

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:

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

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
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www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?](https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?)

January Meeting

The January general meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, **January 24, 2015** at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will feature a presentation by Don Keith speaking on his orchidarium.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presentation - "(Mostly) My Orchidarium", by Don Keith

A member of the SOS, Don is a fine grower of many orchid species requiring high humidity levels, like *Restrepia*, *Masdevallia* and *Dracula*. In his talk, Don will describe his design and construction of a large orchidarium in which to grow and flower his collection.

Plant sale SOS members are encouraged to bring plants for the sale table this month, for purchase by fellow members. If you see a plant on the table that you're interested in purchasing, give your membership number to Cheryl prior to the plant sale. These numbers will be drawn randomly; when your number is drawn you may choose one plant to purchase. After all numbers have been drawn any remaining plants can be purchased by any member, even if they didn't enter their number.



The final day of blooming
Paphiopedilum Wall-Jolly 'Wagner's'
x Spring Hills 'Lime Disc' B/CSA

Plant raffle There will be a plant raffle this month, featuring small but flowering size *Oncidium* Twinkle plants. These are beginning to bloom with tiny fragrant pink spikes of flowers. Tickets can be purchased from SOS Librarians Jan or Deb at the library table, one for \$1 or three for \$2.

SOS Library Remember to visit the library while at the meeting this month. The resources offered for loan to members are impressive, including DVDs from the Orchid Digest on a variety of topics. See Jan or Deb for help looking for specific information, or browse the shelves for inspiration!

Meeting Agenda:

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

Show & Tell If you have an orchid in flower, please bring it to the meeting and share it with us! Photos taken by amateur photographer and SOS member Sara Thue are included in the next month's newsletter, and may be added to the SOS facebook page. As a reward and thank you for sharing your name will be entered into a draw to win a plant, held during the April meeting.

Treats Signup Sheet Please sign up to bring treats to a future



Coelogyne Unchained Melody
(*Coel. cristata* x *flaccida*)

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>

Mark your calendars!

Gardenscape will be here before we know it and the society will be entering a display; dates are April 8-10, 2016.

The **Orchid Society of Alberta** is hosting its annual show in Edmonton April 1 - 3, 2016. Members of the SOS Executive are beginning to plan a display to enter. If you're interested in attending the show and helping with the display get in touch with Bob or Cheryl Adamson.

The **Orchid Species Preservation Foundation** is celebrating its 25th Anniversary August 10-18, 2016. A program is being developed and will be posted on the OSPF website and facebook.

NOVEMBER 22 MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

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

Memberships are available for \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family. This is the last meeting to renew memberships for the 2015-16 year.

Plants in the plant raffle are donated today by Saskatoon Coop on 8th Street, made available to us through the efforts of Sherida Gregoire. Tickets for the raffle can be purchased at the library table, 1 ticket for \$1, 3 for \$2.

A list of plants available from the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation was previously circulated to members. Dave Nixon of the OSPF will deliver the plants the end of December. Members are reminded to contact Heather Anderson or Cheryl Adamson with plant orders; the deadline for orders is December 18.

The 2016 calendars can be picked up at the front desk. There are four extra calendars available for anyone interested who didn't order in advance. The cost is \$15 each.

The T5 lights ordered from Early's are available at the supplies table. The cost is \$34.65 each, including tax. There are two extras for sale as well.

The presentation today includes potting demonstrations at three different stations. Sherida will demonstrate repotting a *Paphiopedilum*, Bob will demonstrate repotting a *Phragmipedium*, and Tracey will demonstrate repotting 3 different species. At a fourth station Heather will have a copy of OrchidWiz and can help people find information about their plants.

There are a number of plants available on the sale table. If interested in purchasing a plant, provide your membership number to Cheryl at the front desk.

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

A member asked when one should repot a plant. Bob suggested that if the plant is growing out of its pot, or you feel the plant needs to be repotted, then do it. If the medium is rotting, then repot regardless of the time of year. Pat Randall said that a good time to repot is when the plant is starting to show new root growth; it adapts better to repotting if the new roots are just beginning to grow.

Problem Corner

An *Oncidium* plant was presented with many long white aerial roots and healthy foliage. The grower was wondering what to do with the roots. Bob examined the plant and said it looks healthy although it may have received inconsistent watering due to the crinkled leaves. It is growing out of the pot and ready to be repotted. The current medium appears to be a soil-less mix like ProMix, but it could go into bark. Lyn Campbell shared the fact that neem oil can no longer be purchased in Saskatoon. It has not been approved for use as an insecticide so can no longer be sold as such.



Paphiopedilum Golden Crest
(*Paph fairrieianum* x *Paph Wallcrest*
'Charm')

Show and Tell

Twenty two flowering orchids were shown by Don Keith, Pat Randall, Heather Anderson, Mary Orchard, Tracey Thue, Yvette Lyster, Jennifer Osachoff, Sherida Gregoire and Bob Lucas.

Congratulations were given to Sara Thue for her excellent plant photos taken for the newsletter.

Break

Thank you to Dave Robinson, Yolanda Lau, Vicky Wiley, Merle Ward and Judy Lozinski for providing snacks this month!

Presentation

The repotting and OrchidWiz demonstrations were well received by the membership, with much discussion and questions. Bob Lucas demonstrated repotting a *Phragmipedium* into a semi-hydroponic plastic cup. Sherida Gregoire repotted a *Paphiopedilum*. Tracey Thue moved a *Coelogyne fimbriata* into a wooden slat basket, repotted a *Rossioglossum schlieperianum* into medium bark and a clear plastic pot, and a *Caucaea phalaenopsis* into moss and a net pot. The large *Oncidium* discussed during Problem Corner was also repotted. Heather Anderson used OrchidWiz software

to give members information on culture, breeding, etc. of their particular plants.

Plant Raffle

There were 21 plants in the raffle, donated by Saskatoon Co-op. All were claimed.

Plant Sale

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

Adjournment

Approximately 3:05 pm.

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, The Plant List, LANKESTERIANA 10(2-3) 2010, Charles Baker, Wikipedia

Dracula sodiroi was named after Father Luis Sodiro, a Jesuit Priest and Botanist who described many species in the Quito, Ecuador region in the early 20th century. Commonly known as the Red Bell Dracula, this species is a terrestrial growing at elevations of 1500 to 2400 meters in Ecuador.

This plant is one of many *Draculas* donated to the OSPF by Keith Day in September 2004; it is grown in our intermediate house on the east (shadier) side.

It requires cool to warm temperatures at night.



Habenaria erichmichaelii There are approximately 882 species of *Habenaria* spread throughout the temperate and tropical grasslands, with the greatest concentration of species found in tropical South America, Asia and Africa. They are deciduous plants, dying down after flowering leaving a fleshy tuber underground. Named after Erich Michel, this species was recently discovered in SE Asia as a warm, shady growing miniature terrestrial. The plants have beautiful leaves of bluish green with white checks and spots. The hot pink flowers emerge in summer to fall and last 6-8 weeks. After flowering the tuber remains dormant through late fall and winter. Continue to water only as the mix dries out. When new growth emerges in spring water more frequently, allowing the mix to approach dryness. Many find this plant easy to grow on a windowsill in the home.

SOS NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Paphiopedilum charlesworthii
Grower: Bob Lucas



Paphiopedilum spicerianum
Grower: Mary Orchard



Brassocatanthe 'Janet' AM/AOS
(*Cattleya walkeriana* x Bc Maikai)
Grower: Pat Randall



Phragmipedium Grande
'Maybrooke' AM/AOS
(*Phrag caudatum* x *longifolium*)
Grower: Sherida Gregoire



Masdevallia glandulosa
Grower: Don Keith



Masdevallia rex
Grower: Don Keith



Phalaenopsis Tying
Shin Beagle
Grower:
Bob Lucas



Masdevallia velifera
Grower: Don Keith



Phalaenopsis Fangtastic Green Envy
Grower: Bob Lucas



Cattleya Loddia
(*Cattleya loddigesii* x *aurantiaca*)
Grower: Pat Randall



Phragmipedium Fritz Schomburg
(*Phrag kovachii* x *besseae*)
Grower: Heather Anderson



Paphiopedilum Fairburn x Vale Grande
Grower: Mary Orchard



Paphiopedilum haynaldianum
Grower: Sherida Gregoire



Paphiopedilum spicerianum
(‘Walking Tall’ x ‘Fat Boy’)
Grower: Sherida Gregoire



Paphiopedilum venustum
(‘Longlife ‘27’’ x ‘Master’ HCC/AOS)
Grower: Tracey Thue



Oncidioda Volcano Hula Halau 'Volcano Queen'
Grower: Yvette Lyster



Wilsonara Cheetah Gold
Grower: Jennifer Osachoff



Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit' FCC/AOS
Grower: Pat Randall



Paphiopedilum vietnamense
Grower: Heather Anderson

Latest COC Newsletter

The January/February newsletter from the Canadian Orchid Congress is available online. COC President Calvin Wong wrote a fascinating article on his recent trip to South Korea and the national *Cymbidium goeringii* auction.

<http://canadianorchidcongress.ca>

Saskatchewan Orchid Society Library Holdings

Wondering about what books or magazines are in the SOS library? Making a list of materials to borrow when you attend the next meeting? The librarians have been busy completing an inventory of the society's holdings and the updated list is available on the SOS website.

<http://www.saskorchids.com/sos-library-2015.pdf>

An Unhappy Meeting of Phrags and Thrips

by Tracey Thue

For 18 years I've moved most of my orchid collection outdoors for the summer. Orchids hang from branches of the apple tree, luxuriate on tables or upturned pots in the shaded north side of the house, or grow vigorously on shelves of a small mobile greenhouse in shaded sunshine, all within easy reach of the back door and the watering wand. At summer's end I dunk the plants in a soapy bath of environmentally friendly products before bringing them back into the house and I've never had any problems with insects hitching a ride inside. I manage scale and mealybug with cinnamon-infused isopropanol and neem oil, spraying whenever they're detected, or when repotting. At times I may see signs of spider mite infestation, usually in the middle of winter when humidity is low and I'm not watering as much; in this case I take the affected plants to the bathtub and shower them down with soapy water, then spray with neem oil. In early March when daylength is increasing and the warmth of the sun shining through the south window causes a flush of new growth I sometimes see whitefly and aphids, more often on non-orchid houseplants, but treatment with the same isopropanol and neem oil helps.

Last February I saw signs of insect activity I'd never seen before in a couple of *Phragmipedium* plants. I cursed, spritzed the plants with the ever-present cinnamon-infused isopropanol and went on my way. By the time the sunshine was starting the annual flush of new growth in all the plants I began noticing more evidence of the

insect damage in other Phrags: ugly reddish-brown chewing marks along the edges of the leaves as they developed from the leaf axils. One Phrag was bravely flowering despite this; I had moved it to the dining room table to enjoy the flowers and one morning as I ate my breakfast and admired the flowers but cursed whatever was marking the leaves I noticed a tiny black, narrow-bodied creature moving around in the leaf axils. Thrips! ARRGGH! Curses! I



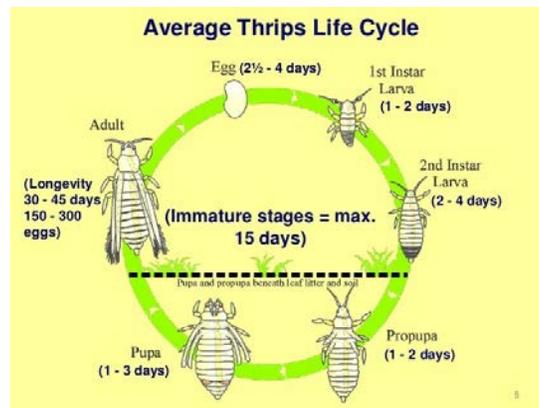
took each affected plant to the bathtub and soaked it down with isopropanol, then sprayed with neem oil in an attempt to kill the thrips or at least prevent them from sucking or chewing on the leaves. I suspect if I had been diligent with this treatment, such as repeating it every 7-10 days it would have been successful. But I wasn't. Life gets in the way and the plants have to make do with the basic watering. By the time I moved my collection outside most of my 25 Phrags were showing signs of damage. Still I continued to treat sporadically with isopropanol, neem oil, and pyrethrin-based insecticide. By November my *Phragmipedium besseae* had thrips. That was the final straw. I dedicated myself to treat every 7 days with Safer's End-All II; sold as a miticide, insecticide and acaricide, it's a Safer's mixture of potassium salts and pyrethrins and I'd read somewhere that it was effective against thrips (even though thrips is not listed on the label). By mid December the Phrags were starting to show signs of clean new growth, and I hadn't seen any thrips for weeks. But upon returning home from an 8-day Christmas break I discovered thrips on my flowering Phrag Grande, the one plant that seemed to have escaped infestation.



In a moment of insanity I took a couple of swipes with a Q-tip and placed the sampled thrips in a jar with a tissue and a few drops of acetone; my daughter took a “bug” class last term in University, which included collecting and identifying local insects – I learned a few tricks from her! After a few minutes of ‘kill time’ I borrowed my daughter’s microscope to see close up what these little devils looked like. OMG!!! Horrendous! *These* are burrowing through my Phrag leaves and flying around laying eggs?! Disgusting! This certainly gives me the incentive to keep spraying diligently; just the thought of these things in and on my plants gives me the heebie jeebies!



I read up on thrips and discovered there are a huge number of species in the order Thysanoptera, which affect a wide range of plants around the world, all with a similar life cycle; they lay their eggs in the plant tissue and the larvae hatch and feed on the tissue, causing damage. There are two larvae and two pupae stages before the flying adult stage is reached; when temperatures are warm the life cycle from egg to adult can be 2 weeks. The literature mentions the pupae living beneath the leaf litter and soil so are unaffected by insecticides, however this relates to crops, gardens and greenhouses. But I’ve collected the pupae from the Phrag leaves (and seen them close up, and now so have you!), so I’m assuming they’re being exposed to and killed by the pyrethrin as well as the larvae and adults. Since each stage is a few days, spraying every



7-10 days should catch a generation of thrips somewhere in its life cycle.

A 2014 article from the Ontario government discusses thrips seen in greenhouse crops, and lists cultural, physical and biological control methods to be used in a greenhouse, but no specific chemicals. This indicates to me that the main effort in controlling thrips should be management rather than applying insecticides, but I can’t obtain and release predatory mites or wasps in my living room!

The article I found most useful was one from the University of California Davis on thrips management, revised in 2014. It covers monitoring, biological and cultural control, as well as chemical control. I really appreciated this section, where effective insecticides compatible with integrated pest management are listed, including the products with pyrethrins. Pros and cons to contact insecticides and systemic insecticides are discussed. Some systemic insecticides like neonicotinoids including imadacloprid (i.e. Merit) and organophosphates like malathion are not recommended for thrips since they are not effective against thrips and are highly toxic to natural thrips enemies and pollinators in general, and harmful to the environment.

There is mounting evidence for neonicotinoids causing, at least partially, the collapse of honey bee colonies. A 2006 reference from the BC Ministry of Agriculture listed organophosphates as a choice in chemical control for thrips management, but another article written in 2009 and published online by Greenhouse Canada suggests that

thrips are developing resistance to products previously effective against them, including organophosphates.

I must say, after viewing thrips under the microscope and being completely grossed out by the sight, a person may be tempted to drench the plants with something nasty and kill, kill, kill! But we must be aware of the environmental effects of these chemicals as well as the effects on the people and pets. The take-home message here is know the pest you're fighting and research the pesticide you're considering. Consult the most recent information possible since efficacy and toxicity information is changing and expanding yearly. Just because a pesticide is available in a store, doesn't necessarily mean you should use it!

It's encouraging that the greenhouse and agricultural crop industries have moved away from chemicals, towards biological control and management. And for my orchid collection, sharing the living room with my family including 3 Cairn Terriers, I have to choose "friendly" products to apply to my plants. So I'll stick with the pyrethrin-based products, along with isopropanol and neem oil and try to remain diligent with frequent applications, for as long as it takes to rid my plants of these nasty looking pests.

References

University of California article

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7429.html>

Life cycle figure

<http://www.slideshare.net/MacadamiaSociety/crop-protection-assessment-of-thrips-species-complex-and-economic-loss-in-macadamia-orchards-in-south-africa-colleen-hepburn>

Bee colony collapse

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/study-strengthens-link-between-neonicotinoids-and-collapse-of-honey-bee-colonies/>

Ontario greenhouse crops

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/14-001.htm>

BC Thrips Biology & Control



Phragmipedium Grande 'Val' HCC/AOS

Flowering despite thrips; grown by Tracey Thue

Photographed by Sara Thue