

NEWSLETTER



Editor's Note: The newsletter is distributed electronically (blind copied so addresses remain private) to all members for whom we have an email address. If you do not receive an emailed newsletter please notify me at thues@sasktel.net.

Future Meeting Dates:

Saturday, Feb 22, 2020	Saturday, Mar 21, 2020
Saturday, Apr 25, 2020	Saturday, May 23, 2020

SOS Executive

President:	Tracey Thue
Vice-President:	Vacant
Past President:	Bob Lucas
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:	Sara & Tracey Thue
COC/AOS Rep:	Tom Kondra
Speakers:	Heather Anderson
Webmaster:	Calvin Lo
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Mail Address:	SOS, Box 411 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3
Web Address:	www.saskorchids.com
facebook:	https://

January Meeting - Saturday, Jan 25, 2020

The general meeting will be held at

ELIM CHURCH,

beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Our guest is Terry Groszeibl from Forestview Gardens, speaking about pest management.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements

Presentation - Terry Groszeibl

Plant Sale - Forestview Gardens

BREAK:

Treats/Supplies/Library

Problem Corner

Show & Tell

50:50 Draw

Plant Sale - Member's plants

Plant Raffle

Adjournment

SOS GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, JAN 25, 2020 @ 1:30PM

ELIM CHURCH, CLASSROOMS 7&8

**"INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR
ORCHIDS"**

**PRESENTED BY TERRY GROSZEIBL,
FORESTVIEW GARDENS**

PLANTS PRE-ORDERED FROM FORESTVIEW:

Please pick up your pre-ordered plants from Terry during the January general meeting.

VENDOR'S PLANT SALE:

Terry is bringing plants for sale during the meeting.

Payments in cash or credit.

SOS Members' Plant Sale Table

Members are welcome to bring orchids to sell to other members of the society. We will have 2 separate plant sale tables, one for the vendor's plants, and one for the SOS members' plants.

Introducing Terry Groszeibl

Terry grew up in southern Ontario. After graduating with a diploma in Horticulture, he worked for Agriculture Canada as a Horticulturalist for 5 years. After that, Terry became the head grower and production manager for two large greenhouse operations in Ontario.

In 2005 Terry and his wife and business partner, Charlotte Teggins moved Forestview Gardens to British Columbia where they put their many years of growing experience to work. Forestview Gardens specializes in Paphiopedilum and have one of the largest selections of species and hybrids available in Canada. They also grow a wide variety of other orchid genera including Cattleya, Dendrobium, Miltoniopsis, Bulbophyllum, Oncidium and Phalaenopsis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre-orders for Hawaiian Growers Orchid Eros, Tropical
Orchid Farms & Lehua Orchids
being brought to Saskatoon by Tom Miranda

Due January 20, 2020

Please visit the SOS website for vendors and plant lists.

<http://www.saskorchids.com/#members>

Email your pre-order to
Cheryl Adamson (orchidcrazycheryl@gmail.com) or
Heather Anderson
(heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com) .

A Look Ahead to Future SOS Meetings

Feb 2020 - Tom Miranda & Dave Nixon
Mar 2020 - Phragmipediums, Part 2 (AOS Webinar)
Apr 2020 - Cordelia Head, J&L Orchids
May 2020 - Silent Auction Fundraiser
Sep 2020 - Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn
Oct 2020 - Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

SOS Past President Bob Lucas welcomed members to the meeting. There were no new members or guests in attendance.

Memberships should be renewed for 2019-20 today, or you will lose your membership privileges including the newsletter and access to plant sales. A single membership is \$25; a family membership is \$30.

There are raffle plants donated by Save-On-Foods and an SOS member. Tickets are \$1 each or three for \$2, available at the library table.

Gabriele Burmeister is selling 50:50 tickets, ten tickets for \$5. 50% of the proceeds goes to the winner, 50% to the Society to offset costs for the room rental.

There are plants available on the members' sale table. If you are interested in buying any, leave your membership number at the Treasurer's table; access is by lottery.

Today's feature is a webinar on Phrags by Jason Fischer. It is quite long so we will show only half of it today, with the balance probably in March.

Terry Goszeibl of Forestview Gardens will be our January speaker. The deadline for ordering plants from him is January 16, 2020. The link to his plant list is on our website. Orders should be emailed to Cheryl Adamson.

We need a billet for Terry and also for Dave Nixon who will be driving him.

Our guest speaker for the October meeting spoke for 1.5 hours, which cut into the time available for the rest of the meeting. The executive has discussed this issue and it was felt that since we are paying for the speakers, it wouldn't be good to cut them off. In future we will carve

time for them out of the break if necessary, so there may be no formal break.

Gardenscape will be held March 27-29, 2020 and Deb Huculiak and Kathryn Hiller have volunteered to organize an SOS display again.

Gardenscape conflicts with the 2020 Orchid Society of Alberta show. At the present time we don't have anyone volunteering to take the display to Edmonton. If this changes we'll let you know.

The SOS 2020 calendars are available from Kathryn at the library table. The cost is \$15. There are two extras if you didn't order one in advance.

If anyone is interested in helping Donna with secretarial duties, please see Donna.

Treats today were brought by Merle Ward, Vicky Wiley, Margareta Berin, and Valerie Martz.

Resources Tom & Don

Don Keith reported that they have brought in Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) meters to help balance your fertilizer strength and water quality. They are selling them for \$12 each. Similar meters sell for \$30 at the Home Depot, \$40 at hydroponics stores.

Treats

Please sign up to bring treats for a future meeting if you haven't already done so. Also, please note that there is a donation box (pink pig) at the treats table.

Library Kathryn & Deb

Deb has brought magazines containing articles relating to *Phragmipediums*. We have no *Phrag* books available.

Show & Tell

Four plants were shown by Heather Anderson, Pat Randall, and Shirley and Don Keith.



NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Problem Corner

A member asked if you keep a plant in the dark for 4 weeks to encourage spiking do you reintroduce it to light gradually? The member is unable to vary temperature so reduces light hours instead.

It was felt that light was not as great a determinant as temperature in encouraging spiking, but if that is the method that must be used, the plant should be reintroduced gradually. Putting the plant in bright light right away may cause burning.

In answer to a question about how long to keep grow lights on, Bob Lucas replied that he used to vary his light according to the length of days, but most orchids originate near the equator where there is little variation in the length of day light, so he settled on 12 hours on and 12 hours off.

There was a question about adding ice cubes to a plant to water it, as recommended by some mass market growers. It is very difficult to fertilize a plant properly if using ice cubes to water it. Plants that are purchased at grocery stores, etc. are designed to stay in a container ship for a month without watering. The medium is usually solidly packed sphagnum moss, and if left in this original medium these plants probably only need watering once a month.

Presentation Summary notes by Donna

Today's presentation is an AOS webinar by Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited on the topic of Phragmipediums and Their Culture.

Jason Fischer bought his property in Plymouth, Minnesota in the 1980s and has developed it over the years until now he has 50,000 sq ft of growing space. He has a shade greenhouse, a cool greenhouse, an intermediate greenhouse and a warm greenhouse. Besides his orchids, he also raises alpacas. Their composted manure is good fertilizer, even for orchids in small amounts.

Phragmipedium Species and Their Hybrids:

Mr. Fischer finds *Phrags* more colourful and better bloomers than *Paphiopedilums*. They are not easy to clone, so nearly all of them are grown from seed.

Phrag besseae:

Phrags were first introduced to the market in the 90s. *Phrag besseae* was the first popular species and it is still popular today. It is brightly coloured and fragrant, one of the best parents for breeding. It has translucent lines on its pouch that allow light to shine through, so a fly can see into it. In order to pollinate the flower, the fly has to climb up inside to get the pollen and then it has to fall in again to actually pollinate it. For best success, the flower must be pollinated within the first 3-4 days of opening.

Perhaps one of the best cultivars Orchids Limited has for breeding is *Phrag besseae* 'Rob's Choice' AM/AOS (4N). It came from a flask that Jason Fischer obtained from Orchid Inn. As a tetraploid cultivar, it has better substance, brighter color, and larger size (up to 4" across) than normal diploid plants.

Phrag Memoria Dick Clements (besseae x sargentianum):

This primary hybrid is also good for breeding. It has red streaks on its petals, and results in greater color intensity. The *sargentianum* parent tends to produce long stems; it does not produce branching stems.

Phrag Jason Fischer 'Grouville' FCC/AOS 95 points (4N):

This was produced by crossing *Phrag besseae* with *Phrag Memoria Dick Clements*. Jason's father named it after him, and it holds the most FCC's (18) of any hybrid. A Jason Fischer 3N (2N crossed with a 4N) once sold for \$25,000!



NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Phrag April Fool 'Fool's Gold':

The pink color is coming out in this hybrid.

Phrag longifolium var hinksianum:

This species produces large flowers. Like most *Phrags*, it is a sequential bloomer, and Jason has had it in flower for up to 14 months!

Phrag Eric Young (besseae x longifolium):

Variations are flavum (yellow) and album (white but actually produces a green color). Green and yellow are recessive so pure yellow or green is rare; if the hybrid is bred back to its parents or self-pollinated, you should get a small percentage of pure yellow or pure green flowering plants.

Phrag Don Wimber (Eric Young x besseae):

The 2N hybrids have some yellow color in them, but the 4N hybrids have brighter, redder flowers. Some plants have petals with jagged edges, inherited from the Eric Young parent.

Phrag Raspberries N' Cream:

Mr. Fischer has grown these semi-hydroponically in diatomaceous earth in a drinking cup.

Phrag Red Wing 3N (Robert C. Silich x besseae 'Rob's Choice' AM/AOS (4N)):

Usually produces deep red flowers, but sometimes it's a dud. Jason tells his buyers that if their plant doesn't turn out as expected they should send him a photo and he will replace it.

Phrag schlimii:

This is a small, fragrant species with a slight scent of roses, although many people can't detect a fragrance at all. There are not many fragrant *Phrags*; the hybrids are often more fragrant than the species.

Growing Techniques:

Water:

Phrags prefer very pure water, either reverse osmosis, rain, or distilled water. In the wild, *Phrags* have very wet feet - their roots never experience any dryness. The more water retentive the potting material the less frequently you need to water. The pH of the potting medium should be 5.5 - 7.0 to allow the root system to take up nutrients. A high nitrogen fertilizer is recommended.

Pots:

A pot that retains water well works best, especially if you don't water every day. Jason recommends Rands Aircone pots. They have a cone in the centre, drain slots on the lower sides and deeper corners that can retain water. Semi-hydroponic methods, in which the container holds a reservoir of water in the base works best. Jason uses a plastic drink cup and pokes holes in the sides about 1/2" above the bottom, so there is always a reservoir of water in the bottom. A take out soup container, about 4-5" across works as the next size up for a *Phrag* coming out of a 3" drinking cup.

Potting Material:

Jason believes bark mixes last about a year before breaking down, even Orchidata because you tend to water so much. He likes to amend bark mix with soil. You can use powdered limestone, Perlite, charcoal and peat, coconut bark and peat, depending on your conditions. Another option is adding Miracle-Gro house plant mix to the bark. He adds more or less, depending on the size of the pot and the amount of drainage needed. The root system must stay wet but it needs good aeration.

Some semi-hydroponic substrates that work well include Growstones - expanded recycled glass; Hydroton clay pellets - pH is too high as it comes out of the bag so they should always be soaked for 24-48 hours before use; and diatomaceous earth - medium grade and hard to find.

If using bark, allow the roots to get established before letting the plant stand in water, or you will get mold growing in the mix.

High water retention mixes for semi-hydroponic growing include sphagnum moss, milled, shredded peat (acidic), Growstones (neutral pH), or Grocubes.



NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Grocubes are a fibreglass-like material. The dust is carcinogenic and should not be breathed. It should be wetted for 48 hours before using. Jason uses a solution with pH of 6.0-6.5 for wetting it. This medium has high water retention properties so allows for better nutrient uptake.

If fertilizing at full strength, it should be done once a month. If watering more often, go down to 1/4 - 1/2 strength.

Clear pots will grow algae. If it gets thick and dense, take the plant out of the pot, clean it and then put the plant back in the cleaned pot. Moss growing on the surface of the media is not a problem; plants grow symbiotically with mosses in the wild. However, algae on the surface is a problem. You can put some bark on top to get rid of the algae.

Root rot can be a problem. You could also get Erwinia rot (bacterial soft spot) on leaves.

Light:

If using natural light, an east window is good. Plants should get no direct light between noon and 4:30pm. You can also use 40-60 watt fluorescent lights, either T8's or T5's. If using LED lights, the beam angle and height matter. If using a 60° angle, the lamp should be 5-6 feet above the plants. If using a 120° angle the light is spread out more and the lamp can be closer to the plants. Seedlings prefer low light (250-500 ft candles) while mature plants can handle medium to high light. In general however, Phrags are not a high light plant; high light may keep leaves shorter and thicker.

Temperature:

Phrags are quite versatile when it comes to temperature. They grow best in intermediate conditions, but they flower with best color and size in cooler temperatures. Intermediate conditions: day temperature 70-85°F, night temperatures 60-65°F. Cool conditions: day 60-70°F, night 55-60°F.

Older and larger plants give the best flowering; first flowerings will not be that showy.

***Phragmipedium caudatum* Complex:**

Plants in the *Phrag caudatum* complex have very long petals. They grow less wet than other *Phrags* and do well in sphagnum moss at the seedling stage. Included in the complex are *Phrag caudatum* itself and the following species:

Phrag warscewiczii: The dorsal petal grows over the pouch to keep water out of the pouch.

Phrag lindenii: It has a third long petal instead of a pouch, and is self-pollinating.

Phrag popowii: Most compact of all the caudatum complex, and has the darkest flowers.

Phrag exstaminodium: It lacks the staminodal shield and will self-pollinate. However, if you remove the stamen right away it won't self-pollinate so you can pollinate it with other species.

Phrag Stairway To Heaven (popowii x wallisii): This is a primary hybrid and is very fast-growing. It is similar to *Phrag caudatum*, which makes Mr. Fischer wonder if perhaps *Phrag caudatum* is a natural hybrid.

Phrag Flash Gordon (Red Lightning x Mem. Dick Clements): This is a cross involving a parent outside the caudatum complex.

Phrag kovachii:

To be continued at a future meeting.....

Plant Sale

There were 5 plants on the member's plant sale table and all sold.

50:50 Draw \$120 worth of 50:50 tickets were sold, with \$60 going to the winner and \$60 going to the Society. Donna Carlson-O'Keefe was the winner!

Plant Raffle There were 6 Phalaenopsis plants in the raffle, 4 donated by Save-On-Foods and 2 by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe; all were claimed.

Meeting Adjournment Approximately 3:15pm.



AOS Western Canada Judging Centre Monthly Judging Results

December 14, 2019 Photography by Judith Higham

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.



***Paphiopedilum* Hawaiian Moon 'Blonde Ambition' AM/AOS 82 pts, AD/AOS**

(*Paph.* Silver Moon 'Green Ghost' x *Paph.* Egret's Jewel 'Blond Gem')

Exhibitor: Stanley Luk

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• The AOS Western Canada Judging Centre meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at
• 11:30am, except where noted.

• Next two monthly meetings:

• ❖ Jan 11, 2020: 11:30am at Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond,
• BC V7B 1L4

• ❖ Jan 31, 2020: 1:00pm after Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show judging at
• Nanaimo North Town Centre, 4750 Rutherford Rd, Nanaimo, BC
• • • • •