

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

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Cypripedium arietinum ph.pp

Executive: President, Tom Atkinson 416 449-7907;

Vice-president, Yvonne Schreiber, 905 473-3405 ;Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281;

Treasurer, Elizabeth McAlpine, 416 487-7832

Membership: Annual Dues \$25.00/Calendar Year(January 1- December 31). Membership Secretary, Hess Pommells 416-245-0369, Apt. 503, 370 Dixon Road, Weston, Ontario, M9R 1T2

Web site: www.soos.ca Member of the Canadian Orchid Congress; Affiliated with the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society, and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance

Honorary Life Members: Terry Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Inge Poot, Peter Poot, Joe O'Regan, Diane Ryley , Wayne Hingston

Next Annual Show: 2010, Get ready!!!

April 5, Toronto Botanical Garden, Sales at 12 noon, Program at 1 pm. Hands on Demonstrations by experienced growers (over 100 years of combined experience). Come pick their brains.

Peter Decyk-----How to Use Pest Control Chemicals

Doug Kennedy-----How to Recognize the Pest

Wayne Hingston---Repotting

Henry Glowka-----Home Growing Tips (propagating, humidity, pests)

Peter Poot-----Repotting

Anita Kho-----Growing Orchids Hydroponically

Joe DiCiommo-----Repotting large Cattleyas

Mario Ferrusi-----Mounting Orchids

Vendors and Buyers please note: Sales start at 12 noon. We need to have time to set up the room and the vending stations without the interference of the public and members not involved in the setup process. Please do not attempt to buy or sell before 12 or during the meeting.

SOOS President's Remarks

Hello fellow orchid lovers.

As you know, these epistles to the chosen are always written well before - usually 2+ weeks - the month of the newsletter in which they appear. Today is no exception, as we are a few days from the Ides of March - a bad day for politicians. The old wisdom that "March winds, and April showers, bring forth May flowers." is being observed today. The snow is melting, and the winds are strong. In our garden, near the house, the first brave Snowdrops are poking a few millimeters out of terra firma. We saw our first (always male) Red-winged blackbird 2 days ago, always a sign of spring, and our first (male) Grackle today. Many Robins overwinter in the GTA now, so as a reliable harbinger of spring they must now be considered a dud. And thinking a bit more about that spring verse, there are flowers, orchid flowers inside our (green)houses, always a delight, and especially so if what we have done to coddle these plants has led to their flowering.

Under Kiet Tong's leadership, the SOOS conservation committee has started up in earnest, having had the first meeting of the year in March, and the next planned for early April. We will be meeting with Toronto Parks, soon we trust, in order to coordinate our plans with theirs. It has been a very positive experience over the past 2 growing seasons. They are perhaps even more anxious than we in the hopes that native terrestrial orchids be reestablished on public lands in the city.

I'd like to hear from you on things that you do like and that you consider done well; also, I am sure there are features of the society and its meetings which you would like to see improved, added, or even done away with. Some of you do pass on your thoughts, in word or via email, and I do hear you and process these points. This month I am asking you to think through a typical SOOS monthly meeting. In case of failing memory, here is a summary of such an event: we start with sales, we do announcements, the Show (& Tell) Table follows, we have the raffle, and finally we have the piece de resistance, the actual program (usually a speaker, but workshops at times, and the auction every December). Of course, your board of directors considers all that you see and observe at the meetings, and many other behind-the-scenes responsibilities. But we do value what you think and what ideas you have. So, at the risk of opening the floodgates, please do let me know your thoughts.

When you do contact me: asimina@sympatico.ca or 416-449-7907. A couple of you did this past month; I

came close to fainting from sheer delight as a result!

Welcome New Members

**Jem McKechnie, Kevin Beddow,
Debra and Marlene Robertson,
Huyen Hoang, Judy Torrie, Carol Bouley,
Dilip and Juana Kulkarni, Ludy Licardo**

Coming Events

March

21-22, London Orchid Society Show. North London Optimist Community Centre, 1345 Cheapside St, London

Easy to get to turn off 401, north on Highbury to Cheapside St, turn right look for the big red building.

28-29, Orchidexpo, Montreal, **Montreal Centre judging.**

April

3, Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, Rochester, N.Y.

4, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm.

5, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon 11,12, TAOA show, Chinese Cultural Centre, Scarborough, Toronto.

18-19, Les Orchidophiles. de Quebec show, **Montreal Centre judging**, Quebec City.

25,26, Ottawa Orchid Society show.

22-26, American Orchid Society members meeting and show, Houston, Texas.

May

2, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm.

3, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon 30, Montreal Centre Judging and Toronto Semi-annual meeting, Montreal.

June

6, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm.

14, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon

July

4, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm.

August

2, SOOS Orchid Fest and Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 10 am-4pm.

October 15 - 18th, 2009, Canadian Orchid Congress Annual Meeting , Symposium and Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale, at the George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42nd Ave, Langley, British Columbia.

SOOS SHOW Committee Meeting

I would like to have a Show Committee meeting at the TBG in a Studio on March 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm. I need to confirm the rental arrangements but am confident that the date will work. Everyone can attend to review our 2009 show or submit your comments to either Wayne Hingston or Tom Atkinson.

The RBG Show



Once again Joe O'Regan produced a winning display for SOOS at the RBG show. The display won best society exhibit. Joe had assistance and plants from Chee Chong as well as plants from the following ribbon winners:

Yvonne Schreiber; a 1st for, Tolumnia Ralph Yaga, a 1st for Paphiopedilum Hampshire Treasure, a 2nd for Paphiopedilum Salvadore Dali

Linda Gough; a 1st for Phalaenopsis Hybrid Yellow col. lip, a 3rd for Phalaenopsis Hybrid Pink

Jay Norris; a 3rd for Kingidium delicosum

Wayne Eyles; a 3rd for Odontocidium Hybrid

Aina Balodis; a 3rd for Cattleya Hybrid Mauve

Joe O'Regan; a 1st for Oncidium splendidum

Thank you and congratulations to all.

AOS Judging Results

RBG Show and TJC February 28

Paphiopedilum Angela CCM-AOS 82 points

Halifax Show, March 14

Cymbidium King Arthur 'San Diego' (Sweetheart x Nila) CCM-AOS 81 pts., Paul Cabilio, Wolfville, N.S.

Cymbidium Red Nelly 'Dazzler' (Red Valley x Valley Regent) HCC-AOS 75 pts., Paul Cabilio, Wolfville, N.S.

Dendrobium Tropical Punch 'Mai Tai' (Norma Jackson x canaliculatum) HCC-AOS 78 pts., Gail Schwarz

Paphiopedilum Gina Short 'Magdalene Charles' (Pinocchio x delenatii) HCC-AOS 77 pts., Pam Ferro

SOOS Conservation Committee

SOOS Conservation Committee would like to announce that this year, Spring officially begins on Friday March 20th at 7:44am EDT. The reason that I point this out is that I have always associated Spring as a time of renewal and optimism. Plans and thoughts that have taken shape in the harsh Winter can start to be realized in the bounty of increasing sunlight and warmer temperatures. The Committee has been meeting to decide on a course of action for 2009.

We have built a strong relationship with the city of Toronto's urban ecology team. With their support and cooperation, we have planted Yellow Lady Slippers orchids at the Toronto Brick Works over the past 2 years. In 2009, we will be conducting a full assessment of our successes and failures at this site.



Please do not pick or move these photo pp

We also hope to expand to 2 others sites in the city. I am happy to report that the cost of new purchases of ethically grown Yellow Lady Slippers, soil and soil amendments will be funded by the city.

In building partnerships with the city, local environmental organizations and through the support of the members of SOOS, we will be moving forward on more orchid conservation efforts. Strong partnerships are the keys to our success. Orchid conservation is only a small piece of a much greater picture.

Please speak to me or other members of the Committee if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions.

Kiet Tong on behalf of the Conservation Committee

Decluttering an Orchid Collection

by Erika Lorincz

Growing orchids as a hobby, which I have been doing for about 25 years, grew out of my love for plants and flowers. This love became a passion (addiction) later on.

I started buying orchids from local and visiting vendors at shows and meetings, always with an eye to variety. The sell-out of Great Lakes Orchids in Detroit, Michigan was my most memorable buying spree. All plants found a home, sitting or hanging on the wide windowsills of our retrofitted home. When space ran out, my husband started making me light benches for the basement, first single, then double, then triple decker benches.

I placed plant orders with Seidel and Ricsel Orquideas in Brazil, Yamamoto in Hawaii, and later for mini-flasks in England and Australia. It was always more worthwhile to place 'larger' orders because of the hassle with permits and long distance shipments. Hearing growing complaints from my better half, I shifted to miniatures. These could always be accommodated without being noticed, right?

In the early nineties, I started to do my own flasking. Although my flasking setup was very primitive, there were always plenty of orchid survivors. In my frenzy to grow more and more, I did not notice a decline in flowering on the mature plants of my collection. The baby plants had taken over, and one plant stole light, food and water from another. My husband offered to build me a greenhouse in the backyard. Being the only one in the family who grows orchids, and seeing a greenhouse as too utilitarian, I declined his offer with

a heavy heart.

So I dreamed of selling the surplus, but did not anticipate a change in buying trends that was happening. Pretty flowering phalaenopsis (hmmm..) became available from Walmart and Home Depot at relatively cheap prices. There was a decline in demand for botanicals and non-flowering plants. At the same time costs for hydro, potting materials and sales rental space went up. I finally realized that my orchid collection was out of control, and that there was a dead-end sign looming ahead.

First I discontinued flasking. From the existing flasks I picked a handful of the strongest plantlets from each batch and disposed of the rest in the green bin. Then I went on to systematically scrutinize each plant, let go of many and repot the keepers. This went on over a period of almost two years. Bags and bags of orchid plant material went into the green bin. Once the stuff was out of sight, it was out of my mind as well. With time it became easier, since I look at the disposal of plants now the same way as disposing of an unwanted piece of clothing, as an opportunity to reduce and recycle.

In the mean time something wonderful was happening in my orchid collection. The plants started blooming again, just like I wanted them to do in the first place. Caring for the overload of plants had become a chore and a worry.

There are still very few empty places on my windowsill and light benches, but there is space between the plants, and they just like me enjoy the gift of living space.

Editor. Thank you Erika for this hands on description of your evolving hobby. You have provided us with some valuable lessons and food for thought.

GROWING ORCHIDS SEMI-HYDROPONICALLY

Reprinted from the Ottawa Orchid Society Newsletter 'Spike', of March 2009 reporting on a talk by Calvin Wong.

There has been a considerable interest expressed in the talk given by Calvin Wong at the January monthly meeting on growing orchids hydroponically.

Calvin uses clear plastic pots to grow his orchids. These pots have no holes in the bottom and Calvin has made holes in sides of his pots approximately ¼ to 1/3 of the way up from the bottom. This allows a small amount of water to remain in the bottom of all these pots and the excess water drains out from the

side holes. His orchid mix is composed of 70% clay pellets and 30% diatomite or you can use a mixture composed of 70% clay pellets, 20% diatomite and 10% charcoal. The diatomite absorbs 150% its weight in water.

According to Calvin, you cannot overwater your orchids using this mix no matter how often you water. Approximately every two weeks, he soaks the entire pot in water to break down and flush out any build up of salts. You can also run water through your pots but have to be careful not to lose your orchid mix.

When Calvin pots his orchids, he first fills up his plastic containers with pellets level with the bottom row of his holes on the side of the pots. Remember, the bottom of your pots have no holes. Once he has levelled off his pellets with the bottom holes, he then places his orchid into the container. He then fills up the container with his pellets, diatomite, and charcoal if using charcoal. When establishing newly potted plants (most critical period), Calvin advises to water the pot frequently to ensure moisture goes to the top of your clay pellets to encourage the plant to produce healthy roots. Calvin fertilizes once a month. This helps to keep the water in the bottom of the pot from becoming too acidic too often.

It is recommended that you mix your diatomite with your clay pellets before adding this mixture around your plant. He recommends a fine grade of clay pellets for seedlings out of flask and recommends using a hood over young potted plants to increase the humidity for the seedlings.

Calvin recommends the above as he has had great success growing his orchids faster with great root growth and, if he should be away for extended periods, his system can grow without anyone having to water his orchids for weeks at a time because of the medium's ability to draw water from the bottom of the pots and provide continued moisture to the roots as required. If you used pots with holes in the bottom, the medium would quickly drain out, and the medium would dry out in just a few days.

Home-Made Remedies and Treatments

reprinted from the February issue of the Orchid Society of Nova Scotia News. Problems with mites, scale, mealybugs? Do not want to use harmful chemicals? Have a look for

solutions at First Ray's website. <http://www.firstrays.com/remedies.htm>

My recipe for mites, scale and mealybugs: In a one liter spray bottle add: 5 to 15 ml of baby oil A squirt of liquid dish soap about 100 ml isopropyl alcohol fill to 3/4 with water

Proportions are not critical

Shake well, and spray the plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Usually one application will suffice but keep an eye out for bugs and repeat as necessary.

I prefer using baby oil instead of cooking oil as the cooking oil will oxidize and become sticky. Also repeat applications will clog the plant stomata and suffocate the plant. - *Jerry Bolce*

Plant of the month: *Dendrobium Yellow Song 'Canary'* grown by John Spears.

John grows this plant on a south facing ledge in his solarium. At this time of year it gets morning and afternoon sun, but in summer it gets only morning



John Spears and plant of the month

sun. John mists every morning and runs a fan during the day. The plant is watered once a week with a pinch of fertilizer in 5 gallons of water. Winter temperatures in the solarium run from 15 C at night to 22-28 C during the day. He does not rest the plant. It is grown in bark in a plastic pot. It flowers on last year's and some previous year's canes.

**March 2009 Show Table
by Iryna Bonya**

Class	First	Second	Third
<i>Class 1</i> Cattleya Alliance	Cattleya jenmanii 'select 4x' x self <i>Michael Hwang</i>		
<i>Class 2</i> Paphiopedilum	Paphiopedilum delenatii x sib <i>Rosanna Li</i>	Phragmipedium Haley Decker <i>Rosanna Li</i>	Phragmipedium Lutz Rolke <i>Anita Kho</i>
<i>Class 3</i> Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance	Gastrochilus bellinus <i>Anita Kho</i>	Vandofinetia Blaupunkt <i>Rosanna Li</i>	Phalaenopsis Orchid World 'Trenton' FCC/AOS <i>Synea Tan</i>
<i>Class 4</i> Oncidium & related	Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' <i>Synea Tan</i>	Ada aurantiaca <i>Anita Kho</i>	
<i>Class 5</i> Cymbidium	Cymbidium Showgirl <i>Manuela Lapuente</i>		
<i>Class 6</i> Dendrobium	Dendrobium Yellow Song 'Canary' John Spears	Dendrobium (White Rabbit?) <i>Mei Leveson</i>	Dendrobium Himezakura 'Sanokku' <i>Anita Kho</i>
<i>Class 7</i> All Others	Clowesia rosea <i>Anita Kho</i>		
<i>Class 9</i> Baskets or Displays	Basket of mini phalaenopsis <i>Henry Glowka</i>		