SASKATCHEWAN ORCHID SOCIETY
JANUARY 2018 VOLUME 35, ISSUE #4

NEWSLETTER

Saskatchewan Orchid Society

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:

Sunday, Feb 25, 2018
Sunday, Apr 22, 2018
Sunday, Mar 18, 2018
Saturday, May 26, 2018
to be confirmed

SOS Executive

President:	Bob Lucas
Vice-President:	Sherida Gregoire
Past President:	Sherida Gregoire
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
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January Meeting - SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2018

The general meeting of the Society will be held on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**, 2018 at **LUTHERCARE VILLAGE AT STONEBRIDGE**, 250 Hunter Road, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

The Presentation will be from our guest Terry Goszeibl from Forestview Gardens, BC. Terry will be speaking about Dendrobiums and Repotting Orchids.

Announcements Page

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements

Problem Corner

Show and Tell

BREAK:

Treats/Supplies (minimal selection)/Library (returns or renewals only)

Presentation

Plant Raffle

Plant Sale - A selection from Forestview Gardens

Adjournment

SOS General Meeting
Saturday, January 27, 2018

New "trial" location: 250 Hunter Road
LutherCare Village at Stonebridge

Park in visitor spots or on the street; enter building, meeting room is on the left.

The SOS library will not be available at this meeting, however members are welcome to renew or return materials already borrowed. Basic materials will be available for purchase at the resources table.

Plant Sale Table

Terry Groszeibl will have Forestview plants for sale.

Members are asked to not bring their own plants this month.

PLANT PRE-ORDERS
Forestview Gardens

The deadline for preordering from Forestview is Friday, January 19. All orchids on the Forestview website are available for purchase. Please email your orders to Heather at heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com or Cheryl at orchidcrazycheryl@gmail.com

Pre-ordered plants can be picked up at the General Meeting Saturday, January 27, 2018. Since both Heather and Cheryl will be away for this meeting, please pick up your plants from Terry and pay him directly. He accepts cash, personal cheques, VISA or MasterCard.

Dracula gigas
Grown by Sara Thue

Our Guest for the SOS January General Meeting:
Terry Goszeibl from Forestview Gardens, Agassiz, BC

Terry will speak to us about Dendrobiums, and repotting orchids. Terry and Charlotte are experts in raising quality, seedling Paphiopedilums from flask, a difficult thing to achieve successfully. Potting techniques are critical to the continued health of orchids so learning how Forestview Gardens does this can help us fine tune our own techniques, to the benefit of our orchid collections!

Announcements Page, cont.

PLANT PRE-ORDERS

H & R Nurseries

If you placed an order to H & R Nurseries, please pick up your plants Saturday, February 3 from 10:00am - 12:00 noon at Heather's, 3254 Calder Terrace. Heather will email you the amount owed for the purchase as soon as she receives the invoice from H & R Nurseries. Please make out cheques to Saskatchewan Orchid Society, or pay with cash (exact amount would be appreciated).

Spathoglottis plicata flowering happily on a shaded south-facing deck in Kigali, Rwanda.

Restrepia seketii happily flowering in a cool, humid tank in Saskatoon, Canada.

SOS Resources Coordinator - Volunteer Now!

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Pat and Yvette are retiring from the Resources position at the end of this season (May 2018) & we're putting the call out for two people to join the Executive. Pat and Yvette will help new people learn the position; at least one Resource person will need to have some storage space for bulk items.

NOVEMBER 26 MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

Bob Lucas, SOS President welcomed members to the meeting. There were no new members or guests attending.

Memberships are on sale, $25 for an individual, $30 for a family. This is the last month to renew before losing membership privileges.

Plant raffle: plants are donated by Saskatoon Safeway. Tickets are 1/$1, 3/$2, available at the library table.

Today's presentation is a Canadian Orchid Congress webinar on the conservation of North American orchids, by Dennis Whigham of the Smithsonian Institute.

There are plants for sale on the sale table. Access will be by lottery. Leave your membership numbers at the front desk.

We are looking for two members to volunteer for the executive, as the two ladies currently looking after the Resources are retiring at the end of this season. Pat and Yvette would help a new person work into the position.

Regarding the newsletter, the picture presentation is getting better and better. Thanks were extended to Sara Thue for her excellent photographs of show & tell plants.

The deadline for ordering plants from H & R Nurseries is December 1. Their plant list can be found on their website or on ours.

Treats today were provided by Jack Smith, Gwen Erickson, Cheryl Grummett, Vicky Wiley and Lori Pozniak.

People volunteering to bring treats for future meetings should sign up with Shirley.

There is a possibility of using the meeting area at LutherCare Village at Stonebridge for future SOS meetings. The setting looks ideal for our needs and would be free of charge (the school board charges nearly $200 per meeting at John Dolan School). Our January 2018 general meeting will be held at LutherCare Village. Following that meeting the executive will decide if we want to go ahead with this as a new location.

Resources (Yvette Lyster, Pat Randall)

Only basic supplies will be available at the January meeting, so it would be best to stock up now.

Library (Don Keith, Deb Huculiak)

Nothing new to report.

Problem Corner

A member wondered how you get Phalaenopsis flower stems to come up from the bottom, instead of between the leaves.

Usually they do come up from below the bottom leaf, but if they don't there isn't much you can do about it. You have to stake the flower spike as it grows and train it in the direction you want it to take.

A member displayed a beautifully blooming Cattleya, but wondered why the leaves are quite yellow. She is growing it on a south facing windowsill.

The Cattleya may be getting too much light, although this is unlikely given that it is windowsill grown. Perhaps it needs more regular fertilizing. Another member suggested that Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate) can help green up a plant that is looking pale.

Green-flowered Bog Orchid
Platanthera hyperborea
Photo by Tracey Thue, Jasper National Park, August 2017

Show and Tell

Fifteen plants in total were shown by Sara Thue, Al Hartridge, Heather Anderson, Shirley Keith, Tom Kondra, Pat Randall, Jenn Burgess, Sherida Gregoire, Lynn Campbell and Bob Lucas.

Break

Presentation

Dennis Whigham: Native orchids - worthy of our conservation efforts and no time like the present to start, a webinar by the Canadian Orchid Congress.

Dr. Whigham is Senior Botanist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre in Maryland. He has been with the Smithsonian for 39 years. In his presentation, he discusses an orchid's life cycle and mycorrhizal fungi relationship.

Dr. Whigham's research focusses on the conservation of native North American orchids. There are about 210 orchid species in 66 genera naturally occurring in Canada and the USA, with 57% listed as threatened or endangered in some part of their range.

Ninety percent of all plants interact with fungi, and usually both the plant and the fungi benefit from the integration. However, in the case of orchids, only the orchids get something out of it; the fungi do not.

Some members of the orchid family no longer produce their own food. They have lost their chlorophyll and so don't use photosynthesis to produce energy; instead these orchids get all of their nourishment from fungi.

Some orchids have green leaves, so photosynthesize, but also interact with fungi. Some, such as twayblade, interact very specifically with just one fungus, no matter where the orchid is found. Some, such as coral-root, interact with fungi that are attached to the root sou trees, so essentially the orchid is a parasite on the tree.

Fungi is necessary to orchids when in the protocorm and the dormant stages of the plant's life cycle. All orchids have a stage in their life cycle called a protocorm, formed between the seed stage and the first seedling with a green leaf. The protocorm isn't green, contains no chlorophyll, therefore cannot photosynthesize energy. Before it can develop into a seedling it derives its energy from fungi.

Many orchid species of North America have a dormant stage. For example, the pink lady's slipper can be underground for as long as 25 years and then reappear. While these orchids are dormant, they feed on fungi.

In order to be able to conserve our native orchids, we need to know as much about them as possible: what animals/insects pollinate the orchids; how the seeds germinate and develop; what fungi are associated with the orchid; and how to grow the orchids so they can be conserved and grown in botanical gardens.

Dr. Whigham has forty collaborators working throughout the U.S. and parts of Canada, contributing information on native orchids. He encourages people to look at the North American Orchid Conservation Centre website, www.northamericanorchidcenter.org and the Go Orchids website, www.goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org which contains information on every native orchid in the U.S. and Canada. You can find out more about local native orchids by entering your location or the orchid name into a search engine on the website.

Dr. Whigham's webinar can be viewed in full by linking to it on the COC website. http://canadianorchidcongress.ca/cocprograms/

Northern Twayblade (*Neottia borealis*)

photo credit Peter M. Dziuk, Go Orchids - NAOCC http://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/species/neottia/borealis/

Striped Coral Root (*Corallorhiza striata*)

photo credit Gary Van Velsir, Go Orchids - NAOCC http://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/species/corallorhiza/striata/

Plant Sale There were seven plants on the sale table, including three remaining from Fred Clarke's plant sale at the October meeting. All plants sold.

Plant Raffle There were 16 plants donated by Saskatoon Safeway, 15 *Phalaenopsis* and one *Oncidium*, and one *Phalaenopsis* donated by Bob Lucas. All were claimed.

Adjournment Approximately 2:55pm.

SOS NOVEMBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue

Masdevallia lilacina
Grower: Sara Thue

Physosiphon tubatus
(previously Stelis tubatus)
Grower: Tom Kendra

Dendrobium lichenastrum

Lockhartia oerstedii

Grower: Heather Anderson

Paphiopedilum Sorcerer's Stone x Green Gem
Grower: Lynn Campbell

Cattleya Ports of Paradise 'Emerald Isle' FCC/AOS
Grower: Sherida Gregoire

Phragmipedium Andean Fire
Grower: Sherida Gregoire

Paphiopedilum Weather Vane
(*Paph* Maudiae x *Paph philippinense*)
Grower: Bob Lucas

Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc) Little Mermaid 'Janet' AM/AOS
(*Cattleya walkeriana* x *Bc* Maikai)
Grower: Pat Randall

Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc) Pastoral 'Innocence'
[was *Brassocattleya* (*Bc*) Pastoral 'Innocence']
Grower: Jenn Burgess

Anacheilium radiatum
[synonym Encyclia radiata]
Grower: Sherida Gregoire

Phragmipedium Geraldo
(*Phrag caudatum* x *Phrag lindleyanum*)
Grower: Don Keith

Paphiopedilum Winter Coat
[*Paph leucochilum* x *Paph wenshanense*]
Grower: Bob Lucas

Vascostylis Viboon Velvet
[*Vanda* Tubtim Velvet x *Rhynchostylis coelestis*]
Grower: Al Hartridge

Phalaenopsis Born Free
[*Phal.* Golden Sun Spots x *Phal.* Free Range]
Bred & Grown by Bob Lucas

Finding Orchids in Akagera National Park, Rwanda

by Tracey Thue

I had the pleasure of visiting Akagera National Park in the northeast corner of Rwanda this December, with family currently living in Rwanda. The 2500 km² park is named after the Akagera River that flows along its eastern boundary, feeding many lakes and papyrus swamps. The park protects the largest wetland in central Africa, as well as dense riparian woodland, open savannah and highland ridges. During our 3 days of driving around the park we saw many animals, birds and plants, including two unexpected sightings of orchids!

Here are some photos taken during this visit; tree and orchid species identification is tentative at best! Neither orchid was in flower; the first had a number of seedlings established by the mother plant, which looked yellow and stressed. The second was thriving with inflorescences on every growth; I was lamenting the timing of our visit since the plant is likely in full flower now, a few weeks later! Of course the only way to be sure of an identification is when the plant is in flower. While there are published field guides of birds and wildlife found in Akagara NP, there is no such documentation of flora. My tentative identifications are based on a small section discussing bird habitat in "Birds in Rwanda - An Atlas and Handbook" by Jean and Gael Vande weghe, and reference to orchids in Akagera National Park in the "Illustrated Field Guide to the Plants of Nyungwe National Park Rwanda" by Eberhard Fischer and Dorothee Killmann.

Orchid with seedlings in an Acacia tree in open grassland

The tree is likely *Acacia senegal* with thick growths of lichen on the branches. The orchid may be *Cyrtorchis praetermissa,* or possibly *Aerangis verdickii.* The mother plant is established under the branch, hanging downwards and the roots run the length of the tree branch, often under the lichen. The seedlings are on the north side of the branch about 4 feet from the mother plant. Orchid plants are likely gaining protection from the sun, moisture and possibly nutrients from the lichen.

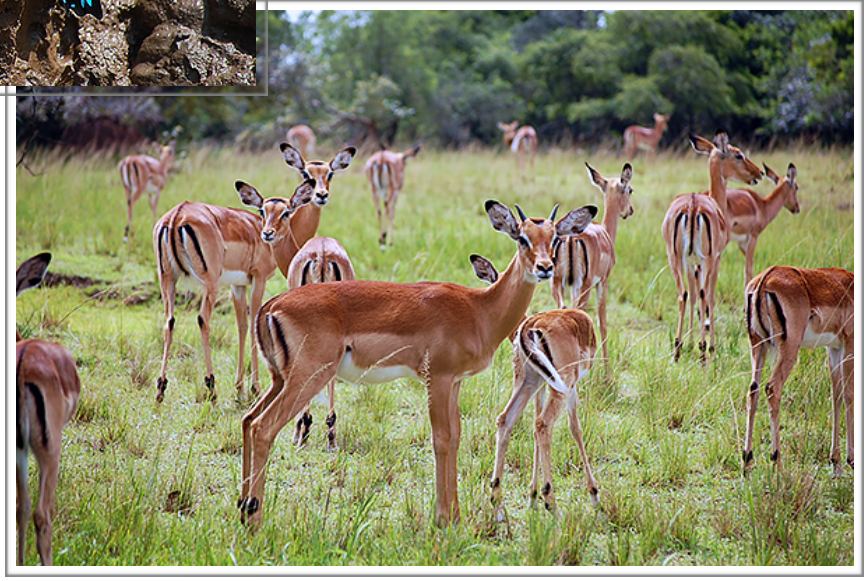
Above left: another view of the mother plant described on previous page; above right: a view of the open wooded grassland of the northern region of the park. It was in this grassland that we spotted the trees with orchids, creating our biggest challenge: how to look for orchids on trees AND wildlife, while negotiating rough roads and swatting the pesky tsetse flies coming in through the truck's open windows?

The tree is possibly *Combretum collinum*, with the common name bush-willow, growing on grassland ridges above one of the many lakes in the park. The orchid is full of old inflorescences gone to seed, and new inflorescences developing! It also was in full sun. Daytime highs were 30 to 34C with a fairly consistent breeze; nighttime lows were 15 to 20C. Possible identification: *Polystachya bennettiana? Suggestions welcome!*

Above: Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)

Left: African blue-banded swallowtail (*Papilio nireus*)

Below: Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*)



Above left: Topi (*Damaliscus lunatus jimela*)
Above right: Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)
Below: Plains zebra (*Equus quagga*)