SASKATCHEWAN ORCHID SOCIETY
MARCH 2022 VOLUME 38, ISSUE #6

NEWSLETTER

Saskatchewan Orchid Society

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 email info@saskorchids.com to update your contact information.

Future Meeting Dates:

Sun Mar 27, 2022 by Zoom
Sat Apr 23, 2022 in person @ Elim Church
Sun May 15, 2022 in person @ Elim Church

SOS Executive

President:	Tracey Thue
Vice-President:	Vacant
Past President:	Bob Lucas
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	Kathryn Hiller
Newsletter:	Tracey Thue
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The March general meeting will be held by Zoom on Sunday, March 27 @ 1:00 pm CST

The guest speaker is Martin Motes, Motes Orchids, Florida

The presentation will be hosted by the Orchid Society of Alberta. It will start at 1 pm.

The SOS General Meeting will begin after the presentation, with a second zoom meeting.

Please see page 2 of this newsletter for two links to the Zoom meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PERSON MEETINGS TO RESUME IN APRIL!

Due to the recent easing of Covid-19 restrictions, in-person meetings will begin again with the April 23 meeting.

The March meeting will be presented by Zoom.

MEETING AGENDA:

1:00pm Guest Speaker Presentation hosted by OSA

After guest speaker:

SOS General Meeting Business:

- Announcements
- Problem corner
- Show & Tell

GUEST SPEAKER:

Martin Motes, Motes Orchids, Florida

Presentation: Vandas

Martin Motes, PhD., is a native Floridian who has been growing orchids south of Miami for over fifty years. He is a second-generation orchidist. Martin is President of Motes Orchids, a major breeder of vandas. He has produced hundreds of new hybrids, for which he has received scores of American Orchid Society awards, and he is an accredited AOS judge. Martin won gold, silver and bronze medals at the 18th World Orchid Conference in Dijon. He has observed tropical orchids growing in the wild and has spoken at orchid conferences around the world.

Martin's guidance and advice come from a deep knowledge and practical experience of the local subtropical world. He is also the foremost breeder and cultivator of vandaceous orchids in the world. He is author of several books and most recently has written the 2nd edition of Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month.

Sunday, March 27, 2022 @ 1:00 PM CST

Please join the Zoom Presentation hosted by OSA starting at 1:00pm by clicking on this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82943803694?pwd=TS8waGRDcldGazU3ajkrM3ArOERvQT09

Meeting ID: 829 4380 3694. Passcode: 166882

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Please join the Zoom SOS General Meeting at the conclusion of the Presentation by clicking on this link:

https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/98803716548?pwd=SjlnenMxZ0Fnb3g1aDJOdkpES2ZSZz09

Meeting ID: 988 0371 6548. Passcode: 94103700

SOS EMAIL CONTACTS

Plant orders go to: orders@saskorchids.com

General requests or queries to: info@saskorchids.com

LIBRARY

If you would like to borrow any library resources, or if you have any library material that needs to be returned, please email Librarian Deb Huculiak **hucuh@sasktel.net** to arrange for pickup. Please include in your email message your name and a phone number for Deb to reach you. You can find a .pdf of the library holdings on our SOS website. Available are books, magazines (AOS Orchids and Orchid Digest), pH meter, light meter.

PLANT ORDERS

Ecuagenera and **Ten Shin Orchids** orders: The plants were to be delivered to the Foothills Orchid Society Show. However, due to a double-booking of the venue, the show has been moved from May to September.

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Heather and David have arranged to have the plants from **Ten Shin Orchids** to be shipped to Vancouver in April with an OSA order. The SOS order will then be shipped from Vancouver to Saskatoon.

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The **Ecuagenera** order will be shipped to Calgary with an FOS order, scheduled to arrive in April. There will be a shipping charge from Calgary to Saskatoon, but that should be counter-balanced by an increased order discount. Keep posted for a delivery date.

Orchid Conservation Alliance

Presents

A Conservation Zoom-Posium

Saturday, March 26, 2022
10:00 am - 2:30 pm CST

Guest speakers will discuss orchid conservation efforts in Columbia and Ecuador

Register on-line and attend this free symposium, presented by Zoom. If you missed the email with the link, here it is:

https://orchidconservationalliance.org/orchid-conservation-zoom-posium/?fbclid=IwAR16ZN2WAjCxF-qm8ipF1eg6Y6T_bZZWV7vQ9I01dgjN6yqZ1_H1KRDvxJ4

Upcoming Speakers:

Sat May 14, 2022 - T.J. Hartung from Vallarta Botanical Gardens, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Sept 2022 - Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, California, USA

Oct 2022 - Cordelia Head, J&L Orchids, Connecticut, USA

Nov 2022 - TBD

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 26, 2022, 1:00 PM CST
LOCATION: Zoom meeting, moderated by Calvin Lo.

The first portion of the meeting was chaired by Tracey Thue and was restricted to members of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society. There were at least 23 participants, including today's speaker, Sarah Hurdel.

Announcements:

· Our guest speaker today will be Sarah Hurdel presenting on *Habenarias*, a genus that we don't often hear about. That will start at 2:00 CST, and the Orchid Society of Alberta and the Manitoba Orchid Society will join us for the presentation.
· We will not be participating in Gardenscape this year: the online poll was overwhelmingly against it. As a result, we will not need to shift our general meeting date to earlier in the month. The meeting will take place on its usual weekend, probably Sunday, March 27.

Comments from the Executive:

· Heather reported that we are placing a plant order with Ten Shin for delivery at the Foothills Orchid Society show at the end of May. Distribution will be the Monday and Tuesday following the show. The deadline for ordering is noon on Monday, March 7. We might be putting in another order to Ching Hua in April.
Tom commented that unless you have Outlook 365, you are unable to open the Ten Shin plant list that Heather sent out.
Calvin replied that you can access the list on our website through Google Docs. If you go to the website list and click on a particular plant, you can see a picture of the plant as well.
Ten Shin prices appear to have gone up.
The prices on the list that Heather sent out are in Canadian dollars but the prices on the website are in US dollars.
· Heather reported that the FOS is organizing the speaker for March. It will be Martin Motes of Motes Orchids. The FOS usual meeting day is Monday evening, but the meeting will probably be shifted to Sunday afternoon to accommodate the OSA and SOS.

Problem Corner:

Q. A member has several Cattleya plants that have developed streaks in the leaves which she suspects may be due to a virus. She is wondering if anyone knows where she can access reasonably priced virus test strips.
A. Calvin ordered some test strips from Agdia about 8 years ago. They cost $5-10 for one test. He has sent leaf samples to Critter Creek Labs ($10 per test), but plants that he suspected of having a virus tested negative while a sample from a perfectly healthy-looking plant tested positive. He is skeptical about the efficacy of testing plants for viruses, especially since testing is so expensive, although some growers test every new plant that they acquire. He is now having difficulty accessing the Critter Creek website so perhaps they are shut down.
Pat Randall has recently ordered virus test strips; they cost $9.41 per test for 25 tests. She found that most of the plants that tested positive were not the ones with streaky leaves. Plants can look healthy but still be a carrier of a virus. It is when they become stressed that they begin to show the manifestation of the virus. Virused plants do not recover; they will be virused forever, although they can produce seed without viruses.
Sarah Hurdel reported that they tested their collection years ago using the Agdia test kits. The tests worked well. Some of their plants had a combination of the *Cymbidium* mosaic virus, the *Impatiens* necrotic spot virus (INSV) and another virus. Their philosophy now is to treat everything as if it had a virus, in terms of tools and controlling for virus vectors. If anything looks struggling and unhealthy, she just tosses it. It is really hard to test your entire collection regularly.
Sarah also said that Critter Creek Labs is now closed. She gets her tests strips from Agdia, although there is a company in Taiwan that sells test strips in bulk for a slightly lower price than Agdia, but she doesn't know if their test strips are any more accurate.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Problem Corner:

Q. A member has many mounted plants. Some of them have recently been pulling away from the bark and he has had to re-secure them. He is wondering why that is happening. Some are in his terrarium, and some are not. He showed a very healthy-looking Pleurothallis rubella that is doing this. The root of the plant looks healthy, and the bark has not degraded.
A. Calvin found from experience that when his humidity was 90% or so, the roots grew away from the mount, while at 65-70% they seemed to grow toward the mount, as if it were the source of moisture. He also found that with some species, the roots grow away from bright light.
Sarah Hurdel said that she also grows plants in a terrarium. She has had an issue with snails which very quickly destroy the roots of miniatures. Another issue she has encountered is the degradation of the sphagnum between the plant and the mount; when the sphagnum goes bad, it becomes acidic and the roots fail to do much of anything at that point. The plant owner decided that he would just remount the plant.

Q. A member has a Dendrobium Hibiki which has bloomed a lot for her. It is growing in what appears to be pure sphagnum moss. After she got it, she up-potted it to a larger pot without disturbing it, just adding more moss. Now the roots are growing out of the pot. It still has some vigorous growth, but it isn't blooming as much and it is losing some leaves. Should she repot it? What should she use as a growing medium?
A. Since it seems to have been happy with its previous conditions, probably just repot it with a slightly bigger pot (*Dendrobiums* like to be pot-bound). Remove the old sphagnum and place fresh sphagnum around the roots. Days are getting longer so when you see new root growth, get it into a new pot. You probably don't need to worry too much about the season with this plant because the parent comes from a lowland habitat with year-round tropical climate. However, you should wait until you see new growth before you repot it.

Show and Tell:

Tracey Thue showed:

- a *Maxillaria* cross, *Max.* Memoria Ben Berliner 'Leopard' (*Max. variabilis* x *Max. tenuifolia*), which she got from Ching Hua. It has the coconut scent of *Max. tenuifolia* with an additional vanilla tone. It seems to have a more compact growth habit than *Max. tenuifolia*. She grows it in bark which she keeps quite wet. Ten Shin has this plant on their list.
- a *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* '10' that belongs to Sara Thue. Sara got it in 2015 from Calvin Wong at Tropical Gardens Orchids, and it has been in flower pretty much the whole time since she got it.
- She grows it in sphagnum and Perlite in a net basket in a tank under cool to intermediate conditions. She hangs it fairly high up towards the light.
- a *Paphiopedilum* Hawaiian Skies which she got from Paph Paradise. It has a second flower coming.

Jenn Burgess showed a *Phalaenopsis* Dou-dii Rose 'Ching Her', a compact plant that usually produces about 2-3 flowers. She got it from Chanthorn Orchids at Gardenscape about 15 years ago.

Calvin Lo showed a video of his *Angraecum corrugatum* which comes from La Reunion, a little island off Madagascar. Most *Angraecums* have a spur filled with nectar and are pollinated by moths, but this species has only a vestigial spur which never does grow into an actual spur. He has grown this particular plant for about ten years. He has managed to self it and obtained some seedlings, which is exciting because it is quite rare in cultivation and there have only been one or two import events from La Reunion, probably back in the 1980s. He got this plant from Andy's Orchids in Santa Barbara, California. It does not have a scent that Calvin has been able to detect. *Angcm. corrugatum* is a member of the arachnangraecum (spiderlike) section, and these plants don't seem to have much of a scent.
The lip of the flower resembles the petals so there is a theory that it is actually a peloric form of another species that somehow mutated. Usually the spur is connected to the lip in the *Angraecums*. However, in this form it has lost the lip, but still has somehow managed to exist.

James Wood showed a *Bulbophyllum mastersianum*. It keeps blooming and blooming, even with the very low humidity levels in his house. It is a very easy plant. It has a subtle fragrance but not offensive like some *Bulbos*.
Yvette Lyster showed a *Dendrobium* Star Sapphire which she got from Pat Randall about ten years ago. She has never been able to get rid of the mealybugs on it so it is in permanent quarantine in a basement room where the temperature is about 15-18C. She grows it in a south window and waters it about every two weeks.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Other Discussion:

Sarah Hurdel asked Calvin Lo how he grows his orchids. He replied that he grows them in his home in a large tank (like a terrarium) about 6 feet long, 5 feet tall and 3 feet deep. It is made from an aluminum extrusion with double-walled polycarbonate walls. It is kind of like an indoor greenhouse. It is all under LED lights. He tracks his temperature highs and lows from season to season with a temperature app, and gets a maximum temperature variation of about 10C.

The first part of the meeting adjourned at about 1:50 pm.

At 2:00 p.m., the Orchid Society of Alberta and Manitoba Orchid Society joined the meeting for the presentation. There were at least 46 participants.

Tracey Thue welcomed the members of all three societies. She also welcomed the speaker, Sarah Hurdel. Sarah is an orchid grower and exhibitor and an accredited AOS judge. She has a very entertaining Facebook blog entitled "Something About Orchids" with some marvellous photos. The address for her Facebook blog page is facebook.com/askmeaboutmyplants.

Presentation:

Sarah Hurdel, speaking on the topic, *Habenaria*, Best in Show!

Sarah said that *Habenarias* are her thing right now and she absolutely enjoys talking about them. They tend to have a bad reputation, but she feels that is undeserved! She asks that we respect the hard work it took to put the presentation together – distribution via print or online without her permission is not OK.

Sarah's first slide was her first "basement' orchid show that she put on in 2020, a marvellous display of more than a dozen *Habenaria* species that she had blooming at the time. She posted the "quarantine show" to Facebook, and all of a sudden, her number of FB friends grew from about fifteen to about six hundred, all plant lovers! She started a Facebook blog, "Something About Orchids", and now has a blog of the same name on Blogspot.

Regarding the name of the talk "Best in Show" Sarah feels that for the space they take up, the ease of growing them, and the rate at which they multiply, they really are the showiest thing you can grow. Even when they are not in bloom, the foliage is fantastic.

Sarah grows her plants on light racks in her basement. In her growing area, the walls are finished and there is a vinyl floor. She tries not to keep the humidity too high because condensation would build up on the walls, windows, and door. The humidity is slightly higher than you would find in a living space, but not too much higher.

Sarah showed a slide of her original growing space in the front room of their house which had plaster walls, wood floors and drafty windows. It was very dry there in the winter. She had some terrariums and also a display stand for things that were blooming. She was able to grow *Habenarias,* mini-*Catts*, *Paphs*, *Phrags*, and other species, so that shows that you really don't have to have a greenhouse or a grow tent or an Edwardian case to grow a lot of different species. You just have to adapt your potting methods to the plants you are growing and the conditions you have.

Sarah then showed a slide of last year's "*Habenaria* madness". She had a lot of sale plants, plants that she was growing from flask, plants for her own collection, etc., and as the season went on, there got to be more and more plants. This is where the addiction takes you! She somehow got into growing larger plants and acquired a *Hab. medusa*, which is quite a large plant, larger than anything she had previously grown. The first year she grew it on the floor with its own spotlight between light racks. However, as it spiked, the spikes got caught in the racks beside it, so she needed a bigger space in which to bloom it out. She improvised with wire grid display racks on each side and another suspended above, to which she zip-tied strip lights. She generally likes smaller plants that she can keep under lights on her light stands, but nothing beats *medusa* for a spectacular show!

In 2011 Sarah acquired her first *Habenaria* (a *rhodocheila*) as a show table award from her local society. It spiked and bloomed that year, and she was able to keep growing it, and from then on, she was hooked on *Habenarias*. In 2013 the plant had four growths, and it continued to get bigger, doubling in size every year with more flowers per spike, so by 2015 she decided it was time to start dividing it and giving some away as she was running out of space to grow them all.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

There are more than 800 species of *Habenaria*, although the taxonomy is not settled. They have a widespread geographic distribution; the ones Sarah grows are from Southeast Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia). Most are terrestrial, but some are lithophytic; some can grow either way. Many of the species are small, green, and insignificant looking – more plant and not much flower. They are, however, closely enough related to *Cynorkis*, *Pecteilis*, and *Platanthera* that they can be crossed with these genera, and some pretty cool hybrids exist.

***Habenaria* Anatomy**:

(Secretary's note: The section on anatomy was accompanied by excellent illustrations which are difficult to put into words.)

In most orchid species (Sarah used a *Phalaenopsis* flower as an example), the flowers have the column which contains the fused reproductive parts, three sepals which protect the flower in bud, two petals which surround the column and often serve to attract the pollinator, and the lip which is technically a modified petal and is highly specialized for the pollinator. The lip serves as a "landing pad" and is usually connected to the nectary, if there is one.

On the underside of the column (above the lip) is the stigmatic surface which is what the pollen would stick to. The anther cap is on the end of the column, and under the anther cap is the pollinarium. The pollinia have a sticky pad (viscidium) that sticks to the pollinator so the pollen is carried from one plant to another.

Habenarias, on the other hand are considered a bit more primitive than the *Phalaenopsis*, which has all its reproductive parts fused. *Habenarias* have a very prominent lip. They do have the two petals, although they are harder to see (with *Habenarias*, it's all about the lip!) and often appear to be fused to each other. They have three sepals: the dorsal sepal, which is hooded, and two lateral sepals. In place of the column, they have the rostellum and the stigmatic process. The ovary is behind the flower. They also have a nectary (spur) where nectar collects.

Conveniently located around the entrance to the nectary are the pollinia with the sticky pads (viscidium) and the stigmatic process which is where the pollen will be deposited. *Habenarias* tend to be pollinated by butterflies and daytime moths. When the pollinator visits the nectary, the pollinia stick to its face, and it then carries the pollen to the next flower where it is deposited on the stigmatic process. Pollen in *Habenarias* is loose, while in species such as *Phalaenopsis*, it is in a waxy package.

The *Habenaria* is technically a tuberoid, but not a tuber like a potato which has multiple eyes and can grow multiple plants from several spots on the potato. The potato is a stem tuber while the *Habenaria* is a root tuber; it can grow only from the growth tip at the top. All the tissue develops from that tip (all of the roots and all of the new shoot); nothing grows from the body of the tuber itself. The new tubers develop on root tethers; how far from the original tuber depends on the particular species.

When the tuber that you planted finishes blooming and has made its new tubers, it starts to shrink and turns into a dried up husk, and you are left with two new tubers (occasionally three). When it has totally died back, this is the time for you to unpot it and bag it up or repot it.

Since the plant produces two new tubers every year, even though the original tuber is lost, your plant doubles every year, The two new tubers are usually equal in size or larger than the previous tuber. As the tuber gets more energy and maturity, the floral display is usually much better.

There are other types of tuberoids within the Southeast Asian *Habenarias* that Sarah grows. One such type has dendritic (branched) tuberoids which is a clump of finger-like tubers all joined together at the growing tip. They cannot be separated to form new plants unless there is another growing tip, which can be really difficult to determine without damaging the plant.

***Habenaria* Species**:

Sarah showed a spectacular collage of photographs of Southeast Asian *Habenaria* species, nearly all of which were her own pictures of plants she has grown. They illustrated a variety of colours and growth habits. As mentioned earlier, the taxonomy of this genus is not settled, and there can be variations in naming a particular plant depending on which organization is registering the particular species, whether it is Kew or the Royal Horticultural Society.

***Hab. rhodocheila**:* Sarah showed a slide with nine different plants of a variety of colours, two of which were dendritic and one of which was fragrant. Under the Kew naming protocol, all nine would be considered subspecies of *Hab. rhodocheila*, while under the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) protocol, the first four would be four separate species while the other five are hybrids. Even under the RHS definition of *Hab. rhodocheila*, there is a variation in form and colour, ranging from bright orange to yellow. Some have bronze stems instead of green. 'Nuuanu" has reticulated leaves and is more difficult to grow.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Hab. roebelenii* and *Hab. xanthocheila are small plants (6-8" tall) originating from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Southern China. She blooms them under lights. They and their hybrids have interesting foliage with rippling and a pale stripe in the centre of the leaf. Both have dendritic tuberoids. You have to be very cautious unpotting them because they have very delicate connections with the growth point, and it is easy to break them apart unintentionally. She tends to overpot them to keep from breaking them, and she also uses a shallower pot than she would use for the ones with a single long tuberoid.

Pink species:

- ***Hab. janellehayneiana*** is a newly described species, coming from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Southern China. It is small growing and lithophytic, growing in abundance on mossy rocks.
- ***Hab. erichmichelii*** can be short or tall and has a strong sweet fragrance. It has a bicolor lip. Kew considers it to be a subspecies of *Hab. rhodocheila,* and it is sometimes labeled as "Pink rhodocheila" (but so are some other species). The REAL *erichmichelii* is fragrant and usually more compact although it has a taller variety. It holds its lip at a 90^0 angle. The tuberoid is quite hairy; it has a blunt end and a pointy end where the root tether was attached.
- ***Hab. carnea,*** from Thailand, likes lower light, and the beautiful foliage is even prettier under lower light conditions. The big, full flowers rival those of *Hab. medusa*. It is a bit fussy in its growth: it prefers a bit more calcium and it doesn't like to dry out. Sarah showed a slide of *Hab. carnea* var. *nivosa*, which is actually white, not pink.

White species:

- ***Hab. lindleyana*** – difficult to grow.
- ***Hab. medioflexa*** – the lip is interesting: fringed rather than all one piece, but it is also difficult to grow.
- ***Hab. dentata*** – easier to grow
- ***Hab. crinifera*** - the flowers are interesting, resembling little gymnasts. Its new tuberoids gather at the bottom of the pot, not at the sides.
- ***Hab. medusa*** comes from Sumatra and Borneo. It is large growing, up to 3.5 feet tall! It too has fringed lips. The tuberoids are huge, as big as her hand. She weighed the tuberoids (~30!) that she got from her plant last year, and they came to 4 ½ pounds!

***Pecteilis* species:**

The *Pecteilis* genus is related to *Habenaria*, but can be trickier to grow. They are a little more evolved than *Habenarias* and are slightly different structurally; the stigmatic surface is fused with the rest of the reproductive parts. However, they can be crossed with *Habenarias* and make wonderful hybrids.

- ***Pecteilis hawkesiana*** (syn. *sagarikii*) is found at low elevations in Thailand and Myanmar. It is a small growing plant, and the leaves form a flat rosette which makes it difficult to water in a pot. It has thick waxy flowers in a yellow and white combination, unusual in this group.
- ***Pecteilis susannae*** is more difficult to grow. It comes from higher elevations in Southeast Asia. It is a large plant with large waxy flowers more than 3 inches across. It makes fantastic hybrids that are much easier to grow.

***Habenaria Hybrids*:**

Sarah showed slides of the following hybrids:

- *Hab*. Tracey (*rhodocheila* x *erichmichelii*) – the *erichmichelii* hybrids tend to have a bicolor lip. Tracey is the only hybrid that is fragrant.
- *Hab*. Trogon (Oriole x Tracey) – has different forms and colour combinations.
- *Hab*. Erich's Pink Thing (Regnieri x *erichmichelii*) and *Hab.* Flamingo (*carnea* x *erichmichelii*) are considered to be clones of the same hybrid since Regnieri is a cross between *carnea* and *erichmichelii*. The *carnea* gives beautiful leaves and a fantastic floral display, while the *erichmichelii* gives the bicolor lip.
- *Hab*. Hampson *(rhodocheila* x *roebelenii*) – stems are very strong and don't need staking. It has dendritic tuberoids.
- *Hab*. Canary (*rhodocheila* x Tanager)
- *Hab*. Conure x Red Hybrid – unusual colour combinations and rippled leaves with a bit of picotee on the edges. Compact growth habit. She grew out a lot of seedlings and they were all different.
- *Hab*. Summer Tanager (Conure x *roebelenii*) – an N16 hybrid, a tiny plant less than 6 inches high with bright orange flowers.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

- *Hab*. Pheasant (Conure x Tanager) – yellow with rippled leaves.
- *Hab.* Mayfly (Conure x *lindleyana*)
- *Hab.* Kat's Whiskers (*lindleyana* x *medusa*) – there is some fringing of the lip. It is also enormous, as large as her *medusa*.
- *Hab.* Fornix (*crinifer*a x *medioflexa*) – a hybrid by Nicholas Rust, also fringed. The plant she photographed had a huge inflorescence and was awarded.

Sarah showed a slide of several other *medusa* hybrids. They didn't show much fringe but exhibited a wide range of colours, even though *medusa* itself is white. She also showed a slide of several hybrids of *Hab. carnea*, all with interesting variegated foliage. One of them, *Hab.* Regnieri 'Rubenesque' AM/AOS (a cross between *carnea* x *erichmichelii*) is easy to grow and tolerant of neglect. Hybrids of *Hab. janellehayneina* include *Hab.* Spoonbill (with *rhodocheila*) and *Hab.* Galah (with *carnea*). The Galah has really cool foliage.

***Pectabenaria* hybrids** are crosses between *Pecteilis* and *Habenaria*. The flowers are fleshy and colourful. Sarah showed slides of:

- *Pectabenaria* Perseus (*Pctls hawksiana* x *Hab. medusa*)
- *Pectabenaria* Little Angel (*Pctls. hawksiana* x *Hab. carnea* var. *nivosa*)
- *Pectabenaria* Wow's White Fairies (*Pctls. susannae* x *Hab. medusa*) (a giant plant!)
- *Pectabenaria* Thai Dancer (*Pctls. susannae* x *Hab. carnea*)

***Habenaria* culture:**
In their natural habitat, they experience a wet season with monsoon rains and a dry season. However, the dry season is not totally dry, so if you are growing indoors and not in a greenhouse, do *not* follow the usual advice not to water at all during the dormancy. She has done that and has had perfectly healthy tuberoids dry out and turn into little husks. Even during the dry season in their natural habitat, there is plenty of humidity, and that is what keeps the tuberoids going during their dormancy.

Temperature:
Cold + wet = DEATH!
During dormancy, 55F or less will be detrimental, and even more detrimental if it is wet. They really resent cold and wet when they are breaking dormancy.

During the growing season the temperature should not get below 65F, and ideally should be above 70F during the day.
Some vendors recommend putting the dormant tubers in the refrigerator. However, Sarah did an experiment: she was concerned about the conditions under which she was shipping the tubers, so she put a tuber of one of her warm growing species in the refrigerator at temperature of 34-35F to see if it would be affected. It did not do well; it definitely had some damage and doesn't look like it is going to sprout. So do not put your Thai *Habenaria* tubers in the refrigerator!

Light:
Sarah has found that the higher the light, the stronger the growth. At higher light, they produce more compact inflorescences and multiply more freely. However, they don't need light as high as *Cattleyas*; medium to high is sufficient (similar to soft-leaved *Oncidiums*). Exceptions to that are *carnea* and *roebelenii* and the little dendritic ones, which actually prefer lower light, but they are quite adaptable. Having floppy inflorescences can be a problem as they tend to snap off at the base, and then you have trouble multiplying them because they can't photosynthesize properly without that foliage.

Sarah showed examples of *Hab. erichmichelii* grown under high light (bronzed leaves) and lower light (green leaves), and of *Hab. carnea* under high light (leaves have red edges and the tissue is thinning) and lower light (silvery green leaves with prominent white spots). In fact, she uses foliage colour as a test to see if she is giving her plants the right amount of light: if there is some colour to the foliage, she figures she has it about right.

Water and Fertilizer:

- Heavy water while they are actively growing (Think MONSOON!)
- Slow release fertilizer is ideal – Sarah uses Nutricote 6 month formula for orchids, which she gets from Waldor Orchids in the US.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Watering and fertilizing depend on the stage of growth. Sarah lets the plant tell her what it wants. When the tuber is dormant, it has a little proto growth at the top, covered in its root tether sheath. When it starts to grow, you need to give it more moisture. As it grows and is finding a place for its new root tubers to develop, it needs all the moisture and fertilizer that you can give it. Slow release granular fertilizers are great for *Habenarias*.

Once you get to the point where it's flowering and the last flower has opened, the new tubers are pretty much all developed so you can back off a bit on the water, although you don't necessarily have to. They will naturally dry out more because the pot is full of roots and tubers. However, once the leaf tips start to go after flowering, you can let it go dry. If it seems to be taking a long time to go dormant, you can give it a little more water.

As long as you don't keep them too wet when they are dormant and too dry when they are growing, you will have good luck with these guys. A couple days too dry isn't going to hurt them but consistently letting them dry out between watering is not going to give you good results.

Habs – The Easy Way

Tubers begin growth – POT THEM UP! Keep barely moist; do not water heavily.

Until leaves separate and rapid growth begins – water lightly.
Just sprinkle a bit of water on the surface of the potting medium to keep the humidity up in the pot. Don't let water collect in the rosette of leaves.

When rapid growth begins – add slow release fertilizer.
When you see the roots coming out at the top, you need to keep it more moist and give it plenty of fertilizer. (She has started to put the fertilizer in when she pots the plants up so she won't forget to do it later. Last year she forgot to fertilize some plants and she definitely noticed a difference.) At this stage you need to keep the growing medium moist. This is why she doesn't grow them in bark, which is more for plants that need to dry out between watering.

When the last flowers open – Sarah allows them to get a little bit dry between waterings, coaxing them into dormancy.
At this stage, all the new tubers are fully developed, still attached by the root tethers.

After blooms fade – let the medium dry completely before watering.

When leaves begin to die back – dry completely for 2 weeks.
At this stage, new tubers are fully developed, still attached by root tethers, but the root tethers are starting to shrivel up. You want the root tethers to die back naturally. Underneath the root tether there is a little shoot which is very sensitive and easy to break off. It will eventually dry up and form a protective sheath, but if you unpot the plant too soon, this growth tip can be damaged.

When it dies back completely - THEN unpot, and place all firm tubers in a plastic bag and forget about them!
At this stage the foliage is dry and crispy; root tethers are dry and detached from the new tubers. The new tubers are hardened off and ready to be unpotted. If you decide to leave them in the pot to overwinter in low humidity, give them a sprinkle every 2 weeks, but only if they are completely dry.

Storing Dormant Tubers:

- Potted – they need occasional watering. Try not to stack the pots. They are vulnerable to pests like mice, slugs and snails.
- Baggies – this is her preferred method of storing them. She puts them in baggies and hangs them in her growing space. The baggie keeps them from drying out too much, and you don't have to water them when they are in the baggie, as you would if they were in a pot. You can easily see if a new tuber has started growing and needs to be potted up and watered. You are less likely to damage the new shoot when unpotting, and there is less likelihood of damage due to pests.

Sarah always bags new seedlings from flask or very small tubers for dormancy. She showed a slide of her bagged dormant tubers being stored for the winter. The bags are clipped to racks at eye level, under bright lights. The tubers are stored with their growing tips up so new growths will start off growing upwards.

- She stores dendritic tubers in plastic cups with the tops sealed with Press'NSeal plastic wrap.
- She usually starts to check for new growth about mid-January. *Habs* don't wait for spring! There is no particular date that they wake up.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Potting, My Way:

Sarah showed a graphic illustrating how she pots up her *Habenarias*. Her primary growing medium is Promix HP (High Porosity), a peat-based medium to which she usually adds some Perlite for things she's afraid of over-watering. Promix HP has a bit of lime added to it. It keeps them growing nice and straight and makes it so much easier to unpot and bag the tubers after the growth is finished.

She uses a tall pot and puts a layer of medium Perlite in the bottom (about 1/6 of the depth of the pot). This is where things tend to be kind of "swampy" and it's not helpful to have a swampy bottom in your growing medium. The Perlite layer provides a place for excess water to go if you happen to over-water. It also helps to keep an even moisture level throughout the pot. She then puts the sprouted tuber in the pot, pointy end up, and fills the pot with the Promix HP, leaving a couple inches below the tuber because the new tubers are generally larger than the original one and will need more space to develop.

Sarah showed a slide of tubers of a plant that was grown in a shallow pot in bark. Both tubers were quite deformed. One went down and grew along the bottom of the pot, covering the drain holes, and then turned and started back up again. Another one showed numerous indentations in its surface where it conformed to the bark particles. The tubers were difficult to tease apart from each other without breaking them. On the other hand, tubers that were grown in a tall pot in a fine mix like Promix were a straight plump shape and were much easier to break apart and to store and eventually to pot up the following year. When potting the tubers up, be sure to leave enough space between the tubers for each one to produce two more tubers.

Mistakes I've made:

- Storing them with a paper towel – the paper towel wicks away the moisture and desiccates them.
- Planting them upside down – they make a U-turn and find their way out, but it takes them longer. If you are growing a large specimen plant and want to take it for AOS judging and one of the growths is two or three weeks behind the others, it ruins your display. When in doubt, plant it sideways.
- Leaving the bagged tuber sitting on your bench until it sprouts – it is really hard to get the plant out of the bag once it has sprouted and grown out through the bag. The one in her picture was so stressed from trying to grow with no water and no fertilizer that even after she discovered it and potted it, it did not bloom. However, it did survive.
- Too crowded.
- Too dry - if the leaf tips are turning brown before it blooms, it is probably an indication that you are keeping it too dry. This could also be an indicator of over fertilizing.

Sarah then took questions from the Zoom participants.

Q. Do Habenarias always produce two tubers?

A. When they are doing well, they will always produce two, and sometimes three, tubers. The third one will be smaller than the other two but it is a bit of a bonus. If you only get one, you have the next year to figure out what it was lacking.

Q. What time of year is the best time to buy tubers? He has ordered some that will come in May, so he suspects they will already be sprouted.

A. It is really hard to figure out a good time to ship them because everything is never ready to ship at the same time. She used to ship tubers when they were dormant, which is a good time to ship, but there is the risk that something will be damaged and not sprout, so now she is shipping sprouted tubers also. Most vendors will only ship sprouted tubers. It is hard to grow these commercially on a large scale.

Q. Is Habenaria myriotricha the same as medusa?

A. There is a lot of speculation about that. She always thought that *myriotricha* was a smaller growing variety of *medusa*, but she purchased a *myriotricha* and either her *medusa* is in fact a *myriotricha* or the one she got is a *medusa*. It's not as clear as some of the other complex species.

Q. How do you grow your Habenaria radiata? He has tried to grow it once and failed, but hopes to try another one next year.

A. She didn't have much luck with *radiata* because she forgot to put it in the refrigerator and left it out, and it dried out. They are much smaller tubers and need different care from most of the Habenarias that she usually grows.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Q. The questioner has grown one Habenaria so far and he has had it for three years. It has always bloomed beautifully but it has not produced any side tubers, only the main one. He has tended not to wait until it is sprouted before potting and he plants the tuber sideways because he doesn't know which is the growing tip, but they seem to do okay. He thinks he might be under-fertilizing it. Do they need a lot of fertilizer?

A. Yes, they are very heavy feeders and like a lot of water during the growing period. They have such a short period of growth, and such explosive growth, that they need to have that fertilizer to get any multiplication.

Q. Do you ship to Canada?

A. She doesn't have the documentation to ship to Canada, but would like to in the future.

Q. Do you ship flasks or tiny seedlings?

A. No. She gets many of her flasks from Marnie Turkel. There are a lot of people doing pandemic flasking now so there should be more seedlings coming on the market. For a lot of species, it only takes one year from flask to bloom, that is, a seedling this year will bloom next year. *Habenarias* grow very quickly from seeds.

Q. Is your medusa a CCM?

A. No, it missed a CCM. In fact, the AOS was having an issue with the way she grew her plants because she unpots and spreads out the tubers and repots them every year. The AOS contended that they were all separate plants, while she contended that even if they remain in the same pot and are grown as a big mass, they are still all separate plants – they are not connected to each other, and they grow better and larger if you separate them out. However, that has now changed, and she can get cultural awards.

Q. How do dendritic tubers multiply? Can you ever divide them?

A. Yes, they do multiply. If she grows them in a large enough pot and gives them enough space, she might get new dendritic tuberoids sandwiched around the original one, which will just be a husk. However, in a smaller pot it gets more complicated. and what looks like two tuberoids might actually be only one with "fingers" connected at only one delicate growth point and she has torn may of those apart this year. It was suggested that she leave the tuberoids unseparated until she sees where the new growth sprouts form and separate them then, but it is often even harder to get them apart at that time. She has only been growing dendritic species for three years.

Q. I know some terrestrial orchids can grow from seed in regular media. I have also seen on Facebook some stuff about sowing orchid seeds on cardboard. Will that work with these or do you need to grow in flasks? And is that a Nervilia plicata in the background picture behind you?

A. Yes, that is a *Nervilia plicata*. It is one of the easier *Nervilias* to grow and likes conditions very similar to the Southeast Asian *Habenarias*. She had a *Cynorkis fastigiata* that popped up in a *Paph* that she bought from someone years ago. It produced a tuber which she potted up and allowed to go to bloom, and then it popped up in everything that was growing on her porch. It took years to get rid of it. However, *Habenarias* and other species of *Cynorkis* are not so easy. They do seem to need being flasked to get seedlings. She has experimented with trying to get them to germinate on live sheet moss but she hasn't seen any results. She's not sure about the cardboard. She thinks that if they would germinate in cardboard, they would germinate in moss, and she hasn't seen that yet. She would be glad to be hear of other people doing experiments and finding out a better way. She tried using a syringe to sow and got one seedling and never went back to it, but she did prove that you can do it without a hood or glovebox.

Q. ***Do you supply Habenaria seeds or know of anyone else that does?***

A. She thinks she could probably send seed in the mail – it would be like sending dust. She has supplied pollen to Raymond Lussier in Montreal for hybridization; perhaps he could be a Canadian source. He is on Facebook.

Q. ***When is your shop selling orchid merchandise going to open up?***

A. It is coming along; she is almost ready to open it to a small group to make sure everything works like it should. She has been having an issue with the Shopify service, but it is coming soon.

Sarah's blog is ***Something about Orchids*****,** found at somethingaboutorchids.blogspot.com. She is always open to answering questions that people may want to send to her.

Tracey Thue, along with several meeting participants, thanked Sarah for her wonderful presentation. It was very educational, and there will probably be a lot of people trying to get their hands on some *Habenarias* now.

Adjournment: Approximately 3:50 p.m.

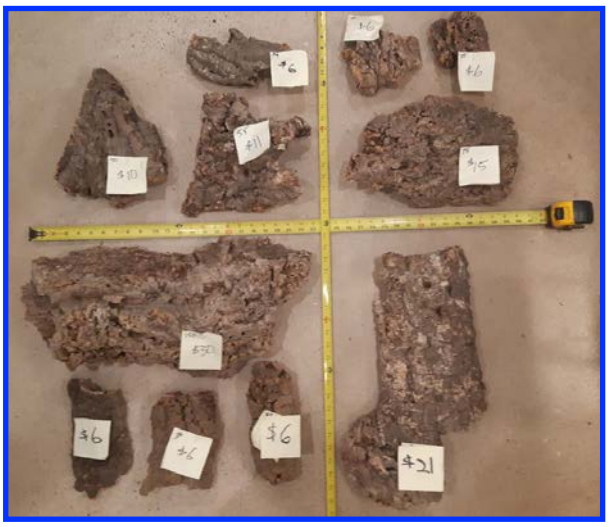
ORCHID MARKET

Plant Products from Sherida Gregoire's Greenhouse

If you are interested, please email Bob Lucas at robert.lucas@usask.ca

Products are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

- One Sunblaster 24" T5 HO bulb and ballast, new in the box @ $25.00.
- Greenearth concentrate horticultural oil, 500ml, new & unopened, 2 @ $5.00 each.



Don Keith will provide orchid supplies to SOS members, **orders to be placed by 8:00 pm Saturday, Mar. 26, 2022.** Orders will be ready for **pick up after 10:00 a.m. Sunday, Mar. 27, 2022.** Please pay with exact cash, by cheque made out to the SOS, or pay Don by e-transfer. Email Don at donkeith@sasktel.net

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Fir Bark	3L bag fine or medium (please specify)	$6.00
Orchiata Pine Bark	3L bag fine, medium or med-coarse (specify)	$6.00
Orchiata Pine Bark	40L bag, fine, medium or med-coarse (specify)	$52.00
Perlite	4L bag medium/coarse	$4.00
GrowStones	3L bag, 1/4 - 3/8" or 1/2 - 3/4"	$6.00
Sphagnum moss, N.Z.	8L compacted 12L compressed	$12.00 N/A
Grodan Grow Cubes	3L bag, 0.4" cubes 7L bag 0.4" cubes	$5.00 $10.00
MSU fertilizer	1 cup 13-3-15 for tap or RO water	$5.00
Oyster shells	1 cup bag	$0.25
Marphyl Soil Enhancer	500 ml bottle	$11.00

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Cork slabs	Various shapes, sizes (see photo above)	$6 - $32.00
Inflorescence clips	Small, brown or green	10 for $1.00
Rhyzome clips	Small Med/Large	$1.00 $1.25
Clear Pots	2 1/4 x 2 1/4 square	$0.50
	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 round	$0.50
	2 3/4 x 2 3/4 round	$0.75
	4 x 4	$1.25
	4 1/2 x 4 1/2 slotted	$1.50
Net Pots	3"	$1.25
	3.5"	$1.25
	5"	$1.50
	6"	$1.75

SHOW AND TELL

Grown by Candice Jackel-Cram

Dracula cordobae

From Terry Letendre, Terry's Orchids in fall, 2021.

Grown by Bob Lucas

***Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin Blue Jay**
(Purple Martin x *pulcherrima*)

Spring is coming. How do I know? This is a summer bloomer that got tired of waiting.

***Phalaenopsis* Northern Lightning**
(Carmela's Brite Lites Brother Fancy)

A cross I made in 2014. This is the best one to bloom to date.

Grown by Pat Randall

Cattleya Jumbo Beat

I have had this since 2015. It blooms reliably every year. Blooms are huge at 6.5" natural spread and it has a lovely delicate scent. This year it had 2 spikes and a total of 4 blooms. I grow this in the greenhouse where it is cool in winter (65F days, 60F nights) and under lights year round. It is potted in medium bark and a clear pot. I water thoroughly when it is dry, which is every week to 10 days.

Cattleya schroederae var. *alba*

I bought this from Don Hawker of Maldawn Orchids in Edmonton at the show in 2013. It has bloomed every spring since then. It has 7 blooms on 3 spikes in the photo, although they don't all show. Blooms are a good size, approximately 5" across, and are nicely scented. This grows in medium bark under lights in the greenhouse.

Cattleya Smile Again 'Hawaii' AM/AOS

I got this in 2012 as a seedling from Cody Hamilton. The blooms literally glow with the beautiful sunset shades. They are 4.5" wide and have a pleasant light scent. There are 2 more buds developing to extend the bloom period. I grow this under lights in medium bark.

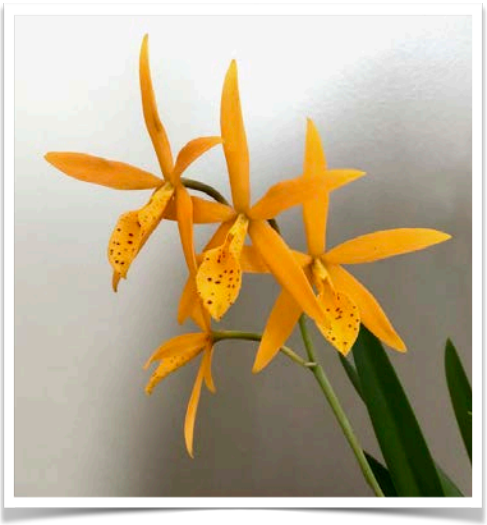
Grown by Sherry Fensom

Dendrochilum wenzelii

Grown with an eastern exposure through my patio door window. This was a division from Tracey last summer. Very happy to see lots of new growths and six bloom spikes.

Coelognyne nitida

Grows with some LED full spectrum light. The smell of this one fills my dining and living rooms when the sun is out. It's really lovely and reminds me of lilacs come spring time in the garden, but that could just be me hoping for spring.



Procatavola Golden Peacock

Grows under my LED full spectrum light and has been a vigorous plant for me. It does have a second spike but the orientation didn't allow me to get a good photo of both together. I obtained this from our order from Terry's Orchids last year.

Dendrobium lindleyi

This has given me four spikes and I am very happy with that. They are going to be staggered, which has the upside of longer time to enjoy the blooms. Of course it would have been a really nice show if all opened at once. It had some high light this winter in a south facing window until I saw spikes forming. I restricted water to bare minimum once it matured its new growth from last year. I did give it a trickle, as it's quite dry in our home. Usually I do grow it under my LED grow light with my Cattleyas. This plant was purchased with our group order from Terry's Orchids and really hasn't disappointed.

Grown by Tobi Fenton

Dendrobium lodigesii 'R.O.C.' AM/AOS

Terry's Orchids, 2021

I am in love. I've been eagerly awaiting this flowering. I kept it dry and cool Jan. - Mar., then moved it back into the terrarium when I saw several buds developing. (Two more buds to open.) The colours are exhilarating - the throat truly is that deep egg-yolk yellow. Flowers are outrageously big for the tiny canes, nearly 1-1/2" wide. Fragrance is subtle: sweet cloves, like garden cheddar pinks. I wish I was a bee, so I could crawl into that glorious golden cup.

***Phalaenopsis* NOID**

I'm fostering this mini Phalaenopsis for a friend who is intimidated by orchids. I told her I would bring it into flower and then give it back so she could enjoy it, but I haven't yet been able to bring myself to relinquish the gorgeous colour! It has a slight scent of caramelized sugar.

Grown by Tracey Thue, Photos by Katherine Thue

Coelogyne marmorata

This was from Terry Letendre at the 2017 Orchid Society of Alberta Show, purchased in spike, and it has flowered every March even though I don't think I grow it very well. It is native to the Philippines where it has warm temperatures, lots of water and high humidity. My plant probably doesn't get the humidity it wants and I'll continue experimenting with potting. Currently it's in a sphagnum moss lined wood basket with Orchiata, and sits over a catch tray.

Coeogyne multiflora

I purchased this Indonesian species as a small division from Terry Letendre at the 2016 Orchid Society of Alberta Show in Edmonton. It flowered for the first time for me in the summer of 2020 after I potted it into a plastic net pot of bark mix and lined with sphagnum moss. It was kept damp for a year and increased enormously in size while sitting in the bright shade of the front porch over the summer.

***Rhynchovola (Rcv.)* David Sander**

(*Brassavola cucullata* x *Rhyncholaelia digbyana)*

A lovely primary hybrid that inherited its long, elegant petals and sepals from the B. cucullata parent, and its wonderfully frilly lip fringe from the Rl. dignyana parent. This plant flowers most years in late winter or early spring. It usually only produces one flower but it lasts 2-3 weeks. It seems to like lots of water, warmth and outside in the summer, and bright, cooler, drier winters on a south facing windowsill.

***Maxillaria* Memoria Ben Berliner 'Leopard'** *(Max. variabilis* x *Max. tenuifolia*)

I purchased this Ching Hua plant as a 2018 SOS garage sale at Heather's. I grow it in a small pot of Orchiata, sitting in an outer pot, and it often sits in a bit of water between waterings. I have it in bright light on the plant stand. The flowers smell divine, with a sweet chocolate-vanilla scent.

THE ROOT TIP

Spring is here and it's time to celebrate!

The **April 23, 2022** meeting will be held **in-person, returning to Elim Church,** and high-lighted by our annual

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

This is the chance to streamline your collection by donating plants or divisions to the auction. Be generous! This is a major fundraising venture for the society. Let go of the orchids that have been either sulking or exploding out of their pots. Make space in your growing area for new plants!

Vaccinations and masks will be required for entrance to the meeting.
If you haven't yet been vaccinated, go now!

Don't miss the opportunity to re-acquaint yourself with your fellow orchid-lovers and participate in the activities. Along with the Silent Auction, there will be Resources sales and the Show & Tell. If you have requests for the Library, contact Deb before the meeting; bring any books or magazines you've had on loan to return them to the library collection. More details will be in the April Newsletter.