

Spokane Orchid Society

An affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Newsletter

October, 2005



President's Message -

I would like to thank all of you who helped with the orchid repotting at Stanek's Fall fair on the 17th of September. The next few months will be busy times for SOS.

November is our yearly elections for new officers. This year we have to elect a new President and Vice President. The other board positions can run for a second term. We will be discussing the upcoming elections and taking nominations for new officers at the October meeting. November is also our auction meeting.

Members are encouraged to bring in orchid/plant related items to be auctioned off. This is our major fund raising event of the year. December is our Holiday Party meeting. All members are encouraged to bring in some of their favorite holiday treats to share and a grab-bag gift (not to exceed \$15.00 in value) for the exchange. The gift has traditionally been an orchid related item.

Starting in January 2006, we will be issuing SOS membership cards. We are lining up local merchants that will give discounts in their stores to members showing the card at the time of purchase. Your membership card will also serve as confirmation of having paid the current years membership dues.

We now have our own SOS Internet web site up and running. It is: spokaneorchidsociety.org. The sight is in its infancy, but if you go to it you will find three categories to choose from "Meetings" "Contacts" and "Calendar of Events." More categories will be added as time goes on.

Several members have extolled the virtues of using Green Jungle Orchid Food. This is a liquid fertilizer (Grade 1-0-1) that is mixed at one ounce per gallon of water (or 1:100 setting). The product is sold by Orchids Limited over their web site www.orchidweb.com. The product can be found under "Supply" on page 5 of 10, or by typing the products name in the search window on the sites home page. (As a last resort, just Google "Green Jungle Orchid Food" and it will take you to the site, remember to use the "marks".....)

Gordon Emry will be presenting a program at the October meeting. See you all on Wednesday October 12 at 7 PM.

A big thanks to Julie Irwin for the October meeting snacks.

The October Executive Board Meeting will be held (Monday 17 Oct. 7:30 pm) at Scott Ingles' house (838-7996), 16 East 14th Ave. Spokane, WA 99202. All are welcome to attend.

Scott Ingles - President

Secretary's Report -

Treasurer reported that we have \$1603.93 in the bank. Also, thanks go out to Jim Pearce for getting our new web site going. Any ideas for it would be appreciated.

Show and Tell:

Priscilla brought a Dendrobium with lots of keiki's, so we could see what a bunch of them look like.

Gordon showed two different C. Walkeriana hybrids he made, both from the same seed pod. One plant had much larger blooms than the other, someone asked if the one with the larger flowers had fewer of them but we were informed that no it had just as many or more! Very interesting , thanks to Gordon Emery for educating us.

Laima brought a very beautiful species called Tricoglottis brachiata that had these wonderful maroon-ish colored flowers all along the length of the plant. She also brought a Bulbophyllum , which are one of my personal species favorites, she grows them both on the warm side and very well. She mentioned the www.orchidspecies.com web site and I believe purchased the plants from them , or at least researched their care on that site.

I brought a funny looking Maxillaria grandiflora 'Burnham' that has been bud blasting for me for atleast 4 years now. I attribute the first successful bloom opening to growing it in a basket, or the fact that I'm mostly using RO water now.

Jim Pearce brought a plant with the Bosduval scale, and Gordon gave him instructions on how to soak the plant for several hours in a mixture of H2O in 5 gallon bucket and Malathion, I didn't get the exact dilution for the Malathion to H2O , so ask Gordon if you have this problem. Apparently they are very difficult to eradicate, the Cattleya was actually blooming nicely inspite of it's affliction, maybe it's survival was at stake!

Our program was about repotting:

Scott passed out a large variety of possible potting mediums, including unusual items like wine corks, and pine cones, and the more common gravel, pumice stone, perlite and charcoal, packing peanuts (the type that doesn't dissolve). The materials that don't break down, or break down slowly can be used to provide drainage in the bottom of the pot, and sometimes all alone if you are caring for a plant that can be hydroponically grown.

Be sure to put a marker in the plant with the date of the repotting, I greatly regretted this past week that I had not done this in all cases myself. I was looking at my mini cymbidiums I still had outside, and wondering why they seemed to be getting new growth right now vs. bloomshoots. I felt the potting medium and looked at the roots that were visible and realized that I might be too late in repotting them, so I took them out of the pots, and found soggy, cold, broken down medium and sad to say lots of rotten roots. One plant was a complete loss : - (. Maybe if I had brought them in before this latest wet weather spell it wouldn't have happened, I suspect that the root rot can happen very fast!

Gordon demonstrated repotting and splitting a C. Walkeriana, and I believe Liz brought a large Coelogyne mooreana to be repotted.

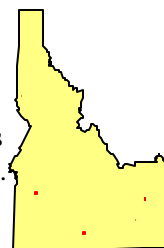
Cattleya's should be repotted when they have about 1" of new root growth on them, be careful not to break off the new roots on the new growth especially. Get a pot that is big enough to hold about 2 years worth of growth. Too big of a pot can retain too much water. Also try to keep about 4 pseudobulbs together with each division.

Thanks to Eunice Long for donating several plants to be sold at our regular silent auction. We are thinking of you and wish you well. Also we were able to bid on some of the plants that were repotted and split.

Kathy O'Neill - Secretary

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 Further information call Jean at 665-9930 or email jrklein6@aol.com



Cattleya, (KAT-lee-ah)

Cattleyas are among the most popular orchids. Their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids. Cattleyas and their related hybrids come in many colors, shapes, forms and sizes. Culture varies only slightly among most of these. Like many other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air plants. They have developed water-storage organs, called pseudobulbs, and have large, fleshy roots covered with a spongy, water-retentive velamen. They are accustomed to being dry at the roots between waterings, and therefore should be potted in free-draining media.

Light is the most important factor in growing and flowering cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse or in the home. Bright light to some sun should be given to the plants, with no direct sun in the middle of the day. This means an east, shaded-south (as with a sheer curtain) or west window in the home, and 50 to 70 percent full sun in a greenhouse (3,000 to 5,000 foot-candles). Leaves should be a medium-green color, pseudobulbs erect and requiring no staking.

Temperatures should be 55 to 60 F at night and 70 to 85 F during the day. Seedlings should have night temperatures 5 to 10 degrees higher. A 15 to 20-degree differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95 F) if humidity, air circulation and shading are increased.

Water should be provided in two ways: in the pot by watering and in the air as humidity. Watering in the container is dictated by many criteria: size and type of the vessel, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need more constant moisture. Compare the weight of a dry pot of the same size and type of mix; it can indicate if a plant needs water by the relative weight - light means dry, heavy means wet. If in doubt, it's best to wait a day or two until watering. Plants in active growth need more water than plants that are resting. Water below 50 F may injure plants, as will water softened by the addition of salts.

Humidity should be 50 to 80 percent for cattleyas. This can be provided in the home by placing the plants on trays of gravel, only partially filled with water so that the plants do not sit in the water. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist. In the greenhouse, the humidity is best increased by the use of a humidifier. Evaporative cooling increases humidity while cooling to the air.

Fertilize on a regular schedule. In fir bark, a high-nitrogen (such as 30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, is used. Otherwise, use a balanced fertilizer. When in active growth, plants need fertilizer at least every two weeks, and when not actively growing, once a month. Fertilizer can also be applied with every watering at one-quarter the recommended dilution. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent the buildup of fertilizer salts.

Potting is necessary when the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot, or the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly -(usually after two to three years). It is best to repot just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, after flowering or in the spring. Mature cattleyas are usually potted in coarser potting material than are seedlings. Until a plant has at least six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, three to five pseudobulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for approximately two years of growth before crowding the pot. Pile mix against one side of the pot and cut off any dead roots. Spread the firm, live roots over the pile, with the cut rhizome against the side of the pot. Fill the pot with medium, working it around the roots. Pack firmly and stake if necessary. Keep the plant humid, shaded and dry at the roots until new root growth is seen.

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Cattleya dowiana



Cattleya mossiae