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.

November Meeting

The November Meeting of the Society will be held on Nov. 22nd at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m.

New Meeting Location

As of October, the new meeting location of the SOS is John Dolan School, 3144 Arlington Ave. (Just east of the intersection of Arlington and Preston Ave.). Directions: From the intersection of Preston and Circle Drive, drive north and take the first right turn and park in the school parking lot. As you pass through the front entrance doors the meeting room will be the first thing you see. The school is wheelchair accessible.

Membership Renewal

Society memberships for 2009-2010 are due and will be on sale at the November Meeting. The fee is $25.00 for a single membership and $30.00 for a family membership. A new form (available from Heather) must be completed before purchase.

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following individuals who joined the Society at the September and October meetings: Peggy Clark, Renate Fitzke (family), June Heath, Linda O’Rouke, Greg Retzlaff, Glen and Sonia Sorestap.

Plant Sale and Raffle

A limited number of plants from the Betty Bethieume collection will be on sale at the meeting. Safeway has donated plants for the raffle. Be sure to purchase your raffle tickets from Heather, $1.00 or three for $2.00.

Meeting Presentation

Don and Shirley Keith will present a slide show on their recent trip to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on Jersey, Channel Islands.

Meeting Agenda

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

October 25, 2009 was the first meeting of the Society at John Dolan School. Thank you to Sherida Gregoire, Lorne and Laurel Duczek, Yvette Lyster, Don and Shirley Keith, Eugene Kucey, Dave Robinson and Ellen Ross who packed up and moved the library and resource materials from Dutch Growers to John Dolan School. Shirley Keith provided a tour of the school to interested members at the close of the meeting.

The President welcomed guests and new members.

Announcements
Membership - November is the last meeting to renew memberships and ensure continued receipt of the newsletter. New members and late renewals will receive the newsletter upon sign up.

T5 replacement bulbs – The Society will look into the cost of T5 replacement bulbs as many members have purchased fluorescent light fixtures that use T5’s. If there is enough interest, costs for replacement T8 bulbs could also be obtained. The resource table will have sign up sheets for placing orders.

Plant Raffle: Raffle plants were donated by Safeway. There were too many plants to list each winner individually.

Problem Corner:
Q – Thin-leafed orchids growing in rafts are developing dieback from the leaf tip. The damaged area is bleached and somewhat translucent rather than dark brown. New growths look normal. Plants are watered weekly with city water and only fertilized once a month. The plants are not too close to the lights. What would cause the dieback? Thick-leaved orchids in the collection do not have this problem.
A - The damage is not the brown/black typical of fertilizer burn and is likely related to cultural practices such as water quality, watering frequency or air humidity.

Q – A Phalaenopsis has bumpy areas on the old leaves which look a bit crinkled. New leaf growth is normal and the plant is growing and flowering. Rubbing alcohol was used on the old leaves. What may have caused the bumps?
A – Possibly evaporation of the rubbing alcohol caused some damage to the tissue.

Show and Tell:
Plants were shown by Sherida Gregoire, Yvette Lyster, Sandi Kaufhold, Heather Anderson, Ruthanne Hanbidge, Lynn Campbell and Al Hartridge.

Pests & Diseases’ Presentation: A short slide presentation was given on the common pests and diseases of orchids. A panel of Laurel Duczek, Bob Lucas and Yvette Lyster provided suggestions for preventing, identifying and controlling problems. Members in the audience also spoke of practices and treatments that they found to be effective in managing pests and diseases. A good summary of the topic written by Sue Bottom can be found on the following featured web site under the orchid culture link.
Plant sale:
Thank you to Bob Lucas for driving to Edmonton to pick up the sale table plants from the Orchid Species Foundation. The Foundation is selling plants donated to them by Betty Berthiaume to raise money.

Adjournment—approximately 3:20 p.m.

Web Page of the Month

Each month we will feature a web page. If you have a favorite, send it to the editor. This month’s page, courtesy of Laurel Duczek, is http://www.staugorchidsociety.org/

It is maintained by the St. Augustine Orchid Society of North Florida, established in 2006. The site is quite attractive and informative. Follow the links to library for an extensive listing of books; photography display for photos of many different genera; and orchid Culture/Pests and Diseases for the article referenced in the October minutes. It is well worth a visit.

Orchidview
By Bob Lucas

Of the many pleasures that one receives from an orchid hobby, one of the best in my opinion is the opportunity to interact with a variety of interesting people who share the same passion. As a case in point, last May I was invited to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to participate in a conference on monetary policy. I accepted the invitation with enthusiasm, for a private as well as a professional reason. Moncks Corner, just outside of Charleston, is the home of H. P. and Katherine Norton and I have wanted to visit them for many years. A trip to Atlanta would afford me this opportunity.

The Nortons and their firm, Orchidview, are well known in the orchid fraternity. Apart from an award winning Phrag breeding program, the Nortons are responsible for two major developments in Phal breeding, blue and red violacea. The former program was initiated by a gift of violaceas from Michael Ooi of Malaysia in the early 1980s. The latter developed from a cross of H. P.’s Katie Morris with Frank Smith’s Florida Heat which produced Krull’s Red Hot. Pictures of blue and red phals from these programs, courtesy of AOS AQ, are on the next page.

I have purchased flasks from
The phals were in full bloom and the house was a rainbow of colours. I felt I was in the proverbial candy store.

After touring for two hours with their daughter Carol who handles the daily care of the operation, we retired to their home for lunch. Their house backs onto the Cooper River and the property is densely populated with live oaks festooned with Spanish moss. After a wonderful lunch, H. P. took me for a tour of the Phrag house. I was so excited at the red hybrids that I took pictures without recording names. I saw the largest besseae

The Nortons in the past, but I never had the opportunity to visit their greenhouses until now. Liz and I drove out from Charleston early Monday morning and met Katherine at the greenhouse.

Orchidview Greenhouse
I have ever seen and asked him if it was awarded. He had not yet shown it, but I made him promise to do so. I also admired a cross he made with Phrag Kovachii (below).

Then it was back to the phal house for some serious shopping. After another two hours, and a phone call to Ben Rostron, I had finally made up my mind. As I gathered up my purchases in two large boxes, Katherine remarked dryly, “I am glad I will not be behind you in the customs line.”

Following some heartfelt farewells, and clutching my phals and a quart of Carol’s red pepper jelly, we returned to Charleston where we spent three days touring the sights and sampling its fine restaurants, and I spent my nights admiring my purchases.

Since I had done my homework in printing out the AIRS import requirements, the trip back to Canada went without a hitch. Here are a few plants I brought back. (For more details on the Blue program, see Katherine’s article at www.orchidview.com.)
05/21/09
OV Tabasco x BrotherFireate King
as: 0.9 cm
Robert F. Lucas

05/21/09
H.P. Norton x Krull's Red Hot
as: 6.2 cm
Robert F. Lucas