

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 email info@saskorchids.com to update your contact information.

Future Meeting Dates:

Sun Oct 24, 2021	Sat Mar 19, 2022
Sat Nov 27, 2021	Sat Apr 23, 2022
Sat Jan 21, 2022	Sat May 28, 2022
Sat Feb 26, 2022	

SOS Executive

President:	Tracey Thue
Vice-President:	Vacant
Past President:	Bob Lucas
Secretary:	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe
Treasurer:	Cheryl Grummet
Social:	Shirley Keith Lynn Campbell
Plant Orders:	Heather Anderson David Schwinghamer
Resources:	Don Keith Tom Kondra
Librarians:	Deb Huculiak Kathryn Hiller
Newsletter:	Tracey Thue
COC/AOS Rep:	Tom Kondra
Speakers:	Heather Anderson
Webmaster:	Calvin Lo
Facebook:	Sara Thue
Web Address:	www.saskorchids.com
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facebook: [https://
www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?](https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?)
Mail Address: SOS, Box 411, Saskatoon,
SK S7K 3L3

The October general meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 24 @ 1:30pm via Zoom.

Guest speaker Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn, Bloomington, IL will be presenting 'The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum and Their Culture.'

Please see page 2 of this newsletter for a link to the Zoom meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZOOM GENERAL MEETINGS TO CONTINUE

Due to recent surges in the delta variant, we will continue meeting virtually for the rest of the calendar year. We will reevaluate in 2022.

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:

1:30 pm Zoom Meeting Start
Welcome & Introductions
Presentation by Sam Tsui
Question period with Sam Tsui

2:30pm SOS Business Items
(Following presentation)

Announcements
Problem corner
Show & Tell

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER:

Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn

Topic: The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum and their culture

Sam began growing orchids in the early 1980's. After trying many types of orchids, he became a serious Paphiopedilum grower in 1985. In 1990, he began hybridizing with Paphiopedilums and continues that work today. As he became more involved with Paphiopedilums, he started selling commercially in 1995 as the Orchid Inn. He grew orchids in his basement and greenhouses attached to his house. As the business grew, in 2004, he purchased six acres of property and built his first commercial 6,000 square feet greenhouse. Currently he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually.

As a result of Sam's breeding program, his orchids have been honoured with approximately 318 awards (as of July, 2019) from the American Orchid Society, Cymbidium Society of America, and European Orchid Congress.

In the past 27 years, Sam has been very active in the orchid world by travelling to shows, promoting sales, and lecturing. Over the past 23 years, he has judged at the Japan Grand Prix, the world's largest orchid show.

Please join the Zoom meeting by clicking on this link:

Topic: The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum and their Culture

When: **Sunday, Oct.24, 2021 1:30 PM** Saskatchewan

[https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/94032754127?
pwd=Um45VjgwWjVFNCsxTUpBNjVrd3lMdz09](https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/94032754127?pwd=Um45VjgwWjVFNCsxTUpBNjVrd3lMdz09)

SOS WEBSITE & EMAILS

Plant orders go to: orders@saskorchids.com

General requests or queries to:

info@saskorchids.com

LIBRARY

If you would like to borrow any library resources, please email Librarian Deb Huculiak

hucuh@sasktel.net to arrange for pickup. Please

include in your email message your name and a phone number for Deb to reach you. You can find a .pdf of the library holdings on our SOS website.

Available are books, magazines (AOS Orchids and Orchid Digest), pH meter, light meter.

2022 SOS Calendar Fundraiser

Order your calendars by emailing
orders@saskorchids.com

**\$15.00 each. Featuring photos
submitted by SOS members.**

**Deadline for orders is November 15.
Pickup from Don Keith's house on Nov 27.**



SOS EXECUTIVE ELECTION

The annual Executive Election has been moved from April to November general meetings. Since the 2021 November meeting will be via Zoom, we will hold an online election.

The election will go live at 5:00am Oct 25th and you have until 11:00pm Nov 20th to vote. The link will be sent to members via email.

Nominations for SOS Executive 2021-22

President	Tracey Thue
Vice-President	<i>Asking for volunteer</i>
Past President	Bob Lucas
Secretary	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe <i>Asking for volunteer</i>
Treasurer	Cheryl Grummett <i>Asking for volunteer</i>
Social	Shirley Keith
Plant Orders	Heather Anderson David Schwinghamer
Resources	Don Keith Tom Kondra
Library	Deb Huculiak <i>Asking for volunteer for 2nd librarian</i>
Newsletter Editor	Tracey Thue
Newsletter Assist.	Tobi Fenton
Speaker Coordinator	Heather Anderson
COC/AOS Rep	Tom Kondra
Webmaster	Calvin Lo
Facebook Page	Sara Thue
Member at Large	Lynn Campbell

PLANT ORDER NEWS

Heather Anderson reports that the Plant Order Committee has processed \$14,248.00 worth of orders in the last twelve months!

A total of ten orders were placed with eight different vendors.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Heather would like to thank Cheryl Grummett for taking e-transfers from members for plant order payments - it really eased the burden for the Plant Order Committee.

Also, thank you to Don Keith for his help with the Garden Slipper order.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was chaired by SOS President Tracey Thue. Tracey welcomed the members of the Society to the first meeting of the season. The executive has decided that we will not meet face-to-face for the time being but will continue with Zoom meetings for the fall. Tracey thanked Calvin Lo for hosting the Zoom meeting. She then introduced the speaker, Terry Letendre of Terry's Orchids, Edmonton, presenting *Back to the Basics*. Information on Terry's background can be found in the September newsletter. Terry's camera was not working; we could hear him but not see him.

Presentation: Back to the Basics

With Covid, we have had 18 months or more of not being able to meet people in person, not being able to see each other's orchids, not being able to talk to other people about how to grow them, so we need some sort of orchid interaction. There is a myriad of orchid groups on the Internet, and Terry has joined several of them, e.g., a group dedicated to *Dendrochilum*, another for

Bulbophyllum, and one called Orchid Tips and Tricks, which is to a large extent populated by a lot of brand new growers.

Orchid Tips and Tricks has members all over the world who like to give simplistic one-line fix-all solutions to people's problems: "Always water your plants with banana water." "Always use old tea to water your orchids." "My Nance water her plants with two ice cubers once a week." "Water once a week." "Water twice a week." "Your plant should be in a ceramic orchid pot." They all have different formulations of fertilizer that you should be using. These solutions work for the people offering them, but not necessarily for anyone else. Everyone's windowsill is not the same! In this kind of group there is nothing in context; you don't know where they are or how they are growing their orchids. You can't just take a one-line answer to a problem and have it solve *your* problems. It is important to go back to the basics of what we are doing and what we should be doing, and talk to each other about it so we can improve everyone's orchid-growing abilities.

Why even join an orchid society?

1. For information
2. To belong to a group of like-minded people
 - To make new friends - clubs in general are often dominated by people who joined to make new friends and visit with people they know, rather than because they are interested in the topic.
 - To see each other's plants/flowering successes
3. For access to hard-to-get plants - this was Terry's main reason for joining an orchid society when he first started growing orchids nearly forty years ago.

The Formula (from a long essay written by Gordon Heaps, who has given Terry permission to use it).

Plants use water, light, nutrients and air in the presence of chlorophyll, to make the energy they then use for growth and flowering.

Our goal is to maximize these but....KEEP IT IN BALANCE.

If we attributed one point to each of these four items, it would total 4 points. Better yet would be to total 8 points, so if we could encourage the plant to use properly twice as much water, give it twice as much light, more nutrients, more air, we could get a better result out of our orchid. The idea is that we want to maximize the energy that the plant produces for growth and flowering.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Things to consider in learning how to grow our orchids better:

*Water *Light *Fertilizer *Air * Media *Repotting
*Observation

Water:

1. When to water

- Always before noon
Prevents disease
Prevents blemishes on the leaves.
- However, the idea of always watering before noon should be applied with common sense. If it is a warm day in summer and you want to water your plants at 1 o'clock, it's probably okay because the water will be evaporating more quickly. In the winter, probably you should be finishing your watering by 10:00 or 11:00 because temperatures are cooler and you probably have less air movement. If it's 2:00 or 3:00 p.m., it is probably better to wait and water them the next day.
- Misting is to be discouraged - studies have shown that the benefits of misting (higher humidity) are minimal compared to the problems that arise due to water sitting on the leaves.

2. Water quality:

- Ideal or good enough - you need to decide for yourself which you want it to be. Terry is part of the "good enough" group.
- Reverse osmosis water - RO water and distilled water are the purest.
- Distilled or demineralized
- Rainwater - can be very pure but depends on how you collect it. If you collect it off asphalt shingles, purity can depend on how old the shingles are. New shingles can still be giving off petroleum impurities. Or the vat for cistern in which you collect it could be contaminated with spores or fungal diseases. Terry uses rainwater and tap water. He collects the rainwater by running downspouts to his collection system from his asphalt roof.
- Tap water - he uses Edmonton tap water, but if you are living in a different city or town, you should probably test it. He recommends getting a TDS (total dissolved solids) meter. They used to be pricey, but the price has come down a lot.
- Well water - for many reasons, you should have it tested. Sometimes it is very pure, but often it contains

minerals that might be bad for your orchids, or even bad for you.

3. Water temperature:

- Mainly, our orchids are tropical, warm weather plants, so room temperature water is what they want.
- Ice cubes are probably not a good method, even though many Phalaenopsis from Safeway or big box stores will have tags recommending something like, "Give it two ice cubes once a week and call me in the morning!"

4. Water quantity:

- NOT sparingly
- Enough that water comes out ALL the holes in the plant bottom. In the wild, all the roots are getting an equal amount of water at the same time, and we try to mimic conditions in the wild as much as possible. If you use ice cubes in the pot, the droplets of water that come off the ice cube are sucked straight down to the bottom of the pot and a lot of the roots will not get any of the water, not to mention the chilling effect of the ice water on the roots. You want all the roots in the pot to get an equal amount of water every time you water.
- "More orchids are killed by overwatering than anything else." This is a well-known saying and part of the justification of the ice cube watering method.
- BUT - under-watering is a major cause of *flowering* failure.
- Learn how much ice the most water your plant can use and give it that amount. Determine whether your plant is the type that wants to be evenly moist at all times or one that likes to approach dryness between waterings. That is how you decide the quantity of water to give your plants, and you should give it that water on a regular basis.

5. Watering frequency:

- HOW OFTEN SHOULD I WATER THIS PLANT?
- When needed OR when convenient? We want orchid growing to be convenient, e.g., every Sunday, but we also want it to be when the plant needs it. There are ways to make that coincide.
- Seasonal needs change: some plants grow slower in one part of the year, some go completely dormant in part of the year. You are back to doing your homework, finding out the requirements for your particular plant on a seasonal basis.

- Constantly damp, or drier between waterings? (Paphs vs Cattleyas) Paphs like to be evenly moist all the time, while Cattleyas and Oncidiums like to approach dryness between waterings. A lot of books will say that a certain plant likes to dry between waterings, but there is an interpretation of what dryness means. Is it bone dry? Or approaching dryness, but not bone dry? Terry believes that *approaching* dryness is a better way to look at it.
- Pot type - large or small? Plastic? Clay? Slotted? Growing a plant in a small pot such as a 3" pot means that the centre of the rootball is only 1-1/2" away from the side or top or bottom of the pot, i.e., the drying surfaces of the pot. However, when growing a specimen plant in an 8" pot, the centre of the rootball is much further away from those drying surfaces and will dry out much more slowly. There are ways to make it dry more quickly, and that includes the material the pot is made of. Clay wicks the water away so the rootball will dry out more quickly than it would in a plastic pot. A slotted orchid pot provides a way for more air to get to the roots but if you are not watering enough, that would be a bad thing because the rootball would dry out more quickly.
- Fine or open media - fine media has a larger surface area than chunky media and will hold more water.
- Match the media type to your watering practices. For the sake of convenience, you may want to water your plants on a particular schedule, such as once a week, so you could choose a medium that helps you accomplish that. Perhaps the plants in smaller plastic pots should have a finer medium, while those in large pots that will dry out more quickly might need to have sphagnum added to them to help hold the moisture.
- Do your homework; find out what your orchid wants.

6. Encourage your plant to use as much water as possible. This may include things like more air movement, which helps the plant transpire more, or a brighter light situation, which also helps the plant transpire more because it is warmer and the plant will need more water to replace the water it transpires. If you can, encourage a plant in a

controlled fashion to need more water, and then give it that extra water. Photosynthesis will happen to a greater extent and the plant will produce more energy, which will help it flower more, grow bigger, and perform better.

Light

- Light intensity is important: what is the intensity that your orchid wants?
- As much as it can handle - do your research.
- Low light vs. high light plants: find out the maximum amount of light that your orchid can handle and then give as close to that amount as you can without overheating it.
- Foot candles vs heat buildup. E.g., Phalaenopsis prefers bright, indirect light. Some people interpret that to mean that Phals can't take any direct sunlight at all, or not for very long. However, you can grow Phalaenopsis successfully in an east window in full light, but if you did it in a south window, it might burn. The issue is not that the light is too bright, but if you have it in a bright situation with too little air movement, heat builds up on the surface of the leaf and collapses the cells and you get burn spots on the leaves, especially on broad-leaved plants.
- More air movement allows more light to be used.
- Light angle changes with the season. In winter, the sun gets low on the horizon and the sunlight comes farther into the room. In summer, overhanging eaves may prevent direct sunlight from coming into the room at all. It may be necessary to move your plants as the seasons change to take advantage of the available light.
- The way to tell if your plant is getting the right amount of light is to observe the leaf colour. If the leaves are getting too yellow, the orchid might be getting too much light. However, Terry grows some very high light orchids and he knows that if the plant doesn't get a light green colour to its leaves, the plant might not flower. You have to know what your particular orchid leaf should look like and strive to achieve that.
- How much is too much? (Suntan vs sunburn) Sometimes you will see a purplish tinge to the leaves of Cattleya or Phalaenopsis; that is equivalent to sunburn for us. In Terry's view, that is a good thing, but that purplish colour means you are getting close to the line for maximum light. You don't want to go over that line because there is a chance of burning the leaf. You have to decide if that is a suntan or you are approaching a sunburn.

Fertilizer

- Is it even needed? Aren't they air plants? (It's from the internet, so it must be true.)
- YES! They need fertilizer, but not much. Usually.
- Ideal vs good enough. Terry is a generalist and grows a huge variety of different genera, so he wants to use fertilizer that is good enough for most of the plants in his greenhouse. He does not have a very complicated formula for his fertilizer, but if you are one of those people who is an excellent scientist, there are certainly better formulas than what he uses.
- Balanced vs customized regime: Terry uses a balanced formula.
- Needs to have micronutrients, e.g., manganese, iron, boron. All of these minerals are necessary. Years ago, fertilizers didn't have these micronutrients, but nearly all fertilizers on the market now have them.
- Frequency: "Weekly, weakly." You are probably familiar with this adage, which recommends that you fertilize once a week at 1/8 to 1/4 the manufacturer's recommended strength. You want to get as close to nature as possible. In nature, most orchids grow in the mid-canopy on branches, not on the top where there is too much sun, and not on the ground where they get too much shade. There is very little growing media around the plants on those branches, just plants with their roots clinging to the branch. They might get some detritus, like leaves falling from above that get caught in the roots or stems of the orchids. They don't get much fertilizer from that. If you want to mimic nature, you need a very low amount of fertilizer on a near constant basis. That's not practical for most of us, so 1/4 to 1/8 on a near constant basis is probably close to nature and is still convenient for the grower.
- Leaching: Needs a regular FLUSH to prevent build-up. Fertilizers are mainly salts, so the plants need regular flushing to prevent salt buildup. If you water your plants a lot, this probably isn't necessary. But if you are allowing them to approach dryness, then the plant is sitting in the pot without water for a time and the salts crystallize out in the pot. If new roots contact those salt crystals, they will possibly be burned. It is recommended that every 4th or 5th watering, we should leach excess salts out of our pots by giving them more straight water than usual.
- How much fertilizer does my type of orchid want?
Paphs and some Phrags need very little fertilizer. If they

get too much, they might get borrowing of the leaf tips, evidence of burning by the excess salt. On the other hand, *Cycnoches* need a high amount of fertilizer. *Cycnoches* go dormant in the winter, but when they start to grow again in spring and the new shoot comes up a few inches, that is when you pound the water and fertilizer to them because they only have about 5 months to grow from a shoot to a pseudobulb that is about 1-1/2 feet long and 1-1/2 inches thick. They are very heavy feeders. For his *Cycnoches*, Terry puts slow release fertilizer on top of the growing medium and, in addition, he waters them with the same fertilizer he uses for his other plants. That is how he handles the need for more nutrition in a convenient manner.

- Dormant or growing season: plants need more fertilizer during their growing season but none when they are dormant because they won't use it anyway.

Air

- Air movement prevents diseases and grows stronger leaves. Air movement dries things more quickly.
- Strive for mild leaf movement on the softest leaves in your growing area. You don't need a hurricane blowing through there!
- It prevents heat build-up, allowing more light to be used. This increases "The Formula" that Terry talked about at the beginning of the presentation. The air is increased and the light is increased so the plant can use more fertilizer and produce more energy.
- Allows cooler growing plants to be grown at warmer temperatures. Plants like *Miltonia*, *Masdevallia*, and sometimes *Dracula*, prefer cool temperature. However, if the air movement keeps the root zone cooler, then these plants can be grown successfully at warmer temperatures. Terry grows *Masdevallias* in net pots, so the rootball is cooled through evaporation.
- Keep roots healthy:

Most orchids grow in the mid-canopy with very little media. They probably get moisture on a daily basis, either from rain or dew, and air movement keeps the roots dry so they don't rot.

Epiphytes need air at the root level to keep their roots from decaying.

- Air movement increases transpiration (like sweating in people), which moves water through the plant. This cools the leaves and allows the plant to get rid of

unwanted gases. This encourages plants to use more water and nutrition, helping it to max out “The Formula.”

Media

- Identify plant preferences - do your homework. E.g., a *Paphiopedilum* likes to be evenly moist, so give it the kind of media that holds moisture. A *Cattleya* likes to be approaching dryness, so media should be chunkier, so it dries out more easily.
- Does it want to be evenly moist all the time, or approaching dryness?
- Moisture retentive or fast drying?
- Does it have fine or thick roots? As a rule of thumb, fine roots usually want to be evenly moist, while thick roots want to be approaching dryness.
- Fine vs chunky media: fine media tend to hold moisture longer, while chunky media dry out more quickly.
- Goal is to water all your plants at the same time, even if they are in a variety of pots and have differing moisture requirements.
- Adjust the mix at repotting time to achieve that.
- Media type should correspond to watering practices.

Repotting

- New roots grow when new growth appears or shortly thereafter. For plants that grow on a rhizome, always wait for new growth to appear before repotting. Repotting disturbs the roots that are in the pot and they won't be as healthy as they were before.
- ALWAYS cut plant tissue with sterile tools to prevent transferring disease from one plant to another. It is not a good idea to use your fingernails because it is hard to sterilize your fingernails.
- Consider drier or more moisture-retentive mix, depending on the results you got from the previous repotting. When you repot is the only time you get to examine the roots, so if they look green and healthy, the media you used before is probably a good mix to use again. But if a lot of the roots are brown and mushy and starting to decay, and you don't want to change your watering practices, then use a less moisture-retentive potting mix. Over time you can get all your plants to require watering at the same time.
- New pots should allow space for 2-3 years' new growth. If you use a larger pot and chunkier media to avoid

repotting so soon, there aren't enough roots to dry out the medium, and it will break down more quickly.

- Monopodial plants like *Phalaenopsis* should go into pots that are just large enough to accommodate the roots - even if the plant is big on top but has a limited amount of healthy root.
- Pot types:
 - plastic - hold more moisture
 - clay - dry out faster
 - slotted - dry out faster
 - basket - dry out faster

Observation

- Leaves should be firm, not floppy or wrinkly.
- Each generation of leaves should be increasing in size or at least not getting smaller.
- Did the plant flower when expected? With as good or better flower count? Many good growers have a lot of tags in their plants. One tag would show the name of the plant, if it came with a name. Other information: when it last flowered, how many flowers it had, the month and year when it was last repotted. Some people might prefer to keep this information in a book rather than on a tag.
- What is a green thumb? “Someone who cares enough to be observant and acts on it.”
- ONE DEFINITION OF INSANITY IS TO DO THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AND HOPE FOR A DIFFERENT RESULT. Terry runs into that himself; he has more than a thousand plants in his collection and sometimes he just doesn't have time to give a plant the attention it needs.
- If it is not growing well enough, try something different, ask for advice, and consider acting upon it.

Commonly Grown Genera

1. Phalaenopsis

- Keep evenly moist but not wet.
- Bright, indirect light; can take full sun in east windows. Experiment with the amount of light and give them as much as you can without going over the line.
- They like household temperatures with a temperature drop at night. Actually, ALL orchids like a temp. drop at night.
- Repot every 1-2 years. IF NEEDED, they may be repotted while in bloom.

To his knowledge, this is the only genera that can be repotted while still in bloom, although it's not ideal.

- In nature, *Phalaenopsis* bloom after a period of slightly lower temperatures, which causes the leaves in the upper tree canopy to drop, increasing light available to the orchids. This is where the science of the ice cube comes in. Adding an ice cube to the roots will cool them, simulating the temperature drop. For us, to get the *Phalaenopsis* to bloom, we want to make it brighter and cooler. That is the trigger for it to bloom. This can be done by possibly moving the plant closer to a window in the fall, giving it more light and cooling it off.
- The Epsom salts treatment to get a *Phalaenopsis* to flower: water with straight water, no fertilizer, for a couple of weeks. Then drop the temperature down and fertilize the plant with just Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate).
- North American fertilizers contain nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium as macronutrients. However, in Europe, many fertilizers also contain magnesium and it is considered a macronutrient there. Magnesium encourages the plant to increase the amount of chlorophyll production, which in turn encourages flowering. It is important for both *Phalaenopsis* and *Cymbidium*. In fact, all orchids can benefit from magnesium. More specialized fertilizers contain both extra calcium and magnesium (Cal-Mag). Terry has found literature that recommends fertilizing with Epsom salts every 4th or 5th watering.
- Terry waters with tap water, using a hose, and this often leaves mineral buildup on the leaves as the water evaporates. Epsom salts is supposed to help this, and also to help flush out extra mineral deposits in the pot.

2. *Cattleya* (The Corsage Orchid)

- Approach dryness between watering.
- Light as bright as the plant can accept without burning (a learned skill).
- Household temperatures with a nighttime drop.
- Repot every 3 years only when new growth shows. Their roots don't like to be disturbed.

3. *Oncidium*

- Approach dryness between watering.
- Bright light, but not quite as bright as *Cattleya*.
- Household temperatures with a nighttime drop.

- Repot every 3 years.

4. *Paphiopedilum*

- These are a mixed bag.
- Low light to bright, depending on leaf type. If it has mottled leaves, it likes lower light. These are usually unifloral (one flower, one spike). If it has strap leaves, it is usually multifloras and usually like higher light.
- Evenly moist without being soggy.
- Household temperatures with nighttime drop.
- Repot every 1-2 years. Roots can be brittle and grow slowly, so healthy roots are critical. Be gentle with the roots when repotting.

Mastered Those?

- Be brave and try something new!
- There are thousands of beautiful and interesting orchids in other genera that can be grown on YOUR windowsill.
- HAPPY GROWING!

Tracey thanked Terry for his interesting talk, saying that it is always great to get back to basics, and really think about the reasons we are doing what we are doing and whether we are doing things properly or well enough. She especially liked the advice about air movement, and pushing the boundary for growing more intermediate or cool growing orchids when we just have a living room.

Terry then took questions from the meeting participants. He is a generalist, so is familiar with many species of orchids.

Q. A new grower loved the talk; it was exactly the advice she needed to hear. She got some cattleyas from China in April, and they were bare root and in tough shape. Since then, she has repotted them a few times and they are doing well. There is new growth on top and the roots are pushing through the slots in the 5" plastic pots. Should she repot them again, or just let them go?

T: It's a judgement call, which is difficult for a beginner. The roots should be disturbed as little as possible, and they've already suffered quite a bit of stress. You might want to "pot on", which means taking the entire rootball and media out of the present pot and putting it in a larger pot, with the ball to one side of the pot and adding more media to fill the pot. Terry would cut the old pot in pieces to remove it from the

rootball with the least amount of damage to the roots.

Do this only if you are sure there isn't enough room in the pot to accommodate another year's growth. Or you could wait another growing cycle and then pot on.

Keep pushing the envelope to give the orchids as much as they can take. As you increase the fertilizer, increase the light and water. You can grow any orchid in any material as long as you do everything else appropriately.

Phalaenopsis orchids from big box stores often come in tight sphagnum plugs with simple growing instructions. These growers want to give a very short description of how to be successful with that plant, at least in the short term, so the buyer doesn't lose interest, but that doesn't mean there isn't a better way to grow them.

Q: The grower has a *Cycnodes* hybrid, which arrived from overseas in April, bare root and in rough shape. It shut down and went dormant until mid-August, when it produced a new sprout. The grower knows that it will go dormant for the winter and he wonders how much time he has before the happens.

T: With the *Cycnodes* group, a rule of thumb for the semi-mature ones is to wait until the new sprout is about 2" long and the roots are estimated to be about 2" long before starting to water them. Resist watering when the new sprout is only 3/4 - 1" long as you will often rot the new roots.

It's a guessing game as to when the new growth will max out. When the first leaves too open on that cane start to yellow and drop off, that is the time to start reducing water. When the last leaf drops off, it isn't growing any more, so Terry doesn't water them at all. However, the humidity in his greenhouse runs 50-70% and it will be dryer in a house, so you may want to mist the cane lightly with a spray bottle every week or two. It's a guessing game when a plant is shipped from overseas. It might be from a different hemisphere; the climate is different there; the natural dormancy period might be different if it had stayed there.

Show and Tell

In answer to a question from Terry, Tracey stated that we have not had any formal Show and Tell sessions, but it is something we probably should look at for the near future, since we will still be having Zoom meetings for a few

months. Tracey invited members to show their plants to the audience if they had plants they wanted to share.

Calvin Lo showed an *Aerangis luteo-alba* that he got from Gold Country Orchids. He has already killed four of them. They bloom and then seem to go downhill. He hopes to keep this one alive. He grows it mounted on cork with no media around the root.

Terry grew an *Aerangis luteo-alba* var. *rhodosticta* that won a trophy at the Vancouver WOC in 1999. He grew it on a tree fern fibre plaque. He watered it with tap water and over time the tree fern fibre absorbed more any more minerals and eventually the plant died. He doesn't grow them anymore because they need very pure water and he doesn't want to commit to using RO or rainwater for them. He suggested that Calvin try Epsom salts to remove the mineral buildup.

Calvin uses RO water with occasional tap water. He is experimenting with adding Cal-Mag fertilizer and is working at finding the optimum amount to use.

Irene Strosheim showed a "store-bought" *Phalaenopsis* that she allowed to grow downwards. It was a mass of blooms.

Don Keith showed a *Masdevallia niesseniae* he got from Ecuagenera in June. He grows it in tree fern and it has really taken off. It has seven spikes and has doubled in size since he got it. It is in the Subsection Coccineae.

Calvin Lo showed a *Dendrobium longicornu* species that he got from Marni Turkel, one of the black-haired dendrobiums. It was a specific clone that was collected in the Himalayas. It is one of the coolest growing black-haired Dendrobiums and Calvin is having some trouble with it, so he might try some of the tricks that Terry talked about.

Tracey Thue showed a *Pleurothallis grobyi* (now called *Specklinia grobyi*). She keeps it in a north window in her kitchen in winter, and then it goes outside on the north side of the house for summer. She brings it in when it gets too hot outside. She bought it at the Vancouver WOC in 1999. She grows it on the original tree fern mount and plunges the whole thing in a bucket of rainwater or melted snow water throughout the year.

Terry commented that it is too bad there is no opportunity to have our plants judged at the present time.

Alan Danilkevich showed a blooming albino Paphiopedilum, which she got as a \$6 bare root plant from Ching Hua a couple of months ago. She got six albino and six vine-coloured ones, and she gives them away to friends when they bloom. She grows them in her bathroom where they get lots of humidity and lots of temperature changes. It is in a northeast window where it doesn't get too much light.

Tracey thanked Terry on behalf of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society for his interesting presentation and chat afterwards. We all hope the next visit can be in person.

Meeting Agenda

Tracey welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members, some of whom live outside Saskatoon. She then had the executive members introduce themselves to the membership.

Cheryl Grummett has served many years in the Treasurer position and is wanting to step down so, if you are interested in the position, talk to Cheryl or Tracey or any executive member.

Plant Order Committee member, Heather Anderson, reported that the Tropical Gardens plant order is coming on October 5th and will be ready for distribution on the 6th. The Ecuagenera order is arriving in Calgary on October 7th or 8th, probably to be distributed the following weekend. On the last order, from our speaker Terry Letendre, the Society picked up the shipping costs on behalf of the membership. Heather is bringing the Tropical Gardens order back from Vancouver herself so there will be no shipping on that order. Ecuagenera is paying the shipping charges from Ecuador to Calgary and then Saskatoon. Both Tropical Gardens and Ecuagenera are offering discounts. There will be a \$2 per plant handling charge on the Ecuagenera order, less than the \$3 charge we were originally quoted. There will probably be no more plant orders in the near future after the Ecuagenera order, due to cold temperatures.

Tracey thanked Heather and David for all the work they have done in the past year, making so many plants available for us here in Saskatoon. Heather reported that we have brought in more than \$10,000 worth of orchids in the past year.

Don Keith from Resources reported that we now have everything in stock except small pots. They have brought in a

new product, Marphyl soil enhancer. A 500 mL bottle costs \$11.00 and will make up 5 gallons of solution. Some of our members have used it with fantastic results. They will have a table set up at Heather's garage to sell supplies when the Ecuagenera order comes in. If anyone needs supplies now, they should email him by 8:00 tonight and he will have the supplies ready for pickup at his house after 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Deb Huculiak reported that she has the library holdings at her home. If anyone wants to borrow any materials, they should get in touch with her. There is an inventory of our holdings on our website.

Tom Kondra is the COC/AOS representative. He acts as an intermediary between our society and the COC (Canadian Orchid Congress). The COC provides liaison among the various orchid societies in Canada, exchanging information on activities of the societies. They also provide awards for deserving members of the societies. The AOS (American Orchid Society) similarly provides liaison between their members, and Tom acts as the intermediary between our society and the AOS.

Tracey thanked Speaker Coordinator, Heather Anderson, for all the work she does in bringing in such amazing speakers, including Terry, today's speaker. Heather reported that we share speakers with Edmonton (Orchid Society of Alberta), Winnipeg (Manitoba Orchid Society), and Calgary (Foothills Orchid Society). The next speaker we have planned is Alan Koch, of Gold Country Orchids, in November. It will be coordinated by Edmonton, so the meeting will probably be on Saturday. The speaker coordinators will be meeting in early December to look at the new year. It has been really uncertain times, not knowing whether meetings will be over Zoom or in person. It is difficult to get speakers to come in person in winter because they are unable to bring plants for sale.

Calvin Lo, Website Coordinator, reported that we now host our own website and are able to manage it a little bit more closely than before. We have a new email address, info@saskorchids.com

Questions can be sent there. He updates the website with upcoming meetings and plant orders, but not links to the presentations because we don't want those distributed to non-members.

Announcements

1. Membership renewals are due now. Membership runs from September 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022. The cost is \$25 for a single; \$30 for a family.

- E-transfer to Treasurer Cheryl Grummett: go to SOS website and click on “online membership form,” or mail a cheque to the SOS mailing address.
- Early’s Farm and Garden offers a 10% discount on all orchid-related products when you present your membership card at the time of purchase.

2. SOS Website and Emails

- Website is <https://www.saskorchids.com>
- Official email address for plant orders is orders@saskorchids.com
- Official email address for general requests or questions is info@saskorchids.com

3. Executive Elections

- Moving from April to November
- Please send nominations for positions to info@saskorchids.com
- We are actively looking for a Treasurer (or Secretary), Librarian, and Vice President.

4. 2022 Calendar Fundraiser

- Calendars are being produced by Sara Thue using photos sent in over the last year. Kathryn Hiller is organizing printing. Available for purchase in time for Christmas gift shopping. Watch your email inboxes for more information. Past calendars have been \$15 each.

Problem Corner

Q. Tracey has an ongoing problem with aphids in her back yard.

A. No one offered any help with Tracey’s aphids.

Q. Do you have a recipe for a dip or plant spray that you use when you bring your plants indoors in the fall, to get rid of outdoor insects?

A. Tracey has a recipe for a dip containing isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, Neem oil, dish detergent and other ingredients. She mixes it up in a pail and then dips the plant in, pot and all. This kills the pests in the

growing medium as well as on the plants. She does this on a warm day and allows the plants to dry in the sun outside before bringing them into her house. Safer soap spray could also be used but this doesn’t affect the pests in the pot and rootball.

Tracey sees a remarkable difference in her plants’ growth and vigour, and they flower better because they have had 3 or 4 months outside in the fresh air, higher light, and more water. She hasn’t seen any cross-contamination of disease between plants due to dipping them in the same pail. She has 3 or 4 dozen plants outside.

Q. What is needed for shade netting when growing outside?

A. Tracey has lattice attached to the north wall of her house and she hangs smaller plants on that lattice. In addition, she has two small greenhouse/shelving units. They come with a plastic covering that is great for spring when it can be zipped up to provide warmth, humidity, and protection from the wind. But when the weather gets warmer, these are too hot, so she removes them and covers the enclosures with shade cloth or burlap. The burlap works well because when it was really hot, she hosed the burlap down twice a day and the wet burlap increased the humidity and reduced the temperature around the plants.

General Feedback

There were no comments or suggestions.

Newsletter

Please email to Tracey:

Photos of flowering orchids

List of plants you would like to sell

Orchid stories you’d like to share

Meeting Adjourned 3:40 p.m.

ORCHID MARKET

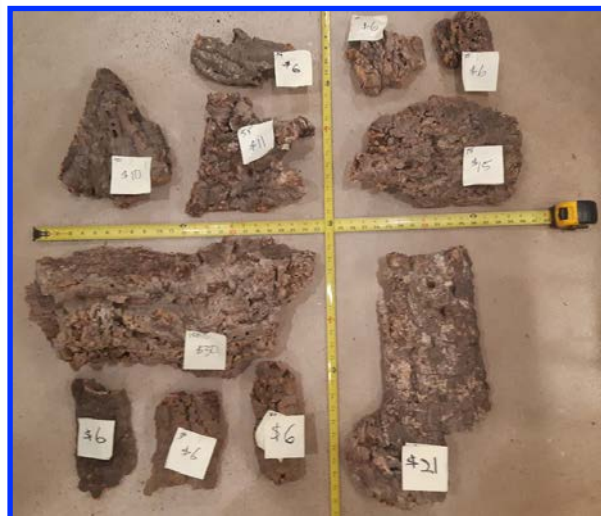
Plant Products from Sherida Gregoire's Greenhouse

If you are interested, please email Bob Lucas at
robert.lucas@usask.ca

Products are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

1. Sunblaster 24" T5 HO bulb and ballast, new in the box, one @ \$25.00.
2. Used 48" T5 ballast, & bulb, 1 @ \$15.00
3. Greenearth concentrate horticultural oil, 500ml, new & unopened, 2 @ \$5.00 each.

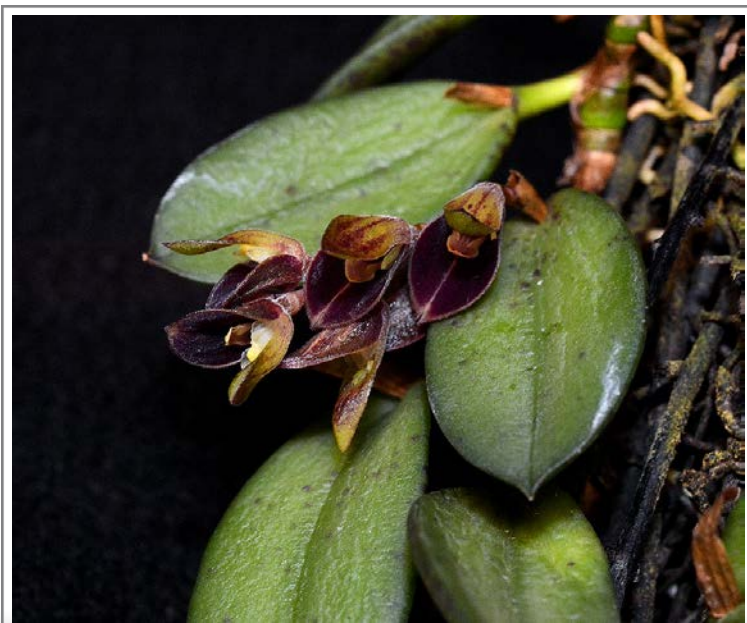
Don Keith will provide orchid supplies to SOS members, orders to be placed by 8:00 pm Saturday, October 23, 2021. Orders will be ready for pick up after 10:00 a.m. Sunday, October 24 2021. Please pay with exact cash, by cheque made out to the SOS, or pay Don by e-transfer. Email Don at donkeith@sasktel.net



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Fir Bark	3L bag fine or medium (please specify)	\$6.00	Cork slabs	Various shapes, sizes (see photo above)	\$6 - \$32.00
Orchiata Pine Bark	3L bag fine, medium or med-coarse (specify)	\$6.00	Inflorescence clips	Small, brown or green	10 for \$1.00
Orchiata Pine Bark	40L bag, fine, medium or med-coarse (specify)	\$52.00	Rhizome clips	Small Med/Large	\$1.00 \$1.25
Perlite	4L bag medium/coarse	\$4.00	Clear Pots	2 1/4 x 2 1/4 square	\$0.50
GrowStones	3L bag, 1/4 - 3/8" or 1/2 - 3/4"	\$6.00		2 1/2 x 2 1/2 round	\$0.50
Sphagnum moss, N.Z.	8L compacted 12L compressed	\$12.00 N/A		2 3/4 x 2 3/4 round	\$0.75
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
Oyster shells	1 cup bag	\$0.25	Net Pots	3"	\$1.25
Marphyl Soil Enhancer	500 ml bottle	\$11.00		3.5"	\$1.25
				5"	\$1.50
				6"	\$1.75

SHOW AND TELL

Grown by Tracey Thue



Pleurothallis recurva

This species is native to South America where it grows in montane and cloud forests at 600-1400 m, with warm to cool temperatures. I got this plant from J&L Nurseries in 2018 and grow it on my living room plant stand in the winter, and outside in the summer (brought inside when temperatures were over 30C!). It is mounted on a piece of tree fern fibre and I water it daily with rain water.

Photo credit to Sara Thue.

Specklinia grobyi

This Pleurothallid species is found in Mexico and Central and South America. The wide range indicates a tolerance for warm to cool temperatures. My plant hangs in my kitchen window where it gets bright shade and cooler temperatures at night during the winter. It goes outside for the summer, hanging against the north-facing wall of the house. The drop in night temperature stimulates it to flower in September. It is mounted on a tree fern fibre mount and I water it by plunging it into a bowl of rainwater once or twice a week in winter. When outside in summer I spray it with rainwater in the morning and soak it with the hose in the afternoon.

I counted the stems as I removed them when the flowers were done: 298 stems x an average of 12 flowers per stem = 3576 flowers!

Photo credit to Sara Thue.





Paphiopedilum henryanum

'Bear' SM/TPS x 'Bear-6'

Purchased from Ten Shin Orchids at the OSA Show in 2013, this small plant lives on an east-facing windowsill and flowers every 1-2 years in the fall. It is potted in fine Orchidata bark and watered with tap water or rainwater once or twice a week. I let it stay drier for a bit longer in the winter as temperatures cool down. The flower has so much character with the pinkish purple pouch and the big spots on the ruffled petals.

Photo credit to Katherine Thue.

Paphiopedilum King Arthur

This is a division from Lori Posniak. I divided it in May and this piece is in my office. It's very happy with the bright morning sunshine!



Grown by Candice Jackel-Cram

Stelis patens

Very difficult to take good photos of this one!
It is from Ecuagenera, this spring.





Grown by Bob Lucas

Phalaenopsis San Jacinto Fancy ‘#4b’

A fellow hybridizer in Montreal, Mark Krasny, sent me a compot of his remake of San Jacinto Fancy. This is the fourth to bloom and the best one, with a natural spread of 7.0 cm and a velvety sheen. I will be using this for sure in my hybridizing.



Phalaenopsis Gold Cat ‘#5’

I made this cross in 2013 but it has been a slow grower. This is the fifth one I have bloomed. It starts out red but fades to purple.

Phragmipedium Jason Fisher

An old favourite that just keeps on trucking.



Grown by Pat Randall

***Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Village Chief North**

In bloom at the moment with 8 blooms. I got this from Cloud's Orchids in 2011 as a tiny seedling and it has bloomed yearly since 2014. Eight buds is the most I've had. I grow it in medium bark under lights. I water it thoroughly when the bark is dry throughout. Usually every week to 10 days, depending on time of year and temperatures.



***Cattleya* Fascelis**

I obtained this from Calvin Wong of Tropical Garden Orchids in Oct., 2015 when he was here for a presentation for the SOS. It is a primary hybrid between *C. aelandiae* and *C. bicolor*. The bloom looks mostly like *C. aelandiae* but it has the growth habit of *C. bicolor*. It has bloomed every year with 2-4 blooms. It is beautifully scented. I grow it under lights in medium bark, watering when dry.



***Cattleya* Milton Warne x
Rhyncattleanthe Love Passion**

I got this as a seedling from Fred Clarke of SVO in 2016 when he was speaking in Edmonton. He shipped it bare root to me. This is a first bloom with four blooms on the spike, even though only two are visible. The blooms look very much like *C. Milton Warne*, with almost none of the solid orange influence that Love Passion was hoped to offer. So I am a bit underwhelmed with it! But it is still a very pretty bloom. I am hoping maybe next year the second bloom will have more colour. It is grown under lights in medium bark.

Grown by Sara Thue

Lepanthes uxor



Restrepia seketii

Grown by David Schwinghamer



Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'

I bought this last spring from Ecuagenera. It has bloomed several times so far and, while the blooms only seem to last about a week, they are stunning.

Oncidium Twinkle 'Red Fantasy'

I bought this from Ching Hua last spring. I'm very happy with it as my first attempt to grow an *Oncidium*.



Coelogyne fimbriata

Purchased from Heather Anderson. This is nearly ever-blooming in one of my terrariums.





Phymatidium delicatulum

Adorable miniature from Ecuagenera. Seems to thrive mounted with high humidity.



Sigmatostalix radicans

I received this as a cutting from Tracey Thue. This is its first bloom.



Restrepia brachypus

I shared a picture of a different *R. brachypus* blooming last month. This species fascinates me with how varied the leaf shape and growth habits can be within the species, while retaining nearly identical flowers. Perhaps this is due to regional variations within the species.

Grown by James Wood



Bulbophyllum mastersianum



Encyclia radiatum



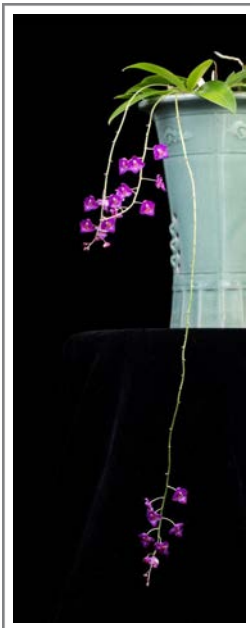
Dendrochilum arachites

AOS WESTERN CANADA JUDGING

The American Orchid Society Western Canada Judging Center had its monthly judging on September 11, 2021. The following awards were granted. **Photographs by Judith Higham.**



Masdevallia Felly 'Kittiwake' AM/AOS 80 pts
(*Masdevallia Golden Tiger* x *Masdevallia macrura*)
Exhibitor: Leda Bower



Phalaenopsis San Shia Appendo AM/AOS 83 pts.
(*Phalaenopsis appendiculata* x *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*)
Exhibitor: Pat van Adrichem, Kingfisher Orchids
(Pending clonal name)

Phalaenopsis San Shia Appendo AM/AOS 80 pts.
(*Phalaenopsis appendiculata* x *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*)
Exhibitor: Pat van Adrichem, Kingfisher Orchids
(Pending clonal name)

THE ROOT TIP



Paphiopedilum concolor

Subgenus Brachypetalum

Photo: Chu Xuan Canh

<https://www.facebook.com/SlipperOrchidsAustralia/photos/a.1801873209879668/1801873286546327>

Speak to me, old soul, speak.

Who wanders in the dark forest at your feet -

the warm shadowy world that birthed tigers long before modern man stood up and walked into Asia.

Did you hear the tigers' first roar? Their last?

Do pangolins shuffle by on their ancient ant-hunt?

Do sun bears still climb the laurels and oaks; do they admire your tenacious hold on Earth in their passing?

Or is your forest empty and silent, disturbed only by the scream of the chain saws?

Speak, old Soul.

Poem by Tobi Fenton