

# NEWSLETTER



**Editor's Note:** The newsletter is distributed electronically (blind copied so addresses remain private) to all members for whom we have an email address. If you do not receive an emailed newsletter please notify me at [thues@sasktel.net](mailto:thues@sasktel.net).

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Saturday, November 21, 2020 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 23, 2021 1:30 p.m.

**SOS Executive**

<b>President:</b>	Tracey Thue
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Vacant
<b>Past President:</b>	Bob Lucas
<b>Secretary:</b>	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cheryl Grummet
<b>Social:</b>	Shirley Keith Lynn Campbell
<b>Plant Orders:</b>	Heather Anderson Cheryl Adamson
<b>Resources:</b>	Don Keith Tom Kondra
<b>Librarians:</b>	Deb Huculiak Kathryn Hiller
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Sara & Tracey Thue
<b>COC/AOS Rep:</b>	Tom Kondra
<b>Speakers:</b>	Heather Anderson
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Calvin Lo
<b>Facebook:</b>	Sara Thue
<b>Web Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.saskorchids.com">www.saskorchids.com</a>
<b>facebook:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?">https:// www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?</a>
<b>Mail Address:</b>	SOS, Box 411 Saskatoon, SK

**Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and physical distancing requirements, the November 21, 2020 general meeting will be held on-line on the Zoom platform - PLEASE NOTE START TIME!**

**Please see the final page of this newsletter for a link to the Zoom meeting.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **SOS EXECUTIVE ELECTION**

is postponed until the next in-person General Meeting. The Executive will remain as is until the next election is possible.

**REQUEST FOR TREASURER** Please consider putting your name forward for the Treasurer position (or for Secretary, in which case Donna Carlson-O'Keefe will switch to Treasurer).

**GENERAL MEETINGS** (in-person) are cancelled until physical distancing restrictions are lifted and the Elim Church venue is available to us. Until then, virtual General Meetings will be held on the online platform, Zoom, whenever we have a guest speaker. (See the invitation link below for the Nov. 21 meeting.)

**Please join the meeting a couple of minutes before meeting start time, to avoid delays.**

**You are invited to join the SOS General Meeting at  
1:30 pm SK time, on November 21, 2020 by clicking on this link:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97685732153?pwd=ekQrdG5jT1VOajJXMFY5akJKT2NHdz09>

Meeting ID: 976 8573 2153

Passcode: **025525**

**The meeting will begin promptly at 1:30pm.**

**A PLANT ORDER** from Terry Letendre, Terry's Orchids, Edmonton has been arranged. Heather Anderson will be in Edmonton January or February, 2021 and will pick up the plants and drive them to Saskatoon.

**The plant list has been distributed to members by email and was included with this newsletter distribution by email.**

The first order will be sent to Terry on Nov. 15. After that, orders will be sent to Terry on the 1st and 15th of each month until Heather picks them up. After each order is sent, Terry will remove those plants from the availability list, so you should be assured of receiving your desired plants.

Submit your orders to Heather Anderson at [heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com) or Cheryl Adamson at [orchidcrazycheryl@gmail.com](mailto:orchidcrazycheryl@gmail.com)

## **SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

**Calvin Lo**, SOS member and webmaster, will be our guest speaker at the November 21, 2020 virtual (Zoom) meeting of SOS.

The title of his presentation is:  
**"Dendrobiums from the section Formosae: Beautiful black-haired Dendrobiums."**

Calvin has been growing orchids since the mid 2000s and his collection has travelled upwards of 3000 km around Canada over the last 15 years. He has recently moved back from Toronto and is excited to be involved in the Saskatchewan Orchid Society again.

Calvin's main interests are black-haired Dendrobiums and African Angraecoids. Like many of you, he grows primarily on windowsills and under grow lights.



## **OCTOBER 23 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Tracey Thue, President, welcomed members to the first SOS Zoom meeting. There were 23 participants, plus the speaker.

Tracey thanked Calvin Lo for organizing and moderating the Zoom meeting.

Membership renewals are due now, \$25 for ind'l. and \$30 for family membership.

The executive is working hard to maintain society activities during the pandemic. Face-to-face meetings will resume when restrictions are lifted. 2021 Calendar fundraiser: the deadline for ordering is Nov. 1.

Tracey is looking for material for the newsletter. Email her with photos of your flowering plants, list of plants you'd like to sell, orchid stories to share, or other content.

Tracey thanked Tobi Fenton for helping put the newsletter together.

## **MEETING MINUTES, CONT.**

Alan Koch reported that the plant orders from Gold Country Orchids have been held up by Agriculture Canada, which has not yet approved their CITIES permit.

Tracey Thue welcomed our guest speaker, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids, Lincoln, CA.

### **Alan Koch: The ABC's of Orchid Nutrition and Growing Tips for All**

Proper nutrition is important in getting plants to flower.

In the 50s, 90% of commercial greenhouses producing potted plants in the USA were located in Ohio, due to transportation limitations. After the 50s, transportation was better, so many greenhouses moved to the southern states, Florida, Texas, and California, where growing conditions were better.

Ohio State University carried out a study of orchid nutrition and discovered that with optimized nutrition, northern growers could get 90% of the growth rate of the southern growers. "Weakly, weekly" doesn't work with longer day lengths. Plants need more fertilizer if growth is to be optimized during longer days. (If plants are grown under lights with the same day length all year round, then fertilizer doesn't need to be increased.)

#### Water, Water, Water:

Always water your plants before you fertilize; otherwise, there is danger of burning the root tips. The root tips tell the plant to photosynthesize; therefore, it is critical to repot some plants at the right time of year, when the root tips are growing.

Oxygenated (aerated) water is important. Mr. Koch showed a slide of water going through an aerator head when the plants were being watered.

First water: you water the surface. Second water: you water the media. Third water: you flush the media. It is very important to flush the media after fertilizing to remove the salts. The salts are the enemy of any epiphytic plant. The harder your water, the longer you need to flush. You should also use less fertilizer in hard water. You could think about having your water tested if it has more than 600 ppm total dissolved solids (TDS).

A water pH of 6.2 is ideal for maximum uptake of nutrients, although anything in the range of 6 to 7 is okay. He uses aquarium pH test strips to test his pH; he finds them to be simple to use and relatively inexpensive. In the USA, all water has to be delivered at a basic pH reading to prevent leaching from lead pipes. Adding fertilizer to it will probably raise the pH to a slightly acidic level which would be in the appropriate range. If you have good quality water, you can water less, although you still need to pull oxygen into the media. You can get away with using more fertilizer, and you should always use a more complete fertilizer containing micronutrients such as zinc, iron, and calcium.

## MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

### Fertilizer:

Alan uses Plantex fertilizer, which is made in Canada and is known as Plant-Prod here. He also recommends MSU fertilizer, but it is very hygroscopic (easily absorbs moisture) and can cause staining.

Calcium and magnesium are part of the macro elements in the fertilizer and are critical to the growth of the plant. These, along with sulphur, are considered secondary macronutrients. (The primary macronutrients are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium). Alan recommends supplying calcium and magnesium in a 2:1 ratio.

Calcium triggers flowering, builds strong cell walls, and increases disease resistance. Orchids can only bring in as much calcium as they need. Dolomite and oyster shell are excellent sources of calcium. He adds dolomite to his potting mix for Paphs and other plants that grow on limestone. A lack of calcium in *Cattleyas* can be indicated by black leaf tips, especially encountered in Florida in the summer as the heat and humidity increase.

Magnesium is the head of each chlorophyll molecule and is necessary for the conversion of sunlight into energy in the plant. Iron, a micronutrient, can be very important, especially to plants that grow on iron deposits in Brazil. *Sophronitis* especially benefits from extra iron. Rupicolous (growing on rocks) *Laelias* need iron sulfate.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, and also calcium are best absorbed through the roots, while micronutrients are generally best absorbed through foliar application. Magnesium can be absorbed either way.

On the underside of the leaves there are “macropores” and branching off from these in the interior of the leaf are smaller “micropores.” These pores can pick up both micro and macronutrients.

Calcium on its own can only be absorbed through the roots, but if it is tied to an amino acid, it can be taken in by any macropore. An example of this type of fertilizer is Albion Metalosate Calcium, a liquid calcium/amino acid foliar fertilizer.

The longer the day length, the more fertilizer you should use. Make sure the plants are turgid before you fertilize. Salt sensitive plants should be flushed after fertilizing and, since most fertilizer is absorbed within 20 minutes of application, Alan usually flushes about 25 minutes after fertilizing. Plants that stay wet in nature, such as *Sophronitis coccinea* and *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, are especially salt sensitive and should be flushed with rainwater or RO water.

## MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Plants such as *Oncidium* Sharry Baby can show black spots on their leaves due to salt buildup; the plant brings the salt up from the roots so the roots don't get damaged. Alan flushes his Sharry Baby 25 minutes after fertilizing, and repots it annually.

The root tips tell you when to fertilize. When the root tips are growing faster than the velamen (the outer layer of the root) and are showing that lovely light green, it is time to increase the fertilizer. When the root tips are growing slower than the velamen, so they look white, back off on the fertilizer.

### Media:

If you tend to overwater, use larger media. If you tend to underwater, use media that hold water longer. For example, Alan grows *Oncidium* in New Zealand sphagnum, a medium that holds water. In his nursery, with the exception of a few plants, he waters once a week, so he adjusts the media so the plants all dry out at the same time. He wants pots with good drainage and good air movement and never fills pots completely with moss. He puts packed moss on top, but leaves it more open at the bottom so air can be pulled in at the roots.

Alan uses clear pots when the plants photosynthesize in the roots (roots turn green when you water).

### When to Mount:

You can make a mini terrarium using a clear pop bottle.

Some plants, e.g., *Cattleya schilleriana*, are often grown on mounts since their roots are better adapted to absorbing moisture from the air, rather than in pots. Alan uses strips of pantyhose to mount them – it doesn't damage the plant and as the plant becomes established the pantyhose will rot away, leaving a clean mount.

### When to Basket:

Plants that grow on horizontal tree limbs do not like vertical mounts, and are better grown in baskets.

### Repotting:

The best time to repot is when there are new green roots. When repotting, don't push the medium down around the roots with your fingers; this can damage the roots. Instead, add a small amount of medium at a time and gently tap the pot to distribute the medium around the roots. When finished, water the medium in.

Alan posed the question: "What kind of pot dries out fastest?" Answer: tall clay pots dry out fastest.

## MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

### More Culture Tips:

Plant anatomy tells us a lot; for example, plants growing on trees in a windy area will usually grow with their leaves flat against the tree trunk. How a plant grows in the wild tells us how to grow it in cultivation.

Air movement is critical.

Light matters. Low light plants include *Cattleya pumila* v. *nobilis*, *Cattleya* Beaufort and other *Cattleya luteola* hybrids, as well as *Phalaenopsis*.

*Oncidium*: to get them to flower, give them extra calcium, especially *Brassia*.

*Cattleya*: let them dry out between waterings. They benefit from calcium and phosphorus.

*Dendrobium*: the most diverse genus in the orchid world. *Dendrobium nobile* needs a rest period.

*Phalaenopsis*: they are heavy feeders and photosynthesize from the roots so Alan recommends clear pots. Multifloral *Phalaenopsis* should go two years or longer between repotting.

*Bulbophyllum*: a lot of them grow like *Phalaenopsis*.

*Angraecum*: also photosynthesize from the roots.

*Vanda*: miniatures are susceptible to scale and mealybugs.

If in doubt, ask the experts! What should you ask about? Temperature, light, humidity, rest period, fertilizer (heavy or light feeders).

Alan then took questions from participants.

Q: Do you add moss under a plant when mounting?

A: If the plant needs moisture, he uses New Zealand sphagnum. If the plant likes to be dry, he uses coconut hair.

Q: Do you follow the same regimen (flushing, etc.) with mounted plants?

A: Yes, he still flushes his mounted orchids. He finds he gets better root production.

Q: What causes yellow leaves on old growths of *Cattleya*?

A: As a plant grows, it needs to pull nutrients to its new growth points, so the old leaves lose their chlorophyll and will naturally fall off.



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## MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Q: An *Aerangis punctata* tends to grow keikis instead of flowering, and the leaves are getting smaller and smaller. It is mounted on cork with a little sphagnum.

A: Back off on the nitrogen to encourage flowering instead of leaves; leaching afterwards may give the same result.

President Tracey Thue thanked Alan Koch for his fascinating talk.

### Further Discussion and Wrap - Up

Participants generally like the option of having a Zoom meeting. It would be easier for members outside the city of Saskatoon to participate. A member asked if we would be able to record a Zoom presentation; the moderator replied that we would need to get the agreement of the speaker to do this.

Speaker Coordinator, Heather Anderson, reported that other speakers have been lined up: Calvin Lo will give a future presentation; Terry Kennedy, of Orchids in Our Tropics, has been booked for January. The other societies with whom we usually share speakers have not been as active as we are in maintaining activities, but we could arrange for other speakers on our own since they don't need to travel here.

Adjournment 1:24pm

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## ORCHID MARKET

Don Keith will be filling orders for orchid supplies, orders to be placed once monthly, by 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before the monthly meeting. Orders will be ready for pick up after 11:00 a.m. the Sunday following the monthly meeting.

For November orders, please email Don at [donkeith@sasktel.net](mailto:donkeith@sasktel.net)

by 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 20, 2020. He will have your order ready for pick-up from his house after 11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 22, 2020.

Please pay with exact cash, by cheque made out to the SOS, or pay Don by e-transfer. See the Orchid Market section on Page 5 for a list of available supplies.



## ORCHID SUPPLIES

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Fir Bark	3L bag fine or medium (please specify)	\$6.00	Clear Pots	2 1/4 x 2 1/4 square	\$0.50
Orchiata Pine Bark	3L bag fine, medium or med-coarse (specify)	\$6.00		2 1/2 x 2 1/2 round	\$0.50
Perlite	4L bag medium/coarse	\$4.00		2 3/4 x 2 3/4 round	\$0.75
Sphagnum moss, N.Z.	8L compacted 12L compressed	\$12.00 N/A		3 1/4 x 3 1/2 round	\$1.00
Grodan Grow Cubes	3L bag, 0.4" cubes 7L bag 0.4" cubes	\$5.00 \$10.00		4 x 4	\$1.25
MSU fertilizer	1 cup 13-3-15 for tap or RO water	\$5.00		4 1/2 x 4 1/2 slotted	\$1.50
Merit systemic insecticide	1 cup bag of granules	\$5.00	Net Pots	3"	\$1.25
Oyster shells	1 cup bag	\$0.25		3.5"	\$1.25
Inflorescence clips	Small, brown or green	10 for \$1.00		5"	\$1.50
Rhizome clips	Small Med/large	\$1.00 \$1.25		6"	\$1.75

## MEMBER PLANTS FOR SALE

For sale by Tracey Thue

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

*Coelogyne* Unchained Melody



Please refer to the October, 2020 Newsletter for description and photos of the many plants that Tracey still has for sale: *Coelogyne*, *Dendrochilum*, *Pholidota*, and *Dendrobium*.

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**For sale by Bob Lucas**

[robert.lucas@usask.ca](mailto:robert.lucas@usask.ca)



***Phragmipedium Schroderae* 'Annette'**

A four division plant recently repotted; \$25

A very nice plant. The picture shows it in full bloom.



***Phragmipedium April Fool* 'Carly'**

A recently repotted mature division, in spike; \$25

The picture shows the plant in full bloom.

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**For sale by Heather Anderson**

[heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com)



***Lockhartia oerstedii***

2 plants with 2-3 stems each. \$5 each

Grown in an orchidarium.

Bloom is yellow with a copper centre.



***Bulbophyllum odoratissimum***

2 plants available: 3 leaves \$7; 6 leaves \$12

Bloom is white/yellow.

Grown in an orchidarium

## SHOW AND TELL

**Grown by Jennifer Burgess**



### ***Brassolaeliocattleya Mystic Isles***

Ten Shin

This is a first bloom for this plant. It was outside this summer, then moved to an east windowsill.

The edge of the lip of the flower on the left was growing outside of the developing bud and has more colour.

A beautiful fragrance.



### ***Phalaenopsis amabilis***

A parent plant and its keiki are blooming in the same pot with 9 flowers. Good advice, a few years ago at an SOS meeting, to not separate them!

The parent plant itself was a keiki from my grandma's plant 20 years ago so, despite not being a fan of "big white phals," this one stays.



**Grown by Lynn Campbell**



***Oncidium sotoanum* 'Pink Profusion'**

This little *Oncidium* gets nicer every year. It grows on an east windowsill above the kitchen sink.

**Grown by Pat Randall**



***Brassocattleya* Little Mermaid  
'Janet' AM/AOS**

(*C. walkeriana* x *Bsn.* Maikai)

This plant has 4 spikes and 19 blooms in total. I grow it in 100% medium bark in the greenhouse under lights. I let it dry out completely but briefly between waterings. It has bloomed twice a year and the blooms last quite long (3-4 weeks). It is a night-scented bloom, with a rather lemony scent. It seems easy to grow and bloom.

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**Grown by Vicky Wiley**



***Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Potinara)***  
**Hsinying Rouge C.H. #6**

(Creation x Elegant Dancer)

I got this from Ching Hua Orchids at the COC in 2015. This is the first time it has bloomed for me. It has a very nice spicy scent in the morning and afternoon.

I grow it under lights. The flower has been open for 2 weeks with no sign of fading, but the scent is weakening.

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**Grown by Yvette Lyster**



***Potinara* Lovely Martha 'SVO' x  
Pot. Martha Clarke 'Amazing'**

From Fred Clarke at Sun Valley Orchids in October, 2019.

Compact plant with slightly scented blooms.

**Grown by Heather Anderson**



***Cattlianthe Portia***

A large, mature plant that I purchased from OSPF in 2017. It is a vigorous grower. It grew outside this summer and unfortunately a number of the leaves got sunburned. Grown in a south window with supplement from one T5 light. Blooms annually and often has more than one bloom sheath. With this flowering, it produced 10 blooms from one sheath.



***Cattleya maxima***

Grown under lights in a basement greenhouse and spent the summer in an outdoor greenhouse. When it started blooming it was moved to an upstairs south-facing window. It has a faint fragrance. This Cattleya blooms twice/year and presently has 11 blooms. It, too, is large and difficult to carry to the sink once a week to water, so it will be repotted and divided in the spring.



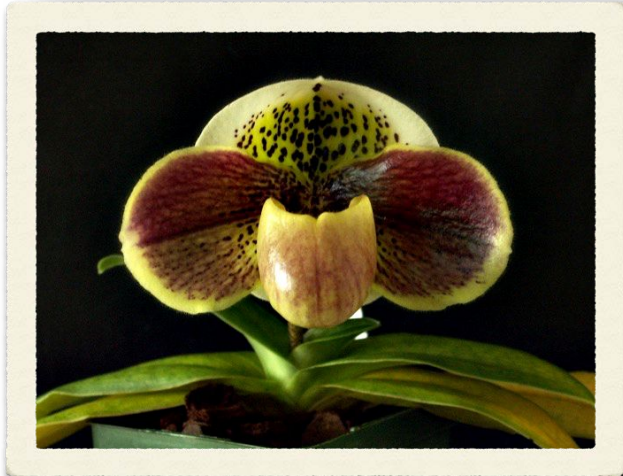
***Ornithocephalus* sp. (possibly *polyodon*)**

Grown in an orchidarium where it receives daily watering and high humidity.

This is the second time it has bloomed this year.



**Grown by Bob Lucas**



***Paphiopedilum* (Solar Eclipse x Mem. Robert Weltz)**

This is the first of some complex Paphs that I purchased from Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids who visited us a couple of years ago. Grown under lights, in Orchidata. Watered lightly twice a week and fertilize lightly once a week.



***Phalaenopsis* Bye Bye Baby**  
(Leucadia Farewell x Tying Shin Baby Smile)

I made this cross in 2017 and this is the first to bloom. I am looking for solid red in the next plants to bloom.



***Phragmipedium* Ecuagenera Dream**  
(Sedenii x kovachii)

I purchased a flask of this from Ecuagenera in 2014. This is the second one to bloom. Grown under lights in coir fibre and perlite with a 2" reservoir, watered twice a week and fertilized half-strength of Paphs. The picture does not do justice to the blooms, which have a lateral spread of 11.6 cm.

Where's a show when I need one?





***Phalaenopsis Northern Lightning***

I made this cross in 2014, only the second one to bloom so far.

I grow my Phals under lights in Promix HP. I water and fertilize once a week at twice the strength of my Paphs.

**Grown by Jennifer Osachoff**



***Paphiopedilum Maudiae 'Los Osos'***  
**AM/AOS x Hung Sheng Bay**  
**'Bear-5'**

Purchased from Terry Grosziebl of Forestview Gardens in September 2016. It has been a reliable yearly bloomer and this year was the first time it produced two flowers. The blooms typically last an astonishing 3-4 months.

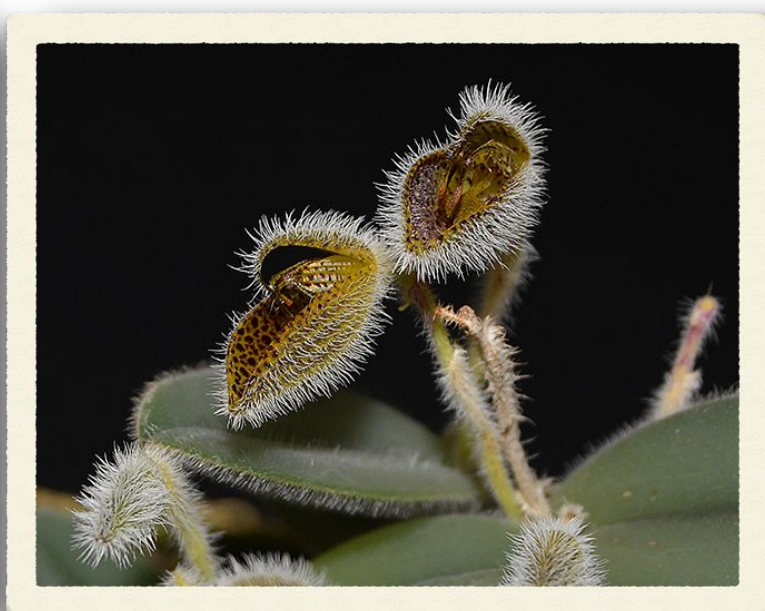
**Grown by Sara Thue**



*Dracula chestertonii*



*Dendrobium Misty Magic*  
(*ceraula x cuthbertsonii*)



*Dresslerella lasiocampa*



*Lepanthes uxoria*



**Grown by Cody Hamilton**



***Brassolaeliocattleya* Love Sound ‘Lemon Drop’**

I bought this from Cloud’s Orchids a few years back. It’s blooming for the first time.



***Cattleya* Chialin Red Cat**

I received this one from Crystal Star Orchids this summer. Fragrant! Also blooming for the first time.



***Phalaenopsis* Helen Puchailo**

I set a seedpod several years back and Bob Lucas sowed the seed for me. Fast forward to now, I was able to register the cross in honour of my grandmother and am just beginning to have some come into bloom.



***Phalaenopsis* MD’s Mercy Me**

Purchased from Foothills Orchid Society show last year in Calgary. These blooms are from a new inflorescence and smell like soap.

**Grown by Wilma Regehr**



***Cattleya labiata v. rubra***

From Paramount about 3 years ago. Very fragrant clusters of 5-7" flowers that last 4-6 weeks in late fall to November.



***Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit' FCC/AOS**

From Gold Country Orchids

This awarded clone is the nicest of all the plants I've had of this species. Shorter than most Catt. spp.

A great Christmas orchid, with spicy scent like no other. The orange throat in the 4-1/2" flowers is also unique.



***Laeliocattleya* George Baldwin 'Prolific'**

A plant I've had it seems forever. Very reliable old girl that blooms with 5-6" flowers in clusters of 5, 2-3 times a year.

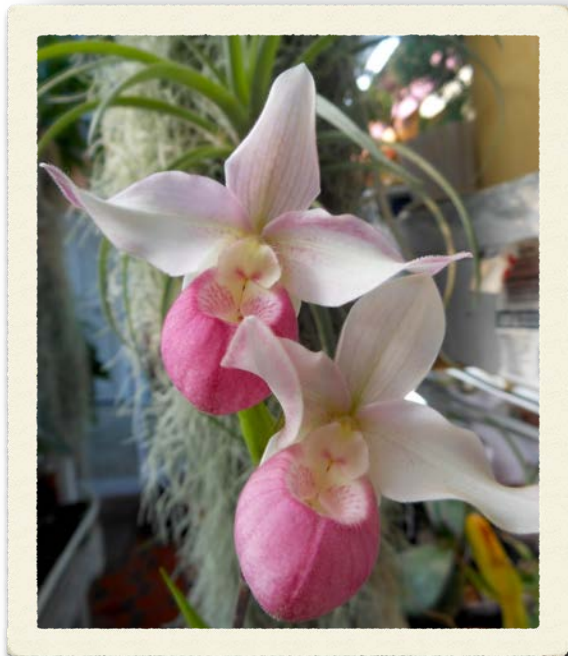
I would say this is an easy large plant.



***Laelia rubescens***

Another of my oldies. 2-1/2" scented flowers, clusters of usually 2-6 at the apex of a long stem. Compact and easy if you can give it high light.





***Phragmipedium schlimii* 'Birchwood' AM/AOS**

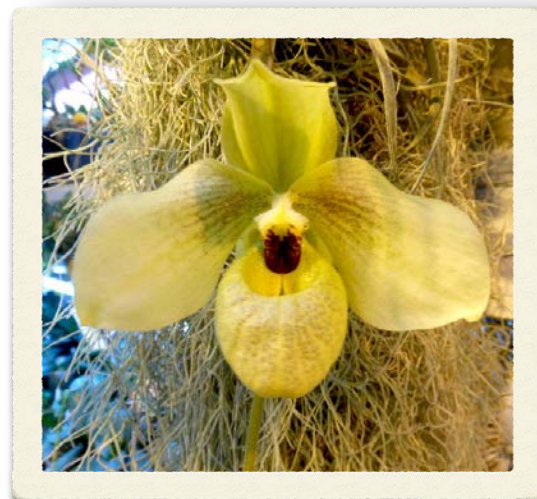
Alternate name: *Phrag.* Cardinale 'Birchwood'

This was awarded in error as *Phrag. schlimii*, when in fact it was the cross Cardinale but the judges allowed the error to stand. WHY? So even though it is well known as Cardinale, it is still being sold as the species *schlimii*. To confuse things more, there was also one awarded as *Phrag. schlimii* 'Wilcox'. Still wrong. Some thought at the time it was not the hybrid Cardinale but the hybrid Sedenii. However Cardinale is (Sedenii x *schlimii*). Confused yet?! In the '80s I had both Cardinale and Sedenii and they were very similar. I still have one of them, not sure which because a label went missing. I got this one recently. A pretty flower, no matter what it is. Easy to grow with a little more light than a *Paphiopedilum*. Not allowed to dry out. The plant size is smaller than most other Phrags.



***Brassolaeliocattleya* Hausermann's  
Holiday 'Christmas' AM/AOS**

This is now called *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*. A large plant that blooms with large, fragrant flowers, up to 8 in a cluster. I usually get 6 per lead every late November to December. They often get a few blooms in late summer.



***Paphiopedilum* Memoria Larry Heuer  
(*malipoense* x *emersonii*)**

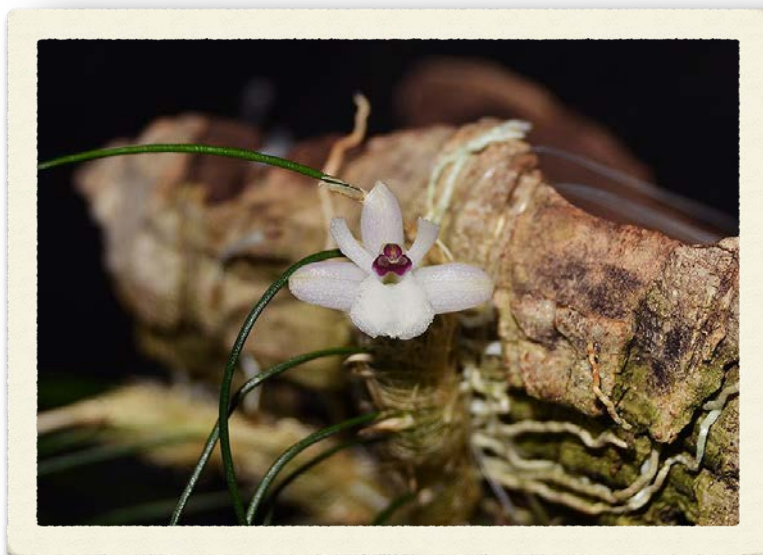
From Paramount about 3 years ago. It was supposed to be a Joyce Hasagawa but when it flowered it was evident the the label was wrong. They told me that an order they got from a company had them mixed up. Some were Joyce, some were Larry. I have seen these with more pink on the petals, which I prefer, but it is a fragrant green flower that stands well above the mottled foliage. I'm still looking for a Joyce.

**Grown by Tracey Thue**



***Bifrenaria vitellina***

The literature describes *B. vitellina* as egg yolk-yellow, and mine is very orange. This plant may be *B. aureo-fulva*, which is described as “golden-red-yellow”. Whatever the name, it’s a cute little flower with a happy color!



***Isabelia virginalis***

From J&L Orchids in 2018, this is a favourite miniature of mine, native to Brazil. It is very happy on the cork mount so it can dry quickly after watering. Gets bright light under T5s in the winter, and loves being outside in summers.



**Grown by Merle Ward**



***Clowesetum* Diane Drisch**

(*Clowesia* Grace Dunn 'Live Oak' HCC/AOS x *Catasetum tigrinum* 'SVO')

I got this plant from Sunset Valley Orchids when Fred Clark was here last fall.

## THE ROOT TIP

### Common Orchids of the Cypress Hills and Where to Find Them

By David Schwinghamer

Photos by Glenn Lee, Saskatchewan Wildflowers

My love of orchids comes from spending the summers of my childhood wandering the forests of Cypress Hills Inter-provincial Park, primarily in the Center Block. These observations are based on where I have repeatedly observed these species and where I still search for them to this day. June to mid July is the best season to observe orchids in the park.

*Corallorhiza maculata*, the Spotted Coralroot, is extremely common in areas with Lodgepole Pine and minimum undergrowth, and often forms large clumps.

*Corallorhiza striata*, the Striped Coralroot, is found in moist areas near streams and beaver ponds, generally in the presence of White Spruce.

*Corallorhiza trifida*, the Yellow Coralroot, is found in the undergrowth of Trembling Aspen groves.

All 3 species of Coralroot in the park do not produce chlorophyll for photosynthesis but instead gather nutrients via myco-heterotrophy, feeding on nutrients from the mycorrhizal fungi network.



*Corallorhiza maculata*



*Corallorhiza striata*



*Corallorhiza trifida*

*Cypripedium montanum*, the Mountain Lady Slipper, grows in the Lodgepole Pine forest. While less common than the Spotted Coralroot, its dramatic blossoms tower above the surrounding undergrowth making it hard to miss.

I've been told by park interpreters that there are patches of *Calypso bulbosa*, the Venus Slipper, in the park, and to search the Lodgepole Pine forest in May; however, I have yet to observe one. While you're in the park searching for orchids, don't miss these other rare, unusual, and beautiful wildflowers.

In the Lodgepole Forest:

*Chimaphila umbellata* Prince's-Pine

*Monotropa hypopithys* Pinesap - also uses myco-heterotrophy

*Monotropa uniflora* Ghost Pipe - also uses myco-heterotrophy

*Pterospora andromedea* Pinedrops - also uses myco-heterotrophy

In the White Spruce Forest & Low Spots:

*Moneses uniflora* One-Flowered Wintergreen

In the Trembling Aspen Forest:

*Pyrola asarifolia* Michx. Pink Wintergreen



*Cypripedium montanum*



*Monotropa uniflora*



*Pterospora andromedea*



*Pyrola asarifolia*

For more information, check out this fact sheet from Alberta Parks:

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ba121898-a1ad-4ce3-9de9-6bdc2b2c7e15/resource/cabd1e90-9ea7-4c84-95a6-b31a947ca577/download/cypress-hills-pp-orchids-checklist.pdf>