

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 thues@sasktel.net.

Future Meeting Dates:

March 22, 2015 April 26, 2015 May 24, 2015
September 27, 2015 October 25, 2015 Nov 22, 2015

SOS Executive

President:	Bob Lucas
Vice-President:	Sherida Gregoire
Past President:	Cal Carter
Secretary:	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe
Treasurer:	Cheryl Grummett
Social:	Shirley Keith Lori Pozniak
Plant Orders:	Heather Anderson Cheryl Adamson
Resources:	Yvette Lyster Pat Randall
Librarians:	Jan Dougall Debbie Huculiak
Newsletter:	Tracey Thue
COC/AOS Rep:	Eugene Kucey
Speakers:	Don Keith
Webmaster:	Bob Lucas

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March Meeting

The March general meeting of the Society will be held on

March 22, 2015 at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting will include final discussion and planning for the COC orchid show hosted by the SOS and held in conjunction with Gardenscape 2015.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual COC Orchid Show, hosted by the SOS is nearly here!

See the SOS website www.saskorchids.com/coc-2015/ for all the information about the show. If you don't have access to the internet, please feel free to call any of the SOS executive.

Plant pre-orders The SOS website lists 11 vendors who will be attending the COC show. Four are still taking pre-orders: Forestview Gardens, Orchids in Our Tropics, Tropical Gardens Orchids and Garden Slippers. Please contact the vendors directly to place your pre-orders.

Delegate registration forms for the 2015 COC Orchid Show at Gardenscape can be downloaded from the website, or will be available at the March meeting. You may still register to attend the show as a delegate for \$100. The registration form lists all the show events available to you for the price of registration.

Plant registration If you have any orchids flowering in time for the weekend of March 27-29, please consider including them in the display being entered by the SOS. There are four ways to register your plants.

1. Register plants online. See the instructions on the SOS website (on the COC 2015 page in the first paragraph, click on the word "here" to be taken to the plant registration page).
2. Register plants at the March 22 general meeting. Go to the plant registration table set up at this month's general meeting



Phragmipedium Mary Bess
Grown & photographed by Tracey Thue

for plant registration assistance.

3. Register plants with help from friends. Phone or email Bob Lucas, Kathryn Hiller or Tracey Thue and provide them with your list of plants.
4. Register plants at the show. As a last option, you can register your plants at Hall A just before they're added to the society's display.

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements
Problem Corner
Show and Tell
Coffee/Supplies/Library
Discussion/Planning COC
Show/Plant Registration
Plant Raffle
Plant Sale
Adjournment

SOS Display Plants Bring flowering plants to Hall A on Thursday, March 26 between 1pm and 7pm (before 6pm would be helpful so the display can be set up

well in time for the Wine and Cheese Pre-Sale event taking place at 7:30pm that evening!).

Plants that are un-named can be placed into the display and will be considered for ribbon judging, however they will be excluded from AOS judging.

If you have plants in flower but you're unable to get them to the venue, please call or email Tracey Thue, or speak with her at the general meeting March 22. Anyone interested in helping with setting up the display will be more than welcome!

Help needed for ribbon judging

If you are interested in helping out with ribbon judging at the COC show, there will be a signup sheet at the general meeting. There will be an experienced leader for each team so no judging knowledge is required! Even if your experience with orchids is limited there's a place for you in a team. Ribbon judging takes place Friday, March 27 in Hall A. Please meet near the displays at 8:45am and plan to be about an hour.

Plant sale table You are welcome to bring any plants or orchid-related material to the March meeting for sale to the membership. Label them with your name and the price. Ten percent of the price goes to the SOS.

Plant raffle The March meeting will have a raffle of plants donated by Safeway. Purchase your tickets from Jan or Debbie at the Library table, \$1 for one, \$2 for three.

Our thoughts and love go to Ruthanne Hanbidge, long-time SOS member and friend to many of us, who has suffered a stroke and is currently in St. Paul's Hospital. She is in acute care and at this time visitors are not advised. Sherida made up and delivered a flower arrangement on behalf of the SOS executive and membership. Best wishes to Ruthanne and her family during this difficult time.

FEBRUARY 22 MINUTES

Thanks to Valerie Martz for recording the minutes.

Announcements

Sherida Gregoire welcomed members to the meeting. She gave a warm welcome to guest speaker Dave Nixon.

The COC poster is for sale for \$5 (50%). It will be included in the COC delegate bags.

The photo lab at London Drugs, Lawson Heights Mall is offering a 50% discount for those entering the art contest. The discount applies to one image. To receive the discount you must show your SOS membership card.

Pat Randall displayed the plaque-mounted photos that will be used for the trophy awards. Savings were realized in producing the plaques thanks to the discount provided by London Drugs.

Heather Anderson was away, but provided notes to update the membership on progress with COC show planning.

Shirley Keith provided an update on COC volunteers, saying there has been good response from the membership, with 5 spots remaining. A signup sheet was circulated. A copy of the overall schedule will be available, and name tags will be provided. Information regarding pick up of Gardenscape passes will be available at the March meeting. Shirley can answer any questions about volunteer activities including hosting judges or vendors.

Problem Corner

1. A Paphiopedilum, originally obtained from Forestview appears healthy, has successfully flowered in the past, but the lip on this bloom is malformed and speckled. The stem is crooked and one petal looks like a pouch. Cal noted he has observed something similar in the past; no one could offer a solution. Editor's note: Paphiopedilum plants may produce malformed flowers because of some environmental exposure when the flower buds are forming. Give the plant another chance to flower and likely it will be normal next time.
2. A hardy orchid over-wintering in a pot placed in a 5C (40F) cold room with no water is beginning to grow. It was suggested that you could ignore it as long as you can, but since it has had a lengthy cold break it could be moved under lights now.
3. A Phalaenopsis with dry roots but good leaves and an old flower stem was presented. It was recommended that the old stem be removed and it be provided intensive therapy for it to survive. Editor's note: repot into fresh orchid media and provide increased humidity around the plant.

Show and Tell

Two plants were shown by Pat Randall and Don Keith.

Break

Snacks were provided by Valerie Martz, Crystal Maynes, Mercedes Montgomery, Karen St. Marie and Jennifer Osachoff. Thank you!

Presentation

Dave Nixon, President of the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation of Alberta spoke about the OSPF. See article on page 6.

Plant Raffle

There were many plants donated by Saskatoon Co-op. Tickets are purchased at the library table: 3 for \$2 or 1 for \$1. A donation is made annually to the Nature Conservancy of Saskatchewan with a portion of the money made from this raffle.

Plant Sale

Members interested in purchasing a plant from the meeting's plant sale table see Cheryl Grummett; she will place your member number (on your name badge) into a draw box. At the time of the plant sale, all numbers will be drawn, one at a time. If your number is drawn first, you get first pick of the sale table. You may choose one plant to purchase, take it to Cheryl with payment. If there are other plants you'd like to purchase you must wait until all member numbers have been called. Plants remaining on the table are then available to purchase.

Six plants were placed on the sale table, one donated by guest speaker Dave Nixon. All were purchased by SOS members.

Plants pre-ordered from Dave Nixon were distributed in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment

Approximately 3:30 pm

SOS FEBRUARY SHOW AND TELL TABLE

PHOTOS BY SARA THUE



Paphiopedilum gratixianum
Exhibitor: Don Keith



Cattlianthe Doris and Byron
Exhibitor: Pat Randall

For the Love of Orchids
28th Canadian Orchid Congress Show
March 27 - 29, 2015
Proudly Hosted by The Saskatchewan Orchid Society

SHOW UPDATE by Heather Anderson & Cheryl Adamson, COC Show Co-Chairs

Although pre-order dates have expired for several of the vendors attending the COC you can still place orders with Forestview, Orchids in Our Tropics, Tropical Gardens Orchids, and Garden Slippers. These lists and the deadline for orders are on the SOS website www.saskorchids.com If you have any questions please email Cheryl (orchidcrazy.cheryl@gmail.com) or Heather (heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com).



Paphiopedilum vietnamense

Grown by Tracey Thue

Photographed by Sara Thue

Thank you to all volunteers who have signed up for the COC show. Your Gardenscape passes can be picked up at the regular SOS meeting on Sunday, March 22nd from Shirley Keith. If you cannot pick up the passes at that time please contact Shirley to make other arrangements. Volunteers who are also delegates do not need passes - by wearing your

delegate name tag you will receive entrance to Gardenscape all weekend.

Great West Distribution will be sponsoring another award for the Best in the Show for Oncidium Alliance. Thanks Garry and Lori Pozniak. Dougall Photography will be sponsoring the final award, Best in the Show for Other Alliance. Thank you to Jan and Grant Dougall.

Although the Early Bird Delegation registration special has expired you can still sign up as a delegate for \$100. A list of what is included in the delegate package can be found in the January newsletter. In addition to this, each package will include a metallic show poster. Delegate registration forms and forms to purchase additional banquet tickets (seats) are available on the website. The cost for the banquet is \$40. Heather and Cheryl A. will be collecting your forms at the March SOS meeting so bring your cash or cheque book to the meeting. The show posters will be available at the general meeting for purchase at a discounted price of \$5 per poster - a savings of 50%! If you are unable to attend the meeting please complete the forms and mail them either to Cheryl A. or Heather. The deadline to register as a delegate or for the banquet is March 24th.

The Silent Auction is always a popular addition to any event. Lori Pozniak is coordinating the auction to be held in conjunction with the Saturday night banquet. If you own a business, have business connections, or would like to make a personal contribution of a silent auction item it would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, if you have any questions please approach any members of the SOS Executive.

ORCHID SPECIES PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Presented to the SOS membership by Dave Nixon, Notes by Valerie Martz

The OSPF is a volunteer, not-for-profit registered foundation. They are custodians of a world class orchid collection housed at the Muttart Conservatory, Edmonton, AB.

The OSPF was founded in 1991 with a collection of around 2000 plants obtained from the family of Lorne S. Murphy of Vancouver. The collection of over 4000 plants representing 139 genera, 945 species and 400 hybrids, is co-managed with the City of



Epidendrum blepharoclinium var. *album*

The Fringed Lip Epidendrum is found in montane wet forests of Peru at elevations around 2600-3200 meters as a medium-sized cold growing, slender, grasslike epiphyte. It grows in the hot greenhouse in dappled light conditions.

Edmonton. The collection does not represent any species of Europe or North America, and only about 30 of the orchids are on display at one time at the Muttart. The remainder of the collection is housed in a 5000 sq.ft. greenhouse built in 2004, an extension to the Muttart greenhouses. The collection is maintained by one part-time grower provided by the Muttart and many volunteers.

The foundation has examined its current status and identified its focus for the future. This includes changing its name to "Orchid Species Preservation Foundation" to reflect that it has received plants from across Canada. Other plans include updating the website, leveraging the collection with an increased emphasis on external activities including: education, community involvement, conservation projects, and increasing the collection. They also want to redefine their relationship with the Muttart, since it is funded by the City of Edmonton and the mandates of the Foundation and the Muttart are different. Questions also arise about the capacity of the greenhouse and risk to the collection during extreme weather.

Dave described several outreach programs including those with local schools. The OSPF

presented workshops to teachers about bringing orchids into schools. Orchids have been used in art classes and to teach biology, and two orchid clubs have been established in local schools. Engaging students is seen as a way to increase future memberships in local orchid societies. The Foundation has partnered with MacEwan College for some research and development projects to conduct DNA testing of the collection, to develop an inexpensive plant virus test, and to propagate some Canadian

orchid species at risk.

To increase public awareness of the OSPF, initiatives include a plan to build relationships with all orchid societies. The OSPF will have a display at

the COC show. The website update will provide virtual access to the collection, provide a question and answer section, and a blog section. Surplus plants will be made available for sale.

The long range plan is to put aside funds for an orchid propagation facility and ultimately an orchid interpretation centre. They have sponsored a design competition at the University of Calgary's School of Architecture to this end. The Foundation is looking for input from orchid societies on what species to start propagating and to review building designs.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or signing up for their newsletter, email Dave at dnixon@shaw.ca or go to the website <http://www.orchidspecies.ca>

If you're interested in donating, go to www.canadahelps.org and search OSPF.

Editor's note: I have joined Dave's mailing list and will receive a selection of "what's in flower at the Muttart" each month, which I will add to our newsletter. The first instalment is included below.

What's in Bloom at the Muttart? March 2015

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation

Photographs & Descriptions by Dave Nixon

Information sourced from Orchidwiz, orchidspecies.com



Bulbophyllum pulchellum

Commonly known as the Charming Bulbophyllum, this species is from the Malaysia peninsula and Thailand. It requires a pot or basket, hot temperatures, partial shade and ample water and fertilizer to grow well.

This specimen has been in the OSPF collection a long time and is grown in the hot house (minimum of 20C at night) on the shade side of the greenhouse.

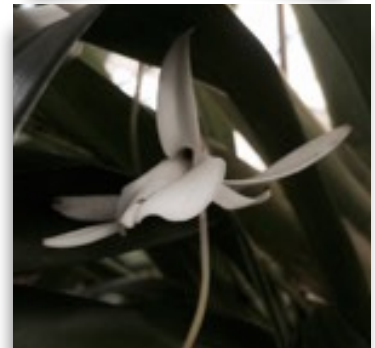


Jumellea angustifolia

The Jumellea genus is made up of 63 epiphytic or lithophytic, or occasionally terrestrial species from the Islands of Madagascar, Comoros and Mascarene and two species from the East African mainland that are similar culturally to Angraecum. In Victorian times the leaves of *Jumellea fragrans* were used to brew a tea-like beverage called 'Faham Tea'. Their range is from sea level up to 2000m in open forests. They have short or relatively long stems with leaves either arranged along the stem or held in a fan shape.

Jumellea angustifolia is commonly known as the Narrow Leaf Jumellea and is found in north central Madagascar in lichen forests at elevations around 1400-2000m as a small to medium sized, cool growing terrestrial orchid.

This plant was donated by Craig Cowie in 2005 and is kept in the hot house (min 20C at night) on the shade side of the greenhouse.



Dracula simia

The Dracula genus is made up of 136 species spread through all of Andean America, including the cordillera in Central America. They are epiphytes found at higher elevations so most are cool if not cold growers. The genus name Dracula refers to the flowers being reminiscent of a dragon's mouth.

Dracula simia, more commonly known as the Monkey-Like Dracula, is from southeastern Ecuadorian and Peruvian cloud forests from elevations of 1000 to 2000 meters.

This plant was part of the original collection donated by Lorne Stuart in 1991 and is grown in our intermediate (16C at night) on the shade side of the greenhouse, with high humidity and good air circulation. Additional shading is provided in the summer.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Orchid Society of Alberta is hosting their annual Orchid Fair April 17, 18, 19, 2015 at Holes Enjoy Centre. The SOS executive has begun planning to attend and enter an SOS display. If you are interested please contact any of the executive. For information on the show check the OSA website, www.orchidsalberta.com, or contact Show Chairman Darrell Albert at darrell.albert@alberta-it.com or 780-986-8504



The April 26th SOS General Meeting will include our annual fundraiser, the Silent Auction. Start looking at your collection of orchids and orchid-related items and consider adding them to the auction! More information to come.

Plans to be in London, England next month?! The 17th European Orchid Show & Conference is being run in conjunction with the RHS London Orchid Show April 9-12, 2015. See more at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-london-shows/rhs-london-orchid-show>

The Foothills Orchid Society's annual Calgary Orchid Show and Sale 'Orchids for Everyone' is being held May 23-24, 2015. See their website for more details <http://www.calgaryorchidshow.com>



For those of you who dream big, the 22nd World Orchid Congress in 2017 will be held in Ecuador!

