

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.

Future Meeting Dates:

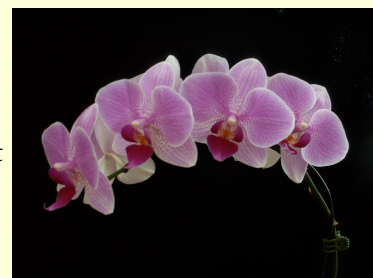
September 22, 2013	October 27, 2013	November 24, 2013
January 26, 2014	February 23, 2014	March 23, 2014

SOS Executive

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

May1 Meeting

The May general meeting of the Society will be held on **May 26, 2013** at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will feature a visit by Chuck Taylor of Edmonton who will be bringing plants for sale.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The May general meeting will feature a visit by Chuck Taylor of Edmonton, who hybridizes under the name of Fatoldbaldguy Orchids. Chuck will speak on his cultural practices. **He will be bringing plants for sale, so you are requested not to bring plants for the sale table.**

The May 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.

Membership renewals for 2013-2014 will be on sale at the May meeting. An incentive for early registration, members will be eligible for either a \$5.00 gift certificate which can be redeemed at the resource table until the January meeting, 2014, or a Phalaenopsis seedling. Since there are a limited number of seedlings available, they will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

At the May meeting we will be presenting the Wilma Nykiforuk Memorial Award. This award is funded by a grant from her former colleagues at RCA. Sarah, her sister, and Sherida (Acting President) will choose a "best plant" from the Show and Tell table and the winner will receive a blooming orchid.

The Show and Tell draw will be conducted at the May meeting. Each time you bring a plant for the Show and Tell table throughout the year, you are entered into the draw. The winner will receive an orchid.

Since the May meeting is the last meeting for the year, be sure to pick up any supplies you might

need over the summer from the resources table.

We are planning an excursion to the Pike Lake area in late June to view *Cypripediums* in situ. The exact date will depend on weather conditions. We will notify members by email about the date once it is determined. If you have not provided the SOS with an email address, let Sherida know you are interested in this trip at the May meeting.

We will be placing a plant order with Forestview in August as Heather will be visiting them. The webpage is www.fvgardens.com. The deadline for orders to Heather is August 23rd. Her email address is heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com

Meeting Agenda

Announcements
Problem Corner
Show and Tell
Wilma Nikiforuk Award
Show and Tell Draw
Coffee/Supplies
Chuck Taylor Presentation
Plant Raffle
Plant Sale
Adjournment



Phal Bedford Golden Victory

APRIL 14 MINUTES

Announcements

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

For the benefit of new members and guests, Cal took time to discuss the activities of the Society at our general meetings.

Special thanks were extended to Wanda Hynne, Cody Hamilton, Lorna Shaw-Lennox, and Lori Pozniak for bringing this meeting's snacks.

Thanks went out to Heather Anderson for her work on the orchid garden for Gardenscape and to all members who participated in the Society display.

Chuck Taylor will be visiting the Society in May. He will discuss his growing practices and he will bring some wonderful orchids for sale.

The 2nd Annual Wilma Nykiforuk Memorial Award will be presented at the May meeting for the best plant on the Show and Tell table, so be sure to bring in your blooming plants.

Cal outlined the rules for the silent auction in support of the SOS.

Cal presented a slate of nominees for the Executive of the SOS for 2013-14. As there were no nominations from the floor, this slate was acclaimed. The Executive is as follows:

President – Cal Carter
Vice President – vacant
Past-president – Sherida Gregoire
Secretary – Jennifer Burgess
Treasurer – Cheryl Grummett
Plant Orders – Cheryl Adamson,
Heather Anderson

Social Directors – Shirley Keith,
Lori Pozniak

Librarians–Tracey Thue, Jan Dougal

Resources- Yvette Lyster, Pat
Randall

Newsletter – Bob Lucas

AOS/COC rep – Eugene Kucey

Speaker Co-ordinator – Don Keith

WebMaster – Jennifer Burgess

Problem Corner

A Phalaenopsis and
Dendrobium are making keikis,

why? Phalaenopsis can make keikis
at random, but fertilizing a
Dendrobium during the winter will
usually cause keikis instead of
flowers to grow. It's best to wait
until there is a total of six inches of
roots before taking a keiki off of
the mother plant.

Show and Tell

Plants were shown by: Bob
Lucas, Yvette Lyster, Mary
Orchard, Vicky Wiley, Pat Randall,
Tracy Thue, Cheryl Adamson,

Heather Anderson, Don Keith, and
Sherida Gregoire.

Plant Raffle

There were Cymbidiums and
Phalaenopsis donated by Safeway.

Auction

There were about 100 items
entered in the silent auction.

Adjournment

Approximately 3:30 p.m.

SOS APRIL SHOW AND TELL TABLE



Paph micranthum; Onc Moonshadow; and
Chamaeangis.hariotiana Exhibitor: Tracey Thue



Rlc Ojaiveste HCC/AOS Exhibitor: Sherida Gregoire



Paph Lynn Leigh Koopowitz Exhibitor: Cheryl Adamson



Den Oriental Smile Exhibitor: Yvette Lyster



Bulb lobbia Exhibitor: Don Keith



Den harveyanum Exhibitor: Don Keith



Epi Lovely Valley Exhibitor: Pat Randall



Paph delenatii Exhibitor: Mary Orchard



Phrag Dominicanum 'Bob Mac' HCC/AOS
Exhibitor: Bob Lucas

ORCHID INTENSIVE CARE by Ian Johnson

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission from the OSA Newsletter, May, 2013.

Everyone has experienced the loss of a favorite orchid, and it always seems to be one that is not easily replaced. We all regret that we did not take some remedial action. Perhaps the method I suggest below will help save that precious plant.

What is needed is a small confined space that can be controlled in temperature, humidity, and rate of evaporation. First, you will need a common white plastic tray that is sold in any gardening store, about 11" x 21" and 2" deep. Also with this tray comes a clear plastic dome that is about 7" tall. For the bottom of the tray I cut a piece of carpet underlay which is about 1/2" thick and is very much like a sponge. The underlay should be soaked with water but not to the point of having water lying on top of the underlay.

Now you have a miniature greenhouse that can be controlled for all the growing factors. I must concede that the plants to be placed in it will be limited by the height, which is 7".

The most important indication of plant failure will be the loss of the roots, for without a good root structure the plant is unable to obtain the necessities of life. The decayed roots or other rotting material should be cut off and the plant given a good wash. A good soak in a damp-off solution of Benlate and water will stop this rotting.

Place the plant into the smallest pot suitable considering the size of the plant. It is important that the plant be underpotted at this point. The potting medium or mix should be clean, washed sphagnum moss that will be packed in the pot around the plant. This mix should not be compressed or packed too tight, for there must be some airspace around the root area.

Very little watering will be needed while the plant is in the "ICU", for the rate of evaporation will be at a minimum. The plastic canopy can be raised slightly if

you feel there is just too much humidity therein. One would think that with the high humidity and lack of air circulation the plant would continue to rot; however I believe the use of sphagnum prevents this from happening.

The rate of recovery will be fast and is first evidenced by the new root growths. A *Paphiopedilum* without any roots will produce many new growths in just one month. Backbulbs will produce new growths in the same time. If you have space in your ICU, leave your plants there as long as you can, but just short of blooming.



Can this plan be saved? Even wretched specimens like this one may thrive anew with intensive care.

As an additional measure, hydroponic stores carry products that may help plant recovery. Most of these additives contain Vitamin B1, as well as many other substances which may or may not help the plant. The use of such additives is seen by most orchid growers as helpful, but there is no real proof that they are of benefit. With reserved recommendation, I will say that I have used an additive for years and believe

it does promote growth.

When watering, a spray is probably the best method in this unit. Leave the canopy off until the leaves have dried off and there is no water in the crown of the plant; then restore the canopy. This spraying can be done about once a week, or less if you can feel that the sponge underlay is wet and still contains some water. The tray is best placed under fluorescent lights or near another light source; however, don't put it in the direct sunlight or you will have stewed orchids by dinner.

Hopefully this may save some of our plants. I believe it is our responsibility to grow and save those species that are now lost because of habitat destruction in many parts of the world. Good growing!

Ian Johnston is an award-winning orchid grower and a Life Member of the Orchid Society of Alberta.