



THE WINDSOR ORCHID SOCIETY  
 La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor



Congratulations WOS/SOW on your 36th year of service to orchid enthusiasts.

[www.windsororchidsociety.ca](http://www.windsororchidsociety.ca)

## Summer 2022 Newsletter

No.1 2022/2023

**Next Meeting: Sunday September 25th, 2022 @ 1:30**

**Location: Gethsemane Lutheran Church 1921 Cabana Road West**

### Topic “Stay Tuned”

The Windsor Orchid Society meets 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.

### President’s Message

As I near the end of my two-year term as President, I reflect on the challenges that we have faced through this pandemic and how we have managed to stay virtually connected. The Zoom format had given us a great opportunity to have world renowned speakers like Fred Clarke and the late Hadley Cash, definitely something that we would never have dreamed of pre Covid. However, nothing can replace the in-person meetings and the comradery and socializing that takes place during these get togethers. It was great to end the 2021/2022 season with the return of the in-person meetings and have the opportunity to see members that I hadn’t seen for over two years. Let’s hope that this seventh wave of Covid does not thwart our plans in the upcoming fall season, but only time will tell.

Please mark your calendars for the September meeting, bring plants for the plant table and goodies for hospitality, I look forward to another successful year of the WOS! **Deb**



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## Plant Table

The plant table is back! The plant table features blooming orchids brought in by members for fellow orchid enthusiasts to enjoy and admire. All you need to do is bring your blooming orchids to the meeting and fill in a tag with the name of the orchid, indicating whether it's a species or hybrid. You may even win a prize!

## May Meeting Recap

The results of the WOS elections are as follows:

President	open
Vice President	Renee Gignac
Past President	Deb Boersma
Secretary	Michelle Paterson
Assistant Secretary	Janice Melanson Rose Melanson
Treasurer	Kathleen Fekete

Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers!

## Windsor Orchid Society 2022-2023 Programming Guide Mark your calendars!

Date	Speaker/ Event	Topic/Location	Plants for Sale?
Sep 25	tba	Gethsemane Lutheran Church 1921 Cabana Rd. W	tba.
Oct 30	tba	Gethsemane Lutheran Church 1921 Cabana Rd. W	tba
Nov 27	tba	Gethsemane Lutheran Church 1921 Cabana Rd. W	tba



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# Memberships are Due in September for 2022/2023

**Annual dues are only \$20.00 for a single  
or \$25.00 for a family/joint membership**

Memberships can be paid in person at WOS meetings (cash or cheque) or can be made by mail by sending your contact information, including mailing address, phone # and email address, along with payment to:

**The Windsor Orchid Society,**  
c/o Kathleen Fekete, 1340 Laurier Drive., La Salle, Ontario. N9J1N3 or email her  
[kandmfekete@gmail.com](mailto:kandmfekete@gmail.com)

519 984-3415 [rgignac776@hotmail.ca](mailto:rgignac776@hotmail.ca)

## The Windsor Orchid Society

### Executive Members

President	OPEN		
Vice-President	Renee Gignac	519 984-3415	<a href="mailto:rgignac776@hotmail.ca">rgignac776@hotmail.ca</a>
Secretary	Michelle Paterson	519 984-3415	<a href="mailto:paulandmichellepaterson@gmail.com">paulandmichellepaterson@gmail.com</a>
Assistant Secretary	Janice Melanson		<a href="mailto:janicemelanson0413@gmail.com">janicemelanson0413@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Kathleen Fekete	519 734-6251	<a href="mailto:kandmfekete@gmail.com">kandmfekete@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Deb Boersma	519 257-8009	<a href="mailto:debul8ter@outlook.com">debul8ter@outlook.com</a>

### Society Reps.

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

### Committee

Archives	Eunice Bragg
Budget	Ed Cott – Kathleen Fekete
Conservation	Adele Beitler

### Committee Appointments

Fund-raising	Open
Hospitality	Gail Reisch
Library	Open
ZOOM Administrator	Adele Beitler
Membership	Ed Cott/Kathleen Fekete
Newsletter	Ann Roth
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

**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](mailto:laelia@aol.com)). Supplies can also be ordered through the website.



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# Orchid Conservation

## Spotlight on Cypripedium

Adele, our new conservation volunteer, has provided us with this link from the COC *Orchid Column*. For those who are interested in growing these native Canadian orchids, there is a comprehensive article on Cypripedium culture and conservation (pg. 4-10). <https://canadianorchidcongress.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COC2020-29-1.pdf>

## Give Us Air!

By Sue Bottom

### The Importance of Fresh Air

The importance of fresh air to orchids is possibly the least appreciated aspect of growing orchids. All the orchid books tell you to ensure there is air movement around your orchids. For years I kept adding fans to my growing area thinking I was satisfying this basic requirement. But orchids do not want recirculated stale air, they want to be bathed in fresh air, particularly the wafting breezes they get when they are outdoors.

The first time Ruben Saulea of Ruben in Orchids talked to our orchid club, we talked about how I could improve my orchid growing. At that time, we had the traditional greenhouse with a wet wall at one end, exhaust fans at the opposite end and polypropylene covering all the other surfaces. Ruben took one look at the greenhouse and said rip out the water wall and replace the side wall with stucco metal lath, keep the vents open at either end of the greenhouse and open the top vent. This allowed free movement of air throughout the greenhouse during the growing season. A retractable curtain closes off the stucco metal lath during cold weather, but otherwise the plants are always bathed in fresh air. That was the year the greenhouse exploded with new growth and an incredible display of blooms.

I struggled trying to grow vandas in the hoop house covered with greenhouse film with doors at either end. When Rafael Romero of Plantio La Orquidea looked at our growing set up, he told us to rip out the film on the side wall and replace it with stucco metal lath and a retractable curtain. Voilà, the vandas bloomed freely and the incidence of leaf spotting and rots was greatly diminished. During the summer growing season, the vandas are now all moved out into summer shade structures that allow free air on all four sides. The vandas grow like weeds in the fresh breezes.

This demand for fresh air makes sense if you think about how many orchids evolved from understory terrestrials to epiphytes. Many types of orchids left the forest floor to grow high in the canopy on the trunks or branches of tall forest trees where more light was available and where winds were stronger than on the ground.

**Wafting breezes offer many benefits to your orchids:**



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- Fresh moving air improves gas exchange through leaf pores and around the rhizomes and roots, a process that is required for the plant's metabolic processes.
- Fresh moving air cools the leaves during warm weather when high light and high temperatures could otherwise cause the plant to overheat and restrict its metabolic processes, and possibly result in leaf sunburn.
- Fresh moving air helps distribute warm and cold air so extremes in air temperature will not harm the vegetation.
- Fresh moving air helps dry excess moisture from the leaves so bacteria and fungi will not proliferate.

Of course, air movement and humidity must be in balance. In a low-humidity environment, excess air movement will cause more evaporation and possibly result in dehydration. In a high-humidity environment, air movement is a must to prevent orchid disease problems.

During the cooler months, your orchids are probably in their winter homes inside. You can group your plants on humidity trays filled with pebbles to hold extra water after watering and provide some humidity around the plants. A fan blowing a gentle breeze around your plants is good. When the temperature is right, you can open a window by your plants and let them get a taste of the fresh air they crave.

When warm weather returns, try to find a location outdoors where your orchids can get loads of fresh air. A screened porch is great, particularly for phalaenopsis that want shadier conditions and a covered roof where water won't accumulate in the crown of the plant causing rot. Hanging your orchids under a tree where they'll receive dappled light and fresh breezes 24 hours a day will result in an incredible summer growth surge, particularly if you ramp up your watering and fertilizing schedules to match the increased plant vigour.

Proper air movement is just as important to your orchid as providing the proper amount of water and light to your plant. It is also the least appreciated aspect of orchid growing. If you struggle with fungal and bacterial problems on your plants, you can apply chemicals to treat the symptoms. However, in many instances, proper air movement would have prevented the problem from arising in the first place.

— Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera and are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board ([sbottom15@hotmail.com](mailto:sbottom15@hotmail.com)).

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