

October 2018

Newsletter of the Spokane Orchid Society

established 1978

member American Orchid Society

www.SpokaneOrchidSociety.org

President – Jim Pearce
V. President – Erin Nelson
Secretary – Christeen Olson
Treasurer – Betty Smith-Lambert
Librarian/Historian – Ken Scott

AOS Representative – Harvey Singleton
Show Chairman – Candace Parr
Member at Large – Ramona VanVeegaete
Member at Large-Justene Duebel
Past President – Michele Bouronville



Newsletter Editor's Message

(Jim is busy dealing with the Tri-Cities Orchid Society Show and Sale and was unable to provide a message by our printing deadline [wow, that guy works hard!!!] So, as your new Newsletter Editor/Librarian, I'm taking this spot.)

So, here's my first attempt at the newsletter. It's nothing special, just a last minute quickie of a job. I'm looking for input from members on what you'd like to see, articles/info that you can provide to share with the Society, or something you'd like to know about that I can look for. Photos of where/how you grow your plants and pictures of something in bloom (with genus/species/hybrid name) are welcome.

Also, a bit of information about the library: Those "DVDs" that no one could watch turned out to be PowerPoint presentations, not videos. However, I have found out how to convert the presentations to videos and with any luck I will have them burned to DVD by the October meeting. Then you'll have the option of watching them on your TV or you can watch the presentation on the original disks on your computer. Lots of good information on them, I'm sure.



IT'S OUR ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION!!

If you haven't participated before, each member provides donations from their collection to be auctioned at that meeting.

Once again we are pleased to have Roger Nelson as our auctioneer!!

This is a great time to get rid of those orchids you don't want or those which are having a difficult time in your growing environment, AND you can purchase new orchids for your collections at INCREDIBLE PRICES!!

This is our largest money maker of the year, so come out and have a great time.

So, please come and be a part of our wonderful Orchid Auction! Yes, Friends are invited! The money goes towards The Annual Orchid Show and to help pay for our speakers and the like. PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING:

A.) a smile;

B.) your money in the form of cash, checks, saving bonds, gold nuggets or bouillon (a certified precious metals assayer's evaluation is required with nuggets or bouillon);

C.) an orchid or many orchids (optional) from any country or greenhouse from around the world;

D.) names of the orchids are highly recommended or at least a description of the flower (I called mine Fred so that name's already taken);

E.) is for Ecstatic, Elated, Exceptional, Epiphyte!

F.) and please remember to THANK Mr. Nelson! (Roger) for once again volunteering to be our wonderful auctioneer!

There will be NO SHOW AND TELL and NO OTHER ORCHIDS FOR SALE

Calendar

October 6-7 Tri-Cities Orchid Society Show and Sale

(if you're in the area or feel like driving down there, call Jim at 509-299-5152 for location and directions.)

October 10 General meeting and *Annual Orchid Auction!!!!*

November 3-4 Seattle Orchid Show

November 13 General meeting and Elections

December 9 Christmas Party at a secret location that we will reveal as soon as we know where it is!

March 29-30, 2019 Annual Show and Sale at SCC

Spokane County Fair Display

We had a wonderful display for the Fair. Thanks go to **Ken** and the many volunteers who loaned plants and helped set up, staff the tables to answer questions, and helped take everything down.



Preparing Your Plants for Show or for AOS Judging

Planning well ahead of time is the best way to make showing your plants stress-free. The first step is to keep good records of when your plants bloom so that you will be able to begin work on their grooming display as soon as the spike starts to develop.

General maintenance of your plants includes basic clean-up whenever you re-pot. This entails cleaning off all dead growths, trimming damaged leaves, removing dust and spray build-up on leaves, and removing old sheaths around pseudobulbs. Not only does this improve the appearance of the plant, but it ensures that bugs are not hiding away in the foliage.

Leaf cleaning: Wash dust and salts off with warm water. If the leaves have calcium deposits, use a weak vinegar solution to remove them. If you want to add a little shine, use milk on a soft piece of cloth to polish the leaves. Artificial leaf-shine products usually look unnatural and are not recommended. If the leaves have dead tips then cut the damaged areas off, trying to maintain the natural shape of the leaf.

When you place the cleaned plant in the pot, you will stake new emerging growths so that new roots will not be damaged. Very often this stake will also serve as a support for the flower spike. By staking new growths you ensure that leaves receive equal exposure to light, are separated to allow for good air circulation and show the plant to its best advantage. Remember to replace the label in the pot. Some growers recommend using two identical labels, burying one in the medium, so that if the one that is exposed to the sunlight deteriorates, you will not lose the information.

As soon as an inflorescence emerges, insert a stake nearby if one is not already available. Use the thinnest, least conspicuous stake that will properly support the growth and use a minimum of twist-tie material. Securing the spike as it extends allows you to direct the growth in a pleasing manner so that the flowers will be above the foliage and not interfering with other

flowers or leaves. If the inflorescence holds a cluster of flowers it is perfectly fine for you to separate the individual flowers using tufts of cotton wool. Once the flowers have opened fully, remove the cotton carefully and the flowers should remain in place.

Once the buds have started to form on a Phalaenopsis, it is very important that you keep the plant in the same position as regards to the light source. Changing the position of the pot will force the buds to follow the light and will spoil the presentation of the flowers.

Most show schedules have classes for "Best Grown" plant in each group of classes. Also, AOS judging has special awards for plants that are exceptionally well-grown. Yet, we often see plants that have robust growth and are large and thriving specimens we cannot consider for these awards simply because of poor grooming. Routine maintenance improves the odds that your plants will be given the attention they deserve when we are making our selection for this type of award.

Have a Happy HOWL-O-Ween!

**When Orchids
come to visit...**



*"Would someone please bring
me a clean towel?"*