

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 (blind copy so your email address remains private), please notify me at thues@sasktel.net.

Future Meeting Dates:

May 28, 2017 Sept 17, 2017 Oct 22, 2017
(fall dates to be confirmed)

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:	Debbie Huculiak Don Keith
Newsletter:	Tracey Thue
COC/AOS Rep:	Tom Kondra
Speakers:	Heather Anderson
Webmaster:	Calvin Lo
Mail Address:	SOS, Box 411 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3
Web Address:	www.saskorchids.com
facebook:	https:// www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?

April Meeting

The general meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at John Dolan School, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Activities planned for this meeting include our **Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser** and **Election for the SOS 2017-2018 Executive**.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

6th Annual Silent Auction SOS Fundraiser

Members are asked to bring orchids and orchid-related items for the auction. **This is our main fundraising event of the year, and it's open to all, including non-members, so invite family and friends!** Members bringing items for the auction can specify the percentage of the sale price to be donated to the SOS, either 50% (with 50% going to the donating member) or 100% of the price going to the society.

Please be generous with your bids!

Membership Renewals for September 2017 - May 2018

Take advantage of the incentives offered for early renewals!

Members renewing their membership at the April and May general meetings will be rewarded with a choice of a \$5 coupon for the SOS supply table, or a Phalaenopsis seedling donated by Bob Lucas.

There are a limited number of plants, so it's first come, first served!



Row of *Paphiopedilum* hybrids
Grown and displayed by Paul Paludet at OSA Show 2017

Meeting Agenda:

Silent Auction
Announcements
Problem Corner
Show and Tell

BREAK:

Treats/Supplies/Library
SOS Executive Election
Awards Draws
Adjournment



ANNUAL AWARDS DRAWS

The 6th Annual Wilma Nykiforuk Memorial Award Sarah Nykiforuk, Wilma's sister, will select her favourite plant on this month's Show & Tell table and the owner of the chosen plant will receive an orchid in bloom.

The Annual Show & Tell Draw Names of members who have brought plants to the meetings for Show & Tell during the last year will be placed into the draw, once for every month they brought plants. The winner of the draw must be at the April meeting and will receive a blooming orchid.

The Treats Volunteer Draw will be made in recognition of those generously volunteering to bring treats to our general meetings. Your name will be entered for every month you brought treats. The winner of the draw must be at the April meeting and will receive a blooming orchid.

SOS Executive 2017-2018 Election

Current executive members are willing to let their names stand for all positions. However help is always welcome and if you are interested in serving on the Executive, please speak with Bob Lucas or any other Executive member.

Awards to SOS plants at the OSA Show!

Thanks to Bob, Tracey, Lori, Sherida, Cheryl A. and Heather for contributing plants for the display. Bob registered orchids entered for judging & drove the display structure & plants to the venue; Tracey, Lori and Sherida met him there and helped with setup on Thursday. Cheryl & Heather arrived Saturday & collected pre-ordered plants from vendors; Sunday at the end of the show they packed up display plants and structure, loaded the van and drove home Sunday night. Monday evening Cheryl distributed show plants and pre-ordered plants to all involved. Thanks so much for all the work to make this a successful weekend!

Dryadella simula
Best Masdevallia/Pleurothallis in the show &
Best Miniature in the show
Grown by Tracey Thue



Best Visiting Society Display
Best Display of 16-25 Plants



AOS Award Nominations:
Paphiopedilum Wekiva Springs (left)
Phragmipedium High Voltage (right)
Grown by Lori Pozniak



AOS Award to Phragmipedium Red Flare 'Elizabeth'
AM/AOS 83 points
Grown by Bob Lucas

Phragmipedium Dominionum 'Bob Mac' HCC/AOS
Best Phragmipedium in the show &
Best Orchid Grown Under Lights
Grown by Bob Lucas



MARCH 19 MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

Bob Lucas welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Plant raffle: plants are donated by the Saskatoon Coop and Dutch Growers. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 3 for \$2

Plants on the sale table are sold by lottery. Membership numbers should be left at the front table.

Today's speaker is Calvin Lo, on the topic "A Fascination with Orchids".

Gardenscape is March 24-26th. Our display location is in Hall D/E, west of the Prairie Berry Cafe. Closest access is through the Ruth St. entrance. Plants for the display can be dropped off at the display between 3:30pm and 5:30pm Thursday and picked up between 5 - 5:30pm Sunday. Plants should be groomed and staked, and should have the owner's name on the bottom of the pot.

Dave Nixon from the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation will be bringing the pre-ordered plants to Gardenscape. Sherida will be collecting them and will let the appropriate people know where and when they can be picked up.

The Orchid Society of Alberta Show and Canadian Orchid Congress AGM will be held in Edmonton on April 7-9, 2017. The SOS will be participating by entering a display and plants will be needed. Plants can be dropped off at Bob's house on Wed, Apr 5 between 7-9pm. People bringing plants should give Bob a list of names of the plants by Sunday, April 2 so he can pre-register them. The deadlines for pre-orders are on the SOS website.

We are considering sharing speakers with the Orchid Society of Alberta (Edmonton) and the Foothills Orchid Society (Calgary) to save travel costs for international speakers. This would require us to move our meeting day to Saturday to accommodate the speaker's schedule: Edmonton on Sunday afternoon, Calgary Monday evening. The John

Dolan school is available for Saturday meetings. A show of hands from the member attending today's meeting indicated the following: Option 1 (No change): 0 votes; Option 2 (meetings changed to Saturday only when there is a guest speaker): 20 votes; Option 3 (all meetings held on Saturday): 5 votes. Most attendees indicated they would attend a Saturday afternoon meeting if there were a guest speaker. Bob will continue discussions with the other societies to share featured speakers. A decision will be made by the May meeting.

Treats today were provided by Valerie Martz, Judy Lozinski, Eugene Kucey, Jenn Burgess, Kathryn Hiller, Sandy Roberts and Lori Pozniak. Thank you! A couple more people are needed to bring snacks for the April meeting.

The April meeting will be the annual silent auction, the society's major fundraiser of the year. Members can bring plants and orchid-related materials for the auction. Proceeds can be designated 50% to the SOS and 50% to the member, or 100% to the SOS. Also at the April meeting will be elections for the executive. If interested in serving on the executive, see Bob or another member of the executive.

The Richmond, BC Judging Centre, which is presently a satellite centre of the American Orchid Society Judging Centre in Seattle, is requesting independent status to create the Western Canada

Judging Centre. It could then have satellite judging centres, possibly with one in Edmonton. Bob has provided a letter of support for the proposal, on

behalf of the SOS.

Resources

There are still two, 3-ft T5 bulbs available. There is now a quantity of paper and plastic sleeves for wrapping plants to take outside in cold weather. These were donated by the now defunct Brookside Orchids.

Problem Corner

None reported this month.

Show and Tell

Sixteen plants were shown by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe, Mary Orchard, Pat Randall, Don Keith, Jennifer Osachoff, Tom Kondra and Calvin Lo.



Cattleya skinneri var. alba

Grown & shown by Terry Letendre
at OSA Show 2017

Presentation: Bob Lucas introduced Calvin Lo, a member of the SOS. Calvin moved to Saskatoon from Ontario in 2014, bringing with him 3 suitcases of mounted orchids. He describes himself as a hobbyist orchid grower interested in species, with a focus on African *Angraecoids*.

A Fascination with Orchids

Images in Calvin's presentation came from Google and from his own collection. Although he is not a botanist, his background in science has led to a fascination of the interaction between orchids and their insect partners.

Orchids, A Brief History Orchids have been cultivated for thousands of years in Ancient China. Some Chinese medical texts describe the medicinal qualities of *Dendrobiums* and other species of orchids. It was in the 1800s that orchid delirium struck the West. The naturalist William J. Swainson went to Brazil in 1816 to study birds. However, he saw many interesting plants there, and collected ferns, mosses, palms and other tropical plants to ship back to Britain. To prepare them for the months-long voyage, he packaged them in old "husks" he pulled off trees. It turned out that these old husks were actually pseudobulbs of *Cattleyas*, and they bloomed while most of the other plants he brought back died. These orchids set off the orchid craze in Britain. Henry Frederick Sander was a very prolific collector of orchids, with 23 collectors working under him.

The Most Specialized Flowers The Asteraceae is the largest plant family, with about 32,000 species. Second to that is the Orchidaceae family, with about 28,000 species. This is more than the number of bird species that exist, and about double the number of mammals. While the members of the Asteraceae are all rather similar in structure, orchids are very different. They exhibit extreme flower specialization, especially in the lip.

Orchids: Experts of Attraction The flowers of orchids are sex organs, and attract pollinators. 60% of orchids are

specialized to a single pollinator, so such species are fairly rare. Orchid pollen is contained in packets called "pollinia".

Bulbophyllum: A Smelly Lure As an example, Calvin showed pictures of *Bulbophyllum* growing in the hot, tropical jungle of Borneo. The leaves are cup-shaped to catch detritus and debris. The debris eventually turns to compost, which trickles down and feeds the plant. When conditions are right, the orchid will flower, with an odour like rotting fish. They attract flies which then pollinate them. These plants are known as "corpse flowers" or "carrion flowers".

Myrmecophilia: Free Lodging The name *Myrmecophilia* means "ant lover". They are found in hot, sunny treetops in the Yucatan. They have fat juicy pseudobulbs which are actually hollow, with up to 70%

having ant colonies living inside. There were two theories about these ant colonies. One was that they were there to feed off other insects. The second was that the ants were actually there to feed the plant. Scientific research using carbon isotope tagging showed that the orchids feed off the dead ants.

Ophrys apifera: The Bee Mimic "*Apifera*" means "bee bringer". Widespread in Europe and North Africa, this plant looks and smells like female bees or wasps. There is said to be a different species of *Ophrys* for every type of bee. Calvin showed a YouTube video of a bee pollinating an *Ophrys apifera*. [Editor's note: see this and other videos on the

SOS website <http://www.saskorchids.com/links.html>]

The Angraecoids: Just Within Reach These plants have very long spurs, with nectar found only at the very tip. In particular, *Angraecum sesquipedale*, which grows in Madagascar, has spurs that are often more than 25 cm long. In 1862 Charles Darwin examined this plant and postulated that there must be a moth (a moth because the flower is scented at night) in Madagascar with a 25 cm tongue that pollinates it. His prediction was met with derision at the time, but was later found to be true when such a moth, the *Xanthopan morgani* *predicta*, was discovered in Madagascar decades after Darwin's death. This was confirmed by observation of the pollination process nearly 150 years after Darwin predicted it.



Angraecum equitans
Grower: Calvin Lo

There are numerous examples of insect tongues matching orchid nectaries (spurs). Long-tongued moths are fatter and reproduce faster than short-tongued moths. Also, long spurs present an advantage for the orchids: the moths have to nuzzle in more closely, so the orchids are more likely to be pollinated, and over time, long-spurred orchids do better than short-spurred ones. Calvin showed a fascinating video, taken with an infrared camera in 2002, of the *X. morganii predicta* moth pollinating an *A. sesquipedale* orchid.

Coryanthes: Elaborate Traps *Coryanthes*, which are related to *Stanhopea*, have a bucket-like lip filled with a sticky fluid. Over the "bucket", the flower has a hood and scented oils are produced under the hood. However, the surface under the hood is slippery, and male bees attracted by this fragrance fall into the bucket. The bucket has only one way out, a narrow exit below the pollinia. Covered with the sticky fluid, the bee tries to climb out past the pollinia and the pollen particles stick to the bee. The plant holds the bee there until the sticky fluid has dried and the pollen is stuck to the bee, often as long as an hour. Then the plant

releases the bee, which flies away to visit another plant, thus completing the fertilization process. Calvin showed a video illustrating the pollen-gathering process. Two pollen sacs, each containing thousands of pollen grains, are glued to the fly's back, the only pollen sacs the flower will ever produce.

Conclusion Orchids are more than just pretty flowers. There are unique relationships between orchids and their insect partners, and there is still much to learn about these relationships.

Plant Raffle

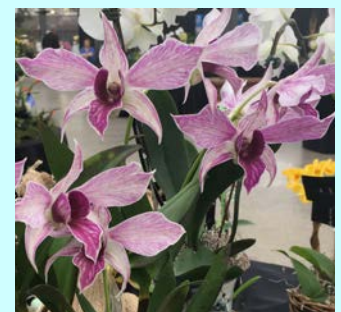
All 15 plants donated by Saskatoon Co-op and Dutch Growers were claimed.

Plant Sale

There were ten plants on the sale table and all sold.

Adjournment Approx. 3:05 pm.

More photos from the OSA Show



SOS MARCH SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Dendrobium Star Sapphire
Grower: Pat Randall



Zygostates alleniana
Grower: Calvin Lo



Paphiopedilum Aladin
(*Paph. Atlantis* x *Paph. delenatii*)
Grower: Donna Carlson-O'Keefe



Masdevallia lilacina
Grower: Don Keith



Platystele stenostachya
Grower: Tom Kondra



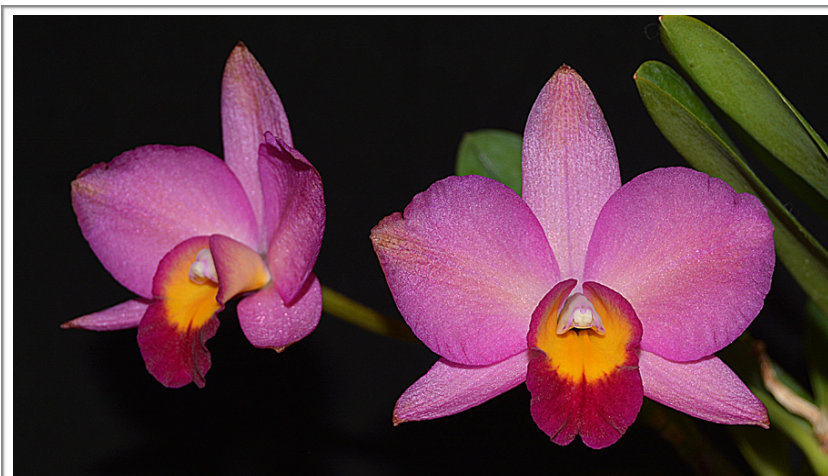
Dendrobium kingianum
Grower: Pat Randall



Dendrobium unicum
Grower: Calvin Lo



Porroglossum dreisei
Grower: Tom Kondra



Rhyncattleanthe [syn Potinara] Petitpetit Lucky
Grower: Pat Randall



Coelogyne cristata
Grower: Merle Ward (and a second
plant shown by Jennifer Osachoff)



Leptotes
Grower: Merle Ward



Cymbidium sinense 'Ri Xiang'
Grower: Shirley Keith



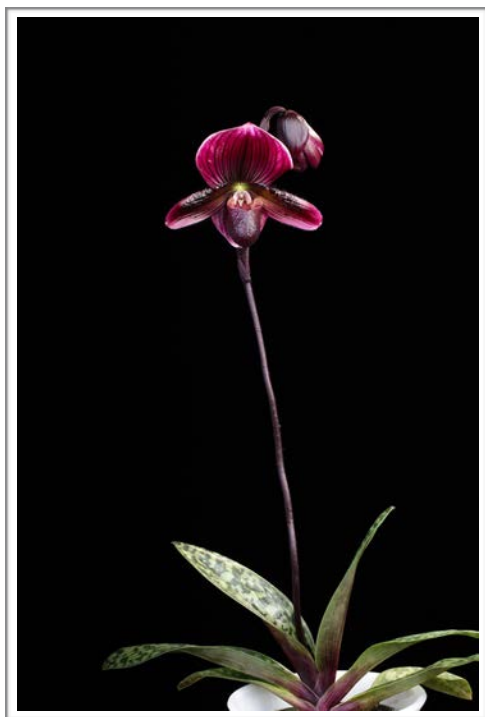
Maxillaria tenuifolia
Grower: Merle Ward



Tolumnia
Grower: Pat Randall

**AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Centre-Richmond's Monthly Judging
at the Vancouver Orchid Society Show March 25, 2017**

Photography by Judith Higham and Ed Higham



***Paphiopedilum Maudiae* 'Miles Raymond'**
AM/AOS 82pts

(*Paph. callosum* x *Paph. lawrenceanum*)

Exhibitor: Bev Hansen



***Paphiopedilum Bel Royal* 'Dave'** AM/AOS
80pts

(*Paph. rothschildianum* x *Paph. kolopakingii*)

Exhibitor: Poul Hansen



Show Trophy 'Forget Me Not' ST/AOS 82pts

Exhibitor: Tropical Gardens Orchids | Calvin Wong

What's Blooming in the OSPF Collection?

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation <http://orchidspecies.ca>

Compiled by Dave Nixon, photographs by Doug Bovee/Dave Nixon

Information sourced from *Orchidwiz*, *Charles Baker*, *Orchid Photographic Encyclopedia*, *The Plant List*, *Wikipedia*

Neomoorea* [Nma.] *wallisii

This is the only species in the genus *Neomoorea*, named after English Botanist Frederick William Moore (1857-1949).

The species is named after Gustav Wallis, one of Vetch and Sons' orchid hunters. The species is commonly known as "The Dew-dropped *Neomoorea*". The plant is a medium-sized epiphyte growing on trees or a semi-terrestrial on the ground at low elevations in cloud forests of Northern Colombia and Panama. It produces a 6 - 8 inch racemose inflorescence typically with several 10 - 20 waxy, 2.5" fragrant flowers. Always uncommon, the species is now reported to be very scarce in its natural habitat. This specimen was donated to the OSPF by Terry Letendre.



Pelexia* [Pel.] *laxa

Another new genus, *Pelexia* has approximately 88 terrestrial species occurring throughout tropical America and are commonly referred to as "Helmet Orchids".

This species, often known as "the Lax or Loose *Pelexia*" was first discovered in Peru growing in swampy woods, but has now been found throughout tropical America, Central America and into southern Mexico.

Pelexia laxa is a rather robust terrestrial plant with growths up to 45 cm (18 in) tall, producing many flowers on each inflorescence.

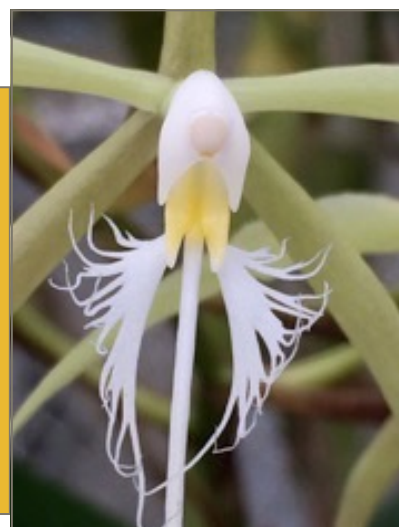
This plant was purchased by the OSPF in 2014 and is kept in the hot, shaded part of the greenhouse with high humidity.



Epidendrum* [Epi.] *ciliare

Returning to more familiar *Epidendrum* family, to one of my personal favourites. The "Spider or Chicken-feather Orchid" is found from Mexico, throughout Central America and the northern parts of South America. This species is not only distributed over a very large area, but plants have been reported at elevations from near sea level to about 2500 m (8200 ft). It grows in dense clumps, forming large colonies on boulders, cliff faces and tree trunks.

This plant is grown in the hot section of the greenhouse in bright indirect light. We unfortunately don't know how this specimen came into the collection but it was first catalogued in the 1996 inventory of the collection.

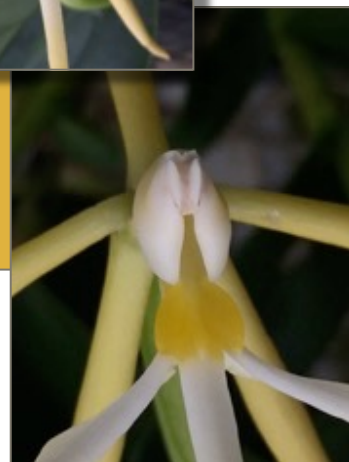
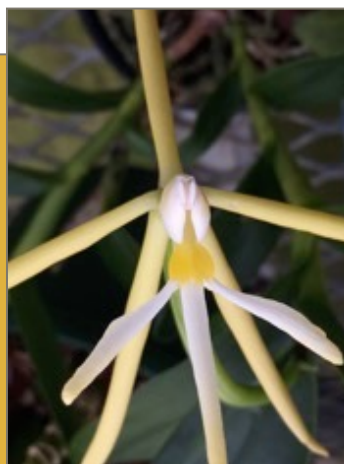


Epidendrum [Epi.] nocturnum

Continuing with the *Epidendrum* genus, *Epi. nocturnum* or “The Night-Scented Epidendrum” can be found from southern Florida, through Mexico and Central America, the West Indies and into northern South America as far south as Peru, Bolivia and Brazil.

Plants grow mostly as epiphytes on trees and rocks, but occasionally grow as terrestrials. They are found in wet and dry regions, growing in tall evergreen lowland forests, in open fields, and disturbed forests. The flowers are quite large, spanning 3-5 inches and are very fragrant, particularly at night. Plants can produce flowers for more than one season, with flowers successively opening over months on newly mature and older pseudobulbs.

This plant is mentioned in the 1996 inventory and is grown in the hot section of the greenhouse in bright indirect light.



Brassavola [B.] perrinii

Concluding this month's offering is a species from yet another new genus to this column, *Brassavola*. The 28 epiphytic, sometimes lithophytic species of the genus *Brassavola* are spread throughout the tropical lowland Americas. Most are heavily fragrant at night and many have a citrus scent and are likely pollinated by moths attracted to this nocturnal scent. The genus is allied with the *Cattleyas* and are used extensively in hybridizing. The genus is named after an Italian Doctor Antonio Musa Brassavola (1500 - 1555) (pictured) who not only had a passion for biology but has the distinction of performing the first successful tracheotomy around 1546.

The species is named after a Mr. Perrin, an English gardener in the 1800s. *Brassavola perrinii* is found in Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and possibly Argentina at elevations of 1980 to 2580 m (6500-8500 ft).

This plant is grown in the hot shaded section of the greenhouse and also formed part of the 1996 inventory of the collection.