

SIOS

JUNE, 2012
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NEWSLETTER

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The SIOS meets on the
3rd Tuesday of each month at
7:00pm
All Saints Episcopal Church,
2329 Victory Blvd., SI, NY 10314

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY



JUNE ORCHID AUCTION June 30th

A Message from John

Hello friends,

First the important stuff:
NO MEETING ON THE 19th !!!

(see below !)

NO SHOWTABLE.....don't bring plants,
BUY plants.

Next time we meet will be on Saturday,
June 30 at 11am.

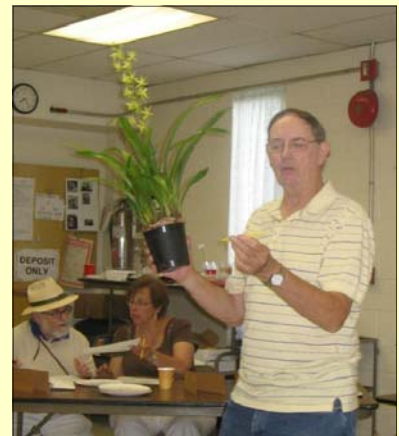
This will be the occasion of our pot-luck/auction. This time the society will provide freshly, on the spot BBQed burgers and franks with "fixings". Jeff will be the "grille master" Flipping at your pleasure. We do ask that you bring side dishes, desserts, or, other BBQ fare.

As usual, we will have the same quality of plants you have come to expect, thanks to Dick. In addition there will be Lew Werb's plants.

Bring food and money. For those concerned, we will all be indoors except the grill and Jeff.

John

Save the Date



ORCHID AUCTION AND BARBECUE

All Saints Episcopal Church
2329 Victory Blvd.
SI, NY

SATURDAY, JUNE 30th
11am

Rain or Shine

MEMBERS

Please remember to bring a
food offering to the Barbecue.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.SIOSonline.com

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Staten-Island-Orchid-Society/110927662275980>

MAY SHOW TABLE TALLIES

WINDOWSILL

Amy Trautwein - 7



GREENHOUSE

Ronald Altman - 8

Dave O'Dell - 27

Tom Carbonaro - 6



LIGHTS

Renee Lichtman - 13

Roy and Gertrude Fox - 22

Olga Federico - 13



SUMMER ORCHID CARE FOUND ON WWW.ARGUSORCHIDS.NET

Summer is here and while some of us may not like hot or humid weather, most of our orchids, such as the dramatic spider (Brassia) orchid will! A few months with lots of sunshine and air movement will do wonders for your orchids, especially those that live on a windowsill most of the year.

LIGHT

Light intensities in the great outdoors are much stronger than they are inside the house. Unless your outdoor space is very heavily shaded, chances are your orchids will enjoy more light than they will get indoors. But be warned! Do not place your plants directly into bright direct sunlight otherwise you will risk burning leaves, even on cattleyas and other "high light" orchids. It takes a while for plants to get acclimatized to the brighter light. First, move your plants outside to a shady spot either under a tree of other large leafy patio plants. If you see large brown or black burn spots on the leaves, move your orchids back into a shady location. Most of your orchids, even those that like bright light, will do best in some dappled shade, or where they only get a few hours of direct sunlight during the day. It is very hard to make broad recommendations here-conditions in Phoenix are totally different from those in Seattle. But the take-home message is the same: gradually expose your orchids to the optimal light conditions in which they will grow best and, as always, watch your plants carefully.

TEMPERATURE

Orchids will thrive outside as long as temperatures remain below 90°. This applies to intermediate and warm growing orchids, which cover most of the popular genera. Generally, a temperature range during the day of 75 to 85° will make most orchids happy. Those that like it's a little cooler can be kept a little shadier. When temperatures do rise above 90°, be sure your orchids remain moist and humid with plenty of air movement to keep them cool. You may wish to move them to shadier location if high temperatures persist. Many orchids are remarkably resilient, but if your Masdevallia succumbs to the heat, ask yourself why you are growing such an orchid in the first place!

WATER

Be prepared to change your watering regimen outdoors. Higher light, usually means higher temperatures. This will require more frequent watering as your plants will dry out more quickly. If you live in a very humid area, your orchids may be able to go longer without water, than in a drier climate. If it rains frequently, you may not have to worry about your plants very much at all. However, if it rains continuously for several days, you'll need to watch your plants to make sure they do not get waterlogged or are preyed upon by bacterial or fungal diseases. Orchids that require constant moisture are probably at most risk of drying out. Many orchid growers will keep their moisture loving orchids, such as paphs and phals, inside the house or greenhouse, rather than risk their plants totally drying out, which can be fatal. Orchids with pseudobulbs such as cattleyas or brassias will do a far better job in weathering any dry spells, as they have the capacity to store water to tide them over. In summary, be prepared to watch your orchids more closely and to pay more attention to their watering needs when they are outside. Try to water your plants early in the day so that they are dry by nightfall.

HUMIDITY

In many parts of the country, high humidity is the hallmark of summer. Along with the warm temperatures, orchids simply thrive in the higher humidity outdoors. So make sure you leave your orchids outside, while you crank up the air-conditioning and cool off inside the house. If your outside humidity is very low, say below 50%, you may be better off keeping your plants inside the home where you can maintain higher humidity.

AIR MOVEMENT

The more air movement there is, the happier and healthier your orchids will be. Place them where the foliage actually rustles gently in the breeze. Air movement helps keep leaves cool (reducing the chances of leaf burn) and also reduces the incidence of fungal and bacterial attacks. It is one of the most frequently overlooked factors in growing healthy orchids

FERTILIZER

During summer, you can increase your fertilizer applications on many orchids, such as brassias, cymbidiums, cattleyas, vandas, and phalaenopsis to great advantage (more growth means more flowers). However, do not overfeed your orchids no matter how wonderful the weather conditions and how well they grow. Excess feeding can cause root and leaf 'burn' which can cripple your orchid. Most of the orchids we grow are epiphytes and depend upon rainfall and leaf debris for all their nutrients. There is an optimal level of fertilizer and anything beyond this will either collect in your potting mix to the detriment of your orchid, or leach out and be wasted. With warm sunny weather, however, you can water your orchids heavily to leach out any salts that have built up in your mix.

3 SIMPLE WAYS TO GET LONGER-LASTING BLOOMS! *Ryan, the Orchid Guy*

Orchid Tips derived from the book "Orchids Made Easy", a comprehensive guide to growing and caring for your orchids. <http://www.OrchidsMadeEasy.com>

1.) Beware of Ripening Fruit!

As soon as your orchid starts to bloom, move it to a location in your home at least 10 feet away from any ripening fruit.

Here's why:

When fruit ripens, it releases ethylene gas, and ethylene gas can cause the flowers on your orchid to fade... and many times even collapse!

It's essentially the same thing that happens when "one bad apple spoils the whole bunch..." That one bad apple can spoil your orchid too!

Also, never spray household air freshener or aerosol cans of any kind near your orchids for the same reason - they're FILLED with that very same ethylene gas that you want to desperately avoid!

2.) Bring Your Orchids Inside!

Are you keeping your orchids outdoors? Because, once you start seeing flowers, it's time to BRING THEM INSIDE!

Here's why:

As soon as orchid flowers come in contact with bees or other flying insects, they'll begin to die almost immediately after they're pollinated.

And yes, sometimes this can happen just a few days after flowers appear!

Keeping your orchid indoors and AWAY from pollinating insects can extend your plant's blooming period by WEEKS.

3.) Keep Your Orchids Nice And Cool...

Crank up your Air Conditioner, and LOWER the temperature a few notches!

Did you know...

You can also extend the blooming period of your orchids by introducing them to *slightly* cooler temperatures - not above 75F (24C) - once they begin blooming?

It's true! This is a bit cooler than what most orchids prefer when they're not in bloom, and going through a "growth spurt" period.

But by lowering the temperature a bit, you're essentially slooowwwing down the aging process of your plant while it's in bloom - which means many more mornings where you get to wake up, grab a cup of coffee and admire those gorgeous flowers!

But don't go overboard... You don't want to send your orchid into a "deep freeze"... Just a few degrees cooler than your orchid's recommended temperature range is all you need to achieve your desired outcome :-)