



Monthly Meetings

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

July 2005 Newsletter

In this issue:

Next Meeting	page 2
Last Meeting	page 2
Open Position	page 2
Orchid Study Club	page 2
Upcoming Events	page 2
Orchid Trips	page 2
Show and Tell Winners	page 3
TOS Minutes	page 3
Orchid of WA	page 4
Cute Kittens	page 4
Mini Orchids	page 5
What's Blooming	page 5

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Open Position

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Next Meeting

TOS PICNIC

We will meet on **July 24th at 1 p.m. at Bill Summerhill's home.** This is the TOS annual picnic. Bring a pot luck item, a folding chair and any orchids you wish to donate to the auction. The auction money goes to help with the club expenses. Hope to see you there!

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on June 28th. The evening's program was presented by Dick Gersib and Darlene Cupp. The slide show was on the conservation of orchids in the wild. Thank you to Dick and Darlene for the program! See page 3 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 hosted by Melissa Rathbun and Tina Taylor at Melissa's home on 6/14/05. The topic was Bletillas. Thank you Melissa and Tina!

The next meeting will be held **September**. Information about the meeting will be provided at a later date. Have a safe and happy summer!

Upcoming Events

July 23rd

NWOS Native Orchid Trip
Hurricane Ridge: Port Angeles, WA
July 23rd at 12:00

July 24th: 1 p.m.

TOS Picnic: Bill Summerhill's home
Puyallup, WA

November 12th and 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

January 21st and 22nd

TOS Show and Sale
Windmill Gardens

Feburary 1st-5th

Tacoma Home & Garden Show
Tacoma Dome

Native Orchid Trip

Want to see blooming native orchids? Jamie Notman of NWOS has put together a trip to the Port Angeles area of the Olympics. The meeting place is at the ranger's station at the bottom of Hurricane Ridge Road in Port Angeles on Saturday the 23rd of July at 12 noon. You will need to purchase an Olympic National Park Pass to enter the park. If you would like to camp there, it is on a first come first serve basis. Bring your camera and a picnic lunch. Contact person Jamie Notman: 206-545-7343.

Show and Tell Winners

Species Winner:

Ron Wray with his *Gongora gracilis*



Hybrid Winner: Scott O'Tyson with his *Lc. canhamiana* var *coerulea* 'Azure Skies' AM/AOS



Minutes for June 28th, 2005 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tacoma Orchid Society

Bob Worley brought the meeting to order.

Motion was made to accept the minutes and seconded.

Treasurer's report: balance of 4215.13 without any significant expenses.

Old business: Still need a venue for the July picnic. Bill Summerhill has graciously volunteered to have it at his house on July 24th at 1:00 p.m. This has been confirmed by Bill for the 24th. The picnic takes the place of the July meeting. It is a picnic and auction. Chicken will be provided as well as the dessert. A sign-up list has been sent around for you. If you have forgotten what you signed up for, please give Darlene Cupp a call as she has the list.

A motion was made to participate in the Tacoma Flower and Garden show next year. Barb Inman volunteered to chair the committee. The show is in the early part of February 2006. There was reassurance about the orchids; no problems were had.

As a reminder, the Windmill Gardens Flower Show is next year, January 21st and 22nd. Jan Clarke is the chair and Barb is co-chair.

A suggestion was made to have a judging class for those who will be judging the Windmill Gardens show in January. It was suggested for November so that it would be as close as possible to the show.

Ron Bollick had surgery on his legs to improve the circulation. We wish him a quick recovery!

The Christmas party is on December 11th at Toscano's in Puyallup. Menus are to come as they change seasonally.

New business: Scott O'Tyson and Barb Inman may be teaching at Renton Voc-Tech on Orchid Cultivation. Way to go!

Brochures were brought in by Bonnie Anderson for greenhouses. Small samples of the polycarbonate were also available to preview. Bonnie highly recommends this as it is the one she has and enjoys it thoroughly.

The Northwest Orchid Society is planning a field trip to see native orchids on the peninsula. If interested, contact Melissa for more information.

New members: Nancy Whitmore, Eugene Woosell Meeting was adjourned to Dick Gersib who presented a program on Orchid conservation by the A.O.S.

Minutes taken by Darlene Cupp

Washington Orchids

Epipactis gigantea

Epipactis gigantea - Gaint Helleborine, or Stream Orchid - is a native orchid to Washington State. The *Epipactis gigantea* gets the botanical name *gigantea* from the large size of the flower compared to the others in this genus. Not its overall plant size.

This species may be grown in a bed or rock garden containing leaf mold and peat. It can be grown in either sun or shade. The soil must be alkaline and wet, especially during the growing season. The plants are frost hardy and should be kept moist throughout the year. To propagate, divide the plants during the spring.

This terrestrial orchid arises from a rhizome. It grows along gravelly shores of lakes, rivers, in seepage areas and sand bars in rivers and streams. The distribution is British Columbia and south to California and New Mexico. The stem is smooth and hairless. The four to twelve light green leaves are pleated and lance shaped. The leaves are alternating and 10 inches long. The flowers are borne among leaf-like bracts near the top of the stem. Flowers can number up to 15. The flowers are a blend of yellowish green and flushed with purple on the sepals. Petals are broad with brownish purple veining. The lip has a white mid-lobe with a brown and yellow callus at its base. A white flower form can occasionally be found. The flower is shaped like an open mouth with an outthrust tongue.

The *Epipactis gigantea* is pollinated by flower flies which land on the front half of the lip to sip nectar from the rear half. As the fly leaves, they brush first against the stigma on the underside of the column, then against a gummy flap and finally against the crumbly pollinia- picking up grains of pollen to carry to the stigma of the next flower.

Epipactis gigantea can be purchased from:

- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate:
www.sborchid.com
- Joy Creek Nursery
www.joycreek.com

Flower Height: 1 to 4 feet tall
Flower Size: 1 ½ to 2 ½ in wide
Flowers: March to August



© Santa Barbara Orchid Estate:
www.sborchid.com/OrchidOfTheDay/Epipactis-gigantea.htm

Cute Kittens

Some of you know that I (Melissa) have three jobs. My husband and I are owners of two website design companies. You would think that would be enough, but I have another job. I work at the Tacoma Humane Society as a Veterinary Technician. Why, you ask? It is not the money, it is not the fame, it is not how I smell when I leave or the days I try to hold the tears back. I AM AN ANIMAL LOVER before I AM AN ORCHID LOVER! Sorry to say this to you orchid crazies, but my 2 dogs, 5 cats and 2 birds come before my orchids. The Humane Society of Tacoma and Pierce County receive and adopt more animals than any other Humane Society. We can receive 60 cats/kittens each day during the summer months.

I also bring my work home! I foster kittens until they are big enough to be spayed/neutered and then placed up for adoption. If you have the



time to foster kittens, please contact me at 253-279-8422.

I also have a cute kitten for adoption. She is very special

and her name is Smeegle, the one on the left. Topaz, the one on the right, has already been adopted by Nancy Scott. Thanks Nancy!

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.

Angraecum leonis: The Malay word for orchid is "angurek" which is the root of Angraecum. The name leonis is because the downswepth resembles a lion's mustache. There are two forms of this species. The smaller form is found at the northern tip of Madagascar growing near sea level. The second and larger form is found in the Comoro Islands growing at 3000 ft. This little jewel is fragrant at night. The odd sickle-shaped alternating leaves are laterally flattened. The leaves curve from the stem in a flat plane and end at a fine point. The 2 to 4 flowers per stem are waxy, 10 cm across and are sparkling white. The petals and sepals are board, rectangular and pointed. The lobed lip is s-curved. The spurs are 7 to 9 cm long. The mature plant reaches 6 to 8 inches tall and 6 inches wide.

Humidity: 75%-85% from summer to autumn
65% in winter and spring

Light: low to medium light, shaded window.

Day Temperatures: 80F to 85F

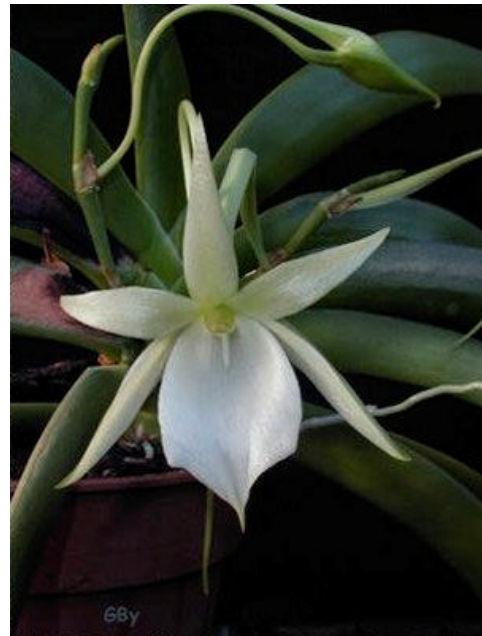
Night Temperatures: 75F

Water: Water once a week during the active growth. Watering should be reduced during the rest period in the winter. During the winter, water enough to keep in the leaves from wrinkling a daily misting is usually sufficient.

Fertilizer: 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 mixed at a ¼ strength weekly during active growth. Pots should be leached every few weeks to prevent salt buildup.

Potting: Potting media should be a fast draining media of medium grade fir bark or mounted on a slap of tree fern or cork.

For more on the genus Angraecum visit:
www.orchids.mu/Species/Angraecum/index.htm



© Orchids of the World:
www.orchids.mu/Species/Angraecum/index.html

What's Blooming



Tina Taylor, TOS member, grows *Cypripedium acaule* in her yard. This orchid is native to the eastern US and eastern Canada. Common names: Pink Lady's Slipper and Moccasin Flower. The blooming season is late April through mid June.