

## SOS EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT:

Sherida Gregoire

### VICE PRESIDENT:

### PAST PRESIDENT:

Faith Prodanuk

### SECRETARY:

Laurel Duczek

### TREASURER:

Heather Anderson

### SOCIAL DIRECTORS:

Jocelyn D'eon

Shirley Keith

### PLANT ORDERS:

Cheryl Adamson

Heather Anderson

### RESOURCES:

Yvette Lyster

Pat Randall

### LIBRARIANS:

Ellen Ross

Don Keith

### NEWSLETTER:

Bob Lucas

Dave Robinson

### AOS REPRESENTATIVE:

Matthew Sackville

### COC REPRESENTATIVE:

Al Hartridge

### VISITING SPEAKERS:

Eugene Kucey

### WEBMASTER:

Jennifer Burgess

## MAILING ADDRESS

SASKATCHEWAN  
ORCHID SOCIETY  
Box 411  
SASKATOON, SASK  
S7K 3L3

## WEB ADDRESS

[WWW.SASKORCHIDS.COM](http://WWW.SASKORCHIDS.COM)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EDITOR'S NOTE

THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY TO ALL MEMBERS FOR WHOM WE HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU WISH TO SWITCH FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC DELIVERY, NOTIFY ME AT ([ROBERT.LUCAS@USASK.CA](mailto:ROBERT.LUCAS@USASK.CA)). EMAIL ME IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

### APRIL MEETING

THE APRIL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> AT DUTCH GROWERS, COMMENCING AT 1:30 P.M.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL EXPIRE IN MAY, 2009, AS IN THE PAST THERE WILL BE AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM IN EFFECT DURING THE APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS. IF YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT EITHER OF THESE MEETINGS, YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$5.00 COUPON THAT CAN BE REDEEMED AT THE SUPPLIES TABLE UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY, 2010. SEE HEATHER AT THE MEETING TO RENEW.

### PLANT ORDERS

THE SOS WILL PLACE AN ORDER WITH CLOUDS AFTER THE APRIL MEETING. AN ELECTRONIC CATALOGUE IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CLOUDSORCHIDS.COM](http://WWW.CLOUDSORCHIDS.COM). A DEPOSIT EQUAL TO HALF THE VALUE OF YOUR ORDER IS REQUIRED AT THE TIME OF ORDER AND THE DEADLINE IS THE APRIL MEETING.

### GARDENScape

GARDENScape WAS ONCE AGAIN A GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE SOCIETY,



THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP. SPECIAL THANKS GO TO CHERYL AND HEATHER FOR ORGANIZING THE SOCIETY DISPLAY. HONOURABLE MENTION GOES TO AL FOR PAINTING, AND JAMES FOR LIGHTING, AS WELL AS TO ALL THE SOCIETY MEMBERS WHO MANNED THE DISPLAY AND WHO BROUGHT BLOOMING ORCHIDS. GARDENScape IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SOS TO SHOWCASE THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO THE SOCIETY AND WE RECEIVED MANY INQUIRIES ABOUT MEMBERSHIP.

### T5 ORDER.

IF YOU DID NOT PICK UP YOUR PRE-ORDERED LIGHTS, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE APRIL MEETING. WE ALSO BROUGHT IN A LIMITED AMOUNT OF THESE LIGHTS FOR SOCIETY INVENTORY AND THEY CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE RESOURCE TABLE.

### SOS EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE APRIL MEETING. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE EXECUTIVE, OR NOMINATING SOMEONE ELSE, PLEASE INFORM SHERIDA OR ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

### MEETING PRESENTATION

PAMELA MANN WILL OFFER A POT-

TING DEMONSTRATION AT THE APRIL MEETING.

### MEETING AGENDA

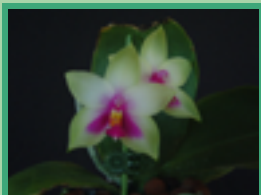
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PROBLEM CORNER

- SHOW AND TELL
- EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS
- COFFEE/SUPPLIES
- MANN PRESENTATION
- PLANT RAFFLE AND SALE
- ADJOURNMENT



PHAL BEDFORD GEM

*DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE EXECUTIVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR GREAT SOCIETY? IF SO, TALK TO SHERIDA.*



PHAL BELLINA

## MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING MINUTES

SHERIDA CHAIRED THE MEETING AND WELCOMED MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

GARDENSCAPE - SHOW DATES ARE MARCH 27-29, 2009. THANKS TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO MAN THE DISPLAY. PLANT DROP OFF WILL BE BETWEEN 5:00 AND 7:00 ON THURSDAY EVENING AND PLANT PICK UP WILL BE BETWEEN 5:00 AND 5:30 ON SUNDAY. VOLUNTEERS CAN PICK UP THEIR PASSES DURING PLANT DROP OFF. IF THIS TIME DOES NOT WORK, TALK TO THE PRESIDENT.

SHOWS - THE FRASER VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY WILL HOLD A SHOW AND SALE OCTOBER 15 TO 17 AND WILL HOST THE COC GENERAL MEETING. AT THE SAME TIME.

ELECTIONS - EXECUTIVE POSITIONS WILL BE UP FOR ELECTION IN APRIL. ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE A PERSON OR WHO WOULD LIKE TO PUT THEIR NAME FORWARD SHOULD SPEAK TO THE PRESIDENT. DONATING SOME OF YOUR TIME MAKES FOR A HEALTHY GROWING SOCIETY.

PLANT ORDER - THE FORESTVIEW GARDENS ORDER WILL ARRIVE THURSDAY BEFORE GARDENSCAPE. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR PLANT DISTRIBUTION.

ORDERS AND DEPOSITS ARE DUE BY THE APRIL MEETING FOR THE CLUB ORDER TO BE PLACED WITH CLOUD'S ORCHIDS. CHECK OUT THE CATALOGUE AT

[HTTP://WWW.CLOUDSORCHIDS.COM/](http://www.cloudsorchids.com/)

DONATION OF PLANT FOR RAFFLE – ON BEHALF OF SAFEWAY, SANDI KAUFHOLD DONATED THE ORCHIDS ON THE RAFFLE TABLE.

RECOGNITION – THE SOCIETY PRESENTED A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO CHRISTOPHER FROM DUTCH GROWER'S. HE OPENS THE BUILDING, SETS UP FOR OUR SUNDAY MEETINGS AND TROUBLESHOOTS ANY PROBLEMS THAT ARISE.

H & R NURSERIES, HAWAII – THE PRESIDENT VISITED H & R. THE OWNERS WERE VERY WELCOMING AND GAVE A TOUR OF THEIR FLASKING ROOMS AND GREENHOUSES INCLUDING A LOOK AT THE SPECIMEN PLANTS USED FOR BREEDING. THE OWNERS INDICATED THAT THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IS AFFECTING ORCHID GROWERS AND SELLERS. ORDERS HAVE DROPPED OFF AND SOME NURSERIES MAY NOT RENEW EXPORT PAPERS TO REDUCE THEIR COSTS. IN THE COMING YEAR SOME GROWERS MAY STRUGGLE TO STAY IN BUSINESS.

### PROBLEM CORNER

Q – A DENDROBIUM IS COVERED WITH

KEIKIES. WHEN CAN THEY BE REMOVED AND POTTED? WHY DID IT PRODUCE KIEKIES RATHER THAN FLOWERS?

A – WHEN TOTAL ROOT GROWTH IS ABOUT 4-6 INCHES, THE KEIKIES CAN BE REMOVED AND POTTED. IF THE PLANT HAS TOO MUCH NITROGEN IT WILL PRODUCE KEIKIES INSTEAD OF FLOWERS. CUT BACK ON THE FERTILIZER. REDUCE WATERING IN NOVEMBER / DECEMBER TO INDUCE FLOWERING.

Q – A CATTLEYA HAS LEAVES WITH MANY SMALL DRY BLACK SPOTS. THE EXAMPLE LEAF IS PLEATED. THE PLANT HAS GOOD ROOTS.

A – MEMBERS SUGGESTED THE PLANT HAD BEEN STRESSED IN SOME FASHION. TREAT NEW GROWTH WITH CINNAMON TO SEE IF IT REDUCES SPOTTING.

Q – A PHALAENOPSIS LEAF HAS YELLOW SPOTS THAT STARTED OUT FLAT AND LATER BECAME RAISED HARD BUMPS.

A – LIKELY CAUSE IS SUCKING INSECTS. KEEP THE PLANT ISOLATED AND TREAT WITH INSECTICIDAL SOAP.

Q – MILTONIAS HAVE GOOD GROWTH AND NO PLEATING ON THE LEAVES. THEY DO NOT BLOOM.

A – THEY NEED COOL TEMPERATURES. PROVIDE A 10° DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DAY AND NIGHT.

Q – HOW LONG WILL T5 BULBS LAST?

A – LIGHTS SHOULD LAST FOR ABOUT 10,000 HOURS. AT 12-14 HOURS PER DAY FOR 365 DAYS LIGHTS ARE ON FOR 4380 – 5110 HOURS A YEAR. BULBS SHOULD LAST ABOUT 2 YEARS WITH THIS LEVEL OF USE.

SHOW AND TELL –. PLANTS WERE SHOWN BY, RON JENSEN, ELLEN ROSS, IRENE STROSHEIN, JENNIFER BURGESS, BOB FARTHING, PAT RANDALL, LYNN CAMPBELL, TRACEY THUE, DON KEITH, JAMES SATHER, LORI POZNIAK AND SHERIDA G.

DON KEITH – REFLECTORS FOR T5 LIGHTS. DON KEITH DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED LIGHTWEIGHT REFLECTORS FOR USE WITH HIS NEW T5 LIGHTS. HE ALSO MADE ABOUT 16 KITS FOR SALE BY THE CLUB. DON DEMONSTRATED HOW EASY IT IS TO ASSEMBLE THE UNITS. ADDITIONAL KITS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT FUTURE MEETINGS.

PLANT RAFFLE, TOO MANY WINNERS TO NOTE.

PLANT SALE

ADJOURNMENT



PHAL SUN JE  
DIAMOND

## WEB PAGE OF THE MONTH

EACH MONTH WE WILL FEATURE A WEB PAGE. IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE, SEND IT TO THE EDITOR. THIS MONTH'S FEATURE, COURTESY OF LAUREL DUCZEK IS

:  
<http://nathist.sdstate.edu/orchids/pests/scales.htm>

THIS IS NOT REALLY A SITE, BUT RATHER AN ARTICLE ON SCALE THAT SHE THOUGHT MEMBERS MIGHT FIND USEFUL. TRUST ME, IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SCALE THAN YOU EVER WANT TO KNOW, CHECK IT OUT. .

## CLASSIFIED ADS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ORCHID RELATED ITEMS FOR SALE, SEND ME THE DETAILS AND I WILL RUN AN AD.)

FOUR 4 FOOT (2 TUBE) FLORESCENT LIGHT FIXTURES FOR SALE. THESE ARE WITHOUT LIGHTS AND ARE FREE STANDING. THEY COULD BE USED TO MOUNT T-5 TUBES. \$20.00 (OR BEST OFFER) PER FIXTURE CONTACT DOREEN LEARMONTH, 374-8431

## HINTS ON THE WATERING OF ORCHIDS

**PART I** BY BURTON M. FORMAN AND THOMAS P. KRUMPE JR. THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE ORCHID DIGEST VOL. 32 No.10, 1968 AND IT WAS REPRINTED IN THE ORCHID DIGEST, VOL. 72, No. 1, 2008. IT IS REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.




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*BURNING QUESTION:  
HOW OFTEN ARE MY  
ORCHIDS TO BE  
WATERED?*

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### INTRODUCTION

IN THE WORLD OF ORCHID GROWING — DECREPIT GROWERS SUCH AS OURSELVES DOWN TO THE NOVICE — THERE IS ONE ETERNALLY BURNING QUESTION: HOW OFTEN ARE MY ORCHIDS TO BE WATERED. EVEN LEARNED ORCHID JUDGES OF MANY YEARS STANDING HAVE ASKED THIS QUESTION. ONE ORCHID JUDGE OF OUR ACQUAINTANCE SUMMED UP HIS DESPAIR BY SAYING, "I'LL NEVER GET THIS WATERING DOWN PAT." DESPAIR NOT, HELP IS ON THE WAY. WE FEEL THAT WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THIS ARTICLE YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED IN FULL. EVERYTHING YOU READ SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO YOUR OWN EXPERIMENTS. THROUGH THE YEARS WE HAVE COME ACROSS A GREAT DEAL OF MISINFORMATION FROM BOOKS AND ARTICLES ABOUT THE GROWING OF ORCHIDS. WITHOUT DOUBT THEIR AUTHORS WERE COMPLETELY SINCERE IN THEIR PRESENTATION, AS ARE WE, BUT THE POSSIBILITY REMAINS FOR ERROR. SIT BACK IN YOUR CHAIR, RELAX, IMBIBE IF YOU MUST, AND FOR A LITTLE WHILE FOLLOW US INTO THE WORLD OF GOOD ORCHID WATERING. BEFORE ANSWERING THE BURNING

QUESTION, LET US START WITH A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION. YOU HAVE SENT FOR A LARGE SHIPMENT OF ORCHIDS FROM A NURSERY WHICH NOTIFIES YOU THAT THE ORCHIDS ARE ON THEIR WAY, AND THAT YOU MAY EXPECT TO RECEIVE THEM IN A FEW DAYS. YOUR ORDER HAS INCLUDED PLANTS OF CATTLEYA, EPIDENDRUM, ETC. HOWEVER, BEFORE REACHING YOU, WHETHER BECAUSE OF A MIX-UP OF YOUR ORDER, POOR HANDLING ON THE PART OF THE PACKERS, OR RUINOUS DAMAGE ON THE PART OF THE CARRIER, EVERY LABEL HAS BEEN LOST, DAMAGED, OR OBLITERATED TO THE POINT WHERE IT IS ILL-EGIBLE. YOU ARE NOW FACED WITH TRYING TO GROW A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF PLANTS THAT ARE NAMELESS, AND LIKE MOST OBJECTS THAT ARE UNNAMED, FRIGHTENING. ARGUING THE POINT WITH THE NURSERY WOULD BE TOO TIME CONSUMING AND ANYHOW YOU HAVE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF GROWING THESE MONSTERS WITH NO INFORMATION AS TO THE TYPE, CULTURE NOR ORIGIN. LET US BEGIN.

EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS (AND IN THIS

ARTICLE WE WILL DEAL ONLY WITH EPIPHYTES) ARE BEST GROWN WHEN GROUPED TOGETHER IN THE GREENHOUSE ACCORDING TO LEAF STRUCTURE AND POT SIZE, RATHER THAN *JUST* POT SIZE. THE REASON FOR THIS IS TWOFOLD. FIRSTLY, THOSE WITH SIMILAR LEAVES SEEM TO HAVE SIMILAR LIGHT REQUIREMENTS AND SECONDLY; PLANTS WITH SIMILAR LEAVES TEND TO HAVE SIMILAR WATERING DEMANDS. TWO FACTORS PREDOMINATE IN ORCHID LEAVES, TEXTURE AND SHAPE. WE ARE FACED WITH GROWING THESE VARIOUS STRANGERS IN ONE GREENHOUSE. IN A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF EPIPHYTIC SPECIES OR CATELYA HYBRIDS, PERFECTION FOR ALL CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN ONE GREENHOUSE, THE PERFECTIONIST NECESSITATING DIFFERENT GREENHOUSES TO GROW MANY SPECIES. MOST OF US CAN NEITHER AFFORD MANY GREENHOUSES, NOR SPARE THE SPACE FOR SUCH A VENTURE, AND MUST GROW OUR PLANTS IN ONE GREENHOUSE. HENCE, SEPARATING THE PLANTS AS TO LEAF TYPE IS OUR FIRST STEP.

READING FIGURATIVELY FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, OUR FIRST TYPE IS THE FINE-TEXTURED OVATE LEAF ILLUSTRATED BY SUCH PLANTS AS STANHOPEAS, LYCASTES, ANGULOAS, ETC. ON THE EXTREME RIGHT WE HAVE SUCH LEAF STRUCTURES AS PAPILIONANTHETERES, AERIDES (SIEDENFADENIA) MITRATUM, DENDROBIUM LINGUIFORME, AND SCUTICARIA STEELII. A QUICK EXAMINATION OF ALL YOUR PLANTS WILL QUICKLY REVEAL THEIR RELATIONSHIP OF LEAF STRUCTURE TO THE ABOVE EXTREME TYPES, AND THEY CAN BE SEGREGATED. FURTHER SEGREGATION ACCORDING TO POT SIZE IS THEN EMPLOYED. THE STANHOPEA TYPE OF LEAF CALLS FOR SHADE, AND AGAIN MOVING FROM THE FIGURATIVE LEFT TO RIGHT, THE SUCULENT AND TERETE TYPE LEAVES CALL FOR BRILLIANT SUNSHINE.

SINCE MOST GROWERS ARE CATELYA FIENDS, THE BEST PROCEDURE IS TO MODIFY THE LIGHT AND SHADING TO SUIT CATELYAS, AND THEN PLACE THE OTHERS AS TO THEIR LIGHT REQUIREMENTS JUDGING FROM THE LEAF TYPE IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE UBIQUITOUS CATELYAS. OTHER MORE ECLECTIC GROWERS WILL WANT TO ADJUST THEIR SHADING FOR THE MOST NUMEROUS TYPE SUCH AS MASDEVALLIAS OR CATASETUMS, AND WORKING FROM THE LEFT TO RIGHT FOR THE OTHER PLANTS FROM THERE. TO REPEAT, GROWING A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF PLANTS IN ONE GREENHOUSE WILL EVIDENTLY GIVE LESS THAN PERFECT RESULTS FOR ALL GENERA. DO NOT EXPECT TO GROW ALL PLANTS TO PERFECTION BUT STRIVE FOR THE ULTIMATE IN YOUR GREENHOUSE AND YOUR CONDITIONS.

THERE IS, AS USUAL, A FLY IN THE OINTMENT, AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE, AND A SQUARE PEG FOR THE ROUND HOLE — PHALAENOPSIS. ACCORDING TO THE FOREGOING RULES, A PHALAENOPSIS SHOULD FIT SOMEWHAT TO THE SHADY SIDE OF A CATELYA — WHICH IT DOES NOT — FEELING MORE AT HOME WITH TROLLS AND MOLES! FORTUNATELY, THE LIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR A PHALAENOPSIS IS SO WELL KNOWN THAT WE CAN AFFORD TO SHIP IT IMMEDIATELY TO THE SHADIER PART OF THE GREENHOUSE AND FEEL SECURE. THERE MUST BE, OF COURSE, OTHER EXCEPTIONS WHICH DO NOT COME SO READILY TO MIND. HOWEVER, AFTER BURNING THE LEAVES OF THE EXCEPTIONS, SIMPLY ‘CUSS’ US OUT ROUNDLY AND PLACE THEM IN A SHADIER POSITION.

IF YOU HAVE ARRANGED YOUR PLANTS AS SUGGESTED, THEY ARE NOW LINED UP FOR TWO PURPOSES



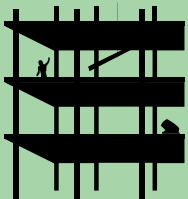
PHAL TEXAS FANCY



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*KEEP THAT ROOT TIP GROWING SO THAT IT REMAINS OF THE SAME SIZE IN RELATION TO THE DISTANCE AT WHICH THE WHITE VELAMEN FOLLOWS.*

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— LIGHT FACTORS AND WATERING FACTORS. SOME PEOPLE FAIL TO REALIZE THAT THERE IS A CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SHAPE OF THE LEAVE AND THE NEED FOR WATER. IN GENERAL, PLANTS WITH LEAVES HAVING LARGE SURFACES NEED LESS LIGHT AND MORE WATER FOR THE REASON THAT THE LARGE SURFACE COLLECTS MORE LIGHT AND IT EVAPORATES MORE WATER. RECENTLY, IN MOVING OUR COLLECTION FROM ONE CITY TO ANOTHER, A LEAVE OF SCUTICARIA STEELII BROKE OFF FROM THE NEW PLANT. THIS TERETE, QUILL-LIKE LEAVE WAS PLACED NEXT TO THE PLANT AND OBSERVED. IT WAS MANY WEEKS BEFORE THE DETACHED LEAVE STARTED SHOWING SIGNS OF WRINKLING, AND MANY, MANY MORE WEEKS BEFORE NECROSIS SET IN, APPARENTLY, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO UNDER WATER A PLANT WITH TERETE LEAVES.

HAPPILY, OH HAPPILY, THERE IS A DEFINITE, IRREVOCABLE, AND IMMUTABLE LAW WHICH NATURE HAS SET UP FOR THE WATERING OF EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS, WHICH WHEN UNDERSTOOD RESOLVES THE PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL. WHAT FOLLOWS HAS BEEN KNOWN TO ASTUTE GROWERS ALL ALONG, BUT NONE OF THEM IN ANY OF THEIR BOOKS OR ARTICLES SEEM TO BE ABLE TO VERBALIZE THEIR INFORMATION SO THAT IT IS AVAILABLE TO THE HOME GROWER. HERewith WE ATTEMPT TO VERBALIZE THE INFORMATION.

IT IS SPRING. THE BIRDS ARE ON THE WING, THE APHIDS ARE ON THE ROSES, (NOT IN SASKATOON) AND THE LAST GROWTH IS GOING OVER THE EDGE OF THE POT. THERE IS ON EVERY EPIPHYTIC ORCHID WHAT AMOUNTS TO A NEON SIGN ANNOUNCING WATER NEEDS. UPON THE APPEARANCE OF NEW ROOTS AT FIRST ALL THAT CAN BE SEEN IS THE ROOT TIP WHICH PUSHES FORWARD. AFTER A SHORT TIME, DEPENDING ON THE PLANT INVOLVED, THE WHITE VELAMEN APPEARS. THE LENGTH OF THE GREEN ROOT TIP VARIES FROM PLANT TO PLANT BEFORE THE VELA-

MEN COVERING APPEARS, MOST ORCHID ROOT TIPS WILL HAVE ELONGATED BETWEEN ONE/HALF TO ONE INCH. YOU ARE NOW LOOKING AT THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE FACTOR IN THE WATERING DILEMMA. MOST AUTHORS STATE THAT HEALTHY ROOTS MEAN A HEALTHY PLANT. OF COURSE THEY DO, BUT HOW DOES ONE MAINTAIN HEALTHY ROOTS? *THE JOB OF THE GROWER IS TO KEEP THAT ROOT TIP GROWING SO THAT IT REMAINS OF THE SAME SIZE IN RELATION TO THE DISTANCE AT WHICH THE WHITE VELAMEN FOLLOWS.*

BECAUSE THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF WATERING ORCHIDS IS CONTAINED IN THAT ONE SENTENCE WE WILL REPEAT IT WORD FOR WORD SO THAT IT WILL NOT ESCAPE ATTENTION: “*THE JOB OF THE GROWER IS TO KEEP THAT ROOT TIP GROWING SO THAT IT REMAINS OF THE SAME SIZE IN RELATION TO THE DISTANCE AT WHICH THE WHITE VELAMEN FOLLOWS.*” LET US PLAY AROUND THEORETICALLY WITH THIS IDEA TO OBSERVE REACTIONS. LET US SAY THE ROOT TIPS ARE NOW TOUCHING THE POTTING MEDIUM. WE WATER TODAY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPERIMENTATION WE WATER AGAIN THE NEXT DAY, AND THROWING ALL CAUTION TO THE WIND, WE WATER AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY. REMEMBERING THE IDEA THAT ROOTS ARE REACHING OUT FOR WATER, WE CAN READILY GUESS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THIS MUCH WATER IS APPLIED. THE ROOT TIPS, HAVING FOUND WATER, WILL SLOW THEIR GROWTH. IF WATER IS APPLIED CONSTANTLY THE ROOT TIP GROWTH STOPS COMPLETELY, AND THE WHITE VELAMEN THAT FOLLOWS CATCHES UP WITH THE TIP. (EDITOR’S NOTE: THIS COVERING OF THE ROOT TIP BY VELAMEN CAN ALSO INDICATE A LACK OF HUMIDITY IN THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY IN VANDACEOUS ORCHIDS.)

**TO BE CONT’D**