

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, Nov 23, 2019	Saturday, Jan 25, 2020
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
Facebook:	Sara Thue
Mail Address:	SOS, Box 411 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3
Web Address:	www.saskorchids.com
facebook:	https:// www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?

October Meeting - Saturday, Oct 26, 2019

The general meeting will be held at

ELIM CHURCH,

beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Our guest is Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids, speaking about miniature Cattleyas.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Agenda:

Announcements
Presentation - Fred Clarke
Plant Sale - Sunset Valley Orchids
BREAK:
Treats/Supplies/Library
Problem Corner
Show & Tell
50:50 Draw
Plant Sale - Member's plants
Plant Raffle
Adjournment



Cattleya Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii' AM/AOS
Flowered by Pat Randall Feb 2019



Trisetella hoeijeri
Sara Thue

**THE SOS HAS A NEW MEETING
VENUE!**

ELIM CHURCH
419 Slimmon Road, Saskatoon
Use Entrance B, left hallway, we're in
Classrooms 7 & 8.
Lots of parking, easy access!

SOS GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCT 26, 2019@ 1:30PM
ELIM CHURCH, CLASSROOMS 7&8
"MINIATURE CATTLEYAS"
PRESENTED BY FRED CLARKE,
SUNSET VALLEY ORCHIDS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019 - MAY 2020

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR SOS MEMBERSHIP!
MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING OR ONLINE; SEE DONNA OR
CHERYL G. AT THE SECRETARY'S TABLE TO MAKE YOUR PAYMENT.

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES END IN NOVEMBER, SO DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

PRE-ORDERED PLANTS:

Please pick up your pre-ordered plants from Fred Clarke during the October general meeting.

GENERAL MEETING PLANT SALE:

Fred is bringing plants for sale during the meeting. Prices will be in U.S. dollars; Fred will calculate the exchange rate at the point of sale.

All payments by cash please.

Introducing Fred Clarke

Fred Clarke started Sunset Valley Orchids in 1995 as a natural outgrowth of a hobby that began 27 years earlier. SVO is dedicated to providing excellent customer service and breeding superior orchid hybrids for the orchid enthusiast. Located in Vista, California, it is a "boutique" style nursery, with greenhouse space exceeding 45,000 sq.ft. Fred is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region, and a popular speaker on many orchid subjects. Fred visited the SOS in 2017 and spoke about his breeding program for splashed and spotted Cattleyas. SVO has been breeding and developing new hybrids in the *Catasetinae*, which has been generating lots of enthusiasm for growing and flowering these fascinating orchids.

2020 Orchid Calendar SOS Fundraiser

A calendar with photos of members' Show & Tell plants is being produced by Sara and Kathryn. Calendars will be sold for \$15.

We will have a sign-up sheet at the October general meeting, to get a number estimate for printing.

Calendars will be available for purchase at the November meeting.

A Look Ahead to Future SOS Meetings

Nov 2019 - TBD

Jan 2020 - Terry Groszeibl, Forestview Orchids

Feb 2020 - Tom Miranda & Dave Nixon

Mar 2020 - TBD

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Recorded by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

Announcements

SOS President Tracey Thue welcomed members and guests to the meeting. There was one new member in attendance.

This is our first meeting in our new venue. If any members have any suggestions about how to improve the functionality of the venue, please let us know.

Memberships for 2019-20 are due this month. A single membership is \$25; a family membership is \$30.

Early's will give a 10% discount on orchid-related products when you present a current membership card.

There are raffle plants donated by Save-On-Foods. 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.

Gabriele Burmeister is selling 50:50 tickets, ten tickets for \$5. The draw will take place at the end of the meeting. 50% of the proceeds goes to the winner, 50% to the Society to help pay for the venue and speakers.

Our guest speaker today is Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids in Florida, speaking on The Genus *Laelia* in Brazil. Thank you to Cheryl Adamson 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.

The meeting room is carpeted, and we need to be careful to keep it 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.

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will be the speaker at our October 26 meeting. Pre-orders should be given to Cheryl Adamson or Heather Anderson by October 3. The list of plants is on the SVO website, but only Cattleya and Catasetinae are available for pre-order.

A 2020 calendar is in the works as a society fundraiser, spearheaded by Kathryn Hiller and Sara Thue. Sara is choosing the 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. We hope they will be ready for the October meeting, for sure for the November meeting.

We are looking for a Secretary to take over from Donna Carlson-O'Keefe, so she can take over the Treasurer's position from Cheryl Grummett. If you are interested, please talk to Donna; she will provide more details about the position, and will help the newbie to learn the ropes!

Treats today were brought by Gwen Erickson, Moyca Stoffel, and Lynn Campbell.

Resources Tom & Don

Tom Kondra announced that they now have Orchiata bark available in the Classic, Power and Power Plus sizes. Orchiata does not have to be soaked ahead of time, unlike regular bark. It also contains a bit of calcium, so can provide that micronutrient. If you are thinking of switching to Orchiata, it is recommended that you try it on a few plants to see if you like the results before repotting your whole collection into it.

A member from Regina has donated a collection of pots; these are being given away to anyone who wants them. Tracey pointed out that we have no storage in this venue, so if you know you are going to need something from Resources, it would be a good idea to let Tom or Don know ahead of time so they could bring it to the meeting for you.



SOS meeting Sept 2019
Guest speaker Francisco Miranda



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Library Kathryn & Deb

We have the most recent edition of *Orchids* magazine, from the AOS, in which there is a photograph of Bob Lucas's recent AOS-awarded *Paphiopedilum*. There are also for loan a couple of books and magazines with articles relevant to today's presentation on *Laelia*.

Presentation Summary notes by Donna

Cheryl Adamson introduced the speaker: Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids, Haines City, Florida. Francisco is a taxonomist, naturalist, and orchid grower. He started Miranda Orchids with his partner Maria Cristina Miranda in 1999 when they moved to Florida from Brazil. Since 1988 he has traveled extensively throughout the US and internationally, studying orchids in their natural habitats and speaking at orchid shows and meetings.

Francisco Miranda:

The Genus *Laelia* in Brazil

This was not Francisco's first visit to Saskatoon; he recalled being here in 2001 and 2004. For this presentation, he is not here as a taxonomist, but as a grower taking us on a country tour of Brazil. He has widely studied and photographed plants in the wild in Brazil.

Many of the orchids he will be talking about are classified as lithophytes. However, he pointed out that they grow *together* with rocks, not actually *on* the rocks. They are rarely attached to the rocks; instead they grow in cracks and depressions in the rocks, with their roots growing into the cracks. He reiterated this several times during the presentation, illustrating with photographs of plants in their natural habitats.

Francisco showed maps of Brazil, which unfortunately I am unable to reproduce here, one a relief map and the other showing the natural vegetation regions of the country. *Laelias* grow in areas along the southeast coast and inland from there.

In general, cold fronts come in from the southern Atlantic, hitting the mountains and rising, producing rain, although a couple times a year weather systems will come south from the Amazon. Thus Brazil has rainforests along the southeast coast, as well as in the Amazon. The climate is progressively dryer as one travels north from the coastal area, becoming very dry in the centre of the country.

There are no Brazilian *Laelias* in the Amazon. Most grow in the Atlantic forest along the coast, particularly in the Sao Paulo–Rio de Janeiro area, while others follow rivers inland from there. Those growing on rocks are known as rupicolous.

There are four sections of *Laelia*:

- Cattleyodes – nine species, includes the largest flowered Brazilian species, essentially coastal.
- Hadrolaelia – six species, produce fairly large flowers on small plants; they produce their flowers directly from the new leaves, without a flower sheath.
- Microlaelia – only one species, *L. lundii*, wide distribution range in the drier interior.
- Parviflorae – includes the rupicolous *Laelias*, but also three species that grow on trees.



Francisco Miranda, Miranda Orchids

Photo: Tom Kondra



**SEPTEMBER MEETING
MINUTES, CONT.**

Mr. Miranda started the “country tour” in the southern coastal area, moving northward along the coast and then inland. He showed numerous slides of the different species, including colour variations. He also showed slides of the areas and habitat in which they grow.

One of the southernmost coastal *Laelias* is *L. purpurata*, the only southern *Laelia* that grows in open forest where the light reaches the ground. It is not particular as to medium: it grows on trees, rocks, or the ground, and that habitat can change over time as open forest becomes more overgrown. It has many colour variations, both on the lip and on the sepals and petals.

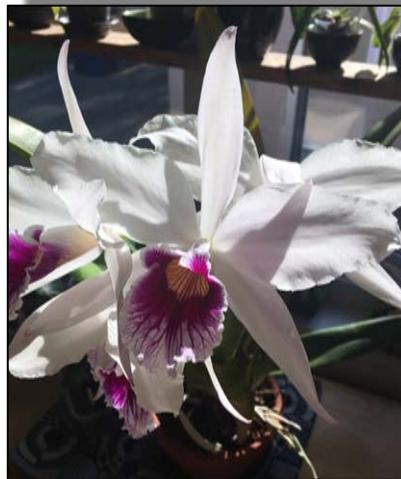
One of the most famous is the *carnea*, which has a pink lip, rather than purple. Only six of these have ever been found in nature, so these have been widely used in breeding. Another rare variation is *L. purpurata* var. *werkhauseri*, of which only two have been found in nature.

L. lobata grows on Gavea Mountain facing the Atlantic Ocean, near Rio de Janeiro. It used to be found growing in trees but now is found only on the rock wall of the mountain, where they get lots of light and some salt from the ocean. You might think that to grow them at home, you would need somehow to add salt to their medium, but in fact, they don't need salt to grow successfully.



***Laelia purpurata* in situ**

Photo credit: Eduardo Luis Masiero, Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/photos/edumasiero/23645993799>



***Cattleya purpurata* (4N x v. *striata*) Tracey Thue**

On the other side of Gavea Mountain can be found *L. crispera*, growing on very tall palm trees. It is very fragrant.

Other southern *Laelias* are *L. gloedeniana* (a rupicolous orchid growing on coastal granite boulders at elevations of 1000-1200m), and *L. fidelensis* (an extremely rare orchid – only two plants have been found in nature. It does not fit any of the *Laelia* sections), and *L. perrinii*.

L. dayana is a Hadrolaelia, which means that it produces its flowers from inside the new leaf growth. The flowers can be as much as 4” across. Like *L. perrinii*, it has a *coerulea* colour variation, as well as the *tipo* (typical) colouration.

L. tenebrosa has several forms and a wide range of colours. Flowers can be as large as 6-8” across! The best shape is found in those of a lighter colour so breeders are trying to produce crosses to get darker colours, but, Mr. Miranda said, mostly they get bad shape *and* bad colour. Its offspring are difficult to grow.

Mr. Miranda noted that breeders nowadays are breeding to produce tetraploids, which tend to produce rounder and longer lasting flowers. The trend these days is for a rounder flatter flower.

Two other coastal plants that he mentioned are *L. xanthina* and *L. virens*. The latter is a large plant with small green flowers which sometimes don't ever open. It is a self-pollinator.



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Moving on to the interior of Brazil, one finds *L. harpophylla* (a rupicolous species fertilized by hummingbirds because it is not fragrant), *L. praestans* (a Hadrolaelia), and *L. cinnabarina* (another rupicolous species).

Brush fires are very common in the drier interior, so the pseudobulbs of the plants often show signs of burns. However, their eyes survive and their roots grow deep into the cracks of the rocks and thus escape the ravages of the brush fires. When the next rainy season comes, they start to grow again.

Further inland lies the Serra da Piedade mountain range which contains a lot of iron ore. Brazil has established a national park here to protect the natural environment. *L. crispata* (or *flava*) grows here, with pseudobulbs rooted in cracks and around iron ore gravel. Its leaves have backward facing spines, so if you step in it, you have difficulty extracting your foot!

L. milleri, once thought to be extinct, also grows on an iron ore mountain in this area. Every *Cattleya* with tall spikes and red flowers is a descendant of *L. milleri*. Every *Cattleya* with short spikes and red flowers is a descendant of *Sophranitis*.

Other rupicolous species found in this area are *L. liliputana* (very small, possibly pollinated by small insects), *L. reginae* (flowers during the rainy season), and *L. caulescens* (2" flowers on 12-20" spikes). An interesting fact is that, although plants may grow in great numbers, only 10-20% of them bloom at any one time.

Moving even further into the interior, one comes to the Caraca Nature Reserve which surrounds the Caraca Monastery, and where more than 300 orchid species grow,

about 10% of all the orchids in Brazil! This area provides a varied habitat, and at elevations of 1400m, temperatures can get as low as 1°C in the morning. As an adaptation to the arid conditions, some of the plants growing here exhibit a unique metabolism called crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM) – if they are under stress, they “rest” during the day and absorb water at night, so, contrary to common knowledge, if you are having trouble growing these particular plants, you may need to water in the evening.

Species growing in this area include *L. longipes* (flowers in the rainy season), *L. kettieana*, *L. sanguiloba*, *L. blumenscheinii*, and *L. ghillanyi* (grows at 1300m so is cool most of the time, needs a dry period).

Along the rivers and streams of the area is found a “gallery forest”, which contains semi-deciduous trees and other plants that otherwise wouldn’t grow in such a dry area. *L. pumila* (a Hadrolaelia) and *L. lundii* (the only Microlaelia) grow in these gallery forests.

Farther north is the mountainous area of Diamantina. This area has a very dry season marked by numerous brush fires, but also a rainy season. Plants have adapted to these conditions, and there are many succulents growing there. Among them are *L. rupestris* and *L. griegeri*, which grow in the depressions in the rocks. There is also vegetation from other plants in these depressions, so if you are potting this species, use a small pot, and mix gravel with peat moss or sphagnum as the growing medium. The gravel should come from granite rock, not limestone. They are low feeders, so don’t fertilize them too much.



Minas Gerais, Brazil
Photo credit viaretravel.com



Laelia reginae* & *L. liliputana
photo credit: Svetlana Bogatyrev, Flickr https://www.flickr.com/photos/svetlana_b/7006319871



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

The roots of these plants go deep into the cracks of the rocks, and never get completely dry. In the rainy season the depressions fill up with water, so the plants grow in water from November to April.

Other species found in the Diamantina area are *L. kleberi* (growing at 800-1000m), and *L. angereri*.

In the Pico do Itambe State Park, where it can get very cold in winter, grows *L. jongheana* (the largest of the Hadrolaelias, growing in association with a black lichen) and *L. itambana* (grows in cracks in rocks).

And finally, in the Sincora Mountains are found *L. sincorana* (its flowers are bigger than the plants), *L. bahiensis* (likes to be potbound so grow them in 2" pots), *L. pfisteri*, and *L. grandis* (flowers are 4-5" across). This area has had a lot of logging so in many places there are just a few spindly trees left, and it is often windy. It is also prone to brush fires. As mentioned previously, when potting these plants, use granite gravel, not limestone.

Mr. Miranda said that it took him forty years to put this presentation together: you can find the orchids, but you have to keep going back to see and photograph them in bloom.



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

Break & Speaker's Plant Sale

Mr. Miranda will sell orchids during the break. Access to the speaker's plant sale table is by lottery; put your membership number in at the treasurer's table.

Show & Tell

Seven plants were shown by Bob Lucas, James Wood, Yvette Lyster, Cheryl Adamson, and Erin Kondra.

Member's Plant Sale

There were 28 plants and 3 bags of Spanish moss on the table and about a third of the items sold.

50:50 Draw \$85 worth of 50:50 tickets were sold, with \$42.50 going to the winner and \$42.50 going to the Society. Jack Smith was the winner!

Plant Raffle All seven *Phalaenopsis* plants donated by Save-On-Foods were claimed.

Meeting Adjournment Approximately 3:35pm.



Cattleya luteola

Grown by Tracey Thue Photo by Sara Thue

***Cattleya kerrii* 'Valley Isle'**

Grown by Tracey Thue Photo by Sara Thue



SEPTEMBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Enanthleya Magic Wand
(*Cattlianthe* Trick or Treat x *Guaricyclia* Kyoguchi)
Grower: Yvette Lyster



Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS
(*Bulb. longissimum* x *Bulb. rothschildianum*)
Grower: Cheryl Adamson



Phalaenopsis Chiada Ziv
(*Phal. Sogo Lisa* x *Phal. Sunrise Red Peoker*)
Grower: Erica Kondra



Paphiopedilum Wossner China Moon
(*Paph. armeniacum* x *Paph. hangianum*)
Grower: Bob Lucas

SEPTEMBER SHOW & TELL TABLE

Photos by Sara Thue



Phalaenopsis Katherine Norton
(*Phal.* I-Hsin Gold Dust x *Phal.* Orchidview Tabasco)
Breeder & Grower: Bob Lucas



Phalaenopsis (Leucadia Farewell x Tying Shin Golden Queen)
Breeder & Grower: Bob Lucas



Bulbophyllum cuniculiforme
Grower: James Wood

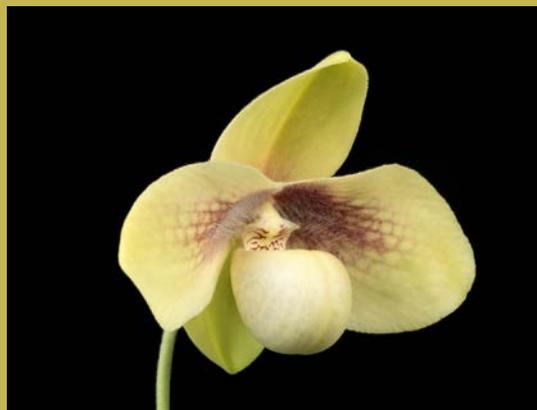


Phragmipedium April Fool 'Carly'
(*Phrag.* Cardinale x *Phrag. besseae*)
Grower: Bob Lucas

AOS Western Canada Judging Centre Monthly Judging Results

September 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 hangianum* 'Wellington's Forest View' AM/AOS 85 pts**

Exhibitor: Lori Barrington

- The AOS Western Canada Judging Centre meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 11:30am, except where noted.
- Next two monthly meetings:
- ❖ Oct 26, 2019: 1:00pm after the FVOS Show Judging - George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42 Ave, Langley City, BC
- ❖ Nov 16, 2019: 1:00pm after WCJC business meeting - Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria, BC

New to growing orchids?

Check out the Canadian Orchid
Congress website

[https://
canadianorchidcongress.ca/](https://canadianorchidcongress.ca/)

for lots of information on orchid
culture of the main groups of
orchids grown by North American
hobbyists.

Go to the American Orchid Society website
<http://www.aos.org/default.aspx?id=1>
for more information for beginner growers.

The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia
<http://www.orchidspecies.com> is a great resource.