

# NEWSLETTER



**Editor's Note:** The newsletter will be distributed electronically to all members for whom we have an email address. If you wish to switch from paper to electronic delivery, please notify me at [robert.lucas@usask.ca](mailto:robert.lucas@usask.ca).

## Future Meeting Dates:

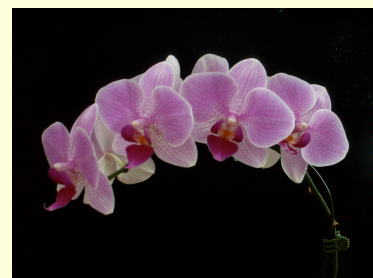
February 23, 2014      March 23, 2014      April 27, 2014  
May 25, 2014

## SOS Executive

**President:** Cal Carter  
**Vice-President:**  
**Past President:** Sherida Gregoire  
**Secretary:** Jennifer Burgess  
**Treasurer:** Cheryl Grummett  
**Social:** Shirley Keith  
 Lori Pozniak  
**Plant Orders:** Heather Anderson  
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**Resources:** Yvette Lyster  
 Pat Randall  
**Librarians:** Tracey Thue  
 Jan Dougall  
**Newsletter:** Bob Lucas  
**COC/AOS Rep:** Eugene Kucey  
**Speakers:** Don Keith  
**Webmaster:** Jennifer Burgess  
  
**Mail Address:** SOS, Box 411  
 Saskatoon, SK  
 S7K 3L3  
**Web Address:** [www.saskorchids.com](http://www.saskorchids.com)

## January Meeting

The January general meeting of the Society will be held on **Jan. 26, 2014** at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m. We will have a visit by Francis Schenstead of Turtle Lake who will speak on hybridizing with rescue orchids.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have not renewed your membership for 2013-14, please do so at the January meeting. The February newsletter will only be sent to members holding an active membership.

Francis Schenstead will be visiting us in January to speak on the history of orchid hybridization with rescue orchids from WWII. Mr. Schenstead has an interesting collection of orchids comprising plants from (among others) the Raymond Burr/Sea God nursery and Jones and Scully nursery. **He will be bringing plants to sell, so we ask that you do not bring your own plants and divisions for the sale table.**

The January meeting will have a raffle of plants donated by Safeway. Be sure to purchase your tickets from Tracey or Jan at the Library table, \$1 for one, \$2 for three.

The Society will be entering a display at Gardenscape to be held on March 28-30, 2014. We will need volunteers to help with the display and to serve as ambassadors during the event. We will also sell cut orchid flowers as a fund raiser for the Society. A signup sheet for volunteers will be at the front table at the January meeting. Further details about plant drop off and pick up for the display will be provided at the February meeting.

The SOS will be hosting the COC Annual General Meeting in March of 2015 in conjunction with Gardenscape. We are interested in your suggestions for a theme of the Show and a name that would reflect that theme. The January meeting will be the deadline for

the contest to choose a theme name for the 2015 COC. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, please email Cheryl at [orchidcrazy.cheryl@gmail.com](mailto:orchidcrazy.cheryl@gmail.com) or Heather at [heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com) with your suggestion. A vote of all the names submitted will be held at the February general meeting. The winner will receive a H & R Cattleya walkeriana similar to the one pictured below of C. walkeriana semi-alba 'Kenny' FCC/AOS.



The Victoria Orchid Society Spring Show will be held at a new venue this year at a new time. They will be moving from the Student Union Building at the University of Victoria to Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 4635 Elk Lake Road, Victoria, B.C. It will be held on the second weekend in March (March 7-9), 2014.

### Meeting Agenda

- Announcements
- Problem Corner
- Show and Tell
- Coffee/Supplies
- Schenstead Presentation
- Plant Raffle
- Plant Sale
- Adjournment



Phal Precious Lauren Rae

## NOV. 17 MINUTES

### Announcements

Cal welcomed everyone to the November meeting.

There will be an order placed with H & R, prices will be in US dollars plus 5% for packing. In addition the \$65 phytosanitary fee plus the CITES fee will be divided amongst the orders. Orders will be due to Heather by the end of December.

Heather announced that the SOS, must decide upon a name for the 2015 Canadian Orchid Congress we are hosting. The name given to the Show in 2002 was "Orchids: Romance and Mystery". There is a suggestion box available both today and at the January meeting, and a vote will take place at the February meeting to decide the winning name to be used and to set the theme for the 2015 COC show. The member who came up the name will be given a plant from H& R – likely a Cattleya Walkeriana.

Heather and Cheryl A. have met with Prairieland to organize the COC 2015, and will meet with them again on Dec. 3. Vendors and societies will be contacted to 'save the date' for the show.

**Resources**

Pat announced that there was one bag of Merit remaining.

**Problem Corner**

Little insects have been observed after watering, they do not seem to be harming the plant but are a nuisance and only one plant is affected. It was suggested that the Biology department at the University could identify them. There appearance was similar to that of a centipede.

**Show and Tell:**

Pat Randall, Heather Anderson.

**Break**

**Presentation**

A powerpoint presentation entitled "You've got (more than just) bugs" was given by Cal. This entailed an overview of common pests, bacterial and viral problems that can affect plants. There were photo examples of these problems, and solutions were offered for many, other than viral diseases in which case you must dispose of the plants.

**Plant Raffle**

There were a number of plants including phals, mini cymbidiums and a dendrobium that were donated by Safeway, as well as 2 sundog bags donated by Cheryl G

**Plant sale**

There was a small number of plants for sale.

Adjournment Approximately 3 p.m.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Many of you may already be familiar with the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) but some newer members may not know as much about the Congress. Now that it has been confirmed that the Saskatchewan Orchid Society will host the COC in 2015, we are planning a number of articles about the COC and the annual convention for the Newsletter. The first of these is a general information article about the COC.



**About the Canadian Orchid Congress**

The Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) is an association of Canadian orchid societies dedicated to serve the Canadian orchid-growing public. It is federally registered as a non-profit society. The COC represents affiliated societies and their members on Canada wide issues and promotes the cultivation of orchids through exhibitions, publications, lectures and seminars; it supports the conservation of orchids and it makes awards in the form of medals or trophies for excellence in the development and culture of orchids. Each year a member society hosts the COC Annual Convention during their show, when the COC Executive and representatives from member societies meet to conduct business.

The goal of the COC is to support Canadian orchid hobbyist activities as follows:

- Communication and distribution of information on member society shows and activities through a newsletter and internet web site.
- Publication of information of interest to the orchid hobbyist such as orchid culture, conservation, nomenclature, etc. through a newsletter and a web site.
- Financial assistance to smaller, remote societies to bring a notable orchid expert to present programs to the societies.

- An annual convention, in conjunction with a show, to bring orchidists together to share their hobby. Several talks on orchid related aspects are presented during the course of the convention.
- Preparation and distribution of slide programs for the use of the member societies.
- Representation of orchid-related topics on national and international issues with the federal government, notably on the importation/exportation of orchids by orchid hobbyists.
- The offering of national recognition for contributions to the improvement of orchid growing and conservation in Canada.

There are over twenty-five member societies in the COC, representing about 3,000 orchid hobbyists. Each member society supports the COC with an annual due proportional to their membership.

## MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

EDITOR'S NOTE: REPRINTED BY PERMISSION FROM THE AOS WEB SITE.

### Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel' HCC/AOS is a good example of this winter-blooming species.

nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

### Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

### Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant

orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

### Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed.

If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

### **Paphiopedilum**

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

### **Phalaenopsis**

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your

society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.



In the fall Phalaenopsis should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

### **Zygopetalum**

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

## **COLLECTOR'S ITEMS EDITOR'S NOTE: REPRINTED BY PERMISSION FROM THE AOS WEB SITE.**

Welcome to Collector's Items, a selection of choice and favorite species and hybrids for orchid collectors. Some are popular and well represented in the trade, others may require some hunting to track them down. Some are suitable for beginners, others can present maddening challenges even for experienced growers. Each entry is a portrait of an orchid hand-picked for its classic beauty, exotic fragrance, classic good looks, historical significance or unusual qualities.

### **COELOGYNE MOOREANA SANDER**

Coelogyne mooreana, a native of Vietnam, grows best under 1,500 to 2,500 footcandles or the low end of the light level for cattleyas or oncidiums. Strong air movement at all times is critically important. In their native habitat, the summers are characterized by heavy cloud cover indicating that shading is beneficial from spring to fall, but light should be as high as the

plant can tolerate, short of burning the leaves. In this species' native habitat, winter is the brightest season.

Summer days should average in the upper 70's to the low 80'sF and nights in the low 60's are ideal. A temperature differential of 10-15F between day and night temperatures is essential for good growth and flower production. During the winter

rest period, nights may drop routinely into the low 50's with an increase in the day/night differential up to 25F.

Coelogyne mooreana is a moderately sized sympodial epiphyte that grows 12-18 inches tall with two glossy green, heavily textured leaves per growth. The erect inflorescence is 15-20 inches tall and emerges from between the leaves of new

leaves of new growths before the pseudobulbs have formed. Three to eight large, fragrant flowers up to 3-4 inches (7-10cm) are produced per inflorescence. They open simultaneously and are well-spaced along the inflorescence. The floral segments are snow white except for a golden yellow blotch on the midlobe of the

lip. The flowers last in excellent condition for four to six weeks if the plants are kept cool, somewhat on the dry side and in relatively low light.

This spectacular species, one of the easiest in the genus to grow, has only recently begun to be commonly available in cultivation again. For many years only divisions and

mericlones of the clone 'Brockhurst' had limited availability. As plant material from Vietnam has recently become more readily available, additional clones of this species have appeared in cultivation and seedling populations are now also available.

Ron McHatton, April 2009

