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# Spokane Orchid Society

*An affiliate of the American Orchid Society*

Newsletter  
May, 2005



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## President's Message -

Happy May to you all, it looks like spring is really here. Well this years SOS orchid show is just barely over and we are looking onto next year show. We have AOS approval for our 2006 show dates. The dates are, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, with setup on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Our 2006 show chairman is Jim Pearce. Thank you Jim and we all look forward to working with you. We are once again looking for a bigger place to hold the show. We would like to find a nice exhibition hall that has about 3500 square feet open floor space, easy excess and lots of parking. Oh and at a reasonable price. If you have any ideas, let Jim or myself know.

We will be sending down an orchid display to the South Central Washington Orchid Society show this month (May 7 and 8, 2005 at the Grange Hall, 1500 S. Union Street, Kennewick, WA. I would like to thank all our members who provided plants for our display.

The Executive Board is currently working on a rewrite to the "Bylaw of the Spokane Orchid Society." I hope to have a draft copy of the proposed changes our for general membership discussion at our June meeting. I welcome any input form our members.

The educational portion of this month meeting will be a slide presentation "Orchids 101" an introduction to orchids by Scott Ingles.

The May meeting snacks are by Priscilla Wopat - Thank You.

Wednesday's meeting will start at 7:00 pm sharp. Be sure to bring plants for show and tell

and any items for the silent auction table. I hope to see you all at the meeting.

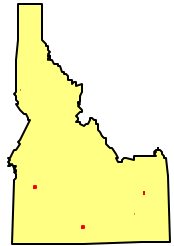
The May Executive Board Meeting will be held (Monday May 16th. 7:30 pm) at Scott Ingles house (838-7996), 16 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, Spokane, WA 99202. All are welcome to attend.

**Scott Ingles - President**

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## North Idaho Orchid Hobbyists -

The 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](mailto:jrklein@webtv.net).



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## Secretary's Report -

Not available at time of printing.



## Spokane Orchid Society Membership Roster – 2005

Anderson, Lorrie	509/325-0660	2312 W. Woodside, Spokane WA 99212	<a href="mailto:ganders@icehouse.net">ganders@icehouse.net</a>
Appling, Talinna			<a href="mailto:tapping@hotmail.com">tapping@hotmail.com</a>
Best, Jeane	509/928/9248	4422 N. Peone Pines Dr., Mead WA 99021	<a href="mailto:jeaneb1953@yahoo.com">jeaneb1953@yahoo.com</a>
Blakenship, Judith	509/466-4782	14923 N. Peone Pines Dr., Mead WA 99021	<a href="mailto:judyrae@omnicast.net">judyrae@omnicast.net</a>
Borish, Jane	406/293/2458	265 Boulder Rd., Libby MT 59923	<a href="mailto:iwantarheum@yahoo.com">iwantarheum@yahoo.com</a>
Botsch, Barbara A.	208/265/8675	237 LowerPackRiverDr, Sandpoint ID 83864	
Boyles, Dan	509/299/4971	POBox 40, Medical Lake WA 99022	
Brashear, Stan/Jeanette	425/337-3381	3007 SE 91 <sup>st</sup> , Everett WA 98208	<a href="mailto:jborchid@yahoo.com">jborchid@yahoo.com</a>
Brunner, Suzanne	509/455/2370	1903 S. Stevens, Spokane WA 99203	
Chatterton, Sharon	509/325-2011	5524 N. Fleming, Spokane WA 99205	
Czechowski, Mike	509/456-5887(ho) 509/328-8130(wo)	413 E. 21 <sup>st</sup> ., Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:mikecz@worldnet.att.net">mikecz@worldnet.att.net</a>
DeNiro, Liz	509/238-6561	16226 N. Sands Rd., Mead WA 99021	<a href="mailto:Elizabe754@aol.com">Elizabe754@aol.com</a>
Desmond, Deanna		1116 E. 16 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:desmondDavis@wondermere.com">desmondDavis@wondermere.com</a>
Edwards, Don/Judith	509/535-8913	3504 E. Congress, Spokane WA 99223	none
Emry, Gordon/Nadine	509/292-2182	38115 N. Sheets Rd., Elk WA 99009-0099	none
Feistner, Jeremy		8012 E. Cataldo #41, Spokane WA 99212	
Gay, Clive/Carol	509/332-1846	315 SE Grant, Pullman WA 99163	
Gustafson, Steven	509/625-6692	4 W. 21 <sup>st</sup> , Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:sgustafson@spokanecity.org">sgustafson@spokanecity.org</a>
Haines, Tim/Lynn	509/981-0139	PO Box 8349, Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:tim@tbhaines@comcast.net">tim@tbhaines@comcast.net</a>
Helmer, Nancy	208/667-2463	PO Box 2141, Coeur d'Alene ID 83816	
Hughes, Pat/Marie	509/466-4160	9305 N. Gerlach Rd., Spokane WA 99217	<a href="mailto:hughessvp@aol.com">hughessvp@aol.com</a>
Indgjerd, Christine	448-5331	4315 S. Tampa, Spokane WA 99223	<a href="mailto:chris.indgjerd@navigant.com">chris.indgjerd@navigant.com</a>
Indgjerd, Dee	465-3214	10712 N. Kensington Ct., Spokane WA	<a href="mailto:dee@indgjerd.com">dee@indgjerd.com</a>
Ingles, Scott	509/838-7996	16 E. 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Spokane WA 99202	<a href="mailto:scottingles@earthlink.net">scottingles@earthlink.net</a>
Irwin, Julie	509/467-2521	12 E. Regina, Spokane WA 99218	<a href="mailto:jairw@yahoo.com">jairw@yahoo.com</a>
Jackson, Linda	509/928-1147	POBox 15246, Spokane Valley WA 99215	<a href="mailto:jerrylindajackson@comcast.net">jerrylindajackson@comcast.net</a>
Johnson, Jennifer	509/891-7655	11217 E. Fairview, Spokane WA 99206	<a href="mailto:jaid@icehouse.net">jaid@icehouse.net</a>
Jones, Marjorie	509/466-2561	4921 Londale Ct., Spokane WA 99208	<a href="mailto:marjjones@omnicast.net">marjjones@omnicast.net</a>
Jones, Nancy	509/467-7597	12525 N. Pittsburg, Spokane WA 99218	<a href="mailto:nancyjones@attbi.com">nancyjones@attbi.com</a>
Klein, Jean	208/665-9930	1956 Hampson Ave., Coeur d'Alene ID 83815	<a href="mailto:jrklein@aol.com">jrklein@aol.com</a>
Kormmeyer, Cathy/Mel	509/328-5393	5518 N. Drumheller, Spokane WA 99205	<a href="mailto:kormmeyer@earthlink.net">kormmeyer@earthlink.net</a>
Lucera, Janice	509/926-3783	8522 E. SouthRiverWay, Spokane WA 99212	<a href="mailto:jankucera@aol.com">jankucera@aol.com</a>
Lewis, Arla	509/448-2894	2703 E. 39 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99223	<a href="mailto:arle@att.net">arle@att.net</a>
Long, Eunuce	208/686-1370	1995 Long Rd., Plummer ID 83851	<a href="mailto:longstables@aol.com">longstables@aol.com</a>
McGoldrick, Milaine	509/747-1500	1613 S. Cresthill Dr., Spokane WA 99203	
Meagher, Michael/Joan	509/624-8831	509 W. Cotta Ave., Spokane WA 99204	
McKinnie, Jeanne A.	509/466-7854	2202 W. Chadwick Ln, Spokane WA 99208	<a href="mailto:jeanne@fwaa.org">jeanne@fwaa.org</a>
Nelson, Ray/Carol	509/466-0230	11309 N. Morill Dr., Mead WA 99201	
Nelson, Roger/Martha	509/838-7453	517 E. 18 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:RogerN@KXLY.com">RogerN@KXLY.com</a>
O'Neill, Kathy	509/458-6020	1111 E. 15 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:katho@spokaneschool.org">katho@spokaneschool.org</a>
Parker, David	208/667-0360	331 Jeffery Pine Ln., Coeur d'Alene ID 83815	<a href="mailto:deparker@nic.edu">deparker@nic.edu</a>
Pearce, Jim	509/299-5152	7105 S. Craig Rd., Spokane WA 99004	<a href="mailto:npearce4@excite.com">npearce4@excite.com</a>
Pettichord, Doris	208/476-5694	POBox 813, Orofino ID 83544	
Phillips, John/Donna	509/624-4118	8002 W. Mission Rd., Spokane WA 99224	<a href="mailto:donnapp@earthlink.net">donnapp@earthlink.net</a>
Pier, Heather	509/334-1302	POBox 6, Albion WA 99102	<a href="mailto:heatherm@vetmed.wsu.edu">heatherm@vetmed.wsu.edu</a>
Ragan, Barbara(Bobbie)	208/667-9194	1868 W. Hampson, Coeur d'Alene ID 83815	<a href="mailto:bobbiesorchids@msn.com">bobbiesorchids@msn.com</a>
Ryan, Steve	509/255-6313	23120 E. Inlet Dr., #3, Liberty Lake WA 99019	<a href="mailto:ryanstl2000@yahoo.com">ryanstl2000@yahoo.com</a>
Sedler, Nichole	509/979/0005	3224 E. 20 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99223	<a href="mailto:colisedler@hotmail.com">colisedler@hotmail.com</a>
Shannon, Dugie	509/838-3082	351 E. 10 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99202	
Shore, Dorothy	509/838-5635	130 E. 33 <sup>rd</sup> , Spokane WA 99203	
Shuey, Ed/Jan	509/467-6203	7314 N. Altamont, Spokane WA 99217	<a href="mailto:janshuey@netzero.net">janshuey@netzero.net</a>
Smith, Lowell/Jean	509/228/9612	POBox 13595, Spokane WA 99213	<a href="mailto:lowsmi760@aol.com">lowsmi760@aol.com</a>
Snider, Bob/Irene	509/747-3547	131 W. 40 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99203	
Spencer, Dave/Meredith	509/686-7551	POBox 331, Bridgeport WA 98813	<a href="mailto:merdave@vib.tv">merdave@vib.tv</a>
Staneks	509/535-2939	2929 E. 27 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99223	
Stuart, John/Laura	509/326-1290	2917 W. Holyoke, Spokane WA 99208	<a href="mailto:JLSTUART@omnicast.net">JLSTUART@omnicast.net</a>
Stier, Robert	509/624-9897	1010 Comstock Ct, Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:robertastier@comcast.net">robertastier@comcast.net</a>
Tai, Mii	509/838-2667	833 E. 36 <sup>th</sup> , Spokane WA 99203	
Tyler, Glenn/Lena	509/276-8448	39315 N. Locher Rd., Deer Park WA 99006	<a href="mailto:smilingtylerbear@netscape.net">smilingtylerbear@netscape.net</a>
Wada, Susan	509/465-9840	10827 N. College Pl.Dr, Spokane WA 99218	
Wopat, Pricilla	509/747-8415	2127 S. Madison, Spokane WA 99203	<a href="mailto:pdw8@cdc.gov">pdw8@cdc.gov</a>

# Miltonia,

(mil-TOH-nee-ah)

## Including Miltoniopsis

(mil-toh-nee-OP-sis)

These striking orchids, which are also known as pansy orchids, owing to their similarity to garden pansies, are enjoying increasing popularity. *Miltoniopsis* are cool-growing orchids that originate in the higher elevations of the Andes in Colombia, Panama and Ecuador. The warmer-growing species, properly Miltonias, originate from the Minas Gerais area of Brazil and more closely resemble large-flowered oncidiums. Their flowers can be brilliantly patterned.



Light should be relatively shaded. Direct sunlight burns the thin leaves within a short period of time. However, the warmer-growing types prefer more light than their cooler-growing relatives. The cool-growing species need approximately 1,200 foot-candles, while the warmer-growing species require closer to 2,000 foot-candles.

Temperature is critical for the cool-growing plants. Unless temperatures are kept under 80 F, they may not flower. The minimum temperature is 50 to 55 F. Thus, these are really better thought of as intermediate growers because they need intermediate temperatures throughout the year - not too hot, not too cold. The warmer growers will take temperatures over 90 F as long as humidity levels of 70 to 75 percent, or higher, are maintained. The minimum temperature is 60 F.

Water must be plentiful, and the medium must drain perfectly. In their native habitat, the plants are drenched almost daily and, because of this, they are intolerant of salt buildup, so leaching every fourth or fifth watering is important when growing in pots. When they are not getting enough water or humidity, the leaves have a tendency to grow with accordion like pleats. The warmer-growing miltonias should be grown like cattleyas; allow them to approach dryness between waterings. They also tend to be slightly more tolerant of salt buildup than their Colombian cousins, so they can dry more between waterings.

Humidity must be at least 70 percent because of the plants' need for abundant water. Less humidity will stress the plants and can lead to susceptibility to disease, though too much humidity is worse than too little.

Fertilize at the same level as other orchids; half-strength, balanced fertilizer every two weeks. This can be reduced by half during overcast weather or in winter. A 10-30-20 blossom-booster formulation is beneficial in early spring when plants approach their flowering period.

Potting should be done after flowering when the new growth is starting. Miltoniopsis should be repotted every year as they are intolerant of stale conditions. The cool growers (miltoniopsis) do well in small pots. The warmer growers (miltonias) tend to have a relatively elongated creeping habit, and therefore, do better mounted. Any potting mix suitable for fine roots such as 70 percent seedling bark with charcoal and perlite or a mix of 70 percent tree fern and 30 percent chopped sphagnum is adequate. Mounts may be cork, tree fern or other hard wood. They should be longer than wide. For some reason, shallow pans work better than deep pots.