



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](http://www.windsororchidsociety.ca)

No.3 2014/2015

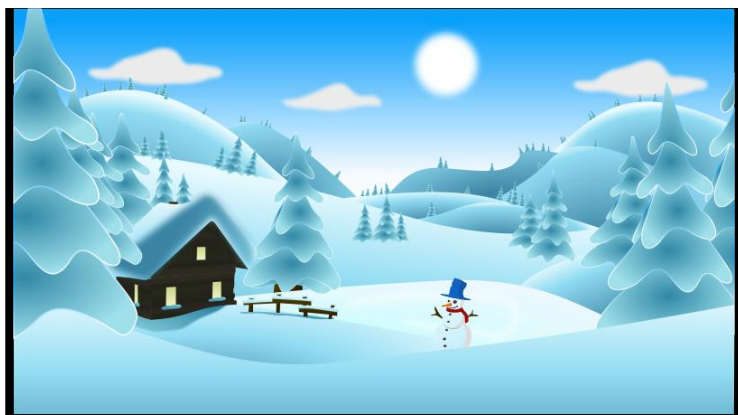
**Next Meeting: Sunday, November 30, 2014 Time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Location: Lake Erie Country Club (see directions on last page)**

180 Lake Erie Country Club Drive, RR#5 Harrow, ON. N0R 1G0

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.

## Winter Social and Pot-Luck



**NOTE:** Members are asked to bring, a gender neutral, gift, valued no more than \$10. Also, please bring your own plate, cup and cutlery and any serving utensils needed for the pot luck dish you are bringing.

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### Executive Members

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

### 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
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



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**A special thank you for contributing food and raffle items:** Thanks so much to everyone who brought in snacks for the refreshment table and raffle items at the October meeting including Betty Levar and Mary Welacky. Please remember to sign the sign-in sheets to be recognized for your contributions.

**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.*

## Presidents' Message

Now that I have had a moment to catch my breath, I want to take the time to thank everyone who helped to make our second AOS Judged show and sale a huge success. There were so many of you that volunteered your time starting back in the early months of the year and continued to take time to make sure that every detail of the show was organized. Many of you also came to the show and helped in any capacity required and without this commitment there would be no show at all!

There are so many areas that need to be organized for an event of this size, including the display, procuring AOS judges, fund raising, promotion, staging, hospitality, soliciting vendors and exhibitors, just to name a few. I am proud that our membership is so willing to work together and made the commitment to ensure that the show reflected the professionalism and status of an AOS Judged show.



Kudos to the WOS membership.

Thanks  
Deb







## Eunice Bragg - Third Place Winner in the MAOC Essay Contest!

The Mid-America Orchid Congress invited members to write an essay on “My problem with orchids is...” (writer fills in the blank) -- and awarded cash prizes for first, second and third place winners. The essay was to be no more than 500 words in length and the winners were announced at the Congress’ Sunday Business Meeting in Columbus, OH, November 9, 2014.

Our congratulations to our own Eunice Bragg who placed third in the contest. All three prize-winning essays will appear in future issues of the Congress’s newsletter, The Mid-American. This is third time that a member of the WOS has placed in the essay contest.

## Snapshots from the Orchid Show (photos by Bruno Sfalcin)



The 2014 Windsor Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale was another tremendous success for us to be proud of. Many of the vendors have already asked to be part of the next event and judges and exhibitors complimented our Society for the hospitality extended to them. We had AOS judges participate from Michigan, Ohio, New York and, of course, Toronto. Many thanks to Terry Kennedy for being our Head Judge at the Show and keeping everything in order.

We estimate that about 900 visitors came to enjoy the show and, it appeared, many didn’t leave the building without an orchid or two in hand. The vendors were very pleased with the public response in the sales area and many of our visitors stopped on their way out to say how much they enjoyed the show. The photography session and the lectures held on Sunday were very well attended.



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## **Tips 'n Tricks by John Marcotte (OrchidsCanada.com)**

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.

-----**Rain water.** There is just nothing as good. If you can't use rain water for all your plants, at least try to collect some for your plants that are in "hospital" and needing some extra TLC.

-----**ASA for Erwinia....325mg uncoated pill.** Erwinia is a terrible bacterial disease that can consume a Paph or Phrag in a matter of days. It has a distinctive smell and looks like the plant's tissues are turning into black coffee, or tea inside the leaf. The entire portion that is affected must be removed whether it is a part of a leaf, a whole leaf, or a whole growth. Then, spray the entire plant with Aspirin water (one 325 mg uncoated aspirin dissolved into 1 litre of water). The ASA helps prompt the plant to muster all its strength and be vigilant in fighting any further invasion of bacteria. This treatment saves about 9 out of 10 affected plants for me now, whereas before I would lose 9 out of 10 affected plants.

-----**Physan and Canadian Tire Pool chemical #3 in water.** Physan; 1ml/50 litre. Pool chemical #3 - 5%; 3 ml per gallon. My greenhouse is humid and often too wet late in the day. Also, it is certainly NOT a sterile environment, having an earth floor and open vents in the summer. So, there is plenty of opportunity for micro-pathogens to live and thrive. To prevent most troubles, I add a very tiny amount of Physan to my water, all the time. I use it at 1 ml per 50 litres of water. That's not very much! But, it helps a lot in preventing spontaneous outbreaks of wet rot. In Canada, Physan can be hard to get; so, you can use the Canadian Tire Pool Algacide #3 (5% concentrate) at the rate of 3 ml's per gallon.

-----**Urea Nitrogen is best for quick green-up.** Got a pale plant? Try foliar spraying with a Urea based Nitrogen fertilizer. Urea is taken up by plants the easiest via the leaves. Miracle Grow is a good choice.

-----**Feed with high Phosphorous (10-52-10), twice. Then, use high Nitrogen (28-14-14), or high Potassium (7-11-27), 4 times, depending on whether or not you're trying to promote foliage or flowering.** Basically, the first number (of the 3 major nutrients), listed on a fertilizer package is Nitrogen, which assists in foliage growth. The second number is Phosphorous, which is a growth stimulant. So, it's good to promote rooting, foliage growth, or flowering/fruiting. The third number is Potassium. This is what's used by plants to do a good job of blooming and growing fruits. While you cannot force a plant to do a wonderful job of blooming out of its normal season simply by adding flowering fertilizers, you can help it to do a wonderful job by providing the right stimulus and nutrients at the right time. In the spring, when most plants are experiencing the stimulating effects of more sunlight and beginning to have a foliage growth spurt, you should feed a high Phosphorous feed (example: 10-52-10) a couple times in a row to jolt the plant into growth mode, which will be supported by the longer days and stronger sunlight of the season. However, that's not good enough by itself. Then, you have to help the plant figure out what to do next and help it to do a really good job. So, then you switch to a high first number (example: Nitrogen 28-14-14), for 3 or 4 feedings. Now that the plant's been stimulated to grow, the Nitrogen helps it grow lots of strong and healthy new foliage. As the plant's natural blooming season approaches, switch from using high Nitrogen to using a high 3rd number fertilizer (example: Potassium 10-10-27). As the environmental conditions trigger a blooming response, you will now be providing some stimulation (high middle number, twice) as well as the right nutrients for growing strong flowers (high third number, 3 or 4 times).

-----**Epsom salts in summer (equal volume to NPK fertilizer).** Sunlight breaks down chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is what makes plants green and it is essential for a plant to survive and be healthy. However, since sunlight breaks down the Chlorophyll molecule inside the cells of plants, they need to keep making more. The central atom in chlorophyll is Magnesium. Epsom Salts are magnesium sulphate. Green up plants that are "bleaching" in bright light by adding epsom salts to your fertilizer solution at the same rate you use your other fertilizers. For example: If I you put ½ teaspoon of fertilizer into 4 litres of water, you should also add ½ teaspoon of Epsom Salts as well. This is only necessary when plants are getting strong light, or if you are using rain water or R.O. water exclusively.



## The October Plant Table (Photos by Jackie Hay)



Photos (L to R) **Best Hybrid**; No Name Cattleya (Norma Viol) – **Best Species**; Acronia dilemma (CN Gibbons)

**Note:** There were eight plants brought in for the October plant table. Those not shown include: Oncidium Sweet Ears 'Big Shot' (Jackie Hay); Scaphosepalum gibberosum, Restrepia guttulata (CN Gibbons); Burrageara Austin Powers 'Sweet Summer Morn' (Larry Derkatz); Cattleya Hybrid -no name (Norma Viol) – pictured below; Lycaste Gladys Eljuri (Deb Boersma)



John Marcotte was our guest speaker at the October meeting. John is a long-time orchid grower and he shared with us many of the growing 'Tips & Tricks' he has developed during his many years of growing beautiful specimen size plants.





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

Date	Speaker / Event	Topic	Plants for Sale?
Nov 30	WOS – Winter Social	Lake Erie Country Club (see directions below)	Yes
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	Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School 1065 Sunningdale Road East (between Adelaide and Highbury) London, Ontario	Yes
March 29	WOS - General Meeting	TBD	TBD
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

**Directions to Lake Erie Country Club:**

<https://maps.google.ca/maps?q=Lake+Erie+Country+Club,+Amherstburg,+ON&ll=42.033213,-83.036063&spn=0.00969,0.01929&fb=1&gl=ca&t=m&z=16&iwloc=A>

Take Howard Avenue south right to the end. You will see a large white church at the intersection directly in front of you. Turn right onto County Road 20 and go about 3 km. to the second intersection which is County Road 50 (Concession 6) and turn left (you will see a general store on that corner). Follow the road and you will see the sign to the LECC on the right hand side just after you pass the Holiday Beach Conservation Area. Turn right and follow Lake Erie Country Club Dr. about a 1 km. You will see the white clubhouse on the left.

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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.**