

Blue Ridge Orchid Society

November 2017 Newsletter

Next Meeting:

Sunday, November 10, 2017
Council of Garden Clubs
3640 Colonial Avenue
Roanoke, VA

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| 12:00 | Set Up Mini-Show |
| 12:30 | Potluck Lunch |
| 1:00 | Member Judging on Mini-Show |
| 1:30 | Business Meeting |
| 2:00 | Program: Caring for Our Orchids in Winter |
| 3:00 | Discussion: Show Winners |
| 3:30 | Take-Down |



Blc. Erin Kobayashi
From Cyndy Unwin's
Collection

From Irene Brock: For our November program, we will have a lively discussion about how we care for our orchids this winter. Also, we'll have some discussion about last month's interesting program by Mark Reinke. I hope members will share the conversations they had with him. I know he was giving out lots of advice. Has anyone grown those Latouria Dendrobiums?

We will have the new format for the Mini-Show again. Please bring all plants you have in bloom. Many of our pretty ones will be at the Triangle show.

Mark Your Calendars!

**December 10: Holiday Luncheon, Council
of Garden Clubs, Roanoke, VA**

2018 Meetings:

**January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8,
May 6, June 10, September 9, October 14,
November 11, December 9**

BROS Officers

Lillian Gillespie, President
434-324-4755
gillespielgh@fairpoint.net

Sandy Sheldon, Vice President
540-389-8984
pshel@vt.edu

Margaret Bowling, Treasurer
434-309-1044
yeatts@centurylink.net

Cyndy Unwin, Secretary and Newsletter
571-432-6678
cyndyunwin@aol.com

2018 Membership Information

\$10 Student

\$20 Individual

\$30 Family

Current members do not need to fill
out the membership form again.
Send dues to Margaret Bowling,
506 Tenth St., Altavista, VA
24517.

Interested in joining? Contact
Cyndy Unwin
(cyndyunwin@aol.com or
571-432-6678) for
membership form.

Lc. Tristar
From Dee and
Jim Gresham's
Collection



BROS Meeting Minutes 10/8/17

The meeting was called to order by Lillian Gillespie at 1:30 p.m.

Treasurer's report: Our current balance is \$4735.60.

Old Business:

The November meeting will be at the Council of Garden Clubs at our usual date and time.

The Triangle Orchid Society Show is on November 10-12. Lillian, Margaret, and John will set-up on the 9th. Cyndy will do take-down on Sunday. The registration form is due on Tuesday, and Lillian will send that. We will request a 20-square-foot table. Cyndy will coordinate pick-up of Roanoke area plants. Lillian will send the rules; people sending plants will need to email Lillian with names of plants they want to register for the show.

November 4 events: Lillian will attend the University of Scouting event in Salem between 11:30 and 1:30. Cyndy and Margaret are presenting an orchid care workshop at Bedford Library at 11:00 a.m.

Paul and Mary Storm Award: "Schombo" enthusiasts are trying to raise awareness of this unique miniature orchid hybrid by funding an endowment for a new AOS award. (The award is described on the back cover of the June *Orchids* magazine.) Discussion was held about whether BROS would like to contribute to the fund for this award. The membership voted not to donate at this time.

Nominating committee report: Nominees have been selected for all positions except the secretary position. Cyndy is willing to continue as newsletter editor, but has asked not to continue secretary duties due to time constraints. Several members have been asked and none have come forward. Discussion was held about having business discussions conducted by email rather than at the monthly meeting. There was also discussion about combining officer positions (for example, combine the secretary and treasurer positions). There was concern that the computer may not be accessible to all members who may wish to participate in email or other electronic discussion. No decisions were made regarding the secretary position or reconfiguring the business meetings.

Mark Reinke:
Creating an Orchid Hybrid from Seed to Bloom
October 8, 2017

Mark has one large greenhouse, one small (cold) greenhouse, and an orchid laboratory.

Why create an orchid hybrid?

- Species are harder to grow than hybrids
- It's human nature to appreciate beauty and improve on it
- Imagine wonderful things

How does it happen?

- Choose parents—what traits are we trying to pass on, what would be the best and worst outcome, what flowers at the same time, what plant is strong enough to hold a seed pod?
- The pollination process
 - Behind anther cap is pollinia (packet of pollen). Remove anther cap. If pollinia is yellow, it is insect pollinated. If purplish or brownish color, it's bird pollinated
 - Stick pollinia into sticky pad of crossed orchid. Do this to each plant—reciprocal cross
 - Label—wire number to stem below the flower; that is where seed pod forms
 - Flower fades quickly; pod starts to form. About six months is required before viable seed is ready. Pod has three chambers with a seam. When ripe, it begins to split open.
- Sowing and growing the seeds
 - Orchid seed looks like dust; orange color—fertile seed; all white—no fertile seed
 - In the wild, there needs to be a certain type of fungus; fungus produces a sugar food source and a chemical for the young plant
 - In place of this fungus, an agar flask is used with a food source; needs to be completely sterile inside
 - Everything done under a flasking hood, with Hepa filter; all surfaces sprayed with Clorox; everything that goes in has to be sterilized, including hands
 - Have to sterilize the seed if you've waited for the pod to split open; otherwise, use the green pod method
 - Dry pod: To sterilize seed, put in numbered test tube; put saturated sugar water plus wetting solution in tube (to make seed sink); sugar water makes mold spores germinate and easier to kill
 - Get flasks ready; put medium in flask, then pressure cook them; dip in Clorox water

- Pour sugar water out; pour 10% bleach solution in; shake, let sit for 20 minutes; dip in sugar water.
 - Green pod method, just dip pod in clorox before opening; much easier!
 - Use at least two mother flasks
 - Within two weeks, should see some green appear. Eventually looks like a carpet of moss (thousands of plants)
 - Replating: Scoop out small amounts and put in bigger containers. Sometimes, the small plants in mother flask will survive for up to five years. Get about a dozen healthy plants in the new flask.
 - Deflasking: Use warm water to loosen agar and then pull them out; put the larger ones into cell trays with a couple chunks of bark; later, move into a three-inch pot
 - Seedlings in 3-inch pots are big enough to sell; he sometimes doesn't see them bloom until after he sells them
 - Mounted plants: Dry crepe myrtle wood for a year and mount on them.
 - Can use coconut husk fiber around the roots to cushion them a bit
- Mericlone: Another type of propagation; take stem cells out of new growth and put in solution that makes cells multiply but not differentiate. Then, can get exact copy of the original plant most of the time. Can have mutation, which can sometimes lead to valuable new plants (Harlequin Phal.).
 - Color inheritance genetics: plants can have a gene that blocks the purple pigment. Purple flowers in nature are very common. Two whites create all purples.
 - There is no such thing as red in orchids; light passes through yellow and lavender to create the red appearance.

Fertilizers:

- For his epiphytic orchids, Mark uses K-Lite fertilizer from the company that formulates the MSU fertilizers. Recent research suggests that when fertilized with NPK formulations, epiphytic orchids grab the potassium (the K part of NPK) first and are not able to access the nitrogen as easily (the N part of NPK). The K-Lite formulation has less potassium.
- Mark fertilizes weakly, using 1/8 tsp of 30 ppm nitrogen each time he waters.
- This formulation is available at Kelley's Korner orchid supply

Recommended nursery: Krull-Smith Orchids in Florida

October Mini-Show Award Winners

Greenhouse Growers



First Place
Lc. Adolph Hecker
'Lillian Hart'
Lillian Gillespie

Second Place (tie)
Epidendrum porpax
Frank Francisco



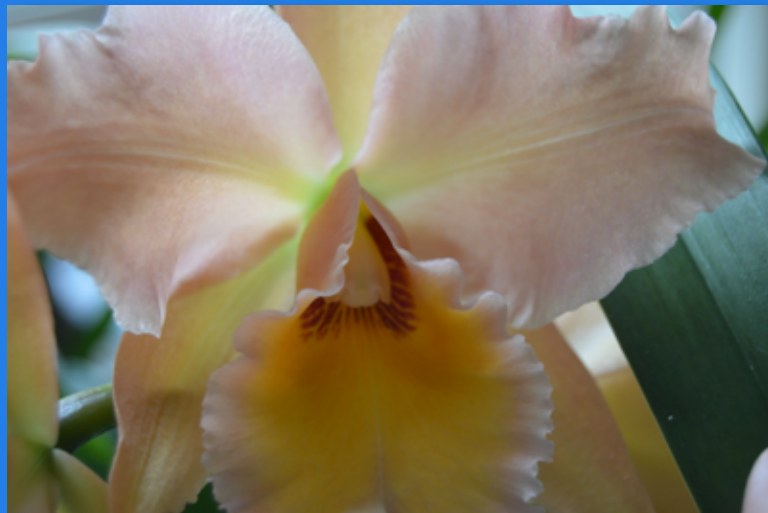
Second Place (tie)
Bulbophyllum laxiflorum
Frank Francisco

October Mini-Show Award Winner
Non-Greenhouse Growers



First Place
Cycnoches Maren Gleason
Cyndy Unwin

One of Mark Reinke's Beauties...



Other Mini-Show Highlights

