



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.5 2014/2015

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 22, 2015 Time: 1:30 p.m.

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

Guests are Welcome

Speaker: Doug Kennedy of Orchids in Our Tropics

Topic: Growing Dendrobiums

Doug and his wife Terry have been growing and showing award winning orchids for more than 30 years and they are both highly respected in the "orchid world". They have travelled all over the world and have presented lectures on the subject of orchids to many Orchid Societies.

Over the years they have grown many, many genera; Paphiopedilum, Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, Miltoniopsis, Phragmipedium, Oncidium, and Pleurothallids to name but a few. Numerous trophies and boxes of ribbons document their participation in shows all over North America. They pride themselves on their displays with well over 50 American Orchid Society Show Trophies. At the 11th World Orchid Conference in Miami, Florida, 3 silver medals for flowering plants and a silver certificate for the display confirmed world class quality. Their Dracula NIGHTSHADE 'Black Ice' AM/AOS received a trophy at the 16th World Orchid Congress in Vancouver in 1999. In addition, their plants have been recognized with at least a hundred A.O.S. awards.



An award winning display by the Kennedy's and Den. Aussie Starlight 'Sweet Dessert' AM/AOS

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 Position Nominations Open

The election of the Executive of the Windsor Orchid Society will take place at our Annual Meeting in May. All Executive positions, other than Past President, are open and nominations are being accepted.

Please provide your nominations, in writing, to Renee Gignac or Deb Boersma. Nominations will be accepted up to the April General Meeting and from the floor at the May meeting.



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:	Eunice Bragg
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 January 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, Jeannie, Eunice, Betty, Jackie, Susan, Mary Welacky and Mario Ferrusi

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.*



Many thanks to Mario Ferrusi for speaking at our January meeting and sharing his knowledge about different mediums, repotting and dividing plants. Mario's visit was enjoyed by ALL!

Best Species and Hybrid January 2015

Best Species: Dendrobium spectabile
'Mary's Gift' AM/AOS
(Deb Boersma)



Best Hybrid: Angraecum Crestwood
(Louise Holt)





Plant Table from January 2015 Meeting:

Bc Maikai 'Spotted Star'
(Deb Boersma)



Dresslerella 'Furry'
(C.N Gibbons)



Not photographed:
Dend. delicatum (Louise Holt)

Brsdm. Golden Gamine 'White Knight'
(Deb Boersma)



Bulbophyllum corolliferum (?)
(Jeannie Gascoigne)



Coelogyne cumingii 'Renate'
(Deb Boersma)



Cym. Mary Green 'Nifty Guy'
(Deb Boersma)



Den. Little Andree
(Mary Welacky)



Den. normanbyense
(Mary Welacky)



Lepanthes tamaensis
(C.N Gibbons)



Lepanthes tigrina
(C.N Gibbons)



Trisetella hoeijeri
(C.N Gibbons)





Orchid Show 2015 – October 24th and 25th (New Location!)



I have been asked by the Executive to act as your Show Chair for 2015 and have gladly accepted the task. Now I need to get a Show Committee together. Anyone interested in helping in some way shape or form should contact me by e-mail (preferred) or phone. Planning starts early. Deb Boersma has already agreed to work as Promotion Chair and has begun to assemble her sub-committee and Jackie Hay has agreed to handle Fund-raising but I am sure she could use some helping hands. We have applied for a raffle licence once again and, presuming it is approved and issued, Jackie will need your help to start selling raffle tickets. If every member managed to handle (buy or sell) two or three books, the task would be completed very quickly. The decision to have a show in 2015 was unanimously passed by our membership – now I need your commitment to making this the best one yet.

On a related note, you should know that the Teutonia Club has entered into a conditional sale agreement on their property. As such, we could not be assured that the facility would be available for us on our show date. Consequently, we have contracted with the Columbus Centre of South Windsor (Knights of Columbus Hall), located at 2401 Columbus Drive off Northwood, to hold our show there. The facilities are a bit smaller but much more modern – we will just have to make more effective use of available space. More planning..... (Ed Cott)

e-mail: laelia@aol.com

phone: 519-252-7342

More Tips 'n Tricks by John Marcotte

Red tape and alcohol for patching plastic. Once your collection begins to become sizeable, you may need to build a growing area, or put up plastic to protect walls, or even put up a greenhouse. In all cases, at times, you'll need to use wide tape. Forget duct tape. It's useless in the long-term. It breaks down in sunlight too rapidly and it is not really very sticky.....and therefore, it's not very reliable. I use Tuck tape found in all Hardware stores and building centres. It is a very thin; but, tough red tape meant for connecting sheets of vapour barrier plastic. It is the BEST tape I've ever used. It lasts in the sun and it resists coming loose even when constantly wet. It's wonderful stuff. Beware.....if/when you take it off, the red colour remains! When using it on some plastics, you will need to clean the plastic with rubbing alcohol first, to remove oils that are added during the manufacture process. This aids in allowing the sheets of plastic to "slip" past one-another, making it easier to handle and instal; but, harder to get tape to stick to, unless you clean it with the alcohol first.

Popsicle stick water meter. Not sure if a pot has enough, or too little moisture below the top of the pot, where you cannot see? Put a popsicle stick into the pot, at the edge, as you would a name tag. Leave it there 24/7. The bare wood of the stick will get wet and dry out along with the medium around it. To tell what's going on where you can't see, just pull the stick out and look at it and touch it to the back of your hand or on your cheek. You'll feel the cool moisture if there is some in the pot. It will feel warm and dry if the pot is dry right to the bottom. This is the most reliable and the cheapest moisture meter you can have!

Keep dry-ish after repotting until new roots grow. When you repot, the next thing on the plant's "to do" list is to grow new roots and re-establish. However, many people water too much during this crucial time. Make certain that you keep all newly repotted plants a little bit drier than what is their "normal", for one to three months. In order to not let the plants become desiccated, it's good to keep them in lower light than normal and be sure that the humidity is at least where it should be. This is a bit of a balancing act. You want to provide enough moisture to meet the needs of the plant; but, no more. This means that in most cases, the plants will go drier than they normally would like, in-between each watering. This mini "drought" causes the plant to focus on growing new roots in an effort to search for more water. This is the fastest way to re-establish a newly repotted plant. Overwatering right after repotting will rot roots and set the plants back considerably. Most beginner who lose plants do so after they do their first repotting because they then "over-care" for them and water them way too often.



Tips 'n Tricks by John Marcotte (continued)

Hand as light meter. Save the cost of buying a light meter. Use your hand. Hold your hand above your plants, in-between the plants and light source. If there is no shadow, your plants are getting LOW light. If there is a fuzzy shadow, your plants are getting intermediate light. If there is a sharp, clearly defined shadow, your plants are getting high light. This is what I do. I've long since given up on electronic gizmos....they're not as accurate as my hand!

Paph/Phrag divisions without roots in bag in dark. Paph and Phrag cuttings that are rootless can be encouraged to grow new roots by keeping them in a plastic bag in the dark. Clean up the rootless growth and allow to completely air dry. Then, seal inside a dry plastic bag and place somewhere dark, such as a closet. Do not be tempted to add any moisture or even a little moist potting material. Being in the dark, inside a plastic bag provides 100% humidity, while no transpiration is taking place. Adding any water will cause rot. I use a covered Rubbermaid garbage pail in my greenhouse to store my rootless plants in bags. Check on them every week or so. It can take up to 6 weeks; but, in most cases (especially with hybrids), the leaf fan will begin sprouting beautiful, new roots from the base. When there is at least a root or two that are up to about 1" long, it's finally time to pot up and then treat like a freshly repotted plant as described above. *Note* I have found that pure Phrag. besseae can take a lo-ooooooooong time to grow new roots. Hybrids are much faster.

Disas Orchids can be a serious challenge; but, they're really easy if you give them what they like....and NEVER waver from that. They are not forgiving when we make mistakes. They like BRIGHT light (all year, not just in summer), lots of air MOVEMENT and Cool conditions. They also like LOTS of low mineral water; so, to keep them constantly moist and cool, use a clay pot and stand it in a puddle of water about 1cm deep. Give NO fertilizer, especially Nitrogen, from about August to January to encourage new tuber growth. Also, while giving them strong light, they need short days in the fall/early winter. Blooming Disas: Give no fertilizer, especially Nitrogen, from the "fat bud stage" to when new growths appear after blooming is finished. Disas like acid mix....see Stanhopea (below).

Phrag. besseae prefers large, shallow pans. I've found that besseae grows best and multiplies fastest if it's grown in a large, shallow pan (about 16" in diameter). A plant that would normally be put into a 4 ½" pot that is 4" deep will grow a lot better if it is planted in the middle of a 16" pan, just 2" deep. The roots of besseae seem to appreciate the ability to "run". This method simply produces a better plant, although, they do take up more bench space when grown this way.

Masdevallia roots do not side branch...so, be careful when repotting. That's about it. I don't care if I break roots on a Vanda or a Cattleya; they will just side branch and go on. But, Masdevallia roots do not branch. If you break it, it is done growing. To get re-established after repotting, and you've cut or broken all the roots, the plant needs to grow a whole new root system. That's hard on the plant. Be very careful when repotting your Masdevallias and preserve all the green growing root tips that you can.

Stanhopeas like Peat....acid! Use ½ peat and ½ perlite. Or, at least ¼ peat in a mix. Establish divisions in small pot, then ~about 6 months later, lift out and place in basket or shallow dish and fill in around the root ball with the same mix, using long fibre sphagnum moss to line the basket and hold the mix in place. The best roots are produced using an untreated, peatmoss-based mix.

Cedar Shake mounts. Use a staple gun to attach plants. Buy these at Home Depot in bundles for about \$10. They make GREAT mounts for all epiphytes. I use a staple gun to secure roots to the shake, bending over the sharp edges of the staples that protrude through the back of the mount. These very thin bits of wood will last about 10 years or more before the plant will need remounting. If you want to hold moisture around the plant's roots, staple down some sheet moss BEFORE you attach the plant. I have an endless supply of suitable tree branches available to me; but, I still choose to use the Cedar shakes for mounts because they work the best



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

Date	Speaker / Event	Topic	Plants for Sale?
Feb 22	WOS - General Meeting	Doug Kennedy – Growing Dendrobiums	Yes
Feb 28 & Mar 1	Orchid Show – Royal Botanical Gardens www.osrbg.ca/orchid_show.html	Royal Botanical Gardens Plains Road, Burlington, ON	Yes
Mar 21-22	London Orchid Society Show http://los.lon.imaq.net/shows.asp	St. Andre Bessett Catholic School 2727 Tokala Trail (visible off Fanshawe Rd. W. near Hyde Park Rd.) London, Ontario	Yes
Mar 28-29	Montreal Orchid Show http://orchidophilesmontreal.ca/index.php	College de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere St., Montreal, Quebec	Yes
March 29	WOS - General Meeting	John Marcotte – More Tips and Tricks	Yes
Apr 11 & 12	Orchid Show of the Toronto Artistic Orchid Association http://www.taoa.info/	CICS (Centre for Information and Community Service), 2330 Midland Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario	Yes
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 NEW LOCATION!	Columbus Center, 2401 Columbus Drive, Windsor	Yes

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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.