

Spokane Orchid Society

An affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Newsletter
March, 2005



President's Message -

It is March and the Spokane area will start to turn green again (not to mention St Patrick's Day). This will be a very busy month for SOS. On 12 March we will have an educational display table on orchid growing in the Spokane area at the community collage. The spring orchid show at the Finch Arboretum is now only a three weeks away. This will be an American Orchid Society sanctioned show. We will have 6 plant vendors and several orchid societies participating in this years show. The show schedule is: Display setup and plant registration - Friday 1 April from 3 PM to 9 PM. Plant Judging - 8 AM to 12 PM, Saturday 2 April (all SOS members are encourage to help judge), Open to the public - Saturday April 2nd 12 PM to 5 PM and Sunday April 3rd 10 AM to 3 PM. Coffee and donuts will be available early Saturday morning, and a lunch will be served to all who help judge and work the show on Saturday at noon. Our show chairman, Ed Shuey will review the final details of the show at Wednesdays meeting. Remember, the key to a successful orchid show it getting the word!

The educational portion of this month meeting will be devoted to plant preparation and presentation for our upcoming show.

A thank you to Jan and Ed Shuey for the March meeting snacks.

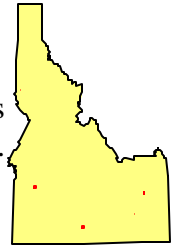
This is my last reminder that your annual membership dues (\$15.00 per year) are due. When paying your dues, please include a listing of your current mailing address, phone number and email address. Dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed in.

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

Scott Ingles - President

North Idaho Orchid Hobbyists -

The North Idaho Orchid Hobbyists meet the first Monday of every month. The location is Coldwell Banker Realty office, 2000 Northwest Blvd. (downstairs) in Coeur d'Alene. More info. Jean 208-665-9930 or jrklein@webtv.net.



Secretary's Report -

February 2005 Orchid Society meeting notes

Treasurer's report: \$2423.98 pre show balance.

Scott brought his creative, attractive fliers for the show, to be put around the city in public locations probably 2-3 weeks before the show. We still need lots of help to put on the show, so the show committee circulated several sign-up sheets for the various duties. If you want to help and weren't at the meeting, please give Ed Shuey or Scott Ingles a call, or email. The jobs are fun, and include helping with the ribbon judging (Saturday 8am-noon), and setup on Friday evening, and take down and cleanup (on Sunday). Thanks to all who signed those sheets at the meeting. The show is scheduled for April 2-3. The setup is Friday April 1.

The "America in Bloom" program second meeting is scheduled for 4-6pm at the Manito meeting room on March 15th if you are interested in participating.

We got to see the lovely banner that was given to us by the folks at Staneks. I think it will come in handy at various events in which we participate for years to come. Thanks to Staneks! The repotting event was very successful again, and many plants were repotted.

A couple of other shows were mentioned, but it was not determined if we will be participating or not. We do have our own show to put on soon.

Masdevallia,

Masdevallia (mas-de-VAHL-lee-ah) is a genus of some 350 species usually from cool, misty mountains of the New World Tropics.

Masdevallias are best known for their showy flowers consisting of sepals fused into a tube-like structure. Their origins in cool, damp environments make them an excellent choice for cool or coastal climates. Most species and hybrids are compact enough so that they can be easily accommodated on windowsills or under lights.

Light should be like that given for phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums - 1,000 to 1,500 footcandles. Masdevallias can be kept in light intensities up to 2,500 foot candles if the growing area can be kept cool. Plants grow well under standard fluorescent fixtures and can be summered outside in shade. In the home, place in an east or shaded south window or under artificial lights.

Temperatures should be cool to intermediate. The plants will grow slowly and eventually expire if temperatures remain high for long periods. Cool evenings help reduce heat stress during the day. Nights of 55 to 60 F are ideal; day temperatures should be 65 to 75 F. Evaporative cooling pads or humidifiers are useful in maintaining these conditions. Avoid day temperatures higher than 80 F.

Water is critical for these plants because they have minimal water-storage tissue. Roots should be allowed to become almost dry before watering again; if drainage is adequate, constantly moist roots are fine. Good quality water, low in dissolved solids is imperative for success.

Humidity is an important factor in the successful culture of masdevallias. The ideal range is 60 to 80 percent. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel partially filled with water. In the greenhouse or enclosed growing area, humidity can be increased by the use of a humidifier, while evaporative coolers help raise humidity and lower temperatures. If plants are summered outdoors, automatic misters under the benches are recommended as is more frequent soaking.

Fertilize regularly with a dilute solution while plants are actively growing. Applications of a 30-10-10 type formula, twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based medium. A 20-20-20 type formula should be used for plants in other media. If weather is overcast, applications once a month are sufficient.

Potting is best done in the winter or early spring, before the heat of summer arrives or as new roots are produced. Plants must be repotted frequently, every one to two years, before the potting mix decomposes. A fine-grade potting medium, such as fine fir bark or tree-fern fiber, is often used with plastic pots. Sphagnum moss is also used, especially for establishing plants.

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Masdevallia coccinea



Masdevallia gilbertoi



Masdevallia strobilii

Secretary's Report (Continued) -

Show and Tell:

WOW! The show and tell plants were fabulous!! Lots of colorful well grown specimens, I'm not going to mention all of the plants as I might leave some out, but Ed and Jan, Priscilla and Gordon, and Jean showed us all how to it. What results!

Thanks to the Spencers who brought us plants to purchase for the silent auction. It does enhance the meeting to be able to add to ones collection and ask the experts for advice, and it benefits the club as well.

We then watched a slide show on the "Splash, Stripes and Spots" of the Cymbidium genus. It was a show from the Orchid Digest organization and were the most unusual Cymbidiums I've ever seen. Most of them were in the red, and pink color ranges, with some very unusual breeding results, petals and sepals that looked like the lips, or perhaps on half looked like the lip. Normally they are sterile, and probably a good thing in my opinion. I can't imagine what their offspring might look like.

- **Kathy O'Neill - Secretary**

Upcoming Orchid Shows -

April 2-3

Spokane Orchid Society Show & Sale - (See "President's Message")

April 9-10 -

Rogue Valley Orchid Society Show. Contact: George E. Brown, 215 Renault Ave., Medford, OR 97501; (541) 608-0133; yorgob909@cs.com

May 5-7 -

Big Sky Orchid Society Show. Contact: Fred Whitmore, 818 Rimrock Road, Billings, MT 59102.

May 7-8 -

South Central Washington Orchid Society Show, Highland Grange Hall, 1500 S. Union, Kennewick, WA. Contact: Eileen Michals, 5200 West 14th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99338; (509) 783-1076; vonaraby@gte.net

SOS Membership Renewal

Don't forget that it is time to renew your membership again. Please make your check out to SOS (Spokane Orchid Society) and give it to Sharon Chatterton at a meeting or mail it to Sharon at 5524 N. Fleming St., Spokane, WA 99223-7479.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____