

# 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](mailto:thues@sasktel.net).

## Future Meeting Dates:

Feb 28, 2016      Mar 20, 2016    Apr 24, 2016  
May 29, 2016

## SOS Executive

<b>President:</b>	Bob Lucas
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Sherida Gregoire
<b>Past President:</b>	Cal Carter
<b>Secretary:</b>	Donna Carlson- O'Keefe
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cheryl Grummett
<b>Social:</b>	Shirley Keith Lori Pozniak
<b>Plant Orders:</b>	Heather Anderson Cheryl Adamson
<b>Resources:</b>	Yvette Lyster Pat Randall
<b>Librarians:</b>	Jan Dougall Debbie Huculiak
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Tracey Thue
<b>COC/AOS Rep:</b>	Eugene Kucey
<b>Speakers:</b>	Don Keith
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Bob Lucas
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<b>facebook:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?">https:// www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?</a>

## February Meeting

The February general meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, **February 28, 2015** at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will feature SOS President Bob Lucas presenting "Orchid Pests and Diseases," based on material from the Society's Orchid Digest DVDs.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Presentation - by Bob Lucas

The SOS library has a number of DVDs purchased from the Orchid Digest. Bob will be presenting excerpts from two of these DVDs, along with material of his own, entitled "Orchid Pests and Diseases".

**Plant sale** Members are welcome to bring plants for the sale table this month.

**Plant raffle** February's raffle will feature plants from Saskatoon Coop, as well as sixteen plants donated by Dutch Growers, including 2 Miltoniopsis, 2 Brassia types, and 12 Phalaenopsis plants. Tickets can be purchased from SOS Librarians Jan or Deb at the library table, one ticket for \$1 or three for \$2.



**Meeting Agenda:**  
Announcements  
Problem Corner  
Show and Tell  
Coffee/Supplies/  
Library  
Presentation  
Plant Raffle  
Plant Sale  
Adjournment

**Treats Signup Sheet** Please sign up to bring treats to a future meeting! The sheet is at the entrance where you sign in and pick up your membership badges.

**Donation Tin** Please drop some silver into the donation tin When you go for treats during the break. Donations go to the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation. See their website for more information about the foundation <http://orchidspecies.ca>

### Flower Cooler & Compressor To Give Away

Please contact Lori Pozniak if you are interested. The unit is 4 feet wide x 6' tall x 2' deep, with the nearly new compressor on top. The unit is presently located upstairs in a Broadway character home and the owner is keen to move it out!

**Gardenscape** is April 8 - 10, 2016 and the society is planning to enter a display. Consider bringing your flowering plants to add to the display! A signup sheet will be available at the February meeting for volunteers to sign up for shifts to watch over the display and answer questions. More information will be provided at the meeting.

## PLANT PRE-ORDERS TO OSA VENDORS

Pre-orders will be placed with a number of the vendors attending the Orchid Society of Alberta Show April 1 - 3, 2016. Plants will be picked up by Cheryl & Heather and brought back to Saskatoon.

Pre-order lists for the following vendors are posted on the SOS website:  
<http://www.saskorchids.com>

**Ecuagenera** - prices are in US dollars and with shipping, handling and the cost of paper work it is anticipated that the cost of the orchids will be 1.6 - 1.8 times the list price.

**Ten Shin Gardens** - prices are in USD.

**Ching Hua Orchids** - prices are in USD.

**Forestview Gardens** - prices are in Canadian dollars. Please note, Forestview Gardens is not attending Gardenscape this year, so if you're interested in any of their plants, now is the time to order!

Check the SOS website regularly for pre-order lists of additional vendors.

Please include in your order the product number of each plant & how many of that plant you are ordering.

Submit your pre-orders by March 12, 2016 to Cheryl Adamson  
[orchidcrazy.cheryl@gmail.com](mailto:orchidcrazy.cheryl@gmail.com) or  
Heather Anderson  
[heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com)

**Guest Speaker for March Meeting** Dave Nixon of the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation will be visiting us from Edmonton during our regular March meeting. He'll be giving a formal talk as well as sharing plans for the OSPF 25th Anniversary celebrations in August 2016. Dave will be bringing plants to sell at the meeting, and he'll also be taking pre-orders, providing the list next week. As soon as he sends it Bob will put it on the SOS website, so keep checking. The deadline for plant pre-orders is March 21, to be emailed to Heather or Cheryl.

## JANUARY 24 MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna  
Carlson-O'Keefe

### Announcements

Bob Lucas welcomed members to the meeting; there were no new members or guests attending.

We have a new PA system, and a new wireless microphone is on order.

There are no plants from the Co-op today as Sherida is away, but there are blooming size Oncidium Twinkle plants purchased by the SOS from Forestview last March for the COC show potting demonstrations. Bob Lucas donated a Phalaenopsis plant as well.

One 2016 orchid calendar featuring photos of AOS-awarded plants remains available for purchase at the front desk.

Thanks to Tracey Thue for her excellent article on thrips in our most recent newsletter.

In the presentation today Don Keith will talk about orchidariums, including his own.

There are two shows coming up. The Orchid Society of Alberta show will be April 1 to 3, 2016 in Edmonton and we will be entering a display.

We will be putting in a pre-order of plants to some vendors attending the show in Edmonton. There are usually about 8 vendors in attendance. Plant and price lists will be posted on the SOS website as they become available.

The annual Gardenscape in Saskatoon will be held April 8 to 10, 2016, more details to come.

We have a number of plants on the sale table. People interested in purchasing should give their membership numbers to Cheryl at the front desk. Access is by number draw.

Shirley has a treats sign-up sheet at the entry table; members can volunteer in advance to bring treats to a future meeting.

### Library

We have received an AOS supplement that has several good articles on growing orchids. There are also six DVDs from Orchid Digest on various topics; you are welcome to sign one out for one month only.

### Resources

We are well stocked in all supplies.

### Problem Corner

None today.



*Specklinia grobyi*

### Show and Tell

Twenty eight flowering orchids were shown by Tracey Thue, Heather Anderson, Hans Berin, Pat Randall, Calvin Lo, Lynn Campbell, Yvette Lyster, Don Keith, Al Hartridge, Lori Pozniak and Bob Lucas.

### Break

Thank you to Hans and Margarita Berin, Gary Pozniak, Marg Kowalchuk, Shirley Keith and Donna Carlson-O'Keefe for providing snacks this month!

## Presentation

### Don Keith: My Orchidarium Project

Don's orchidarium is a cool to cold temperature orchidarium, and he is getting very good results with it. He spent 6 months researching and planning the project before actually starting to build it.

The original sealed glass containers for growing plants were called Wardian cases, named for Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward, a nineteenth century English physician and botany hobbyist. He made the accidental discovery that a grass seedling and fern thrived in a sealed glass jar, but died when the seal broke and they were exposed to the polluted air of London at that time. Wardian cases became popular as a means of transporting plants on ships between countries around the world, with a much higher survival rate compared to plants carried on the open decks. They were instrumental in expanding fern culture, then led to the orchid craze.

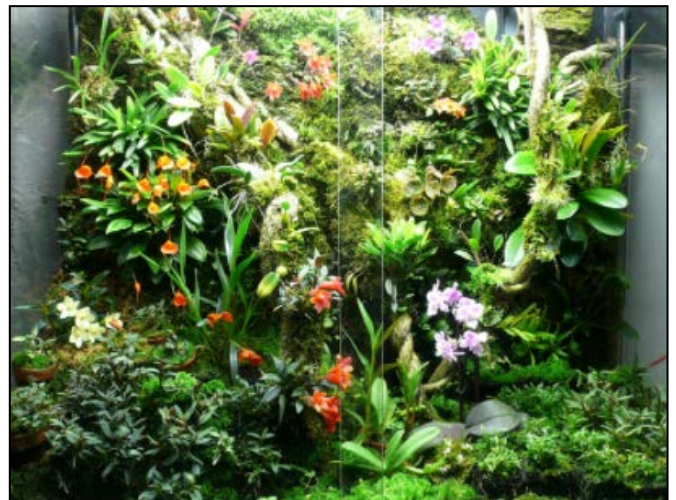
The benefits to growing in an orchidarium: consistent environment leading to high plant growth



and better flowering; the controls allow easy automation; low operating costs (Don thinks lighting costs him about \$100 per year and other operating costs only \$6 per year). The drawbacks to growing in an orchidarium: your collection is limited to smaller size plants; high initial cost.

The required systems and controls necessary to achieve the desired cultural conditions include air circulation, lighting, watering/misting, humidity control, temperature, and potting medium. In this closed system air circulation is important so that water evaporates preventing mould and disease that can result from sitting water.

Don talked about two systems that he found on the Internet. One has been developed and built by



Karma Forester, a Swedish orchid blogger (Orchid Karma). Her blog provides a great deal of information, and she is generous to include the mistakes she has made, so that her readers can learn from them. Karma retrofitted a 63 cu.ft. reptile enclosure (see photo on left) constructed of polycarbonate and acrylic, installing six Scythe Gentle Typhoon 120 mm 1850 rpm fans, four Dulux 80 watt compact fluorescent lamps, Vivaria Rain System with 22 nozzles, household cold air humidifier, outside cooling (used for 9 months of the year), portable air conditioner (for warmer months), and Lucky Reptile temperature and humidity controls. She provides 75% humidity during the day and 85% at night.

The second orchidarium system Don researched is a commercially available system by Mike Leone of Acme Orchidariums. Don showed slides of a 24 sq.ft. (3' high, 4' wide, 2' deep) case made of cast acrylic with glass doors (pictured above).

It is equipped with three Gentle Typhoon fans, four CFL lights (two 55K and two 67K), an evaporative cooler (summer temperature of 60 to 78F (15.5 - 25.5C) and winter 48 to 68F (8.9 - 20C)), and a Mist King misting system. It employs an Ecozone controller that controls lighting, watering and misting schedules, day and night temperatures, and high and low temperature alarms. This controller, which costs more than \$850, has internet connectivity, so can be run from a computer or smart device. The enclosure is mounted on a wood case that holds the mechanicals. The system retails for \$4454 USD; the similar 18 cu.ft. system retails for \$4235 USD.

Don's orchidarium (pictured at right) is 40 sq.ft. (4' high, 5' wide, 2' deep) constructed of twin walled polycarbonate in an aluminum frame with a 26 gauge steel drain basin for the floor. The case is placed on a pedestal base containing the mechanicals, and is topped by a valance.

His orchidarium has three T5 fluorescent lights, four Gentle Typhoon fans, a Mist King misting system with 16 nozzles, a 2-puck cold air humidifier, and outside air intake cooling. Don uses a simple cooling control that cost about \$11. His entire system cost about \$2000.

Don operates his fogging system for 3 minutes per day, using about 3 quarts of water at a time to saturate the air. It takes about 2 hours to dry out again. He uses 10 ppm bleach in the misting water to keep the enclosure free of pathogens. The cooling system takes about 4 hours to cool the enclosure from the day time temperature of 68F (20C) to the night time temperature target of 50F (10C) when the outside temperature is -20C.

The growing medium Don uses is completely inorganic since he found that bark mixes remained too wet. The current mix consists of 2 parts clay pellets, 1

part Diatomite, 1 part coarse Perlite, and 1/4 part thin plastic rods (actually plastic broom bristles cut about 2 inches long). The plastic rods add 12 - 15% to the volume of the potting mix, allowing for better air circulation. He pots plants into hydroponic pots with vents in the sides.

If Don were to do it all again, there are a few things he would do differently. He would make the

orchidarium taller and narrower for better access. He would illuminate the area under the middle shelf, perhaps using LED lights, which he believes run cooler, and instead of polycarbonate he would fabricate the case from cabinetry and then waterproof it. Don would also add humidifier controls.

In answer to questions from the audience, Don said that the air from the system is simply exhausted into the

house. He hopes to be able to use his present outside air intake system to cool the orchidarium during the summer by beefing up the air intake and using the cool night air. Since the average summer night temperature is 11C, he hopes to cool the orchidarium to 13C and shut the system off during the day when outside temperatures are higher.

Editor's note: Thanks to Don for sharing these photos from his presentation to include here.

### ***Plant Raffle***

There were 8 plants in the raffle, one Phalaenopsis donated by Bob Lucas and seven flowering-size Oncidium Twinkle plants, left over from the COC potting demonstrations last March. All were claimed.

### ***Plant Sale***

Approximately half of the fifteen plants on the table were sold.

### ***Adjournment***

Approximately 3:30 pm.



SOS JANUARY SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Tracey Thue



*Cattleya coccinea* 'T.G. Select'  
Grower: Tracey Thue



*Masdevallia* Bella Donna  
Grower: Don Keith



*Paphiopedilum* Orchilla x Valwin  
Grower: Lori Pozniak



*Tolumnia* Jairak Rainbow  
Grower: Heather Anderson



*Caulaeliacattleya* Mizoguchi  
'Princess Kiko'  
Grower: Pat Randall



*Paphiopedilum* lowii x sib  
'Gigantic' x var album 'Albino Beauty'  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Paphiopedilum* fairrieianum  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Paphiopedilum Sarella 'Marsala'*  
HCC/AOS  
Grower: Lori Pozniak



*Cattleyanthe Doris & Byron 'Xmas Rose'*  
Grower: Pat Randall



*Paphiopedilum Hampshire Zoo x  
Winston Churchill*  
Grower: Yvette Lyster



*Paphiopedilum Wossner China Moon*  
(*hangianum x armeniacum*)  
Grower: Al Hartridge



*Cattleya trianae 'Mooreana'* FCC/RHS, AM/AOS  
Grower: Pat Randall



*Dendrochilum wenzelii*  
Grower: Tracey Thue



*Dendrobium Comet King 'Akatzuki'*  
Grower: Yvette Lyster



*Dendrobium Micro Chip*  
Grower: Lynn Campbell



*Paphiopedilum* Saint Isabel  
(Lady Isabel x Saint Swithin)  
Grower: Al Hartridge



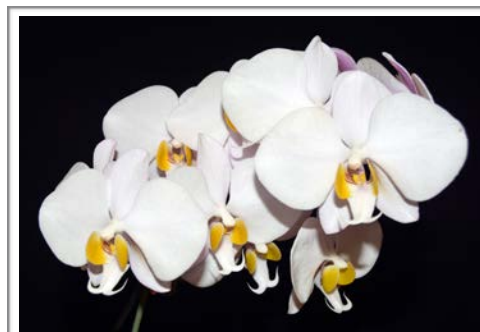
*Phragmipedium* Suzanne Decker  
(kovachii x Cape Sunset)  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Phalaenopsis* Lowland Jewel  
Grower: Tracey Thue



*Paphiopedilum* Olympian Yard x  
Green Gem  
Grower: Lori Pozniak



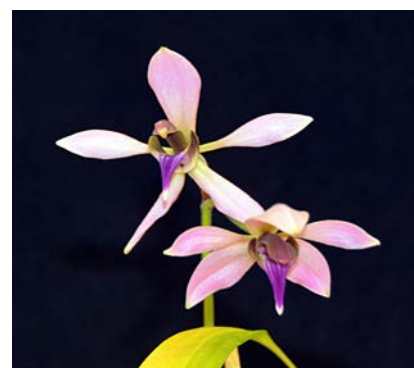
*Phalaenopsis philippinensis*  
Grower: Lynn Campbell



*Phragmipedium* Laurie-Lei Quintal  
(Haley Decker x d'alessandroi)  
Grower: Heather Anderson



*Brassavola* Grand Stars  
Grower: Hans Berin



*Ancistrochilus rothschildianum*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



## What's in Bloom at the Muttart? January 2016

### Orchid Species Preservation Foundation

Compiled by Dave Nixon, photographs by Doug Bovee

Information sourced from Orchidwiz, [orchidspecies.com](http://orchidspecies.com), Charles Baker, Wikipedia

#### ***Epidendrum pseudepidendrum* 10969A**

*Epidendrum* is one of the largest orchid genera with over 1400 known species throughout tropical Americas and the Caribbean. It grows in diverse climates from tropical lowlands to high alpine cloud forests. There are many terrestrial species in this group despite the genus name referring to its epiphytic growth habit.

This example is from the original donation by Lorne Stuart in 1991 and can be found in Costa Rica and Panama. In Costa Rica this species is most often found in lowlands and lower mountain rainforests at 1300-3300 ft (400-1000 m). In Panama, plants grow in Chiriqui Province at 3950 ft (1200 m). Although fairly common in cultivation, plants are now rather rare in nature, primarily because of habitat destruction. Its common name is 'The False Epidendrum' and it produces quite large flowers about 2.5-3" across.



#### ***Masdevallia harlequina* 13647A**

One of over 600 known *Masdevallia*, this species is commonly known as 'The Harlequin Masdevallia' due to its resemblance to the beloved clown character in Italian comedies with his mask and spangled tights.

The miniature species is native to Peru, growing epiphytically at altitudes of around 2800 m (9200 ft).

This plant was recently acquired by the OSPF from Peruflorea in April 2015. It is kept in our cold house at the east (shade) side of the greenhouse.

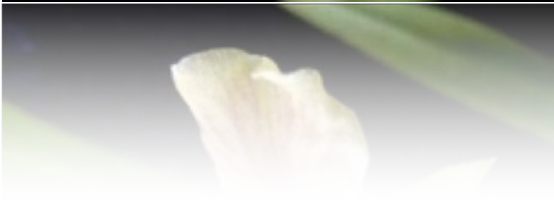
***Laelia moyobambae* 13140B**

The latest taxonomy classification for this plant moved it from the *Schomburgkia* to the *Laelia* genus, accounting for its common name of 'Moyobamba Schomburgkia'.

This species is found in Peru and Bolivia. It was first found in the Department of Loreto near Moyobamba in northern

Peru. It is a large sized, hot growing epiphyte that produces meter-long inflorescences with as many as 20 to 25 flowers per inflorescence clustered at its tip. Little has been written about this species.

This plant is kept in our intermediate house on the west (sunnier) side of the greenhouse.



***Scaphyglottis punctulata***

This epiphytic, sometimes lithophytic genus, with highly variable plant forms, has around 70 rarely seen species from Central America, the West Indies & south to Bolivia and Brazil. The species range in altitude from sea level to high in the Andes so temperature requirements are based on the location and habitat of each individual species. The genus is characterized by the habit of putting out one pseudobulb on top of the next, and very small terminal inflorescences with tiny flowers held close to the pseudobulb. The genus name refers to the basin-shaped lip.

This species has a wide range from Puerto Rico, Panama, Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and the Greater Antilles. Plants may grow on trees or rocks or as terrestrials, often found on roadside banks. They are found in wet forests and swamps from 1300-6250 ft. (400-1900 m). It is the only example of the genus we have in the collection and is commonly known as 'The Speckled Scaphyglottis'.

This plant is kept in the intermediate house on the east (shade) side of the greenhouse.