



Monthly Meetings

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

May 2005 Newsletter

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Sunshine Lady or Gent

Open Position

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Next Meeting

We will meet on May 24th at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The evening's program will be presented by Wally Orchard. He will be discussing the topic of Diazas, orchids that grow in South Africa. Hope to see you there!

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on April 26th. Thank you to Linda Petchnick for bringing her orchid paintings for sale and display. They were wonderful! For more information about for orchid prints for sale visit www.orchidpainter.com. The evening's program was presented by Barb Inman on orchid supplies and potting media. Thank you to Dick and Barb for the program! See the last page for the full minutes.

Open Position

The position for TOS Sunshine Person is open. The Sunshine person sends sympathy and special occasion cards to TOS members, informs the Tacoma newspaper of the next meeting and welcomes new members to the club. So, he or she will be the "PR" person. If anyone is interested in this position, let the officers know at the next meeting.

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 the 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 Darlene Cupp's home on 4/12/05. The topic was Paraphalaenopsis. Thank you Darlene!

The next meeting will be held May 10th at 6:30 p.m. Jan Clarke will be hosting the meeting at her home. Their phone number is 253-847-4822. Look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome New Members

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.

With Regrets

Long time TOS member Donna Summerhill passed away. A memorial service was held at the Nazarene Church in Puyallup on April 26th. Donna had been battling with cancer for some time. Your sympathy goes out to her husband Bill and their family and friends at this time.

Upcoming Events

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

May 7th

Washington Native Plant Society: Plant Sale
Bellevue Botanical Gardens
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

Show and Tell Winners

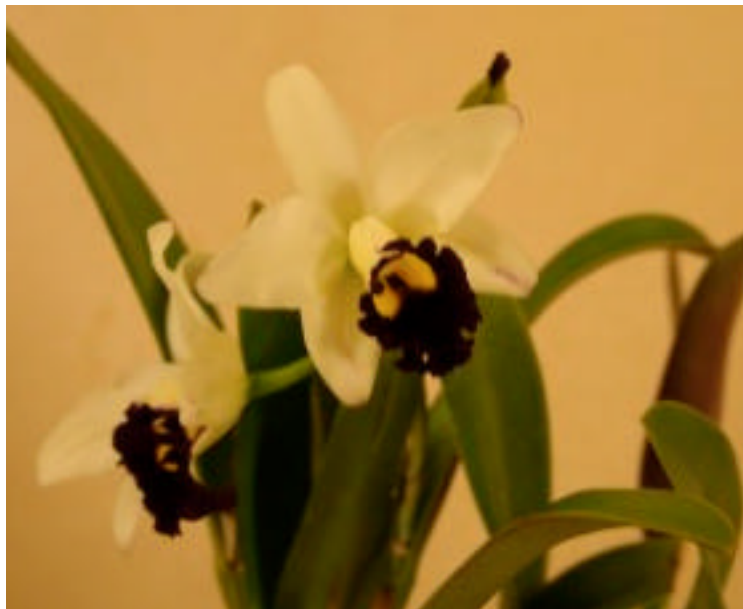
Species Winner:

Ron Wray with his *Cattleya Schilleriana*



Hybrid Winner:

Tammy Moore with her Lc. Morning Love 'Nice Day'



Ten Types of Orchid Growers

(Adapted from the Orchid Digest)

THE SAINT

(#5 of 10)

This orchid grower exists in a state of grace. She blooms masdevallias in the desert and laelias at the arctic circle. She wins lots of AOS awards because her paphiopedilum blooms fifteen spikes while yours only puts out one spike every leap year. She built her greenhouse herself from sticks she found in the street while helping on the Girl Scout clean-up and heats and cools it for only \$15 a year. She is the first one to offer you a division of her prize-winning plant and invites new members over to watch her repot her plants. She is happy to bring food to the orchid club meeting and always vacuums. Orchid clubs love her. Who wouldn't? (Of course, there is the rumor she belongs to a cult that practices black magic, but maybe that is just jealousy.....)

.....more next month!

I want a Greenhouse!

Reprint form SCWOS Newsletter

Within our society, there have been a few members who are interested in pursuing building or having a greenhouse built. Thus, there has been considerable talk regarding all things greenhouse related, from locating the greenhouse to heating to watering systems. Keep in mind you may need a permit! This website offers a good introduction to some of the basic questions you need to answer when trying to decide on what type of greenhouse you want. <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/hortcult/greenhou/building.htm>

This site covers:

- Location
- Types of Greenhouses
- Structural Materials
- Foundations and Floors
- Heating
- Air Circulation
- Ventilation
- Cooling

Greenhouse Sources:

- Charley's Greenhouse:
www.charleysgreenhouse.com
- Costco online: www.costco.com

Orchids of Washington

Phantom Orchid

Phantom Orchid or *Cephalanthera austinae* is a very rare orchid. The Phantom Orchid is the only member of the genus *Cephalanthera* that is saprophytic and in North America.

The plant is terrestrial, saprophytic, leafless and completely white. The plant can stay dormant for years before sending out as stem. The flowers are white with a small yellow spot on the lip. This is the only North American orchid that is completely devoid of chlorophyll. Its food is drawn from the rotting humus of the forest floor, with the help of symbiotic fungi that “infects” the plant’s fibrous roots, sharing nutrients with it. The habitat is in the rich soils of dark coniferous or deciduous forests along mountain ranges. They only grow in forests with little to no undergrowth and limestone deposits. The distribution is in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and Southwestern British Columbia.

Threat to the species survival are also increasing through habitat loss. High levels of development and logging in key orchid habitats continue to place this species in peril, as well as mountain bike activity and native plant gathering. In British Columbia there are only 12 known population of the Phantom Orchid as of 2004. In Canada, the Phantom Orchid is on the Species at Risk Act Schedule 1, which means it is a protected species in Canada.

If you are lucky enough to see one of these beauties, go buy a lotto ticket.

Please do not pick the flowers, because of the low number of flowering stems the chance for seed development is very low. In British Columbia only 42 flowering stems were reported in 2000.

Please do not try to transplant this plant, the success rate is nil. Just take a picture, it will last longer.

Height: 4 to 26 inches tall
Flowers: June to September
Flower Size: ¾ to 1 ¼ inch wide



©<http://www.oldhippy.org/archives/000049.html>



©<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~brian/phantomorchid.htm>

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 miniature Equitant or Tolumnia Oncidiums originated in the dryer areas of the Caribbean.

Flowers:

Equitant plants can bloom more than once a year. They come in many colors and have flowers that can be solid, spotted or barred. Don't cut off the inflorescence after flowering, it may flush another bloom.

Light:

Equitant plants grow on the ends of tree branches and are exposed to high light conditions. Growing them indoors, the east or shaded mid-day south window is best. Artificial lights such as high-pressure sodium or metal halide light systems can also be used.

Watering:

When watering Equitants, distilled or reverse osmosis water works the best. Tap water can also be used if it is not hard water. This plant does best mounted on a slab of bark or tree fern. A small, well drained pot with well-drained media can also be used. The plant has very small roots and should never be allowed to stay wet. Allow the media to dry out between watering. When mounted to a slab the humidity needs to be 50% or greater and daily watering may be needed. When in a pot watering may be needed every 3 to 7 days.

Temperatures:

Equitants like intermediate temperatures. They prefer a low nighttime temperature of 60° and a daytime temperature between 70° and 80°.

Fertilizer:

Green Jungle orchid food works with rain, distilled, reverse osmosis water, or water with low alkalinity. Fertilize with Green Jungle every time you water, all year round. Grow More 20-10-20 works for tap and well water. Fertilize every other watering at the rate of ½ tsp. per gallon of water.

Pests:

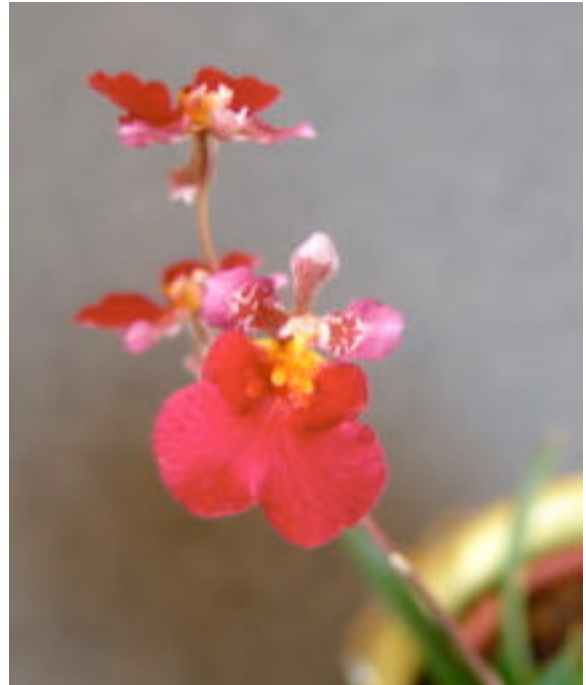
Attention should be paid for scale and mealy bugs. Diseases should not be a problem because of the dry-side growing conditions.

Air Circulation:

Good air movement must be provided year-round.

Examples:

Oncidium Phyllis Envy "Ruby Queen"



Oncidium Natalie Warford

©<http://www.orchidweb.com>



Tacoma Orchid Society
Minutes for April 26th, 2005
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Meeting was called to order by Dick Gersib at 7:00 p.m. in Bob Worley's absence.

Visitors included:

Nicky Klein

Eugene Wousal

Melissa sent out last months newsletters without any revisions; accepted.

Financial report: 4247.69 is the total and no major expenses to report.

Old business:

Still a need for a Sunshine person. This is a person who sends out cards to those who may be in the hospital, sick or perhaps for a death in the family. If interested, please contact any of the board members.

Options for the Christmas Party:

Mama Stortini's, Toscanos or the Tacoma Club. A motion was made to have the Christmas party at Toscanos on December 4th. Affirmed by the group. Thanks to Melissa for her work in finding this for us.

New business: Dick Gersib posed for us to have a "project" for the society. "It's not what we do everyday it's the legacy we leave behind."

Some suggestions were to contact Home Depot and perhaps get the throw aways from them and then give them to a retirement/nursing home. An orchid salvage would be another option.

A sad note Donna Summerhill, a long-time orchid society member passed away on April 19th. A card was sent to the family.

Jan worked on and completed a T.O.S. directory. If you would like one you need to contact Jan so that she can mark you off the list. Only one per family/membership.

Orchid favorites for the Show and Tell selected were:

Ron Wray's for species with his *C. schilleriana*

Tammy Moore for hybrid with her *Lc. Morning Love 'Nice Day'*

Meeting was adjourned by Dick Gersib to Barb Inman who gave a talk on Orchid potting materials. A great presentation.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Cupp, secretary T.O.S.