



THE WINDSOR ORCHID SOCIETY

La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor

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

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

No.4 2014/2015

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 25, 2015 Time: 1:30 p.m.

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

Guests are Welcome

Speaker: Mario Ferrusi of Marsh Hollow Orchids

Topic: Repotting Your Lycastes and Masdevallias



As an accredited AOS Judge, Vice President of the American Orchid Society, recipient of hundreds of AOS awards, Mario is well known in orchid circles. He has been growing orchids since 1980, a life-long passion that was fuelled by a dare from his wife Conni. His love of orchids has largely focused on those that grow under cooler conditions, among the list is Masdevalia and Lycaste. During one of our summer 2014 field trips, Mario and his wife Conni welcomed us into their home and greenhouses, and we all took part in a wonderful barbeque on their beautiful, relaxing property. He is the owner of Marsh Hollow Orchids in the Niagara region.

As part of our forum on orchid culture, members are encouraged to bring their culture questions to the meeting.



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:	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



Winter Social 2014: Thanks so much to everyone who brought all the delicious dishes to our Winter Social. It was quite the feast. We all departed with full satisfied bellies. We gathered around beautifully decorated tables in a room filled with winter cheer and VERY cheerful members. We applaud Tony for telling the funniest stories and jokes, a much needed relief as we approach the end of 2014, you left us all in stitches. And oh my goodness, Ed directed us in the most hilarious, fun, gift exchange as he read to us the story of the WRIGHT FAMILY, (you had to be there). Let us not forget Sue, without her involvement, we would have been searching for a place to host this wonderful event. Once again, Thank You Sue! The prize table itself was a sight, 10 wonderful orchids were raffled, as well as the prizes from the raffle table.

Let's not forget the presence of the Kardashin family, they made an appearance to our Winter Social Feast Table



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.*

Tips 'n Tricks by John Marcotte CONT'D

The tips noted below are excerpts from the presentation John made to the WOS at the October, 2014 meeting. It represents only a portion of the tidbits of information that were part of his presentation. This will be continued in future issues of the WOS Newsletter.

-----**Use Calcium Nitrate @ 1/3 ratio with NPK fert, if using R.O. and/or rain water.** When using rain water or R.O. water, there will not be enough minerals in the water, namely Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur. These 3 important nutrients are not normally included in most fertilizer mixes because they usually are available in the water supply all the time. But, that is not the case in rain water or R.O. purified water. So, provide the calcium by using some Calcium Nitrate in your fertilizer solution at 1/3 the amount of your normal NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium), fertilizer. If you do this and add some Epsom salts as described above, your plants will get a complete diet of nutrients and be able to grow and bloom well for you.

-----**Use Osmunda for enhanced growth.** Grow and harvest your own fern roots. Osmunda is the wiry root mass of a Genus of fern. It is very resistant to decomposing and when it does, slowly, it releases helpful nutrients that orchids love. If you can get it, use chopped Osmunda in your mix. If you can't get it, you can plant Osmunda ferns in your garden and periodically harvest the plants. Wash, dry and chop up the roots and use that material in your potting mix. Your plants will LOVE it! I have some sort of tropical bird's nest fern growing in my greenhouse. They are a weed that I pull out of pots all the time. But, when I pull them, I use their roots in this manner and my plants respond very well; putting on a boost in growth a few months later after the fern roots have begun to break down a bit.

-----**Clear pots (cups), to monitor moisture.** You can buy cases of 7 oz, and 14 oz clear drinking glasses from Costco. They are made from Corn. Yes, corn!and they are compostable; but, it does not happen fast. I use these cups as pots and they last for a number of years. To create drainage holes easily, just use a pair of scissors to cut the bottom edge of the cup in two places. I love watching new roots grow on the plants that I put into these crystal clear "pots".



Snapshots from the 2014 Winter Social





Orchids Indoors During Winter

Light

Proper sunlight is key for orchid health

In the outdoors, orchids consume 14 hours or more of natural light. This is typically ideal for the high intensity orchids like Cattleya and Epidendrum among others. A good 12 to 14 hours of natural light is ideal, but difficult in most northern parts of the US during the winter months. If you live in an area where natural light is difficult most days during winter you'll have to look at artificial growing lights. You can set these up in your home and use them to help the natural light coming through the windows and glass doors in your home.

You can typically find growing lights of good quality at an affordable price. If possible, get lights that will last for many seasons. It's worth spending a little extra today if you plan on growing your orchids indoors during the winter months for many years. Reliable equipment gives you peace of mind and will have your flowers primed for return to the outdoors during the summer.

Light is usually the biggest concern when bringing your orchids indoors for the winter months. Outside of a true greenhouse, it's possible for orchids to get plenty of light during winter, but sometimes it requires a little extra effort to get the most out of your orchids.

Temperature

When the temperature dips below 55 to 60 degrees, it's necessary to bring your orchids indoors for the winter. Something often overlooked in the winter care of orchids is the balance of heat needed for orchids with the requirement to keep indoor temperatures pleasant and cost efficient for you and your family.

Most people keep their homes in the mid to upper sixties during winter. This is great for sleeping and preserving money used for energy costs yet it is not ideal for orchids. While the temperature is above 60 degrees, orchids can not be sustained in that temperature.

They can handle it for a little while, but any prolonged exposure for a few months during the winter should include temperatures in the 70s. One option might be to set aside a special area in your home for higher temperatures. In modern homes, zoned heating is one option while portable heaters could be another, less expensive way to provide ample heat for your plants.

Windows can be tricky business for winter growing. Windows are needed to provide plenty of light for orchids during the winter months yet these windows can play games with the temperature of the orchid. Too much exposure to the window during cloudy days or at night can lead to damage on the plant when the temperatures get too cold. Be aware of how much the temperature can change near your windows. If it's too cold during the night it can lead to damage and the converse is true as well. If the sun is beating through the window it can heat up the air surrounding your flower and lead to damage as well.

Keep the temperature around your orchids as even as you can. It's difficult, but when managed correctly you'll see healthy and growing flowers as the winter months wear on and the springtime nears.



Water

In most cases, improper water care leads to most orchid issues with growers. Watering of orchids can be tricky because of the all the variables involved. It makes sense that even professionals can struggle to find the right watering routines for orchids.

Humidity, air quality, and other factors come into play with orchids and the necessary watering. It's important to water orchids as their soil just dries out. The air is typically more dry in the winter months even if you control it with a humidifier. This will cause different watering schedules for your indoor orchids. You can spend a little more time learning the drying periods of your plants in the early parts of winter and learn what routine you can comfortably work with for the rest of the winter.

When watering, fill the pot up until water drains from the drainage areas. This will ensure the soil has time to soak up the water and also flush out anything in the soil that might be detrimental to the plant. It's another case of balancing enough water while not completely drowning the orchid. It takes time and patience to find the right balance for your specific type of orchid.

Watering is important during the winter as it is year round. You'll have to spend time monitoring the dryness of your orchids and make sure you water just as they dry while providing the right amount of water so they can thrive indoors.

Ventilation

Air quality and movement is an issue with most indoor plants.

Insects, bugs, and other issues arise when the air becomes stale. When you close the windows and doors for the winter to keep the cold out, the air can become stale and lose quality. It's difficult for humans and difficult for plant life as well.

A fan is a great solution to keep air moving in a home where ventilation and air quality are of concern in the winter months. Even modern homes with their airtight construction need proper ventilation both for humans and plants. If you're home is closed off in the winter then it'll be important to consider a fan for your plants.

Make sure to point the fan in the opposite direction of the plants. You can pull the air away from the area around the plant and keep things moving and ventilated in the area where you keep your plants. Be sure to turn any overhead fans to pull air up away from the plant or keep plants away from the direct blowing of a fan that blows hot air back down to the floor.

The circulation of the air in the room and proper ventilation is important for orchid success in the winter. Think about your specific situation and come up with a plan that will work best for your family and your plants.



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

Date	Speaker / Event	Topic	Plants for Sale?
Jan 25, 2015	WOS - General Meeting	Mario Ferrusi - Repotting Your Lycastes and Masdevallias	Yes
Feb 14-15	SOOS Orchid Show	Toronto Botanical Gardens Leslie and Lawrence Toronto, ON	Yes
Feb 22	WOS - General Meeting	TBD	TBD
Feb 28 & Mar 1	Orchid Show – Royal Botanical Gardens	Royal Botanical Gardens Plains Road, Burlington, ON	Yes
Mar 21-22	London Orchid Society Show	St. Andre Bessett Catholic School 2727 Tokala Trail (visible off Fanshawe Rd. W. near Hyde Park Rd.) London, Ontario	Yes
March 29	WOS - General Meeting	John Marcotte – More Tips and Tricks	Yes
Apr 11 & 12	Orchid Show of the Toronto Artistic Orchid Association	CICS (Centre for Information and Community Service), 2330 Midland Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario	Yes
April 26	WOS - General Meeting	Pat Vuurman – Growing Phragmipediums	Yes
May 31	WOS – Annual General Meeting and Auction	Bizarre Bazaar	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.