



Monthly Meetings

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

June 2005 Newsletter

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2005 Officers

President

Bob Worley
360-456-0725
mostlyorchids@comcast.net

Vice President

Dick Gersib
360-923-0332
rgersib@comcast.net

Secretary

Darlene Cupp
253-891-7164
dmscupp@comcast.net

Treasurer & Co-Show Committee

Jan Clarke
253-847-4822
jclarke5@comcast.net
-membership dues

Show Committee

Barb Inman
253-848-4446
valley-orchids@msn.com

Newsletter Editor-Website Designer

Melissa Rathbun
253-857-0117
melissa@tacwa.com

Librarian

Ron Wray
253-857-7192
wray960@comcast.net

Sunshine Lady or Gent

Open Position

Help Line

Cymbidiums

Barb Jansen
253-858-9001

Phalaenopsis

Red Scheyer
253-846-9028

Pests, Diseases and General Culture

Barb Inman
253-848-4446
valley-orchids@msn.com

Next Meeting

We will meet on June 28th at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The evening's program is unknown at this time. Hope to see you there!

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on May 24th. Thank you to Linda Petchnick for bringing her orchid paintings for sale and display. They were wonderful! For more information about her orchid prints for sale visit www.orchidpainter.com. The evening's program was presented by Wally Orchard. He discussed the topic of Diasas, orchids that grow in South Africa. Thank you to Dick and Wally 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 Jan Clarke's home on 5/10/05. The topic was Bulbophyllums. Thank you Jan!

The next meeting will be held June 14th at 6:30 p.m. the topic will be Bletillas. Melissa Rathbun & Tina Taylor will be hosting the meeting at Melissa's home. Feel free to call for directions or use mapquest.com. 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.

New Member:
Richard G. Welch

With Regrets

The celebration of life for Jeri Wright a long time TOS member, was held at the Wright's home on Sunday, May 29th 2005. TOS members were invited to come and share stories and memories of her life. Our thoughts go out to Jim Wright and their family at this time.

Upcoming Events

July 9th - 12th

4th Annual Native Orchid Conference
St. Benedict's Conference and Retreat Center
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Marion Dupley - contact
tel. 204 339 1705
email stbenscentre@mts.net

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.

December 11th

TOS Christmas Party
Toscanos
437 29th St. N.E.,
Puyallup, WA 98372

Show and Tell Winners

Species Winner:

Bonnie Anderson with her *Phrag. besseae*



Hybrid Winner:

Bonnie Anderson with her *Trioehilia sauve margins*



Minutes for May 24th, 2005 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tacoma Orchid Society

Meeting was called to order by Bob Worley,
President, at 7:15 p.m.

New Member
Richard Welch

Treasurer Report
No report Jan Clarke not present

Old Business
Christmas Party will be held at Toscanos, Sunday
Dec. 11th at 5:00. Menu choices will be picked at a
later date.

New Business
Member Linda Petchnick will be illustrating in
watercolor pictures of species cattleyas for a new
orchid book. She is asking to borrow your in bloom
species cattleyas to use as models. You will receive
a print of your orchid if your orchid volunteers. If
you can help her please contact Linda at
(360) 825-1869 or email at lindy@TX3.com.

TOS picnic
Due to overlapping dates for both the Olympia
Orchid Society and TOS club July picnic. President
Bob Worley asked us to change our date so
members of both clubs could attend. There was
discussion of possible time & day changes. It was
moved and seconded to change our picnic date.
from July 17th to July 23rd. The TOS picnic has
been moved to July 23rd, 2005. There was
discussion on changing the time to later in the day.
The time and place will be finalized next meeting.

Show And Tell
Bonnie Anderson won both the Hybrid and Species

The Program
Our speaker was TOS member Wally Orchard. His
topic was on disa orchids. The program included
slides of disas in the wild, cultivation, and people
who have been leaders in the work with disas.
Thanks Wally

Minutes taken by Tina Taylor for Darlene Cupp

Orchids of Washington

Cypripediums

Cypripedium means 'Aphrodite's foot', as *Kypris* was an old name for Aphrodite (Venus). Three species of the genus *cypripedium* grow in the State of Washington. Members of this genus are terrestrial and have creeping rhizomes. The stems have two to four leaves. Flowers tend to be solitary, more unusually two or three flowers. *Cypripediums* are pollinated by bees passing through the basal opening.

Methods of cultivation: They need to be shaded in the hottest part of the day. The soil should consist of calcareous, clay humus with limestone grit, and be well aerated and not compressed. They need good drainage with little ground moisture. The soil pH should be 6-7. Remember, if you do try to grow these orchids, **slugs** love to eat these guys.

The beauty of this orchid has been its downfall. Thoughtless collectors have made these orchids rare, endangered or even extinct. Most *cypripediums* are protected, so don't dig them up. When transplanted the plant tends to die from the roots being suffocated from the new soil compaction. A few have been successfully propagated and can be purchased commercially. Hybrids tend to be easier to grow.

Mountain Lady's Slipper or *Cypripedium montanum*

Cypripedium montanum or Mountain lady's Slipper is a perennial, somewhat rhizomatous herb. Stems can be simple or branched, hairy and usually 20 to 100 cm tall. Leaves are elliptic to egg-shaped, alternate, 12 cm long, 5 cm wide. The lower leaves are wrapped around the base or sheathing of the stem. Flowers are white with purple veins, fragrant, with a showy slipper like lip. The petal and sepals are copper colored. The two lateral petals are long and twisted. Usually two flowers per stem. This orchid has been reported to take 15 years to bloom. This plant can live in dry to moist conditions. They can be found in open woods, deciduous woods, sub-alpine elevations and even disturbed sites such as roadsides. This orchid is threatened by over-collecting.

Height: 10-28 inches tall
Flower size: 2-4 inches wide
Blooms: May-July



©www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/record_species_232_9_9.html

Small Yellow Lady's Slipper

Cypripedium parviflorum var. parviflorum

Small Yellow Lady's Slipper or *Cypripedium parviflorum var. parviflorum* is the form of the Yellow Lady's Slipper that grows in Washington State. This orchid was classified as *C. calceolus* or the Yellow Lady's Slipper until 1985. This orchid has also been known as *C. calceolus var. pubescens* until 1995.

Cypripedium parviflorum var. parviflorum often forms large clumps. The leaves are bluish green and there are usually three to four leaves on a plant. The flower is fragrant, small and showy. The two lateral petals are twisted two to four times. The slipper like lip is yellow with red spotting inside. The staminode is yellow with red spotting. The sepals and petals are madder purple to maroon. Usually one or two flowers per stem. This orchid can be found in sunny places in damp calcareous fens, marshes, meadows with skunk cabbage, marly cedar swamps, non-sphagnum bogs, deciduous woodland. **This orchid is not easy to grow.** It must have a perfectly crumbled calcareous clay soil that contains small sand grain size pieces of limestone.

Height: 10-12 inches tall
Flower size: 2-4 inches wide
Blooms: April-August



em.ca/garden/nat_cypripedium_parv_parviflorum.html

Cluster Lady's Slipper or *Cypripedium fasciculatum*

Cluster Lady's Slipper or *Cypripedium fasciculatum* is a very rare orchid. The two leaves are broadly elliptic, and high on the stem. Two to four flowers are usual. The flowers are crowded and drooping. The small round slipped like lip is greenish and mottled with purplish brown. The petals and sepals are greenish heavily marked with purplish brown. The petals and dorsal sepal are ovate. The lateral sepal fused almost to the apex. They can be found growing in moderate altitudes in moist to dry coniferous forests in the mountains with acid soils. The distribution is in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, west to Washington, Oregon and northern California. This species is not recommended for cultivation.

Height: 5- 20 cm tall
Flowers Size: 12-25 mm long
Blooms: April to July

ghs.gresham.k12.or.us/science/ps/nature/gorge/3petal/orchid/fasiculatum.htm



Orchid Trips

I received an email from a Vancouver Orchid Society and Fraser Orchid Society member Bill Biscoff.

He has been on a trip available in Chilliwack / Sardis in southern BC, Canada, (about an hour drive, east of Vancouver). The outing is called "Ryder Lake Ramble: and is sponsored by the local 4-H club. It takes place in June, rain or shine. Bill did it 2 times and he says it can be a day full of fun filled activities, or just a visit to the *Cephalanthera austinae* or Phantom orchid. Please use the web-site mentioned below and open the activities and site map pages.

www3.telus.net/public/a3a52780/ryderlake

He also has seen at the same time or a couple of weeks later another rare orchid near Squamish, on the way to Whistler, north of Vancouver. *Corallorhiza mertensiana* or Western Coralroot, a rose to pink colored plant.



Phantom Orchid



Western Coralroot

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.

MASDEVALLIA

Masdevallias are the miniature jewels of the orchid family and are frequently covered with a cloud of white, yellow, purple, orange or red flowers. Native to the cloud forests of the higher altitudes of the Andes Mountains, they are not the easiest of orchids to grow with their requirements for cool temperatures and high humidity, good air movement and perfect drainage.

Healthy Masdevallia start with healthy roots:

- Pot in a fine medium. Fir bark mixtures are best, with 0.5 to 1.0 cm chunks of bark, perlite and charcoal. Add moss if watering frequency cannot maintain required level of moisture. In larger pots use larger mix 1.5 to 2.0 cm in all but top 10 cm of pot.
- Repot annually, preferably in the autumn, to ensure that the medium does not break down. Masdevallia require continuous moisture but cannot tolerate a decaying mix – the roots must always get air as well as water.
- Roots should be moist at all times. Ideally, the plant is watered each morning, and has dried to dampness by evening. Grow in small pots for the plant size, to promote this rapid drying cycle. Add moss to mix if watering frequency cannot maintain constant moisture.
- Do not use water softened in salt-consuming water softeners. Low mineral content water is essential, such as naturally soft water or rain water. If hard water must be used, water very heavily to flush minerals.
- Fertilize weakly and frequently with a balanced fertilizer during growth. One-eighth strength recommended by manufacturer for house plants every week.

Healthy leaves produce more and bigger flowers:

- Low to medium light levels are appropriate. Leaves should be a light green, not yellowish (too much light) or dark green (too little light). They should be firm, not long and floppy (more light needed).
- One to three hours of sunshine on windowsill (East recommended) or 15-30 cm under a two tube fluorescent fixture.
- Be careful of rot – good air movement is essential.

- Delicate leaves do not react well to most pesticides – use extreme caution. Practice preventive growing, inspecting for pests frequently and eliminating them immediately if found.
- Masdevallia do best with 70 - 90% humidity but when mature will grow and bloom, although more slowly, in somewhat lower humidity. Use humidifier to raise humidity – humidity pans and misting minimally effective. Enclosing plant growing areas is effective but ensure fresh air and air movement.
- Loss of leaves indicates drying out, rotting roots, too high temperature or harsh pesticides or fertilizers.
- Masdevallia grow in cooler temperatures than most orchids. Different species require different degrees of coolness: Cool: (10°C nights, maximum 20°C days) coccinea, decumana, ignea. Intermediate: (13°C nights, maximum 23°C days) herraduræ, strobilii, veitchiana. Warm (16°C nights, maximum 26°C days) floribunda, tonduzii, tovarensis.
- For all ensure 6-12°C day/night difference to aid flower formation. If specific information on a species cannot be found, grow initially on the cool side of intermediate temperatures.
- Some Masdevallias must be planted in pots with open bottoms and sides (net pots) as flower spikes grow down and out the sides and bottom of the pot.

Masdevallias may have a few flowers continuously or flushes of flowers once or twice a year:

- Flowers will last up to two weeks.
- Maintain plant orientation while spike is growing for best display.
- Buds turning yellow, wilting and falling prior to opening is from not enough energy in the plant to open the flower often because of high temperatures or dry air.

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Masdevallia barlaeana x herradurea