



## ***Monthly Meetings***

Fourth Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m.  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
101 E 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tacoma, Washington  
[www.tacomaorchidsociety.com](http://www.tacomaorchidsociety.com)

## ***October 2006 Newsletter***

### ***In this issue:***

Next Meeting	page 2
Last Meeting	page 2
AOS Judging Center	page 2
Upcoming Events	page 2
Orchids for Sale	page 2
Show & Tell Winners	page 3
TOS Officer Nominations	page 3
TOS Minutes	page 4
Laelia liliputiana	page 4
Kelsey Creek Labs:	
About Our Next Speaker	page 5-6
Shadow Witch Orchid	page 6-7
Cymbidiums Care	page 8

## ***2006 Officers***

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### **Secretary**

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### **Sunshine Lady & AOS Representative**

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### **Public Relations**

Open Position

## *Next Meeting*

We will meet on October 24th at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:30 pm. **The Beginners Program will be held from 6:30pm to 6:55pm.** The evening's program is on Conservation of *Cypripedium montanum* by Kelsey Creek Labs. Website: [www.kelseycreeklabs.com](http://www.kelseycreeklabs.com)  
Hope to see you there!

## *Last Meeting*

The last meeting was held on September 26th at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The evening's program was a presentation on the Hardy Orchids by Arlen Hill owner of Keeping It Green Nursery. Website: [www.keepingitgreennursery.com](http://www.keepingitgreennursery.com) Thank you Arlen and Darlene for the program!

## *AOS Judging Center*

The AOS's local judging center is located at the South End Neighborhood Center. 7802 S. L St., Tacoma WA. The Center provides opportunities to have plants judged monthly. Center activities are open to interested observers. Meeting dates are available in *Orchids* magazine or online at [www.orchidweb.org/aos](http://www.orchidweb.org/aos). Click on judging and then judging centers. Contact is Diana Dunn at 360-293-5054 or [dpdunn@fidalgo.net](mailto:dpdunn@fidalgo.net).

Next Judging Center Date:  
October 21st at 1:00 pm

## *Upcoming Events*

October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

### **Olympia Orchid Society Show**

Bark & Garden Nursery  
Olympia Washington  
28<sup>th</sup>- 9am to 5pm  
29<sup>th</sup>- 9 am – 4 pm

November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate**

#### **Annual Fall Open House**

[www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)

November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### **Northwest Orchid Society Show and Sale**

Seattle Center, Olympic Room  
Northwest of Key Arena

January, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2007

### **TOS Orchid Show and Sale**

Windmill Gardens  
Sumner, WA

## *Orchids for Sale*

Due to illness I am closing out all of my orchid plants, pots, and assorted indoor and outdoor gardening materials. Mostly Phalaenopsis. I have not labeled the orchid plants. I am more interested in a good home than in making a lot of money; however I do need to get some money out of this. I have a number of plants, many are very large. The orchids are not in the best of shape but as you know they are very resilient. Please contact me at [alice@msjsia.com](mailto:alice@msjsia.com) or at 360-352-2632 in Olympia .Thank you in advance for your assistance!

## ***Show & Tell Winners***

Species Winner: Darlene Cupp with her  
*acacallis cyanea*



Hybrid Winner: Kathleen Greer with  
her *Brassia* hybrid



## ***TOS Officer***

### ***Nominations for 2007***

It is getting close to that time of year again. ELECTIONS! If you would like to run for a board position or nominate someone contact Dick Gersib. 360-923-0332 or email: [rgersib@comcast.net](mailto:rgersib@comcast.net).

These are the current nominations:

President	Melissa Rathbun
Vice President	Tammy Moore
Secretary	<b>Still Open</b>
Treasurer	Tina Talyor
Newsletter	<b>Still Open</b>
1 year Trustee	Ron Bollicks
3 year Trustee	Red Scheyer

### ***Olympia Orchid Society Show***

OOS has invited TOS to display at there orchid show. The set-up is October 27<sup>th</sup>. The show dates are October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The show will be held at Bark & Garden Center in Olympia, WA. Address: 3334 Mud Bay Rd. NW Olympia, WA 98502

If you have orchids to display, you can do the following:

- 1) Take your orchids to Bark & Garden Center in Olympia on October 27th from 12:00 to 5:30pm. Pick-up is October 29<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.
- 2) If you live on the Peninsula: Bring your orchids to Melissa Rathbun's home. 253-857-0128 or [melissa@tacwa.com](mailto:melissa@tacwa.com).
- 3) If you live in Tacoma area: Bring your orchids to Ron Bollick's home or contact him to pick-them up. 253-537-3829 or [ronbollick@aol.com](mailto:ronbollick@aol.com).
- 4) Bring your orchids to the next meeting and Ron Bollick will take care of them until the show.

# ***TOS Minutes***

## ***September 26th, 2006***

### Treasurers Report:

Income This Month: \$0

Expenses This Month \$377.99

Total in Bank \$4,868.97

### New Business:

- 1) Minutes Approved
- 2) Olympia Orchid Society Show will be held at Bark & Garden Nursery in Olympia on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. TOS has been invited to participate in displaying at the show. Set-up is October 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have any orchids to display you can bring them to the nursery or contact Ron Bollicks. Ron is willing to pick-up orchids for the show.
- 3) Dick Gersib is taking nominations for 2007 officers. Contact Dick at 360-923-0332 or email: rgersib@comcast.net.

### Old Business:

- 1) Fair

The showing of orchids at the fair was low this year. TOS Members had very few or no blooming orchids to show. Suggestions for next year was to buy orchids for fair from orchid vendors in bud a few months early and TOS returning to an orchid information booth. TOS Members decided to continue participating in the Puyallup fair.

- 2) TOS January Show & Sale

The theme this year is the "World of Orchids". Darlene Cupp will be looking into credit card processing company for the show. The fees from the show this month are \$150 for the AOS show fee and \$100 for show trophies.

### Library Recommendations:

Complete Guide to Orchids by Ortho. This new Ortho book would be a good orchid beginner book.

### Orchid Tip:

Ron Bollicks: When dividing Brassias divide into clumps with 7 pseudobulbs.

### Evenings Presentation

Arlen Hill from Keeping it Green Nursery. Arlen discussed Culture of Native and Hardy Orchids.

### Welcome Guest:

Georgia Pope

## ***Laelia lilliputiana***

Laelia lilliputiana is one of the smallest rupicolous Laelias. A plant at specimen size is grown in a two inch pot. They can grow in light levels adequate for standard Cattleya hybrids. Rupicolous laelias come from mountainous areas and benefit from a drop in temperature at night. In cultivation provide plenty of water, watering 2 or 3 times a week. Rupicolous laelias can bloom without fertilizer. Too much fertilizer can be harmful. Rupicolous laelias like the same temperatures as Oncidiums and Cattleyas.

This orchid is \$24 at [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)



Photo Courtesy of Andy's Orchids

## ***Kelsey Creek Labs About Our Next Speaker***



*Cypripedium montanum*

Roger and Jane Smith are co-owners of Kelsey Creek Laboratories (KCL), starting the business about a decade ago in the basement of their suburban home in Bellevue, Washington. The growth of their business forced them to move to a new location with more elbow room. They have been learning orchid biology from processing seeds ever since! About year 2000, some mutual friends told them of a location in NE Oregon where wild Mountain Lady's Slippers (*Cypripedium montanum*) grew. The following spring they took a trip to GROWISER (Grande Ronde Overlook Wildflower Institute Serving Ecological Restoration, founded by Andy Huber) see these wild orchids blooming in their natural habitat. They were completely hooked on this beautiful orchid when told that the seed were very difficult to

germinate. This species, found from northern California to Alaska and east to Montana and Wyoming, is a threatened species due to loss of habitat over the years caused by land development, overgrazing, forest fires and poaching. Attempts to germinate the seed collected from mature pods did, in fact, prove to show no germination in the KCL laboratory. Gradually all persons involved with these particular orchid populations concurred that a bigger and more directed effort was going to be needed to unlock the secret of these seeds' germination.

In 2003, a pilot study was conducted to find out whether or not green pod seeds would germinate as reported by fellow researchers. Fortunately, a few of them did germinate and developed into twisted masses of roots and growing tips. Roger and Jane used this pilot study to write a grant proposal (USDA-SBIR) to study seed germination in greater depth for the purposes of possible re-introduction projects and commercial nursery stock. This study was funded for 6 months (June '04 to December '04). Building on that success, they have since been awarded a Phase II grant (2 years) to further refine the procedures and attempt to make these orchids available to gardeners, hobbyists, and forestry restoration projects. This project is ongoing from 2006-2008.

Restoration efforts of populations of either plants or animals have always been challenging. Usually the effort is 'too little, too late'. One example of a success is found in England. About 10 years ago, a partnership was formed by some concerned citizens and the seed germination lab at Kew gardens to save

the *Cypripedium calceolus*. This terrestrial orchid was once plentiful in meadows of the countryside north of London. When this effort was begun, there were only a few plants remaining and no natural pollinators were found. The national government agreed to establish a guarded area to protect the remaining plants. The orchid enthusiasts agreed to do the hand pollinations when the flowers were in bloom. The laboratory at Kew Gardens agreed to germinate the seed. Through these collective efforts, the population is slowly recovering.

With the support of the USDA-SBIR grant Roger and Jane are working together with a team of biologists, striving to develop hardy *C. montanum* seedlings in large numbers for restoration of depleted populations of Mountain Lady Slipper in the western portion of the United States. Also, KCL hopes its research will result in the development of this species for commercial sales through landscape nurseries. Of course, such work cannot be accomplished alone. Roger and Jane are collaborating with area universities, nurseries, federal and state agencies, and local conservation societies. Results of this work will be shared through public presentation and publications. Through these efforts it is hoped that this beautiful orchid will be made available for restoration projects and to the public for personal enjoyment.

Article courtesy of Vancouver Orchid Society-April 2006

## *In the Spirit of Halloween*

### *Shadow Witch Orchid or Ponthieva racemosa*



Photo courtesy of Gulf South Research Corporation



Photo courtesy of Herman Terborch of Botanische Orchideeën

**State Heritage Status Ranks:** Alabama (S2), Florida (SNR), Georgia (S2?), Louisiana (S2), Mississippi (S2?), North Carolina (S2), South Carolina (SNR), Tennessee (S1), Texas (SNR), Virginia (S3)

**Description:** Shadow witch orchid is a small orchid arising from thick, fleshy, fasciculate roots. Shadow witch orchid has a basal rosette of oblong to elliptic to obovate or oblanceolate leaves ranging from 2 to 17 cm in length (including to petiole) by 1 to 5.5 cm in width. The under surface of the leaves are glaucous. When wet as depicted in the above image, the upper leaf surface is succulent in appearance otherwise they are thin and papery when dry. The scape (flower stalk) is pubescent and reddish brown to purplish or greenish in color, 1.3 to 6 dm in height. Shadow witch orchid flowers are whitish green. The sepals are ovate to ovate-oblong or elliptic to lanceolate and 3.8 to 8.5 mm in length by 2 to 4 mm in width. The obliquely triangular to semicordate petals are clawed, incurved, and dilated on the outer margin at the base while constricted near the apex. Each obtuse to subacute petal is 4 to 8 mm in length and 1.5 to 5 mm in width near the base and mostly cillate. Shadow witch flowers in most of its range from September to October.

**Habitat:** Shadow witch orchid inhabits the margins of woodland streams, sloughs, moist ravines, bottomlands, floodplains, and the shady edges of ponds; nearly always over calcareous rock ("marl" or coquina limestone) soils.

**Range:** Shadow witch orchid, which is rare to very rare at least throughout its North American range, is found from southeastern Virginia south to Florida and west to southeastern Texas. The

species is disjunct in the Eastern Highland Rim of Tennessee. From these areas of the United States the species ranges south into Central and South America.



Pictures Courtesy of David MacAdoo

## *Cymbidium Growers*

Now is the time to cozy up your Cyms. Move them in close to the house and under the eaves. This will give them a little warmth from the house and protection from the frost and hard rain. Freeze cloth can be put over them. This will raise the temperature about three degrees and break the driving raindrops. It lets light in and rain through to the plant. Freeze cloth is relatively inexpensive and can be purchased through some nurseries and orchid supply houses. The standard Cyms. and even some of the smaller ones have to get a cold snap to set the spikes. Clean out any dead leaves and critters. You know the one I mean that snail down in the bottom of the plant. That sneaks in through the hole in the pot. Scale can be a problem if the plants are outside. Give them a hug and when the temperature drops around freezing bring them inside. Happy Spikes- Judy Houle