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, notify me at (Robert.Lucas@usask.ca). Email me if you have not received your electronic newsletter by the third Sunday of the month.

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Society will be held on Feb. 22nd at Dutch Growers, commencing at 1:30 p.m. The main building will be closed, so use the entrance to the greenhouse to the east of the main entrance.

25th Anniversary of the SOS

As noted in September, this is the 25th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society. As part of the celebrations of this event, the editor is seeking stories and pictures of the early days of the Society for a commemorative article for the newsletter. Please send contributions to the email address noted above.

OSA Show

The Orchid Society of Alberta Show and Sale will be held on February 20-22, 2009 at Grant Macewan College’s south campus, 7319-29th Ave, Edmonton.

T5 Light Order

We will be placing another order for T5 lights at the same price as the previous order. The deadline for orders is the February meeting. There will be a sign-up sheet at the resource table. You must prepay for your order at that time. The lights will be available at the March meeting.

Presentation

There will be a PowerPoint presentation on Phal culture and hybridizing by Bob Lucas.

Gardenscape

Gardenscape will be held on March 27-29 and the SOS will enter a display. We need volunteers to help set up and take down the display and to man the display during the show. If you did not sign up at the January meeting, please do so now.

Plant Order

We will be placing a plant order with Forestview for delivery at Gardenscape. Orders must be in to Cheryl at the February meeting along with prepayment. The catalogue is available at www.fvgardens.com. There will be paper copies available at the February meeting.

Meeting Agenda

- Announcements
- Problem Corner
- Show and Tell
- Coffee/Supplies
- Presentation
- Plant Raffle and Sale
- Adjournment
January 25th Meeting Minutes

The President welcomed guests and new members to the first meeting of 2009.

Announcements

Star Phoenix article - The Star Phoenix ran a picture of Ruthanne Hanbidge and an article on orchid growing on December 31/08 to showcase the Saskatoon Orchid Society’s 25th anniversary. A copy is available for members to see. Bob Lucas, our newsletter editor, is looking for stories and pictures of the early days of the society for an article.

T5 Light Order – There are still a couple of lights from the original order that have not yet been picked up. There are enough lights to supply those who put their name down at the November meeting. Lights can be picked up at the resource table today.

Edmonton Orchid Show - The show and sale is February 20-22, 2009, not the dates that were given in the January newsletter. The society won’t be doing a display this year.

Gardenscape – This show is March 27-29, 2009. The society will need volunteers to help set up and take down the display. Members’ plants will be needed for the display. More information will be provided later. A volunteer sheet was circulated for members to sign up for time slots to man the display. We expect to pre-order orchids from Forestview Gardens who will be an exhibitor at Gardenscape. Visit www.fvgardens.com Members who are interested should bring their order and down payment to the February 22 meeting.

Digital Projector – The SOS purchased a projector for use by visiting speakers and for presentations done by the society. The January meeting will be the first time the projector is used.

Change in Executive – Bob Farthing has stepped down from his position as a Resource Coordinator. Pat Randall has offered to take on this role.

Problem Corner

These Cattleya leaves get black spots and some of the new growths turn black. Nighttime temperature can be as low as 52° F. Is it the cold temperature that causes the problems? A – The spots are not likely caused by the cold as plants growing in warmer conditions have similar spotting. The cold can amplify an existing problem. The spots are probably a fungal infection. Spray with a fungicide or try applying cinnamon.

The leaves on a Dendrobium go silvery. New growth looks OK and then deteriorates. What could cause it? A – This is spider mite damage. There will be eggs in the growing media which hatch over time. Repot the plant and spray...
with insecticidal soap or Endol. Spray 4 times, 5 days apart. The insecticidal soaps are not as effective in controlling spider mites as the old chemical products which are no longer available. Raise the humidity around the plant as this also helps control mites.

Plants were transplanted from a flask to a compot with small bark. They were vigorous plants with good roots. Now the leaves have fallen off but the roots are still good. Remaining leaves are silvery. The compots were in a plastic “tent” to keep the humidity up for the seedlings. Suggestions?
A – Suspect spider mites. See discussion about Denrobium.

The top leaf on the Phalaenopsis became mottled 6 weeks ago and is getting worse. What would cause it?
A – Mottling can be caused by a virus from cell collapse due to cold. Remove the leaf near the crown. If the problem is cell collapse, the new leaf should be normal. If new leaf also becomes mottles consider discarding the plant as it may have a virus infection.

The new shoots of a Bulbophyllum are growing out of its pot. How do you keep them in the pot?
A – Many Bulbophyllums can grow mounted and as they extend, just add another block under the new growths. Mounted plants need to be watered frequently / daily. If you don’t want to mount the plant, place it in a second pot of media. Let the new growths spread into and root in the second pot. When you are ready to repot, move the whole plant into a single larger pot.

A member moved their collection downstairs. The buds blasted. They suspected that the hot air vents in the ceiling were blowing directly on the plants. Clothes dryer hosing has been used to redirect the hot air.

Show and Tell – With the exceptionally cold weather it is difficult to safely transport plants. Thank you to those who bundled up their blooming plants and brought them to the meeting. Plants were shown by Carol Steinhauer, Al Hartridge, Ellen Ross, Ruthanne Hanbidge, Lisa Pauls, Cheryl Adamson, Eugene Kucey, Yvette Lyster, James Sather, Heather Anderson, and Sherida Gregoire. Mary Orchard shared pictures of plants in bloom.

Coffee Break

Ben Rostron presented “Phalaenopsis species – Old Friends and What’s New.” The audience appreciated the information about culture requirements and the time taken to answer their many questions.

Raffle - Gemma watering stones and a small album made from cocoa fiber paper were raffled. Winners Cheryl Grummett, Lynn Campbell

Plant sale
Adjournment, 4:00 p.m.
Horst Bohne, a noted Phalaenopsis hybridizer and a founding member of the Orchid Society of Alberta, died on January 16, 2009 in Edmonton of pneumonia. According to Wildcatt, he had 68 Phalaenopsis hybrids registered with the Royal Horticultural Society, and his crosses garnered three AOS awards, two AM’s and one HCC. He also received five AOS awards for others’ hybrids that he grew and showed. He had many unregistered hybrids to his credit as well, for he stopped registering his crosses in 2003.

I met Horst for the first time at the annual OSA Show in February of 1996, where we were introduced by a mutual friend, Ben Rostron. Ben had already infected me with a virulent strain of red phalaenitis, and this common interest led to a continuing friendship with Horst. Horst could be a difficult friend at times, for he was quick to take offense and he possessed strong opinions with little aversion to sharing them. Yet he was extremely generous in sharing both his knowledge of orchids (which was immense) and his plants. I purchased many from Horst over the years and initially I simply paid the asking price, for I believed he was a better judge of the plant’s worth than I. However, I quickly learned this was not the optimal strategy, for about two weeks later he would phone and confess guilt for taking the money from me. I had little success in mollifying him by pointing out a voluntary exchange benefits both parties, so I changed my strategy to negotiate a bit (but not too much) in the hope that by driving a harder bargain, I could spare him later anguish.

Horst possessed an inquisitive mind and he was continually experimenting with Phal culture. As a consequence he killed more plants than I will ever likely own. The other reason for his high mortality rate was his penchant for hybridizing with a quality...
When I heard of Horst’s passing, I went to my plant room to see which of his plants I still possessed. In the past three years he had directed his efforts to Paph breeding, because in his own words, “you can’t pay the electrical bill selling Phals.” I did find flasks of concolor, Matrix and Avon Mist x primulinum. I also found remnants of his last effort at 2N red Phal breeding, Phal (Red Star x John Ewing). This has been a difficult cross to grow and only two plants have survived from the flask. I hope one of them is good enough to bear his name.

Horst’s three awarded Hybrids are:


Phal Bluegrass Dragon Devil ‘Sweetgrass,’ AM, 1997


Ben Rostron has provided the following pictures of some of Horst’s Awarded crosses.

Horst was part of the post-WWII generation of North American phal hybridizers who did so much to advance novelty Phal breeding and he found it difficult to watch many in his cohort pass away. The death of Ralph Smith of Leucadia Orchids was particularly difficult for him, for Ralph was his equal in knowledge as well as a good friend, and the two of them had spent many cold (at least for Horst) winter evenings talking shop.

Horst was a strong individual who lived life on his own terms. The last eleven months were spent in hospital and a care home as he dealt with the debilitating consequences of a massive stroke that followed reconstructive ankle surgery last February. The official cause of death was pneumonia, but I think he simply lost the will to live because of his inability to care for his orchids, cycle the highways around Edmonton, fly fish and hunt for morel mushrooms.
Phal Jungle Warrior, ‘Elizabeth,’ AM
Phal Orchid World, ‘Robin’ HCC