



THE WINDSOR ORCHID SOCIETY

La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor

Congratulations WOS/SOW on your 30th year of service to orchid enthusiasts in Windsor and Essex County.

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

No.5 2015/2016

**Next Meeting: Sunday, February 28, 2016 Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: St. Clair College, Room 192A (Horticultural Building)**



Guests are welcome

**American Orchid Society – Webinar
The Orchids of Madagascar – the Land that Time Forgot
Presented by Ron McHatton**



American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

Please Note: The WOS will have a selection of compact Cattleyas, Oncidiums and Paphiopediums available for sale. Bring \$\$\$

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 Walter Copeland 226-676-0056 wehcopeland@hotmail.ca
Vice-President Ed Cott 519 252-7342 laelia@aol.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 Deb Boersma 519 730-1728 dboersma@stclaircollege.ca

Society Representatives

COC Rep.: Ed Cott
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

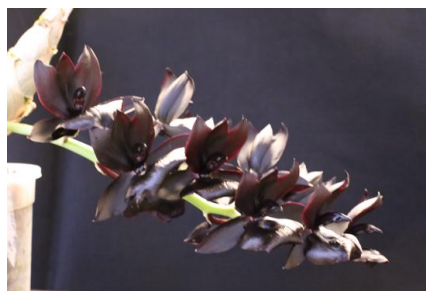
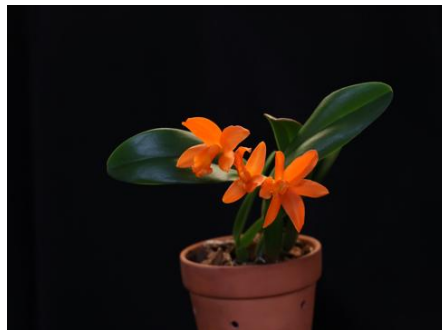
Fund-raising: Mary Caspers - Ed Cott- Jackie Hay
Hospitality: Justine Cloutier
Library: Open
Membership: Ed Cott - Betty Levar - Eunice Bragg
Newsletter: Jackie Hay (jackie.hay@hotmail.com)
Photographer: Deb Boersma
Program: Ed Cott
Publicity: Deb Boersma
Raffles & Prizes: George Vegh
Orders / Supplies: 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 Eunice, Adele, Lily, C.N. and Jackie

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. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DRIVEWAY ADJACENT TO THE BUILDING**

January Plant Table



Plants pictured (L to R)

Row 1: *Gastrochilus retrocallus* (Best Species) – Shari Clarke, *Dendrobium Yasuko Sugiyama 'Parade'* – Deb Boersma, *Brassavola nodosa* – C N Gibbons

Row 2: Paph. *Via Exacto* x Paph. *Stone Lovely* – Deb Boersma, Bc. *Young Mini Orange* – Shari Clarke, Bc. *Maikai 'Spotted Star'* – Deb Boersma

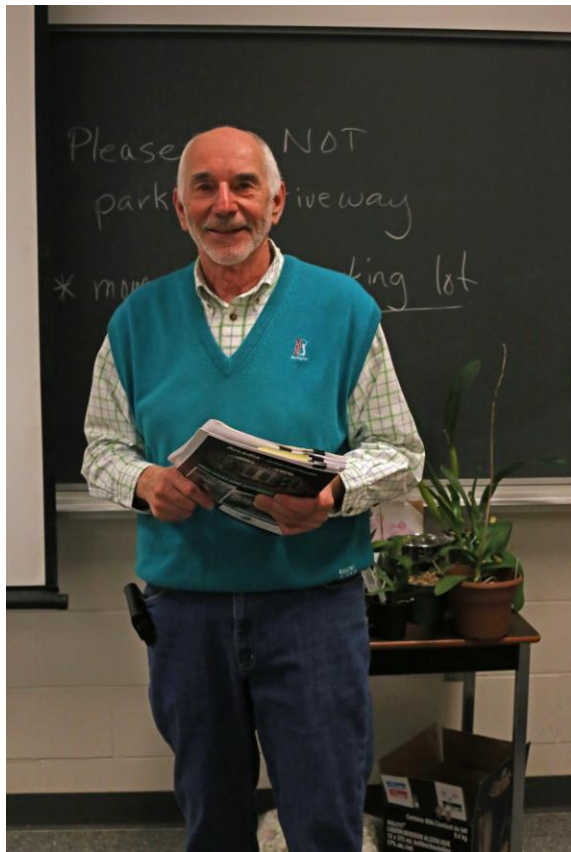
Row 3: *Angulocaste Santa Barbara 'Marsh Hollow'* – Jeannie Gascoigne, *Monnierara Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft'* FCC/AOS (Best Hybrid) – Dr. John Doherty, Phrag. *Eric Young* x *kovachii* – Dr. John Doherty, Phrag. *Don Wimber* – Dr. John Doherty

Plants note pictured: *Encyclia cordigera*, *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *moreliana*, *Lepanthes telipogoniflora* – C N Gibbons, *Maxillaria schunkeana* – Eleanor Sfalcin





January 2016 Meeting



Our thanks to John Curtin, and his wife Penny, for coming to talk to our membership about orchid Pests and Diseases. It is always a pleasure to have them come and visit. John is a member of the Michigan Orchid Society and a long-time orchid grower specializing in Phragmipediums, Lycastes and Paphiopedilums.

The SOOS Orchid Show (Toronto) – congratulations to Jeannie Gascoigne and Mark Whelan who created the Exhibit for the WOS and won the trophy for “Best Display for an Orchid Society” at the 2016 SOOS Orchid Show (February 13 & 14, 2016).





John Marcotte..... www.OrchidsCanada.com (an excerpt from John's presentation to the WOS)

Sometimes, I will put a rootless Paph or Phrag division into a closed, plastic bag, in the dark, to get it to grow roots. It can take 2 or 3 or more, weeks. I find this method works very well especially with Phrag hybrids.

The divisions are put in by themselves and they are dry when the bag is closed. This method does not work as well with pure besseae, or Paphs; but, with patience and some luck, many of them will respond favourably, as well.

Another way I get rootless plants to grow new roots is to put them into a Styrofoam/sphagnum moss "greenhouse". I use a tall, clear, plastic tray "greenhouse" cover, with the vent openings in the top.

These covers are meant to fit over a green or black plastic nursery tray with the dimensions of 11" x 20". The tall covers are about 6" high, not the usual 3" high. I use one as a bottom and one as a top.

I nearly fill the bottom with white Styrofoam peanuts. Then, I VERY LIGHTLY drop pieces and strands of pre-moistened, fluffed up, long fibred, New Zealand Sphagnum Moss on top of the Styrofoam peanuts, to a depth of about 2".

I do NOT pat it down AT ALL.

Then, I get another cover that is the same as the one used for the bottom, and I use a strip of wide tape to tape along one of the long sides, to make a "hinge" connecting the top to the bottom. I open the vents in the top to prevent the build up of heat and allow excess humidity out, when the top is in the closed position. Then, I gently plant rootless divisions of Paphs and Phrags in the 2" later of moss.

I put them deep enough so that the base of the growths are at the top of the Styrofoam peanuts, at the bottom of the moss later. This creates a VERY airy; but, perfectly humid, beneficial environment for stressed growths to stabilize and finally begin growing roots. It takes 2 or 3 months; but, most plants will re-root when treated to this special, intensive care environment.



Roots – For the Novice (Author: Sue Bottom)

If there is only one thing that you need to know to successfully grow orchids, it is that orchid roots are different from the roots on your other houseplants. The orchid root consists of an inside core (cortex) that is very tough and carries nourishment and an outside covering (velamen) that is a sponge like material that absorbs water, fertilizer and oxygen. Healthy roots tips are bright green and sometimes red. The longer the green portion, the faster the root is growing.

Function of Orchid Roots

Many orchids are epiphytes, meaning they grow on trees, where the roots attach the plant securely, and search out nutrition and absorb dew and rainfall, among other things.

Absorb Water. When dry, orchid roots are white but they should quickly turn green when they are watered. When wet, the velamen acts like a sponge, swelling up with water to be absorbed later by the plant. When dry, it acts as an impermeable barrier to prevent water loss from the plant.

Attach to Substrate. Although aerial roots can also take up water and nutrients, their primary purpose is to keep the orchid attached to its surface. Aerial roots, once attached, may become flattened to provide more attachment surface area. The roots cling to any substrate so well that at times it can be very difficult to remove these clinging roots from whatever they are attached to. There is more velamen on aerial roots and they are adapted to the cyclical drenching and drying of intermittent rainstorms. These roots will become soft and green when they have been continually wet for 10 minutes or so, only then will they absorb water.

Gas Exchange. One very important function of epiphytic roots is the exchange of gases, mostly to take in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide, so they enjoy being exposed to moving fresh air. Most orchids can't be grown in potting soil. Special high-porosity potting mixes have been developed to ensure there is sufficient air around the roots.

Photosynthesis. Another job for some roots is to photosynthesize, which is why you often see orchids grown in translucent pots. There are some orchid species that do not have leaves, but obtain their energy solely from chlorophyll in the roots.

Temporary Storage. Many roots also provide temporary storage for food and water.

Repotting. New orchid growers are often terrified of the prospect of dividing and repotting orchids. Without some friendly assistance, new growers will often leave plants in the same potting mix long after that mix has degraded, so the plants lose their roots and struggle to survive. Potting orchids in a good mix at the proper time will help ensure their survival and your self-confidence in growing orchids.

The best time to repot your orchid is when new roots are just emerging because the plant will become acclimated the most quickly at this time. If you're careful, you can repot when new roots are ¼ - ½ inch long. These new roots can be easily broken during repotting process and when damaged, they will not regrow, so if they're longer than ½ inch, wait until they are 4 inches long or more before repotting. If these longer roots are broken during repotting, they'll branch and continue to grow.

Change in Potting Mix. Orchid roots become accustomed to their growing environment. When there is a substantial change in this environment, the plant has to grow a different set of roots acclimated to the new conditions. The roots of an orchid that has been mounted or grown in a coarse medium tend to be hard and resistant to drying. Unlike the fat, soft roots on plants grown in moss, peat or other water retentive mixture. Roots on plants grown in moss will not easily adapt to epiphyte-like conditions, nor will roots grown in a coarse dry medium adapt to moss. Roots of both will die if there is a radical change. Although new roots will grow and establish in the medium

Encourage Root Growth. You can encourage root growth with some of the root stimulators such as rooting hormones, seaweed preparations and Super Thrive, particularly in seedlings and or recently repotted plants.

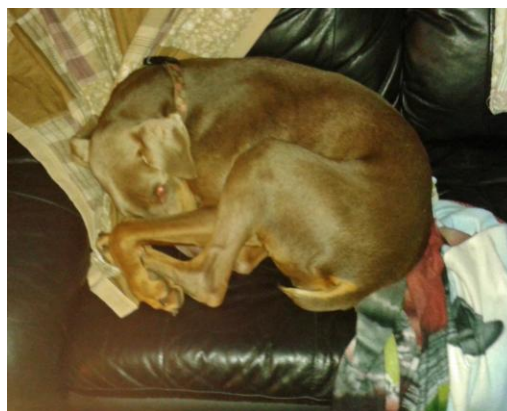
If you want to have beautiful blooms, you have to have a healthy plant. You cannot have a healthy plant without vibrant roots.



Windsor Orchid Society 2015-2016 Programming Guide! - Mark your calendar

Date	Speaker / Event	Topic	Plants for Sale?
Feb 28	<u>WOS –General Meeting</u>	American Orchid Society – Webinar Orchids of Madagascar	Yes
Feb 27 - 28	<u>Royal Botanical Gardens Annual Show</u>	Royal Botanical Gardens Plains Road, Burlington, ON	Yes
Mar 19 - 20	<u>Les Orchidophiles de Montreal</u>	(Info on Page 3 – see coupon)	Yes
Mar 20	<u>WOS –General Meeting</u>	Jean Allen-Ikeson – Topic TBD	Yes
April 9 - 10	<u>Toronto Artistic orchid Association Show</u>	2330 Midland Avenue, M1S 5G5	Yes
Apr 24	<u>WOS –General Meeting</u>	Doug and Terry Kennedy Orchids in our Tropics – Growing Oncidiums	Yes
May 29	<u>WOS –General Meeting and Auction</u>		Yes

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**Conni and Mario Ferrusi have added a new member to their canine family.....meet Ruby.
 That's her seated with Mario (L) and at home, clearly settled in (R).**



Membership – Dues are Now PAST Due!

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.