



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

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

No.5 2021/2022

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 27, 2022 Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

Location: Online Zoom meeting



Topic: Habenaria - Best in Show! Learn about these often misunderstood, yet surprisingly easy to grow terrestrial orchids. Our speaker provides an introduction to Habenaria species, hybrids and expert advice on how to grow them. Greenhouse not required!

Speaker: Sarah Hurdel Sarah is a grower, exhibitor, and accredited AOS Judge. She currently maintains a collection of over 600 orchids under lights in her basement and has received AOS award recognition for culture, flower quality, and exhibit design. Her presentations combine her love of orchids, photography, and illustration with experienced advice and a sense of humor. She also has a Facebook Blog Page - Something About Orchids - facebook.com/askmeaboutmyplants

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 Nicolaiuc-Cheng	519 991-2679	fnicolaiuccheng@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

As I write this letter Windsor Essex is under a winter storm warning alert, the wind is howling and the snow is coming down. It is a good thing that we all have our orchids to tend to during these short deary winter days, it helps us keep our sanity. The days are getting a little longer and if Wiarion Willie is correct then we will have an early spring. I think I'll go with his prediction even though he appears to be out-numbered by his ground hog cousins in other parts of the country. One thing we can be sure of is that spring always come just the sooner the better.

With spring comes the elections and our small group of society members are always helpful and supportive but please consider becoming part of the Executives. It is rewarding and new people with new ideas and energy are always welcome. Spring usually also means field trips, Summerfest and outdoor orchid society functions. Of course, these activities have been non existent with the pandemic but maybe this spring and summer we will be able to get out and enjoy some of these activities again. Until that time we will continue with our monthly Zoom meetings and our guest speaker this month is Sarah Hurdel speaking about Habenarias. These are terrestrial orchids and grow from tuberoids, so if you want to try something completely different you won't want to miss her presentation.

WOS Elections



May is around the corner, and that means Executive Election time again.

All of the positions are open for nominations and the elections are held during the Annual Meeting in May. If you would like to nominate someone for an Executive position, submit it in writing to Michelle Paterson, Society Secretary and she will create the voting slate. If you are presently in an Executive position please consider allowing your name to stand, if so please let Michelle know. The position of President is open as the constitution requires a new President be elected every two years. PLEASE consider who you might want to nominate for this position and discuss with your nominee prior to bringing their name forward to Michelle, we REALLY need someone to take the reigns as Ed and Deb have rotated in this position for a number of years. There are a few non voting positions that need to be filled, perhaps consider helping out in this regard.

Positions: President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer.

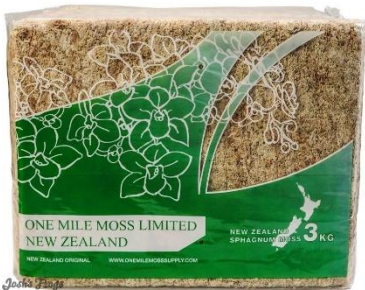
Non Voting Positions: Library
Photographer
Conservation



New Zealand Sphagnum (NZS) Scarcity

NZS has become hard to find. Many believe it is related to the covid-19 lockdown and not some kind of new import restriction. An American importer was asked, and this was their reply: “*With everything shutting down – there are no containers on the water.*” There is also reason to believe that aggressive harvesting of this natural resource has severely impacted the available supply.

The WOS has procured some of the finest quality moss through Crystal Star Orchids. This moss is long fibre and probably the best quality I have ever used. It originates from Japan where the moss is used in the culture of the revered *Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata*.



Moss is sold in blocks of 150g and is \$30 per block. Quantities are limited. If you are interested in buying some from the WOS supply store, contact Ed (laelia@aol.com) to reserve yours and make arrangements for curbside delivery/pickup.

January Meeting

Tolumnia Volcano Wave



Jeanne Kaeding, an AOS judge and Tolumnia hybridizer presented information on Tolumnia species, culture and her hybridization program. It is very interesting to see the wide variety of forms and colors of the clones that all originate from the same parents. Who would have thought that the variation would be that extensive but then we don't all look the same as all our siblings either, how boring would that be?

This is a picture of an awarded Tolumnia hybrid from the AOS data base.

Photo credit: Bryan Ramsey



Easter Chocolate Fundraiser



Back By Popular Demand!!

The Easter Chocolate fundraiser is well on its' way. There are many great options including white, dark, milk chocolate items, gift bag, sugar free items and an all-time favorite, Sweet Georgia Browns. Grab an Easter tin with mixed chocolates for a neighbor, a friend, a hostess gift or just to enjoy for yourself and help support the society. Order deadline March 13th!

Follow the link below to put in your online order. <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1154140-92550>

Congratulations Adele Beitler

A big round of applause to Adele Beitler as she has had the opportunity to register and name a hybrid that she has nurtured over the past couple of years. Here is her story:

I acquired this plant 2.5 years ago. Two years ago, it bloomed. Last year, all my orchids were neglected. It was a competition: care for my husband recovering from Covid, or, my orchids. My husband, Alfred Beitler, won out! A few of my resilient plants survived. This is one of them. Last year, it sent up two flower sheaths but failed to materialize. The sheaths turned papery, but I left them there.

This year, beside the one dried sheath, came a new flower sheath. It produced four beautiful flowers, with a soft, spicy fragrance, about 2.5 inches across at the widest point. It has had better care in more recent months with some KelpMax to help it along. As a compact plant, I find it very rewarding to grow in a small space.



With the approval of the hybridizer, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, it gave me immense satisfaction to be able to register this plant, with the Royal Horticultural Society, in my husband's name to celebrate these two survivors. Alfred will be 87 years old in April. I cannot think of a more wonderful gift.

(for more information on the process of registration, see Adele's synopsis at the end of the Newsletter)

Presenting **Rhyncattleanthe Alfred Beitler**
(Rhyncattleanthe Guess What 'SVO' AM/AOS × Cattleya Seagull 'Red')



WOS Members Facebook or Email Posts



Sophronitis coccinea

Grower: Linda Drouillard



Potinara Forbidden Love

Grower: Michelle Patterson



Cattlianthe Tutenkamen 'Pop'

Grower: Johnny Pohanka



Zoom Meeting Information

Please check your email for Zoom meeting invites. If you have registered to attend the Zoom WOS online presentation on 'Habenarias-Best in Show' by Sarah Hurdel on Sunday, February 27th. You will receive an email on Thursday, February 24th with a Zoom meeting link. A reminder email will be sent on Saturday, February 26th.



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, February 27th, 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.



October meeting (speaker not recorded) <https://youtu.be/Fyo8XHBC7BQ>

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

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



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

Date	Speaker/ Event	Topic/Location	Plants for Sale?
Feb 27	WOS Monthly Meeting	Sarah Hurdell Best In Show-Habenarias	no
Mar 27	WOS Monthly Meeting	Wendy Mazuk Into the Slough: The Elusive Ghost Orchid	no
Apr 24	WOS Monthly Meeting	tba	tba
May 29	WOS Annual Business Meeting	tba	tba


Memberships are NOW (Long 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

Payment can also be sent by e-transfer to Ed Cott (laelia@aol.com) – be sure to provide your contact info in the transfer description.

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

JUDGES VIEWPOINT by Dave Miller, Great Lakes Judging Center
Issue #12

Presentation, Presentation, Presentation

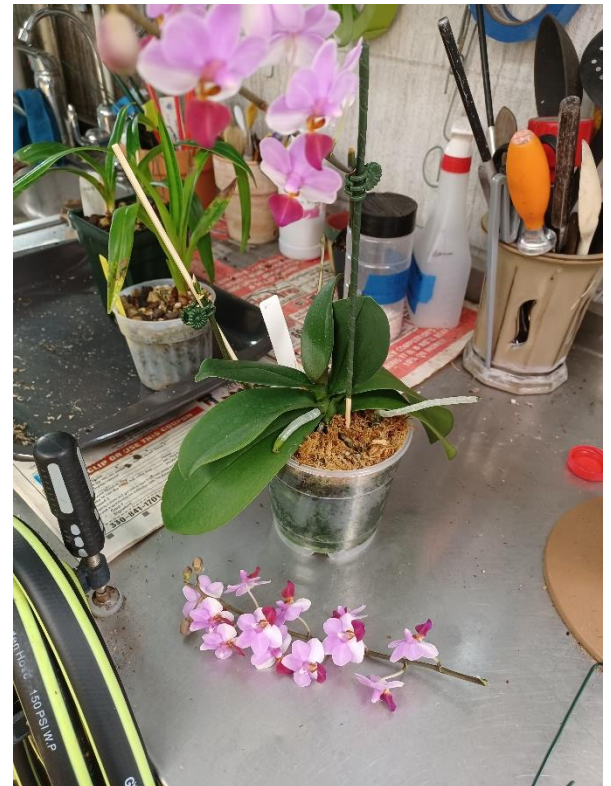
Sure, you have babied your prize orchids and now they are coming into bloom just in time for exhibiting at the show. Let's talk about how to maximize your ribbon count by putting a little effort into putting each of your plants into their Sunday best outfits.

Pretend You are the Audience

Yay, it's show season finally, what should you be thinking about your orchids? The simple view of how to display your orchids is to pretend you are the Viewer. There will be hundreds of visitors passing the exhibit area after judging is over. Some of them even are looking for a quick photo op of YOUR great flowers. Make it easy on them by presenting your flower directly at their eyes. With multi-floral orchids, sometimes that is a very tough thing to do. It may take the better part of a half hour to get the arrangement just right.

And whatever you do, don't leave your arrangement up to the exhibit builder. They are extremely busy but keep in mind they do dozens of plants to arrange so your plant will only get a fraction of attention that you would give.

Many times, I will start priming my plants as soon as they start to spike. Yessiree, it could be three months or more before the flowers open. Phals and slippers for sure. As soon as the spike is 2" tall, I put a stake in the plant to notify me there is one and secondly to keep my bumbling hands away from the tender tip. On the right is a Phal with two spikes and I already enforced a separation in the spikes as I can see there will be interference when the flowers open.



One note about this. I use simple bamboo skewers at first but if I know the spike is long for an Oncidium or Phragmipedium, I would likely start with a larger stake. Floral stakes from the craft store are sturdy and affordable and bamboo plant stakes are the strongest wooden product.

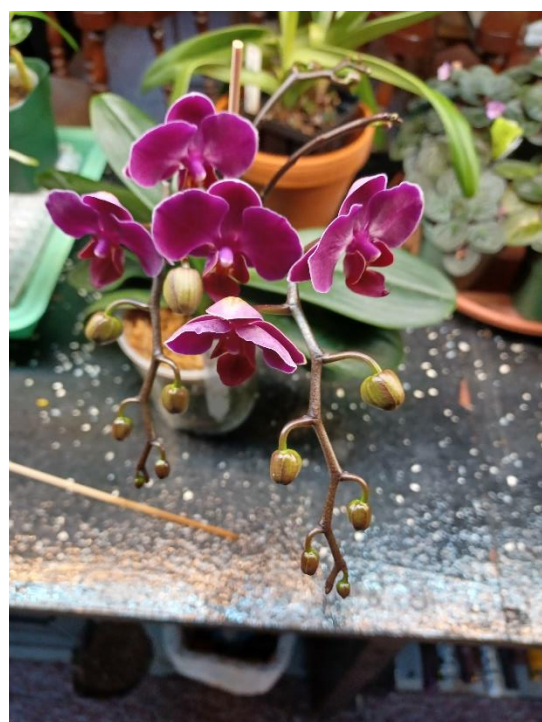
The Process

As the flower spike develops, it can be carefully manipulated into a pleasant form. I repeat CAREFULLY. The process of training spikes takes time. Move it a little, stake it there, come back in four to seven days and move it again. Sometimes only once in a while is enough as long as you have left time before the anticipated showing. So, on the right, is what happens if you push/pull on the spike too much. Sad to say it's not the first Phal spike I have broken while getting ready for a show.



Early Staking

Visualize what your flower spike will look like as it starts to develop. Next, examine the tendency of the spike or more importantly, the spikes to see if you think they will be crowded and if so, then early is the time to get them spaced apart. In the first picture below, it is visually obvious the two spikes are colliding even though they are both nicely arched. The watch-words here are we want to see every flower with no crowding. Simple, use an upright stake on each one to pry the spikes apart to give all flowers a little breathing room. In the right photo, the flowers have started to open and there is plenty of room with no crowding, yet all the flowers are oriented up because I started early. To restate, it's important to do this early before the buds have differentiated which means they have already decided which way is up. Doing this too late will give you flowers that twist in all directions. Not good. I will put this plant back on the bench in EXACTLY the same spot and orientation as it came to keep the



emerging flowers the same. Just before the show, I will decide whether stakes are still required and if so, I will trim them, wrap them, and fix the spike to them. These two slippers on the left have been prepped for show with their faces directed at the viewer and their stakes upright and wrapped to blend in with the spike. On the right is a large Bulbophyllum with thirteen spikes and some of them were crawling over the others.



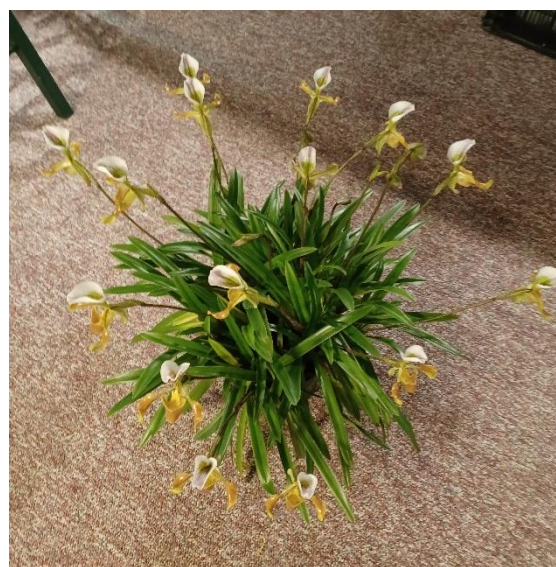
Before the flowers opened I staked some of the spikes away from others to make sure none were touching and to try to have spikes visually all around the plant. After two weeks most of them stayed with no staking. On the right is the fabulous Paphiopedilum out of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection that just recently received an AOS CCE award for cultural excellence. Note how the spikes are arranged all around the plant. This is critical to receive the highest possible award the plant can garner in its current form. What you don't see are the eight stakes attached but hidden to make those spikes "appear" all the way around the plant.

Again I say, please don't force this job on the exhibit builder, it just isn't fair to them. In addition, there is only so much time, so if you want better ribbons, then YOU need to put in the time to groom your own plant before you drop it off for exhibiting. True for AOS shows, true for judging, and also very true for the Show Table.



Housekeeping

Cleaning your plant is just as important than the rest. Take for example the cute purple Phal with two spikes. It has a fading leaf, the oldest one, which is normal. Before showing this plant, the leaf will either fall off or I will remove it. It's wrinkly and unsightly.



Finally, the most sacrilege of all. If you have a plant with multiple flowers or spikes but one is damaged or fading/wilting. CUT IT OFF. Two flowers are better but one good and one bad flower will depreciate the visual effect of the good flower and a viewer's eye will go directly to the bad stuff first. Believe me, it is heartbreaking to cut off a fading flower or spike on the way to AOS judging. Sorry, it must go, and that is also true for entire spikes if the flowers are past prime. Take a look at this Howeara and how unsightly the faded spikes highlight the plant instead of the good flowers.



Go get `em now and follow these simple guidelines for prepping your plants for the show.



Happy Orchid'ing

Contact Dave at dcmjpasmil@aol.com or 330-307-7189

An Orchid by Any Other Name....

Orchids grow all around us and all over the world. I recently saw posts on FaceBook of orchids in their natural environment growing in Novosibirsk and in Lower Saxony. Orchids are also grown under controlled conditions away from their natural environments. Many hybrid orchids are created in greenhouses all over the world.

I thought you might be interested to know the backstory on the Alfred Beitler orchid. This may be the first time that the family name has been given to an orchid! This has been quite a learning experience for me.

Fred Clarke is an orchid grower and hybridizer in California. Sun Valley Orchids is his business. He produces some spectacular plants. The tag pictured represents the parentage of the plant. Once a plant is registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in London, England, that holds the international register for orchids, the plant gets a new name – a grex.

During our virtual orchid meetings, we usually review and talk about members' plants as we have time. At our January meeting, we had an accredited AOS (American Orchid Society) judge from Toronto (Terry Kennedy) and another from Hamilton (Pat Vuurman) as guests. Our Society Vice President (Ed Cott) is an accredited judge, and our President (Deb Boersma) is a student judge with the AOS. It takes about 6 years of training and experience (and a lot of time) to qualify as an accredited AOS orchid judge.

I submitted my plant to look at. What caught the attention of the judges is that on the tag "Seagulls" had the ending letter "S". They thought that was an error. As they researched it, they also found that the plant had never been registered. They suggested that I might pursue getting it registered. So, I investigated what that process involved.

The application for registration asks specific questions that I was not confident I could answer correctly and so I consulted with Ed and Deb to assist.

My first step was to ask Fred Clarke permission to register the plant. He readily gave me permission.

Next, I downloaded the registration form and, with the help of our two resident judges, filled in the information including the name I proposed to give it. Then I went online to fill in the online registration form. Once RHS reviewed the application and determined that no one else registered it, they advised me that my registration was accepted and would be complete once I paid the fee of 12£.

I had requested to receive a paper certificate of the registration. I later discovered this is not a service they provide any longer.

There was a reclassification of some orchid genera some time ago and the genus name given to this intergeneric hybrid is "Rhyncattleanthe". This little orchid will now officially be known **Rhyncattleanthe Alfred Beitler**. How cool is that? Both are covid survivors - Alfred from the virus; the plant from neglect. It was a choice - look after Alfred or my orchids - Al won out. It's been quite an adventure!



Adele Beitler

