

OSMT Newsletter



Photo by Ed Merkle

Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee, Volume 2010 Issue 1, January 2010

January meeting agenda:

Next Meeting:

January 19th 2010 at 7:00pm
Cheekwood Botanical Gardens
Potter meeting room
Board meeting at 6:30pm

Please welcome our featured speaker, OSMT's own Ed Merkle. Ed will be discussing "Cattleyas The Queen of Orchids." The program will include both the species and their hybrids with other genera, and how to grow these beautiful orchids. Many of Ed's photographs will be shown as well as culture tips he has learned. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more from one of our local expert growers.

Photos from the December Christmas party



President's message:

Greetings and Happy New Year wishes to all OSMT members and their families. I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. We have another fun and exciting year of society meetings, speaker programs, and other activities planned for 2010, in addition to an entire season of orchid shows to look forward to once again as opportunities to represent our society at orchid events in the surrounding region.

Speaking of the orchid show season ahead, our first show will be a local one, the 21st Annual Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, which will be held at the same location on the Tennessee State Fairgrounds, despite the recent announcements in the news regarding the city's plans to tear down and redevelop that site. According to show chair Randall Lantz, this year's show will be exactly the same as it has been in years past, with news about possible future show locations to be forthcoming. The theme for this year's Lawn & Garden Show will be 'Artistic by Nature', which will "explore art in the garden/landscape and or artistic landscapes". So if any of you creative minds out there with a talent for design have any ideas on how to incorporate this year's theme into the OSMT show display, please contact me or speak to me at the January meeting.

Our first speaker program for 2010 will be an encore (re)presentation by Ed Merkle on the culture and breeding of Cattleyas, which was originally scheduled for September's meeting but had to be given in an improvised and unscripted form due to some unfortunate technical glitches with his PowerPoint file not loading correctly on Rebecca's laptop. Even though Ed did a fantastic job in filling that time with a very informative discussion and Q&A session, we can all now look forward to the program that he had originally planned to give back in September.

Also at the January meeting, Rebecca will be speaking to all of us about some of the options we have for specific speakers and programs she is considering scheduling for the coming year, and she will be conducting a survey about our preferences in order to develop a list of programs that is most in line with everyone's educational interests. So if you would like to influence the decisions on the types of speakers and topics to be scheduled this year, please plan on attending the meeting and participating in the survey. In advance of the meeting, I would also suggest that everyone think about any orchid-related topics which are either of specific interest to you or else have not been covered before or, say, in the last several years. As always, we hope to make the scheduling of programs an interactive participatory process to ensure that we're bringing you the speakers on the topics that most interest you.

In closing, I would like to say a few words about what it means to be a member of a local orchid society, particularly in the context of that society's relationship with the greater community of orchid enthusiasts throughout the country and around the world. As the current President of an affiliated society of the American Orchid Society, I would like to encourage all OSMT members to become individual members of the AOS in 2010 in order to help support our parent organization, whose commitment to orchid education and research cannot be sustained without participation from as many individuals as possible. By investing in an individual AOS Membership, you are voicing your commitment to helping attain those same goals, whether it means the conservation of natural orchid habitats, conducting scientific research to help increase our understanding of the orchid world, providing resources for education about orchids, or simply having an organizational structure to provide the necessary framework for recognizing your accomplishments as an individual orchid grower.

The annual cost of an individual AOS membership is now \$65.00 (or \$125.00 for a two-year period), and this money goes a long way in terms of support, not to mention the many perks that come with your membership, including a subscription to the informative monthly 'Orchids' magazine with its great articles and amazing orchid photography, online access to information in the members-only area of the AOS.org web site, discounts on orchid merchandise online, reduced processing fees for AOS awards, and free admission to the AOS Botanical Gardens in Delray Beach, Florida, as well as either free or discounted admission to over 200 other botanical gardens and arboreta around the country. This year, in addition to renewing your OSMT membership, please consider joining the AOS as an individual member and carry the membership card that reflects your passion for those wonderful darlings of the botanical world that we all know and love! Go online today (<http://www.aos.org>) and join.

Thanks to everyone for all of your help over the past year and in the year ahead. See everyone at the January meeting.