

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

## Future Meeting Dates:

Apr 23, 2017	May 28, 2017	Sept 17, 2017
Oct 22, 2017	<i>(fall dates to be confirmed)</i>	

## 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>	Debbie Huculiak Don Keith
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Tracey Thue
<b>COC/AOS Rep:</b>	Tom Kondra
<b>Speakers:</b>	Heather Anderson
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Calvin Lo
<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>

## March Meeting

The general meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at John Dolan School, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

**Calvin Lo**, SOS member and SOS Executive serving as webmaster will present "A Fascination with Orchids: Adaptation of Orchidaceae".



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Presentation - Calvin Lo,** presenting "A Fascination with Orchids: Adaptation of Orchidaceae". Words from Calvin by way of introduction: "When I moved to Saskatchewan in 2014 from Ontario, the biggest stress wasn't buying new furniture or finding a new house, it was safely transporting 3 suitcases full of mounted orchids 3200km across the country! I'm a hobbyist orchid grower interested in species with a focus on African Angraecoids. Growing with limited space has sculpted an interest in smaller species, although I

### Meeting Agenda:

Announcements  
Problem Corner  
Show and Tell  
BREAK: Treats/  
Supplies/Library  
Presentation  
Plant Sale  
Plant Raffle  
Adjournment

suspect that if I ever do get a greenhouse, larger orchids will inevitably find their way on to the wish list. With a background in science, I've always been fascinated by how things work and the process of optimization. Orchids are the ultimate study subject, where the perfect intersection of light, humidity, watering, and fertilizer produces the most rewarding of prizes".



*Aerangis luteoalba*  
*var. rhodosticta*

### Spring Plant Pre-orders!

**Orchid Species Preservation Foundation** is taking pre-orders and will bring the plants to Gardenscape. Deadline for ordering is March 15. The list is posted on the SOS website.

A number of SOS members will be attending the OSA Annual Show in April. Pre-orders are being taken for the following show vendors; send your lists to Heather Anderson or Cheryl Adamson, deadlines are as follows:

**Ching Hua** is March 20 (prices in US dollars, + shipping & handling); see plant lists on the SOS website.

**Ten Shin Gardens** deadline is March 13, prices in US dollars, updated plant list is on the SOS website.

**Gold Country Orchids** deadline is March 18, prices in US dollars with 20% discount on the order (no extra charge for shipping & CITES), plants shipped bare root. Plant list is on the SOS website.

**Forestview** deadline is March 31 (Forestview usually gives a 10% discount on all pre-orders); see their offerings here

<http://www.fvgardens.com>

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

**Plant raffle** There will be plants for the raffle, donated by Dutch Growers and possibly Saskatoon Co-op and Safeway. Tickets can be purchased at the library table, 1 ticket for \$1 or 3 for \$2.

### GARDENScape

March 24 - 26, 2017

The SOS is entering a display. Bring your flowering orchids! Please label the pots with your name & bring them to **Prairieland Park, Hall D/E Thursday, March 23, between 3-5 pm. Use the front door to Hall D/E closest to Ruth Street, it's closer to our display location.**

**The volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated at the March meeting.** We need at least 2 people per shift, 3 is even better. Volunteer tags are provided to give you free access to Gardenscape on the day you're volunteering. They'll be distributed at the March 19 meeting or Thursday afternoon when you drop off your plants. If neither time works for you, contact Bob prior to Friday, March 24.

Plants can be picked up Sunday, March 26 between 5-5:30pm.

**Attention to those of us who  
purchased plants from Terry  
Letendre during the Feb meeting.**

Terry emailed Bob with news that upon returning home to Edmonton, two of the plants making the journey to Saskatoon and back have turned black and Terry thinks it may have been heat damage. They were in a box up against the heat vent in the back of the van.

If anyone has experienced similar damage Terry is happy to replace the plant. Please contact Terry directly if you have a plant that turned black (or partially black) within a couple of days of purchase. Terry's email is [tpletendre@gmail.com](mailto:tpletendre@gmail.com).

Cheryl and Heather will stop by Terry's booth at the OSA show next month and bring back any replacement plants.

**Fertilizer and Water Quality - Culture Tips in the  
February 2017 AOS Orchids Magazine**

There's a really good article in this edition written by Sue Bottom after visiting Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries. Strong healthy plants produce more flowers. Plant health depends on many factors and these are briefly discussed. Then Sue dives into water quality. She includes useful tables to which we can refer when optimizing our own water sources and fertilizer. There's one describing water quality terms such as pH and alkalinity, and optimum levels of calcium & magnesium (macronutrients) and sodium (toxic at high levels) for healthy orchids. A great flow chart suggests fertilizer choices based on whether you have water of low or high alkalinity, then how to correct for the pH drifting away from the optimum of pH 6. There's a great series of photos by Roy Tokunaga showing a saturation test method for checking the pH of the root zone, which is affected by the media in which the plant is growing. Check it out, the magazine will be in our library collection!

If you're interested, here's a link to the City of Saskatoon website listing city tap water quality as measured in 2015. <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/power-water/water-wastewater/drinking-water/water-quality-characteristics-2015>

**Another Opportunity for AOS Judging at the Edmonton Show**

Greetings all;

By some surreptitious planning (an oxymoron?), our orchid show is on the same weekend that the American Orchid Society monthly judging in Vancouver is to take place. Since most judges from the Vancouver area will be at our show, there was a vote to have both judging (show and monthly) at the Edmonton show. So what that means is that all the plants in the show will be looked at by the AOS judges (unless otherwise stated not for AOS judging) and there will also be an extra opportunity to have your plants evaluated without entering them into the show itself.

Of course we encourage your blooming plants to be in your society display for 3000 plus people to marvel at, but if you have a precious delicate orchid which normally would not sustain the environment in the display hall or those elusive one-day bloom orchids (for example, a Dracula which needs to be kept in 100% humidity or a Stanhopea that didn't open during set up day so you decide not to bring it but on the Friday is in full glorious bloom...(for Abu Salleh all Stanhopea are glorious)... please bring them to the judging room at the Enjoy Centre, St. Albert at 3:00pm on Friday, April 7th. The room is on the lower level directly across from the escalators. They will be ready for pickup again at 5:00pm.

So looking forward to a marvellous 40th Anniversary show!

Monica DeWitt

Orchid Society of Alberta Show Committee, AOS and Ribbon Judging



## FEBRUARY 26 MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

### Announcements

Bob Lucas welcomed members and guests to the meeting, and made particular welcome to the new member attending.

Today's speaker is Terry Letendre speaking first about the WOC shows he's attended, and then how to grow *Bulbophyllum*s. Members who pre-ordered plants from Terry can pick them up from him during the break. Terry also brought many plants for sale.



*Bulbophyllum  
taiwanense*

Plants donated by the Saskatoon Co-op and Safeway will be raffled today. Tickets can be purchased at the Library table, 1 for \$1 or 3 for \$2.

The March general meeting will be held on the 19th, a week early because Gardenscape takes place March 24-26th. We are entering a display and if you have flowering plants you'd like to add, please attach your name to the pot and groom the plant - remove any dead or dying leaves, clean the leaves with a damp cloth, make sure the plant is free of insect pests and stake the flower spike to prevent it breaking during transit. Drop the plants off at Prairieland Park Thursday, March 23 between 3:30pm and 6:00pm. The plants can be picked up at the end of the show Sunday, March 26 between 5-6pm.

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. More information to follow. Several vendors will be attending the OSA show and those SOS members attending will bring back pre-

ordered plants. Links to pre-order lists from the vendors, as well as deadlines are on the SOS website.

The School Board has asked that we wash off tables used during our meeting before putting them away.

Treats today were provided by Becky Janzen, Lynn Campbell, Karen St. Marie, Cheryl Grummett and Lori Pozniak. Thank you!

### Resources

Pat reported that she was unable to get more 4-ft T5 bulbs from Peavey Mart, but they can be purchased from Early's, using one's SOS membership card to get a 10% discount. The SOS Resources table still has two, 3-ft T5 bulbs at \$44 including tax, and two, 2-ft T5 bulbs at \$40.70 including tax.

**Library** The trophy for the Best Display by a Visiting Society, awarded to the SOS at the 2016 OSA Show will be displayed on the library cart for the next couple of months.

### Plant Orders

All available plant lists from vendors attending the OSA Show and taking pre-orders are now on our SOS website. The deadline for OSPF plants for delivery at Gardenscape is March 15. The OSPF plants, unless otherwise noted are mature plants and are of very good quality. Deadlines for the OSA show are: Ten Shin, March 13; Gold Country Orchids, March 18; Ching Hua, March 20; Forestview, March 31. All prices, except Forestview's, are in USD. Gold Country offers a 20% discount, ship bare root with no extra shipping costs.

Others may charge a minimal shipping fee. Orders can be submitted to Heather Anderson or Cheryl Adamson.

### Problem Corner

*None reported this month.*



*Phragmipedium* Hanne Popow

## Show and Tell

Nineteen plants were shown by Tracey Thue, Pat Randall, Tom Kondra, Calvin Lo, Heather Anderson and Bob Lucas.

## Break

**Presentation:** Heather Anderson introduced Terry Letendre, of Terry's Orchids in Edmonton. Terry spoke first of the World Orchid Congresses he has attended, and then gave a presentation on *Bulbophyllums* and how to grow them.

Terry gave a pictorial overview of the 2005 Miami WOC and 2011 Singapore WOC he attended. The displays in both shows were spectacular. Terry also attended the 1999 WOC in Vancouver but has no pictures of it to share. Differences in venue provide a different feel to each show, and each one is unique in reflecting the host country's culture. Terry will be attending the 2017 WOC in Ecuador in November. His recommendation: If you get a chance to go to a WOC, GO!

### *Bulbophyllums*

*Bulbophyllum* is one of the largest genera in the orchid world, with more than 2700 published species in 78 sections. *Bulbophyllum* species have been known by other names, such as *Cirrhopetalum*, *Hippoglossum*, and *Sarcopodium*. They occur all around the world. At present they are not being mericloned.

A *Bulbophyllum* has a column that extends into a distinct foot. The labellum is attached to the column foot and moves very easily. It is thus said to have a "rocking lip". The inflorescence can arise from the base of the plant or along the rhizome. If it arises from the base, the plant will bloom when that growth matures, usually once a year and only at that single point. If it arises from the rhizome, it can bloom several times a year on multiple points on the plant.

*Bulbophyllums* are shallow-rooted plants. Bill Thoms, a noted *Bulbophyllum* grower and author, uses shallow slat baskets for growing Bulbos. He stuffs the edges of the basket with sphagnum moss and fills the centre with styrofoam peanuts. He then puts the plant on top of the peanuts and works more moss around the roots and rhizomes of the plant, securing them with wire loops. He then fills the basket with sphagnum or fir bark, and top dresses with sphagnum. Terry uses net pond pots 8 - 10" square and 3-4" deep. He puts a thin layer of sphagnum on the bottom and sides and like Bill Thoms, fills the pots with styrofoam peanuts and works

moss around the roots. Bulbos prefer an open, moisture-retentive mix. Terry uses a fine bark mix with 15% Pro-Mix added, or sphagnum moss on its own that is tightly packed. Bulbos can also be grown mounted with some sphagnum at the roots to retain moisture.

The majority of *Bulbophyllums* are intermediate growers, although some have specific temperature requirements, so do your homework. Generally, 13-18C at night and 21-27C during the day will keep them happy. They like fairly high light conditions, not as high as that for *Cattleyas*. If the leaves are becoming yellow, they're getting too much light. Good air circulation is crucial. Bulbos like to be moist at all times, but not soggy and prefer humidity at 40-60%. This is higher than the average home, so terrariums, pebble trays or closed light stands can be used. Terry has seen Bulbos grown successfully in reptile tanks.

*Bulbophyllums* like pure water but are satisfied with Edmonton's tap water. They are low feeders, so constant 1/4 strength fertilizer works well. Urea type nitrogen fertilizer should be avoided. Terry alternates Plant Prod products.

*Bulbophyllum* plants can become quite rambling, and new growths may need to be wired down. Flowers are quite short-lived, lasting 7-14 days. They have a reputation of being foul smelling, and many are, but many are not. Usually those that have a bad smell are coloured red or brownish to look like carrion and produce a stink to attract fly pollinators. Often one has to be fairly close to the flower to smell it.

Terry showed many slides of a wide variety of *Bulbophyllums*. He prefers to grow species, but has some hybrids, although Bulbos are not widely hybridized. One of his favourite plants was *Bulbophyllum bandishii*, now deceased and he would love to replace it.

## Plant Raffle

All 18 plants donated by Saskatoon Co-op were claimed.

## Plant Sale

Terry Letendre brought a large number of plants for sale. Sales were brisk and members were enthusiastic with the diverse selection from which to choose! Thank you Terry!

**Adjournment** Approx. 3:25 pm.

SOS FEBRUARY SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



*Angraecum germinyanum*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



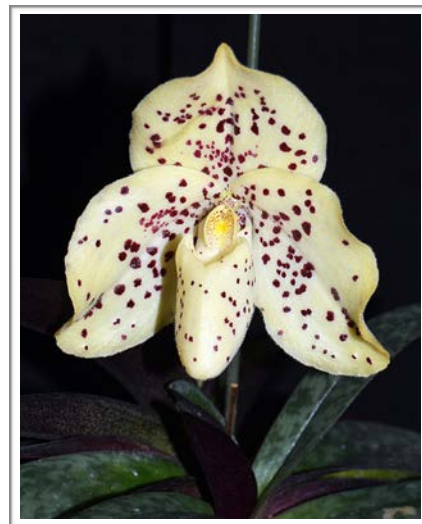
*Phalaenopsis* Sogo Lion 'BB' x Free Range '#2'  
Grower: Bob Lucas



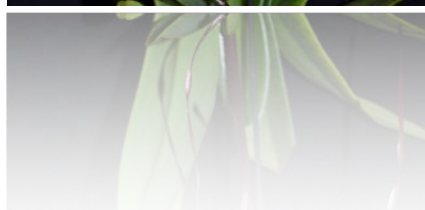
*Pholidota chinensis* 'Nisqually'  
Grower: Tracey Thue



*Paphiopedilum* Prince Edward of York  
'Golden Boy' AM/AOS x *Paph. adductum*  
'Dark Cloud'  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Paphiopedilum wenshanense*  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Dendrobium cariniferum*  
Grower: Calvin Lo







*Phalaenopsis wilsonii*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



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



*Phalaenopsis Tying Shin Beagle*  
Grower: Bob Lucas



*Stelis concinna*  
Grower: Tom Kondra



*Leptotes bicolor*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



*Dendrobium Super Ise*  
Grower: Pat Randall





*Angraecum litorale*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



*Angraecum viguieri*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



*Angraecum equitans*  
Grower: Calvin Lo



*Phragmipedium Memoria Dick Clements*  
(*Phrag besseae* x *Phrag sargentianum*)  
Grower: Heather Anderson



*Dendrochilum wenzlii*  
Grower: Tracey Thue





**AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Centre-Richmond's Monthly Judging**

**February 11, 2017**

Photography by Judith Higham



***Phragmipedium Amitabha* 'Prospect Lake' FCC/AOS 91pts and CCE/AOS 91pts**  
(*Phrag.* Patti MacHale x *Phrag. besseae*)  
Exhibitor: Poul Hansen



***Cattleya trianae* 'Sara' AM/AOS 81pts**  
Exhibitor: John Taylor



***Coelogyne sparsa* 'Tropical Gardens Orchids' CHM/AOS 85pts**  
Exhibitor: Calvin Wong, Tropical Gardens Orchids  
(award provisional pending species identification)

## What's Blooming in the Collection? February 2017

### ***Orchid Species Preservation Foundation***

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

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

#### ***Porroglossum [Prgm.] apoloae***

This specimen is one of the 54 species that makes up the Genus *Porroglossum*. It is found in the tropical moist rainforests of Ecuador. Little is known about this species. It is not listed on the Plant List and has never been judged or awarded as far as we can tell.

We grow this specimen in the intermediate greenhouse, in shade with high humidity. It is potted in our fine media mix in plastic baskets to allow air movement.

The OSPF purchased this orchid from Equaflor-A in 2016.



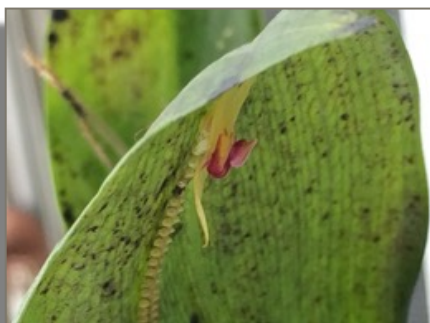
#### ***Lepanthes [Lths.] calliope***

One of the largest genera of orchids, the *Lepanthes* genus has over 1100 different species.

*Lepanthes calliope*, named after the Greek muse of poetry, is found in southeastern Ecuador at elevations of 4000-5000 ft (1200-1500 m).

The flower is presented underneath the leaves so it is not an easy plant to display.

The OSPF purchased the plant from Ecuagenera in 2013; it is grown in a similar manner to the *Porroglossum* described above.



#### ***Masdevallia [Masd.] caudata***

One of the more colourful examples of the *Masdevallia* genus, containing over 650 species, *Masdevallia caudata* is commonly known as the long-sepalled *Masdevallia*. It is found in Columbia and Venezuela, growing at elevations of 1800 - 2900 m (5900-9350 ft) and requires shade and cool temperatures.

This particular plant was part of the donation to the OSPF by Keith Day in 2004.

Not surprisingly, this species has been awarded many times and is a popular favourite among *Masdevallia* growers.



#### ***Porroglossum [Prgm.] tripollex***

This species is commonly and aptly known as the "Three-Thumbed *Porroglossum* and is found in Ecuador. It requires shade and cold to cool growing conditions.

Again, little is known about this species and it has only been awarded once in 2011 at the Pacific Northwest Centre monthly judging event.

This specimen formed part of the donation by Merv Lutes to the OSPF in 2015. Merry was one of the founding members of the OSPF in 1991 and played an active role in the development of the Foundation until he moved to the west coast.

