



## BCOS Meeting and Program

**November 21, 2013**

**Churchville Nature Center  
501 Churchville Lane  
Churchville, PA 18966**

**Show Table Setup-7:00 p.m.  
Meeting 7:30 p.m.**

Our speaker, Susan Gange, will be speaking on growing and flowering Phalaenopsis orchids in the home. Susan Gange owns Stony Brook Orchids, an orchid greenhouse business in Pennington, NJ. Originally specializing in Phalaenopsis orchid plants of all colors and sizes; she also offers Cattleyas, Oncidiums, and Dendrobiums, as well orchid-growing supplies. She bought her first orchid in 1978 and promptly killed it, having relied on the rather sketchy orchid-growing information available to the hobby grower at that time. A couple of years later, she tried again, with much better results, and it is her hope that, based on her many years of experience in growing orchids on windowsills, under fluorescent lights, and in a greenhouse, her talk on Growing Phalaenopsis Orchids in the Home will also help you to succeed with these beautiful flowering plants.



Most recently, she was awarded the show trophy at the Orchid Show at Longwood Gardens in March 2012 for the best commercially grown Phalaenopsis orchid at the show.

Susan is past president of the Central Jersey Orchid Society, a member of the American Orchid Society and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, secretary of the Delaware Valley Orchid Council, and in her free time, a Rutgers Master Gardener of Mercer County, NJ.

She will bring some of her exquisitely grown Phalaenopsis orchids for sale.

### ORCHID TIP OF THE MONTH

## "Chilling" a Phalaenopsis

By Ray Barkalow <http://firststrays.com>

This is a subject that comes up so often, I'd like to address it, and that is the need for a "cool period" for phalaenopsis to initiate new inflorescences.

First, we need to understand that not all species require it. Interestingly enough, those with white/pink/purple flowers generally do, while those with yellow/orange/red flowers mostly do not. Of course, considering the complex breeding in modern hybrids, that distinction is pretty much "blurred".

Most of us, as beginners, were led to understand that phalaenopsis "need to have a 10 to 15° day/night drop" in order to initiate spiking. Dr. Yin-Tung Wang, while at Texas A&M University, did some research into this area in order to optimize the growing and blooming of these plants, and determined that the day/night differential was not the key, but that an overall average decrease in temperature of the growing conditions led to spiking. More specifically, the plants were shown to require about 10 days to two weeks at an average growing temperature of 10°-15° lower than the temperature at which they had been normally growing. In other words, grown at a constant 85°, one could lower the growing area to a constant 70° and initiate spiking, without any day/night variation whatsoever.

Similarly, it can be shown that even with significant day/night temperature variation, spiking will not occur until the average is shifted downward. To test this I used a data recorder to track the daily high and low temperature in my own area. The graph below shows the average daily temperature during 2011.

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## SOCIETY NOTES

### Hospitality Table

Bettyruth Aisenstein, Charlene Schneier and Joyce Rosenberg are coordinating the hospitality table. They would like 2-3 people for each meeting to bring something to drink and a snack goodie. Email Bettyruth if you can help. [bettyruth1@comcast.net](mailto:bettyruth1@comcast.net)

### Orchid Bark

The Society has orchid bark for sale. Contact Gary Dunbar to order at [dragonkin@comcast.net](mailto:dragonkin@comcast.net). Med and med/fine are available for \$13 for 1 cubic foot, and \$25 for 2 CF. Gallon bags are \$3.

### Plant Clinic:

You are encouraged to bring in that sick plant for evaluation by the expert orchid growers in our Society. Please, bring the needy plant in a closed plastic bag and we will try to advise you on bringing it back to good health.

### Show Table Judging Rules:

The information for submitting plants for the show table is now located on our website, [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/showtables/STRules.htm](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/showtables/STRules.htm)

### Orchid Pickup At Parkside:

If you may be available to pick up orchids for the show table as needed, please send your name and email address to Alan Block at [alan\\_block@hotmail.com](mailto:alan_block@hotmail.com)

### Officers, Other Societies and Vendors:

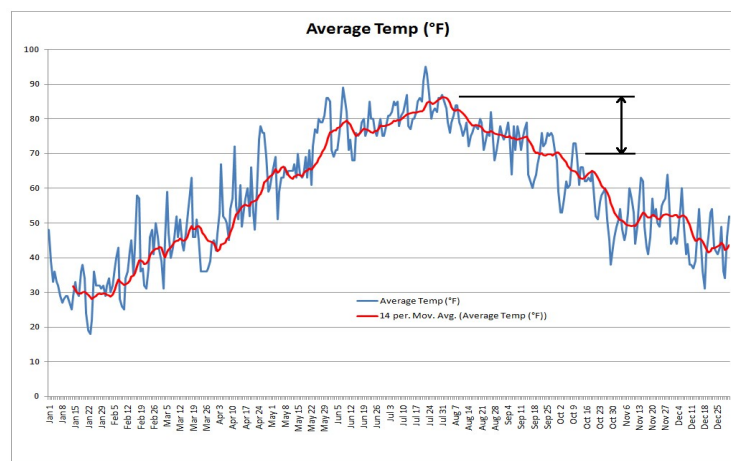
The list of officers, other societies and vendors is now exclusively available on the BCOS website. [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/About.htm](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/About.htm) for officers and [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/Links.htm](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/Links.htm) for other societies and vendors.

### Library:

Contact Vice President Bob Gore to borrow any item in the BCOS Library at [vplaster@comcast.net](mailto:vplaster@comcast.net) (See the society's website for a list of books, equipment and videos.) [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/Library.htm](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/Library.htm)

## ORCHID TIP OF THE MONTH

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The blue line represents the average temperature for each date. The red line is a 14 day running average temperature, which is the more important of the two curves. Note that we hit a peak in late-July/early-August of roughly 85°. You'll also note that in early October, we finally got to an average temperature 15° lower. If Dr. Wang's explanation of average temperatures was valid, we would expect that our phalaenopsis plants would start spiking approximately 6 to 8 weeks later, and in fact, that is exactly what happened, and now with us approaching a timeframe 6 to 8 weeks later than that, we are just beginning to see the flower bud's reach full development and begin to open.

Before anyone gets concerned about the low averages early and late in the year, let me explain that I control only the minimum temperature with a thermostat, and that's set to 60°, so the greenhouse temperature typically will match the outside temperature during the middle of the year when these various control points were reached.

It is also interesting to note (I won't bore you with the actual data) that of the 365 measured days, 222 of them actually sustained day/night temperature variations of 15° or more, and they occurred in every month of the year. Never however, did we experience 10 days to two weeks of such daily variation, further supporting that is the average temperatures that are important, and not the day-to-night variation.

One last comment on this before I go: Dr. Wang also pointed out that once spike initiation has occurred, the plants will grow their flower spikes best and flower the best if the average temperature is raised back to the elevated level and not kept at a low level.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 16, 2013 BCOS Meeting - Cookies & Culture**

**Jan. 16, 2014 BCOS Meeting - Growing My Orchids, BCOS member, Andy Braun**



**EDITOR'S NOTE** – Contributions to the newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

Please submit relevant news, photos, awards or information relating to the Society, its members, the care and culture of orchids to the Editor at [kaplrs@comcast.net](mailto:kaplrs@comcast.net). I am also looking for your favorite tip on growing orchids, for the feature, **Orchid Tip of the Month**. Please submit your copy by the first day of the month.