



THE WINDSOR ORCHID SOCIETY

La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor

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Congratulations WOS/SOW on your 30th year of service to orchid enthusiasts.

Visit us on the web at: www.windsororchidsociety.ca

No.7 2014/2015

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 26, 2015 Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: St. Clair College, Room 192A (Horticultural Building)

Guests are Welcome

Speaker: Pat Vuurman



Topic: An Introduction to Phragmipediums and How We Grow Them

Pat and Lynda have been growing orchids for over 25 years with more or less success! Like most growers, plenty of plants have made the ultimate sacrifice in order for us to learn which orchids will survive and under what growing conditions these orchids will thrive. A number of excursions to the natural habitat of these plants have provided invaluable lessons. Come to the meeting on Sunday April 26th to see a few examples of Phragmipedium flowers, some cultural suggestions based on our observations and experience with Phrags as well as a Phrag re-potting demonstration. Bring along your Phrag related questions, they are welcome. A selection of Phragmipediums and a few other genera will be available for sale.

The Windsor Orchid Society continues to meet from September to May (excluding December) on the last Sunday of each month. Occasionally meetings are re-scheduled when we are participating at Orchid Shows that are scheduled for the same weekend as the General meeting or if the regular meeting date falls on a holiday. Watch the Newsletter and website announcements for these changes.

Executive Members

President	Deb Boersma	519 730-1728	dboersma@stclaircollege.ca
Vice-President	Louise Holt	519 252-3781	we.ezer100@hotmail.com
Secretary	Renee Gignac	519-995-2392	rgignac776@hotmail.ca
Assistant Secretary	Eunice Bragg	519-253-4751	
Treasurer	Betty Levar	519-253-5531	bettylevar@gmail.com
Past-President	Ed Cott	519-252-7342	laelia@aol.com

Society Representatives

COC Rep.:	Louise Holt
AOS Rep.:	Ed Cott
MAOC Rep.:	Doris Asher
OD Rep.:	Ed Cott

Committee Appointments

Archives:	Eunice Bragg
Budget:	Ed Cott - Betty Levar
Conservation:	Mary Caspers

Committee Appointments

Fund-raising:	Mary Caspers - Ed Cott
Hospitality:	Justine Cloutier
Library:	Louise Holt
Membership:	Ed Cott - Betty Levar - Eunice Bragg
Newsletter:	Jackie Hay (jackie.hay@hotmail.com)
Photographer:	Hung Le, Ed Cott
Program:	Ed Cott
Publicity:	Deb Boersma
Raffles & Prizes:	George Vegh
Orders / Supplies:	Ed Cott
WebSite:	Mark Whelan
	Ed Cott
Welcoming:	Renee Gignac
Winter Social:	Sue Alexander
Webmaster:	Mark Whelan



A special thank you for contributing food and raffle items at the March meeting: Thanks so much to everyone who brought in snacks for the refreshment table and raffle items. Please remember to sign the sheets to be recognized for your contributions. Thanks to Kathleen and Matthew, Justine, Eunice, Deb, Adele and Lily

Orchid Supplies: Potting mix, Physan, sphagnum, pots, fertilizer, totes, etc., are available at the meeting. Special request? See our Special Orders and Supplies Committee Chair – Ed Cott. Supplies can also be ordered through the website.

Parking: *Members can park in Lot "L" behind the greenhouse building & walk to the meeting room. (Vehicles enter through the exit gate - it will be open). Although the spaces indicate it is for Handicap Parking, this is not enforced on Sunday.*

CA\$H FOR BEST ESSAY



The Mid-America Orchid Congress invites you to enter their essay contest. Write an essay on “My Most Exciting Orchid-Related Experience” -- and win up to \$100.00! The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than September 1, 2015, to Doris Asher (asherdoris@juno.com) – winners will be announced at the Congress’ Sunday Business Meeting on September 25, 2015, location to be announced. You do not need to be present to win. First prize wins \$100.00; second, \$50; third, \$25. All three prize-winning essays will appear in future issues of the Congress’s newsletter, The Mid-American.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Doris Asher via email or by phone (517-332-0004).

Bizarre Bazaar

It is now time to start making divisions of plants you would like to donate at the May Meeting



The May meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Society. During the meeting we will present our annual awards to some of our members, discuss our accomplishments of the past year and try to raise some operating funds. A variety of orchids will be auctioned at the event.

So come prepared to BUY!

(*Phragmipedium Bouley Bay* – Photo by Ed Cott)

Our thanks to John Marcotte for his “Tips & Tricks – Part 2” presentation at our March 29th, 2015 meeting. We will have John back again in the next year.

Plant Table from March 2015 Meeting

Best Hybrid



**Paph. Moustache x rothschildianum
(Dr. John Doherty)**

Best Species



Encyclia alata (C N Gibbons)

Other plants from the show table.....



L to R: Paph bellatulum (Deb Boersma), Dendrobium Fire Wings (Eleanor Sfalcin), Vascostylis Pine River Blue (Mary Welacky)

The March Plant Table included many more plants than the space here would allow. A broad selection of genera and all beautifully flowered. Thanks to all of you who brought in your flowering plants for us to enjoy!



Thanks to Sue Alexander for bringing an article to our attention that appeared in a new magazine 'Garden Making'. Below is an article from titled Homegrown Vanilla and the article references Terry Kennedy (our new Honourary Member) and it is a very interesting read



Vanilla orchid blooms appear in clusters, each lasting a day.

Homegrown vanilla

Of the nearly 30,000 orchid species found worldwide, only *Vanilla planifolia* is loved by just about everyone, orchid fancier or not. It's not a particularly flashy specimen—a succulent-looking vine with flat leaves and a simple, waxy, yellow-green bloom—but that hardly matters, because it gives us vanilla, one of our favourite flavours.

Native to Mexico, wild vanilla orchids can still be found in Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Guatemala and Venezuela. However, they're rare and considered severely threatened by habitat destruction.

A branching vine with terrestrial roots, the vanilla orchid can

grow up to 100 feet (30 m) in length as it climbs tree trunks to the forest canopy in search of sunlight. Its two- to three-inch (5- to 8-cm) flowers appear in clusters, blooming one after the other, each bloom lasting only a day. If insect pollination occurs, what comes next is the "bean," or seed pod. Green when on the vine, it must be picked before it begins to brown and split, spilling its many thousands of minuscule seeds to the ground. In commercial production, humans do the deed by hand, ensuring that each blossom produces one of its lucrative pods; cooks are willing to pay a few dollars for one Madagascar pod.



Unripe pods

But is growing your own vanilla possible north of the Mexican border? Terry Kennedy, co-owner of Ontario-based Orchids in Our Tropics and an American Orchid Society judge with 40 years of experience cultivating orchids, says not only is it possible, she's got the vanilla vines to prove it. "As long as you have lots of light,

a warm, humid spot and something for the plant to climb on, why not?" Kennedy has had success with her own mature vanilla orchid. "I did once pollinate a flower, and a seed pod developed, but unfortunately I got too busy and forgot it until after it had overripened and split open. Usually, I just let it bloom."

The trick is to replicate an orchid's natural habitat as best you can. So, eight to 12 hours of full light—a metal-halide 400-watt bulb is great, as it delivers heat, too. Halogens or fluorescent lights can work, but LEDs simply don't produce enough heat. Depending on the light source, you may need to add heat,

says Kennedy. Plant in a loose growing medium, such as one with bark, coir or Chilean or New Zealand moss, to provide excellent drainage. North American sphagnum degrades too quickly. Also provide good air circulation, 80 per cent humidity, an average daytime temperature of 27°C, down to 18°C at night, and a pole or other structure for climbing.

If you think this sounds a lot like a greenhouse, you'd be right. But these conditions can be replicated in a large aquarium-cum-terrarium, or in a retrofitted florist's fridge. As for the exceptionally long vine, it's fine to let it curl in on itself or twine around a topiary frame; it doesn't need to grow straight up.

If your vanilla orchid is happy, by the time it's two to five years old and at least four to five feet (1.2 to 1.5 m) long, it should bloom. When it does, pollinate it, and in three months there should be a seed pod. "Orchids teach you patience, hopefulness and perseverance," Kennedy says.

Ready to give it a go? Cuttings can be purchased from orchidsinourtropics.com, or consult your local orchid society for growers of exotic species. —Signe Langford

FOR SOURCES, SEE PAGE 61.

Collector's Item: *Coelogyne mooreana*



Coelogyne mooreana, a native of Vietnam, grows best under 1,500 to 2,500 footcandles or the low end of the light level for cattleyas or oncidiums. Strong air movement at all times is critically important. In their native habitat, the summers are characterized by heavy cloud cover indicating that shading is beneficial from spring to fall, but light should be as high as the plant can tolerate, short of burning the leaves. In this species' native habitat, winter is the brightest season.

Summer days should average in the upper 70's to the low 80'sF and nights in the low 60's are ideal. A temperature differential of 10-15F between day and night temperatures is essential for good growth and flower production. During the winter rest period, nights may drop routinely into the low 50's with an increase in the day/night differential up to 25F.

Coelogyne mooreana is a moderately sized sympodial epiphyte that grows 12-18 inches tall with two glossy green, heavily textured leaves per growth. The erect inflorescence is 15-20 inches tall and emerges from between the leaves of new growths before the pseudobulbs have formed. Three to eight large, fragrant flowers up to 3-4 inches (7-10cm) are produced per inflorescence. They open simultaneously and are well-spaced along the inflorescence. The floral segments are snow white except for a golden yellow blotch on the midlobe of the lip. The flowers last in excellent condition for four to six weeks if the plants are kept cool, somewhat on the dry side and in relatively low light.

This spectacular species, one of the easiest in the genus to grow, has only recently begun to be commonly available in cultivation again. For many years only divisions and mericlones of the clone 'Brockhurst' had limited availability. As plant material from Vietnam has recently become more readily available, additional clones of this species have appeared in cultivation and seedling populations are now also available.



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I will be pleading with all society members to help sell our raffle tickets for our upcoming show in October. Remember, family and friends can help you sell your tickets, but you'll need to track who has what numbered tickets and collect the ticket stubs and proceeds. If we all take a few books we will sell our target ticket amount. Funds raised from these ticket sales are critical to the show's success! Thanks in advance, Jackie



The WOS display at the Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Show, held April 11 & 12, 2015, placed second amongst Orchid Society displays. Additionally, every plant entered received a first place ribbon in its class and three plants were pulled for AOS judging. Thanks to Jackie Hay, Deb Boersma and Ed Cott for contributing plants for the display.

Windsor Orchid Society 2014-2015 Programming Guide! - mark your calendar

Date	Speaker / Event	Topic	Plants for Sale?
April 18-19	Ottawa Orchid Show http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com/orchid_show.html	Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa	Yes
April 26	WOS - General Meeting	Pat Vuurman – Growing Phragmipediums	Yes
May 31	WOS – Annual General Meeting and Auction	Bizarre Bazaar	Yes
Oct 24-25	WOS Show and Sale <u>NEW LOCATION!</u>	Columbus Center 2401 Columbus Dr (off Northwood) Windsor, ON	Yes

Membership

Send your contact information along with payment to:

The Windsor Orchid Society, C/O Betty Levar, 1822 Chilver Road, Windsor, Ontario. N8W 2T8 (or see Betty at the meeting)

Annual Dues are \$20.00 single and \$25.00 family/joint membership.