



THE WINDSOR ORCHID SOCIETY

La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor

Page 1

Congratulations WOS/SOW on your 37th year of service to orchid enthusiasts.

Visit us on the web at: www.windsororchidsociety.ca

No.7 2021/2022

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 24, 2022 Time: 1:00 p.m.

*****NOTE TIME CHANGE *****

Location: Online Zoom meeting



Topic: Sobralias – The Exotic Ephemerals! Sobralias are exotic flowers that are often referred to as Cattleya like and quite exquisite. The flowers typical last a short time but the beauty of these wonderful flowers make up for their ephemeral nature. This presentation will feature lots of information and stunning pictures of many species and hybrids and outline the culture requirements.

Speaker: Deb Boersma

Deb is a recently retired Chemistry teacher from St. Clair College in Windsor, Ontario. She has been growing orchids for 30 years and started by growing under lights and then in a sunroom but in 2014 she built a greenhouse to house her growing collection. She has about 500 orchids including Cattleyas, Sobralias, Paphiopedilums, Tolumnias and several other miscellaneous genera. She is the President of the Windsor Orchid Society and is a second- year student in the AOS judging program at the Great Lakes Judging Center, Ann Arbor. She has received several AOS quality awards, Best in Class awards and was the recipient of the Orchid Digest Diamond Award in 2016.

The Windsor Orchid Society continues to meet from September to May (excluding December) on the last Sunday of each month. Occasionally meetings are re-scheduled when we are participating at Orchid Shows that are scheduled for the same weekend as the General meeting or if the regular meeting date falls on a holiday. Watch the Newsletter and website announcements for these changes. During the pandemic, meetings are held virtually through Zoom. Contact windsororchidsociety@gmail.com to participate if you do not receive an invitation.

Executive Members

President: Deb Boersma 519 257-8009 debul8ter@outlook.com
Vice-President Ed Cott 519 819-4611 laelia@aol.com
Secretary Michelle Paterson
519 984-3415 paulandmichellepaterson@gmail.com
Assistant Secretary Felicia Nicolaiciuc-Cheng
519 991-2679 fnicolaiciuccheng@yahoo.com
Treasurer Kathleen Fekete 519 734-6251 kandmfekete@gmail.com
Past-President Ed Cott 519 819-4611 laelia@aol.com

Society Representatives

COC Rep.: Adele Beitler
AOS Rep.: Ed Cott
MAOC Rep.: Doris Asher

Committee

Archives: Eunice Bragg
Budget: Ed Cott – Kathleen Fekete
Conservation: Open

Committee Appointments

Fund-raising: Open
Hospitality: Deb Boersma

Library: Open
ZOOM Administrator: Adele Beitler
Membership: Ed Cott/Kathleen Fekete
Newsletter: Deb Boersma
Photographer: Open
Program: Ed Cott
Publicity: Deb Boersma
Raffles & Prizes: Matt Fekete
Orders / Supplies: Ed Cott
Website: Ed Cott/Deb Boersma

Appointments

Welcoming: Renee Gignac
Winter Social: Open
Webmaster: Ed Cott/Deb Boersma

Orchid Supplies: Potting mix, Physan, sphagnum, pots, fertilizer, totes, etc., are available for safe delivery/pick up. Special request? Contact our Special Orders and Supplies Committee Chair – Ed Cott (laelia@aol.com). Supplies can also be ordered through the website.



President's Message

I had the opportunity to attend the American Orchid Society Centennial Celebration in Coral Gables, Florida this past week and judge orchids with AOS judges from all other Canada and the United States. It was a great experience, I enjoyed it immensely and saw some spectacular Florida grown orchids! I also attended a number of presentations that outlined the on-going efforts to conserve and protect orchids and their habitats all around the world. It is a sad reality that our over population, orchid poaching and climate change are decimating orchids and their habitats and it is up to us as stewards of these beautiful plants to educate the public and support conservation efforts. The WOS has a mandate to support conservation; however, we are falling short in this area as we do not presently have someone in the role of Conservation Chair. This is an important role that does not require an enormous amount of work, the main activity would be to fundraise so that funds can be donated to conservation organizations. Please think about considering this position and help preserve the beauty of our natural environment.



Ghost Orchid at Fairchilds Botanical Gardens.



Orchid growing on trees at hotel.



Plants submitted for judging.





Remembering Norma Viol



member of the Windsor Orchid Society and contributed immensely to the society over the years. She was a passionate gardener and orchid enthusiast, winning many awards for her orchid culture. Norma will be remembered for her warm smile and friendliness.

It is with heavy heart that I announce the passing of Norma Viol on March 28, 2022. Norma was a long-standing



WOS Elections May Meeting!!!



We need your help! There are still open positions!!! Please consider stepping up and helping out, the more volunteers there are the more distributed the workload is resulting in less time and work for all involved. We are not asking to commit your lives to the cause, only a few hours a month.

Please submit nominations for positions in writing to Michelle Paterson, Society Secretary and she will create the voting slate.

Remember that my term as President is over in May and we need some nominations for this position.

Positions: President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer.

Non Voting Positions: Library
Photographer
Conservation



Please help support the WOS Bizarre Bazaar



It is time to examine your orchid collection and make note of any orchids you might want to divide, repot and donate to the auction. This is always a fun filled event with our in-house auctioneer Mr. Cott and the bidding wars that erupt. Please bring any items, plants, books or anything worthy of donating to the May meeting as we are planning on an in person meeting. If you are donating plants please let me know the names prior to the meeting so that I can provide pictures to display during the auction.

March Meeting



Wendy has a great sense for adventure as she explores the sloughs of Florida in search of ghost orchids for the purpose of research, protection and conservation. If you missed this presentation, be sure to check it out using on the WOS YouTube link.

Links that Wendy provided in her Ghost Orchid presentation:

<http://angraecums.blogspot.com/search/label/Dendrophyllax%20lindenii>

<http://www.finerareprints.com/jean-jules-linden-antique-prints>

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Fakahatchee-Strand>

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/science-conservation-/the-million-orchid-project>

<http://orchidswamp.org>



Upcoming Events

FREE EVENT Great Lakes Judging Center Educational Seminar

EXPLORING PHALAENOPSIS
A webinar presented by Great Lakes Judging Center

featuring Norman Fang, Norman's Orchids on
"New Color Forms of Phalaenopsis Species"

Other featured speakers & topics to be announced soon

Saturday June 18, 2022 10:00 to 12:00 EDT
Live ADS Judging in Michigan (location TBD) Sat 1 PM EDT

Sunday June 19, 2022 12:00 to 3:00 EDT

Watch for details and signup information

Contact GLJC.JUDGES@GMAIL.COM for details.

The Great Lakes Judging Center hosts an annual educational symposium featuring a different alliance each year. This year the topic is *Phalaenopsis* and there will be a number of presenters including well known Phalaenopsis hybridizer Norman Fang. It is free, why not take advantage of this great opportunity. Sit back, relax and enjoy!

Cloud's Orchids Group Order

Cloud's Orchids is offering the WOS an opportunity to place a group order from their spring catalogue, a great opportunity to obtain some orchids at great prices. When you order please select the 'Windsor WOS group order'. Cloud's will deliver plants to London and arrangements will be made to get plants to members

Welcome to
Cloud's Orchids
quality plants at great prices !!!

at a reasonable fee. The catalogue is now available on their website:

cloudsorchids.com

The deadline for orders is April 30th.

Let's help support out local vendor.

Canadian Orchid Congress Calendar Photo Contest

Just a reminder that the COC is presently having a photo contest. Please submit orchid pictures to [instagram@canadianorchidcongress](https://www.instagram.com/canadianorchidcongress) or the COC Facebook group. Make sure you include photographer and orchid information with the photos.



WOS Members Facebook or Email Posts



NOID mini-Phalaenopsis

Grower: Krystyna Guillas



Epi. Rene Marques x Rth. Free Spirit

Grower: Michelle Provost-Paterson



Cattleya Trick or Treat 'Orange Beauty'

Grower: Jeannie Gascoigne



Zoom Meeting Information

Please check your email for Zoom meeting invites. If you have registered to attend the Zoom WOS online presentation on 'Sobralias-The Exotic Ephemerals' by Deb Boersma Sunday, April 24th, you will receive an email on Thursday, April 21st with a Zoom meeting link. A reminder email will be sent on Saturday, April 23rd.



Please do not share this link with anyone as the number of participants is limited and unregistered persons will not be admitted to the meeting.

If you do not find the email with the meeting link in your mailbox, be sure to check the spam/junk folder.

Meeting registration requests can be made by sending a message to windsororchidsociety@gmail.com up until 11 am Sunday, April 24th, ☁ or until the participant limit is met.

As all participants will be placed in a *waiting room* when joining the meeting and will be admitted one by one. **The time for the meeting is set for 12:30 pm although the actual meeting will start at 1:00 pm.** Kindly plan to join the meeting before the rush. See you then.

WOS YouTube Channel

Meeting links for the recorded meeting programs will be provided in the newsletters. If you miss a meeting, please follow the WOS YouTube link that will be provided to watch the meeting at your leisure.



November meeting Speaker Tom Mirenda <https://youtu.be/LGVwsUpaayw>

January meeting Speaker Jeannie Kaeding <https://youtu.be/1C6gSfqY-KY>

February meeting Speaker Sarah Hurdel <https://youtu.be/Uk7noCiNiWw>

March meeting Speaker Wendy Mazuk <https://youtu.be/OHnwnpchpCc>



Windsor Orchid Society 2021-2022 Programming Guide! - mark your calendar


Date	Speaker/ Event	Topic/Location	Plants for Sale?
Apr 24	WOS Monthly Meeting	Deb Boersma Sobralias The Exotic Ephemeral	no
May 29	WOS Annual Business Meeting	Bizarre Bazaar Auction/Elections Gethsemane Lutheran Church (tentative)	yes
June 18/19	Great Lakes Judging Center Education Seminar	All Things Phalaenopsis Zoom Norman Fang and various speakers	no

Memberships are NOW WELL PAST DUE for 2021/2022!!

Send your contact information, including mailing address, phone # and e-mail address) along with payment to:

The Windsor Orchid Society, C/O Kathleen Fekete, 1340 Laurier Drive., La Salle, Ontario. N9J1N3 or e-mail her kandmfekete@gmail.com

Annual Dues are \$20.00 single and \$25.00 family/joint membership.

Find this orchid symbol  hidden somewhere in this newsletter and win a **small bag of potting media**. The first person to email Deb at debul8ter@outlook.com with the correct location and page number will win the ticket. Good luck and make sure you read the whole newsletter!!



Feature Article

Extracted from AOSforum.org

Those Lousy Little Suckers!

The most commonly encountered insect pests, aphids and mealybugs, are by no means the most troublesome. So, we will begin with the insects that are easiest to deal with.



Aphids, (shown at left) also commonly called plant lice, cause damage to orchid plants and flowers by sucking fluids from them. So, in effect, your orchid has to share it's food and water with the aphids. These insects are usually less than 1/8 inch long, greenish white or black. Aphids have soft, pear-shaped bodies, long legs, antennae, and sucking mouthparts to feed on plant juices. Most are wingless, but winged forms can migrate between plants when a colony becomes crowded. The adult female aphid gives birth to between 60 and 100 female nymphs every day for a period of 20 to 30 days. These nymphs immediately start to feed and grow, molting several times to mature to an adult female capable of reproducing within seven to ten days, all without maturing. So, you can see that within a few days, thousands of aphids can be born. The effects of a large quantity of sucking insects can deform new growths, damage or abort flowers, and cause dehydration and a resulting decline in plant health.

Mealybugs (right) are more closely related to scale and create the same kind of problems as aphids by feeding on plants juices. Unlike scale however, both juveniles and adults are mobile and can easily move from plant to plant. The complete life cycle takes six weeks to two months depending on the species and the environmental conditions, and females can lay 300-600 eggs. Like aphids, mealybugs can reproduce at a prodigious rate if not controlled early on. Mealybugs are small, a little over a sixteenth of an inch (2-4mm), and covered in a whitish waxy secretion that gives them a fuzzy appearance. Although they are small, they are easy to spot because by the time you discover mealybugs, there are usually more than one. Although the waxy secretion offers these insects some degree of protection, they are not nearly as formidable as the armored scales. Both aphids and mealybugs are capable of producing female-only generations, hastening the growth of a colony.



These pests can create additional problems that may end up being worse than the damage directly caused by feeding. Aphids and mealybugs excrete large amounts of honeydew as they feed making them attractive to ants. The ants actually "farm" them for this sweet substance and can contribute to spreading the pests to other plants nearby. This honeydew provides an excellent breeding ground for sooty mold. Additionally, all three sucking insects covered here can act as a vector for spreading diseases from plant to plant.



Thrips can destroy flowers overnight with their rasping mouth parts.

Thrips are the final insect to be covered here and to me, are the most insidious. Thrips are small, very small, and therefore difficult to detect. Usually, you see the damage before the thrip. Although thrips can and do cause damage to orchid plants, their preferred feeding ground is flowers and buds. There is nothing more heartbreaking than waiting a whole year for that favorite orchid to bloom, and find out that it has been defaced by thrips. They can even get between the folds of a just-opened bud and cause scarring or bud blast. As if they weren't hard enough to see, thrips can move quickly when disturbed and will hide under folds in the lip or where the petals and sepals meet. Although the insects have wings, being so tiny, they may just as frequently be dispersed by wind. One piece of common advice for managing thrips is to eliminate known host plants from around the orchid growing area. Here in Florida, gardenia is notorious for harboring thrips and orchid hobbyists are often advised to move or spray their gardenia bushes. Other host plants are Ficus benjamina, camellia and magnolia.



Thrips are small, elongate insects ranging from 1/25 to 1/8 inch in length. They feed by puncturing the plant cells with their rasping-sucking mouthparts and withdrawing cell sap. This pest usually appears in 3-4 random cycles throughout the year. There do not seem to be any environmental conditions that indicate a thrip outbreak, although a dry warm autumn usually brings one. They can be a problem for 1-3 weeks and then not appear again for several months.

For eliminating these pests, first we will cover the most benign home remedies. These safe remedies will work, but require dedicated applications to effect control...once is not enough. For small, early outbreaks of aphids, scale or mealybugs, a safe and effective treatment is castille-peppermint soap used at a rate of 1tsp. per quart of water. The liquid soap (Dr. Bronner's or generic) can be found at natural

food and some grocery stores. We keep a one-quart handsprayer of the solution in the greenhouse for zapping pests when we see them. You can set the sprayer on "stream" and wash away a small colony of mealybugs, or on "spray" to destroy aphids. You can also use household liquid soap at the same dilution but peppermint oil adds to the effectiveness. 70% isopropyl rubbing alcohol will also work. We take the sprayer out of a new empty hand sprayer and insert it into a bottle of rubbing alcohol and use it to spray just about any insect pest. A longtime popular home remedy for insect pests is one cup of Formula 409 cleaner, one cup of 70% isopropyl rubbing alcohol to two cups of water. These home remedies are good safe treatments for people who grow their orchids in their homes, but they need to be applied every other day until the problem is under control.

Insecticidal soaps (Safer's) and horticultural oils (Volck, Neem Oil) are useful against both aphids and mealybugs as well as other insect pests that feed on orchids. One thing to remember about using them is that they can cause damage to orchids if applied when the ambient air temperature is much above 80° F, although the soap is less likely to. Follow label instructions carefully and spray late in the day when temperatures are set to decline.

General purpose insecticides such as Sevin WP and Malathion will also control both scale and mealybugs as well as thrips, but many growers prefer Orthene 75% WP and it is also the preferred treatment for thrips.

You can mix 1/4 tsp. to a quart of water in a handsprayer and use it for all three pests. Do not use any spreader-sticker or soap if you intend to spray flowers or buds for thrips. During a thrip outbreak, we keep a couple of handsprayers with Orthene in the shadehouse and spray buds and flowers every couple days.

*Greg Allikas
August 2010*