



Monthly Meetings

Fourth Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
101 E 38th Street
Tacoma, Washington
www.tacomaorchidsociety.com

April 2005 Newsletter

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Open Position

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Next Meeting

We will meet on April 26th at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The evening's program will be presented by Barb Inman on orchid supplies and potting media. Hope to see you there!

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on March 22nd. The evening's program was an AOS movie on repotting followed by a question and answer session. Thank you to Dick for the repotting program! See the last page for the full minutes.

Open Position

The position for TOS Sunshine Person is open. If anyone is interested in this position let, the officers know at the next meeting.

TOS on the Web

The website will be updated with new items at the end of April. The new items will include a TOS founder page, past TOS shows, articles written by TOS members, orchid culture sheets, native orchids of Washington and more local resources. So check it out at www.tacomaorchidsociety.com!

Orchid Study Club

Puget Sound Study Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except July. The club meets at various members' homes and topic varies. The focus of the study group is species, not hybrids. The annual dues are 10.00. If you are interested in attending, contact Darlene Cupp at 253-891-7164 or email at dmscupp@comcast.net.

The last meeting was held at Bob Worley's home on 3/8/05. The topic was deflasking orchids. Thank you Bob!

The next meeting will be held April 12th at 6:30 p.m. Darlene Cupp will be hosting the meeting at her home. Their phone number is 253-891-7164. Feel free to call for directions or use mapquest.com. Look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Events

April 9th-10th

Rogue Valley Orchid Society Show

Medford, OR

Contact George Brown: 541-608-0133

May 6th-8th

Vancouver Orchid Society Show

Richmond Winter Club

May 7th-8th

South Central Washington Orchid Society Show

Highland Grange Hall

1500 S. Union, Kennewick, WA

May 7th-8th

Northwest Orchid Society: Mother's Day Sale

UW Center for Urban Horticulture

3501 41st NE, Seattle, WA

June 3rd-5th

Garden Show at Point Defiance Park

July

TOS Picnic

November 12th-13th

Northwest Orchid Society Show

Seattle Center, Snoqualmie Room

12th- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

13th- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Welcome New Members

Fred & Margaret Swift

Ray & Barbra Rudolf

Tammie Moore

Nancy Christensen

Barbara Herman

Trang & Sen Nguyen

Welcome all new members. On the TOS site at www.tacomaorchidsociety.com you can find the library listings and a members packet. It will be under the Membership Information. If you do not have access to the internet let Melissa Rathbun know and she will get you the information. 253-857-0117.

Show and Tell Winners

Species Winner:

Scott O'Tyson with his *Pleurothallis longissima*



Hybrid Winner:

Fred Shelton with his Lc. Prism Palette Mischief
AM/AOS



Ten Types of Orchid Growers

(Adapted from the Orchid Digest)

INDIANA JONES

(#4 of 10)

Most of us get to know the Indiana Joneses of the orchid world because, after surviving yellow fever and malaria in the jungles of South America, they all become speakers at the orchid meetings. None of their clothes match and they always wear shorts and Texas. Be careful about shaking hands with them since they may still be infected with some incurable jungle rot. They have fabulous slides of native orchids huts and snakes and their adventures always cause a shiver of delicious envy to go through the group. They know the most interesting people, most of whom exist on the edges of polite society and they go places and do things that the rest of us only dream of. They always show at least one slide of an orchid that sells for \$5000 on the black market and they DID NOT take back with them because they are good people; not like the other thieves and non-environmentally-conscious explorers. Orchid societies love the Indiana Jones. They bring the jungle to us in air-conditioned comfort.

.....more next month!

Hybrid Winner:

Tina Taylor with her Lc. Tropic Charm 'Collin'



Orchids of Washington

Coralroot or Corallorhize

Orchid seeds contain no stored nutrients. Before they can develop, they must be infected by a specialized fungus that establishes a symbiotic relationship, sharing food and enzymes until the young plant can survive on its own. Coralroots, however, never become self-sufficient. Members of the genus *Corallorhize* are saprophytic orchids. They derive their nutrients from decaying organic matter and fungi in the soil. While most plants make their own food with chlorophyll, *Corallorhize* contains little or no chlorophyll. Despite the name, they have no roots but only hard, branched rhizomes that resemble coral. These plants will be found deep in coniferous forests and subalpine woods. They like rich humus and damp soils where a shaft of light reaches the forest floor. They tend to grow in clusters of many plants. *Corallorhiza* is a group of ten orchids, six occur in North America and four occur in Washington State.

***Corallorhize mertensiana* or Western Coralroot** is named after F.C. Mertens, a German botanist of the late 18th and 19th centuries. The flowers are deep pink with 3 dark veins and white tips. The column is bright yellow and houses the reproductive parts. The leafless stem is red with the flowers on the top half. Western Coralroot can be found along the trail to Comet Falls on Mount Rainier. The distribution is the Cascade and Coastal mountains from southern Alaska to northern California and in the Rockies from Wyoming north.

Height: 15-60 cm
Flowers: June to July
Flower Size: ½ to 1 inch wide

***Corallorhize maculata* or Spotted Coralroot** is named for its spotted lip. The flowers are purplish with purple spots on a ruffled white lip. The leafless stem is purple to yellowish with the flowers on the top half. The flower may not open fully. The plant is usually self pollinating and all flowers bear fruit. The distribution of this orchid is wide. It can be found in British Columbia across Canada to Newfoundland; western, northern and northeastern United States, south to California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Height: 8 to 30 inches
Flower: April to September
Flower size: ½ to ¾ inch wide

***Corallorhize striata* or Striped Coralroot** is called striped coral root because of the 3 purplish stripes on the sepals. The flower is pink to yellowish-pink. The leafless stem is yellowish to magenta with the flowers on the top half. Albino forms occur naturally. In nature the plant will be pale yellow throughout. The distribution of this orchid is wide. It can be found from the southern half of British Columbia across Canada to New Brunswick; western United States from Washington to California; also Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, southern Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, southern Oklahoma, and the Great Lakes states.

Height: 15-50cm
Flowers: May to August
Flower Size: ¾ to 1 inch wide

***Corallorhiza trifida* or Northern Coralroot** is named for its unusual distribution. This species is circumpolar around the north pole, giving it the name Northern Coralroot. The flowers have yellowish green sepals with pale greenish petals that are sometimes tinged purple. The flower's lip is white with few purple spots. The leafless stem is yellowish to greenish white. The greenish color in the plant indicates some chlorophyll in this species. North American distribution ranges from Alaska and the Aleutian Islands across Canada to Newfoundland and southern Greenland; in western United States from Washington and Oregon southeast to northern New Mexico; also east from Washington through Great Lakes States to Northeastern States.

Height: 8-30cm
Flowers: May to August
Flower Size: ¼ inch wide



Western Coralroot
© Francois Bourgeot

naturephoto.akuter.com



Stripped Coralroot
© Allen Chatier

<http://www.amazilia.net>



Spotted Coralroot
© Eleanor Saulys

www.ct-botanical-society.org



Northern Coralroot
© Allen Chatier

<http://www.amazilia.net>

Mini Orchids

So, you are out of room in your green house or solarium. The orchids have taken over and you can't stop buying them. Have you thought of buying orchids that stay small? Each month we will look at some little orchids that pack a punch.

The genus *Aerangis* consists of 60 monopodial epiphyte species. They are scattered throughout Africa, Madagascar, the Comoro Islands and one species in Sri Lanka. They grow along banks of streams. The name *Aerangis* means air vessel.

Aerangis citrata is one of the smaller species from Madagascar. The flowers are white and can be tinged a light green or pale pink with a long spur. The flower is also fragrant in the evening and long lasting. The plant has very small glossy green leaves.

A. *citrata* is considered a intermediate to warm grower and a shade lover.

- This plant does best mounted on a slap of bark with sphagnum moss under the roots. A small well-drained pot or basket with well-drained media can also be used.
- Good air movement and humidity year-round must be provided.
- The plant has very small roots and should never be allowed to stay wet. Keep the media damp not wet. Water freely when leaves or flower buds are developing. Keep relatively dry for 2 months during the year in a humid environment.
- Attention should be paid for spider mites.



Tacoma Orchid Society Minutes for March 22nd, 2005 Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Meeting opened by Bob Worley, President, at 7:10 p.m.. Minutes were excepted as read. Treasure report total at \$4,149.98.

Six new members were in attendance:

Fred & Margret Swift
Ray & Barbra Rudolf
Tammie Moore
Nancy Christenson

Old Business:

The ribbon judging at the TOS Show and Sale in January needs to be improved upon. Bob Worley will be doing an in club program on judging and plant preparation for showing orchids in the near future.

A discussion about the TOS Christmas Party will be at the April meeting. If you have any ideas for a different location, please gather up the info and bring it to the next meeting.

A reminder that the TOS website has moved to <http://www.tacomaorchidsociety.com>. The TOS newsletters are posted on-line as well.

New Business:

Vice President Dick Gersib organized the programs for the next few months. In April, Barb Inman will be discussing the topic of orchid supplies and potting media. In May, Wally Orchard will be discussing the topic of Diazas, orchids that grow in South Africa.

A tip from Fred Shelton: Cattleyas that are finicky bloomers water with 1 tsp. Epsom salt per gallon of water once a week for 2 weeks.

A tip from Dick Gersib: When using packing peanuts for potting media use the green and white peanuts. Never use the figure eight shaped peanuts or the blue and pink packing peanuts.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Tina Taylor for Darlene Cupp