



# The Oregon Hybrid

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October 2011

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## MPOS October Meeting

Well gang, I'm stepping out of the box a little again this month. Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank, of "Neighborhood Naturalist" fame (<http://www.neighborhood-naturalist.com/>), will be giving this month's program. It will be a presentation on how local wildlife utilizes native plants. They are also going to speak about our native orchids. From their website: Lisa and Don "are local naturalists, who may collaborate with other naturalists, writers, artists and scientists to promote the study of nature on a local scale". They publish a quarterly newsletter, have made a movie and a bird song identification CD, lead nature hikes and bike rides, and more. I am looking forward to an evening of shared excitement about the natural world, and learning a little more about nature in our area. —Brian Dahl

## Oregon Judging Site September

Well, it turned into an actual summer and since we all had to keep watering our orchids, our thoughts were elsewhere than judging. We were not in our usual digs at the Oregon Garden or joining the Cherry City society at their display at the Oregon State Fair in Salem on the usual date. Seven judges and our pre-student, Sharon Johnson were ready but no plants were presented for judging.

Cherry City society members passed out culture information, AOS membership information and answered questions as did the judges. September lived up to its reputation as a low plant judging month but the Cherry City society did its best to advance the cause of orchid growing.



Photo: Mike Ayres

We also want to thank the Portland Orchid Society for their donation to the judging site. Their continued and generous support has helped make it possible to provide this free service. We receive no funds from

AOS and rely on the support of the local societies to keep this service available. — Marcia Romick

## CCOS October Meeting

Kevin Wescott will be our speaker for this coming month. Kevin, "a long time orchid lover" with a greenhouse in Springfield, is considered an expert on orchid growing basics. He loves to volunteer and teach orchid growing classes, sells a few plants here and there, and also does greenhouse and grow area consulting. Many of us are relatively new to the orchid growing experience; in fact, it may or may not encourage the new members to know that the majority of our membership has been growing orchids for less than ten years. We do have some members who have been at it for quite some time, and Kevin will be doing some story telling about the way it used to be (pre-1994 CITES ban) and how things have changed, especially commercially. He will discuss the great rewards of volunteering to learn, the people who have been influential in his journey, and how important it is that we share the world of orchids with the general public. This will be more of an entertainment/history program, and he will divulge the most helpful orchid growing secret he has ever learned! So, whether you've been growing orchids for a few weeks or a number of years, come to the meeting and "travel" with Kevin as he takes us on a journey together. Note: Any new members that have not repotted their paphs yet can bring them to the meeting and Kevin will repot them for you in a paph mix that he maintains is the best ever! — Mike Ayres

## Editor's Note



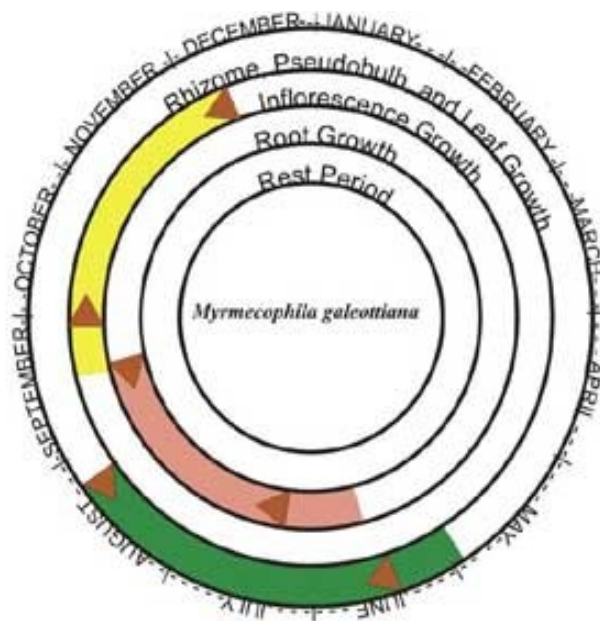
Mike Ayres sent me an article by T.J. Hartung - "The Orchid Clock". I thought it had some useful information for our members so I have re-printed it (with permission) below. MPOS September's meeting program was "IPM - getting ready for winter". Prevention of

outbreaks in your greenhouse is possible when you monitor for your pests and do not bring them into the greenhouse when you bring plants inside for the winter. It was well attended and people had many interesting questions.

Please send me your ideas, pictures and submissions for the newsletter at [justina\\_marie20@yahoo.com](mailto:justina_marie20@yahoo.com).

Thank you. —Justina Kelliher

## The Orchid Clock



Orchids have a cycle of life. The key to understanding the annual life cycle of a plant, and knowing how to respond to it, can be depicted visually as a clock.

Orchid growers know their plants will produce flowers at a certain time of year, and will grow new leaves and rhizomes at another. By charting these on a clock face, we can better respond to the needs of the plant in terms of fertilization, watering, etc.

Every species of orchid is different. Some orchids bloom in May and June, others flower in time for certain holidays. Some have blossoms that last for only a few days, while others last for months. Also, exact timing can depend on a number of factors, including the region of the world in which the plant lives. This orchid clock should be duplicated for each species that you have. Here's how to chart a time cycle chart for every species in your collection. Begin by placing an arrow, pointing clockwise, at the time of year when a new inflorescence appears, and another arrow, pointing counterclockwise when the blooms fade. Place both arrows in the ring marked "Inflorescence Growth." Repeat this for the leaf growth ring and the root growth ring.

By seeing the times of the year when each of the significant growth patterns occur, we can now plan to fertilize our plants in a timely manner. To better visualize the fertilization patterns, I use three different colors of highlighter marker pens: green for growth, yellow for blooms and pink for roots.

Start the highlighted area of the ring two–four weeks before the beginning and continue it to almost the end of the particular growth pattern. (There may be some overlap in ring colors.)

Fertilizers are identified with three numbers, which I refer to as "Shoots", "Fruits", and "Roots". The first number is nitrogen (N2), an element needed for plant growth. The second number is phosphate (P2O5), a chemical shown to increase flowering (and fruiting). The third is potash (K2O), a chemical needed for root growth, overall plant health and stamina.

During the "green" time of year, I recommend a fertilizer that is 20-10-10. During the "yellow" time of year, consider a 10-20-10 fertilizer. The "pink" season calls for a 20-20-20 fertilizer. Any similar fertilizer formulas should be sufficient. The last ring — entitled "Rest Period" — is when your plant needs to rest and muster its strength for the next year's growth. During Rest Period, fertilize and water sparingly.

By looking at your orchid clock (and a calendar) you can now easily see what kind of fertilizer each species of orchid in your collection needs. The colors of the highlighter pens were chosen because they approximate the color of the fertilizer I use.

*T.J. Hartung is president of the Vallarta Orchid Society ([www.pvorchids.com](http://www.pvorchids.com)) in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He is also on the board of directors of the Vallarta Botanical Gardens ([www.vallartabotanicalgardens.org](http://www.vallartabotanicalgardens.org)). Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (e-mail [tjhartung@gmail.com](mailto:tjhartung@gmail.com))*

### CCOS President's Message

It was great to see an infusion of 8 new members this past month - in part due to our efforts at the Oregon State Fair. A good sized group like this can potentially make an impact on the overall



group in a number of ways. New members with fresh questions and ideas challenge the entire group to grow along with them!

Once again, thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and/or plants for the display. The overall consensus was that it was a worthwhile experience. It took significant effort for a portion of our membership, but enabled our club to fulfill a portion of our objectives - which is to educate the public about orchids, orchid conservation, and the process of growing orchids. Many of us were also delighted to see friends and acquaintances that we had not seen for some time - and we were able to share our love of orchids with them as well! Hopefully we will be able to get enough volunteers for next year to stage a repeat performance.

The September meeting is the only time we meet during the year where there is nearly three months of time between our normally formatted meetings, so this is a great time for members to share pics, changes to your collection, and/or issues that have come up during this period. Keep your cameras handy and think about making a mini-presentation come next year at the same time!



We had loads of new plants available for purchase and the show and tell table was filled with plants brought in by members. Thanks to everyone who shared their plants and gave some of us reason to place something new on our wish lists. — Mike Ayres

### MPOS President's Message

Fall is fast approaching and I seem to be having a mid-year crisis. Are those orchids I set outside at the beginning of the summer all going to fit back in the house? Have my plants picked up so many different squatters that I might never be able to remove all of them before moving the orchids back inside? While the cattleyas are finally enjoying some much needed sun and warmth, my masdevallias look forward to cooling off. It is like that with the society as well. Some members prefer to focus on species, others enjoy the "weird" or less common orchids, and still others have a warm spot in their hearts for large showy orchids. Help us to serve you better by coming to the meetings and voicing your interests. What burning topics haven't we addressed recently? What theme might we take on for the show this winter that would fuel interest and fun for the society? Do you still like to receive gift plants, or should we use that money to lure in another out of town speaker for the future?



We plan to vote on a new slate of officers. Come to the meeting and be heard. Gregg Lomnicky

**We will be voting on the new board. Some will be repeats and others new. We will present the current slate at the meeting and ask for any other interested parties to come forward.**

Photos :L - Mike Ayres, R - Justina Kelliher

#### Show Dates To Remember:

Oct. 2, 2011 1:00 pm — ASO Judging, followed by the educational program. Oregon Garden Educational Building Silverton OR

Nov. 6, 2011 1:00 pm — ASO Judging, followed by the educational program. Oregon Garden Educational Building Silverton OR

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## The Oregon Hybrid



### Events Calendar

For calendar submissions please contact the editor

October 2, 2011 Sunday 1:00 pm	AOS - Monthly Judging	Oregon Garden Education Building Silverton OR
October 4, 2011 Tuesday 6:30 pm	MPOS - Monthly Meeting Program: Neighborhood Naturalist	Church of the Good Samaritan 35th and Harrison Corvallis OR
October 12, 2011 Wednesday 6:30 pm	CCOS - Monthly Meeting Program: Kevin Wescott	Salem Heights Community Hall 3505 Liberty Rd. S. Salem OR
November 1, 2011 Tuesday 6:30 pm	MPOS- Monthly Meeting Program: TBA	Church of the Good Samaritan 35th and Harrison Corvallis OR
November 6, 2011 Sunday 1:00 pm	ASO - Monthly Judging	Oregon Garden Education Building Silverton OR

The Oregon Hybrid is the official publication of the Mary's Peak Orchid Society and the Cherry City Orchid Society and is published monthly. The deadline for submissions is the 18th of the previous month. All submissions are subject to editing for space, format and content. Editing and Layout: Justina Kelliher (541-929-2886) [justina\\_marie20@yahoo.com](mailto:justina_marie20@yahoo.com)

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