

Our SPOT



“... let there be light!”

It's a persistent myth that orchids grow in dark jungles and don't need much sun.

In truth, many are epiphytes that grow in the upper forest canopy in order to take advantage of more light. It's best to provide orchids as much light as they can take without burning.

When the orchid 'bug' bites, our collection may expand quickly without a proper place to keep it. So, many hobbyists must convert dark areas, such as basements or garages, into viable growing areas.

For those growing in these conditions, you need to achieve three levels of light – high, intermediate, and low. This is dependent, of course, on the orchids in your collection and their requirements.

Some species, as a rule, will do better under grow lights than others, such as Dendrobiums, Paphs, Phals, and Masdevallia (and other pleurothallids).

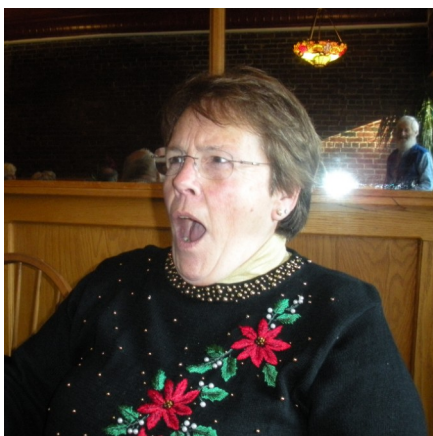
Using grow lights will present challenges to watch for. The heat generated, especially by high intensity bulbs, will cause hot and dry conditions, which can

cause burning and heat stress. Symptoms of excess heat are brown edges, wrinkled or pleated leaves, stunted growth, and bud blast. It's critical to maintain humidity and air flow.

These conditions also encourage pests that thrive on low humidity, such as spider mites.

If your growing area is in one room, you can mix up the lighting, for example — put low level lighting at the edges of the room, high in the middle, with the sections between offering intermediate levels.

(more on page 3)



Co-President Sue Rudnicki reacts to a challenging bid on one of the auction items.

(see page 2 for story)

BARKS:

- *Applause to all the members who brought, and bought items and made this year's auction the most successful ever!*
- *Thanks to Lucy Roessiger for the scrumptious recipe using vanilla bean*



Inside this issue:

<i>Events</i>	2
<i>Light levels for your orchids</i>	3
<i>SPOTlight on member</i>	4
<i>Orchid recipe</i>	4
<i>Feature orchid.. Dendrochilum</i>	5
<i>EMOS meeting minutes</i>	6, 7
<i>Maine Troop Greeters</i>	8

The EMOS Ho ... Ho ... Holiday luncheon and auction

EMOS held their annual benefit auction and luncheon recently at the charming Whig & Courier Pub in downtown Bangor. This event always puts everyone into the spirit, and kicks off the season.

The proceeds from the auction go to a local non-profit each year. In previous years, the amount has been divided among several charities, but members voted to offer a lump sum to one charity this year. Denis Roessiger once again

agreed to be the auctioneer, and pull money out of the wallets of attending members. The bidding became quite fierce at times on the items available.

The proceeds of the auction this year went to The Maine Troop Greeters. I'm delighted to report that this was the largest donation ever offered by the Society. (FMI on the Greeters, see back page)

Members also enjoyed an extra treat this year—birthday cake to



celebrate the birthdays of Louise Snow and Dee LaCasce. Everyone left the lunch in high spirits, and with great "stuff."

Don't miss it next year!

Don't miss the "after Santa" Workshop!

Undoubtedly, the most important mission of a club is to support the growth and knowledge of the members. This is achieved through social and educational events that offer opportunities for new members to network with seasoned pros.

EMOS will be offering just such an opportunity at the January meeting.

It will feature a workshop with experienced 'orchidists' Mary Lou Hoskins, Denis Roessiger, and Dick Green.

Workshops are a tremendous opportunity to have 'hands-on' attention from the pros, and have your questions answered and your concerns addressed.

So, bring a friend and lots of questions.

Past clinics have offered advice & expertise on:

- treating infestation
- choosing the proper medium
- water & light requirements
- identification
- where to cut when splitting plants or removing dead stems
- maintaining correct temperature

See you there!!!

See you at these events

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1/9/10 | EMOS meeting, potting workshop 11 AM at Greencare
FMI: greenc@gwi.net 207-848-5453 |
| 2/12—2/14/10 | NH Orchid Society Show, Nashua NH, Radisson Hotel
FMI: www.nhorchids.org/show2010 |
| 3/13/10 | EMOS meeting, Brewer ME 11AM |





Why won't my orchid re-bloom?

Insufficient light is the most common cause of failure to re-bloom orchids. Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom. The orchid on the left shows the correct leaf color and is producing abundant blooms, the plant on the right has dark green leaves and no flowers. Orchid plants need sunlight. Light is used to turn moisture and nutrients into plant growth. A good rule is to give your plants as much light as possible without scorching. While too much light may damage the plants, too little light will prevent flowering or cause weak growth.

Too much sunlight is indicated by scorched spots on the foliage or pseudobulbs where the sun hits them directly. Rarely does sunburn discolor an entire plant, only the portion of the green parts that is hit by direct sun for too long a period. Increased light should be given gradually. Burn damage is caused when the plant tissue gets too hot. If a leaf feels hot to your fingers, it may be burning. If you can cool down the leaf temperature with moving air and water, then the light can be brighter without doing any harm. Morning sun is more beneficial to plants than afternoon sun. Therefore, your growing area should be located to get maximum sun and light early in the day. A windowsill chosen for orchids should face east or south.

For more detailed information on the light requirements of specific orchids, you should consult the [AOS cultures sheets](#).

Although there are light meters that can be used to measure the light in your orchid growing areas they can be confusing to use. An easy way to determine the brightness of your growing area is to use a white sheet of paper or white illustration board or foam-core. Hold your hand about 8-10 inches above the white card on a bright day when the sun is shining fully. Use the illustrations below as guides.

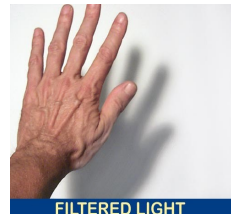


FULL SUN



BRIGHT

You can easily measure the amount of light your orchids are getting.



FILTERED LIGHT



FULL SHADE

Achieving the right level of light

It's important to achieve three levels of intensity when using grow lights:

- ⇒ **Low** ~ use a fluorescent, 'full spectrum' grow light
- ⇒ **Intermediate** ~ use a 'high output' fluorescent (brighter than regular fluorescence)
- ⇒ **High** ~ use 'high intensity discharge' bulbs (HID)

Beware of leaf burning from HID bulbs! There are devices that will move the lights slowly back and forth on a track to prevent this.

Also maintain correct humidity and air flow.

SPOTlight on member ... Susanne Wells

Introducing the club treasurer and one of the most valuable members of EMOS

Susanne was literally 'born' into orchids. Her father raised orchids in Germany. She remembers really getting hooked on them while helping him sell some years ago at the Bangor show.

She emigrated to the United States in 1972. A few years later, she met her husband Hal, and they were married in Portsmouth NH in 1976.

Hal's career in the Air Force gave them an opportunity to travel extensively in the US and Europe. So, Susanne has lived in Alabama, California, Connecticut, Germany, Iceland, and Virginia.

After 14 years, they settled down and moved to Hampden in 1990.

Susanne is the proud mother of three boys, with the youngest graduating from college this spring. During their school years, she was very involved in their school activities and volunteer work.

She has been the treasurer of EMOS since it's inception. She especially enjoys the sharing of knowledge among the members.

In addition to EMOS, she is also a member of the Hampden Garden Club.

She somehow also finds time to tutor German, which she loves.

Coming from an orchid background, her family has been very supportive of her 'orchid habit.' They keep her well supplied with books and paraphernalia to grow her collection.



She admits her favorites now are Phalaenopsis, but she is nurturing a particular interest in the mini orchids, and hopes to start a collection of them soon.

EMOS is fortunate to consider her as a member of the family!

Vanilla Custard

*450 ml milk
40 g sugar
1 fresh egg
2 Tablespoons cornstarch*

1 vanilla pod, pod and scraped out seeds -

- bring to a boil in a pan, stirring continuously, remove from heat, let set 10 minutes.

Mix milk, sugar, egg and cornstarch into a smooth paste, add to vanilla pan, bring to boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. As soon as the sauce thickens, remove from heat and continue stirring for 2 minutes. Strain into a bowl. Cover surface of the custard with cling film. Cool, then chill for 2 hours.

Plum compote.

*500 g. plums
4 Tablespoons sugar
3 Tablespoons plum liqueur*

Bring to a boil in a wide, shallow pan, transfer to 4 glass bowls. and cool. To serve: beat custards till perfectly smooth, serve with compote.

**** A scrumptious "orchid" recipe using vanilla bean. Tested and overwhelmingly approved! You simply MUST try it!**

Introducing ... the *Dendrochilum*

The delicate, cascading flowers of the *Dendrochilum* resemble gold chain, which earned it the name of the “necklace” orchid.

The approximately 300 species of these epiphytes are found in southeast Asia, as well as the Philippines. So, they prefer warm temperatures and bright light, but are also quite tolerant of variable temperatures.

These orchids can get very large and showy, and have the reputation of being easy to grow. They are multi-floral, so are really spectacular when in full bloom. Their flowers can also offer an enticing fragrance, so these orchids are favorites among the collectors who have them.

Close up of flower

It's interesting to note that the *Dendrochilum* does not like to be repotted, so it's important that you choose the initial potting medium carefully. They will thrive in fir bark or lava rock mixed with high quality shredded sphagnum moss

Keep them somewhat moist, and water year round. Also, provide high humidity and good air flow for best results.

You will treasure this adaptable orchid!

So, why not treat yourself to a “gold necklace” for Valentine's Day?



The *Dendrochilum cobbianum* will have 10” of petite creamy blooms

Photo by Andy's Orchids

The *Dendrochilum* has many pleasing species:

The *Wenzelii* blooms red

The *Filiforme* resembles filigree gold jewelry

The *Tenellum* resembles tuft of grass with tiny flowers

“When two friends understand each other totally the words are soft and strong like an orchid's perfume.”

- author unknown

EMOS MEETING MINUTES FROM 11/14/09

Held at St Dunstan's Church in Ellsworth. Attending - 16 members and one visitor

Announcements - Next meeting is our holiday lunch and auction at the Whig and Courier Pub in Bangor, Mary Lou announced there are back issues of Orchids Mag. for sale for 50 cents ea., money to go into the club treasury.

Secretary's report was read and accepted. Treasurers report was read and accepted. Susanne suggested we set a minimum for reserve of \$500 that we never let the account balance go below. Motion was accepted. Janelle, Mary Lou and Susanne will get together and work up a budget so we can keep track of where our money goes.

Old Business - We talked before about setting up a telephone chain for emergencies (meeting weather cancellations etc.) Janelle asked for volunteers for downeast and for Bangor area. Russell G. volunteered to be in charge of contacting downeast members, Mary Lou H. volunteered to contact Bangor area members. We just need a list of each.

Spending restrictions were discussed - a cap of \$25 per year per officer for non-operating expense items. The money should be spent only on items benefiting the whole group. Anything over \$25 should be voted on by the group. Motion was accepted.

Orchid rescues for Cancer Care OM - no further developments on this project. Cherie hasn't heard from either Key Floral or anyone from CCOM. Mary Lou said she mentioned the project to Claudia (receptionist at CCOM) and she was very excited. They are busy getting ready to move to new building in Brewer. We'll pursue this after their move.

Louise S. mentioned our former discussion on getting a calculator with a tape and cash box for the orchid sale. Several members said they'd look into it.

New Business - Charities suggested for our holiday auction benefit: Bangor Troop Greeters, Bangor Humane Society, Downeast Habitat for Humanity, Bangor Bog Walk. The group voted - 8 for Troop Greeters, 7 for Humane Society. Troop Greeters will get the donation. Louise L. will find out who the contact person is. It was suggested that we could make a donation to the Bangor Bog Walk in the Spring after our plant sale. (Plants helping Plants)

Susanne had a letter from the Northeast Judging Center asking for a donation. \$50 was approved. Janelle wants to organize a trip to the New Hampshire Orchid Society Show in Feb. It's the same weekend as our meeting. A list of interested people was started. Other than this there are no plans for the February meeting yet.

Program was a presentation on Tolumnias by Janelle.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Hoskins, secretary

EMOS MEETING MINUTES FROM 12/12/09

The annual holiday luncheon and auction was held at the Whig & Courier Pub, Bangor

This was our Christmas party so there was just a short informal meeting.

Bonnie B. reported that Nadine at Cancer Care finally got back to her about our offer to do an orchid display and 'adoption' program at the Cancer Care Center. They welcome the proposal.

Mary Lou suggested we send them a 'housewarming orchid to start with and get the project up and going for their final move to the new facility at the end of February or first of March.

Cherie will contact Key Floral again about donating orchids and will also check with Lowes and Home Depot

The NH Orchid Show is February 11th - 13th, 2010 and several members are planning to go. Janelle handed around an information sheet. There is no program planned for our group that month.

Sue R. had a birthday cake made for Louise S. and Dee L., presented with a rousing and badly sung rendition of "Happy Birthday to You".

There were many great items for the auction with lots of spirited bidding. We netted \$622 for the Bangor Troop Greeters to use for snacks, etc for the troops coming through Bangor International Airport. Kudos to Louise L. for being the most generous bidder.

There were 22 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Hoskins, secretary

EMOS 2009 OFFICERS

CO- PRESIDENT

Janelle Delicata

CO-PRESIDENT

Sue Rudnicki

SECRETARY

Mary Lou Hoskins

TREASURER

Susanne Wells

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The Maine Troop Greeters

The Maine Troop Greeters began in 1991 when a large group of citizens drove to Bangor International Airport to welcome home plane loads of returning troops from Operation Desert Storm, then again in 2003 from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The overwhelming emotions of appreciation and patriotism shown by the Troops inspired the citizens to continue to greet every flight. Since then, they've been there for over 4300 flights.

The group became incorporated as a registered non-profit organization in 2008, with a mission to express the Nation's gratitude, and make the Troops' stay in Bangor as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

The group is made up of ordinary citizens, families of troops, as well as veterans of previous wars. No matter the hour or weather, members of all branches of the military (including those of our allies) are welcomed or sent off with a handshake, cookies, and free use of a cell phone. The Greeters are committed to greet every flight as long as there are Troops serving overseas. For more information about the Maine Troop Greeters visit: www.themainetroopgreeters.com.

EMOS is a community based club, and raises money each year to support a local non-profit.



Maine is made up of wonderful people with a strong sense of community. EMOS members felt it was important to show our gratitude and appreciation to our nation's dedicated armed forces. The Greeters offer a terrific service to our returning Troops, and we're delighted to have them be the recipient of our auction proceeds this year.