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# Spokane Orchid Society

*An affiliate of the American Orchid Society*

Newsletter  
July, 2005



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## President's Message -

Well summer is finally here and if you have not moves your orchids out side yet, now is the time. Be sure to place them in proper locations where they will get the required light and water. Be careful not to place them where they will get sun or wind burned.

This month we will be holding our Wednesday evening meeting at Stanek's Nursery. The entire nursery will be open to our society. It will be an enjoyable evening, and a chance to look at their orchid selection and related orchid supplies (along with any other items they stock). Stanek's is located at 2929 East 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. up on South Hill (just down from the Senior Center where we had the 2004 show).

We now have our library in a bookcase at the Manito meeting room. You now can look through the selection and check out books before and after the meetings. We will be creating a Librarian position on the SOS staff to manage and maintain our library. You also will be able to check out the latest copy of Orchid Digest that SOS gets. I will put a read file in the library of the monthly newsletters and other information we get from other orchid societies in the Pacific Northwest area.

The educational portion of this month meeting will be a presentation by Stanek's on use of pesticides and pest control practices. Wednesday's meeting will start at 7:00 pm with a social and tour of the nursery.

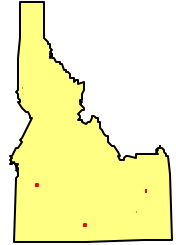
The July Executive Board Meeting will be held (Monday July 18th. 7:30 pm) at Scott Ingles house (838-7996), 16 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, Spokane, WA 99202. All are welcome to attend.

**Scott Ingles - President**

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## North Idaho Orchid Hobbyists -

The next meeting of the North Idaho Orchid Hobbyists will be held on Monday, July 11, at 7PM. The location is 2000 Northwest Blvd. in Coeur d'Alene. There will be a board meeting prior to the regular meeting at 5:30 at Sherry Bullard's restaurant, Cafe d' Coeur located on Northwest Blvd. a couple of blocks away. All are invited to attend. Because Norito Hasegawa will be our guest speaker in August, this will be an important meeting as we have much to discuss. Further information, Jean at 665-9930 or [jrklein6@aol.com](mailto:jrklein6@aol.com)



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## Secretary's Report -

### June SOS Orchid Club Meeting notes - 2005

Scott opened meeting announcing that the long awaited bookcase is complete. Scott did a great job on it, it's on wheels and painted charming earth tones, with class window type doors. It will remain at the Manito meeting site and remain locked for the safety of our collection. Several new books have been added: "Orchids for Dummies", and older Dressler book, and "Orchid Growers Companion" by Banks. So check them out, and check them out (borrow) them next time you are at a meeting!

Talked about a Montana show that we will miss this year due to short notice, so maybe next year. Several newsletters that we get from other societies were made available and catalogs too!

We asked for volunteers for the June 18th Staneks potting fair, but weren't able to get enough folks to be there that soon. Thanks to the 2 volunteers we did have.

Looks like we will have the July meeting at

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Stanek's, and make it a wine and cheese affair. We had a positive response to the idea, so see ya there, discounts will be available on the plants as well.

Jan and Ed Shuey gave an impromptu class at SFCC on orchids, they used the wonderful Orchids 101 class presentation that Scott Ingles presented last month for starters and I'm sure a lot of their own hard won knowledge. Thanks to Jan and Ed! The class will be given again Oct 18th, it's 3 hours long. So if you are interested keep an eye out for it in the SFCC class offerings or talk to Jan or Ed.

Treasurer's report \$1983.51 in the bank, and that is with almost all the show expenses paid. Not bad for this time of year. We talked a bit about next years show and maybe charging 1\$ each to get in, then we can afford a larger venue, no one objected to the idea.

Possible weekend tour of Orchidaece in Walla Walla was discussed, it's about a 3 hour drive from Spokane so we would do it a Saturday and make a day of it. Sounds like lots of fun to me. They are nice folks and have wonderful plants. See their web site [www.orchidaece.com](http://www.orchidaece.com) for more about their nursery. Didn't come up with a date yet however.

#### **Show and Tell -**

Jennifer showed a very blue, and sometimes purple Dendrobium "Victoria Regina" in bloom that she attributed to the Green Jungle orchid food she gives it.

Linda showed and Gongora Grossa with 2 great big long bloom shoots, the one was all opened, and apparently opened all at once, and had an overpowering fragrance that could be described as "gross". More of a sickeningly sweet smell.

Chris Indgerd showed an unknownii Dendrobium from Hawaii with outstanding double and triple bloom shoots with lovely green and burgundy flowers.

Dee Indgerd showed a Frag. "Sorcerers Apprentice" also from Hawaii with a gorgeous large bloom still on it.

Laina Swenson showed and darling Paph. "Lindley Koopowitz" that was so beautiful it almost had me buying the other one like it she brought for the auction, even though I typically don't grow warm grow

ing types. Laina also showed a wonderful BC. that was part C. walkeriana. Very well grown and numerous blossoms.

I think there were other show and tells I didn't get, thanks to everyone who brought plants for us to be inspired by.

For the program: We learned more from Scott's Orchids 102 course. I'm starting to wonder if there might be a quiz next month. Thanks to Scott for all his hard work on the course!

**Kathy O'Neill - Secretary**

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#### **Upcoming Orchid Shows -**

##### **September 3 -**

Central Coast Orchid Society Show, First Presbyterian Church of Newport, 227 NE 12<sup>th</sup> St., Newport, OR. Contact: Elsie Flower, (541) 265-6674

##### **September 24-25 -**

Magic Valley Orchid Society Show. Contact: Jim Jensen, 461 Blue Sky Dr., Kuna, ID., 83864

##### **October 1-2 -**

Sunset Empire Orchid Society Show, Broadway Middle School, 1120 Broadway, Seaside, OR. Contact: Monica Aursland, (503) 861-1344

##### **October 8-9 -**

Umpqua Orchid Society Show. Contact: Pauline Schmidt, PO Box 45, Camas Valley, OR., 97416

##### **October 21-23 -**

Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show. Contact: Rev. Dr. Mervyn Lutes, 1110 - 164A St., Surrey, BC V4A 9G9; Canada

##### **October 29-30 -**

Oregon Orchid Society Show. Contact: Nenita Sorella, 15909 NE 4<sup>th</sup> St., Vancouver, WA., 98684

##### **November 12-13 -**

Northwest Orchid Society Show. Contact: K. Murray, 4124 Cliff Dr., Everett, WA., 98023

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# Odontoglossum

(oh-don-toh-GLOS-sum)

These high-altitude orchids from the New World Tropics flourish where cool temperatures prevail year round. Odontoglossums are known for their striking sprays of flowers. Culture is similar for hybrids in this group, some being *Odontia*, *Odontioda* and *Vuykstekeara*.

**Light** should be bright. In a greenhouse, levels from 2,000 to 5,000 foot-candles are acceptable as long as heat levels can be kept down. If summer day temperatures are high, light levels can be reduced to cool the growing area. While these are not generally considered to be good houseplants, they may succeed at an east window or a shaded south window; western exposures are usually too warm in most climates.

**Temperatures** must be exacting for these plants. Day temperatures below 75 to 80F are almost essential year round. Night temperatures of 55 to 58F are best. Short periods of warmer day temperatures may be tolerated, especially if humidity and air movement are at optimal levels, nights are cool and the plants have healthy root systems.

**Water** should be plentiful, coupled with perfect drainage. The potting medium should just begin to dry before watering. This may mean watering every two to seven days, depending on weather, pot size and material, and type of potting medium. Accordion-pleating on leaves is a symptom of insufficient water or humidity. As with other orchids from high-rainfall areas, odontoglossums are particularly sensitive to poor-water quality, which will give poor roots and leaf-tip burn.

**Humidity**, coupled with moving air, should be ideally 40 to 80-percent. Evaporative cooling in a greenhouse increases humidity while cooling the air and is highly recommended for these orchids in most climates. Fogging the air or dampening the floor with water also helps cool and humidify. In the home, set the plants on trays above moist pebbles, with the pots resting above the water.

**Fertilize** regularly with a dilute solution while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10 formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based potting medium. A 20-20-20 formulation should be used on other media. If weather is overcast, applications once a month are sufficient. Some growers use a high-phosphorus 10-30-20 blossom-booster formulation as plants approach flowering to increase flower count and substance.

**Potting** should be done as new growth becomes about half-mature, which is usually in the spring or autumn. These plants need to be underpotted, so when repotting leave only enough room for one or two years of new growth. Underpotting also enables the grower to provide the more frequent watering these plants need as the smaller pots dry more quickly and evenly when filled with roots. A fine-grade potting medium with excellent drainage is required; because the medium is kept moist, annual or biannual repotting is normal. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with more medium. Firm the potting mix around the roots. Keep humidity high and the pot dry until new roots form.



Odontoglossum "Rawdon Jester"



Colmanara "Wildcat"