

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:

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 Elim Church

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 Elim Church

Saturday, March 16, 2024 Elim Church

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

November Meeting - Saturday, November 25, 2023 1:30 pm CST

In-person at Elim Church (see address on page 2)

Meeting begins promptly at 1:30pm.
Guests are always welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting starts @ 1:30 pm

Announcements

Executive Election

Problem Corner

Please bring any sick plants in a plastic bag to prevent spreading insects or disease.

Show and Tell

Bring your flowering orchids to display on the Show and Tell Table. Share with the membership how you grow and flower them. Photos will be featured in the next newsletter.

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

Presentation - Calvin Lo, SOS

Members' Plant Sale

Members bring orchids or orchid-related items to sell to other members; 10% of the sale price goes to the SOS. Please mark your plant pots with your asking price and your initials.

Adjournment

SOS EXECUTIVE ELECTION

Voting will be in person only

**Nominations for Executive
Term: January - December, 2024**

President:	Shayne Feltis
Vice-President:	Vacant
Past President:	Tracey Thue
Secretary:	Jenn Burgess
Treasurer:	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe
Social:	Shirley Keith Lynn Campbell
Plant Orders:	Heather Anderson David Schwinghamer
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COC/AOS Rep:	Tom Kondra
Speaker Coordinator:	Heather Anderson
Webmaster:	Calvin Lo

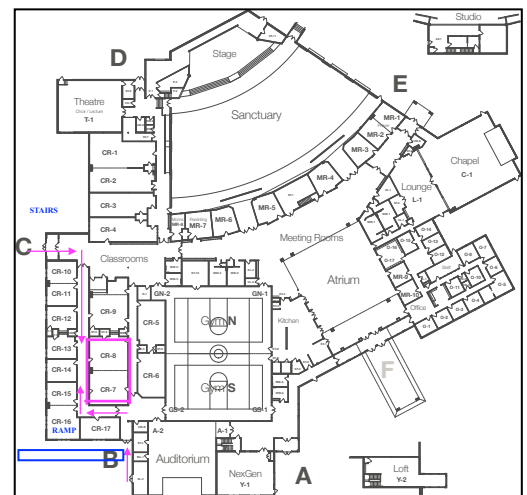
Our November 25, 2023 meeting will be held at:
Elim Church 419 Slimmon Road, Saskatoon,
Classrooms 7&8

Link to Google directions:

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Elim+Church/@52.1000955,-106.5639598,17z/data=!3m1!1e3!1s0x5304f3e234ab6cab:0xa95d3531805b4fc718m2!3d52.1000955!4d-106.5613795!16s%2Fg%2F1tffn_n!entry=ttu

Masking is welcome.

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 Covid rapid test.



NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

Calvin Lo,
Saskatchewan Orchid Society

"Orchids of Madagascar"

Calvin has been growing orchids since the mid-2000s and his collection has travelled upwards of 3000 km around Canada over the last 15 years. Calvin's main interests are black-haired Dendrobiums and African Angraecoids. When not playing with orchids, he loves growing interesting rock garden plants and other perennials in our harsh climate. He is also known to occasionally make an appearance at the local hospital as an anesthesiologist. Recently, he has had the privilege to visit the Great Red Island of Madagascar and is excited to share with the orchid society a travelogue and presentation of his trip.

RESOURCES

Sphagnum moss and Orchia bark will be restocked at the November meeting!

We will be selling the 3L bags of Orchia in these sizes:

Power+ (a larger size bark - good for Cattleyas and others wanting fast drainage)

Power (a medium size bark - good for most mature orchids)

Classic (a small size bark - good for young orchids & most Paphs)

Precision (the smallest size bark - perfect for seedlings)

ALSO, for a limited time, we are offering Orchia in

Full bags (35L) - \$65.00

Half bags (17.5L) - \$35.00

Email Don or Tom to order your full or half-bags, for delivery at the November meeting. You may also place an order with them at the General Meeting.



SOS Email contacts

Plant orders to: orders@saskorchids.com

General requests or queries to: info@saskorchids.com

SOS Email address for purchases by e-transfer

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.)

2024 SOS ORCHID CALENDAR

Pick up your pre-ordered calendars at the November meeting!

Remember: there is no December meeting, so if you want to give **calendars for Christmas**, you must buy them at the November meeting.

A few extra calendars will be available - First come, first served!

You can pay by e-transfer, cash or cheque.

MEMBERSHIPS

Last chance to renew your membership for 2023-24!

If you don't renew by the end of November, your membership will expire and you will no longer receive the newsletter or any other benefits.

See the notice below for upcoming events!

See Donna Carlson-O'Keefe at the meeting to renew. Payment by e-transfer, cash or cheque.

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

May, 2024 - Andrew Geimar
Roehampton Orchids, Toronto

September, 2024 - Wenqing Perner
Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology, China

October, 2024 - Dr. Leslie Ee
President of the Canadian Orchid Congress
(COC), Toronto

All speakers will be bringing plants for sale, so RENEW your membership now!

LIBRARY

"Culture of Multifloral Paphs"
by Dave Sorokowsky

Dave Sorokowsky, Paph Paradise (our October guest speaker) has written an article for the November issue of Orchid magazine. The article should be interesting to all Paph growers.

Contact Deb Huculiak, SOS Librarian, to reserve the copy:
hucuh@sasktel.net

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 21, 2023 1:30 p.m. CST

LOCATION: Elim Church, 419 Slimmon Road, Saskatoon

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Shayne Feltis welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- **Guest Speaker - Dave Sorokowsky** is our guest presenter today, and has plants for sale from both Paph Paradise and Gold Country Orchids. Pre-orders are also available at the back of the room, with any payments to Dave in cash.
- Tracey Thue and Bob Lucas are taking the photos; Marlow T. is tending to the audio-visual equipment.
- **Memberships** are available from Donna Carlson-O'Keefe for \$25/single and \$30/family. E-transfer, cheque and cash are accepted.
- **Calendars** - Deb Huculiak has a sign-up sheet for SOS orchid calendar orders. Calendars will be brought to the November meeting, or you can arrange pick-up from her. Price is \$15 each.
- **Plant member sale table** - give your membership number to Donna and she will put your name in the draw to select your plants.
- **Resources** - Don Keith and Tom Kondra reported that their order of Orchidata will arrive soon, and have an order list for those people wishing to purchase larger bags: \$65 for 35L; \$35 for 17-1/2 L (half a bag).
- **Treats** - Lynn Campbell invited members to sign up to bring treats to a meeting. The next month in need of a volunteer is January.
- **50/50 Tickets** - \$5 for 5 tickets; available from Donna at the back of the room.
- **Executive Election** - to be held in November. A list of candidates will be in the November newsletter. Tom Kondra noted that members are welcome to shadow an executive member to find out more about that position if they are interested.
- The next meeting will be November 25th, again at Elim Church on Slimmon Road.

PROBLEM CORNER:

There was a problem plant that had yellowing of its leaves, without browning, a while after being repotted. No other change in culture had occurred. A remedy to this problem was uncertain.

SHOW AND TELL:

Deb Huculiak

- ***Dendrobium* Lady Colman x Happy Lady** (Editor's note: registered name is *Dend.* Guo Red) - a plant acquired from a past member. It was outside during the summer, then in the greenhouse with infrequent watering prior to blooming.

Tracey Thue

- ***Bifrenaria aureofulva*** (though labeled as *Bifrenaria vitellina*) - acquired from Ten Shin in 2015 and grown in bright light. It is moved outside for the summer and heavily watered. Before coming back inside in autumn, Tracey's plants are treated with a mix of Neem oil, peroxide and rubbing alcohol. This recipe has been printed in the past newsletters. A member noted that the Swadesh Supermarket on 22nd Street carries Neem oil.
- ***Coelogyne mayeriana*** - purchased from Ecuagenera. This is a plant native to Malaysia. Grown with sphagnum in the mix. Orchid Digest has an issue dedicated to Coelogyne that is currently available from the library. This species doesn't appear to be deciduous.
- ***Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* 'Red Wonder' x self** - the flower has just opened. It is grown in an east window. It has not been allowed to dry out, watered weekly in the winter and more frequently in the summer. It likes cooler temperatures.

Jessamy Foulds

- ***Paphiopedilum* Cocoa Elegant Rouge** is a plant from Ecuagenera. It benefits from light from both a window and grow lights, and is watered weekly.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

SHOW AND TELL, CONTINUED:

James Wood

- *Bulbophyllum mastersianum* - this plant is a serial bloomer with an attractive fan of flowers. It has been grown under lights.

Yvette Lyster

- *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* **Spanish Eyes 'Tian Mu'** was a plant purchased from the members' sale table last month and discovered to be in bud.

Heather Anderson

- *Epidendrum porpax* - a mounted plant grown in an orchidarium, misted daily. It has been in her collection for over 10 years.
- *Psychomorphis pusilla* - from J&L Orchids with two blooms. Grown in high humidity in the orchidarium and misted daily.
- *Cattleya* **Beaufort 4n x Cattleya cernua** (Ed. note: registered name is *Cattleya* Seagulls Tiny Tim) - from Gold Country, it was awarded a ribbon in Edmonton. It is grown under lights in the basement; now in a south window while in bloom.

Shayne Feltis

- *Chysis limminghei* - from Ten Shin. This is a semi-terrestrial plant, an easy grower that is grown in warm temperatures. It has big pseudo bulbs.

Bob Lucas

- *Phragmipedium Ecuagenera Dream* (*Phrag Sedenii* x *Phrag kovachii*) - a cross purchased at an Alberta show and grown from seedlings. There is also one on the sale table. It is grown in a mix of coir, perlite and diatomaceous rock; fertilized once per week; watered twice per week with RO water.
- *Phalaenopsis* **Blood-Red Buddha** - one of Bob's own crosses and registered with RHS in 2021. It was one of three plants that germinated from the cross. It's grown in Promix HP under lights.

PRESENTATION:

Dave Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise, California is our guest speaker. His presentation is entitled "Don't Fear the Slippers. The answer to the question: why can't I grow paphs."

Dave began his presentation with an overview on how to grow slipper orchids. Watering was first discussed, preferably using rainwater or RRO water, thoroughly watering from the top to flush out minerals. His potting media of choice is an equal mix of Orchidata classic, perlite, and charcoal. He finds that sphagnum holds too much water. Other growers have success growing semi-hydroponically with LECA pellets.

With fertilizing, use of oyster shells for calcium is important as many plants grow on limestone. Dave uses MSU fertilizer. He suggests using firstrays.com online calculator to get the total Nitrogen to 250 ppm during the longest days of the year, 100 ppm in winter and 150 ppm during the remainder of the year. He adjusts pH to 5.8 and advises purchasing a cheap pH meter. In addition, three times/year he waters with Epsom salts (1 tsp./gallon), adjusting pH to 5.

Dave briefly touched on pests such as mealy bugs, mites, and fungal issues, and advised to isolate newly-acquired plants before adding them to a collection.

Easily-grown plants and their culture:

- **Maudiae-type hybrids.** Need less light, do not like to dry out completely; repot regularly; moderate light in north or east window; warm-growing; water weekly.
- **Complex paphs** - will tolerate cooler temperatures; N or E window; intermediate to warm.
- **Parvisepalum subgenus** needs warm summers, cool winters; bright light. Has crosses with multifloras. Oyster shells are beneficial; needs drainage, no wet feet. *Paph Ho Chi Min* recommended - "grows like a weed"
- *Paph venustum* - vigorous, moderate light; watch for mealy bugs.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

- *Paph wardii* - moderate light
- *Paph delenatii* - fragrant; needs good drainage
- *Paph villosum* - a fast grower; cold-tolerant
- *Paph gratrixianum* - not as cold-tolerant
- *Paph henryanum* - compact; tolerates a variety of temperatures
- **Sequential bloomers** - more light than the Maudie-type
- *Paph haynaldianum* - grow it warm and bright; doesn't tolerate cold
- *Paph lowii* - Dave grows it similarly to *Paph haynaldianum*
- *Paph rothschildianum* - needs bright light and space
- **Multiflorals** - need bright light; want to dry out a bit

Moderately difficult growers:

- **Brachypetalum subgenus** - need lower light; warmer growing. Dave uses heat mats under the plants, heated to 21C.
- *Paph niveum* - very warm grower; grows on limestone with rain year-round; use a heat mat
- *Paph sukhakulii* - never let it dry out
- *Paph charlesworthii* - Dave has let it dry out in January; its may need a dry rest
- *Paph fairrieianum* - water twice/week; and NEVER, EVER divide
- *Paph tigrinum* - grows in tree tops; likes cool summers and cold, dry winters
- *Paph sangii* - grows with heavy rainfall; Dave has found it difficult to grow
- *Paph helenae* - does not tolerate wet feet
- *Paph armeniacum* - likes a wet summer, cold dry winter
- *Paph vietnamense* - likes wet summers, dry winters; lots of calcium
- *Paph emersonii* - likes a dry winter

More difficult to grow:

- *Paph sanderianum* - a warm grower

Other Hints: Dave has had success with probiotics acquired from a hydroponics store.

After showing us great photos of his new crosses at Paph Paradise, his bottom line was:

Water, water, water; repot annually; start with easy plants; match conditions to plants; and go to orchidspecies.com to look up the conditions your plant needs to grow well.

PLANT SALE:

There were six plants on the members' sale table; all sold.

50/50 DRAW:

Total ticket sales were \$65.00; \$32.50 won by Bob Wilson.

ADJOURNMENT: Approximately 3:20 p.m. Sales at the vendor table were still in progress.

OCTOBER SHOW AND TELL

Photos: Tracey Thue and Bob Lucas

Subtribe Aeridinae

Subtribe Cymbidiinae



Phalaenopsis Blood-Red Buddha
(Cross made by Bob Lucas, registered with RHS in 2021)
Bob Lucas



Bifrenaria aureofulva
Tracey Thue
Photo by Sara Thue

Subfamily Cypripedioideae



Paphiopedilum fairrieianum 'Red Wonder' x self
Tracey Thue
Photo by Sara Thue



Paphiopedilum Cocoa Elegant Rouge
Jessamy Foulds

Subfamily Cypripedioideae



Phragmipedium Ecugenera Dream

(*Phrag Sedenii* x *Phrag kovachii*)

Bob Lucas

Subtribe Coelogyninae



Coelogyne mayeriana

Tracey Thue

Photo by Sara Thue

Subtribe Dendrobiinae



Dendrobium Lady Colman x *Dendrobium Happy Lady*

(RHS registered name is *Dendrobium Guo Red*)

Deb Huculiak



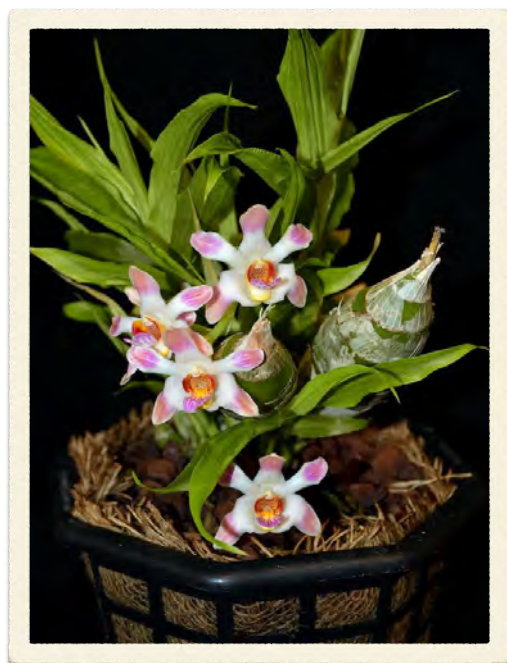
Bulbophyllum mastersianum

James Wood



Cattleya Beaufort 4N x *Cattleya cernua*
(RHS Registered name is *Cattleya* Seagulls Tiny Tim)
Heather Anderson

Subtribe Laeliinae



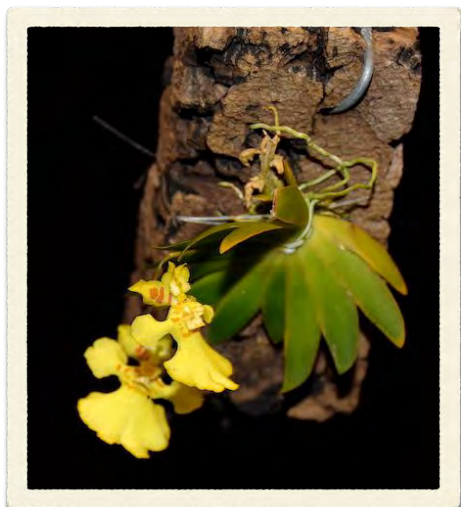
Chysis limminghei
Shayne Feltis



Epidendrum porpax
Heather Anderson



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Spanish Eyes 'Tian-Mu'
Yvette Lyster



Subtribe Oncidiinae

Psygmorchis pusilla
Heather Anderson

Summer and Autumn Blooms by Tom Kondra



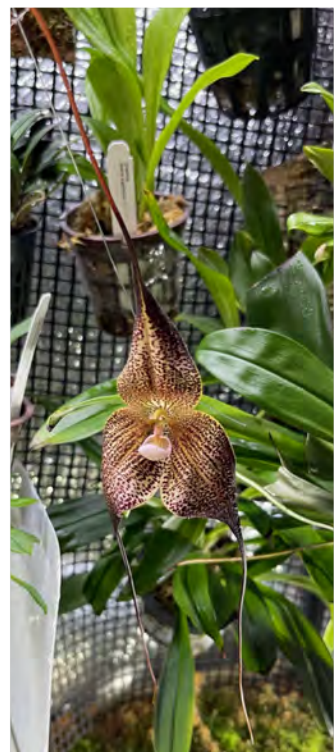
Disa uniflora red



Dracula chestertonii



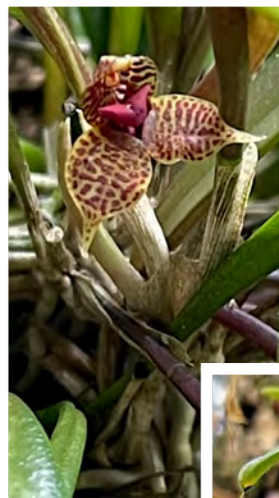
Dracula cordobae



Dracula hirtzii



Dracula vampira



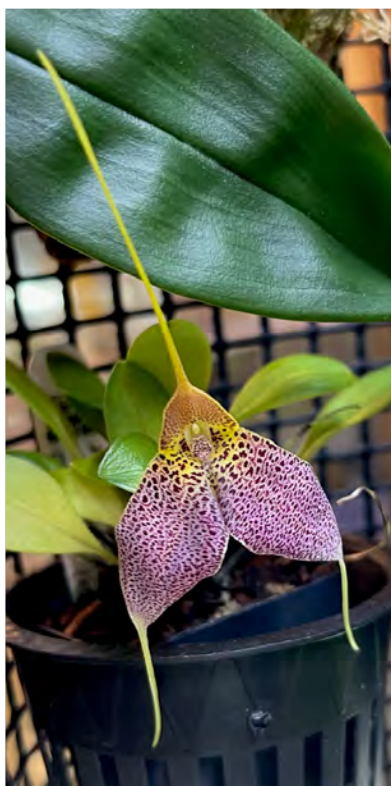
Dryadella simula



Lepanthes caprimulgus



Masdevallia caudata dark



Masdevallia decumana



Masdevallia newmaniana



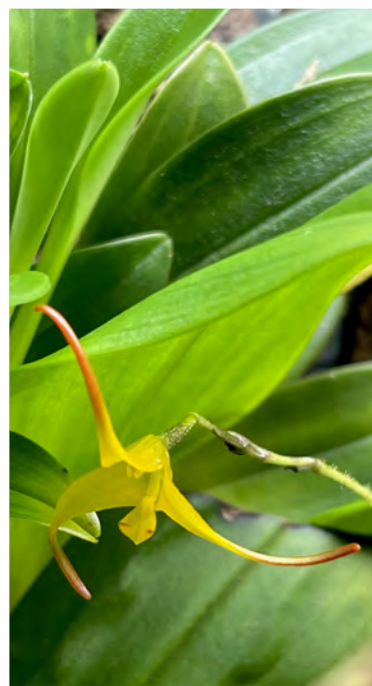
Masdevallia sanctae-inesae



Masdevallia wagneriana var. *pteroglossa*



Masdevallia xanthina



Porroglossum muscosum
yellow



Restrepia guttulata



Paphiopedilum Dream Treasure



Phragmipedium caudatum
'Val'



Paphiopedilum Voodoo Kitty



Phragmipedium Eric Young

THE ROOT ZONE

The Perilous Elegance of Co-Evolution

Tobi Fenton, SOS



Angraecum sesquipedale

and a pollinating moth illustrated by Thomas William Wood (1867) based on a theoretical description by naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace. The real moth was formally described in 1903 and named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* (Madagascan Sphinx Moth) because Wallace had predicted a moth with a foot-long proboscis would be found. In 2021 the moth was re-classified as its own species, *Xanthopan praedicta* because of the length of its tongue.



Angraecum sesquipedale

The Comet Orchid

From Reichenbachia I Plate 14 (1888)



Angraecum sesquipedale

and

Xanthopan praedicta

Artist unidentified, illustration from oakhillgardens.com

There, there, and just up there. Carried by the warm sea breeze into the dark tangle of roots and trunks and lofty ravinala leaves rustling in the night, she smells it.

A scent as old and intoxicating as Madagascar shoots to her lepidopteran brain and sends the message that a nocturnal orchid is blooming. *Her* orchid.

She approaches her perfect partner, straining to sense danger in the humid air - a jumping spider in wait, perhaps - but there is only the salty tang of the ocean and a distant murmur of a black and white ruffed lemur, dreaming of his breakfast of palm flowers at dawn.

So she flies near, unfurls her prodigious tongue, and performs her dance with the comet.

A dance so synchronized in form and function that neither will survive without the other. Like ruffed lemur's nose that precisely matches ravinala's pointed flower bracts, Xanthopan's tongue is the only one in the forest long enough to reach the comet's deeply-held nectar and so capture the poised pollen at its throat.

Another decade of forest-clearing fires, a half-century more of increasingly violent cyclones, and the dance will be ended.

An achingly ancient partnership of mutual evolution will break, never to be seen again in this world.