The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
2012 Beginners Group Program

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 month's beginners meeting that have not already participated. We want to have programming that is 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 at 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: **Humidity and Air Movement**  
- 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: **Light and Temp**  
- 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: **Pest and Disease Control**  
- 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: **Water and Fertilizer**  
- 5 min show and tell (group members will bring in plants and photos of their growing environment)  
- Handout: Fragrant orchid list  

June  Meeting topic: **Orchids all year round** - 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: **Wide world of windowsill orchids** - 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: **What is your orchid telling you?** - 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: **Growing Masdevalias and Draculas**  
- 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