

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY NEWS

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Membership: Annual Dues \$30 per calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Surcharge \$15 for newsletter by postal service.

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

Annual Show: February 14-15, 2015

Next Meeting Sunday, April 6 , in the Floral Hall at the Toronto Botanical Garden, Sales 12 noon, Cultural Snapshots with Wayne Hingston at 12.15 pm, Watering and Fertilizers(See the schedule elsewhere in the newsletter).

Program at 1 pm Round table discussions and presentations as follows:



1. Repotting and slabbing Doug Kennedy
2. Growing miniatures on the windowsill Erika Lorincz
3. Cattleyas John Vermeer
4. Hobby greenhouse Heinz Ernstberger
5. Kikis and terrariums Henry Glowka
6. Photography Robin McLaughin to be confirmed
7. Flasking John Burns to be confirmed

These presentations will run simultaneously and repeatedly. You should be able to take in three presentations in the time allotted.

2014 Membership on sale at the membership desk, or you can renew at our website www.soos.ca

President's Remarks Welcome Orchid Lovers.

Thank you, members whose last names begin with the letters **E, F and G** for the tasty treats this month. The April treats will be brought in by the members whose last names begin with the letters **H, I, J,** and **K**. Please remember these are to be finger foods.

The next round of shows is upon us and several members have entrusted me with their precious plants. I am looking forward to taking the displays to London (March 15th -16th) and Montreal (March 29th -30th). Thank you to those members who brought their flowers to the meeting, put their names on the plants knowing they'll be parting with them for the next three weeks. I really appreciate it. Please watch next month's newsletter to see how our displays and plants made out.

Thank you, Frank Cox, for generously offering to give up your Easter long weekend to take the SOOS display to Ottawa. Ottawa's show is April 19th and 20th. Frank will be needing flowers for his display. Please start looking over your selections and start grooming these beauties for this show. If you can bring them to the April meeting for Frank, it would help considerably. Immediately following the Ottawa show is the TAOA show here in Toronto. Don Wyatt will be looking for flowers for the SOOS display. This will be the end of the shows until September when we will, once again, be on the move.

At our meeting on April 6th, we will be having round table presentations. At present we have five confirmed presenters and hoping for two more. The following is our confirmed list: repotting/slabbing (Doug Kennedy), growing miniatures on the window sill (Erika Lorincz), cattleyas (John Vermeer), hobby greenhouses (Heinz Ernstberger), and kikis and terrariums (Henry Glowka). You will have the opportunity to visit at least 3 groups during our program.

Remember the culture snapshot schedule will continue on through to June. **Wayne Hingston** will be presenting these on the stage at 12:15 to 1p.m. (prior to the meeting). This month, the snapshot will focus on "Watering and Fertilizers". If there are any new members or returning members who need a refresher, please join us on the stage.

At our last meeting, you heard about placing an order with Kingfisher Orchids. If you are interested, please read further into the newsletter and find out what to do and how to place your order.

On a final note, the growers' tours will be taking place again this year. A definite date will appear in the April newsletter with a list of the growers who have kindly offered to show us their growing facilities. It is a self-guided tour. Please make sure you appear at the growers homes at the scheduled times. Thank you, growers, for your kind offers to show the rest of us your turf.

Laura Liebgott

Questions or comments? Please contact me at:

lliebgott@rogers.com or

905 883-5290

Society plant order from Kingfisher Orchids in British Columbia –

The members of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society are invited to participate in a group plant order from Kingfisher Orchids.

- Located in Deep Cove in North Saanich British Columbia
- Pat van Adrichem and his wife Cathy have been growing orchids for over 30 years
- Breeding and cloning his own orchids for many years
- Currently breeding to create new hybrids in red yellow and art shades
- Specializes in warm growing Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums
- Catalogue available on website www.kingfisherorchids.ca
- Plants to be ordered by each individual by contacting Kingfisher Orchids directly kingfisherorchids@gmail.com or 250-656-3094 (evenings only)
- Payment and shipping made to Yvonne Schreiber
- All orders to be completed by April 22
- All payments due at May 4th S.O.O.S. meeting

- Plants to be picked up at June 8th S.O.O.S. meeting

Peter Lin visit May 3 and 4

Peter Lin will be speaking to us at our May 4 meeting. He will bring plants for sale, but if you wish to pre-

order here is his address: *Peter T. Lin*
micatt99@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members

Wendy Jane Lovegrove and
 Laurie Kathleen Metcalfe,
 Vadim Rosohatski
 Bill and Bonnie Scheel

Revised 2014 schedule for the Cultural Snapshot sessions on stage with Wayne Hingston at 12:15.

Previously, we published March 9th as Insects etc. I will replace it as below:

March 9th Introduction to Orchids and Watering

April 6th Watering and Fertilizers

May 4th Media and Repotting

June 8th Summary and Summering Outdoors

I am hoping that this change better accommodates new members that join at the show.

Coming Events

MARCH

15-16, London OS Show, London, Ontario.
 21-23, Manitoba OS Show, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
 29-30, Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Show, Montreal

APRIL

4-6 GROS Show, Rochester, NY - Judging Friday, April 4

5, Toronto Judging Centre Monthly Judging, 1 pm Toronto Botanical Garden.

6. **SOOS meeting** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.

12-13, Les Orchidophiles de Quebec Show, Saint-Foy, Qc

19 -20 Ottawa OS Show and MtIJC monthly judging

26-27 TAOA show, Toronto

30- May 4, AOS Meeting, Bloomington, Minesota.

MAY

3, Toronto Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, 1 pm Toronto Botanical Garden.

4, **SOOS meeting**, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.

10-11 Saguenay OS show, Saguenay, Quebec.

17-18, Great Lakes J C training seminar, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

24, Montreal Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, Toronto/Montreal semi annual meeting at the Jardin botanique de Montreal.

JUNE

7, Toronto Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, 1 pm Toronto Botanical Garden.

8, **SOOS meeting**, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.

21, Montreal Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal.

JULY

5, Toronto Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, 1 pm Toronto Botanical Garden.

19, Montreal Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal.

AUGUST

9, **Canadian Orchid Congress Annual General Meeting, Toronto.**

10, **SOOS Orchidfest, Toronto Botanical Garden, AOS judging 9:30am, Lunch and talks afternoon.**

16, Montreal Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal.

AOS Judging Results

Please note, all of these awards are provisional until published by the American Orchid Society.

Toronto Judging Centre and RBG Show, March 1, 2014:

Masdevallia caudata 'Ecuagenera' AM/AOS

83points, Conni and Mario Ferrusi

Restrepia elegans, CHM/AOS 85 points, Conni and Mario Ferrusi

Cyrtochilum macranthum 'Marsh Hollow Magic',

AM/AOS 81 points, Conni and Mario Ferrusi.

Masdevallia Afire (welischii x uniflora) 'Warming'

AM/AOS 82 points, Conni and Mario Ferrusi

Masdevallia Prismatic (Kaleidoscope x O'Brien's Passion) 'Conni's Passion' AM/AOS 85 points, Conni and Mario Ferrusi.

Paphiopedilum Yellow Leopard 'Wilson's Choice' HCC/AOS 76 points, Wilson Ng.

Restrepia cirina 'Hill Island' CHM/AOS 82 points, Joyce Medcalf.

Cattarthrophila Japanese Beauty 'Sakura' HCC/AOS 76 points, Sherry and Peter Decyk.

Note! The next judging will be held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, Saturday, April 5. Judges education at 10 am, judging at 1 pm. AOS Judging is a service of the American Orchid Society and is open to all! Bring us your flowering orchids. We need the practice.

Ribbons to plants in the SOOS Display at the SOOS Show (sorry I do not have the owner's names). Exhibit by Don Wyatt.

2nd, Degarmoara Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy'

1st, *Ludisia discolor*.

2nd, *Paphiopedilum niveum*

2nd, Phalaenopsis Hybrid (White)

2nd, Phalaenopsis King's Caroline 'Little Zebra'

3rd, Phalaenopsis Taida Kings Caroline 'Taida Spot Dog'

1st, Phragmipedium Peruflora's Spirit (*kovachii* X Eric Young)

3rd, Vanda Apec Blue

Ribbons to plants in the SOOS exhibit at the Royal Botanical Garden Orchid Show. Exhibit by Joe Madden, Chee Chong and Don Wyatt. 2nd in Orchid societies class

Plants by Jay Norris: 2nd place ribbons; Phalaenopsis Chialin Little Sun, Phalaenopsis Silver Pearl.

Plants by Ingrid Wauro: 2nd place ribbons; Rhyncattleanthe Young-Min Orange 'Golden Satisfaction'; 3rd place Phragmipedium China Dragon.

Plants by Don Wyatt: 1st place; *Paphiopedilum niveum*.

Plants by Synea Tan: 1st place; Phalaenopsis Pirate King; Cymbidium sinense 'Silver Eagle'; Dendrobium Andree Millar, Best Dendrobium. 2nd place; Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga; Brassia Memoria Fritz Boedeker 'Witch Doctor'; 3rd place; Cochlioda Louis Posey. Congratulations and thank you everybody!

Plant of the Month for March 2014



Congratulations to Henry Glowka for his Phalaenopsis Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM-AOS! He explained to us how he got the inflorescences to arch up and over without using ties. When he sees the inflorescence emerging from between the leaves he starts tipping and turning the plant in such a way that the inflorescence will curve the way he wants it to as it tries to bend towards the light. He stops as soon as the buds start to differentiate to make sure they will all face the same way. It sure worked, even if it is labour intensive! His growing area is a north facing window in an apartment building, where he augments the light with overhead lights. With this exposure he never has to worry about the sun cooking or burning his plants.

Phragmipediums by Pat Vuurman, transcribed loosely by Inge Poot, using Ingrid Ostrand's COC slide programme and the Kew Monocot Checklist.



Phragmipedium kovachii 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS AQ+

This genus of South American lady-slipper orchids is seeing a flurry of interest because of the discovery in 2001 of a huge bright magenta species, *Phragmipedium kovachii* that has the promise of revolutionizing hybrids in this genus. How come no one found this huge flower before? Because its habitat in Peru is only accessible via an arduous 14 to 17-hour hike along a treacherous, slippery, wet trail, along a river! In spite of its inaccessibility this site is now denuded of this species. So much for CITES protecting plants in their habitat!

Lots of line breeding as well as hybridizing are taking place with this species, the former to try to select a strain that is easier to grow in cultivation. Its hybrids are much easier to grow than the straight species.

*Phragmipedium*s superficially look a lot like their Asian cousins, the *Paphiopedilums*, but they evolved to adapt to a much wetter habitat and most like more light than most *Paphiopedilums*. Their leaves are always evenly green whereas many *Paphiopedilums* have mottled leaves. *Phragmipedium* leaves also taper towards their tips more gradually than do *Paphiopedilums* and can be spotted that way even when out of bloom.



Phragmipedium schlimii 'Shirley Norman' HCC/AOS AQ+

Most *Phragmipedium* species have greenish flowers with maybe some red-brown shading on the petals. There is one tiny species with white flowers that sport a pink pouch, *Phrag. schlimii* and the recently found variety *fischeri* that supplied some pink colour to the older hybrids. The latest species to be described, *Phragmipedium andreettae*, possibly another variety of *Phrag. schlimii*, is similar to these pink species, but of a more uniform pink and thus adds more uniform pink colour genes to the present hybrid gene pool.

The first great find that proved to be a shot in the arm of the rather ho-hum shades of mostly moss-green with some pink *Phragmipedium* hybrids was the brilliant



Phragmipedium besseae 'Windswept's Tangerine Dream' AM/AOS AQ+

orange-red species *Phragmipedium besseae* and its variety *dalessandroi* and that discovery occurred not so long ago either, in 1981. *Phragmipedium besseae* has been line-bred as well and the plants in cultivation today are far superior to anything found in the wild. The

best plants now are tetraploid, which means they have four copies of each type of chromosome, in other words twice as many as wild forms. It makes the plants and flowers larger, wider and the flowers often more saturated in colour, but slower growing.

-Most *Phragmipedium* species, including the two showy species mentioned above, grow on very steep mountain-sides, usually limestone, cut by rivers and steep road cuts that have **water seeping under them all the time**. Most of these habitats have mosses ferns, grasses and scrub shading the leaves somewhat. So a calcium source is beneficial to most *Phragmipediums*, just as it is for the majority of their Asian cousins, the *Paphiopedilums*.

-The occasional species, such as *Phrag. reticulatum* can tolerate **full sun**.



Phragmipedium caudatum
'Nadine's "'W' AM/AOS AQ+

-Other exceptions to the norm are *Phrag. caudatum* and *Phrag. wallisii* (the latter was considered a variety of *Phrag. caudatum*, but is now called *Phragmipedium warszewiczianum*, while the species up to now called *Phrag. warszewiczianum* is now considered to simply be a dark form of *Phrag. caudatum*....(maybe this is due to Schlechter's vengeful closing of his

herbarium until 50 years had elapsed after his death and just look what a mess it created! He must be chortling in his grave!). Other species in this group and requiring the same culture are *Phrag. lindenii*, *Phrag. exstaminodum* and a species not described until 2004, *Phrag. popowii* from Panama. The name *Phrag. popowii* was described by Jacobson, but the Kew Monocot Checklist considers it a synonym for the earlier name of *Phrag. humboldtii* (as transferred from a different genus

name by Atwood and Dressler). Christenson had also described the same species concept as *Phrag. warszewiczianum*,(compare spelling to above species!) but this too is considered a synonym by the Kew Checklist. Is your head buzzing yet???All of these five species grow on cliff ledges and **do not like to have their feet in standing water. Their pots must have holes in the bottom and no water reservoir. That is, treat them like multifloral Paphiopedilums**. These five species have very long petals and are therefore often used in hybridizing. Because one never knows which parent the hybrid takes after it is best to give the roots of such a plant the choice to either sinking its roots into water or to staying above it. See potting instructions later.



Phragmipedium lindleyanum 'Megan' HCC/AOS AQ+

One other group needs to be mentioned and that is *Phrag. lindleyanum* and its two varieties var. *kaieteurum* and var *sargentianum*. They have paddle shaped ends to their petals. As you would expect some taxonomists consider them separate species, but we won't get into that! All three need it **bright, quite warm, wet and acid**. This group has the only red colours as well as golds that hybridizers had at their disposal before the discovery of *Phrag. besseae* and they are in many hybrids. The variety *sargentianum* also imparts good vigor as well as red tones to the petals.



Phragmipedium pearcei
 'Little Angel' HCC-AOS (AQ+)

-Another section that has a noteworthy habit and habitat are five species with sedge-like foliage, green and/or light brown flowers and usually crimped and twisted petals. They live close to rivers and may be completely

submerged in water during parts of the year. The species are *Phragmipedium caricinum*, *klotzschianum*, *pearcei*, its variety *ecuadoriense*, *richteri* (this species was sold under many names such as *pearcei*, *peruvianum*, *topperianum* and *amazonicum*, so check your plant's Id when such plants flower!) and *tetzlaffianum*. They are used in hybridizing to reduce plant size and give a more compact growing habit. Our speaker recounted an occurrence on two of his visits to Ecuador or Peru, where he and his fellow orchid enthusiasts found a large colony of about 500 plants of *Phrag. pearcei* on a wet gas station island formed by the two lanes of the highway they travelled on. They were charmed by the dozen or more plants that were actually in bloom and of course photographed them extensively. When he stopped by on a subsequent trip, every one of the plants was gone.

-A group of larger growing plants are the "Phrags" with horned or eared pouches. They all have a part of the rim on the side of the pouch flaring out like ears, a character they pass on to their offspring. Many a "large-flowered form" of another group of species was shown to be really a hybrid, because it sported ears when it should not have had any!!! This group of species contains the very widely distributed *Phrag. longifolium*. Not surprisingly, with such a wide distribution the species comes in many varieties and undoubtedly earned many PhDs for new taxonomists elevating them to species status, while others got their PhD's when they reduced them again to varietal status!! This is THE

species for "lumpers" and "splitters" wars! The Eric Young Foundation in Jersey had an absolutely gigantic clone of this species!



Phragmipedium boissierianum 'Green Ghost' AM/AOS AQ+

Other species in this group are *boissierianum*, *hirtzii*, *vittatum* (this species has lovely red-brown colour on pouch and petals), *brasiliense*, *chappadense* and *roethianum*. Another attractive characteristic of this group are their large, persistent flower bracts, on some clones in a rich brown. It makes a tall old flower stem look less bare and gawky.

The culture of the above group fits in with the majority. -The so-called Micropetalum section contains the species with short, but usually wide petals.



Phragmipedium besseae f. *flavum* 'Yellow Vision' AM/AOS AQ+

Phramipedium schlimii was used in hybrids even though the flowers are only a bit over an inch in size. Its white

flowers with a pink pouch and often a pink flush on the petals provided useful genes for colour. Later, the similar *Phrag. fischeri*, *andreettae* and *manzuri* were described, but of course the most famous species of the group is red *Phrag. besseae* and its orange variety *d'alessandroi*. The yellow variety *flavum* is prized for hybridizing as well. Again, the culture of this group is as the majority.

-The now famous and coveted magenta giant, *Phrag. kovachii*, has its own taxonomic section, but as for culture, it needs wet Phalaenopsis conditions until it is of flowering size. And many fervent prayers! Or better yet, stick to its hybrids!

Culture:

Pat gave us a word of warning, that no two growing areas are ever the same, so if what you are doing works well for you, either don't change it or if you must, then try it out on 2-3 plants first before you change your whole collection to the new promising method.

Pat grows his plants under lights. He used to have four eight-foot fluorescents suspended over the growing area, but has replaced them with the much more economical T5 fluorescent lamps. He uses six four-foot lamps and gets excellent growth. The base of his Phragmipedium growing area consists of a reservoir that always contains about an inch of water. Propped up above the water level is egg-crate (this term refers to one cm wide strips of white plastic glued to each other in a cross-hatch pattern, at one cm intervals, leaving one cm square holes. Their usual use is as a screen for light fixtures) to support the pots. High light species and hybrids are in the center, the lower light ones near the edges.

Pat grows his plants semi-hydroponically. For pots, he likes recycling clear one to two liter pop bottles. He cuts the top of the bottle off just at the first indentation, sands the cut edge smooth, then drills two to three holes about ¼" in diameter, into the bottle about one inch from the bottom of the bottle – all on one side of the future pot- so excess water does not spill onto adjacent furniture or nice floor!!

When re-potting Pat places some newspapers onto the work surface and rolls up and disposes the sheet he used for one plant before he starts on the next one.

When a plant is to be repotted, he removes the label to a safe spot, turns the plant upside down, then taps the rim onto the bench to hopefully get the plant to drop out. Only if it will not budge, does he get the scissors

and cut the pot. Then he gently shakes off the old medium.

He fills the pot up to the holes with clay beads. This allows the roots to be either in the water or above it. Then he puts in a single layer of Styrofoam pieces. On top of this he places a thin layer of his potting mix –to hold down the Styrofoam and provide a cushion for the roots.

Next he cleans the plant up by removing dead roots and dead old growths. He sprinkles a bit of rooting hormone (the pink stuff for rooting soft-wood cuttings) on the roots and base of plant. Then he lowers the roots into the pot and twirls the pot slightly to make the roots curl into the pot, but not bend sharply and break.

Then he starts filling the pot with his mix by repeatedly filling some in at the side and tapping the pot to make the medium fall down. He can see through the pot to see how well it is filled. He fills the pot up to the place where the roots emerge from the base of the plant.

He uses pot clips if the plant won't stabilize without them.

He uses a piece of coat hanger with the top bent into a curl as a label holder and renews the label at each repotting- since plastic only lasts so long and "label lost" plants should be avoided at all costs. The label will have the name of the plant and the re-potting date put on it. He places the label on the side the holes are on, so he will always know which side to hold away from areas that should not get wet!

The mix is based on medium coir. The coir (coconut husk pieces) has been soaked and then drained, three times in boiling rain water:

15-20 parts washed medium coir

2 parts medium charcoal (finger-nail size)

3 parts medium Perlite/ Spongerock (finger-nail size)

1 part fine ground baked clay/Turface

A bit of chopped sphagnum

Turface can be bought in hydroponic stores and looks like ground up clay pots. It holds water well, yet lets in air.

Since the clay beads he uses in the pot's water reservoir are hard to get and expensive, he re-uses them after sterilizing them in either Javex-water or by boiling them for 10 minutes in rain water.

The ideal water for this genus is rain water. Pat stores it in recycled cat-litter canisters with lids and allows it to get to room temperature before using it. In the winter when melt-water is the only thing available this is especially important.

Water once per week.

Fertilize three times in a row –weakly- then rinse with clear water the fourth week.

Give a bit more light than for Phalaenopsis and a little less than for Cattleya.

Pat reverses day and night for his plants to take advantage of cheaper electricity at night.

During the plants' night time the temperature is a bit chilly- he needs a sweater- so about 10-15C.

During the plants' day time the temperature is comfortable for him without a sweater – so about 20 C or higher.

For insect control, Patrick uses a recycled Windex bottle with 6 ml of mineral oil-bought in the Drug store- plus a few drops of dishwash detergent as an emulsifier and the rest of the bottle is filled with water.



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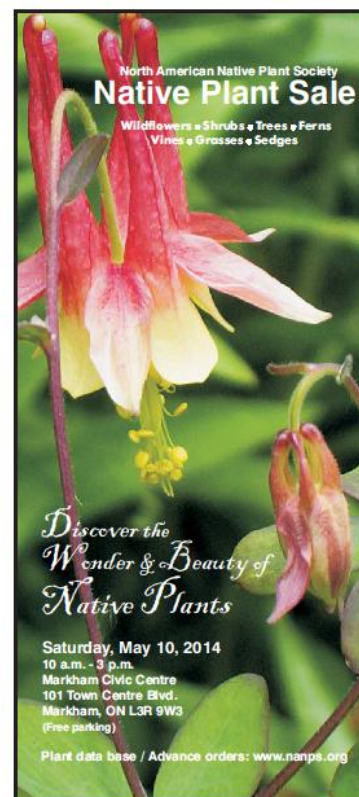
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March 9 Show Table Ribbons

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance			Rhyncattleanthe Al Thanhauser (Rhyncholaeliocattleya Rubescence 'SVO'X Cattlianthe Orchidglade'SVO')
Class 2 Paphiopedilium	Paphiopedilum Iona Erika Lorincz	Phragmipedium Sedenii 'Blush' Anita Kho <i>Paphiopedilum moquettianum</i> Synea Tan	Phragmipedium Acker's Starlight 'Charlie Marcotte' Synea Tan Phragmipedium China Doll Ingrid Wauro
Class 3 Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance	Phalaenopsis Baldan's Kalaidoskope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS Henry Glowka Sarcochilus Aussie Passion Erika Lorincz	Phalaenopsis Pirate King Synea Tan Phalaenopsis A-L John Spears <i>Chiloschista viridiflava</i> Anita Kho	Phalaenopsis Canary John Spears <i>Chiloschista lunifera</i> Anita Kho
Class 4 Oncidium and related		<i>Trichocentrun cebolleta</i> Henry Glowka	
Class 5 Cymbideae	<i>Galeandra stangeana</i> Anita Kho		<i>Galeandra chapadensis</i> Anita Kho
Class 7 All Others			Catasetum Grace Dunn Joe O'Regan