

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

Future Meeting Dates:

Saturday, Mar 18, 2023 **Lakewood** Civic Centre
Saturday, Apr 22, 2023 Lawson Civic Centre
Saturday, May 27, 2023 Lawson Civic Centre

SOS Executive

President:	Tracey Thue
Vice-President:	Shayne Feltis
Past President:	Bob Lucas
Secretary:	Jenn Burgess
Treasurer:	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe
Social:	Shirley Keith Lynn Campbell
Plant Orders:	Heather Anderson David Schwinghamer
Resources:	Don Keith Tom Kondra
Librarian:	Deb Huculiak
Newsletter:	Tracey Thue Tobi Fenton
COC/AOS Rep:	Tom Kondra
Speakers:	Heather Anderson
Webmaster:	Calvin Lo
Facebook:	Calvin Lo
Web Address:	www.saskorchids.com
Email:	info@saskorchids.com
facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?
Mail Address:	SOS, Box 411, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3

March Meeting - Saturday, March 18, 2023 1:30 pm CST

In-person at [Lakewood Civic Centre](#) (see address on page 2)

Set-up will begin at 1:00pm for a prompt 1:30 start.

Guests are always welcome!

Please see page 3 of this newsletter for the link to the Zoom meeting if you are unable to attend in person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING AGENDA:

Meeting starts @ 1:30pm

Announcements

Problem corner

Show & Tell

*Break - 50:50 ticket sales,
Resources sales, Library*

Presentation - Monica De Wit

Plant Sale

Members Plant Sale

50:50 Draw

Adjournment

*The meeting will be presented on
Zoom for those unable to attend in
person.*

March Guest Speaker:

Monica De Wit,

American Orchid Society Judge
(Pacific Northwest)

Topic: Brassavolas

"I became interested in orchids when a neighbour showed me her collection of blooming Phalaenopsis some 26-27 years ago. I bought one for myself as a birthday gift and even rebloomed it, but then discovered I was drowning it and was in the process of killing it. (It died soon after.) I always thought I was pretty good with plants! Soon thereafter, I bumped into some orchid growers at a farmer's market and they told me about the Edmonton society. Off I went down the rabbit hole.

One of the offshoots of this journey has been joining the American Orchid Society judging program; I've now been fully accredited since 2014. During the pandemic, I got back into orchid micropropagation (flasking) in a big way.

I recently retired from dental hygiene and am looking forward to becoming a grandma this coming August. I look forward to seeing you all."

Monica will be bringing plants to sell!

Our March 18, 2023 meeting will be held at:

**Lakewood Civic Centre
1635 McKercher Drive**

Masking is encouraged.

Please, if you are experiencing any cold, flu or Covid-19 symptoms (cough, fever, sore throat), please stay home, even if you have tested negative with a rapid test.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GARDENScape

March 24 - 26, 2023

We need your flowering orchids for the society display!

What is spiking in your collection that will be ready?
Get grooming them now, to help them look their best!
Label the pots with your name.

Bring your plants to **Prairieland Park, Hall D/E, booth 418**
Thursday, March 23 from 4:00 - 7:00pm.

We need volunteers for 2 or 3-hour shifts to attend the display.

You don't have to be an experienced grower. At least 2 people are assigned to each shift, and new growers are paired with a more experienced grower. A sign up sheet will be distributed.

You will receive a **FREE PASS** to Gardenscape for the day you volunteer to work the SOS plant display!

The volunteer signup sheet will be circulated at the March 18 General Meeting.

Passes will be distributed at the March General Meeting, or handed out at Prairieland Park during plant drop-off Thursday, March 23. Name tags for volunteers will be available at the SOS booth when people arrive for their shift.

Plants must be picked up from Prairieland Park between 5:00 - 5:30pm on Sunday, March 26. Please arrange for someone to pick up your plants if you are unable to do so.





Upcoming Speakers and Events

March 18, 2023 - Monica De Wit (Monica will be bringing plants for sale)

March 24 -26, 2023 - Gardenscape, Saskatoon - SOS Display

March 31 - April 2, 2023 - Orchid Society of Alberta Orchid Fair, St. Albert, AB -
SOS display entry and AOS judging

April 22, 2023 - SOS Annual Silent Auction

SOS EMAIL CONTACTS

- **Plant orders to:**
orders@saskorchids.com
- **General requests
or queries to:**
info@saskorchids.com

New SOS Email address for purchases by e-transfer

Starting January 12, 2023 please send all
e-transfer purchases to:

payment@saskorchids.com

Specify in the message section of the e-transfer what the
transfer is for (plants, membership, supplies, calendar, etc.).

Saturday, March 18, 2023 @ 1:30 PM CST

If you are unable to join the meeting in person, please join on Zoom with this link:

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/97804282624?>

Resources

Our Resource directors are reducing the amount of materials brought to each meeting. Is there something you urgently need to buy?

Email Don with your request and he will arrange for it to be available for purchase at the meeting.

Please be specific!

SOS Plant Orders

Plants from the **Ecuagenera** and **Ten Shin Gardens** pre-orders will be picked up at the OSA Orchid Show.

Tentative date for distribution of plants will be on **Monday, April 3**, from Heather's home. Details will be shared at a later date.

Upcoming Plant Sales

Our guest speaker for March is bringing plants for sale!

There will be no pre-order list, so bring your own wish-list.

There will be an SOS members' plant sales table at the meeting, so you can bring your own plants to sell.

But please see the adjacent announcement:

SOS Members' Plant Sales

If you're thinking about bringing plants to sell at the March General Meeting plant sales table, please consider keeping them until

April's Annual Silent Auction.

Help raise money for your society!



SOS April Silent Auction Fundraiser

Do you have plants to contribute to the Silent Auction fundraiser?

Calvin Lo will produce a picture of its bloom!

Send him a list of your plants, including:

Plant name

Growing conditions

Time of bloom? Fragrance?

Anything you can think of to help sell the plant!

This is our main fundraiser of the year!

Please be generous!



ORCHID SOCIETY OF ALBERTA ANNUAL ORCHID FAIR

March 31 - April 2, 2023

Moonflower Room, Enjoy Center, 101 Riel Drive, St. Albert, Alberta

Our Saskatchewan Orchid Society is entering a display in the show.

If you wish to have your plants entered in this AOS-judged show, please email Bob Lucas (robert.lucas@usask.ca) with the names and parentage (if hybrids) of your plants by **Monday, March 27**. If you're unsure if a plant will be in flower in time for the show, list it anyway. It is easier to remove it from the registration process later than to add it later.

Please groom (no pests) and stake your plants, and put your name on the bottom of the pots. Pack securely in a container or box and include in the container a list of your plants going to the show and your name and phone number. Plants must be dropped off at Shayne's house @ 118 Buckwold Cove, Saskatoon between **4:00-8:00pm on Wednesday, March 29**. Only plants transported by Shayne will be included in the SOS display.

Plants will be returned to Saskatoon April 2, and pickup will be Monday, April 3, time and location to be provided at the March 18th general meeting.

Follow this link to the OSA website to see photos of previous shows:

<https://orchidsalberta.wildapricot.org/page-18133>



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 25, 2023, 1:30 PM CST

LOCATION: Lawson Civic Centre

President Tracey Thue welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new members and guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Tracey noted that next month's meeting will be held at Lakewood Civic Centre, and then return to Lawson Civic Centre for April's meeting.
- Donna Carlson-O'Keefe announced that 50/50 tickets are for sale: 5/\$5
- The SOS will have a display at **Gardenscape**, March 24-26. There is a sign-up sheet for 2-hour shifts over the course of the event, hoping for 2 people for each time slot. Free passes will be given to volunteers for the day. Blooming plants will need to be borrowed from members to create the display - check for details in the newsletter. Deb Huculiak is coordinating the display; if you wish to assist with set-up or other aspects, please talk to her.
- The SOS will also set up a display at the **Orchid Society of Alberta Orchid Fair** in St. Albert, March 31-April 2. There will be a need for members to send their blooming plants for this as well. Plant drop-off will be at Shayne Feltis' house prior to the weekend, with pick-up there afterward. Details to follow.
- David Schwinghamer spoke about the upcoming Ecuagenera and Ten Shin orders and presented a few easily-grown orchids for ordering suggestions, with photos.
 1. *Dendrobium* Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy' (Ecuagenera)
 2. *Cattleya* Hawaiian Wedding Song (Ten Shin)
 3. *Phragmipedium* Hanne Popow (Ecuagenera)
 4. *Cattleya* Sea Breeze 'Fellrath's Pride' (Ten Shin)
 5. *Brassocattleya* Fuchs Star (Ecuagenera)

PROBLEM CORNER:

- Question about when to start watering a dendrobium. Its has healthy growth but is not flowering.

It was suggested to hold off on fertilizing if a dry period is not needed, as fertilizer will stimulate root growth, not flower growth.
- *Ceologyne pachystachya* is being grown but how can it be coaxed to bloom?

Calvin Lo concurred that they're difficult to flower and there is little information available about cultivation, but both plants have good leaf growth.

SHOW AND TELL:

Jenn Burgess - *Phalaenopsis* NOID (name unknown) Fragrant. She had made an unsuccessful attempt at growing a keiki with a purchased hormone paste.

Brassavola nodosa

Brassocattleya Yellow Bird

Heather Anderson - *Dendrobium yulianiae*. Commonly called a "stick orchid" this is an orange-flowered, mounted dendrobium from Andy's Orchids.

Masdevallia limax aff. Small white blooms.

Calvin Lo - *Dendrobium sanderae* var. *major*. A large white-flowered dendrobium, destined for the sale table.
Dendrobium trantuanii

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Bob Lucas - *Phalaenopsis San Jacinto Fancy*. Grown in pro-mix.
Phragmipedium QF Red Wings

Pat Randall - *Cattleya luddemanniana*. Grown under lights. It's a species with purple flowers.

Shayne Feltis - *Caulaelia Misoguchi 'Princess Kiko'*. Windowsill grown, with a spike of white flowers. Sent to the sale table.

Deb Huculiak - *Dendrobium lindleyi* (syn. *Den. aggregatum*). Acquired from a former member, with bright yellow flowers with orange centres.

Tom Kondra - *Masdevallia monicana*. Grown in a cool terrarium; with one flower and another bud and spike.

Tracey Thue - 3 *Paphiopedilum*, all grown in Orchia and perlite on an east window:

Paphiopedilum gratixianum, which she's had for about 13 years.

Paphiopedilum Hung Sheng Master x (*Paph. Hung Sheng Jaguar* x *Paph. Hsingying Web*)

From Forestview Gardens, with 75% *Paph. masterianum*; a first bloom.

Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Skies, with mottled foliage. From Paph Paradise.

Rhynchovola David Sander (*Brassavola cucullata* x *Rhycholaelia digbyana*). Grown dry in the winter and under high light.

PRESENTATION:

Heather Anderson introduced Dave Nixon of Edmonton. He has been involved with the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation (OSPF) for many years and is currently the OSPF President. The SOS has been fortunate enough to be able to order from the OSPF over the years.

"Orchid Conservation: An OSPF Perspective - or, more accurately, Mine"

Founded in 1991, the OSPF is a member-run, charitable non-profit group that manages 4000 orchids in a 5000 sq.ft. greenhouse in partnership with the Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton. There is a large terrarium, to display small orchids to the public, and an Orchid Resource Centre.

The purpose of the OSPF's orchid collection is to educate and to contribute to conservation. A more recent goal is to obtain more North American species.

Dave talked about the current state of affairs of orchids worldwide; approaches to orchid conservation, such as preservation, restoration, "the Million Orchid Project" in Florida, *circa situm* (growing species in your own garden); and human pressure. He also discussed the OSPF's initiatives of growing their collection, establishing a conservation team (with grant a fund for orchid research), and setting up a central registry of preserved land in Canada. He explained other initiatives such as working with summer students and working with Canadian Project Rooting.

The email address for the OSPF is ospf@orchidspecies.ca

The OSPF database and library are collaborative with the SOS and OSA, with many resources available. There will be a 10 week "Orchids Through Time" exhibit in the fall (Sept.2 - Nov. 19) in the Muttart Conservatory Feature Pyramid.

50/50 TICKETS: \$35 went to Irene S.

PLANT SALES: Approximately 12 member orchids and a few carnivorous plants were for sale.

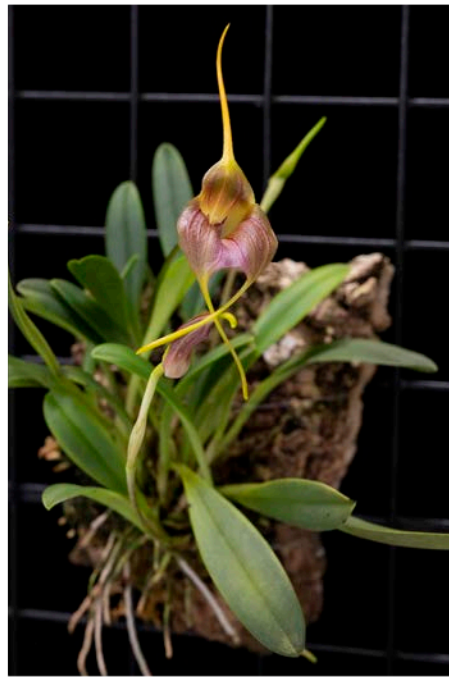
ADJOURNMENT: 3:30 pm

FEBRUARY SHOW AND TELL

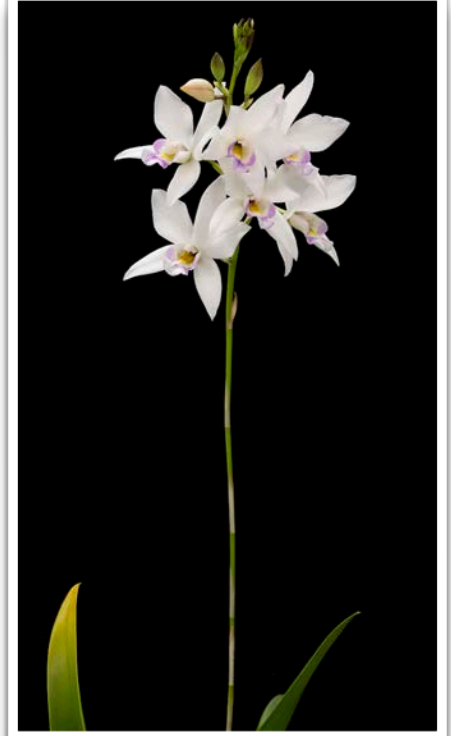
Photographs by Pat Randall



Phragmipedium QF Red Wings
Grown by Bob Lucas



Masdevallia monicana
Grown by Tom Kondra



Caulaelia Mizoguchi 'Princess Kiko'
Grown by Shayne Feltis



Phalaenopsis San Jacinto Fancy
Grown by Bob Lucas



Dendrobium lindleyi
Grown by Deb Huculiak



Brassocattleya Yellow Bird
Grown by Jenn Burgess



Masdevallia limax
Grown by Heather Anderson



Brassavola nodosa
Grown by Jenn Burgess



Dendrobium yulianiae
Grown by Heather
Anderson



Phalaenopsis NOID
Grown by Jenn Burgess



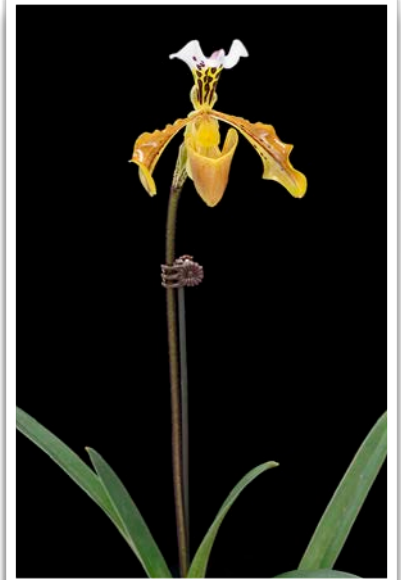
Cattleya leuddemanniana
Grown by Pat Randall



Dendrobium sanderae var. *major*
Grown by Calvin Lo



Dendrobium trantuanii
Grown by Calvin Lo



Paphiopedilum gratrixianum
Grown by Tracey Thue



Rhynchovola David Sander
Brassavola cucullata x
Rhyncholaelia digbyana)
Grown by Tracey Thue

Paphiopedilum Hung Sheng
Master x *Paph.* (Hung Sheng
Jaguar x Hsinying Web)
Grown by Tracey Thue



Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Skies
Grown by Tracey Thue



FEBRUARY PHOTOS FROM MEMBERS



Coelogyne cristata (left)
Grown/photographed by
Irene Stroshein



Phalaenopsis mannii x self (left and above right)

Grown by Tobi Fenton

Ching Hua 2015

I used to grow this mounted and hung in a big weeping fig tree in a warm south-facing solarium where I misted it twice or thrice daily. But then the fig died. It is now potted in coarse Orchidata and sphagnum and lives in a shady, humid terrarium with warm summers and slightly cooler, drier winters.

It's a happy little thing, and makes me happy with its fragrance of citrusy witch hazel.



Dendrobium Keiki Chip

(*Den. Micro Chip* x *Den. Little Atro*)

Grown by Tobi Fenton

Paph Paradise 2021

I have a soft spot for speckles and stripes, so this hybrid from the Latouria section of dendrobiums tickles my fancy. The flowers are bigger and more intensely coloured than the Micro Chip parent, but with the compact plant size. It has a deep delicious fragrance of vanilla-banana.

Growing in bright light in the solarium, it gets warm summers and cooler, slightly drier winters. I move it to a warmer northwest window when it gets too cold in the solarium. This 1-1/2 year-old plant has 8 flowers on 3 spikes.



THE ROOT ZONE

What's in the Name?

Words by Tobi Fenton

Photographs by Petra Moser, Whitby, ON; submitted by Robert Wilson



Dendrobiums in a botanical garden, Thailand

Do you ever wonder where orchid names come from? I don't mean the beautifully descriptive registered hybrid names, such as *Brassavola* Yellow Bird, or the evocative cultivar names such as *Cymbidium* Blazing Fury 'Hades.' I mean the genus and species names. A genus is a group of plants that have similar structural characteristics so that they can easily breed amongst themselves. Like *Brassavola*, or *Cymbidium*. A species is a group of plants that are genetically similar and can reproduce with each other in nature. Like *Brassavola nodosa* or *Cymbidium insigne*.

If I could go on a trip with the Doctor in the TARDIS, I would travel back to a time when botanists were flooding the world with new plant names, just so I could witness the creative frenzy.

I first became aware of the diversity of orchids at the University of Lethbridge where I took a plant anatomy course from a professor who was also an orchid researcher. His laboratory was a long, low greenhouse on the edge of the coulee. It was an atmospheric walk in the mist one morning when he invited me to see the orchids. He was planning his annual trip to central America to collect plants for his research. (Alas, he had already hired his field assistant for the year.) Walking into that greenhouse was an experience as powerful as when my family went to Hawaii one Easter and I smelled a tropical forest for the first time. My mind was opened to the inconceivably rich botanical world beyond the Rocky Mountains of home.

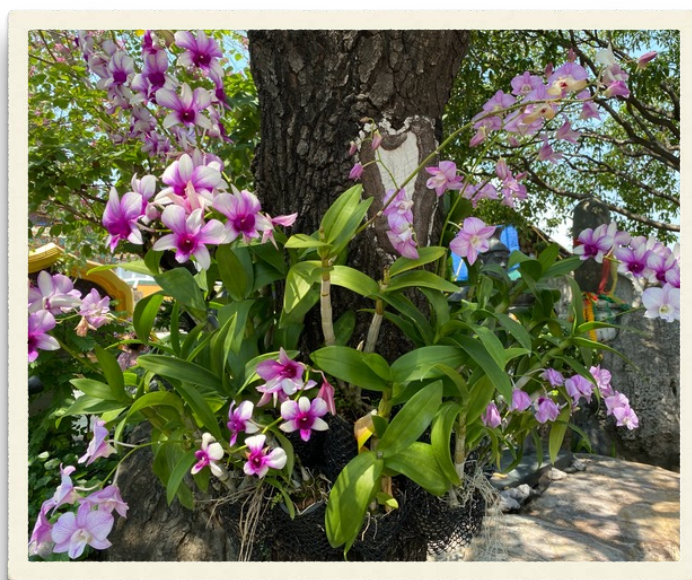
The variety of plant sizes, growth patterns, flower shapes and colours in the orchid family is a profound reflection of the astounding innovations of evolution. It's difficult to fathom how this monumental group of plants is ordered simply (or not so simply) with a name.

The orchid genus name that I remember first being truly *aware* of is *Dendrobium*. It reminded me of the word “dendritic,” describing the intricate branching of tree roots and stems. The name does indeed come from the Greek *dendros*, meaning “tree.” The other half of the name comes from *bios*, meaning “life.” The name therefore speaks of the epiphytic nature of dendrobiums. I, in my newly awakened fancy and refusal to take it too literally, interpreted it as “tree of life.” Because not only do they live anchored to and supported by the trunks of trees, many dendrobiums look like a miniature forest of trees, with tall canes and broad, oppositely-spreading green leaves. Also, the vividly coloured flower sprays surely evolved to spread joy to the world, along with its fragrance.

Notwithstanding my often unruly romantic imagination, here-in lies a clear instruction on one of the ways that orchid genera are named: with a description of how the plant grows.

On a more detailed level of naming organisms is the species name. For example, *Dendrobium bigibbum* describes a species that is native to the Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia, Queensland, and New Guinea. The genus name, *Dendrobium*, together with the species epithet, *bigibbum*, gives the formal species name of the plant. It is written in italics to indicate that the names are Latin. “bigibbum” is a complex of *bi* = “two” and *gibbous* = “hump” describing the two-humped spur at the base of the flower. So, as with the genus naming, the species epithet is often chosen to describe a characteristic anatomical feature of that particular species.

Another typical strategy for naming a species is to name it after a prominent person. For example, *Dendrobium farmeri* is named after Sir John Bretland Farmer, a British botanist who undertook diverse academic research at the Imperial College, London 1895 - 1929. One of his fields of study was chromosomes as the unit of heredity. So it seems completely logical and generous to have named after him an orchid from southeast Asia, where epiphytic dendrobium evolution exploded 35 million years ago with glorious diversity. How romantic is that?



The epiphytic nature of *Dendrobium*