

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 (blind copy so your email address remains private), please notify me at thues@sasktel.net.

Future Meeting Dates:

Sunday, Nov 26, 2017	Saturday, Jan 27, 2018
Saturday, Feb 24, 2018	Sunday, Mar 18, 2018

SOS Executive

President:	Bob Lucas
Vice-President:	Sherida Gregoire
Past President:	Sherida Gregoire
Secretary:	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe
Treasurer:	Cheryl Grummett
Social:	Shirley Keith Lori Pozniak
Plant Orders:	Heather Anderson Cheryl Adamson
Resources:	Yvette Lyster Pat Randall
Librarians:	Debbie Huculiak Don Keith
Newsletter:	Tracey Thue
COC/AOS Rep:	Tom Kondra
Speakers:	Heather Anderson
Webmaster:	Calvin Lo
Mail Address:	SOS, Box 411 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3
Web Address:	www.saskorchids.com
facebook:	https:// www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?

October Meeting - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

The general meeting of the Society will be held on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**, 2017 at John Dolan School, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Fred Clarke will be joining us from Sunset Valley Orchids. He will give us a presentation titled 'Splashed and Spotted Cattleyas', as well as bringing plants for sale to members, and delivering pre-ordered plants.



Announcements Page

Membership Renewals for September 2017 - May 2018

Last chance to renew! Single \$25, family \$30.

Membership forms are available at the meeting or online; see Donna or Cheryl G. to make your payment.

Membership privileges end in November, so don't let your membership lapse!

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements

Problem Corner

Show and Tell

BREAK:

Treats/Supplies/Library

Presentation

Plant Raffle

Plant Sale

Plant Sale Table

Fred Clarke will have plants for sale from Sunset Valley Orchids.

Members are asked to not bring their plants to sell at this meeting.

SOS GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY, OCT 21, 2017

**SPEAKER: FRED CLARKE,
SUNSET VALLEY ORCHIDS**

**PRESENTATION: 'SPLASHED &
SPOTTED CATTLEYAS'**

PLANT PRE-ORDERS

Sunset Valley Orchids

Pre-ordered plants can be picked up at the General Meeting Saturday, Oct 21, 2017. Heather and Cheryl will calculate the amount owing in Canadian dollars and inform members who have placed pre-orders. Payment can be made at the meeting to Heather or Cheryl A with cash or cheques made payable to the SOS.

H&R Nurseries Plant Order!

Heather Anderson will be in Hawaii in January and is taking H&R orders from the membership until Dec 1, 2017. The Fall-Winter 2017-18 plant list is available on their website (<http://hrnurseries.com>) and on the SOS website. Prices are in U.S. dollars with an additional \$85 charged to the order for CITES and Phytosanitary certification. This amount will be divided among the plants ordered. The plants can be picked up from Heather's house on Feb 2, 2018.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE POSITION OF RESOURCES COORDINATOR FOR OUR SOCIETY?

PAT AND YVETTE ARE RETIRING FROM THE RESOURCES POSITION AT THE END OF THIS SEASON (MAY 2018) & WE'RE PUTTING THE CALL OUT FOR TWO PEOPLE TO JOIN THE EXECUTIVE. PAT AND YVETTE WILL HELP NEW PEOPLE LEARN THE POSITION; AT LEAST ONE RESOURCE PERSON WILL NEED TO HAVE SOME STORAGE SPACE FOR BULK ITEMS.

FRED CLARKE, SUNSET VALLEY ORCHIDS

Fred Clarke started Sunset Valley Orchids in 1995 as a natural outgrowth of a hobby that began 27 years earlier. Fred is a popular speaker on many orchid subjects and travels all over the world. He is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. Orchids from SVO have received hundreds of AOS awards, including many that have received the highest honour, the 'First Class Certificate'.

Fred's breeding program aims to provide superior orchid hybrids for the orchid enthusiast. Plants are selected using strict criteria of robust growth and easy flowering. This is done by selecting the most vigorously growing plants throughout the growing stages in flasks, community trays and individual pots. This grading results in the strongest and best plants for both his customers and for his own future breeding.

Fred Clarke is a leader in breeding and hybridizing in the Catasetinae group and the genus *Fredclarkeara* is named after him. *Fredclarkeara* After Dark is a famous intergeneric hybrid producing the first flower color widely recognized as black. Of 35 plants from the original cross 16 received AOS awards including 8 FCC/AOS!

SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

Bob Lucas, SOS President welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no new members or guests today.

Memberships are on sale, \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family. If your name tag is not green you need to renew!

Plants have been donated by the Coop and Safeway for our plant raffle. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 3 for \$2, available at the library table. Bob thanked Sherida for caring for the plants over the summer. Last year the plant raffles raised more than \$400, which helped pay the expenses of our speakers program.

Today's presentation will be a slide show given by Bob Lucas, on the topic of 'Culture and Propagation of *Phalaenopsis* Orchids'.

Plants are available for purchase on the sale table. Access is by lottery; leave your membership number at the front table.

Next month will be our first Saturday meeting, on October 21, 2017. The speaker will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. He will be bringing plants for sale and the deadline for pre-orders is October 1. Details are in the newsletter and on our website. We are partnering with the Alberta orchid societies in bringing Mr. Clarke to our meeting.

Members are reminded that one of their membership privileges is a discount of 10% on orchid related supplies at Early's.

Treats today were provided by Lori Pozniak.



Barbosella cogniauxiana

Grown by Sara Thue

Snacks (Shirley Keith)

We need four people to bring snacks for each meeting. A sign-up sheet is being circulated today.

Resources (Pat Randall)

There is a good complement of supplies. Former member Lorna Shaw-Lennox has donated some pots and supplies which are priced and in a box at the end of the supplies table.

Library (Don Keith)

There is a new AOS magazine to enjoy, along with lots of excellent reference material for most orchid species.

H & R Nursery Order (Heather Anderson)

Heather will be going to Hawaii in January and will bring back plants from H&R Nursery. The deadline for ordering is December 1. Orders should be sent to Heather or Cheryl Adamson. Details are in the newsletter. H&R's 2017-2018 winter plant list is on their website and also on our website.

Problem Corner

Something was creating sawtooth edges on the leaves of a Phalaenopsis plant. He sprayed it and it doesn't seem to be happening any more. Does anyone know what might be causing it? Leaf cutter bees and box elder (maple) beetles were suggested, but the plant was not outside.

A Phragmipedium has twisted, curved leaves. What causes this? She waters it once a week and keeps it in water. She had put it in bright light but it didn't seem to like that so she moved it to lower light conditions. Curled leaves are an indication of stress, possible under watering, as Phrags generally grow in running water and like to be kept wet. Bob waters his twice a week. Once leaves are curled they will not straighten out again, even though the original source of stress may be removed. The plant appears to be thriving now as it is setting a flower spike.

Show and Tell

A display of 22 plants were shown by Tracey Thue, Tom Kondra, Don Keith, Heather Anderson, Al Hartridge, Pat Randall, Lynn Campbell, Deb Huculiak, Bob Lucas and Donna Carlson-O'Keefe.

Break

Presentation Bob Lucas: 'The Culture and Propagation of the Orchid Phalaenopsis'

Culture

There are many different ways of growing Phals. This is the technique Bob has developed over many years of growing and hybridizing Phalaenopsis orchids.

- Light: T5 lights, supplemented by sunlight
- Water: Reverse osmosis water

- Medium: Pro-Mix HP. Bob used to use layers of moss and clay pellets. About 3 years ago Ben Rostron encouraged him to use Pro-Mix, a mixture of fine, dried moss and vermiculite. Controlled experiments have shown that *Phalaenopsis* grow better in Pro-Mix than in sphagnum moss. There are many types of Pro-Mix and it's critical that Pro-Mix HP be used. It can be purchased at Rona, Crop Production Services, and Early's. Bob puts styrofoam pellets in the bottom of the pots to keep the bottom section of the medium from staying too wet and to save on Pro-Mix HP.
- Fertilizer: Whenever he waters. The formula is:
18L RO water
1 scant tbsp MSU fertilizer for RO water
1 tsp magnesium nitrate [Mg(NO₃)₂6H₂O]
1 tsp Pro-TekT (silicone additive)
1 tsp RapidGro (kelp additive)

The pH of this fertilizer water is 6.8 - 7.0, and 450 - 500 ppm TDS. Bob uses this at full strength for the *Phalaenopsis*, at half strength for his *Paphiopedilums* and at quarter strength for his *Phragmipediums*.

The room in which Bob grows his *Phalaenopsis* plants is hot in the summer, reaching 30C, so he uses it mostly for seedlings. To bloom them, he takes the plants downstairs to a cooler room where temperatures are about 22 - 23C, even cooler in winter. There they will set spike about 6 weeks after moving to the cooler room.

Bob grows his *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilum* under T5s, and his *Phragmipediums* under a high pressure sodium light. He waters the Phals and Paphs about every 10 days and the Phrags twice a week.



Phalaenopsis Precious Lauren Rae '#8'

Hybridization

Bob's breeding program aims to develop *Phals* with red flowers, a colour that does not occur in nature, using yellow and purple-red parents. He produces 4N hybrids, which have bigger flowers with richer colour. Bob breeds for colour first, then for form. Judges say the perfect *Phalaenopsis* flower is flat and round. Secondary to that they look at the number of flowers on the plant.

Fertilization

With the tip of a toothpick, Bob pops the pollen packet off the flower of one parent plant. He transfers this pollen to the other parent plant and "mashes it in" to the stigma of a flower. If fertilization is successful the flower will close in 2 or 3 days and a seed pod develops. It will turn green, not brown. It takes 3 to 4 months for the seed pod to mature.

There are two ways of harvesting the seeds produced in these pods:

1. Dry seed harvest The advantage of this method is that no cutting is involved, so any viruses present in the pod plant is not passed on to the seeds.
 - Put the pod on a piece of paper and let the pod dry out and split; the seeds will spill out onto the paper
 - Remove the cottony material
 - Put the seeds into a syringe with about 2ml of hydrogen peroxide solution, leaving about 2ml air space
 - Shake the syringe for 30 seconds, then let stand for 1/2 - 1 hour to sterilize the seeds
 - Squirt the seeds & peroxide into a flask of agar. If the flask develops mould it will have to be discarded
 - When leaves develop move the plants to another flask.

This entire process takes about a year. It takes about 4 years from fertilization to get a flower.

2. Green pod method

- Cut the pod off the plant while it is still green
- Put the pod in a solution of bleach and scrub it
- Place in a flask as above. When the plants are ready to come out of flask, great care is taken to coax them out, then Bob pots the seedlings into sphagnum, with a layer of styrofoam pellets on the bottom of a shallow rectangular container followed by a layer of sphagnum. He puts a layer of sphagnum along one side, carefully places a row of seedlings against the moss, then another row of moss, another row of seedlings, and so on, ending with a row of sphagnum. The container should be so densely packed that if turned over, nothing falls out. Bob leaves the plants in this container for about 6 months, then puts them

in individual pots in the Pro-Mix HP medium. The seedlings are grown under domes to increase humidity.

Stem Propagation

Bob clones his good plants by stem propagation; each node on the flower spike can be used. Bob works in an old laminar flow hood to keep things relatively sterile while making the stem props. Equipment and supplies include scalpel, forceps, disposable gloves, bleach solutions of 5%, 10% and 25%.

- Put stem in 25% bleach solution
- Cut out each node with a small piece of stem
- Use the scalpel to take the cover off the node; you will see a little green thing under it, this is the tissue that will divide to produce new plants
- Put the piece of stem in the 10% bleach solution and cut off the ends
- Put the trimmed piece in a test tube with agar, making sure it is completely covered. Bob uses maintenance medium, sterilizing it in a pressure cooker at 15 lbs pressure for 15 minutes.

When the new plants produce leaves (in a couple of months), transfer to a flask and maintain for about 4 months. This method produces a blooming plant in about 2 years.

Bob's first cross was *Phalaenopsis* Brother Passion x *Phalaenopsis* Penang Girl and he named the hybrid plant Love Child. Brother Passion is a 4N hybrid, and Penang Girl a 2N hybrid, so the cross produced was a 3N (triploid) hybrid. Triploids tend to be sterile since the 3 sets of chromosomes cause problems during cellular division. Bob showed many slides of parent plants and the resulting hybrids, and photos of several crosses he is working on although they haven't produced flowers yet. He registers his crosses with the Royal Horticultural Society at a cost of \$15 US.

Plant Raffle There were 49 plants, 2 *Miltonias* and the rest *Phalaenopsis*, donated by Safeway and Coop. All were claimed.

Plant Sale There were 29 plants, 4 packages of Spanish moss and 2 bags of wine corks offered on the plant sale table. 18 plants, 2 bags of moss and the wine corks sold.

Adjournment Approximately 3:25pm.

SOS SEPTEMBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Epidendrum porpax
Grower: Heather Anderson



Porroglossum dreisei
Grower: Tom Kondra



Porroglossum muscosum
Grower: Tom Kondra



Psygmorchis pusilla
Grower: Heather Anderson



Coelogyne fimbriata
Grower: Heather Anderson



Pleurothallis talpinaria
Grower: Tom Kondra



Dendrobium trigonopus
Grower: Tracey Thue



Bifrenaria aureo-fulva
Grower: Tracey Thue



Phragmipedium Ruby Slippers
Grower: Bob Lucas



Phalaenopsis Precious Lauren Rae '#8'
Grower: Bob Lucas



Paphiopedilum Avalon Mist 'Alba' x primulinum
Grower: Bob Lucas



Paphiopedilum Tinicum
Grower: Lynn Campbell



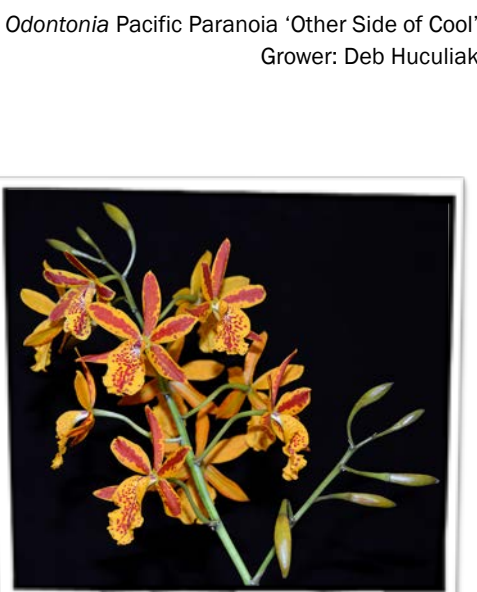
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Husky Boy 'Romeo' BM/JGP '99
Grower: Donna Carlson-O'Keefe



Dracula hirtzii
Grower: Don Keith



Vanda Pachara Delight 'Pachara' FCC/AOS
Grower: Al Hartridge



Odontonia Pacific Paranoia 'Other Side of Cool'
Grower: Deb Huculiak



Colmanara Samurai
Grower: Pat Randall

Epicattleya Volcano Trick 'Orange Fire'
Grower: Pat Randall



Paphiopedilum Luther Slaughter
Grower: Lynn Campbell



Cattleya Minerva 'Garrett' HCC/AOS
Grower: Pat Randall



Brassolaeliocattleya Village Chief North
Grower: Pat Randall

ORCHID ORDERING 101

The following is an update of an article written several years ago.

Have you ever placed an order for orchids with the SOS Plant Order Committee? Would you like to know more about what is involved and how it all works? If this is the case please read on....

We attempt to place a group order on behalf of the Society several times a year. In the last year we placed 9 pre-orders. In the past, orders have been placed to continental U.S., Hawaii, and Canada. Shipping has become expensive so seldom do we have orchids shipped. Instead of ordering and shipping orchids we have been pre-ordering from vendors attending orchid shows in Canada and picking the orchids up at the shows. We also place pre-orders with speakers who give presentations to the SOS. All US and international vendors price their plants in U.S. dollars. Some vendors charge an extra fee for handling, a fee for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and a Phytosanitary Certificate (Phyto). As much as possible we attempt to find out if there will be extra costs before the order is placed so there won't be any surprises. By ordering from vendors outside the city, members have the opportunity to purchase different and interesting orchids that would not be available locally. Furthermore, by group ordering, more reasonable prices can be obtained. In some cases pre-ordered orchids are more reasonable than the price you would pay if you bought the orchid directly from the vendor at a show.

Most of the larger orchid nurseries have lists/catalogs on their websites along with pictures of the various orchids available for sale. Often a vendor will provide us with a specific list of what will be available for pre-ordering. This list will then be posted on the SOS website. Some vendors identify the orchid by the pot size. For example, in a 2.5" – 3" pot you will be getting a small plant or seedling, 2-3 years from blooming, whereas a plant in a 6" or 7.5" pot will be blooming size and usually more expensive. Vendors may also identify the plants as previously bloomed, blooming size, near blooming size, seedlings, compots (normally 15-20 very small plants) etc., so prior to ordering, check for this information on the website. Vendors may also identify whether the plant is to be grown warm, intermediate or cool and what degree of humidity the plant will require. Other information that may be included is if it is an awarded plant, whether it is a species or a hybrid, the time of year the orchid will bloom or if it is fragrant or not. You can also check the SOS library or the internet for more information about the orchids you are interested in purchasing.

When placing an order include the name of the plant you are ordering, the size, listed price and the catalogue number (if listed). Once an order has been placed we will communicate to you when the orchids can be picked up either via the newsletter, at the monthly SOS meeting or via email. We will then contact you to arrange a pick up time. Bare root orchids or those tightly packed in sphagnum should be potted up fairly quickly. Your order can be paid for with cash or a cheque made out to SOS.

Now with all of this said, go ahead and consider placing a pre-order with us for Sunset Valley Orchids. Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley will be speaking at our October 21st meeting. A number of Society members have purchased from him in the past and have been please with the quality of his orchids.

If you have any questions about ordering just ask Cheryl Adamson or myself. HAPPY ORCHID ORDERING!

Heather Anderson

What's Blooming in the OSPF Collection?

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation <http://orchidspecies.ca>

Photographs by Doug Bovee & Dave Nixon

Sources: Charles Baker, Orchidwiz, Orchid Photographic Encyclopedia, The Plant List, Wikipedia, Lankesteriana 13(3): 215-227, 2014, The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species, by Bechtel, Cribb and Launert.

Angraecum [Angcm.] magdalenae

The 237 species that make up the genus *Angraecum* are spread throughout tropical Africa, Madagascar, and adjacent islands, from sea level to 2000 meters. The flowers are mostly white, sometimes yellow, green or ochre and are generally long-lasting. Some are fragrant and they all have a long spur at the back of the lip.

The genus name is a latinized form of the Malayan word *angurek*, used to describe orchids with a growth habit similar to the genus *Vanda*.

Angcm. magdalenae is commonly known as Madalaine's *Angraecum*, (named for Madelaine Drouhard, original collector of the species), or "the Snow-White *Angraecum*". It is often referred to as the Queen of the *Angraecums*.

This species is native to Madagascar, found in the primary mountain range along the east coast. Plants grow at 1700-2000m as large colonies on huge, flat quartzite boulders in pockets filled with several inches of rich humus and leaf litter.

The roots are often partially exposed. Plants are partly shaded by small trees, but are exposed to very bright light. The night chill is tempered by the residual warmth of the boulders. The habitat has a distinct 5-month long dry season when it receives almost full sun, early morning dew or mist and occasionally even light frost. Flowers are highly fragrant at night to attract the moth pollinators with a proboscis able to reach the nectar at the bottom of the spur.

This plant has been in our collection for over 20 years and is grown in our hot greenhouse on the east side.



Gongora [Gga.] rufescens

Commonly known as 'The Light Fox-Red Gongora', this species can be found in Colombia just north of the border with Ecuador.

Like most *Gongora* species, this is pollinated by male euglossine bees which collect the volatile compounds to attract their mates.

This specimen was obtained by the OSPF in March 2016 and it is grown in our hot house on the west side of the greenhouse.



Miltoniopsis [Mps.] bismarckii (syn. *Miltonia bismarckii*)

Commonly known as Bismarck's Miltoniopsis, this is one of the 5 species of *Miltoniopsis* or Pansy Orchids. Although the flowers are similar to *Miltonia*, they differ by having one leaf to each pseudobulb, and a lobed column that is united to the labellum through a keel.

This species is found in tropical rain forests at altitudes of 600 - 1800 m in Ecuador and Peru. Plants are medium sized, warm to cool growing epiphytes.

This plant was purchased from Equaflor A in 2016 and is grown on the west side of our intermediate house. The flower colour is very pale compared to most other specimens, which tend towards a deeper pink hue.

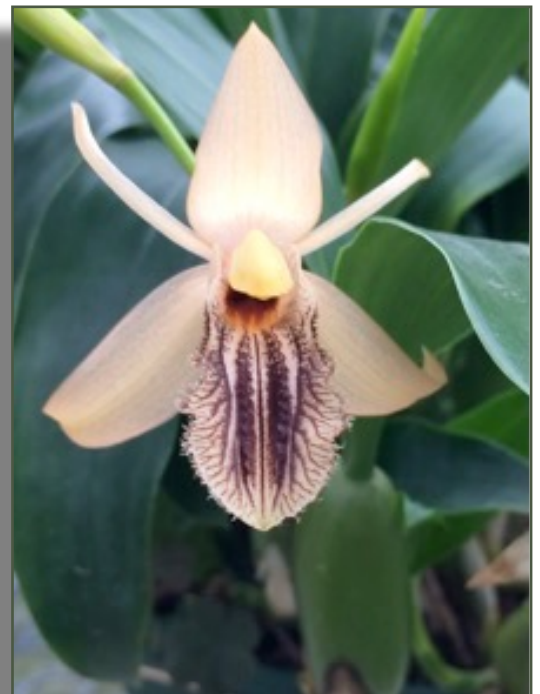
Coelogyne [Coel.] ovalis

Commonly known as "The Oval Coelogyne" because of the shape of the mid lobe of the lip, this species is found throughout India, China and Indochina. In India, this epiphytic orchid is distributed throughout the Himalayan Range at elevations of 600-2000m. In China it grows on trees and rocks in forests at 1700-2000m in western and eastern Yunnan Province.

Belonging to the cooler growing species of *Coelogyne*, *Coel. ovalis* requires a distinct rest period during winter, receiving no food, very little water (enough to prevent pseudobulbs from shrivelling), cool to cold temperatures and high light. These conditions seem to aid flowering in spring.

This species is known in ayurvedic medicine as jivanti and was or is used in a large number of preparations to treat a large number of ailments as well as being prescribed as an aphrodisiac.

This plant has also been in the collection for over 20 years and is grown in our cold house with some shade in summer to prevent leaf burn and full sun in winter.



So..... you just ordered a *Catasetum* from Sunset Valley Orchids, and you're not sure how to keep it alive, let alone see it flower and thrive?

Well, let me point you in the direction of some great articles that you'll find in our SOS Library!

AOS Orchids May 2007 pages 346-349

'Catasetinae Plant Culture - Secrets of Success for Growing *Cycnoches*, *Catasetum*, *Mormodes* and *Clowesia*' by Fred Clarke

Orchid Digest Oct. Nov. Dec. 2016 - the entire edition features the Catasetinae, including articles by:

- Fred Clarke - 'The State of Affairs in Breeding Catasetinae'
- Phyllis S. Prestia - 'Best Practices in Culture of *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes* and their Hybrids'

And of course there's tons of information on the web! Here are three to start you off.....

Canadian Orchid Congress culture sheet: <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/cculture/catasetum.pdf>

Catasetinae Canada (wow, what a find - check it out!): <https://catasetinaecanada.weebly.com/cultural-info-links.html>

Sunset Valley Orchids culture page: http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/culture_catasetinae.html

To Do List for SOS Meeting:

1. **Renew membership!**
2. **Resource table - pick up some bark for that *Paphiopedilum* that needs repotting**
3. **Small change for tin @ treats table**
4. **Cash for Fred Clarke's sale table - look for Cl. Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit Pink', Cyd. Freckled Sweetheart**
5. **Library**
 - ▶ **August 2017 edition of AOS Orchids magazine (article on *Laelia milleri*)**
 - ▶ **Any other AOS Orchids magazine**
 - ▶ **Any Orchid Digest magazine**
 - ▶ **Carl Withner's *Cattleya & Their Relatives* Vol. 1 & 2**