The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
<u>2012 Beginners Group Program</u>

We are pleased to announce the formal launch of the The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society's Beginner Group. Below you will find a complete year of activities scheduled. The goal is to help newer orchid growers with practical information, events, exercises, and mentors that will increase your success in growing, increasing knowledge, and expanding your collection.

We surveyed 6 members present at the January beginners meeting and as a result have come up with the program. Because this is "your group" we will survey any participants at this months beginners meeting that have not already participated. We want to have programming that is to developed according to your interests. Therefore, we will adapt the programming the first month or so based on this feedback. We would like to see participation in the group be least 15 regularly attending and participating individuals so that we can learn from each other. The more the merrier! Since meeting time is limited, we ask that those wishing to participate be punctual so that we can get the most from our 30 minutes.

Monthly meetings

Feb.   Meeting topic: <u>Humidity and Air Movement</u>
   - Plant vendor introductions: The is a list of potential vendors to look over for the group plant purchase in March.
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos)
   - Handout: list of easy-care windowsill plants categorized by blooming season (spring, summer, fall, winter)
   - Volunteer request for group decided orchid research topic

Mar.   Meeting topic: <u>Light and Temp</u>
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)
   - Handout: Good books for plant selection

April   Meeting topic: <u>Pest and Disease Control</u>
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)
   - Handout: top 10 internet resources

May   Meeting topic: <u>Water and Fertilizer</u>
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)
   - Handout: Fragrant orchid list

June   Meeting topic: <u>Orchids all year round</u> - An introduction to orchids that bloom at different times of the year
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)
   - Handout: Powerful miniature list

July/August   no meetings unless the group decides otherwise

Sept.   Meeting topic: <u>Wide world of windowsill orchids</u> An introduction to different orchids small enough to grow in windowsills
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)
   - Handout: TBD

Oct.   Meeting topic: <u>What is your orchid telling you?</u> - Why are the leaves yellow, tips brown? Maybe it's normal.
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)
   - Handout: TBD

Nov.   Meeting topic: <u>Growing Masdevalias and Draculas</u>
   - 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)
   - Handout: TBD

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Fieldtrips

Mar 24   1st growing environment visit - location: TBD
July 14   2nd growing environment visit - location: TBD
Oct. 6   3rd growing environment visit - location: TBD

Social Events

April 28   Potting Party (A complete understanding of media and pots.) Social follows; location: TBD

Group Purchases

In order to be part of the group purchase we request that you be an active participant in the Beginners Group. As such, we will be voting on which vendor to purchase from at the March and June meetings. It is anticipated that the orchids will cost approximately under $5.00 each.

March ?   Delivery 10-14 days later

September ?   Delivery 10-14 days later

Genus Mentors

We are in the process of identifying "the go to person" for particular genus. They will be a resource for any questions you have about the plants you are growing or want to grow. Coming soon!

Hands on help with growing environment development

Throughout the year the group will help with building or creating grow environments