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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE

THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY TO ALL MEMBERS FOR WHOM WE HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS. IF ANYONE WISHES TO SWITCH FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC DELIVERY, PLEASE NOTIFY BOB LUCAS. (LUCAS@USASK.CA). EMAIL ME IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

NOVEMBER MEETING

THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON NOV. 27TH AT DUTCH GROWERS, COMMENCING AT 1:30 P.M. HOWARD GINSBERG WILL CONDUCT A CLASS ON DE-FLASKING AT 1:00 P. M.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2005-2006 ARE DUE AND WILL BE ON SALE AT THE OCTOBER MEETING. THE FEE IS \$25.00 FOR A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP AND \$30.00 FOR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. A NEW FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE PURCHASE. MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED BY THE NOVEMBER MEETING WILL HAVE THEIR MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES SUSPENDED AT THAT TIME.

WEB PAGE

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO MISSED THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE LAST MEETING, THE SOS WEB PAGE IS UP AND RUNNING. CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.SASKORCHIDS.COM

VISITING SPEAKER

HOWARD GINSBERG OF BEDFORD ORCHIDS OF MONTREAL WILL ATTEND THE NOVEMBER MEETING. HE WILL PRESENT A LECTURE ON



MINICATTS AND CONDUCT A DE-FLASKING SEMINAR. HE WILL ALSO BRING PLANTS FOR SALE. TO PRE-ORDER SEE HIS WEB PAGE AT WWW.BEDFORDORCHIDS.COM AND CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY.

WHEN WE PURCHASED THE CATTS FROM GARRY KUIKEN LAST SPRING, WE ALSO RECEIVED A NUMBER OF BOXES OF BOOKS ON ORCHIDS. THE EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN REVIEWING THESE AND SOME WILL BE PLACED IN OUR LIBRARY. OTHERS WILL BE SOLD TO MEMBERS. THERE ARE COPIES OF PAST EDITIONS OF THE AOS BULLETIN THAT WE DO NOT NEED AND THESE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE TO MEMBERS. FAITHE WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOOK SALE AND BULLETIN GIVE-AWAY AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

SILENT AUCTION

THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST VISITING DISPLAY AT THE COC IS A FRAMED PRINT OF SCHOMBURGKIA TIBICINIS FROM THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS. THE SOCIETY WILL CONTINUE A SILENT AUCTION FOR THIS PRINT AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. THE AUCTION WILL CLOSE SOME TIME DURING THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

OSA SHOW

THE ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW IN EDMONTON WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 24-26TH, 2006. THE SOS



PHAL BEDFORD GEM

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO.



PHAL BELLINA

WILL BE ENTERING A DISPLAY AND WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF RENTING A BUS. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

WE ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISITING SPEAKER FOR THE JANUARY MEETING. STAY TUNED.

MEETING AGENDA

- DEFLASKING CLASS 1:00 P. M.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS 1:30 P. M.
- PROBLEM CORNER
- SHOW AND TELL
- COFFEE/SUPPLIES
- PRESENTATION ON MINICATTS BY HOWARD GINSBERG
- PLANT RAFFLE
- PLANT SALE
- ADJOURNMENT

OCTOBER. 23RD MEETING MINUTES

FAITHE WELCOMED EVERYONE TO OUR FIRST FALL MEETING, AND EXTENDED A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE THREE NEW MEMBERS. SHE THANKED PAMELA FOR THE RE-POTTING DEMONSTRATION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE COC & FOOTHILLS ORCHID SHOW WAS A GREAT SUCCESS FOR OUR SOCIETY. THANKS TO MEMBERS & EXECUTIVE THAT WENT TO CALGARY AND HELPED TO SET UP A FABULOUS WINNING DISPLAY. A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES TO CHERYL'S HUSBAND WHO BUILT AND PAINTED THE DISPLAY STRUCTURE. A BIG THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS THAT LOANED US THEIR BLOOMING PLANTS. WE WON FIRST PLACE FOR THE DISPLAY WITH MORE THAN 26 PLANTS AND FIRST FOR BEST VISITING DISPLAY. WE RECEIVED A FRAMED PRINT FROM THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS FOR OUR FIRST PLACE AND IT IS UP FOR SILENT AUCTION BIDS. BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL SOME PREDETERMINED TIME AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

THIS IS A REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2005-06 IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO. THIS IS THE LAST MONTH OF 'GRACE' AND BE SURE YOU HAVE FILLED OUT A MEMBERSHIP FORM

SO THAT WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION.

THERE WILL BE A PLANT SALE LATER, IF YOU WANT TO BUY PLANTS PLEASE GIVE US YOUR NUMBER.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE – WWW.SASKORCHIDS.COM

NEXT MONTH WE WILL HOST A GUEST SPEAKER – HOWARD GINSBERG FROM BEDFORD ORCHIDS. CHECK OUT HIS WEB-SITE AND CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY IF YOU WISH TO ORDER PLANTS AND TELL HIM YOU ARE FROM THE SOS.

I WISH TO REMIND ALL MEMBERS THAT WE DO HAVE GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATING A MEMBER FOR A 'HONORARY MEMBERSHIP' THE GUIDELINES ARE IN THE LIBRARY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE, WRITE UP A NARRATIVE DESCRIBING THE INDIVIDUAL AND SUBMIT IT TO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER.

MARK YOU CALENDAR FOR FEB. 24-26 2006 FOR THE OSA ORCHID SHOW.

THERE WILL BE A PLANT SALE LATER TODAY. IF YOU WISH TO BUY PLANTS, PLEASE COME TO THE FRONT AND GIVE US THE NUMBER ON YOUR NAME TAG. ONLY MEMBERS THAT HAVE REGISTERED THEIR NUMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE PLANTS, AS THE ORDER OF PURCHASE IS DETERMINED BY LOTTERY.

THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE TODAY FOR A PLANT, AN ORCHID PIN AND SOME COMPOTS DONATED BY KEN GIRARD – TICKETS ARE 3 FOR \$2.00 OR 1 FOR \$1.00.

THE SLIDE SHOW TODAY IS 'UNUSUAL ORCHIDS VISIBLE WITH THE NAKED EYE,' PRESENTED BY JAMES SATHER.

PROBLEM CORNER

NO PROBLEMS WERE REPORTED THIS MONTH.

SHOW AND TELL

HEATHER ANDERSON, JOANNE KLIMASZEWSKI, ELLEN ROSS, BOB FARTHING, AL HARTRIDGE,

JAMES SATHER, JOCELYN D'EON, MARY ORCHARD, SHERIDA GREGOIRE, EDGAR YEE, JENNIFER BURGESS, RUTHANNE HANBIDGE, GILL PITMAN.

KIM FROM DUTCH GAVE A CHAT ON THE FASHION SHOW TO BE HELD AT DUTCH GROWERS NOVEMBER 25, 2005 FOR BREAST CANCER.

HEATHER ANDERSON GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL STATUS. PAMELA M GAVE A BRIEF TALK ON THE SIGNIFICANT COSTS OF HOSTING A COC.

ADJOURNMENT. THE NEXT MEETING IS NOV. 27TH, 2005.

WEB PAGE OF THE MONTH

EACH MONTH WE WILL FEATURE A WEB PAGE. IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE, SEND IT TO THE EDITOR. THIS MONTH'S FEATURE, SUGGESTED BY RONALD KAUFMANN OF THE ORCHID DIGEST IS, WWW.ORCHIDWIRE.COM/ THIS IS A 'PORTAL' SITE THAT

ORGANIZES WEB SITES INTO CATEGORIES TO ENHANCE YOUR SEARCH FOR WEB INFORMATION ON ORCHIDS. CATEGORIES INCLUDE GEOGRAPHIC, PHOTOGRAPHIC, WILD, AND TRAVEL. A VERY USEFUL SITE MAINTAINED BY WENDEL AND THERESA KOSAK OF VANCOUVER, B. C.



PHAL SUN JE
DIAMOND

BASIC ORCHID CULTURE (PART II)

BY AARON J. HICKS OF THE ORCHID SEEDBANK PROJECT (SEE THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR PART I.)

FERTILIZER

OVER-FERTILIZING. THE FIRST AND FOREMOST SYMPTOM IS BURNING OF THE LEAF TIPS, AS THIS IS GENERALLY THE THINNEST PART OF THE PLANT. KNOW THE FERTILIZER YOU USE. IF YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE STRENGTH STATED ON THE LABEL YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS. USE HALF STRENGTH OR ENOUGH TO WHERE THERE IS VERY LITTLE BLUE SHOWING IN THE WATER.



IN THEORY, YOU COULD GROW AN ORCHID IN MARBLES.

POTTING

WHILE ON THE SURFACE THIS SOUNDS SIMPLE ENOUGH. ORCHIDS TEND TO FALL INTO 3 MAJOR GROUPS. LITHOPHYTES, OR ROCK DWELLERS, EPIPHYTES OR TREE DWELLERS, AND TERRESTRIALS OR ON THE GROUND, THESE GROW THEIR ROOTS INTO LEAF LITTER OR OTHER GROUND DEBRIS, RATHER THAN INTO THE EARTH ITSELF. THIS CAN CREATE SOME PROBLEMS FOR THE UNKNOWING BEGINNER OR EVEN THE EXPERIENCED HOBBYIST WORKING WITH AN UNFAMILIAR PLANT.

EXAMPLES: BARK, FIRBARK, SPHAGNUM, NEW ZEALAND SPHAGNUM, OSMUNDA FIBER, TREE FERN, CHARCOAL, PERLITE, GRAVEL, ETC. IN THEORY, YOU COULD GROW AN ORCHID IN MARBLES. THE POTTING MIX SHOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST TWO THINGS. SOMETHING TO HOLD MOISTURE FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME, SUCH AS REDWOOD BARK, AND SOMETHING TO PROVIDE

DRAINAGE TO AVOID ROOT ROT, SUCH AS PERLITE. MANY GROWERS, INCLUDING OURSELVES, ADD WHITE STYROFOAM PEANUTS TO THE BOTTOM OF THE POT. IT ADDS DRAINAGE. CHARCOAL CAN BE ADDED TO THE MIX TO REGULATE ACIDITY FROM THE DECOMPOSITION OF ANY ORGANIC MATERIALS USED. WE FAVOR A MIX OF MEDIUM REDWOOD BARK, CHARCOAL AND PERLITE, MIXED 2-1-1 FOR MOST ORCHIDS. TRY 2-1-1/2 (FINE BARK CHARCOAL AND PERLITE) FOR SEEDLINGS, AS THE SEEDLINGS ARE LESS PRONE TO ROOT-ROT AND THIS MIX WILL RETAIN MORE WATER. SOME GENERA, SUCH AS MASDEVALLIA, PAPHIOPEDILUM AND ODONTOGLOSSUM, TO NAME A FEW, STAY IN THE FINE MIX EVEN AS ADULTS. AS FOR POTS, WE PREFER PLASTIC AZALEA POTS EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN ORCHIDS WHERE WE MUST TIGHTLY REGULATE MOISTURE, OR IN MATURE ORCHIDS WHERE THE POT SIZE IS 10 POTS, AS THESE WILL DRAW EXCESS MOISTURE OUT. STYROFOAM PEANUTS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POT ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL AERATION AND KEEP THE ROOTS OUT OF THE WATER IN THE HUMIDITY TRAY. OTHER MIXES THAT COULD BE USED FOR CATTLEYAS ARE PURE LAVA PEBBLES, ROCKWOOL, MOSS, AND BARK.

REPOTTING

REPOTTING IS GENERALLY DONE EVERY TWO YEARS AND SERVES TWO PURPOSES. ONE IS TO REPLACE PARTIALLY DECOMPOSED BARK THAT HOLDS MORE WATER

THAN IS WANTED BECAUSE IT HAS LESS DRAINAGE CAPABILITIES, AND THE OTHER IS TO GIVE THE ORCHID GROWING ROOM. WE GENERALLY ADVISE REPOTTING INTO THE SMALLEST SIZE POSSIBLE, ALLOWING FOR TWO YEARS OF GROWTH. TWO NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS ARE DENDROBIUMS AND ONCIDIUMS, WHICH LIKE TO BE POT BOUND. I DO NOT ADVISE REPOTTING SIMPLY TO CONTROL ROOT GROWTH FOR TWO REASONS. ONE IS THAT THE ROOTS ARE FLOWING OUT OF THE POT OR BASKET, AND SECONDLY, IF YOUR CONDITIONS WILL SUPPORT THEM, THE EXTRA ROOTS ARE ABLE TO TAP THE HUMIDITY, POSSIBLY AVOIDING DEHYDRATION PROBLEMS IF YOU FORGET TO WATER OCCASIONALLY.

REPOTTING SHOULD BE DONE WHEN NEW GROWTH IS JUST BEGINNING IF POSSIBLE. BE AWARE THAT FOR ANY NEW ROOTS OVER 1", CARE MUST BE TAKEN NOT TO DAMAGE THEM. THE PROCESS OF REPOTTING IS FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, THOUGH A BIT UNNERVING TO THE BEGINNER. FIRST MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR POT (EITHER NEW OR STERILIZED WITH BLEACH AND RINSED) AND MIX READY. SIFT THE NEW MIX PRIOR TO REPOTTING TO REMOVE DUST PARTICLES THAT MIGHT CLOG THE ROOTS. YOUR SCISSORS, PREFERABLY STERILIZED WITH A PROPANE TORCH. IF A TORCH IS NOT AVAILABLE, SOAK THE BLADES IN ALCOHOL OR BETADINE (POVIDONE-IODINE) FOR 10 MINUTES. (THIS STERILIZATION SHOULD BE REPEATED BEFORE USING THE SCISSORS ON ANY OTHER ORCHID TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ANY HARMFUL ORGANISMS FROM ONE ORCHID TO ANOTHER)

WITH EVERYTHING READY, UNPOT YOUR ORCHID. IF IN A CLAY POT, THE POT MAY HAVE TO BE BROKEN WITH A HAMMER, HITTING JUST HARD ENOUGH TO CRACK THE POT. IF THE

POT IS PLASTIC, HOLD THE ORCHID FIRMLY JUST ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE MIX AND UPEND IT. A GENTLE TUG MAY PULL THE ORCHID FREE. IF NOT, TRY TAPPING THE EDGE OF THE POT ON A HARD SURFACE OR GENTLY SQUEEZING THE POT TO FREE THE ROOTS.

THAT FINISHED, BEGIN GENTLY PULLING THE OLD MIX AWAY FROM THE ROOTS. PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE AREA DIRECTLY UNDER THE PLANT AND BE SURE TO REMOVE AS MUCH MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE. EXAMINE THE ROOTS AND CUT AWAY ANY THAT ARE BLACK AND ROTTED OR NO LONGER HAVE THE VELLUM ATTACHED. THIS IS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO LOOK FOR AND REMOVE ANY BUGS, SLUGS OR SNAILS. WHEN FINISHED BEGIN REPOTTING. IF YOU HAVE ANY WHITE (NOT COLORED) STYROFOAM PEANUTS YOU CAN PUT SOME IN THE BOTTOM TO A DEPTH OF APPROXIMATELY 1" INTO THE POT AND GAUGE IT THE LEVEL OF THE SUB-RIM OF THE POT, USUALLY ABOUT 1 1/2". ADD ENOUGH POTTING MIX UNDER THE PLANT TO BRING THE ORCHID TO THE PROPER LEVEL. PLACE THE ORCHID IN THE POT SO THE NEW GROWTH IS APPROXIMATELY IN THE CENTER IN THE POT. IF THE ORCHID HAS NEW GROWTH IN TWO OR MORE DIRECTIONS, THEN CENTER THE PLANT.

WHILE HOLDING THE PLANT, BEGIN ADDING THE NEW MIX AROUND THE ROOTS COMPACTING WITH YOUR THUMB, AND CONTINUING UNTIL THE BASE OF THE PLANT IS JUST COVERED. COMPACT ONE LAST TIME AND CHECK THE PLANT. IT SHOULD BE TIGHT IN THE MIX WITH LITTLE OR NO WOBBLE. IF IT DOES WOBBLE, REPOT IT AGAIN UNTIL IT DOESN'T. IF THE ROOT SYSTEM HAS HAD TO BE CUT AWAY, YOU MAY HAVE TO STAKE THE PLANT IN POSITION WITH A BAMBOO STAKE AND TWIST TIE. THEN PLACE THE POT IN A PLASTIC BAG AND



PHAL TEXAS FANCY



WATER IMMEDIATELY, AND SEAL IT SHUT. PUT IT IN A SHADY AREA AND THEN DON'T WATER AGAIN FOR 2 WEEKS. SEEDLINGS REQUIRE REPOTTING AS WELL. HOWEVER WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU USE A FINE BARK MIX. SOME SEEDLINGS WILL DO WELL IN NEW ZEALAND SPHAGNUM OR A COMBINATION OF THE TWO. ALL IN ALL, GIVEN A BIT OF PRACTICE AND THE PROPER MATERIALS, REPOTTING IS QUITE EASY. HOWEVER, IF IT ISN'T VENER'S OFFERS FREE LESSON AS WELL.

MOUNTING

WHILE THINKING ABOUT THIS SECTION, IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT THIS IS PROBABLY MY FAVORITE SUBJECT. OUT OF NEARLY EVERY SHIPMENT OF ORCHIDS WE GET, ESPECIALLY SEEDLINGS, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT SOME OF THEM GET MOUNTED EITHER ON CORK SLABS, NATURAL CORK BARK OR SOME PIECE OF DRIFTWOOD. THIS IS, AFTER ALL, ALMOST AS CLOSE TO PRACTICAL TO CREATE. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT TO ANYONE. ADMITTEDLY, IT DOES TAKE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DEDICATION. EVEN HERE IN OUR GREENHOUSE, WHERE HUMIDITY LEVELS ARE RARELY BELOW 60%, WE WATER EVERY TWO DAYS. IN A HOME, COUNT ON WATERING EVERY DAY, AND MISTING PERHAPS TWICE PER DAY.

IS IT WORTH IT? YOU BET! BLOOMING A MOUNTED SPECIMEN GIVES ME 10 TIMES THE SATISFACTION OF BLOOMING A POTTED ONE. WHAT TYPES OF ORCHIDS CAN YOU MOUNT? ALMOST ANY, THOUGH SOME DO BETTER THAN OTHERS. MASDEVALLIAS DO EXTREMELY WELL ON A VERTICAL PIECE OF CORK, WHILE CATTLEYAS DON'T SEEM TO OVERCOME THEIR RELUCTANCE TO THRIVE OUT OF A POT. ONCIDIUMS AND PHALLIES DO WELL IN EITHER ORIENTATION, AS DO CADETIAS. (WHICH WE GROW IN MEDIUM SHADE. TALK ABOUT ADAPTABLE!) OF COURSE, ANGRAECUMS AND AERIDES PREFER TO BE MOUNTED.

OVERALL, THE DIFFERENCE IN CARING FOR A MOUNT IS ONE OF TIMING. EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE MORE OFTEN, WITH FREQUENT CHECKS FOR CHANGES IN THE PLANT, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM DEHYDRATION. THE RISK OF GETTING ROOT-ROT IS MINIMAL, AND IN FACT, AT TIMES MOUNTING A SEVERELY ROOT-ROTTED PLANT IS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE IT. FERTILIZING IS THE SAME AS FOR POTTED PLANTS, EXCEPT THE SCHEDULE IS ACCELERATED. WE FERTILIZE EVERY TWO DAYS WHEN WE WATER, X 4, THEN FLUSH WITH CLEAR WATER. OUR OWN METHOD OF WATERING IS BY DROWNING THEM. WE MIX OUR FERTILIZER AND WATER AND DUNK THE ENTIRE PLANT FOR 30 SECONDS OR SO AND GENTLY BLOW ANY WATER OUT OF THE CROWNS. SINCE WE HAVE 100+ MOUNTS, THIS TAKES SOME TIME, BUT IS MUCH BETTER THAN TRYING TO SOAK THE SPHAGNUM WITH A SPRAY BOTTLE, BOTH FOR US AND THE ORCHIDS. WHILE MOUNTING AN ORCHID IS EASY ENOUGH, IT REALLY REQUIRES 3 HANDS, NOT TO MENTION AN OLD SHIRT.

WE MAKE DO WITH TWO HANDS, UNFORTUNATELY. THE MATERIALS NEEDED FOR MOUNTING ARE AN ORCHID, THE MOUNTING MATERIAL ITSELF (SPHAGNUM), AN OLD PAIR OF NYLONS, STERILE SCISSORS, 6 INCHES OF WIRE, AND OPTIONALLY, ONE PAIR EACH OF STERILE FORCEPS AND NEEDLE-NOSED PLIERS. THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE CORK SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO ALLOW FOR GROWTH OF THE ORCHID, BUT ESTHETICS ALSO PLAY A LARGE PART IN YOUR SELECTION. AFTER DECIDING WHERE THE ORCHID WILL GO ON THE BARK, PLACE THE BARK FLAT AND LAY A BED OF SPHAGNUM LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD THE WIDTH AND HEIGHT OF THE ROOT BALL. PLACE THE ORCHID ON THE SPHAGNUM. YOU MAY WANT TO TURN IT UNTIL THE ROOTS ARE DOWN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. INSERT SPHAGNUM INTO ANY SPACES BETWEEN THE ROOTS BALL. (TO BE CONT'D.)

BLOOMING A MOUNTED SPECIMEN GIVES ME 10 TIMES THE SATISFACTION OF BLOOMING A POTTED ONE

