

# 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:

Nov 22, 2015	Jan 24, 2016	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
<b>Mail Address:</b>	SOS, Box 411 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3
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<b>facebook:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?">https:// www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?</a>

## October Meeting

The October general meeting of the Society will be held on **October 25, 2015** at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will feature a presentation by Calvin Wong, with a travelogue on the Japan Grand Prix International Orchid Festival.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Membership Fees** are due. If you haven't yet renewed your 2015-2016 membership please pay SOS Treasurer Cheryl Grummet at the next meeting. The November general meeting is the cut-off for renewals, after which your membership benefits (i.e. borrowing materials from the library and taking part in plant sales) will be withdrawn.

**Presentation** Canadian Orchid Congress President **Calvin Wong** is visiting us from Vancouver for our October meeting! Calvin is an AOS accredited judge with the Pacific Northwest Judging Centre and past Vice President of the Vancouver Orchid Society. You can read his full biography on the COC website under the tab "COC Officers". Calvin came to Saskatoon in March to lead the judging team at our spring orchid show and we enjoyed his enthusiasm and willingness to include interested delegates in the judging process. Calvin is going to share with us his experiences travelling to Japan, attending the largest orchid festival in the world. The fabulous poster shown here is advertising the 2016 festival and can be found on the website of the Japan Grand Prix <http://www.jgpweb.com> Perhaps after seeing Calvin's presentation we'll be considering travel to Japan in February!

**Plant Pre-Order** Calvin Wong is taking pre-orders and will bring the plants with him for payment & pickup at the October meeting. Orders must be emailed to Cheryl or Heather by Oct 22. The plant list is on the SOS website.

**Plant sale** Calvin Wong will be bringing plants to sell to the membership! As a courtesy to our guest speaker please do not bring your plants to sell at this meeting.

**Plant raffle** There will be a plant raffle this month, with plants donated by Saskatoon Coop and Safeway. Tickets can be purchased from SOS Librarians Jan or Deb at the library table, one for \$1 or three for \$2.

### Meeting Agenda:

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

**Show & Tell** If you have a flowering orchid, please bring it to the meeting and tell us about it (or ask Bob or Sherida to present the plant for you!).

**Treats Signup Sheet** The sign up sheet to volunteer to bring treats to future meetings will be at the entrance table where you pick up your name badge. Please see Shirley for more information.

**Possible T5 light fixture order!** Pat is in discussions with Early's Farm & Garden Centre, exploring the possibility of ordering Sunblaster T5 light fixtures without reflectors at a discount price, with an order of 25-30 fixtures. The estimated price is \$33 per 4-ft fixture. There will be 2 or 3-ft fixtures for order also. If you are interested please see Pat and Yvette at the Resources Table on Sunday. Currently Early's is selling only 4-ft T5 light fixtures with reflectors for \$49.95.

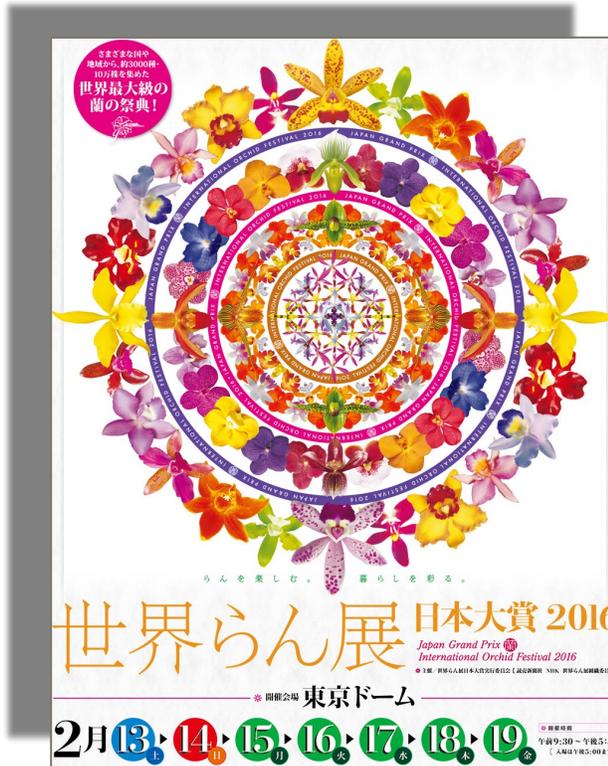
NOTE: If you're shopping for orchid supplies at Early's you'll need to present your SOS membership card to qualify for the 10% discount.

### Mark your Calendars!

Orchid Society of Alberta Annual Show in Edmonton: set up March 31, 2016, Judging & Show: Apr 1 - 3, 2016;

Gardenscape: April 8 - 10, 2016;

Foothills Orchid Society Annual Show in Calgary: May 28 - 29, 2016



## SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING MINUTES

### Announcements

Bob Lucas welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Membership fees are due for the September 2015 to May 2016 year, unchanged for this year. A single membership is \$25, family \$30; one voting privilege per family.

Membership privileges will be maintained until November, but will be revoked after that if not renewed.

Heather Anderson is acting treasurer today, filling in for Cheryl Grummet.

There is a selection of flowering Phalaenopsis plants for today's plant raffle. Plants are donated by Saskatoon Coop and made available to the society by Sherida. Tickets can be purchased at the library table.

Members brought plants for sale and Bob reminded the membership of the plant sale procedure.

There will be a new procedure for determining who brings treats for the meetings. There is a sign-up sheet at the name tag table and members can volunteer for the month that best suits their schedule. At the end of the year the names of all those who brought treats will be entered into a draw; the winner will receive an orchid plant.

Members were reminded that one of their membership privileges is a 10% discount on orchid related supplies at Early's Farm & Garden Centre. Present your membership card at the time of purchase.

The purchase of 2016 orchid calendars produced by Judith Wigham will be used as a fundraiser again this year. The cost is \$15 per calendar with payment due in November. The deadline is today, please add to the list at the front table your name and the number of calendars you would like to purchase.

There is a box of miscellaneous pots at the resource table, free for the taking. These were

donated to Bob some time ago and he has donated them to the society.

Members are encouraged to bring plants for Show & Tell. There is a lottery in the spring for all those participating. If a member is uncomfortable speaking in public, the information about the plant can be given to Bob or Sherida and they will be happy to

talk about the plant on behalf of the member.

Yvette reported from the resource table that sphagnum moss will no longer be supplied. In the past it has been purchased in bulk from Early's and repackaged into smaller portions for resale. Early's no longer sells it in bulk and there are no savings to be passed. Members are encouraged to buy the moss from Early's directly.

The library has a number of back issues of AOS Bulletin magazines that are free to anyone who wants them.

Heather provided a last follow-up to the COC show: one disputed invoice from Prairieland has been sorted out. There was a profit to the SOS of around \$500 on the show. The list of vendors attending the COC show was given to Prairieland and contact the vendors and invite them to Gardenscape 2016.



### The Backyard Photo Shoot

Sara Thue

### Problem Corner

A *Dendrobium* develops black spots on the leaves, which eventually turn yellow and drop off. It was suggested that it could be due to a virus. On closer inspection it was noted that the backs of the leaves appeared silvery, suggesting a spider mite infestation. The plant's owner said she hadn't seen any evidence of them. It was recommended that the plant be wiped down with a cotton swab saturated with 70% rubbing alcohol, repeated weekly 3 or 4 times. Affected plants should be quarantined.

A *Paphiopedilum* has lots of new shoots but the older leaves are turning yellow. This is a natural process, with older leaves eventually yellowing, drying and dropping off. The plant looks healthy.

### Show and Tell

Thirty one flowering orchids were shown by Pat Randall, Al Hartridge, James Wood, Tracey Thue, Heather Anderson, Calvin Lo, Mary Orchard, Sherida Gregoire, Cheryl Adamson, Sara Thue, Don Keith, Ellen Ross and Bob Lucas.

### Break

Treats were provided by Lori Pozniak, Pat Randall, Cheryl Grummett and Tracey Thue.

### Presentation

Orchids of the Far East - Bob and Liz's Excellent Adventure, by Bob Lucas, photos by Liz Harrison

Bob gave an account of his and wife Liz's spring trip to Singapore, Viet Nam and Taiwan, concentrating mainly on Taiwan. Bob pointed out that the photos were taken by Liz, since Bob was too busy looking at plants and considering which ones to bring home! Bob had contacted Matt Wei-Yi Chen of Ten Shin Gardens prior to leaving Canada and Matt and his parents provided extraordinary hospitality to Bob and Liz during their visit. They were generously hosted for two days in their home, touring them around to orchid growers and breeders, and taking them to the noodle hotspots. Matt does not hybridize plants himself, but buys plants from other growers, finishes and sells them, allowing him to sell a wide variety of plants. Bob shared stories about the various growers he and Liz met and photos of spectacular displays of plants

available, including several plants that he purchased and had shipped back to Canada. He also included slides of various unique landmarks in Taiwan, including the Jianguo Holiday Flower Market in Taipei. Thanks to Bob (and Liz) for sharing the orchid portion of their trip with us!

### Plant Raffle

There were 28 plants in the raffle, donated by Saskatoon Co-op & Safeway, provided by Sherida.

### Plant Sale

Several dozen plants were brought by members to sell. Included were a dozen or so *Oncidium* Twinkle plants left over from the re-potting demonstrations at the spring COC show, purchased from Forestview Gardens by the SOS. Some of these were in spike.

### Adjournment

Approximately 3:15 pm.

## SOS SEPTEMBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



*Dendrobium laevifolium*  
Grower: Sherida Gregoire



*Lepanthes tsubotae*  
Grower: Don Keith



*Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Orange Fire'*  
Grower: Pat Randall



*Paphiopedilum Kiryu (armeniacum x  
godefroyae var leucochilum)*  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*  
Grower: Sara Thue



*Paphiopedilum Lefty Kei*  
(William Ambler x *sanderianum*)  
Grower: Sherida Gregoire



*Dendrobium longi-cornu 'Ernie Katler'*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



*Cattleya Minerva 'Garrett' HCC/AOS*  
(*loddigessii x bowringiana*)  
Grower: Pat Randall



*Paphiopedilum victoria-reginae*  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Rbl Ports of Paradise*  
'Green Ching Hua' AM/AOS  
Grower: Pat Randall



*Phragmipedium Ruby Slippers*  
(*caudatum x besseae*)  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Specklinia grobyi*  
Grower: Tracey Thue



*Aerangis kirkii*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



*Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Bucklebury'  
FCC/AOS  
Grower: Al Hartridge



*Trisitella hoeijeri*  
Grower: Don Keith



*Ansellia africana*  
Grower: Al Hartridge



*Paphiopedilum* Fairly Galaxy  
Grower: Tracey Thue



*Phragmipedium besseae* 'Pucker' x 'Colossal'  
Grower: Bob Lucas

*Phalaenopsis* Freed's  
Beautiful Girl x  
*equestris*  
Grower: Bob Lucas



## Ramblings and Readings of an Orchid Obsessive

by Tracey Thue

I'm in love with *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum*; and any cross with *Paph fairrieanum* in its background. When I first began growing orchids I thought this species was a bit weird, but when I saw in person a plant of the species in flower, my opinion changed entirely. I was captivated by the sweet ruffled edges of petals and sepals, the adorable down- and back-swept sepals, glistening texture, and stripes of green and purple. I now have 3 or 4 plants of the species and a couple of hybrids with *fairrieanum* in the parentage. I'm hedging my bets at getting one to flower as I find them a challenge to keep healthy. One plant is a semi-album, flowers mostly white with green stripes and pouch with a very faint tinge of pink in the dorsal petal. As it opens it's like a young girl, shyly hiding behind her bonnet.



Flowering in my collection now for the first time is *Paphiopedilum Fairly Galaxy* (*Paph fairrieanum* 'Matrix' x *Paph Icy Galaxy* 'Over the Top'), a hybrid I purchased from Orchid Inn last spring, which at that time hadn't yet been registered. I'm thrilled with it! As soon as it opened I began researching the parentage of the plant, looking at all the crosses that were involved over the decades tracing them back to the species contributing the genetics to make this delightful flower before me.



*Paph Icy Galaxy* is a cross between *Paph Stargate* and *Ice Castle*, made by K. Usuki of Orchid Zone, registered in 2007. Also in the ancestry are well known names like *Paph Skip Bartlett*, *Paph Winston Churchill*, *Paph F.C. Puddle*, *Paph Actaeus*. And so it goes, right back to 1884 with *Paph Leeaenum (insigne x spicerianum)*, registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) by Lawrence. With my exploration into the family tree of *Paph Icy Galaxy* I noticed the same breeders and orchid houses showing up a number of times: Orchid Zone in the 1990s, Rod McLellan Co. in the 50s and 60s, S. Low in the 40s and 50s, Armacost in the 40s, 50s and early 60s, G.F. Moore from the 1900s through to the 20s, Black and Flory in the 10s to the 40s, and all the way back to Veitch in the 1890s. What are the stories behind these names? Who were the people growing and flowering these species when growing requirements were unknown and genetic inheritance still somewhat a mystery? I was diverted from my parentage research of *Paph Fairly Galaxy* to find out more about the past world of orchid growers and breeders. Oh the ease of internet searches! So much information offered up with so little effort. A search of "Black and Flory orchids" turned up an interesting piece on the history of Slough, a town about 30 km west of London, England ([http://www.sloughhistoryonline.org.uk/asset\\_arena/text/pdf/sl/sl/sl-sl-max\\_chapter10-d-02-000.pdf](http://www.sloughhistoryonline.org.uk/asset_arena/text/pdf/sl/sl/sl-sl-max_chapter10-d-02-000.pdf)) which described the firm Veitch & Sons, who "pioneered the hybridisation of orchids in 1856" opening nurseries in Slough in 1880.

Thirty years later Veitch's went out of business in Slough and the "orchid department was taken over by the new world-famous firm of Messrs. Black and Flory, Orchid Specialists." Black and Flory was originally Flory & Black. "Sidney William Flory, who had been associated with his uncle, H. Tracy in the Orchard Nursery at Amyand Park, Twickenham, came to Slough in 1914 to take over the Orchid Hybrid establishment of James Vetch & Sons, Ltd., and took John Mackenzie Black, who had been working with Thwaites of Streatham, into partnership. Black & Flory produced many new varieties of orchids at their nursery in Nursery Lane, Middle Green, one of the best-known being **Cattleya Bow Bells**."

There's a wonderful article titled The Bow Bells Revolution on the website of Chadwick & Son Orchids, Inc. describing the making of Bow Bells, and the sad fate of one of its parent plants, *Cattleya Suzanne Hye* (<http://www.chadwickorchids.com/node/463>). When John Black died, the nursery was taken over by his son Peter Mackenzie Black, who went on to publish books on orchids and orchid growing, including The Complete Book of Orchid Growing, published by Ward Lock, London in 1980. I have a copy of a later printing of this book, a gift from my brother living in London purchased from his favourite book shop; now that I know a little of the author's background I value it even more!



**Cattleya Bow Bells 'Honolulu'**

Image used with permission by grower & photographer Matthias Seelis, ShogunHawaii  
URL: <http://shogunhawaii.com/cattleya.html>

I found myself visiting the Biodiversity Heritage Library, reading volume 31 of *The Orchid Review*, published in 1923 (<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/113862#page/321/mode/1up>). What fascinating reading! Linking to volume 1, published in January, 1893, the opening paragraphs describe the program

intent: "establish a monthly repertorium of information on every important branch of Orchidology, and to present it to the reader in a form suitable both for present and future reference." The first article in this volume entitled "The History of Orchid Hybridisation", mentions an announcement by Dr. Lindley in the pages of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, in January, 1858, describing the flowering of the first man-made hybrid. "On the 28th October Mr. James Vetch, jun., of the Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, brought to the writer of this memorandum a flower of a *Calanthe* which combined the peculiar hairy forked spur and deeply lobed lip of the white *Calanthe furcata* [Ed. synonym *sylvatica*], with the violet colour and broad middle lobe of the lip of *Calanthe masuca* [Ed. synonym *triplicata*]." This first hybrid was named **Calanthe Dominii**, to honour John Dominy, head gardener for Veitch who made the cross in 1853 and flowered it for the first time 3 years later. Illustration by



Havermans, F. 1896. *Calanthe x dominii* LINDL. Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Herbarium Jany Renz. Botanical Institute, University of Basel, Switzerland.

Is it weird that reading this paragraph gave me a thrill? What history, leaping off the printed page (via my laptop screen) through 122 years to my delighted eyes! The next article, “*Cypripedium x Niobe*” describes the first *Paphiopedilum* hybrid made (the genus was still called *Cypripedium* in 1893) with an illustration of the cross between *C. spicerianum* and *C. fairrieianum*, “raised in the collection of Messrs. James Veitch & Sons, of Chelsea, by Mr. Seden.” A fairrieianum hybrid! This one is going onto my wishlist! To own a *Paphiopedilum* Niobe would be to reach back into time and be a part of the exciting days of early hybridization! A search of the web took me to this gorgeous illustration of Paph Niobe in an early publication (Havermans, F. 1896. *Paphiopedilum Niobe* VEITCH. Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Herbarium Jany Renz. Botanical Institute, University of Basel, Switzerland. URL: <https://orchid.unibas.ch/index.php/en/database-search/advanced-search?SearchResultID=305860>. Retrieved October 2, 2015).



Well, I’ve rambled far, far away from my parentage search of Paph Fairly Galaxy, and in so doing learned some wonderful orchid history sources for hours more reading, exploring and delving into the past, and maybe giving direction to some future orchid purchases.



*Eulophia horsfallii* (left) is a terrestrial orchid with an inflorescence up to 3m tall growing in swamps and open vegetation at 1900-2600m. Once widespread throughout tropical Africa it is threatened due to swamp cultivation. In 2012 I travelled with my husband to Rwanda; while there we hiked the Kamiranzovu Trail in Nyungwe National Park and came upon a few plants still in flower. The Kamiranzovu swamp is the largest peat bog in Africa and was the habitat of the last elephants in Nyungwe. Dominating vegetation in the swamp include *Cyperus* species, *Crassocephalum paludum* (bottom right), *Impatiens mildbraedii* (bottom left) and other orchids including *Satyrium crassicaule* and *Disa emini*. Bushes & trees are densely covered with cushions of bryophytes, lichens and vascular epiphytes.



Reference: Fischer, E. & D. Killmann, 2008. Illustrated Field Guide to the Plants of Nyungwe National Park Rwanda. Koblenz Geographical Colloquia, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany.

Photos: Tracey & Marlow Thue

