

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:

Saturday, Mar 23, 2019
Saturday, May 25, 2019

Saturday, Apr 27, 2019

SOS Executive

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

March Meeting - Saturday, Mar 23, 2019

The general meeting will be held at
LUTHERCARE VILLAGE AT STONEBRIDGE,
beginning at 1:30 p.m.

President Bob Lucas will be presenting a slide show produced by Orchid Digest on Masdevallias and Draculas.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements

Problem Corner

Show and Tell

BREAK:

Treats/Supplies/Library

Presentation - "Masdevallias
and Draculas"

Plant Sale - Member's Plants

Adjournment

April Meeting of the SOS

The April meeting will feature our annual silent auction, the major fundraising event for the society.

Start looking for orchids and orchid-related items to enter into the auction!

The April meeting also brings with it the election of a new executive.

If you have an interest in serving on the Executive of the SOS, please see Bob at the March meeting, or email him (robert.lucas@usask.ca)

SOS GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 @ 1:30PM

LUTHERCARE VILLAGE AT STONEBRIDGE

"MASDEVALLIAS AND DRACULAS: THE SPECIES, HYBRIDS, AND CULTURE"

BY SANDRA SVOBODA, 2011

PRESENTED BY BOB LUCAS

Gardenscape Mar 29-31, 2019

You are encouraged to bring your blooming orchids for the Society display. Plants should be groomed, staked and labelled with the plant name; also attach your name to the pots to ensure they are returned to you.

Please bring your plants to **Hall D/E at Prairieland Park on Thursday, March 28, between 4:00 & 6:00pm**. The SOS display is located at the north end of the building.

Plants must be picked up between 5:00 & 5:30pm on Sunday, March 31. Please arrange for someone to pick up your plants if you are unable to do so.

We need volunteers for the Gardenscape display. If you have not yet signed up for a time slot, please do so at the March meeting. Volunteers will receive a free pass to the show and these will be distributed at the March meeting. If you can't attend this meeting, you may pick up your pass on Thursday afternoon between 4:00 and 6:00pm at the display site.

ORCHID SOCIETY OF ALBERTA ORCHID FAIR 2019

SOS Display:

The SOS is participating in the OSA Orchid Fair April 5-7 at The Enjoy Centre at 101 Riel Drive, St. Albert, AB. If you wish to have your plants entered in this AOS-judged show, please provide Bob Lucas with the names and parentage of these plants, and the judging classes by **Monday, April 1st** (robert.lucas@usask.ca), as pre-registration is very helpful to those responsible for the display.

Please groom and stake plants, and put your name on the bottom of the pots. Plants may be dropped off at Bob's house (519 Mendel Terrace) between **6:00 & 8:00pm on Wed, Apr 3**. Only plants transported by Bob will be entered in the display. For more details about the show, see the OSA website <https://orchidsalberta.wildapricot.org/>

Plant pickup:

Plants pre-ordered from participating show vendors, and plants entered into the SOS display, can be picked up at Cheryl Adamson's, 20 Caron Cres. in Grasswood, **Monday, Apr 8** between **4:00 and 6:00pm**. If these hours don't work for you, please email Cheryl to set up alternate arrangements. Cheryl or Heather will email you the cost of your pre-ordered plants prior to pickup. Please bring exact change or a cheque made out to the SOS.

Garage Sale:

A garage sale of plants purchased at the OSA Show will be held at Heather Anderson's @ 3254 Calder Terrace **Tuesday, Apr 9 at 7:00 - 8:00pm**. The garage door will go up at 7pm sharp for the sale to start.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

Bob Lucas, President, welcomed members, one new member and guests to the meeting.

Today's presentation is "Coelogynes, the Classics, the New and How to Grow Them", by Calvin Wong. Calvin was bringing two boxes of plants, including pre-ordered plants, but Air Canada lost them in transit. If the plants are found and anyone wants to renew their orders, he will take them to the Orchid Society of Alberta Show in Edmonton in April. Cheryl Adamson and Heather Anderson will bring them back, along with other pre-orders. People placing pre-orders will be contacted by email if the plants are found.

There are two plants available on the member sale table. One is up for silent auction (50% of the proceeds go to the SOS, 50% to the vendor). Access to the other plant is by lottery, so leave your membership number at the front table if you are interested.

There are no raffle plants this month. The source of supply is random and periodic. The executive discussed ways to make up for the income from the plant raffle. It was suggested that we have 50:50 draws on the meeting days when there is no plant raffle. See Bob if you are willing to sell tickets.

Gardenscape will be held March 29-31 in Saskatoon, and the society is entering a display, so we are looking for plants and volunteers. Volunteers will get a free one-day

pass to Gardenscape, which will be distributed at the March meeting, or at the time of display set-up, which will be on Thurs, March 26 between 4:00 and 6:00pm. Plants should be cleaned, staked and have the owner's name on the bottom of the pot. Plants can be picked up between 5:00 and 5:30pm on Sunday, March 31st.



Meeting attendees
Photo by Tom Kondra

We will be entering a display in the Orchid Society of Alberta Show in Edmonton April 7 - 9. Information about drop-off and pick-up will be available at the March meeting and in the March newsletter. Pre-orders are to be emailed to Heather Anderson or Cheryl Adamson; the deadline is March 11. Links to the vendor plant lists are on our website. The plants

will be brought back on Sunday after the show.

The next meeting will be the third weekend in March.

Treats today were brought by Pat Randall, Irene Stroshein, Judy Lozinski, Kathryn Hiller, and Lynn Campbell.

Resources

We have Orchid bark available in Classic, (small) and Power+ sizes. More will be ordered for the other sizes.

Library

There is a selection of magazines for members to sign out. There is a light meter and pH meter for borrowing as well.



FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Presentation

Heather Anderson introduced the speaker, Calvin Wong, of Tropical Gardens Orchids. Calvin is the founder of Tropical Gardens Orchids in Richmond, BC. He is an experienced orchid grower and hybridizer. He is an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society, Vice Chair of the AOS Western Canada Judging Centre, and Past President of the Canadian Orchid Congress. He is often invited to speaking engagements throughout North America, and is published in various journals, such as the Orchid Digest. He often judges various international orchid shows, and in fact had just returned from judging at the 2019 Japan Grand Prix International Orchid and Flower Show in Tokyo. He was a judge at the Canadian Orchid Congress that was held in Saskatoon in 2015, and also brought a display.

Calvin spoke very knowledgeably about Coelogynes, the Classics, the New and How to Grow Them. A copy of his presentation is being emailed to SOS members, so will not be included here in the meeting minutes. Calvin has requested that the file containing his presentation not be reproduced or distributed further.

In addition to the presentation on *Coelogynes*, Calvin included a few pictures of prize-winning plants from the 2019 Japan Grand Prix International Orchid and Flower Show. This was his fourth time judging at this show, where he judged *Lycastes* and *Dendrobiums*. Attendance at the show is about 80,000 people, but has been shrinking in recent years, as has the number of growers showing plants, so this is the first time they have included other flowers besides orchids in the show.

Break

Problem corner

A member has a plant whose leaves have tiny black spots on the undersides. Calvin Wong suggested that it could be caused by moisture on the leaves overnight. If it seems to be spreading, the leaves could be dusted with cinnamon. If the spots are sinking into the leaves, it is bacterial rot. He advised increasing air circulation. A member suggested that if the spots are very tiny they may be evidence of spider mites.

A member has an *Oncidium Sharry Baby* which was outside in the summer. When brought inside in the fall it appeared to have bite marks on the leaves. Calvin Wong said that tiny brown spots on the leaves are common in *Sharry Baby*, and not something to worry about. However, bite marks could be caused by spider mites or western thrips. They could be treated with a 50:50 mixture of alcohol and water, a solution of Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap, or neem oil. The plant should be sprayed once every 7-10 days for 3-4 weeks, in order to kill the adult insects and also the hatching eggs. Neem oil should only be applied on cloudy days: if

used in the sun, it will fry the plants. A member also uses Safer's Insecticidal Soap, which can be bought at Early's. He shakes it up well and puts it on with a makeup brush. (Secretary's note: I use a solution of Endall II insecticidal soap, applied as Calvin suggested. It contains pyrethrins, a class of organic insecticides extracted from chrysanthemum flowers.)

Show and Tell

Eight plants were shown by Vicky Wiley, Pat Randall, Heather Anderson, Donna Carlson-O'Keefe, and Bob Lucas.

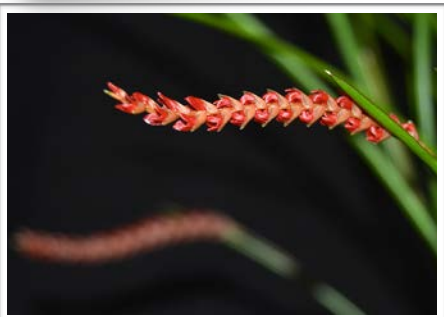
Plant Sale Both plants were sold.

Meeting Adjournment Approximately 3:20pm



FEBRUARY SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Dendrochilum wenzlii
Grower: Donna Carlson O'Keefe



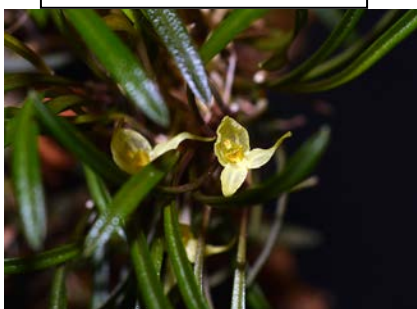
Masdevallia murex
Grower: Heather Anderson
Dryadella pusiola



Paphiopedilum Hsinying Tiger
((*Paph. platyphyllum* x
glanduliferum) x
rothschildianum))
Grower: Bob Lucas



Cattleya maxima 'Priscilla x Daniela'
Grower: Vicky Wiley



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Village
Chief North
Grower: Vicky Wiley



Cattleya Mini Purple 'Blue
Hawaii' AM/AOS
(*Catt. pumila* x *walkeriana*)
Grower: Pat Randall



Cattleya Walkerinter fma cerulea
(*Catt. walkeriana* x *intermedia*)
Grower: Pat Randall

**AOS Western Canada Judging Centre - Central Vancouver Island Orchid
Society Show Judging Results, Feb 1, 2019**

Photography by Judith Higham for plant photos, Ed Higham for exhibit photos

Please note that AOS award photographs are only permitted to be used for AOS and affiliated societies purposes and programs. All awards are considered provisional until paperwork and payment is processed by AOS and published in Orchid Plus.



**AOS Show Trophy
'Memoria Erik Davis'**
ST/AOS 82pts
Exhibitor: Bryan Emery



***Dendrobium bellatulum* 'The Harbour City Glow'**
CCE/AOS 90pts
Exhibitor: Alexey Tretyakov



***Paphiopedilum* Hung Sheng Lucky Girl
'Lori's Surprise' HCC/AOS 79pts**
(*Paph.* Hung Sheng Bay x *Paph.* Shin-Yi Madura)
Exhibitor: Lori Barrington



Winter Thoughts on Orchids in the Rockies

Part Two

Tobi Fenton
Jasper, Alberta

Round-leaved Orchid (*Amerorchis rotundifolia*) is the next orchid to bloom in the Canadian Rockies, in June to July, often overlapping with *C. parviflorum* by several weeks. In good years, with plenty of moisture in montane forest openings, these two orchids can be found growing in a wildflower dream with wintergreens (*Pyrola* spp.), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*), early blue violet (*Viola adunca*), Canada violet (*V. canadensis*), and wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*).

Another supremely adaptable orchid, round-leaved orchid is also found at higher elevations in wet subalpine forest glades and fens. The coniferous trees in Jasper's subalpine forest include subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), with rare pockets of the vulnerable whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulus*). The shrub understory in this zone is remarkably diverse because of the moist, rich soils: plane-leaved willow (*Salix planifolia*), Barratt's willow (*Salix barrattiana*), Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), false azalea (*Menziesia ferruginea*), the beautiful white rhododendron (*Rhododendron albiflorum*), and the low-growing grouse berry (*Vaccinium scoparium*) and kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), to name just a few.



Round-leaved Orchid

Photos: Peter Dziuk
minnesotawildflowers.info



Forest openings in Jasper's subalpine life zone.

Photos: Tobi Fenton



White
Rhododendron



Mountain marsh marigold



Kinnikinnick
Photo: Tracey Thue



False Azalea



Globeflower



1-sided wintergreen
Photo: Ken-ichi Ueda
iNaturalist.com



Plane-leaved Willow
Photo: swcoloradowildflowers.com



Heart-leaved Arnica

Plants of moist subalpine forest and glades.

Photos by Tobi Fenton unless otherwise indicated.

A less common orchid of the montane and lower subalpine zones is the Sparrow's Egg Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium passerinum*. Slightly shorter than Yellow Lady's Slipper but with similar alternate leaves that sheath the hairy stem, Sparrow's Egg Lady's Slipper has an exquisite white flower pouch and white lateral sepals. The pouch is about the same size and shape as a sparrow's egg, hence the common name and species epithet, which means "of sparrows." I always think the lateral sepals look like stubby little wings, carrying the egg valiantly into the forest. The green dorsal sepal forms a distinctive hood that, from above, seems to completely close the pouch. However, small bumble bees and flies can easily enter. Alas, once inside they find a smooth, slippery cave where the only traction that grants exit is a hairy strip at the back of the pouch. The insect climbs up this strip, past the stigma and anthers, where it first deposits pollen from a previous flower and then picks up new pollen to be delivered to the next flower. A brilliant strategy, indeed, for cross-pollination.



Sparrow's Egg Lady's Slipper
Photo: www.elisajeaneluc.fr



Sparrow's Egg Lady's Slipper with dark, hairy seed capsules.
Photo: Tobi Fenton



Sparrow's Egg Lady's Slipper growing in well-drained upper montane forest edge, along with yellow mountain aven, kinnikinnick, wild strawberry, and common juniper.
Photo: Tobi Fenton

Like many terrestrial orchids, Sparrow's Egg Lady's Slipper grows and spreads by underground rhizomes. With successful pollination, it also reproduces by seed, as illustrated by the ripe capsules in the photo above. Each capsule can produce 10,000 - 25,000 seeds! This is another orchid with extraordinary adaptability, growing in wet, shady forest, and also in surprisingly exposed dry sites on forest edges where snow melt and spring rains provide sufficient soil moisture for flowering in June to July.

The orchid genus that is most represented in the Canadian Rocky Mountains is *Platanthera* (also called *Habenaria*). They are commonly called bog orchids because of their habitat: moist to wet montane and subalpine forests, and seasonally wet fens and bogs. But they are also called rein orchids because the narrow lip and long spur together look like a pair of reins on a bridle. Or so thought at least one imaginative botanist.

Tall White Bog Orchid, *Platanthera dilatata*, flowers in June and July in two-foot-tall wands of bright white flowers that scent the air with cloves, vanilla and mock orange, explaining its other common name, scent-candle. Tall white bog orchid can sometimes be found growing as high as tree line in open glades that are watered by late snow melt. False Hellebore, *Veratrum viride*, also grows here and blooms about the same time as tall white bog orchid, with a musky, skunk-cabbage-like scent. What an extraordinary day that would be, to find them together in bloom.



Tall White Bog Orchid, showing white flowers that haven't quite opened completely.
Photo: Tracey Thue



Tall White Bog Orchid, showing the tall leafy stem, and closeup of the fully opened flowers.
Photos: Slichter, science.hallyhosting.com



False Hellebore, not yet flowering, growing in a wet subalpine forest glade.
Photo: Tobi Fenton

Northern Green Bog Orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis*) is another common member of the bog orchid group, growing in - you guessed it - boggy areas of plains, foothills, and montane and subalpine forests. Its flowers are greenish-yellow, rather than white, and lacks the strong scent of tall white bog orchid.

Previously called *Platanthera hyperborea*, *P. aquilonis* is now accepted as the name describing the plant that ranges across the North American continent, while *P. hyperborea* is dedicated to the plants found in Greenland and Iceland. Its species epithet, *hyperborea*, refers to a race of giants in Greek mythology who lived “beyond the north wind,” and so it appropriately and poetically describes this rugged orchid.

In the Rocky Mountains, northern green bog orchid grows in association with a great many other flowering plants that take advantage of spring-fed meadows and bogs, and wet river banks. These include mountain camas (*Zygadenus elegans*), wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) and, near tree-line, the magnificent variously-coloured paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.) and bracted lousewort (*Pedicularis bracteosa*).



Northern Green Bog
Orchid

Photo: Tracey Thue



Northern Green Bog
Orchid

Photo: Glen Lee,
saskwildflower.ca



Red columbine beside a
stream in montane forest.

Photo: Tobi Fenton



Wood lily

Photo: Tobi Fenton



Mountain camas

Photo: Tobi Fenton



Prickly rose
Photo: Tobi Fenton



Gloriously coloured paintbrush in a
moist alpine meadow.
Photo: Tracey Thue



Northern green bog orchid with seed capsules
developing. Growing on a moist river bank with
white spruce, wolf willow, and prickly rose.
Photo: Tracey Thue



Bracted lousewort, an indicator of wet
alpine meadow and possible companion
to northern green bog orchid.
Photo: Tracey Thue

Bees, moths and butterflies typically come to mind when we think about orchid pollinators. We don't think of mosquitoes. (At least I don't. I try not to think about mosquitoes too much at all.) However, when digging a little deeper for information about *Platanthera's* pollinators, I found several references to mosquitoes. Which, I'm forced to admit, is logical given the small flower size and length of the nectar-producing spur.

In the northern Canadian Rockies, the most common pollinating mosquito is the Snow mosquito (*Aedes communis*). It is found near water at all elevations and is most numerous in midsummer, which conveniently overlaps with the blooming period of bog orchids. The scientific literature specifically links snow mosquito with Round-leaved orchid, *Platanthera orbiculata*. However, given the swarms of mosquitoes to be encountered in boggy areas in mid-summer, it isn't too much of a leap to speculate that this little pollinator also visits northern green bog orchid. And probably many other flowers, too.

Snow
Mosquito, a
pollinating
mosquito of
the Rocky
Mountains
Photo: Beatriz
Moisset, USDA
Forest Service



Mosquito collecting
pollen.
Photo: Mike Hrabar,
danpeach.net

It's odd to be thinking about mosquitoes in mid-February when mountain chickadees and blue jays are busy at the suet feeders in the frozen garden; "polar vortex" and "wind chill" are daily concerns rather than "sunscreen" and "insect repellent"; and the very idea of "green" is still three over-long months away. But preservation comes from knowing that plant roots, corms and rhizomes are indeed hidden under the snow, and knowing this feeds a faith that they *will* eventually break dormancy and grow, even young Gisela. We'll enjoy that brief Rocky Mountain spring when we stumble around in a state of stunned exhilaration over a world new with colour and fragrance. Calypso season is coming.

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Tobi Fenton's biography:

Plants have had an immense place in my life since my first summer job when my sister, Tracey, and I worked for Parks Canada at the Columbia Icefield area of Jasper National Park. We spent our off-time exploring the alpine trails. I bought my first wild flower guide, affectionately called "Porsild," and began teaching myself the plants and their Latin names. I still remember our shrieks of delight when we discovered mountain laurel. Much later, my love of plants led me to study horticulture and landscape architecture at UBC. At that time, I began growing orchids on my window sill, inspired by Tracey's growing collection in Saskatoon. When I moved back to Jasper, I suddenly had more space for orchids! Tracey has always generously shared her SOS Newsletters with me and so I have enjoyed reading about the events of your society. I am pleased to now be an official member of SOS, and no longer have to "lurk" to share in your orchid-growing adventures!



Rhynchovola David Sanders (*Brassavola cucullata* x *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*)
Grown & photographed by Sara Thue

A Look Ahead to Future SOS Meetings

Apr 2019 - Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser &
Executive Election

May 2019 - Jean Ikeson, Dundas, ON

Sep 2019 - To be determined

Oct 2019 - Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

Feb 2020 - Terry Groszeibl, Forestview Orchids

May 2020 - Sergio Garcia, Olompali Orchid

Sep 2020 - Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn

Oct 2020 - Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids