

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, Jan 25, 2020
Saturday, Mar 21, 2020
Saturday, May 23, 2020

Saturday, Feb 22, 2020
Saturday, Apr 25, 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
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, Nov 23, 2019

The general meeting will be held at
ELIM CHURCH,
beginning at 1:30 p.m.

The presentation will be the first part of an AOS webinar "The Wonderful World of Phrags" by Jason Fischer, Orchids Ltd.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements

Problem Corner

Show & Tell

BREAK:

Treats/Supplies/Library

Presentation - AOS Webinar

50:50 Draw

Member's Plant Sale

Plant Raffle

Adjournment



Masdevallia lilacina

Grown & photographed by Sara Thue

SOS Members' Plant Sale Table

Members are welcome to bring orchids to sell to other members of the society. Please make sure they are free of bugs, label the pot with your asking price and your name or initials.

10% of the sale price goes to the SOS.

SOS GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, NOV 23, 2019@ 1:30PM

ELIM CHURCH, CLASSROOMS 7&8

USE ENTRANCE B

"THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PHRAGS"
AN AOS WEBINAR PRESENTED BY JASON FISCHER, ORCHIDS LIMITED

2020 Calendar Fundraiser

For people who signed up for calendars, they will be available for purchase at the November meeting @ \$15 per calendar, please pay Cheryl G. If you signed up for a calendar but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Kathryn (kmpacres@gmail.com).

Forestview Gardens Plant Pre-Orders!

Pre-ordering is available to current SOS members.

Terry Groszeibl is our guest at the January meeting, bringing pre-ordered plants.

Deadline to submit pre-orders is Jan 16, 2020.

Please go to the link on the SOS website for plant pre-order information.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If anyone is interested in hosting our guest speaker Terry Groszeibl from Forestview Gardens Jan 24 - 25, 2020, please contact Heather Anderson at heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com

Check out the SOS Library!

Members are welcome to borrow materials from the library. Featured books this month will be about *Phragmipediums*, the topic of our November presentation.

Are your plants receiving the right amount of light? Borrow the light meter from the library and find out!

Shows in Spring 2020

Gardenscape in Saskatoon is scheduled for March 27-29, 2020. The SOS will be putting together a display, organized by Deb Huculiak.

The Orchid Society of Alberta's *Orchid Fair* is also to be held Mar 27-29, 2020. Currently there is no one available to organize entering and setting up an SOS display. There will be no SOS-organized plant pre-orders to vendors attending the OSA Orchid Fair. If members wish to pre-order from these vendors they'll have to organize this on their own. Watch the OSA website <https://orchidsalberta.wildapricot.org/> for more information.

A Look Ahead to Future SOS Meetings

Jan 2020 - Terry Groszeibl, Forestview Orchids
Feb 2020 - Tom Miranda, Hawaii & Dave Nixon, Orchid Species Preservation Foundation
Mar 2020 - AOS Webinar - *Phragmipediums* by Jason Fischer, Orchids Limited
Apr 2020 - Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser
May 2020 - Glen Decker, formerly of Piping Rock Orchids
Sep 2020 - Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn
Oct 2020 - Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

SOS President Tracey Thue welcomed members and guests to the meeting. There was a guest from Estevan, and several new members in attendance. For the benefit of new members, Tracey introduced the members of the executive.

The Canadian Orchid Congress has culture sheets available on their website for many orchid species. The American Orchid Society website also has a lot of information for orchid growers.

This is the last meeting to renew memberships for 2019-20 before losing membership privileges, which include access to the library and plant sale tables, and a 10% discount at Early's on orchid-related purchases. A single membership is \$25; a family membership is \$30.

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

There are plants available for sale on the member's sale table. If you are interested in buying any, leave your membership number at the treasurer's table.

Bob Lucas is stepping in for Gabrielle, who couldn't be here today, selling 50:50 tickets; ten tickets for \$5. 50% of the proceeds goes to the winner, 50% to the Society to help pay for the room rental.

Our guest speaker today is Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California, speaking about Miniature Cattleyas. Thank you to Pat Randall for hosting him. He has a plane to catch later this afternoon, so he will be giving his presentation before the break and selling plants during the break. Sales are cash only.

Elim Church has requested that we keep the carpet clean so coffee and treats are set up in the hallway. If you are bringing goodies, please don't bring food items that could be messy.

A 2020 calendar is in the works as a society fundraiser, spearheaded by Kathryn Hiller and Sara Thue.

Sara has chosen photographs taken of our past Show & Tell plants, and Kathryn is organizing the printing. Calendars will sell for \$15. Please leave your name on the sign-up sheet if you are interested. The calendars will be available at the November meeting.

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

Treats today were brought by Valerie Martz, Colleen Hobday, and Lynn Campbell.

Presentation of COC Recognition Awards

Tracey Thue presented Canadian Orchid Society certificates and trophies to Bob Lucas and Sherida Gregoire, in recognition of all the work and time they have put into the SOS over the years. Both have been SOS members for more than twenty years, spending most of that time on the executive in various capacities. Thank you to Tom Kondra and Heather Anderson for applying to the COC for the awards. Thank you Bob and Sherida!



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Presentation Summary notes by Donna

Heather Anderson introduced the speaker, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids (SVO) in Vista, California. After 27 years as an orchid hobbyist, Fred started SVO in 1995. In his greenhouse, which covers more than an acre, Fred breeds superior hybrids for the orchid enthusiast. He last visited the SOS in October, 2017. There is more information about him in the October newsletter.

Fred Clarke: Miniature Cattleyas

Fred's orchid-growing began early. When he was eighteen, a neighbour lady, Mrs. Medina, would recruit him to help repot her big *Catts*, and in return she gave him old orchid magazines. In one he saw an advertisement for a local orchid show. He went to it and returned with \$300 worth of *Cattleya* and *Cymbidium* plants. He built a greenhouse for them out of scrap building materials he got from a contractor for whom he was working. Fred's father introduced him to a friend who had an orchid nursery, and in return for doing odd jobs, the friend paid Fred in plants and allowed him to work in the lab. Fred made his first cross, *Slc*. Golden Wax, when he was nineteen. At first, he specialized in growing and breeding *Cattleyas*. Now he breeds other species as well, but he still grows mostly *Catts*.

Reasons for growing mini and compact *Cattleyas*:

- Space savings
- They have a wide range of flower colours and form – traditional *Catts* were bred for cut flowers so were primarily lavender or white, but mini *Catts* are bred for the hobbyist, so have a wide range of colour and form
- Frequent bloomers
- Vigorous growth
- Adaptable to temperature and light conditions - old *Catts* were grown under ideal greenhouse conditions, but mini *Catts* are tolerant of a wide range of conditions.

The Species:

The species are the starting point of all breeding. Their flowering season, size, colours, and cultural needs are known and can be taken into consideration when planning new crosses.

Sophronitis coccinea is one of the most common parent species for mini *Catts*. It is about 3" tall, and the dark red flowers are 2 1/2" across. Petal width is important in breeding new hybrids, and in *S. coccinea*, the petals can be wider than they are long. Another feature of the flower is the flat margins on the perimeter of the petals; they don't have undulations, unlike many other species. Most importantly, these two characteristics are very dominant. Using *S. coccinea* in breeding leads to flat flowers with flat edges, which judges are looking for these days.

Cattleya walkeriana is about 6" tall. It has a spade-shaped lip with an exposed column. The orientation of the petals is an important characteristic: the midlines point upwards in a broad V, giving it a feeling of joy and lightness. It comes in various different colours. It is fragrant, unusual among mini *Catts*. One rare form is *C. walkeriana* v. *flamea*, very popular with Japanese buyers.



***Slc* Golden Wax 'Lone Star II' HCC/AOS**

Photo credit: SVO <http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/>



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Laelia pumila is 5" tall with large flowers that are a dark red with a darker lip. Its column is covered by the side lobes of the lip.

Cattleya luteola likes lower light conditions than most *Cattleyas*. It grows in coastal Amazonia, under warm, humid conditions. In fact, it grows well with *Phalaenopsis*. It has two red spots inside its lip; these spots appear in its offspring for many generations.

Cattleya intermedia is good for breeding robust mini Catts, although at about 16" tall, it is not itself a mini. *C. intermedia* v. *aquinii* has bright pink flares and wide petals. Its side lobes wrap around the column, but if the lobes are flattened out, they give wider petals.

Laelia briegei is a rupicolous orchid (growing on rocks, rooting into organic matter). It grows under very harsh conditions on exposed rock outcroppings. They are often considered hard to grow because we baby them too much! However, they are good for breeding because they lead to tolerance of a wide range of conditions. In addition, they have strong stems, and the desired V-shaped midline on the petals. Tetraploids are very good for breeding purposes. Breeders sometimes treat plants with a chemical to induce higher ploidy. This prevents cell mitosis, leading to fuller and broader sepals and bigger flowers.

The Essential Primary Hybrids:

Primary hybrids are produced by crossing two species. These hybrids are the backbone of a breeding program. You get the characteristics of both parents, which leads to a wide range of tolerances. They generally provide predictable results, and something that is known as "hybrid vigour". The hybrids will probably grow better

than the original species, and flower in a shorter period of time.



Cattleya walkeriana

Grown by Pat Randall;
photographed by Sara Thue

Primary hybrids often used in breeding are *Sophrocattleya* (*Sc*) Beaufort, *Laeliocattleya* (*Lc*) Mini Purple, and *Sophrolaelia* (*Sl*) Orpettii. *Sc*. Beaufort is a result of a cross between *S. coccinea* for shape and *C. luteola* for its colour and the two red spots inside the lip. *Lc*. Mini Purple is a result of a cross between *C. walkeriana* (which imparts fragrance) and *L. pumila*. *Sl*. Orpettii is a result of a cross between *S. coccinea* and *L. pumila*. It likes bright, cool conditions, a difficult combination, but its hybrids are easier to grow.

Fred showed many examples of hybrids produced from these three primary hybrids.

Mini *Catts* are not often fragrant because they are usually pollinated by hummingbirds, which are attracted by red or yellow colours, but not by fragrance. *C. walkeriana* and some of its offspring are an exception to this.



Laelia briegei
'Star of Brazil'
HCC/AOS

Photo credit: SVO

<http://>

www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/photo_detail.php?prod=356



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Advanced Hybrids:

These hybrids build on known traits in their parent plants, which are chosen for size, colour, and shape.

In the human view of beauty, a symmetrical human face is subconsciously considered to be the most beautiful, and it is the same with orchid flowers. Fred showed several slides of orchid flowers to illustrate this point. However, breeders breed for more than the flower. They might also be looking for strong stems (red *Cattleyas* often have short, weak stems), time to reach maturity, time and frequency of blooming, spacing of the flowers, unusual flower patterns (Fred referenced his presentation of two years ago, when he talked about *Cattleyas* with spots and flares), and even whether a hybrid will root twice a year instead of just once.

In Fred's breeding program, he breeds for strong stems. One of his crosses produces as many as five flowers at a time, and it takes a strong stem to support this. He only uses plants that grow quicker and flower earlier, even if a later blooming plant has a better flower.

Fred showed slides of his hybrid, *Blc.* Martha Clarke (named for his wife) with several of its cultivars, including 'First Love', 'True Love', and 'My Beauty'. Although they had the same parentage, all the cultivars had different appearances and different names, just like human families.

Interestingly, both lavender and yellow are dominant colours in orchids. However, if you mix the two, they cancel each other out and produce white flowers.

Traditionally, Hawaiian growers grew large *Cattleyas*. Since they didn't need greenhouses to control growing

conditions, there was not such a limitation on plant size. However, they are now starting to concentrate on breeding smaller *Catts*.

Plant Culture:

Orchids have existed for 200 million years, but 20-25 million years ago they transitioned from living on the ground to living on the sides of trees. (By way of contrast, the bones of Lucy, *Australopithecus afarensis*, are about 3.5 million years old.) In this environment, the roots are well drained and dry out fast. They get nutrients only from rainwater, not from the bark or the ground, so the roots have become very good at capturing nutrients and moisture. With rainwater, the first water is the dirtiest (most nutrient-rich), and the velamen covering the root absorbs this moisture instantly.

Because of their growth habit, *Cattleyas* need a well-drained medium, good air circulation, and not a lot of nutrients.

In watering, good irrigation is key. The roots have evolved to get wet and then to dry out. A small amount of fertilizer should be added to all water. You should water at a rate that is faster than the drain holes can drain so all roots are covered with water. The water builds up and then drains out, leading to oxygenation of the root zone as fresh air replaces the water. Fred recommends a balanced fertilizer when using municipal water, such as 15-15-15 or 20-20-20. If watering with rain, or RO water, a fertilizer designed for this should be used.



Potinara Little Toshie 'Gold Country' AM/AOS

Photo credit: SVO http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/photo_detail.php?prod=2298



Potinara Mark's Valentine

Grown by Tracey Thue; photo by Sara Thue



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

The potting media should be well drained. Fred recommends 3 parts bark to 1 part Perlite, finer for small plants, and coarser for larger plants. Sphagnum in clay pots also works well, especially when watering with pure water. Another possibility is Aliflor (an expanded clay product) and an organic material. Repotting should be done just as the new roots are appearing. Orchid roots never evolved to adapt to changing environments, so it's best to repot when the roots are very young, so they grow into the new media and don't have to adapt to change. The new pot size should allow for no more than three years of growth. If the pot is too big, the roots stay wet too long. The presence of new roots is paramount to the repotting process. Green root tips should not be touched or damaged. Most instructions on repotting tell you to remove all of the old medium, but that might damage those root tips, so Fred recommends that you remove most of the old potting mix. The oldest roots are at the back side of the plant, so reach in from the back to remove the media. You might have to leave some media at the newest green-tipped roots, to avoid damaging them. Position the plant so that the oldest part is at the edge of the pot. Put in a small amount of the new bark in at a time and shake the pot gently to distribute the bark. Only press on the sides of the pot, not around the new roots. Finally, write a new tag for the plant. On the tag, Fred puts the date that the plant started growing new roots, not the date that it is repotted. He recommends that you write on the tag every time the plant roots, whether or not you repot it. This gives you information about the growth habit of the plant.

In answer to a question, Fred said that he uses kiwi bark, which is similar to Orchiate, but it hasn't been composted or had lime added like Orchiate. The lime is added to raise the pH, but he finds that it declines after a couple years.

Editor's Note: Photos in this summary of Fred's presentation, provided by Donna were inserted by the Tracey, sourced and referenced from the internet.

Break & Plant Sale

During the break, plants were sold from both the speaker's sale table and the member's sale table. Access was by lottery. All of Fred's plants sold. Six of the 7 members' plants sold.

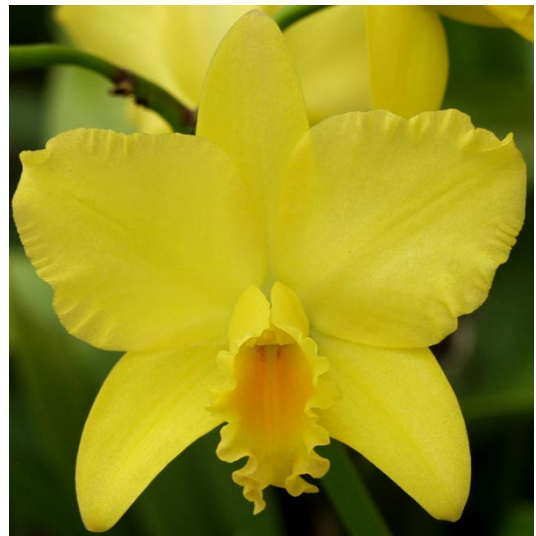
Show & Tell

Sixteen plants were shown by Al Hartridge, Yvette Lyster, Bob Lucas, Heather Anderson, Jen Burgess, Sara Thue and Tracey Thue.

50:50 Draw \$95 worth of 50:50 tickets were sold, with \$47.50 going to the winner and \$47.50 going to the Society. Valerie Martz was the winner!

Plant Raffle All eight plants donated by Save-On-Foods and 2 SOS members were claimed.

Meeting Adjournment Approximately 3:50pm.



Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc) Love Sound
'Dogashima' AM/AOS

Photo credit SVO http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/photo_detail.php?prod=170



OCTOBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Dendrobium cerula white x *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* white
Grower: Sara Thue



Dendrobium Nagomi
(*Dend. cuthbertsonii* x *Dend. bracteosum*)
Grower: Sara Thue



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii
Grower: Sara Thue



Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit' FCC/AOS
Grower: Pat Randall



Dendrobium bracteosum
Grower: Jennifer Burgess



Amesella Sparkling Jewel 'Valley Isle'
Grower: Heather Anderson



Restrepia brachypus
Grower: Sara Thue

Bulbophyllum echinolabium
Grower: Yvette Lyster



SEPTEMBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Paphiopedilum henryanum
Grower: Tracey Thue



Ascocenda Butterfly x Vanda Srakaew
Grower: Al Hartridge



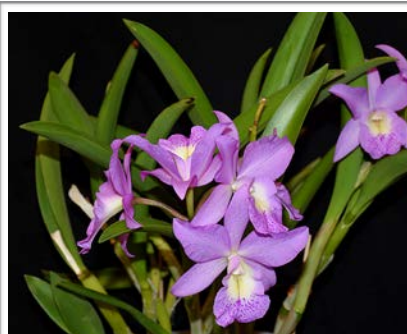
Cattlianthe Portia
(*Guarianthe bowringiana x*
Cattleya labiata)
Grower: Heather Anderson



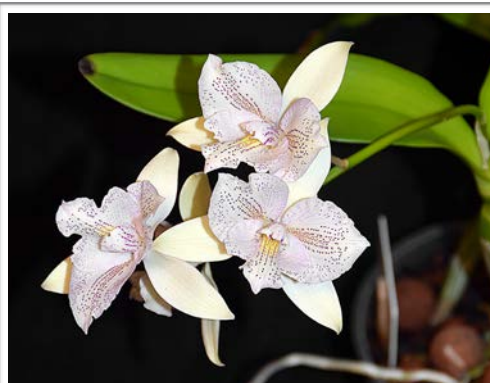
Lepanthes zamorensis
Grower: Sara Thue



Lepanthes uxoria
Grower: Sara Thue



Brassocatanthe Little Mermaid
'Janet' AM/AOS
(*Cattleya walkeriana x Brassanthe Maikai*)
Grower: Yvette Lyster



Caulocattleya Chantilly Lace
'Twinkle' HCC/AOS
(*Cattleya El Dorado Splash x*
Caularthron bicornutum)
Grower: Yvette Lyster



Paphiopedilum Pinocchio x
Paph primulinum
Grower: Al Hartridge

**AOS Western Canada Judging Centre - Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show
Judging Results**

October 26, 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 charlesworthii f. sandowiae x sib
'Coy' HCC/AOS 77pts

Exhibitor: Tropical Gardens Orchids | Calvin Wong



Zygoneria 'Paramount's Oceanside Vortex' HCC/AOS 76 pts

Award provisional pending hybrid registration

(Zygoneria Adelaide Meadows x Zygopetalum Helen Ku)

Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids

**AOS Western Canada Judging Centre - Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show
Judging Results**

October 26, 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.



***Phragmipedium fischer* 'Teggin' HCC/AOS 78pts**
Exhibitor: Sandy Larson

***Cattleya* 'Paramount's Just In Time'**
AM/AOS 80 pts
(*Cattleya* Haidee x *Cattleya* Sabina)
Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids



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

• Next two monthly meetings:

- ❖ Nov 16, 2019: 1:00pm after WCJC business meeting - Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria, BC V8X 3W1
 - ❖ Dec 14, 2019: 11:30am at Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond, BC V7B 1L4
-

a simple orchidarium

by Sara Thue

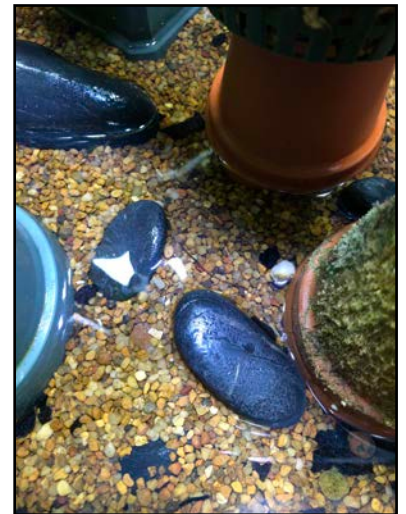
My tank is an Exo-terra brand reptile terrarium measuring 24" tall x 18" deep x 24" wide. I found it secondhand on Kijiji. This type of terrarium has front opening door and a removable screen top. I replaced the screen top with a piece of plexiglass to better retain humidity. I cut and folded a piece of coated wire mesh to line the back and sides of the tank for hanging plants.



I currently use one 24" T5 fluorescent tube & one LED grow light. Before the LED I used two 24" T5s and the plants seem to do equally well under both systems.



The bottom of the tank can be left bare, but I have aquarium gravel and stones for aesthetics. Water pools in the bottom of the tank after spraying the plants and I siphon it out occasionally. Plants should be raised off the floor of the tank; I simply use inverted pots, but a raised platform of wire mesh or egg crate would work very well.



I have two computer fans mounted on the inside wall of the tank for air circulation. I have no automated watering or misting system, but keep a regular old spray bottle next to the tank and mist it once a day (sometimes I skip a day...) so humidity ranges from 90% just after misting, down to 70%. I only directly water the orchids as needed, allowing the plants that like to dry between watering a chance to do so.