



SUSQUEHANNA ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August, 2010 Volume 30 #8

president's message

Next Meeting

Sunday
August 15

1:30 pm

Roundtable on
Staking & Prepping
Your Orchids

Community Room,
Giant Supermarket,
Camp Hill

August is here and the summer is dwindling. Our Fall show is fast approaching and so is our August meeting.

For the August meeting there will be some fun, some education and some work! With the National Capital Show in October as well as our show we will need plants! This is where work and you come in. In the past we have had some really good plants that suffered at the award level because we did not prepare them as best we could. Often this starts as they spike so that they can be encouraged to present the best viewing possible. This can be done by staking early to guide them much as one would a bonsai, but not taking as long. Also cleaning plants helps to bring attention to a particular bloom, even if it shouldn't. We will be talking and demonstrating ways to accomplish these ends.

If you have a plant that you feel needs this help, bring it along and have the experts take a look.

We will also be trying an activity that is new to us, instead of member sales or raffle. We are going to have a silent auction during the show table voting. Here is how it will operate: Members will bring a max of 3 sale plants that you will assign a price. Plants will be put on a table with the

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This newsletter is a publication of the Susquehanna Orchid Society, registered with the IRS as a 501c3 educational corporation. Little do they know. Since 1980, serving every gullible orchid addict in the panreas of PA Dutch Country. No orchids have been harmed in the production of this newsletter, although many have suffered neglect. Be honest, right about now, wouldn't a little March air feel good? All rights reserved, all lefts are very outgoing, party animals at heart, although you'd never know it to look at them.

officers & board

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Society Website: <http://www.susquehanna-orchid.org>
<http://www.susquehanna-orchid.org/member/>

Cover Cischweinfia sheehanae 'Cardrona' CCM/AOS

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Upcoming events

August 15 - SOS Meeting
September 19 - SOS Meeting
October 8 - 11 - NCOS Show
October 17 - SOS Meeting
October 21 - 24 - Annual Show
Stauffer's of Kissel Hill, Rohrerstown

Now available

Little Brook Orchids is now stocking high grade fir bark in seedling, medium and large size. They have it in bulk bags.

notes on mildew & fungi

DISH DETERGENT DETERRENT

Researchers in British Columbia have successfully used small concentrations of Palmolive dish detergent both to prevent and to reduce powdery mildew symptoms on the leaves of fruit plants. In greenhouse and field trials, the detergent was about as effective as the synthetic fungicide *myclobutanil*.

According to the researchers, the mode of action of detergents against fungi makes it unlikely that powdery mildew fungi will quickly develop resistance. They suggest that the detergent could make a desirable substitute for synthetic fungicides. Experimenters should use caution and begin by making applications of low concentrations (no more than 0.5 percent) of the detergent to small portions of test plants, gradually increasing the concentration as required to control powdery mildew only if no severe phytotoxic symptoms are observed.

Source: P.L. Sholberg and Julie Boule, "Palmolive Detergent Controls Apple, Cherry, and Grape Powdery Mildew," *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* 89(6), November 2009, 1139-47 (Agricultural Institute of Canada). Reprinted in *Plants & Garden News*, Summer 2010, Vol. 25, No. 2, Page 2 (Brooklyn Botanical Garden)

FUNGICIDAL ACTIVITY OF COMPOST TEAS

Researchers in Canada have tested compost teas made from various types of compost for their activity against the common plant pathogenic fungi *Alternaria solani*, *Botrytis cinerea* (responsible for gray mold), and *Phytophthora infestans*. The teas were made by adding compost (derived from chicken manure, bovine manure, sheep manure, shrimp, or seaweed) to well water at a 1:5 ratio by volume, covering, and storing in a dark place at room temperature for two weeks, with weekly stirring. Prior to application, the teas were strained through several layers of cheesecloth.

In laboratory trials, all of the teas inhibited mycelial growth of the fungi. The most pronounced inhibition of *A. solani* and *B. cinerea* was by teas made from sheep manure, bovine

manure, and shrimp composts; all teas completely inhibited mycelial growth of *P. infestans*. Sterilization of the teas by autoclaving or microfiltration resulted in no significant mycelial inhibition, showing that the teas' fungicidal activity is due to the presence of certain microorganisms.

In greenhouse trials, tomato seedlings were inoculated with *B. cinerea* or *Oidium neolyopersici* (responsible for tomato powdery mildew) then received weekly foliar sprays of the compost teas. No plant damage due to the sprays was seen. Plants inoculated with *O. neolyopersici* and sprayed with teas showed significantly less severe powdery mildew symptoms at up to four weeks after inoculation. Plants inoculated with *B. cinerea* and treated with sprays showed significantly fewer symptoms. Tea made from sheep manure compost was most effective against the *B. cinerea*, reducing powdery mildew severity, on average, by 97 percent nine weeks after inoculation.

Generally, fungicidal activity levels of the various teas correlated with each tea's total concentrations of bacteria. The tea made from sheep manure compost had a higher bacterial concentration – by a factor of at least four – than did the other teas.

Caution: The researchers found coliform bacteria in the teas made from chicken manure and seaweed composts (but not in the other teas), indicating possible contamination by human pathogens. If you experiment with compost teas, be careful to minimize personal exposure to them.

Source: S.B. Kone, A. Dionne, R.J. Tweddell, H. Antoun, and T.J. Avis, "Suppressive Effect of Non-Aerated Compost Teas on Foliar Fungal Pathogens of Tomato," *Biological Control* 52.(2), February 2010, 167-73 (Elsevier Science). Reprinted in *Plants & Garden News*, Summer 2010, Vol. 25, No. 2, Page 2 (Brooklyn Botanical Garden)

MUSHROOM COMPOST INHIBITS BIRD'S NEST FUNGI

Bird's nest fungi can grow quickly into large, unattractive clusters on wood and bark mulch, but adding mushroom compost appears to be an

effective solution to the problem. Field trials conducted in Pennsylvania have shown that mixing as little as 40 percent (by volume) of recycled fresh mushroom compost (obtained from a commercial mushroom grower) with organic landscape mulch significantly suppressed populations of bird's nest fungi growing on the mulch for more than a year. In the Northeast, large quantities of spent mushroom compost are produced annually, and recycling the compost by adding it to wood and bark landscape mulch would help to dispose of the excess.

Source: MA Fidanza and D.D. Davis, "Recycled Mushroom Compost Suppresses Bird's Nest Fungi in Landscape Mulch," *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* 27(4), December 2009, 238- 40 (Horticultural Research Institute). Reprinted in *Plants & Garden News*, Summer 2010, Vol. 25, No. 2, Page 3 (Brooklyn Botanical Garden)

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Thanks to Polly Betsh for contributing it

july show table

Small Catts

1st - Lc. MiniPurple 'Blue Hawaii'
Sarah Bortner

2nd - Enc. tampensis alba-
Bill Lukehart

Misc. Hybrid

1st - Mla Clark Kuan
Sarah Bortner

2nd - Chao Praya Blue
Sarah Bortner

Dendrobium

1st -Den. spectabile
Sarah Bortner

First Bloom

1st - Cat. Olivetenis
Bill Lukehart

Fragrance

1st - Misericors
Sarah Bortner

Homegrower

1st - Epi. ellipticum
Sam Graci

Oncidium

1st - Bllra Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS
Bill Lukehart

Paphiopedilum

1st - Paph. Honey
Bill Lukehart

Small Phals

1st - Phal cornu-cervi
Bill Lukehart

Species

1st - Doritis pulcherrima 'champornensis'
Dennis Lehr

Best Species

1st - Den. spectabile
Sarah Bortner

Best Hybrid

1st place Tie
Bllra Marfitch
Bill Lukehart

Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'
Sarah Bortner

2nd place- Enc. tampensis alba
Bill Lukehart

AOS CARES

Dear Fellow Orchidist,

AOS CARES! The American Orchid Society cares about *YOUR opinions* and *YOUR needs*. We want to hear from you whether or not you are a current member.

We are ready to listen so please use the bottom of this page to note the 2-3 things you think AOS *does RIGHT*, and the 3-4 things you feel we *need to WORK ON*. Return this to your society's AOS Representative or President who will make sure we receive your response and you may be absolutely certain we will pay close attention to your message to us. Of course, you are welcome to return this directly to me. Thank you so much for taking the time to let us hear from you. I hope to have the opportunity to meet you at a future orchid event.

Best personal regards,

Chris Rehmann

President

150 Golden Eagle Drive

Hammonton, NJ 08037

What are we doing right?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What should we work on to better serve you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Would you like to help us better serve our orchid community?

Tell us what you would like to do.

- 1.
- 2.

Name & E-mail Address: _____

City/State OR Orchid Society: _____

Are you currently an AOS Member? £ Yes £ No

Thank you.

President, continued from page 1

price and a sheet of paper for bidding First person interested will sign the bidding paper at the price asked If another person would like to have the plant they would sign the next line with a min \$1 raise and so on When the timer goes off or the designated auction time ends, the last bidder will receive the plant at the bid price The person putting the plant up for bid will then receive his asking price and any monies above that will go to the Society's general fund.

I think this could be fun and also help out the Society. Lets give it a try.

Come and bring a friend and some plants. See you on August 15 at the Giant. Mark your calendar now for 1:30pm.

SARA