

Newsletter of the Spokane Orchid Society

February 2017

www.SpokaneOrchidSociety.org

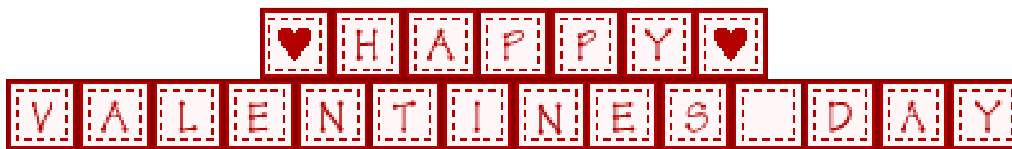


February Events

February 8 – Monthly Meeting 7pm

February 22-26 – NW Flower and Garden Show - Seattle

February 24-26 – Pacific Orchid Exposition - San Francisco



Time to get ready for our **Annual Show and Sale**. It's happening in less than 2 months and it's not too early to get started. Things you can do now:

1. Start staking those spikes emerging on Phals, Paphs, Oncidiums, and others.
2. For Phals especially, don't change the direction the flower spike is pointing.
3. Look for and get rid of "BUGS" under leaves and on flowers (it's embarrassing to find them at the show – I KNOW!).
4. Begin cleaning your plant leaves with cotton swabs using lemon juice or milk solutions. This will clean leaves of calcium deposits and let them shine. **DO NOT** use a leaf shine product!

Light Requirement Chart

To grow and bloom properly:

	<u>Low end</u>	<u>High end</u>
• Low light orchids need	1,000 fc	1,500 fc
• Moderate light orchids need	1,500 fc	3,000 fc
• High light orchids need	3,000 fc	4,500 fc.

Low light orchids -on an east windowsill - or within 1 foot of a west windowsill
-or within 2 feet of a south windowsill
-or within 1 foot of a south windowsill if it is shaded

Medium light orchids -on a west windowsill - or within a foot of a south windowsill

High light orchids -on the windowsill or within a foot of a south windowsill,
(as long as they do not get direct sun in the middle of the day).

The book All About Orchids published by Ortho Books has a very clear chart about light requirements of orchids.

FEBRUARY REFRESHMENTS

CANDACE & ERIN



Here is a picture of my **Blc. Mem. Grant Eichler "Lennette"**. It was in bloom for the last meeting, but I didn't want to take a chance of freezing or crushing it, so left it at home. It has been in bloom over three weeks and is still going strong. The flowers are 6-3/8" across and are very fragrant, mostly in the morning. I have tried to bloom this plant for some time, but previous sheaths simply formed and dried up. This time, in late October I put the plant in the coldest part of the greenhouse, threatened it, and continued normal winter watering. I also applied time release fertilizer during the spring and summer. The growing medium is 75% pumice/25% bark in an 11" clay pot.

Harvey

HOT NOTES!



2017 SHOW AND SALE

Mark your calendars for our 2017 Annual Show and Sale, April 1/2. Set Up begins Wednesday, March 29 and Registration is Friday, March 31 EVERYONE needs to be there for Judging from 8-12 Saturday morning, then plan on spending the weekend at the show, helping in various positions. We need as many members present as possible!

Show *Sign Up Sheets* will be out at the next two meetings. Start thinking about where and when you will be working. We will have a potluck lunch on Saturday where our members bring their favorite dishes. These are the positions in which you can work:

Front Welcome Desk
Plant Hotel
Registration
Setup



FOR SALE

Premixed potting medium:
\$5/1 gallon bag \$8/2 gallon bag

VF-11 fertilizer - \$14/gal

Contact Jim if you want some.

DUES ARE DUE

\$20/family

If dues are not paid by the February meeting, you will be dropped from our roster.

Don't lose out on a wonderful year of orchid culture, tours, and speakers, not to mention great prices on orchids!



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

About a year ago we either purchased or were given orchid community pots to be divided and given to our members.

They are ready !!

So, we will divide them and repot them at the meeting. We need you to bring 1"-2" pots for these small orchids. You will need 2 pots. We will furnish the bark. If you can't find pots, we will have a few for you.

Pictures and names follow.



Phal Sogo Beach (Leopard Prince x Minho Prince)



Phal Sogo Yukidian



C. forbesii

x



C. purpurata

C. Reginae

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

I want your pics for the newsletter. Send them to Jim at jimp@SpokaneOrchidSociety.org

It's not too early to start thinking show. Get Ready - you and your orchids.

Bring your Show 'n Tell orchids

We're still looking for ideas for mini-sessions. So far we have:

- ✦ Wine and Cheese get together (with orchids)*
- ✦ Progressive desserts at member growing areas*
- ✦ Re-potting*
- ✦ Wild orchid tour*

-Jim



AOS CORNER

The American Orchid Society will have the following webinars on Feb 9/21:

Thursday, February 9, 2017 @ 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM PST: Join Nile Dusdieker as he chronicles a tour through Southern Brazil looking for orchids, with Francisco Miranda and 8 of his closes orchid friends.

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 @ 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM PST: "Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton". Ron McHatton, the AOS Director of Education, will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Go to the AOS website by February 19 to send questions.

Can't make the live webinars? The webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience. AOS membership is required to some webinars.

The Feb 21 Greenhouse Chat is open to everyone.

Not an AOS member? Get with a friend who is. Or, join AOS for \$65 per year. That's just \$5.42 per month. It gives you access to a phenomenal database, and you will receive your monthly copy of the best orchid magazine in the world in premium, four color glossy print, also, view as an e-publication.

Spokane Orchid Society
Executive Board Meeting
Home of Pat Lauber
Jan. 25, 2017

Present: Michele Bournonville, Patricia Lauber, Jim Pearce, Jean Kelley, Carol Peterson, Erin Nelson, Harvey Singleton, Betty Smith-Lambert, Laurie Duff-Robertson, Candace Parr, and Alan Alexander

Jim Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:17. An agenda was passed out.

Membership – individuals are needed to greet new members, get names on the roster, explain display tables, library, plants for sale, etc.

2017 donations were made to Pacific NW Judging center \$100, OrchidSpecies.com \$100, Troy Meyers Conservatory \$100, and Friends of Manito \$50.

Raffle tickets – Michele B. volunteered to sell raffle tickets at meetings (when she is there) and at the Orchid Show.

2017 Budget was reviewed. New expense will be a projector bulb. Last year's finances need to be audited. Laima Swanson will be asked; Jean will help.

Spokane Fair was discussed. Joan Durkoop will chair Fair committee. We will have an exhibit.

Programs:

Feb. - Homegrown session – Jim and Laurie will bring plants to divide.

March - Show prep and contest plants. Two awards for best grown plants; one award for worst.

April – “Basic orchid care” by Erin. Post show comments. May have acquired new members.

May – Scott Rettenmund – “Backyard Orchids”

June – John Stubbing from Clown Alley Orchids “Oncidiums

June - Botanica may be having an orchid show this year instead of the picnic.

July – Homegrown session – possibly an AOS seminar or a video webinar

Aug – Picnic - place to be determined – possible sites Harvey's, Jim's, Louise's

Sept – Charles Wilson from Seattle “Bulbophyllums”

Oct. – Auction

Nov - Elections, DVD

Dec - Christmas party – possibly at Ann's

Erin will find speakers for 2018.

Roster – Members will be dropped if dues aren't paid by end of Feb.

Use SOS email to keep all members informed. Concerns are viewed by all and retained.

Checking account has names of John Phillips and Jean. Betty will be added.

Mini session ideas – wine & cheese party, visiting members' greenhouses, repotting & native plant hike.

Orchid Show April 1-2 Suggestions: add class of miniature Vandas and artistic arrangements; provide prepaid passes for family and friends; avoid crowding of judging groups by not having same species judged at the same time. Yes, we should charge to repot and encourage participants to purchase pots and bark from our vendors. Volunteers needed to put up show flyers. Try to advertise in printed media

Meeting adjourned at 10:10.

Respectfully submitted Christeen Olson, secretary

GROWING SEMI-HYDROPONICALLY by Betty Wise

SCWOS (now known as the Tri-Cities Orchid Society)

I have been growing orchids of all kinds semi-hydroponically for over 13 years. I have been asked by several members to share some of what I have learned. So here goes...

When I first read about semi-hydroponic growing I was intrigued. I had killed a number of plants by over or under watering and I was not happy about the way some were growing in my basement growing area. But I made a fatal error at the beginning. I ordered some Prime Agra (clay pellets) from First Rays Orchids along with some MSU Fertilizer and growing pots. I believe the supplies came in January. So of course, anxious that I was, I immediately washed and soaked my pellets and several days later I repotted several orchids. Little did I know, I was killing my plants. I am not a biologist but I have learned a few things that may help you if you should decide to try this method.

1. Make sure to train your plants to the new medium. In the case of Cattleyas or the like, look for new roots about 1 inch long and do not repot unless you have them.
2. I grow lots of Phragmipediums and Paphiopedilums so I train these by sitting the pot with bark in a tray of water and do this for about 6 weeks. I call the roots that emerge, water roots although that is just my wording. I think these roots become accustomed to being wetter and therefore take to the new wetter environment.
3. I always wash the pellets well and then soak them in fertilizer and Epsom salts infused water. I also use some rooting liquid used for orchids. I try to soak the pellets for at least 24 hours or more.
4. I have used many types of fertilizer but am going back to my old standby..Michigan State University fertilizer for well water. It seems to produce the most robust plants in my greenhouse.
5. If you are interested in trying this I strongly urge you to read more on this growing method by going to First Rays Orchids on the internet and reading all the information on Semi-Hydroponics.

Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have and I will try to help you any way I can. In the meantime, I am going out to the greenhouse to water. You can't overwater with semi hydro, so I can water almost every day and not kill my plants by overwatering. It sure made life easier for me.

Ask me about growing new roots on old backbulbs. I have several jars of green water with cattleyas growing beautiful roots in the jar.

Betty Wise

THANKS BETTY !!