

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:

Sunday, Jan 28, 2018 Sunday, Feb 25, 2018
Saturday, Mar 24, 2018 Sunday Apr 22, 2018

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
Webmaster: Calvin Lo
Mail Address: SOS, Box 411
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 3L3
Web Address: www.saskorchids.com
facebook: [https://
www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?](https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?)

November Meeting - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The general meeting of the Society will be held on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**, 2017 at John Dolan School, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

The Presentation will be a webinar courtesy of the Canadian Orchid Congress on North American native orchid conservation, by Dennis Whigham of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre.

Photo: *Platanthera dilatata*, taken by Tracey Thue in Jasper National Park, August, 2010



Announcements Page

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

SOS GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, NOV 26, 2017
COC WEBINAR PRESENTATION:
“CONSERVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS”
DENNIS WHIGHAM, SENIOR BOTANIST,
SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTRE

Plant Sale Table
Members are encouraged to bring plants to sell to the membership. 10% of the sale price goes to the SOS.

The WOC 2023 will be held in Perth, Australia.
Thanks to the Western Canada Bid Committee for all their efforts in presenting Edmonton.

SOS Executive Volunteers Wanted!
Are you interested in serving on the Executive but aren't sure what role you can play?
Talk to any of the current members of the Executive - your participation will be most welcome!

H&R Nurseries Plant Order! You still have time!
Heather Anderson will be in Hawaii in January and is taking orders from the membership until Dec 1, 2017. The Fall-Winter 2017-18 plant list is available on their website (<http://hrnurseries.com>) and on the SOS website. Prices are in U.S. dollars with an additional \$85 charged to the order for CITES and Phytosanitary certification. This amount will be divided among the plants ordered. The plants can be picked up from Heather's house on Feb 2, 2018.

SOS Resources Coordinator - Volunteer Now!

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.

OCTOBER 21 MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

Bob Lucas, SOS President welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Our guest speaker today is Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids (SVO), speaking about *Splashed and Spotted Cattleyas*. Fred has brought plants for sale. Members who pre-ordered plants from SVO can pick them up from Heather.

Due to time constraints, the plant sale will occur during the break and will be on a "first come, first served" basis, not a lottery. Members should pick up just one plant at first, then give others a chance before choosing more. Sales will continue after Fred's talk.

Memberships are presently 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 the Saskatoon Co-op. Tickets are 1/\$1, 3/\$2, available at the library table.

The two Resources persons are retiring at the end of this season, so we are looking for new members to volunteer for the executive, not necessarily for the Resources positions. Nominations and elections are in April.

Heather is going to H&R Nurseries in Hawaii this winter, and will bring back plants. The deadline for ordering is December 1. Their plant list can be found on their website or on ours. The prices are in US funds, and there will be a modest additional charge for CITES, phytosanitary certification and other paperwork.

People volunteering to bring treats for future meetings should sign up with Shirley. Treats today were provided by Colleen Hobday, Valerie Martz, Sara Thue, and Lynn Campbell.

Resources (Yvette Lyster, Pat Randall)
Nothing new to report.

Library (Don Keith, Deb Huculiak)
Nothing new to report.

Problem Corner

A member has several *Paphs* and *Phrags* with leaf margins that look a little rusty, turning light brown on the edges. She uses rain water and MSU fertilizer, and some of the plants are standing in water.

At first Mr. Clarke thought it sounded like a nutrient problem. He recommends adding a little fertilizer every time you water; in nature, rain carries the nutrients to the plant roots. However, if it is just the old leaves that look like this, they're probably just old. If new leaves look alright, the plant is probably okay.

Show and Tell

Twelve plants in total were shown by Tracey Thue, Jennifer Osachoff, Don Keith, Pat Randall, Al Hartridge, Yvette Lyster, Heather Anderson, and Gerald Pitka.

Break & Plant Sale

Presentation

Heather Anderson introduced Fred Clarke to the group: Fred has been growing orchids for forty years, starting Sunset Valley Orchids 27 years ago. In his one acre greenhouse about 35 miles north of San Diego, he grows both hybrids and species of a number of genera. There is more information about Fred in the October newsletter.

Cattleyas, Spots and Splashes, by Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

Fred's orchid-growing began early. When he was a teenager, a neighbour lady would recruit him to help repot her big *Catts*, and in return she gave him old orchid magazines. In one he saw an advertisement for a local orchid show. He went to it and returned with \$300 worth of *Cattleya* plants. He built a greenhouse for them out of scrap building materials he got from a contractor for whom he was working. He became acquainted with a guy who had a breeding lab, and in return for doing odd jobs, the guy allowed him to work in the lab. Fred's first hybrid is forty years old.

A turning point in his breeding career came when Fred met Frank Fordyce, a hybridizer who got Fred interested in breeding smaller *Cattleyas*.



Cattleya intermedia aquinii 'Sunset Valley Orchids' HCC/AOS

Splashed Flowers:

The two most influential species in the breeding of *Cattleyas* with "splashes" (flares) on the blossoms are *C. intermedia* var. *aquinii* and *L. briegei*.

C. intermedia is an easy grower, but doesn't have the best flowers: the petals are rather narrow.

However, there is a mutation, var. *aquinii*, which is the peloric form, meaning that the petals are mutated to more closely resemble the lip. The lip colour and the petal colour are the same pale pink, with flares of fuchsia on the tips of the petals and lip. The side lobes of the lip wrap around the column, so if you flatten this out, it gives you wider petals, and that is what is found in var. *aquinii*.

Fred crossed var. *aquinii* with *L. pumila*, a bright pink flower with a deep red colour on the outer portion of the lip, and produced *Lc. Janet*, bright pink with rich red flares on the petals and lip. When bred with var. *aquinii*, the lip marking of the other parent (in this case, *L. pumila*) is expressed on the petals of the hybrid. Fred showed slides of other crosses he had made, illustrating how the lip coloration of one parent is carried across to the petals on the hybrid offspring.

An interesting thing happened when Fred crossed *Lc. Irene Finney* (lavender with purple flares) with *L. briegei* (all yellow). Although both are dominant, one result was a white *Lc. Tokyo Magic*. The colours of the parents cancel each other out, although they retain the tendency to produce flowers with different colours, depending on the plants with which they are crossed. The lip colours, markings and form are passed on to the petals of the resulting hybrid.

Another factor is the orientation of the petals. If the lip from the parent "sticks out", the flowers of the offspring will be flat. However, if the lip of the parent is flat but the tip curls under, the tips of the petals of the offspring will curl back. Fred showed several examples of such hybrids. Interestingly, the lip only

influences the petals, not the sepals.

To produce splashes without the use of *C. intermedia* var. *aquinii*, *L. briegei* is often used in the crosses.

This plant lives on rocky outcroppings in Brazil in a very harsh environment, and tolerates a wide range of temperatures. It doesn't have flaring, but with subsequent breeding of the offspring, the flaring comes out. It adds flaring to the petals and also to the sepals, something that doesn't happen with *C. intermedia* var. *aquinii*. Again, Fred showed slides of examples of this effect.

Lc. Tokyo Magic 'Hihimanu'



Spotted Flowers:

Three species often used in breeding for spotted flowers are *C. aclandiae*, *C. leopoldii*, and *C. schilleriana*. All three species come in a *coerulea* colour form,

although it is extremely rare. Fred uses these *coerulea* forms to produce spotted blues.

Interestingly, *C. leopoldii* is multiflorous, with the flowers arranged in a double helix.

An interesting cross is the one between *Slc. Jungle Jewel* (red with a yellow lip) and *C. Sandra Turner* (heavily spotted flowers with a deep lavender lip), which produces *Slc. Carlos E Ospina*. One of its variations is red with a white lip (pictured below): the yellow and lavender cancel each other out and produce white!

How to Grow Them:

Most *Cattleyas* are epiphytes, growing on the sides of trees. Therefore, the roots are well drained and dry out quickly. Both roots and leaves get good air circulation. They don't get a lot of nutrients, only what is carried down to the roots when it rains. Growing conditions in pots should mimic these natural conditions as much as possible. Irrigation frequency depends on the water-holding capacity of the media, the kind of container being used, the plant's moisture requirements, and the external environmental conditions.



Slc. Carlos E. Ospina 'What the...'

When irrigating, you should flush 20-25% of the container volume with water through the pot, i.e., you want to water faster than the holes will drain until 20-25% of the pot is full of water. When that water drains out, air replaces it, so you then have fresh air around the roots.

If you are using hard water, the plant should be leached once a month: water heavily, wait one hour, and then water heavily again.

Fred uses non-potable well water with 1600 ppm total dissolved solids, and puts it through reverse osmosis. He uses MSU 13-3-15 Cal Mag fertilizer, adjusted slightly for California's growing conditions. He dissolves 1/2 tsp per gallon for *Catts* growing in bark, and 1/4 tsp per gallon for *Paphs*. Most *Cattleyas* prefer filtered direct sunlight, about 3000 foot candles of light.

Cattleyas like daytime temperatures of 23-30C (75-85°F) and nighttime temperatures of 15-21C (60-70°F) in the summer, and daytime temperatures of 18-27C (65-80°F) and nighttime temperatures of 10-18C (50-65°F) in the winter. Brief periods of higher or lower temperatures are generally not harmful.

The potting media used should allow for good drainage, and should allow the root system to dry out at times. Fred uses 3:1 bark to Perlite. Others use media such as sphagnum moss in clay pots or Aliflor combined with an organic material.

Repotting:

When repotting, you should treat all plants as if they are virused. He works on an underlayment of newspaper, so he can gather up the top layer of newspaper after each plant and dispose of it. He uses inexpensive latex gloves and sterile instruments. (He heats the instruments with a Bernzomatic torch to sterilize them.)

Plants should be repotted when the new roots just start to grow. If you wait too long (for example, if the new roots get as long as 2"), you will break off the new green root tips when you repot, and the plant's regrowth will be set back.



Blc. Sun Spots 'SVO Best'

Choose a pot that will allow for 3 years of growth. If the pot is too big, the roots won't have a chance to dry out between waterings.

Remove as much of the old potting medium as you can, being careful not to damage the new root tips. It's better to leave some old medium attached to roots than damage the roots removing it. It's best to work from the side with the oldest roots. Set the part of the plant with the oldest roots against the side of the pot, and add the medium a bit at a time, slowly packing it in, being

careful not to crush the new roots. It is best to press only on the sides.

When Fred pots his plants, he makes a new tag with the date that the roots started to grow, not the date he repotted it, so he has a record of the activity of the plant. The start of winter is not a good time to repot plants; days are too short to supply the energy needed for best root growth. Most hybrids root in June-July, although they can be bred to grow roots several times a year.

In answer to a question about fragrance in *Cattleyas*, Fred explained that yellow/orange/red *Catts* are not usually very fragrant because they are fertilized in the wild by hummingbirds who don't care about scent. However, lavender/pink/soft pastel *Catts* are fertilized by moths at night, so are more likely to be fragrant.

The plants that Fred brought for sale will bloom in January to April, and some will bloom twice a year. They are bred for award style flowers, and they will stay small. Most are of blooming size now.

[Editor's note: Thank you to Fred Clarke for the fascinating and entertaining presentation, and for permission to reproduce the photos shown here, from the SVO website].

Plant Sale The plant sale continued after the presentation. Mr. Clarke had brought dozens of plants and all but six sold. The Society bought the remaining six and they will be on sale at the next meeting.

Plant Raffle There were 5 plants donated by the Saskatoon Coop. All were claimed.

Adjournment Approximately 3:35pm.

SOS OCTOBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Masdevallia herraduræ
Grower: Don Keith



Haraella retrocalla
Grower: Heather Anderson



Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc) Cornerstone 'Fine Circle'
Grower: Pat Randall



Ascocenda Butterfly x Vanda Srakaew
Grower: Al Hartridge



Vanda Pachara Delight 'Pachara' FCC/AOS
Grower: Al Hartridge



Lepanthes sallatrix
Grower: Don Keith



Oncidoda (Oncda) Hula Halau 'Volcano Queen'
Grower: Yvette Lyster

Note: Taxonomic reclassification within the Oncidium Alliance means this plant is now *Oncidium* Hula Halau 'Volcano Queen'



Pleurothallis leptotifolia
Grower: Tracey Thue



Bulbophyllum Lovely Elizabeth
Grower: Yvette Lyster



Paphiopedilum henryanum
Grower: Gerald Pitka



Masdevallia rex
Grower: Don Keith



Paphiopedilum henryanum
('Bengal Tiger' x 'Jumbo')
Grower: Jennifer Osachoff

AOS Western Canada Judging Center

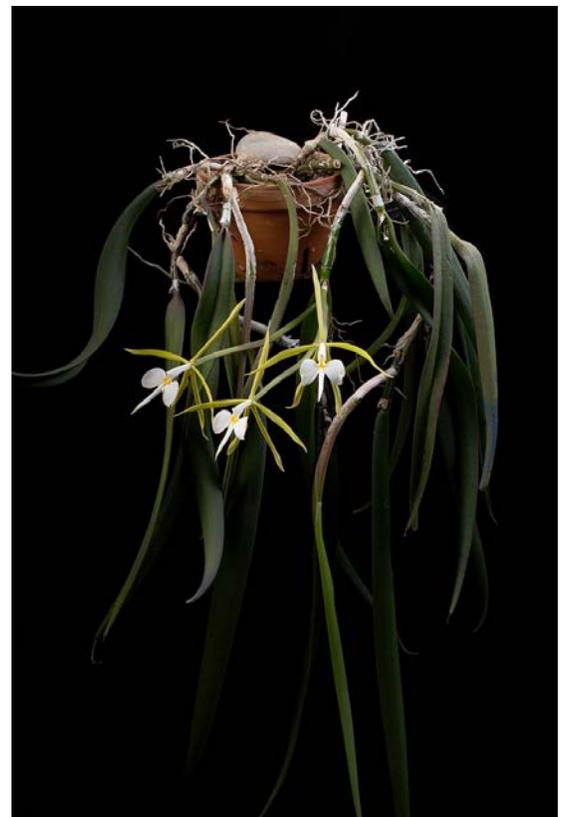
Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show Judging Results October 14, 2017

Photography by Judith Higham

Awards are provisional until paperwork and payment is processed by AOS and published in Orchid Plus



Oncidium Espiritu Santo 'Christine Chan' HCC/AOS 77pts
(*Oncidium noezlianum* x *Oncidium praestanooides*)
Exhibitor: Christine Chan



Epidendrum parkinsonianum 'Sydney Mei' HCC/AOS 75pts
Exhibitor: Eugene Banziger

OSPF @ the 22nd World Orchid Congress

“Well I am here at the WOC in Guayaquil, Ecuador, so I thought you might like to see what was on offer in lieu of the regular column. I will post photos each day on the OSPF facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ospf91> so for now I will just let the pictures speak for themselves. Needless to say the displays were amazing”. Dave Nixon



Fred Clarke visited us last month and gave a great presentation on his *Cattleya* breeding program at Sunset Valley Orchids, hybridizing to create new splashed and spotted *Cattleyas*. The inheritance of flower colour and form is fascinating! If you'd like more from Fred Clarke, check out these sources of information and activities:

Sunset Valley Orchids website <http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/index.html>

Sunset Valley Orchids on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sunsetvalleyorchids/>

Oncidium Alliance Taxonomy

There's an informative article by Thomas Miranda in the October 2017 issue of Orchids (AOS Bulletin Vol. 86 No. 10, pgs 736-741) about the reclassification of genera within the Oncidium Alliance. The article discusses species that are now included in the genus *Gomesa*. I've discovered that my *Ornithophora radicans* is now *Gomesa radicans*! Thomas Miranda explains that the redistribution of species into *Gomesa* makes sense when considering both flower structure and genetic analysis. You can read all about what species are now in the *Gomesa* genera - borrow the magazine from the SOS Library!

To Do List for SOS Meeting:

1. Resource table - MSU fertilizer for tap water
2. Loonie for tin @ treats table
3. Cash for plant sale table - just in case there's a plant there that I NEED!
4. Library
 - ▶ Return borrowed items
 - ▶ October 2017 supplement to AOS Orchids (on Phalaenopsis + culture)
 - ▶ Latest AOS Orchids magazine
 - ▶ Any Orchid Digest magazine
 - ▶ Carl Withner's *Cattleya & Their Relatives* Vol. 3