The Central Missouri Orchid Society

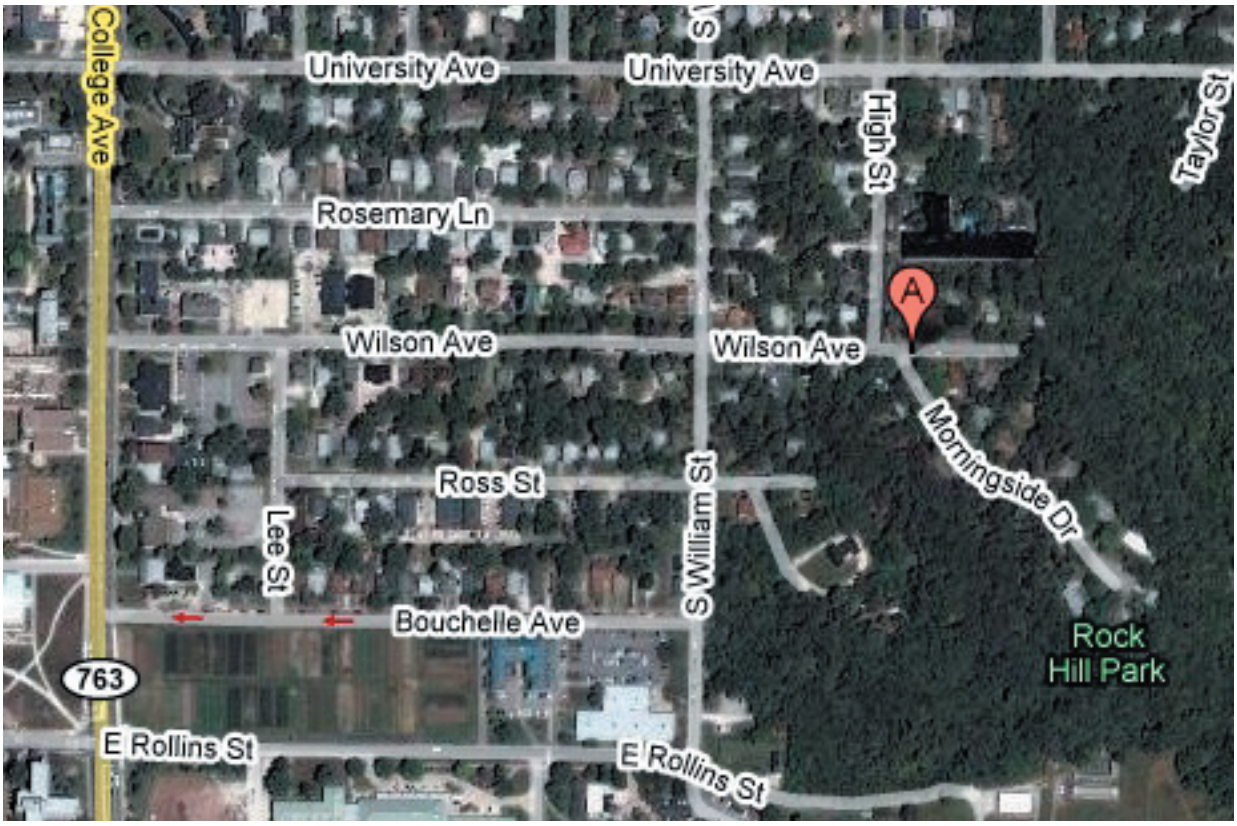
NEWSLETTER - September 14, 2008

NEXT MEETING Sunday, September 14, 4:00PM at the Home of Gertrude Lindener-Stawski

The next meeting will be on Sunday, September 14 at 4:00PM at the home of Gertrude Lindener-Stawski. Gertrude will show us where she grows her orchids, inside and out. There will also be a discussion on pest control and preparing to move plants indoors after being outside for the summer.

Rock Quarry House will no longer be available for our meetings after October so we will discuss where to hold future meetings. Please come to the meetings with your ideas! Also, please consider hosting the Christmas/holiday meeting on Dec 14th. We enjoy coming to members home and seeing their orchid growing space.

As usual, snacks are always welcome and please bring your plants for show-and-tell.



Directions:

Gertrude lives at 1626 Wilson, just east of the university.

Wilson is off College, between Bouchelle Ave. and Rosemary Ln.

(573) 875-6748

HELP!

We need your help! After more than five years as CMOS secretary, Laura is ready to retire and give someone else a chance to volunteer. The secretary is responsible for the newsletter and keeping a current membership list. If you want to help but think that's a bit much, you could volunteer to do just one part of the secretary's job:

--take minutes & photos at meetings or
--write the newsletter (which can be as fancy or simple as you like) or
--keep the membership list and name tags up to date

Laura will continue to put things on the web site so you don't need to know how to do that. Please let Laura, Barbara or Howard know if you are interested!

We are also looking for ideas for meetings! If are topics or guest speakers in which you are interested, please let one of the officers know!

LAST MEETING

The last meeting was Sunday, May 18 at the home of Hal and Melba Shaffer. Members enjoyed discussing mounting/remounting of specimen plants and touring the Shaffers' greenhouse and outdoor model train display.

Many thanks again to the Shaffers for hosting the last meeting at their house!

CALENDAR

2008-2009 Meetings:

Sept 14, 2008, 4pm

Oct 12, 2008, 4pm

Nov 9, 2008, 3pm

Dec 14, 2008

Jan 11, 2009 3pm

Feb 8, 2009 3pm

Mar 8, 2009 3pm

Apr 19*, 2009 4pm

May 17*, 2009 4pm

*These meetings are on the 3rd Sunday rather than the 2nd Sunday of the month because of Easter and Mother's Day

FLOWERPOT'S SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION BLAMED FOR FIRE

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn. - Fire investigators said a fire that destroyed a Mendota Heights home last week was caused by a flowerpot. Fire Chief John Maczko said a flowerpot on the home's deck spontaneously combusted.

While rare, spontaneous combustion can happen to pots with the right mixture of soil, moisture and heat.

Homeowner Dan Stoven said it's hard to believe, but said he's just glad his 17-year-old daughter was able to escape when passers-by entered the home to wake her up.

Investigators said the soil was in a plastic pot that had become hot after several days of high temperatures and humidity. It ignited July 8, and wind helped the fire grow and spread to the deck and then to the house.

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Information from: St. Paul Pioneer Press, http://www.twincities.com

WHAT IS NEW AT THE AOS?

The AOS Web site is progressing.

If you haven't taken the "virtual tour" of the gardens, it is worth your time. Go to the AOS Web site at www.aos.org and click on "Garden Tour", then follow the instructions. Not only can you see orchids, but there are hundreds of plants listed and the search feature allows you to see photos of them growing in the AOS Gardens. This is a fantastic program that Alan L. Kaitz, MD, AOS Volunteer prepared with assistance from Nick Ewy, Director of Botanical Garden and Greenhouses and Pat Jennings, Head Gardener. They have done a fantastic job and it is a great addition to the Web site.

The Sitemap helps with navigating the different areas of the Web site. You should find it useful, too, especially when in a hurry to locate something. Give it a try.

Visit the "Volunteer" area of the Web site and you will get just a glimpse at what is done by these neighbors of the AOS. Volunteers are very important to the whole organization and it is not uncommon for some to report for duties several times a month and some even several times a week. Volunteerism is appreciated and the dedication, loyalty and work efforts of AOS volunteers are unsurpassed.

Beginners to the orchid hobby will locate helpful information under "Orchid Basics". In fact, some experienced growers may benefit from some of the information. Here, again, the Sitemap is the key to locating "Orchid Basics".

It is obvious that progress is being made on the Web site and we all look forward to having it complete. For now, the material that is there is good. Be sure to check it out and let someone know you appreciate it!

Susan Taylor
Orchids Editor, BellaOnline.com

THE RECENT GENUS CHANGES IN LAELINAE

Alex Maximiano, Managing Director, OrchidWiz, LLC

In May 2007 the RHS decided to implement the genus changes proposed in Genera Orchidacearium Vol. 4. The changes stem primarily from DNA analyses of orchid species, which allow for more accurate classifications than those made by taxonomists 150 years ago. The changes had been in the making for several years but are only now taking effect.

By order of greatest impact, the revisions involve (1) the transfer of Brazilian laelias to Sophronitis, (2) the splitting of Rhyncholaelia from Brassavola, (3) the splitting of Guarianthe from Cattleya, and (4) the transfer of all Schomburgkia species to either Myrmecophila or Laelia.

What do the changes mean to the average orchid grower? If you grow Cattleya-alliance hybrids, in time you will see most of them change genus. Let's explore why.

According to the new convention, Laelia purpurata is now Sophonitis purpurata. This means the prior hybrid Laeliocattleya [Lc.] Canhamiana (C. mossiae x L. Purpurata) becomes instead Sophrocattleya [Sc.] Canhamiana. In turn, when you cross Sc. Canhamiana with another cattleya you get an Sc. instead of an Lc. Since Laelia purpurata has 10 generations of progeny, the number of hybrids affected is massive. Combine that with the change of other laelias to Sophronitis: L. crispata, L. pumila, L. tenebrosa, L. cinnabarina, etc., and the result is thousands of new sophrocattleyas. In fact, sophrocattleyas will soon become more common than laeliocattleyas.

Among other important species affected, Brassavola digbyana becomes Rhyncholaelia digbyana; Cattleya aurantiaca becomes Guarianthe aurantiaca; and Cattleya bowringiana becomes Guarianthe bowringiana. Several new genera had to be created to accommodate these changes, of which the most important are:

Rhynchosophrocattleya [Rsc.] = Cattleya x Rhyncholaelia x Sophronitis
Rhyncholaeliocattleya [Rlc.] = Cattleya x Rhyncholaelia
Cattlianthe [Ctt.] = Cattleya x Guarianthe
Guarisophleya [Gsl.] = Cattleya x Guarianthe x Sophronitis
Thwaitesara [Thw.] = Cattleya x Guarianthe x Rhyncholaelia x Sophronitis

For example, the following popular hybrids have changed names:

- Blc. Goldenzelle in now Rhynchosophrocattleya [Rsc.] Goldenzelle
- Slc. Hazel Boyd is now Guarisophleya [Gsl.] Hazel Boyd
- C. Chocolate Drop is now Cattlianthe [Ctt.] Chocolate Drop
- Slc. Jewel Box is now Guarisophleya [Gsl.] Jewel Box
- Bc. Mount Anderson is now Rhyncholaeliocattleya [Rlc.] Mount Anderson
- Blc. Momilani Rainbow is now Thwaitesara [Thw.] Momilani Rainbow

OrchidWiz has incorporated these changes into its database and the new names are available starting with Encyclopedia version 4.01. OrchidWiz allows users to search by either the new name or the old name. In addition, if the genus change was recent, the program will detail the prior name.

The name changes will be frustrating in the beginning but in time they will allow us a greater understanding of Laeliinae hybrids. For example, hybrids built on Brassavola species such as nodosa behave differently than those built on Rhyncholaelia species such as digbyana. If we can tell which ones are which by the genus name then we should be able to understand them better.

ORCHID TRIVIA

"Despite the enormous variety found among the approximately 25,000 species and more than 105,000 man-made hybrids, all of the members of the orchid family are related to each other by their flowers. The five main characteristics common to orchid flowers are: 1) zygomorphy; 2) the column; 3) the rostellum; 4) two or more pollinia, and 5) the labellum (lip).

"Ultimate Orchid" by Thomas J. Sheehan; 2001; DK Publishing, Inc., p. 10.

"Orchids occupy almost every conceivable habitat type except the oceans, from tropical cloud forests to seashore scrub, from tundra to semi-deserts. You can find them in the Andes and Himalayas, the Everglades, ancient Roman and Mayan ruins, even your own back yard."

Pridgeon, Alec. The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids; Lansdowne Publishing Pty Ltd, Sydney, Australia, 1992, Reprinted 1994; p. 7.