has accumulated in the potting medium.
3. Plants take up and store more P & K than they will ever need, stockpiling them in cell vacuoles. In large commercial nurseries is not uncommon to just regularly feed nitrogen (or calcium nitrate if the water supply is lacking in Ca), and hit the plants with everything else only once per growing season.





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Jump into Orchids!

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Orchid Ailments

The AOS's Pests and Disease Series

The AOS website provides information and images to help identify orchid ailments and grow healthier plants. From Aphids to Virus, you will find information on insect pests, rots, disease and cultural challenges, to name a few, and advice on prevention and treatment for the problems. Click below for articles to learn about specific orchid problems.



<https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-pests-diseases.aspx>

SELLING ORCHIDS AT GLOS MEETINGS:

Perhaps a plant has outgrown its home, maybe you have a division to share, occasionally you may find a plant doesn't bloom for you or like your conditions, possibly you need to make room for something new, or you just no longer want a certain plant.

Whatever the reason, the raffle and the silent auction tables are great places to share your no-longer wanted orchids with fellow society members.

Please keep in mind, however, that shared plants should be healthy, free of diseases and insects, and be generally well-cared for. Just as you wouldn't want to take home a sick plant, neither should you expect others to accept one. Such plants are better off becoming a part of a compost pile than potentially passing on its ailment(s) to another's collection.

The Society does have a responsibility to not allow diseased or insect-infested plants to be distributed at our meetings.

However, we all take great pleasure in finding, growing and blooming treasures from the raffle and silent auction tables.

FROM RAY BARKELOW OF FIRST RAY'S ORCHIDS NEWSLETTER, concluded

With all that in mind, I took the low P & K concept, along with need for a regular supply of Ca & Mg, to the PhD who formulated the MSU fertilizers, and we ultimately settled on the current formula for K-Lite.

Being a 12-1-1 formula, at first we were a bit concerned about the potential for P and/or K deficiencies, but that has never happened. K-Lite is the only fertilizer I have used on my plants since late November of 2012.

Is K-Lite "the best" fertilizer for orchids? I will honestly state that there is no "best" formula, but if your goal is to try to mimic what they get in nature, it gets you closer than any other fertilizer.

Until next time... Good Growing!



The End Page

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 Renewal New Membership Check # _____ Cash (DUES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE)

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