



THE WINDSOR ORCHID SOCIETY

La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor

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

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

No.4 2021/2022

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 30, 2022 Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Online Zoom meeting



Topic: Equitant Oncidiums Also known as toolumnias are charming little plants with stunning, intricate flowers. Jeanne will talk about hybridizing and culture of these amazing orchids.

Speaker: Jeanne Keading made the transition from tropical fish to growing orchids as her main hobby in her mid-twenties. Since then, she has progressed from growing in a windowsill, under lights, under lights in an enclosed room in the basement, and finally in a 9.5 foot by 24 ft green house in her back yard. One of the things she has always liked about the orchid hobby is its complexity, all the different things you can learn about and do with orchids. Currently, as well as growing, she is an AOS Orchid Judge and does her own hybridizing and flasking. She loves to bloom out several plants of a cross and see the differences between the clones. She defines an orchid expert as one who has managed to kill more plants than most.

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
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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: Mary Caspers

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

Well, I guess Happy New Years' wishes might be a little outdated by the time you receive this newsletter, perhaps a better salutation might be 'Praying for a Covid Free Year'! It is hard to wrap my head around the impact that this virus has had on so many of our day-to-day routines, the impact on our emotional, mental and physical well-being and hope that everyone has been weathering this pandemic without too much hardship. Unfortunately, the in-person meetings were scheduled to resume this month, but the Omicron variant squashed those plans. We will have to see how this variant plays out before we know when it is safe for the meetings to resume. In the meantime, the meetings will continue via the Zoom format.

I know that some of you might feel Zoomed out at this point but remember that the Zoom format has opened up the opportunity for great speakers, both local and international that we might never have had the chance to host at our in-person meetings. This month is no exception as we host Jeanne an AOS judge who resides in the States. She specializes in growing and hybridizing tolumnias, a genus that is becoming more and more popular with orchid hobbyists. Make sure you scroll all the way to the end of the newsletter as you will not want to miss the article written by Dave Miller. It is full of information on culture of tolumnias and outlines a step-by- step process for mounting the plants.

I hope you all will try to attend, and I look forward to seeing all of you 'virtually'.

Valentine Raffle

What could be better than a gift of orchids and chocolates for your Valentine or for yourself! We are raffling off a box of 32-piece milk and dark assorted Purdy's chocolates, a blooming size Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Super Brown and a Cattleya seedling Rlc. Yingluck Smile. See photos

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Contact Deb by email debul8ter@outlook.com, by phone 519-257-8009 or comment on the WOS Group Facebook post regarding how many tickets you would like. I will give you your raffle ticket numbers and we will do the draw live during the January 30th Zoom meeting featuring Jeanne Keading on Tolumnia hybrids and culture!! Tickets can be purchased up to the draw date. Help support the society and have a chance to win great prizes. Good luck.

I will keep a ledger of amounts owed and collect when/where convenient or you can e-transfer the money to me at debul8ter@outlook.com, or send a cheque to: Deb Boersma, 7241 Collison Sideroad RR5, Harrow, On N0R1G0



Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Super Brown'



Rlc. Yingluck Smile



32 Piece Assorted Favorite



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.

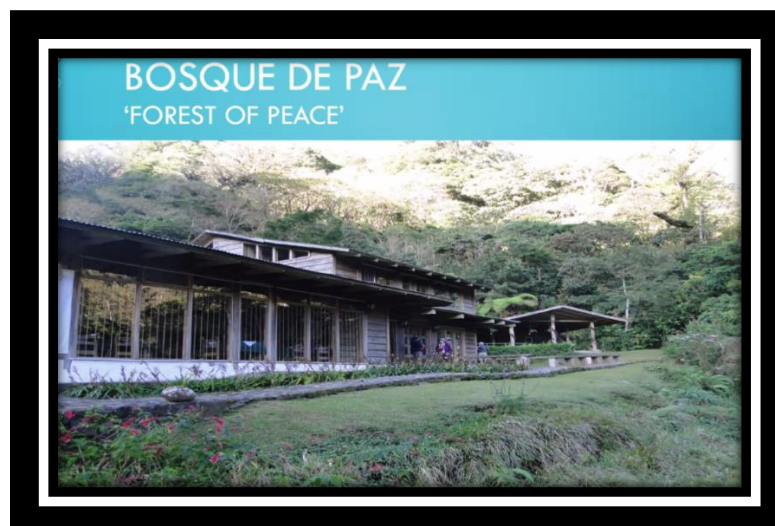
It originates from Japan where the moss is used in the culture of the revered *Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata*.



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.

November Meeting

The November meeting featured our guest speaker Tom Miranda who discussed the importance of orchid conservation in light of the many ecological, climatic and environmental stressors that impact the survival of many orchid species. He introduced us to many of the conservation gardens in south and central America including the one pictured below. The Bosque De Paz Biological Reserve is a lush jungle paradise in the middle of Costa Rica. Many of these gardens and conservation areas belong to the Botanical Garden Conservation International, an organization of 500 member gardens in 120 countries. There is a tremendous amount of effort and education presently on going to ensure the preservation of orchids and all flora and fauna in these gardens, but it takes a vast number of resources and hard work to achieve success. Thanks to Tom and all his endeavors in this area of conservation.





Orchid Conservation Alliance

For anyone interested in learning more about orchid conservation and what you might be able to do to help, please check out the Orchid Conservation Alliance website. The Orchid Conservation Alliance is concerned with preserving orchid rich habitat in land trusts, like the Nature Conservancy. The OCA's year-end newsletter tells what they've accomplished in the past year, despite the pandemic. There's also some information about the ecotours. Please see their web page: orchidconservationalliance.org



Orchid Conservation Alliance

Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat

The OCA conserves orchids by funding habitat preservation. Since inception in 2005 we have helped with the purchase of over 3000 acres of orchid habitat, protecting hundreds of orchid species in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Many species of rare birds, trees, frogs, mammals also find refuge in these reserves.



Dracula



Dracula



Ventanas



Ventanas

Dracula gigas (L), *D. trigonopetala* (R)
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador

Dracula lemurella (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)
La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia

We hope you will join us in promoting this important work. We invite you to become a member of the OCA, to make a donation, to take a trip with us to see Orchids in the Wild®, and to purchase merchandise through our website. Since we have no paid staff, all proceeds support orchid conservation. The OCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

For more information: www.orchidconservationalliance.org

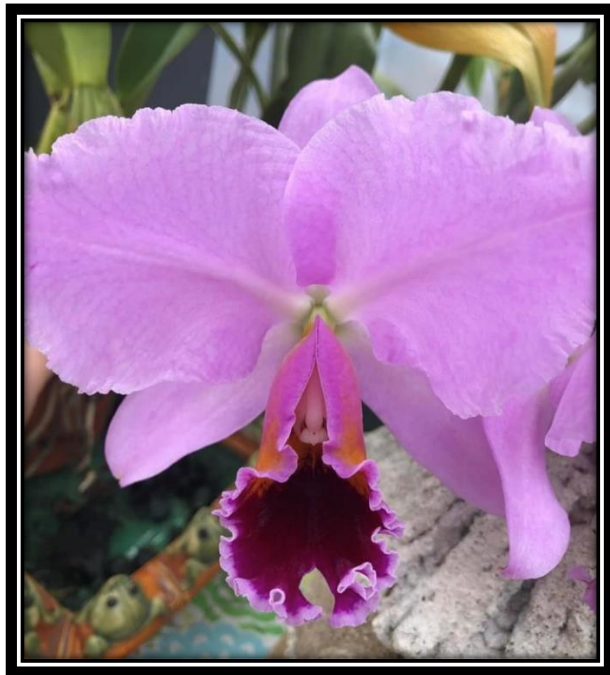


WOS Members Facebook or Email Posts



Bulbophyllum crassipes

Grower: Francois Seguin



Cattleya percivaliana
Grower: Renee Gignac



Catasetum albovirens
Grower: Michelle Forde



Zoom Meeting Information

Please check your email for Zoom meeting invites. If you have registered to attend the Zoom WOS online presentation on 'Equitant Oncidiums' by Jeanne Keading on Sunday, January 30th, you will receive an email on Thursday, January 27th with a Zoom meeting link. A reminder email will be sent on Saturday, January 29th.



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, January 30th, 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 1 pm although the actual meeting will start at 1:30 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.



September meeting Speaker Terry Kennedy https://youtu.be/6XBOt9A_mE

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

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



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


Date	Speaker/ Event	Topic/Location	Plants for Sale?
Jan 30	Jeanne Keading WOS Monthly Meeting	Tolumnias	no
Draw date Jan 30	Valentine Raffle	Raffle includes BS Tolumnia, seedling cattleya and a box of chocolates	
Feb 27	WOS Monthly Meeting	tba	tba
Mar 27	WOS Monthly Meeting	tba	tba
Apr 24	WOS Monthly Meeting	tba	tba
May 29	WOS Annual Business Meeting	tba	tba

Memberships are NOW 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

JUDGES VIEWPOINT by Dave Miller, Great Lakes Judging Center

Growing Tolumnias at Home

Yep, that's right. Today we are going to talk about those cute little Oncidiums known as Tolumnias or more appropriately as Equitant orchids. There are more than just Tolumnias in this group. For the most part, you find Tolumnia (its own genera) and Rodrumnia (Tolumnia x Rodriguezia) as the predominant equitants. There are others but I don't have space today.

I talk to home growers and experienced orchidists alike that complain about how to keep these guys alive. Let's take a look at where they grow first and then our answers will reveal themselves.



Where Are They From?

Equitant orchids were first known as Equitant Oncidiums. They do look like their larger cousins, the Dancing Lady orchids.

This group of small orchids are so named due to their leaf structure which shows the base of each lower leaf overlapping the leaf-base above it, straddling or saddle style, hence the name is derived from the greek word for horse which is "equus". Enough botany for now. This subset of orchids are comprised predominately of complex hybrids giving us



better form and lots of colors. There are a handful of hybrids around but most are not readily available.

In actuality, most of these interesting hybrids are come from only six of the species. The reason, for one, is that Equitant species are either very finicky about culture due to their very localized natural habitat or they carry weird chromosome counts and will not breed with much.

Equitant Oncidiums grow only around the Caribbean basin including countries like Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and the Virgin Islands. I think you get the picture here. These guys like wind, heat, and lots of rain. Most of the species do not grow in the same country (habitat). That's why we have mostly complex hybrids because the hybrids breed out the habitat finickiness (hah, knew I could work that in) and make more habitat tolerance a possibility.

About the Equitants

They will be available to you as mounted or generally in small 1" clay pots or net pots. Either way, they want water and then dry out. Potted this way, there is no way for them not to dry out, quickly, and thus is our problem to grow them 🧠 successfully.



Growing Equitants

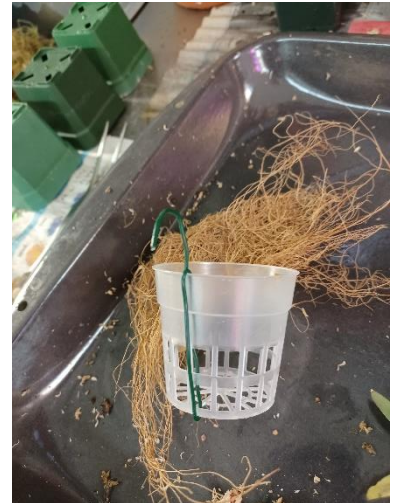
For most of us, humidity control is the most difficult part of this process. It is easier to grow these in a greenhouse/outdoor situation since daily or nearly that is much easier to do. Because the root mass of these plants is so minimal, they automatically dry quickly which is how they grow in nature. Rain then winds, dry them fast.

At home, it is much more difficult to maintain this cycle. I use terrariums to grow them because I can keep the humidity above 60% by misting twice per week. Not everyone has one though and life becomes more difficult. They have fine roots and die quickly if not watered soon.

I use a double-pot method or close to that and it works quite well. I like to wrap the pot with coconut fiber which I take from plant liners. Wrapping the fiber around the existing pot or root mass then placing in a slightly larger pot, emphasizing slightly to be just enough to put the whole thing in the pot. I like coco fiber because it retains a little more moisture but then dries, just as these guys want.

As soon as I get a new plant, it goes to the potting area for repotting. Here are a couple photos of how I repotted three new plants. Little clay pot or net pot or mount, I place in

the new pot after wrapping with fiber. Sometimes they slip right out of the old pot but in many cases they are rooted to or out of the existing pot so pot up including the old pot. It doesn't seem to matter a lot whether I pot up a clay pot into plastic or clay as either will work. The coco provides a buffer for extra moisture but also space for air circulation. I have been doing it this way for a number of years and it still works quite well. Even mounts I place in a pot after wrapping the mount and roots in coco. Here is a gallery of related pics.



Happy Orchid'ing

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