

# NEWSLETTER



**Editor's Note:** The newsletter will be distributed electronically to all members for whom we have an email address. If you wish to switch from paper to electronic delivery, please notify me at [robert.lucas@usask.ca](mailto:robert.lucas@usask.ca).

## Future Meeting Dates:

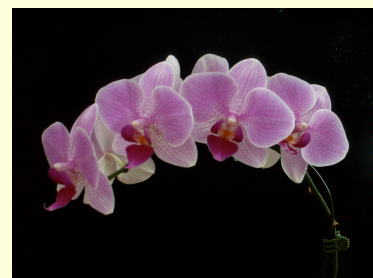
April 14, 2013	May 26, 2013	September 23, 2013
October 28, 2013	November 25, 2013	January 27, 2014

## SOS Executive

<b>President:</b>	Cal Carter
<b>Vice-President:</b>	
<b>Past President:</b>	Sherida Gregoire
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jennifer Burgess
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cheryl Grummett
<b>Social:</b>	Shirley Keith Lori Pozniak
<b>Plant Orders:</b>	Heather Anderson Cheryl Adamson
<b>Resources:</b>	Yvette Lyster Pat Randall
<b>Librarians:</b>	Tracey Thue Jan Dougall
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Bob Lucas
<b>COC/AOS Rep:</b>	Eugene Kucey
<b>Speakers:</b>	Don Keith
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Jennifer Burgess
<b>Mail Address:</b>	SOS, Box 411 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3
<b>Web Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.saskorchids.com">www.saskorchids.com</a>

## March Meeting

The March general meeting of the Society will be held on **March 17, 2013** at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m. Mishaal Ali of Edmonton will visit us to speak on the construction and use of paludariums for orchids.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The March meeting will be held on March 17th to avoid a conflict with Gardenscape the following weekend.

The March meeting will feature a presentation on paludariums by Mishaal Ali of Edmonton. He has supplied paludariums for the OSA display at their winter orchid show to great effect.

**As our visiting lecturer at the March meeting will not be bringing plants for sale, members are encouraged to bring their own plants for the sale table.**

The March meeting will feature a raffle of plants donated by Safeway. Be sure to purchase your tickets from Tracey or Jan at the Library table, \$1 for one, \$2 for three.

The Society will be entering a display at Gardenscape to be held on March 22-24, 2013. We need volunteers to help with the display and to serve as ambassadors during the event. A sign-up sheet will be at the front table at the March meeting. We have arranged for an experienced member to be available for each time slot, so do not let inexperience with the Show be a deterrent in signing up. It is a good opportunity to share your enthusiasm for orchids with others. As an added bonus, ambassadors will receive an admission pass to Gardenscape.

If you have flowering plants for the display, they should be dropped off at the Show site, Prairieland Park, Hall B on Thursday, March 21st between 5:00 and 7:30 p. m. Be sure to put your name on your plant

pots. Those who have volunteered for display duty may pick up their passes at the same time. Plants are to be picked up between 5:00 and 5:30 on Sunday, March 24th. If you cannot pick up your own plants, be sure to arrange for someone else to do so. Further details about the display setup will be provided at the March meeting.

In addition to the Society display, Society members will design an display for Gardenscape called an Orchid Garden Escape. Heather A., Sherida G. and Yvette L. are responsible for the planning of the Garden. The plants and other materials will be supplied by Gardenscape and the orchids will be auctioned off on Sunday evening along with other plants in the general auction.

**The April general meeting has been rescheduled to April 14th because the venue is not available to us on the previously scheduled date.**

Elections to the Executive will occur at the April meeting. If you would like to serve or wish to nominate someone, see Cal at the March meeting.

### Meeting Agenda

- Announcements
- Problem Corner
- Show and Tell
- Coffee/Supplies
- Mishaal Ali Presentation
- Plant Raffle
- Plant Sale
- Adjournment



Phal Bedford Golden Victory

## FEB. 17 MINUTES

### Announcements

Cal opened the meeting by extending a welcome to returning members, new members and guests.

Thanks to Corrina, Elva and Nancy for supplying the treats for today's meeting.

Gardenscape is coming up in March. The SOS display will be in the main hall this year. Volunteer lists are at the front table – shifts are 2 or 3 hours in length. Dutch Growers is setting up a 10' x 20' "orchid garden" at Gardenscape, which SOS volunteers will help to set up.

Plants for the OSA Show display may be dropped off at Tracey's on Wednesday, February 20th between 5:00 and 8:00 p. m. Please use the back door. Tracey also has plant registration forms. The plants may be picked up at Don and Shirley's on Monday, February 25, between 5:00 and 7:00 p. m.

Safeway has donated many Phalaenopsis and a few Dendrobiums for the raffle.

Next month's meeting, to be held on March 17th so as not to conflict with Gardenscape, will feature a presentation on paludariums by Mishaal Ali of

Edmonton.

April 14th is the new date for the April meeting. We will hold the 2nd Annual silent auction in support of the AOS. Members are asked to bring orchids and orchid-related items (loosely defined) for the auction. Members will have the right to specify the amount of the sale price that will be donated to the SOS. Further information will be provided at the March meeting.

#### Problem Corner

A Miltoniopsis has splotchy/chlorotic leaves. What could cause

this condition? It tested negative for Cymbidium virus. Pat will try an iron supplement.

#### Show and Tell

Plants were shown by Don Keith, Donna Carlson-O'Keefe, Ruthanne Hanbidge, Lynn Campbell, Sarah Nykiforuk, Ellen Ross, Jan Dougal, Pat Randall, Jennifer Burgess and Cal Carter.

#### Presentation

Cal led an engaging and informative trivia activity entitled, "Those Little Things" consisting of thirty questions on orchid identification, taxonomy and other

orchid related issues. Members were divided into teams to generate answers. A good time was had by all.

#### Plant Raffle

There were Phalaenopsis, cut Cymbidiums and Miltoniopsis that were donated by Safeway. Lynn Campbell also donated a plant.

#### Plant sale

There were 2 Paphs for sale and both sold.

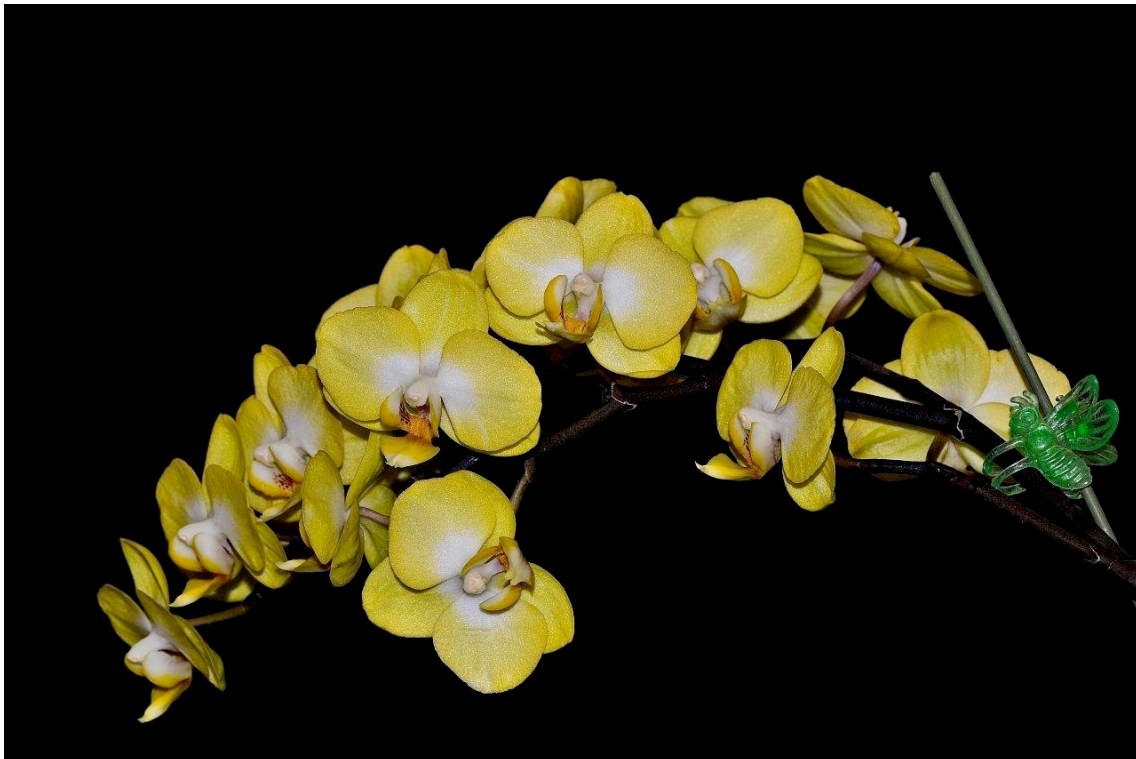
#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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## **SOS FEBRUARY SHOW AND TELL TABLE**

Photo Credits: Pat Randall



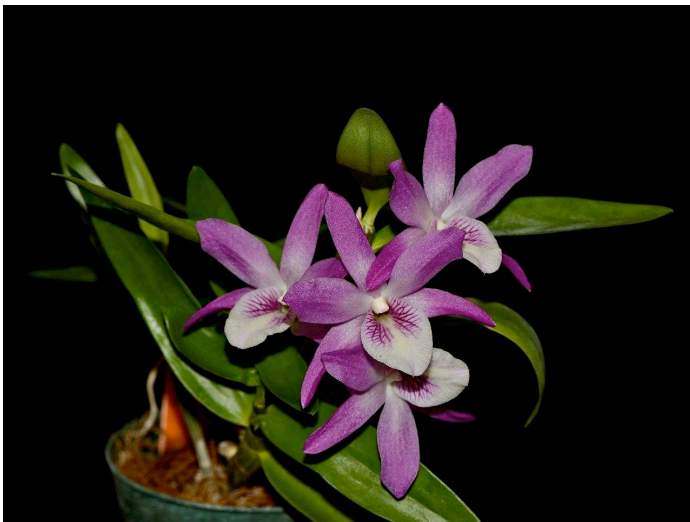
Phal. Ho's Amy Christopher Exhibitor: Lynn Campbell



Phrag. Don Wimber Exhibitor: Donna Carlson-O'Keefe



Catt unknown. Exhibitor: Donna Carlson-O'Keefe



Den. Rainbow Dance Exhibitor: Jan Dougall



Coel. lactea Exhibitor: Ruthanne Hanbidge

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## **REPORT ON THE OSA SHOW, EDMONTON 2013**

**by Bob Lucas**

The Society entered a display at the OSA show held in Edmonton on February 22-24. Tracey Thue organized the plant drop-off and she, along with Pat Randall, Sherida Gregoire, Jennifer Burgess, Lori Pozniak and Karen

St. Marie transported the plants to the Show site, and set up the display. Don and Shirley Keith took the display down and transported the plants back to Saskatoon. Thanks to all these volunteers as well as all those

who entered their plants in the Society display.

Once again, the Show was of high quality and 11 plants received AOS awards. Society members who were awarded

ribbons are: Cheryl Adamson, three firsts, two seconds; Heather Anderson, one first, one second; Lynn Campbell, one first, one third; Cal Carter,

two seconds, Jennifer Burgess, one second; Don Keith, one first; Bob Lucas, one first; Tracey Thue, two seconds, one third. Of the 31 plants in the

display, 17 were awarded ribbons. Pat Randall took pictures at the Show and some of them are presented below.





## VANDA'S -ANYONE? BY INGRID SCHMIDT- OSTRANDER

EDITORS NOTE: PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CANADIAN ORCHID CONGRESS WEBSITE

During the past summer and fall I noticed that there were more than the regular number of flowers on our vandaceous plants than in other years. Some plants that had never before put out any flowers finally did "show their stuff." I suppose that the reason for this was our long-lasting, hot summer and the abundant sunshine that our Northern latitudes cannot provide every year.

I decided to read up on Vandas; there are quite a number of them. There are related genera like *Aerides*, *Arachnis*, *Ascocentrum*, *Renanthera*, *Rhynchostylis*, *Trichoglottis* and many others. There are, of course, hybrids between the species and between many different genera, resulting in *Aeridovanda*, *Ascocenda*, *Ernestara*, *Mokara*, *Renantanda* etc. The natural home for all of these can be found in Asia and the tropical Pacific Islands. That covers a large area and if you want to learn anything about your particular plant, you must

try to find out where exactly this plant would grow in nature. This curiosity can take the inquirer on many interesting journeys – in my case, the journeys go through books and other publications, all from the safety of my armchair.

One of the most impressive tales I found is the story which tells of the discovery of *Vanda sanderiana*, or better: *Euanthe sanderiana*.

It was in the early spring of 1880, when Mr. Frederick Sander

from St. Albans (England) asked one of his collectors to go to the Philippines and try to find rare orchids.

This particular collector was Mr. M. Roebbelen, born 1855 in Switzerland. When he arrived in the Philippines, it was suggested to him to explore the Southern islands, particularly Mindanao, to look for a red *Phalaenopsis* later found and named *Phalaenopsis sanderiana*.

Roebbelen had also been told



*Vanda sanderiana*

of an orchid that grows on tall trees in coastal swamps that are full of disease-ridden mosquitoes. This orchid was said to have flowers “as large as dish pans.” The very hostile natives there had by now been kept somewhat in check by the Spanish colonial government and regular trade and transportation services were possible, at least along the coast.

Roebbelen was allowed to accompany a Chinese trader, but he was told that under no circumstances should he explore further inland, because of those hostile tribes. It must have been very frustrating for him to just explore the settled coast while the trader pursued his own business to the fullest. Eventually, the trading party arrived at Lake Magindanao and when a storm came up, they were all saved by some friendly villagers. Then it turned out that these “friendly” villagers had been dealing with the Chinese merchant before and were quite unhappy with his unethical methods.

Soon the battle lines were drawn. The one event that prevented a bloody fight was the surprise attack by some enemy Bagabos; now everyone had to join forces to defend the village against these villains. By the time the enemy was driven off, it was dark and the chief invited Roebbelen to join the village men in their sleeping hut. This hut had been built high up between branches of a very large tree, partly to be safe from surprise attacks and partly to be safe from the mosquitoes.

Wearily, the Swiss orchid hunter climbed the crude ladders to his bed in the tree and fell asleep immediately – the day had been long and full of dangers.

During the black jungle night, Roebbelen was awakened by a great shaking of the tree-house, the sound of rushing winds, of breaking bows and splintering timbers, of people stumbling about and falling screaming out of the tree. The shrieks of the injured mingled with the moans of the dying. The explorer realized that an earth-quake was going on and in order to save himself from being thrown to the ground during this upheaval, he strapped himself to a large branch with his belt. He dozed off when the shaking subsided but soon the rising tropical sun woke him again. All was quiet and still in the tree-house; he was all alone.

There was destruction everywhere, nothing but splintered wood and gaping holes instead of walls and floor. And there, through a hole in the roof, silhouetted against the rosy morning sky, there was a huge spray of rosy-pink flowers, sprinkled with cinnamon brown flecks. This rosy vision was almost close enough that he could touch it — YES! It was an orchid! an orchid that had never been seen in Europe

Of course, Roebbelen managed to collect several of the wonderful plants. Sadly, they never lived to arrive in England; the earth-quake had destroyed all the shipping sites. He managed to bring back drawings of his

discovery, but at first no one would believe his wild story. A few years later, some of these plants did arrive in England alive and when they blossomed, both Roebbelen and Sander were vindicated. This marvelous orchid was later named *Vanda sanderiana*.

How do you grow Vandas? Well, generally they need to be very, very warm, very humid, very sunny and get lots of water. Of course – they also need very good drainage and often do better when you can hang them up or put them on a slab and accept the fact that their roots will – must – hang all over the outside of their pots, baskets or slabs. If you have any species that come from an area very close to the equator, like *V. sanderiana*, they like little changes in temperatures, both day/night and summer/winter. Many of them like a little drier rest between July/August. Species like the famous blue *V. coerulea*, from higher elevations in Thailand (and now on CITES Appendix I), like hot summers and cool winters. The hybrids in this group are more accommodating (like most hybrids) and will thrive in captivity, as long as they get enough light and water. Remember, most of our orchids will do better when we give them a bit of cool rest in the winter with less water and fertilizer.

If you want to read this tale in different versions, you can find it written up by F. Boyle, Dr. J. Fowlie, W. Richter, A. Swinton and probably others and, of course, the computer.