

Tacoma Orchid Society



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President

Jeff Parham
(360) 271-3971
Jsp1440@aol.com

Vice-President & Public Relations

Claudia Mizukami
(253) 927-2289
Claudia.mizukami@fastsigns.com

Secretary & Newsletter

Susan Bryant
(253) 279-9288
woemcat999@aol.com

Treasurer

Barbara Bell
(253) 927-0140

Website

Melissa Rathbun
waorchids@live.com
(360) 551-7035

Sunshine Lady & Raffle Table

Jan Whittington
(253) 535-1507

Greeter

Rex Bell
(253) 927-0140

Website:

tacomaorchidsociety.com

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Upcoming Events

January meeting cancelled

Next meeting: Tues, February 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Windmill Gardens Sale and Show – date to be rescheduled?

NEXT MEETING

Our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy New Year to all of you. We hope that 2012 brings you more orchids and good health!

Members and their guests had a lovely Christmas dinner enjoyed by all. As usual there was an abundance of good food. It was great to mingle with friends, families, and meet new people. Thank you for your culinary contributions and help.

Here are some photos:



Show-and-tell with Barbara R...



and Arlys



Nancy and Lindanne enjoying their conversation

Annual Dues

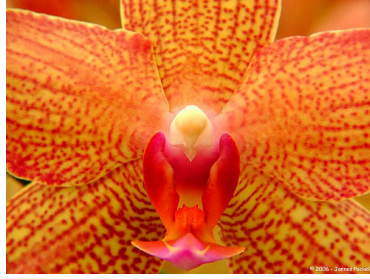
Please hold off paying your annual dues until further notice. There has been no word yet on whether or not the amount will change.

Seattle Orchid Show and Sale

The Northwest Orchid Society has invited TOS to participate in their April show and sale. Receive more information at our February meeting.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Orchid judging takes place at the UW Botanic Gardens/Center for Urban Horticulture, Douglas Classroom, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA 98105 at 1:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Send cut flowers to Bill Zimmerman, 222 S. 167th St., Seattle, WA 98148 (from the AOS website).
- Don't forget that our TOS library catalogue is listed on our website.
- Check out the Washington Native Orchid Society at www.wanativeorchids.com
- Please remember that Mike Long at Indoor Garden & Lighting gives TOS members a 10% discount on purchases. His Tacoma store is located at 3839 – 6th Avenue; phone number 761-7478. He also has Kent, Lynnwood and Preston/Fall City stores. Visit his website at www.indoorgarden.com



MORE ABOUT ORCHIDS...

The Orchid Olympics

Breeders from 19 Countries put their creations to the test at the 20th World Orchid Conference in Singapore

...The 20th World Orchid Conference, a triennial affair that drew about 1,000 participants from 55 countries and more than 300,000 spectators. It was one of the largest orchid competitions in history, a colorful, heavily scented affair that showcased the growing popularity and cutting-edge science of orchid breeding.

The day before the conference, the four-acre exhibition hall in Singapore's convention center was strewn with half-opened crates: "Fragile! Handle with care. Store at 8 degrees C." Hundreds of jet-lagged exhibitors delicately extracted cut flowers and orchid plants from their packaging. Some had carried their orchids by hand on flights and through customs, with the requisite certifications that the plants were disease-free and approved for travel by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

The flowers "tend to suffer if it's too cold or sweat if it's too warm in the boxes," said Chris Purver, an orchid breeder and curator with the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on the Isle of Jersey, a British crown dependency. "We had a few sleepless nights in getting them here."

Members of a South African orchid society, disappointed that international trade regulations had denied them permission to bring real animal parts or live birds, huffily constructed a jungle display with fake leopards, rhino horns and elephant tusks.

Justin Tkatchenko, from the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea, was adding finishing touches to a display that included gigantic carved masks and a bird made of orchids. "We are aiming to be the best in the world. This will be the most photographed display in the whole show," he said.

"The joy of breeding orchids is to see if you can combine two species in order to create something even more beautiful than either of the parents," Martin Motes, a commercial grower from Florida and conference judge, said as visitors poured into the hall and crowded around the displays. He has been breeding orchids for 40 years, and many varieties of his 500 hybrids are

named after his wife, Mary. “My wife thinks I am playing God! Well, man is given dominion over the beasts of the fields and orchids of the greenhouse, I guess,” he said.

An orchid breeder begins with a vision—the color, shape, size, fragrance and longevity of the desired flower—and then searches for the ideal parents. “When we craft orchids for celebrities and delegates, we also consider their tastes, personalities and occupation, said Tim Yam, a senior researcher and orchid breeder at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. “For example, the orchid named for Princess Diana was white—the color of royalty—and very fragrant. But if it’s for a prime minister or president, we might choose a deeper color and majestic spray.”

Read the whole story at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/The-Orchid-Olympics.html#ixzz1kE4SbkCe>

