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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.

JANUARY MEETING

THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON JAN. 22ND AT DUTCH GROWERS, COMMENCING AT 12:30 P.M., AT WHICH TIME KIMBERLY PRONYSHYN WILL PRESENT A LECTURE ON THE CULTURE OF PHRAGS.

WEB PAGE

MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT THEIR PHOTOS TO THE SOCIETY WEB PAGE GALLERY AT photos@saskorchids.com PHOTOS MUST BE AT LEAST 500 X 375 PIXELS IN SIZE.

VISITING SPEAKER

KIMBERLY PRONYSHYN OF ORCHIDS BY KIMBERLY OF WINNIPEG WILL ATTEND THE JANUARY MEETING. SHE WILL BRING PRE-ORDERED PLANTS AS WELL AS OTHERS FOR SALE. SHE WILL PRESENT A LECTURE ON THE CULTURE OF PHRAGMIPEDIUMS AND SHE HAS ASKED THAT IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A PHRAG, BRING IT TO THE MEETING FOR A CONSULTATION.

FLORESCENT LIGHTS

BOB FARTHING HAS INVESTIGATED



THE BULK PURCHASE OF 48" FLOR-ESCENT LIGHTS. HE HAS NEGOTIATED A VERY GOOD PRICE, ABOUT FOUR DOLLARS, AND HE WILL HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER AT THE JANUARY MEETING. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE ORDER SHEETS AT THE RESOURCE TABLE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO PURCHASE AT THIS TIME. THE TUBES ARE FULL SPECTRUM AND ARE APPROPRIATE AS GROW LIGHTS.

BOOK SALE AND DRAW

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 OR DISTRIBUTED IN THE MEETING DRAW. 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 DRAW AT THE JANUARY MEETING.

OSA SHOW

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF ALBERTA SHOW WILL BE HELD IN EDMONTON ON FEBRUARY 24-26TH, 2006. THE SOS WILL BE ENTERING A DISPLAY AND WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF RENTING A BUS. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE JANUARY MEETING..

MEETING AGENDA

- 12:30: LECTURE ON PHRAGMIPEDIUMS BY KIMBERLY PRONYSHYN
- 1:30: PLANT SALE BY ORCHIDS BY KIMBERLY
- 2:15: COFFEE/SUPPLIES
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- SHOW AND TELL
- PROBLEM CORNER
- PLANT RAFFLE
- PLANT SALE
- ADJOURNMENT



PHAL BEDFORD GEM

DUE TO THE TIMING OF THE OSA SHOW OUR FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 19, 2006 INSTEAD OF FEBRUARY 26.



PHAL BELLINA

NOVEMBER 27TH MEETING MINUTES

FAITHE WELCOMED EVERYONE AND THANKED HOWARD GINSBERG FOR THE DEFLASKING DEMONSTRATION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS TO ANITA FOR VOLUNTEERING TO TAKE OVER THE SECRETARY POSITION FROM SHERIDA AND A BIG THANKS TO SHERIDA FOR 7 YEARS AS SECRETARY.

THIS IS THE LAST MEETING FOR THE SILENT AUCTION FOR THE PRINT OF SCHOMBURGKIA TIBINCIS FROM THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL SOCIETY. OUR DISPLAY WON AT THE COC SHOW. SOME TIME BEFORE THE END OF THE MEETING TODAY, A LUCKY MEMBER WILL HAVE PURCHASED THIS LOVELY FRAMED PRINT.

ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE A BOOK UP FOR AUCTION, THIS MONTH'S TITLE IS HOME ORCHID GROWING, 3RD EDITION BY REBECCA TYSON NORTHERN. THIS COULD BE THE PERFECT GIFT FOR YOU FOR HOLIDAY READING. BIDDING STARTS AT \$5 AND INCREASES BY A MINIMUM OF \$1

DID YOU KNOW THE LIBRARY HAS ITEMS TO GIVE AWAY? PAST EDITIONS OF THE AOS BULLETIN ARE AVAILABLE. VISIT WITH ELLEN AND CAROL TO GET MORE INFORMATION.

FEBRUARY 24-26, ARE THE DATES FOR THE EDMONTON ORCHID SHOW WITH THE THEME "ORCHIDS IN FOCUS". IT WILL BE HELD AT THE SOUTH CAMPUS, GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE, 7319 – 29TH AVENUE. WE ARE PLANNING ON ENTERING A DISPLAY AT THIS SHOW, AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS WE WERE AT CALGARY. **DUE TO THE TIMING OF THIS SHOW OUR FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 19, 2006 INSTEAD OF FEBRUARY 26, PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THIS MEETING CHANGE.** ONCE AGAIN WE ARE LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO GO TO THE SHOW. HOW MANY ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING IF WE COULD ARRANGE A VAN? (11 POSSIBLE RAISED HANDS.)

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES TO OUR MEETINGS OR OUR CLUB IN GENERAL? A SUGGESTIONS BOX IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR COMMENTS.

CHERYL ADAMSON'S SON HAS A LARGE TERRARIUM FOR SALE WITH LIGHTS. PLEASE INQUIRE WITH CHERYL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

JANUARY 22ND MEETING – WE ARE TRYING TO GET KIMBERLY FROM ORCHIDS BY KIMBERLY AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER. WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THIS IS OUR LAST MEETING BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS, SO STOCK UP ON YOUR SUPPLIES. A HAPPY HOLIDAY WISH IS EXTENDED TO YOU FROM THE EXECUTIVE.

DUTCH GROWERS HOSTED THE CAMPAIGN N' PINK TO RAISE FUNDING FOR THE WOMEN'S BREAST HEALTH CENTRE AT CITY HOSPITAL, 1200 WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THE SOS PURCHASED 3 VASES AND PROVIDED CUT ORCHIDS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION. WE ARE PLEASED TO SAY THAT OUR AUCTION ITEM GARNERED A LOT OF INTEREST AND SOLD FOR OVER \$200.

IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST, WE WILL BE APPROACHING THE ELECTRICAL WHOLESALERS TO PURCHASE BULK FLUORESCENT LAMPS FOR THOSE WHO GROW UNDER FLUORESCENT LIGHTING. REMEMBER YOU SHOULD REPLACE YOUR LAMPS EVERY 12 MONTHS AS THE LUMEN OUTPUT DECREASES ABOUT 50% WITHIN ONE YEAR.

SHERIDA SPOKE TO SAFEWAY AND THEY HAVE KINDLY AGREED TO DONATE THEIR ORCHIDS THAT FINISHED BLOOMING FOR OUR PLANT RAFFLES/SALES. THANKS SHERIDA FOR FINDING THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CLUB.

PLANT RAFFLE

TWO PLANTS FROM SAFEWAY, PHAL (LUCHIALADY X HSINGING LIP) X DTPS [TOMBOY X (MOUNT BEAUTY X HAMA LIP)] X SIBLING AND TWO BARS OATMEAL SOAP.

WINNERS: ROCHELE BOB F. JAN LYNN AND YVETTE.

PROBLEM CORNER

SPOTTY LEAVES ON UNNAMED PLANT (ONCIDIUM OR ODONT-

OGLOSSUM?) AND PLANT WON'T BLOOM.

THESE PLANTS ARE PRONE TO SPOTTY LEAVES. PERHAPS YOU ARE USING TOO MUCH FERTILIZER. ODONT'S CAN BE DIFFICULT TO BLOOM, BE PATIENT

SHOW AND TELL

BOB LUCAS, AL HARTRIDGE, EUGENE KUCEY, BOB FARTHING, CHERYL ADAMSON, RUTHANNE HANBIDGE, SHERIDA GREGOIRE, HEATHER ANDERSON, PAMELA MANN, JAMES SATHER,

SLIDE SHOW

WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME HOWARD GINSBERG FROM MONTREAL AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER. HE WAS GRACIOUS TO PRESENT A DEMONSTRATION ON DEFLASKING PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND WILL PRESENT A LECTURE/POWERPOINT ON MINI CATTLEYA ORCHIDS (CATTS SMALLER THAN 8" TALL). IN ADDITION, AFTER A BREAK HE WILL DO ANOTHER PRESENTATION ON THE PHAL GOLDEN PEOKER.

SILENT AUCTION

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY HOMENUK ON HER WINNING BID OF \$60 ON THE BOTANICAL PRINTS. CONGRATULATIONS AS WELL TO JOANNA K. FOR THE WINNING (AND ONLY) BID ON THE BOOK \$5.

ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 22ND, 2006.



PHAL SUN JE
DIAMOND

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.ORCHIDPHOTOS.ORG

THIS SITE CONTAINS PHOTOGRAPHS PRIMARILY OF ORCHID SPECIES TAKEN BY ERIC HUNT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, AS WELL AS AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ORCHID SPECIES PHOTOS ALONG WITH THUMBNAILS.



FLOWERING APPARENTLY OCCURS BELOW THE SOIL SURFACE.

LITTLE KNOWN ORCHID FACTS

EDITOR'S NOTE: ONE OF THE FINE BOOKS DONATED BY GARRY KUIKAN TO THE SOS LIBRARY IS A COLLECTOR'S EDITION OF THE MANUAL OF CULTIVATED ORCHID SPECIES, BY BECHTEL, CRIBB AND LAUNERT. THE FOLLOWING ARE NUGGETS OF INFORMATION THAT CAUGHT MY EYE.

IT APPEARS A CONTRADICTION THAT THE ORCHIDS, WHICH HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING SO DIFFICULT TO CULTIVATE, SHOULD BE FOUND IN ALMOST EVERY ENVIRONMENT ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE. SURELY THE MOST REMARKABLE ORCHIDS OF ALL ARE THE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES, RHIZANTHELLA GARDNERI AND CRYPTANTHEMIS SLATERI WHOSE TRUFFLE-LIKE EXISTENCE IS WHOLLY SUBTERRANEAN. THESE HAVE BEEN FOUND LESS HALF A DOZEN TIMES AND ALMOST NOTHING IS KNOWN OF THEIR ECOLOGY OTHER THAN FLOWERING APPARENTLY OCCURS WHEN THE INFLORESCENCE IS SEVERAL CENTIMETERS BELOW THE SOIL SURFACE AND THE FLOWERS ARE PRESUMABLY POLLINATED BY SOIL ANIMALS.

IN THEIR POLLINATION, ORCHIDS REACH A DEGREE OF COMPLEXITY SELDOM RIVALED ELSEWHERE IN THE PLANT KINGDOM. IN OPHRYS, MALES OF THE POLLINATING SPECIES, EMERGING WELL BEFORE THEIR FEMALES, ARE

ATTRACTED TO THE ORCHID FLOWERS BY A SCENT WHICH IMITATES THAT SECRETED BY THE ABDOMINAL GLANDS OF THE FEMALE BEES OR WASPS. AS THE MALE APPROACHES THE FLOWER, VISUAL STIMULI OF COLOUR AND SHAPE COMES INTO ACTION, FOR THE FLOWERS OF OPHRYS SPECIES CLOSELY RESEMBLE INSECTS. FINALLY, WHEN THE INSECT ALIGHTS ON THE ORCHID LIP, FURTHER TACTILE STIMULI FROM HAIRS ON THE LIP ELICIT STRONG COPULATORY MOTIONS IN THE MALE INSECT BRINGING IT INTO CONTACT WITH THE STICKY TIPS OF THE POLLINIA.

THE PROMISE OF FOOD IS A MAJOR ATTRACTANT TO POTENTIAL POLLINATORS AND MANY ORCHIDS POSSESS NECTARIES IN THE FORM OF A SPUR OR A POUCH AT THE BASE OF THE LIP. STRANGELY, MANY ORCHIDS DO NOT SECRETE ANY NECTAR SO THE VISITING POLLINATOR WILL NOT GAIN FROM ITS VISIT. THE ORCHIDS ARE ALSO PARSIMONIOUS WHERE POTENTIAL POLLINATORS SUCH AS BEETLES AND BEES ARE ATTRACTED. THE LIP INDUMENTUM IN MANY

ORCHIDS CONSISTS OF POLLEN-LIKE FARINACEOUS HAIRS WHICH ARE CHEWED BY THE POLLINATOR. THUS, THE POLLEN ITSELF, WHICH IS VULNERABLE BECAUSE IT IS CONCENTRATED IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF POLLEN MASSES, IS PROTECTED.

INDEED THE DIVERSITY OF ORCHIDS SEEMS TO BE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE AVAILABILITY OF POLLINATORS: AS THE INSECTS HAVE THE LARGEST NUMBER OF SPECIES OF ALL ANIMALS, SO THOSE PLANTS, THE ORCHIDS, WHICH RELY ON THEM FOR POLLINATION HAVE A CORRESPONDING AND OVERWHELMING DIVERSITY OF SPECIES.

ORCHID SEED IS DUST-LIKE, CLOSEST IN SIZE TO FUNGUS AND FERN SPORES. THE NUMBER OF SEEDS PRODUCED BY EACH PLANT MORE THAN COMPENSATES FOR THEIR MINUTE SIZE. R. A. ROLFE ESTIMATED THAT A SINGLE CAPSULE OF THE SWAN ORCHID, *CYCNOCHES CHLOROCHILON*, CONTAINED 3.751 MILLION SEEDS AND BURGEFF ESTIMATED AN AVERAGE OF 3.933 MILLION SEEDS IN EACH CAPSULE. TYPICALLY, EACH PLANT PRODUCES SEVERAL CAPSULES PER INFLORESCENCE EACH SEASON AND THUS SEED PRODUCTION PER PLANT MAY BE IMMENSE.

ORCHID SEED WILL NOT GERMINATE AND GROW SUCCESSFULLY WITHOUT THE SEEDLING BEING INFECTED BEFORE OR SOON AFTER GERMINATION BY FUNGAL THREADS, TERMED HYPHAE. THIS ASSOCIATION OF ORCHID AND FUNGUS IS CALLED MYCORRHIZAL. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MYCORRHIZAL FUNGUS AND ORCHID IS GENERALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH ORGANISMS: THE FUNGUS PROVIDES NUTRIENTS FOR ORCHID GROWTH WHILE THE ORCHID PROVIDES A HOME FOR THE

FUNGUS.

ONE MIGHT SUPPOSE THAT THE ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE OF ORCHIDS UPON THE MYCORRHIZAL ASSOCIATION WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE FAMILY. WHY THEN ARE ORCHIDS SO SUCCESSFUL? NO SIMPLE ANSWER CAN BE PROVIDED BUT UNDOUBTEDLY SEVERAL FACTORS MERIT ATTENTION. FIRSTLY, ORCHIDS GENERALLY FAVOUR HABITATS WHERE INTERPLANT COMPETITION IS LOW. THE EPIPHYTIC LIFE UNDOUBTEDLY OFFERS AN ENORMOUS NUMBER OF MICRO-HABITATS FROM TREE TRUNK TO BRANCH TIP WHERE FEW OTHER PLANTS CAN EXIST. THE MYCORRHIZAL RELATIONSHIP MAY ITSELF BE LESS OF A SIEVE THAN IT AT FIRST APPEARS. THE RELATIONSHIP IS APPARENTLY NOT HIGHLY SPECIFIC AND THE FUNGI SO FAR IDENTIFIED ARE COMMON AND WIDESPREAD SPECIES. THUS, WHERE ORCHID SEED LANDS THE CHANCES ARE HIGH THAT SUITABLE FUNGAL SPORES WILL BE PRESENT.

ALSO OF IMPORTANCE IS SMALL SIZE, LIGHTNESS AND HIGH SEED PRODUCTION FOR ORCHIDS. THEY ARE IDEALLY SUITED TO WIND DISPERSAL AND THE WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF MANY SPECIES CONFIRMS THAT LONG DISTANCE DISPERSAL DOES OCCUR. OAKES AMES NOTED THAT ON KRATATOA, WHICH HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY STERILIZED WHEN IT WAS FORMED BY A GIGANTIC ERUPTION, SOME OF THE FIRST COLONIZERS WERE ORCHIDS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COLONIZING SEEDS BROUGHT THE NECESSARY FUNGAL SPORES WITH THEM.



PHAL TEXAS FANCY



BASIC ORCHID CULTURE (PART III)

BY AARON J. HICKS OF THE ORCHID SEEDBANK

PROJECT (SEE THE SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER NEWSLETTERS FOR PARTS I AND II.)

MOUNTING CONTINUED:

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 IT UNTIL THE ROOTS ARE DOWN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

INSERT SPHAGNUM INTO ANY SPACES BETWEEN THE ROOTS, AND COVER THE REST OF THE ROOT BALL. BE LIBERAL. USING STRIPS FROM THE LEGS OF THE NYLONS, CUT THE LOOP, AND TIE ENOUGH TOGETHER USING SQUARE KNOTS TO FORM AT LEAST TWO FEET OF STRETCHED MATERIAL. LAYING THE STRIP UNDER THE MOUNT AND UNDER THE ROOT, HOLD THE STRIP IN PLACE WITH ONE FINGER ALONG THE SIDE OF THE CORK. BEGIN WRAPPING THE NYLON. YOU USE ENOUGH TENSION TO KEEP THE ORCHID IN PLACE WHEN HELD UPRIGHT. WRAP THE NYLON ENOUGH TIMES TO ENSURE YOUR ORCHID AND THE SPHAGNUM WILL STAY IN PLACE AND TIE THE ENDS WITH A SQUARE KNOT OR TWO. FASHION THE 6 INCH PIECE WIRE OF INTO A HOOK AND INSERT IT INTO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTING MATERIAL.

MAKE SURE A SECOND HOOK IS FORMED TO HOLD THE HOOK IN PLACE. THERE ARE OTHER MATERIALS YOU CAN USE OTHER THAN NYLON. WIRE WORKS, AS DO LONG PIECES OF TWIST TIES, FISHING LINE AND TWINE.

HOWEVER, THESE MATERIALS HAVE NO STRETCH TO THEM AND AS THE PLANT GROWS, THESE COULD CUT INTO THE PLANT OR ROOTS.

BASKETS

SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN POTS AND MOUNTS ARE BASKETS, USUALLY MADE FROM CEDAR. VANDAS, ONCIDIUMS AND CATTLEYS ARE ESPECIALLY FOND OF BASKET CULTURE. THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF USING BASKETS RATHER THAN POTS IS THAT AIR CIRCULATION IS INCREASED AROUND THE ROOTS. IN ADDITION, SINCE BASKETS ARE DESIGNED TO BE HUNG UP, BASKET CULTURE IS A GOOD WAY TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF YOUR ORCHID COLLECTION. OUR BASKET ORCHIDS ARE PLACED IN 100% SPHAGNUM, WITH WHITE STYRO PEANUTS PLACED RANDOMLY AROUND THE ROOTS TO INCREASE DRAINAGE.

WATERING AND FERTILIZING IS THE SAME AS FOR OUR POTTED SPECIMENS. THE MOST NOTABLE OBSERVATION TO MAKE HERE IS THAT OVERALL, IN OUR EXPERIENCE, BASKET CULTURE IS EASIER THAN MOUNTED CULTURE, AND PRODUCES HEALTHIER ORCHIDS THAN POTTED CULTURE. IN A GREENHOUSE ENVIRONMENT, HANGING YOUR CATTLEYS AND VANDACEOUS ORCHIDS IS ANOTHER WAY TO CREATE MICRO-ENVIRONMENTS BY SHADING AREAS UNDERNEATH FOR THOSE ORCHIDS THAT CAN THRIVE IN THE SHADE.

BASKET CULTURE IS A GOOD WAY TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF YOUR ORCHID COLLECTION.

