

Orchid Talks by Steven A. Frowine

All of the below talks are beautifully illustrated and come with detailed handouts.

For information about my background please check my web site:

<http://members.authorsguild.net/stevefrow/bio.htm>

NEW! Growing Orchids without a Greenhouse

Years ago, almost all orchids were grown in greenhouses. This is just not so today. In fact, more are now grown on windowsills and under lights. Some can actually be grown better this way without the big cost and trouble of building and maintaining a greenhouse. In this talk, Steve will give pointers on how to have great success with this approach and will discuss the most recent efficient and effective lighting sources and equipment and how to make best use of windowsills. He will present a fine array of orchids ideally suited to this type of culture. Steve has had many years' experience with this type of growing.

NEW! Perfect Companion Plants to Orchids

All of us love our orchids, but there also are many spectacular plants that are ideal companions to orchids. They thrive in the same environment and can add a welcomed variety. The plants that will be discussed are spectacular and are easy to grow and flower. He will show his favorites that he has grown over the years.

NEW! Orchid Clinic

Although orchids are not plagued with as many problems as some plants, they can still be haunted with pests that can mar their beauty, or in some cases, can threaten their lives. In this program Steve will give a presentation of the most common disease, insect, varmint, and cultural problems and will give safe, effective ways to eliminate or control them. After the presentation there will be time for members who have brought in troubled plants to have these plants diagnosed and for questions to be answered about individual plant growing or pest problems.

Fabulous Fragrant Orchids

Only one experience is more breathtaking than seeing a gorgeous orchid in bloom and that is smelling a fragrant gorgeous orchid in bloom! Ask the insect pollinators who depend on fragrance rather than beauty to lead them to the right flower. Yet, orchid growers have traditionally paid more attention to

flower size, substance, color, and shape than to scent!

Steve wrote the first and only popular book on the subject (*Fragrant Orchids*, Timber Press 2005). His presentation shows exquisite images many of them and description including cultivation information along with detailed notes on the plant's fragrance and intensity, which can range from elegant and sophisticated to downright nasty, from fruity and spicy to medicinal and fishy, from light and fresh to heavy and overwhelming.

This program is both informative and entertaining for experienced or beginning orchidists.

Fantastic Phalaenopsis

With their refined beauty and elegant flower form, moth orchids (members of the genus *Phalaenopsis*) are often referred to as the basic black of the orchid world. In fact, moth orchids are the most popular orchids in the world, accounting for a staggering 75 percent of all orchid plant sales. More than merely beautiful, they are also among the easiest orchids to grow, whether in greenhouses, on windowsills, or under artificial lights, and the individual flowers can last for up to three months in pristine form. These appealing traits make moth orchids the first choice of every orchid fancier, from rank beginners to dyed-in-the-wool fanatics.

Most flower lovers are familiar with the elegant white, pink, and striped hybrids, but a revolution in phalaenopsis breeding has resulted in an entirely new, diverse, and wonderful array of flower colors and patterns previously unimaginable. Professional horticulturist and orchid expert Steven A. Frowine, author of *Moth Orchids, the Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis* (Timber Press, 2008) will focus on these new stars while also providing a detailed look at the classic hybrids and species. Viewers will be enticed by gorgeous color images and gratified by the wealth of practical advice on selecting and buying moth orchids. Most importantly, Frowine shares his secrets on how these glorious plants can be grown to perfection, with recommendations about light levels, potting media, watering, and feeding. Especially useful are his clearly illustrated step-by-step directions on how to repot, trim, and propagate moth orchids.

Marvelous Miniature Orchids

Although miniature orchids have been grown and admired for quite some time, they have, until recently, been a very small niche market. This situation has changed rapidly as some of the most popular new orchids today are miniatures. Examples are multi-floral and miniature phalaenopsis (better suited as a pot plant than the standard larger white and pink hybrids); miniature and equitant oncidiums; small growing primary paphiopedilum hybrids, including some of the parvisepalum and the brachypetalum species and hybrids; "minicatts" that are now in higher demand than their space-hogging full-sized plants; and many different color forms of dwarf dendrobiums like *Den. kingianum* and other very compact growing selections of *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* are now coming into the US market.

Vandaceous miniatures using ascocentums have always been popular, but now newer hybrids using *Neofinetia falcata*, and dwarf angraecoids are producing a new range of charming and fragrant orchids. Even the more esoteric genera that contain many different miniatures, suited for growing in terrariums, including *Maxillaria*, *Masdevallia*, *Pleurothallis*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Lepanthes*, and *Dracula* are receiving much more attention in popular orchid literature and at orchid shows. These orchids and many others are featured in Steve's book, *Miniature Orchids* (Timber Press, 2006) and will be discussed and illustrated in this presentation.

The Basics of Orchid Parenthood

As anyone who has read Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* or has seen the movie *Adaptation* knows, orchids inspire a passionate following. And their popularity is rising: according to the USDA, more than 12.7 million orchids were sold in the U.S. last year.

Steve's best-selling book, *Orchids for Dummies* serves as a guide for "newbies" to this wildly popular group of plants. The book and lecture serve as friendly guides introducing orchid fanciers to today's most popular and intriguing orchid varieties and shows step-by-step information on how to select healthy plants at a nursery or commercial grower, cultivate them successfully at home, promote blooms, and create beautiful orchid displays. This is a very intensive practical-information-based talk.

This talk is aimed at beginners and intermediate growers, although veterans will likely also reap valuable cultural tips.

Choice Mexican Orchid Species

Mexico is home to more than 1200 orchid species, many of which are not commonly grown by US orchid fanciers, even though they much deserve to be. This illustrated talk will feature those that are most spectacular and easiest to grow including laelias, encyclias, prosthecheas, oncidiums, epidendrums, maxillarias, stanhopeas, and lycastes.

Steve now resides in Mexico and takes great pleasure in growing many of these in his outdoor shade house. He will share his tips on how to grow these orchids to perfection.