

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, Jan 26, 2019	Saturday, Feb 23, 2019
Saturday, Mar 23, 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:	Debbie Huculiak Kathryn Heller
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?

November Meeting - Saturday, November 24, 2018

The general meeting will be held at

LUTHERCARE VILLAGE AT STONEBRIDGE,
110-250 Hunter Rd, Saskatoon

beginning at 1:30 p.m.

The presentation portion of the meeting will include potting and mounting demonstrations.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements
Problem Corner
Show and Tell

BREAK:

Treats/Supplies/Library
Potting Demonstrations
Members' Plant Sale
Plant Raffle - donated by
Dutch Growers
Adjournment

General Meeting Plant Sale Table:

SOS members are welcome
to bring orchids or
orchid-related items to
this meeting to sell to
other members.

Mark items with your
name and asking price.
10% of the sale price goes
to the SOS.

SOS GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, NOV 24, 2018 @ 1:30PM

LUTHERCARE VILLAGE AT STONEBRIDGE

POTTING & MOUNTING DEMONSTRATIONS

Orchid Potting, Mounting, Basic Culture

There's oodles of information on this topic online, and a good place to start is the Canadian Orchid Congress website <http://canadianorchidcongress.ca/culture/> which provides culture sheets for the major groups of orchids.

There are video clips on YouTube showing potting and mounting of orchids - just google repotting Paphiopedilum (for example) and you'll get a wide selection from which to choose.

It's sometimes great to see a technique demonstrated in person, when you can ask questions, generate discussion and get your hands on materials and plants! This month's general meeting gives you the opportunity to watch, ask questions and learn tricks for repotting a Phragmipedium (by Bob Lucas), a Phalaenopsis (by Sherida Gregoire), as well as mounting plants (by Calvin Lo).

Come and check it out!

Tropical Gardens Orchids plant list for pre-orders coming soon!

Calvin Wong will be our guest in February 2019 and he'll have a plant list available in late December for pre-orders. Check the SOS website after Christmas for the list. We don't have a deadline yet for pre-orders; it will be posted on the website too.

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

Bob Lucas, President, welcomed members and guests to the meeting. There is one new member - welcome and enjoy!

Memberships can be renewed today for the 2018-19 season. A single membership is \$25; a family membership is \$30. If a membership is not renewed by the November meeting, membership privileges will be suspended until renewal.

Tickets for the plant raffle can be purchased at the library, 1 ticket for \$1, 3 tickets for \$2. Plants this month were donated by Dutch Growers.

Our guest speaker today is Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids, talking about the breeding program at Marriott Orchids. Pre-ordered plants can be picked up any time during the meeting. There will be a sale of plants from Hadley after his presentation. Access to the sale table is by lottery, so interested persons should leave their membership numbers at the front table. All prices are in U.S. dollars.

The November meeting will feature potting demonstrations. Since there will be no visiting speaker, there will be a sale table for members' plants.

Cheryl Adamson obtained a division of *Brassocattleya* Maikai 'Mayumi' a number of years ago from SOS member Mary Orchard, and it grew to enormous proportions over the years. Cheryl recently divided this plant into dozens of pieces. These are in a bin at the door, and are available for anyone to take. You are asked to throw a loony into the bin for each division

you take, proceeds to go to the SOS. [Editor's note: *Bc* Maikai is now named *Brassanthe* Maikai and is a primary hybrid between *Brassavola nodosa* x *Guarianthe*

bowringiana. There are many named varieties, and 'Mayumi' is one of them!]

Treats today were brought by Gabriele Burmeister, Lori Pozniak, Sarah Caldwell, and Lynn Campbell.

Supplies Nothing new to report. More pots will be ordered soon.

Library The librarians have selected some books on *Paphiopedilums* that members may be interested in. There are also magazines available to sign out.



Hadley Cash, Marriott Orchids
Photo by Tom Kondra

Presentation

Tropical Slipper Orchids, by Hadley Cash, Marriott Orchids, Kernersville, North Carolina

Hadley was introduced by Heather Anderson.

Information about him was printed in the newsletter. A couple of highlights: Hadley has received more than 450 AOS awards, and he has written numerous articles on *Paphiopedilum* for the AOS, *Orchid Digest*, and the *Slipper Orchid Journal*.

Hadley has just recently received his renewed CITES export permit. It took most of a year to process, in part because he has more than 1600 plants on his list to be approved, dating back to 1985.

Hadley's hybridizing is mostly in complex slipper orchids (i.e they have complex genetic makeup). They are the result of multiple generations of breeding that



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Presentation, continued

probably began 75 or 100 years ago. These hybrids are bred to produce a nice round shape and large size. Complex Paph flowers will last 6 weeks, and often 2 to 3 months. High gloss flowers will usually be longer lasting than those with a matte finish. Some of the largest flowers have ruffles or turned-in petals. This occurs because when the flower is in bud the top edge of the petals are tucked into the top of the pouch. The larger the petals, the more difficult it is for the petals to pull out and flatten.

Greens and Golds:

Paphiopedilum Elfstone, produced by Terry Root of The Orchid Zone, is one of the best green/gold breeders of all time. Flowers can be up to 16cm across. The Orchid Zone was the top slipper orchid breeder in the world for many years. Many of their hybrids cost several thousand dollars each.

One of the reasons slipper orchids, especially awarded plants, are so expensive is that they cannot be reproduced by cloning, only by divisions. Hadley showed several slides of Elfstone hybrids that he has produced. He told a story of how he acquired a *P. Pacific Shamrock* from Terry Root, and has used that plant in his breeding program.

Brushed Tones:

Hadley showed slides of flowers with brushed tones on the petals and sepals, often displaying lovely honey tones, and sometimes spotting patterns as well.

Spotteds:

Broad, round flowers referred to as "spotted toads" were dominant in breeding up to 20 years ago. With reds and cinnamons you can get really nice spotting patterns. Some have spots across both the lateral petals and the dorsal petal. Hadley began breeding these in earnest about seven years ago. *P. Acclamation* 'Confetti' is probably one of the best spotted breeders in the world; it is very fertile.

Whites and Pinks:

In general, whites and pinks have been quite infertile, so there hasn't been a lot of breeding in this area. Hadley contacted many breeders around the world to buy plants to use for breeding, but they were reluctant to sell them, so he

decided to breed his own. He started with *P. Skip Bartlett*, a white Paph which had the advantage of being very fertile. From this he was able to breed a fertile line of white and pink Paphs.

To expand his breeding program, Hadley contacted Terry Root to purchase a *P. Mystic Knight* 'Avalanche'. *Mystic Knight* has become legendary in the orchid world. Flowers

are 14cm across, with full form. When Hadley first contacted Terry about this plant, Terry had three mature plants, priced at \$2500, \$2500, and \$4000! Later Hadley settled for a first bloom seedling.

Another contributor in his white/pink breeding program is *P. White Legacy*, a very good breeder which gives phenomenal offspring. It will also produce pink and cinnamon tones.

Novelties:

These are produced by crossing a Paph species to one of the complex crosses. From these you can get a beautiful range of colours and patterns that you can't get any other way.



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Presentation, cont.

New Direction:

The New Direction hybrids also came from The Orchid Zone breeding. Terry Root crossed a vinicolor (wine colored) Paph with a complex red to produce these spectacular hybrids. Hadley bought one of the hybrids with a view to setting his own new direction in breeding. However, after he purchased it Terry informed him that the New Direction hybrids are mostly all sterile!

Sterility is a problem that Hadley has also run into in his breeding program. The fun for him is in going down roads he hasn't been down before, to go around an infertility problem to find new crosses. It seems that if you get past the first fertility roadblock, the fertility seems to carry forward from then on.

Re-Blooming Orchids:

This advice applies to all orchids, not just slipper orchids.

1. You need to give the orchids a cooling down period. Move plants from indoors to outside for 3 to 4 weeks of warmer daytime temperatures and cooler nighttime temperatures - a difference of 15F (8C) or more. Alternatively they can be put in a cool room.
2. At that time, back off on watering. Water less often by 2 - 3 days than you would normally. Hadley waters every 5-6 days in summer, every 8-9 days in winter. You want the plant to quit growing foliage and put energy into a flowering spike.
3. Back off on fertilizer. Orchid fertilizers are all high in nitrogen (first number in the formula), which feeds foliage growth. Either don't fertilize at all for 4-6 weeks, or use a bloom booster fertilizer (high second number). African violet fertilizer is good. After 4-6 weeks, regular fertilizing can resume, but at about half strength.

4. Back off on the amount of light. In a greenhouse or on a windowsill, this happens naturally as winter day length and light intensity decrease. Sunlight allows lots of photosynthesis, so reducing light should reduce growth of foliage. If you grow under lights, reduce the number of hours the lights are on.

The idea here is that the plant thinks it is going to die, so it puts up a spike in order to reproduce before it dies. Usually you only need to do two of the four steps listed, but if the plant is really hard to bloom, do all four. The cooling period is probably the most important factor.

Potting Media:

Orchid media can be purchased in a variety of locations, including places like Home Depot. Hadley uses New Zealand Orchidata bark, allowing 2-3 years between repotting; regular fir bark mixes must be replaced every 1.5 years. The best time to repot is spring or late summer/early fall.

Newly purchased regular fir bark should be soaked in water for 24 hours before using. This bark is dried in a kiln before bagging so it doesn't mould, and is

therefore extremely dry. However, once the water breaks the surface tension of the nugget, water absorbs into it easily. If used without presoaking it takes 2-3 months of watering before the bark starts to absorb it. As long as you don't let the bark dry out completely between watering, it can absorb water easily. Orchidata bark should not be soaked; this will remove the dolomite coating applied during production. Hadley adds perlite and charcoal to his Orchidata bark; the perlite increases air and the charcoal helps discourage bacteria and fungus.



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Plant Sale

Hadley brought a lovely collection of *Paphiopedilum* plants for sale. Since there were so many, each person was allowed to select two plants when their numbers were called. After everyone had the opportunity to make their first selections, people could go back for more! Sales were enthusiastic.

Break

Treats

Shirley Keith has a sign-up sheet for treats for future meetings. Three people per month would be ideal. Before each meeting Shirley will email a reminder to those who volunteer to bring treats that month.

Show and Tell

Eighteen plants were shown by Pat Randall, Becky Janzen, Heather Anderson, Tracey Thue, Cheryl Adamson and Bob Lucas.

In response to a question, Bob replied that Phals, Phrags and Paphs all prefer intermediate light and intermediate temperatures.

Problem corner None reported.

Plant Raffle

There were seven *Phalaenopsis* plants donated by Dutch Growers. All were claimed.

Meeting Adjournment

Approximately 3:35pm

Photos included in the meeting minutes are courtesy of Tom Kondra.

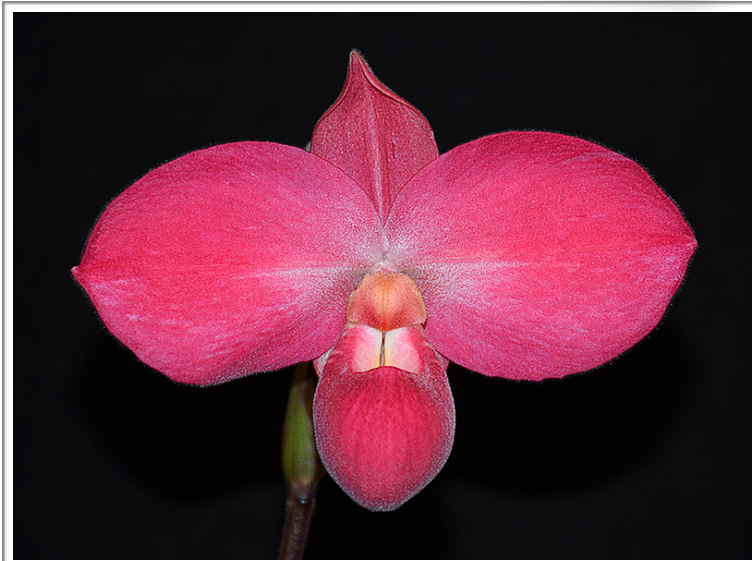


OCTOBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Zygopetalum Jumpin Jack
Grower: Pat Randall



Phragmipedium Fritz Schomburg
(*Phrag. besseae* x *Phrag. kovachii*)
Grower: Pat Randall



Phaiocalanthe kryptonite
'Parkside' AM/AOS
Grower: Pat Randall



Paphiopedilum spicerianum
Grower: Tracey Thue



Cattleya Batemaniana x
intermedia
Grower: Tracey Thue





Cattleya Hsinying Excell 'DG'
HCC/AOS x *Cattleya Tropical*
Sunset 'Calyps'
Grower: Pat Randall



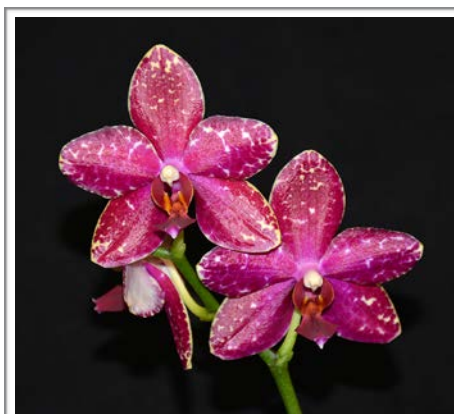
Phragmipedium Chuck Acker
(*Phrag. Eric Young* x *Phrag. wallisii*)
Grower: Cheryl Adamson



Paphiopedilum Franz Glanz
(*Paph. armeniacum* x *Paph. emersonii*)
Grower: Bob Lucas



Paphiopedilum charlesworthii
Grower: Tracey Thue



Siblings of the cross **Phalaenopsis**
(Cool Cat 'Wow' x Ching Ruby's
Fancy 'Kimo')
Bred & Grown by: Bob Lucas



Phalaenopsis
Grower: Becky Janzen



Colmenara (syn. Aliceara) Samurai
Grower: Pat Randall





Cattlianthe Sandra Laura

(Ed. note: registered by Fred Clarke 2018)
(Ctt. Pink Treasure 'SVO Baby Love' x
Ctt. Orchidglade 'SVO' HCC/AOS
Grower: Becky Janzen

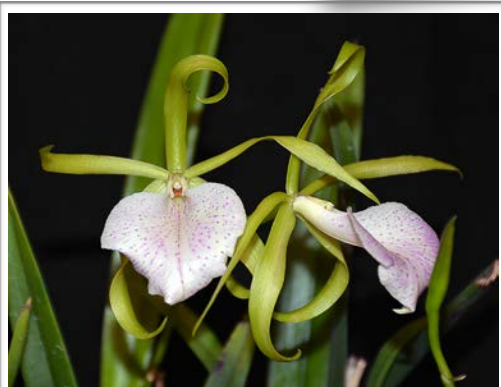


Potinara Mark's Valentine

Grower: Tracey Thue

Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc) Hsinying Rouge 'C.H. #6'

Grower: Pat Randall



Brassocattleya Nakornpathome Silver

(Bc. Binosa x B. nodosa)
Grower: Pat Randall

Bulbophyllum Eed

(Bulb. annandalei x
Bulb. longissimum)

Grower: Heather Anderson



A Look Ahead to Future SOS Meetings

Jan 2019 - To be determined
Feb 2019 - Calvin Wong, Tropical Gardens Orchids
Mar 2019 - To be determined
Apr 2019 - Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser
May 2019 - Jean Ikeson, Dundas, ON

Sep 2019 - Roy Tokunaga, H&R Nurseries
Oct 2019 - Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
May 2020 - Sergio Garcia, Olompali Orchid
Sep 2020 - Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn
Oct 2020 - Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids

Orchid Events Around the Globe

Travelling this winter? There may be an orchid show near you!

Jan 11-13, 2019 - Miami Orchid Society's "Tamiami International Orchid Festival" <http://tamiamiorchidfestival.com/>

Feb 9 & 10, 2019 - Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show, Toronto <http://www.soos.ca/Show/index.htm>

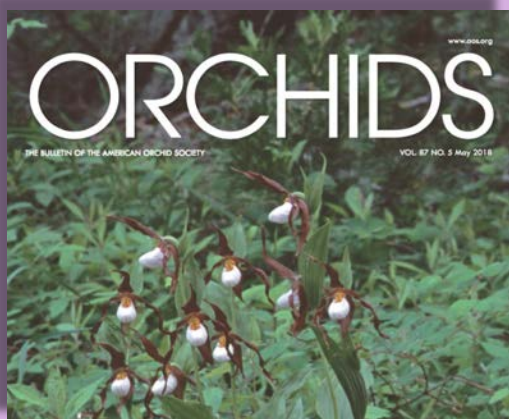
Feb 15-22, 2019 - Japan Grand Prix International Orchid & Flower Show, Tokyo <https://www.tokyo-dome.co.jp/en/tourists/events/dome/orchid-flower-show.html>

Feb 23, 24, 2019 - Royal Botanical Gardens Orchid Society Show, Burlington http://osrbg.ca/wp/?page_id=26

Planning to be in England this winter? Check out the Great Britain Orchid Society 2019 Events Page! <http://osgb.org.uk/events/forthcoming/>

European events - Poland in March! https://www.europeanorchidcouncil.eu/?page_id=451

Looking ahead for travel plans? Consider attending the 23rd World Orchid Conference, March 9-12, 2020, Taiwan <https://www.woc23.com/>



Read to Improve your Orchid Culture!

I've been really appreciating the regular segments written by Sue Bottom, with photos by Terry Bottom, titled **for the novice**, in *Orchids - The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society*. The topics are applicable to anyone trying to improve their orchid culture, whether growing in a greenhouse, a growing room, or a windowsill. Listed here are recent articles that I found particularly useful, but there are more in the other issues of *Orchids Magazine*.



Sue Bottom

Choosing Fertilizer Based on Water Quality - Understanding Orchids with Roy Tokunaga, Part 1

Vol 86 No.2 February 2017

Calcium Deficiency in Cattleyas - Understanding Orchids with Roy Tokunaga, Part 2 Vol 87 No. 2

February 2018

Citric Acid for High-Alkalinity Water Vol 87 No. 5 May 2018

These three articles take the reader beyond the basics of watering and fertilizing, and explain water quality and pH, how to measure it and how to manipulate it with the type of fertilizer you use, and how to add citric acid to the fertilizer water to bring down the pH to an optimal range. According to my hand-held meter, Saskatoon tap water has a pH of 8, electrical conductivity of 0.4 milliSiemens/cm (mS/cm), and 200 parts per million (ppm) total dissolved solids. With these numbers, using the information provided in these articles, I've been trying to optimize the nutrient availability for my orchids.

Leaf Reddening - A Sign of Stress Vol. 87 No. 9 September 2018

This is a great article explaining the different causes of red coloration on orchid leaves - when it's a good thing and when it's a sign of too much stress and a signal to you to take action.

Hydrogen Peroxide Vol. 87 No 8 August 2018

Sue Bottom describes the value of using hydrogen peroxide as an antibacterial and anti fungal agent for our orchids. I've started spraying my Oncidium and Epidendrum orchids with it, to try to reduce the amount of black spotting.

Bud Blast and Flower Blight Vol. 87 No 1 January 2018

We've all experienced this, particularly in the winter months: a plant produces a flower spike and buds develop and grow and then at some point one or many of the buds turn yellow or brown and die. In this article Sue explains the reasons this may happen, from exposure to temperature (too hot or too cold), chemicals, pests or disease. The many photos included will help us spot the problems in our collections so we can make changes when needed.

These and many more Orchids magazines are available to members of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society, to borrow from the library for a month or more at a time. They are filled with beautiful photographs, articles on newly described species, seasonal culture hints, American Orchid Society activities and much, much more.

Tracey Thue, Newsletter Editor