

Orchiddata



July 2005

The President's Message

Thank you to Margaret Hewings, Ben Boers and Cindy MacKenzie for their time setting up the RBG display at the Ottawa Show. The show went well.

The weather was great and the drive home was not in snow, which was good.

It's been busy this spring for us. We went to Costa Rica and saw some wild flowers and some orchids in the rainforest.

We went to Homestead Florida to see the Orchid Show. There were fifty-six vendors from all over the world and it was really neat to see all the orchids.

On the way down, we stopped at the gardens in Atlanta, which we would recommend to anybody. The private orchid collection there was absolutely stunning.

This is my last newsletter and I would like to thank everyone for his or her support. Robert Johnstone will be taking over as the new President.

Congratulations to Robert. I'm sure he will do a great job.

Good and Going

Robert Gardiner

Upcoming Events

June 18, 2005 9:00am –5:00pm Orchids in Our Tropics is having a MAKE ROOM SALE - 15 Wilmac Court VANDORF, ON (905) 727-3319 - Even after all the spring shows our greenhouse is too full, so come pick up a bargain
June 19, 2005 – OSRBG General Meeting opens at 1:00 pm. Beginner's group will meet at 1:30 pm at the back of the hall. This is our Annual Business Meeting.

Speaker – Our own intrepid travelers will wow you with tales of the French countryside and the WOC from France. Scott Milne armed with his team of fellow travelers and plenty of photos will be giving a full report on the show and customs officials.

July 2, 2005 - Toronto Centre Judging, Toronto Botanical Garden 1 pm

July 18, 2005 – 12:30 – 3:00 pm - Open House at Robert and Jane Johnstone – See insert on following page.

August 7, 2005 9:30am to 5:00pm - Summer Orchidfest
All members of Orchid Societies welcome.

ADMISSION: Orchid Society membership card and a dish to share

10:00am AOS Judging – bringing your orchid treasures for the judges to consider for awards. Stay and listen as the judges discuss the merit of your plant and learn how it stacks up with its peers. Let's see how hard you can make our judges work.

12:00noon Pot Luck lunch. Because we are at the JCCC, we will NOT be able to BBQ so bring along enough of your favourite dish to share. SOOS will provide drinks and plates. Will your special dish be the most popular?

12:00noon to closing. Plant sales and pre-order pick up.
2:00pm JIM RASSMANN from Florence, Oregon - Jim is currently vice-president of the American Orchid Society. He has traveled extensively in South America attending many orchid shows. He will tell us about his travels and particularly about his discoveries about Miltoniopsis.

Miltoniopsis vexillaria comes in a huge variety of colour forms. Unfortunately Jim will not be bringing plants but you will have lots of opportunity to talk to him about Miltoniopsis and the many other genera that he grows. This will also be an opportunity to find out more about the American Orchid Society.

3:00pm FRANCISCO MIRANDA, of Miranda Orchids - The GENUS CATTLEYA IN BRAZIL - Francisco has grown and line bred Brazilian species for many years in Brazil. His greenhouses are now in Florida and therefore, much more accessible to the North American market. However, his close ties to his native Brazil allow him to supply the best in Brazilian species. Check out his website at <http://mirandaorchids.com>

Francisco is taking pre-orders and will be bringing plants for sale. You can send inquiries to Francisco, but if you want to get in on the society discount the order has to be part of the group order that Terry Kennedy will send to him. Some of you picked up his list at the May meeting. It will also be available at the June meeting or email Terry at ourtropics@ica.net

See you at the JCCC August 7

August 21, 2005 – OSRBG General Meeting opens at 1:00 pm. Beginner's group will meet at 1:30 pm at the back of the hall. Speaker: TBA.

September 3, 2005 - Toronto Centre Judging, Toronto Botanical Garden 1 pm

September 13TH-19TH 2005 - WA Orchid Spectacular 2005 - "A WORLD OF ORCHIDS" - Held under the auspices of the Western Australian Regional Orchid Organization - - **Fremantle Australia**

September 24-25, 2005 - Central Ontario Orchid Society Show, Cambridge, Ontario.

October 1, 2005 - Toronto Centre Judging, Toronto Botanical Garden 1 pm

October 1-2, 2005 - The Foothills Orchid Society (Calgary, Alberta) will be hosting this year's COC Annual Meeting in conjunction with its annual show at the Triwood Community Assn. hall. 2244 Chicoutimi Dr. NW, Calgary. Contact Jan Gibson, e-mail:

October 12-16, 2005 - AOS Members Meeting, Rohnert Park, California

October 21-23, 2005 - Mid America Orchid Congress, Cincinnati, Ohio.

October 29-30, 2005 - Eastern Canada Orchid Society Show at the Days Inn Hotel, 1005 rue Guy, in Downtown Montreal

AOS Judging Results

Ottawa Orchid Show, April 23:

Onc. ampliatus var. majus 'Yvonne' AM 85 pts. CCM-AOS 88 pts. Gary & Yvonne Schreiber

Phal. ?????? (Little Sierra X Be Tris) HCC-AOS 79 pts. Paradis des Orchidees

Masd. coccinea 'Ferrusi' AM-AOS 88 pts. Mario & Conni Ferrusi

Display AOS Gold Medal Certificate 93 pts. Mario & Rhys Ferrusi

Toronto Monthly Judging, May 7:

Dracula sodiroi 'Honorable A' HCC-AOS 79 pts., Andre Levesque

Pleurothallis grobyi 'Andrew's First Communion' CCM-AOS 85pts Erika Lorincz

Schoenorchis pachyacris 'Rosy Posy' CCE-AOS 91pts. Erika Lorincz

Maxillaria rodrigueziana 'Ashlar' HCC-AOS 77 pts. Doris Jensen

Zootrophion longifolium 'Darth Vader' CBR-AOS Doug & Terry Kennedy

TAOA Show May 14:

Epidendrum Mabel Kanda '?' (floribunda x encyclia cordigera) HCC-AOS 76 pts. Schreiber's Orchids.

Tetramicra canlicula '?' CHM-AOS 81 pts. Schreiber's Orchids.

Stanhopea embreei '?' AM-AOS 82 pts. Orchids in Our Tropics

Other Judging News

The Montreal judging site has been approved by the AOS trustees and is expected to get underway the third Saturday of every month beginning in November 2005. This will provide monthly judging to Quebec and adjacent locations. Judging will be at the Jardin Botanique de Montreal

In Search of the Perfect Potting Medium

Last winter, I was reading a horticultural magazine. I came across a new product called Higromite. It looks very similar to Diatomite in appearance; however, it is reddish brown in colour, it is more porous and it has volcanic ash in its composition. I contacted the company

and obtained some samples. I then conducted a small-scaled experiment growing several genera of orchid seedlings on bark, Diatomite and Higromite in February.

Being an orchid hobbyist, I face the ever-increasing problem of finding good media for repotting every season. In fact, I have been looking for better and cheaper alternatives as potting media. Over the years, many so-called potential potting media have come and gone. Each one has its strength and weakness. Some seem to work well for a while, but not so well in the long run. Some are getting dearer and rarer by the day. Higromite caught my eyes because of the following reasons: 1) Its composition of volcanic ash is known to be fertile for plants growth. 2) It is mined abundantly in Northern California, thus the price will be cheaper than the Australian Diatomite. 3) The independent laboratory analysis showed exceptional plant response and good physical/chemical characteristics as a potting medium.

What were the results of my experiment? At first, the seedlings did not show any significant difference in growth rate and vigor in all 3 media. I almost declared this new product a failure. This poor outcome may be due to the fact that frigid February is not a good month for deflasking. I was "stingy" to keep my greenhouse at merely 20 degree Celsius to minimize gas bill payment. As April approached, things were drastically different. The seedlings in Higromite were showing a definitive faster growth rate than seedlings in other two media with conditions remain the same. During the experiment, I observed that Higromite takes up water more readily and has a steeper water-releasing gradient than bark and Diatomite. The high porosity of Higromite is another advantage. As water evaporates, the minute space is replenished with fresh air. It does not stay too wet for a prolonged period of time as compared to Diatomite. Higromite seems to work very satisfactorily with my watering and fertilization schedule. I would like to emphasize that individual growing conditions vary, and results may be different. Nevertheless, you will not know unless you try it out. You can use it alone or you can add it to your favorite potting mix. Higromite will be available to you at local hydroponics stores or garden centers in 3 different sizes in 0.75 cu feet bags early this summer. For more information, you can visit the website: www.higromite.com.

Clarence Yu

Pot and Tool sterilization from OGD:

Since I started this thread, I thought I would sum up progress. As far as I am concerned the matter has been fully addressed.

Thanks to Bert and all others who weighed in on the matter. As I see it, a solution of calcium hypochlorite, easily made as a 3:1 dilution of household bleach, is a very effective against virus and a general sterilant for orchid pots and tools

The addition of vinegar (or any acid) to the bleach solution is a bad idea indoors. Vinegar, by causing the immediate gassing off of the Chlorine will cause the sterilizing solution to loose its effectiveness quickly. Without vinegar, a bleach solution can be used for several days, maybe longer.

Also gleaned from this discussion, oven sterilization is preferred by some. Oven sterilization is effective. This is a highly impractical method for my personal set up, (I mostly use plastic pots). Others should feel free to use this method if they like. I do not keep cats, I have no small children around, and I will use the bleach solution.

Another result of this discussion is: a saturated solution of Tri Sodium Phosphate is an ineffective way to sterilize tools and is strongly recommended against by some of the professional microbiologists on the list. This agrees with my poorly remembered chemistry. Bleach solution is a good alternative and will not corrode your tools any faster than the TSP.

Also, by lack of comment, nobody seems to know if a 40 to 60 % solution of ethanol or methanol would be effective as a sterilant. Off list I heard a strong favorable vote for this method from a PhD microbiologist, but this person only works with mammalian cell cultures and prisms.

The result I take away from this is that I will continue to use a solution of household bleach to sterilize my pots and tools. This is a very practical option for me, and I appreciate the verification from the group that it is a good, effective method to control pathogens, virus in particular. It is really important that, to the degree practical, we do not spread virus around in our collections. Good technique and good insect control go a long way to stopping the spread of pathogens. We do not need to create a sterile bubble for the plants to live in, but clean(er) technique will really slow or stop the spread of disease.

Courtesy of Jim Brasch

President's Open House

To begin my term as President, Jane and I would like to again host an Open House. Become part and make it even more successful than last year. This year, it will be a potluck lunch and orchid exchange/sale opportunity for all members. Refreshments will be provided.

Date: Sunday, July 18, 2005

Time: 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Robert and Jane as shown below.

Please Bring: Your favourite dish (main, salad, dessert, etc.) for sharing (barbeque available) and orchid plants for exchange/sale.

Greenhouse tours are available and refreshments will be provided.



Sphag-n-Bag

By Ray Barkalow

OK, you've managed to rot the roots off of your plant, but you don't want to lose it. What can you do? Many orchid growers resort to the old "sphag-n-bag" technique. By the way, this is good for getting new imports established, too.

First, let's consider the needs of the plant: It needs water to survive - water is the life's blood of the plant. It provides turgidity to the tissues and cells, it is a chemical component used in the production of the sugars during photosynthesis, and it is used by the plant to control the osmotic pressure of ions inside- and outside of the cells. So if you have no roots, how does the plant get water?

Misting is of little value, as the plant cannot take up a substantial amount of liquid water through its leaves, and the brief period that the humidity is raised by periodic misting is likely insufficient to be of much benefit. The key is maintaining high humidity, not so much because of the easier absorption of water vapor (which is the case), but because a saturated environment prevents further loss of water from the plant tissues while it attempts to grow new roots. Basically, the "sphag-n-bag" concept uses a small bit of damp sphagnum as a moisture supply, and a plastic bag as a "micro-greenhouse" in which the elevated humidity can be easily maintained.

That's simple enough, but a big mistake that many folks make is placing the plant in direct contact with moss that's too wet.

The technique I use involves preparing the plant, then setting up the "rescue" environment:

Plant Preparation

- Remove any old organic media that may be sticking to the roots. If it's difficult to remove, just wait.
- Using a sterile blade, trim off any dead or damaged roots.
- Dissolve 1 cup of sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon of a rooting hormone compound (K-L-N, Super Thrive, etc.) in a gallon of 80°F water. If you have any soluble trace element mixture (STEM), also add 1/2 teaspoon of that.
- Soak the plant for about 2 hours or more.
- Remove any remaining organic media - it's bound to come off after the soaking.

Setting up the Environment (this is the easy part)

- Get a clear plastic bag large enough to comfortably hold the plant.
- Place a small amount of damp sphagnum moss in one corner of the bag. You may substitute a piece of folded-up paper towel for the moss, or just add a teaspoon of water to the bag.
- Place the plant in the bag, oriented as if growing normally, and not in direct contact with the moss or any free liquid.
- Seal the bag. If it's a Zip-Lock, that's easy, if not, fold over the top several times and hold it with a paper clip.
- Place it in a warm, shady location and walk away.

Placing the plant in that warm, shady location (not dark) is important: The warmth will induce some growth activity, but the shade serves to moderate the vegetative growth while the plant develops new roots. Furthermore, warmth results in a higher moisture content of the air in the bag, and the shade prevents the bag from becoming a broiler, as it would become if direct sun hits it.

In a few weeks, the plant is likely to have developed a new root system, at which point it can be repotted.

Another idea for those of you who grow your plants in Semi-Hydroponic™ culture: Pot up your suffering plant and then place the plant - pot and all - in the bag. It will get all of the benefits of the "sphag-n-bag" environment, but has the bonus of growing its roots into the medium without the need for repotting afterward.

www.firstrays.com/sphagnbag.htm

Bug Spray

By Bil Smith

Back by popular demand, here's the magic recipe once again. I can attest that it works!

Mix 1 litre of water, 10 ml horticultural oil (Sheridan Nursery), 50 ml isopropyl (rubbing) Alcohol (Zehrs or the Dollar Store), few drops of dish soap (Ivory works well)

Mix fresh each time you use it, shake, spray heavily to soak whole plant, flowers, and soil.

Isolate plant 7-10 days, check and re-spray if still infested. Avoid direct sunlight and heat as spray magnifies light on plant and can burn it.

*(Reprinted from Central Ontario Orchid Society
Newsletter April 2005)*

Membership Dues

“REMINDER”

Membership for 2004-2005 expires May 31st. You can renew your membership at the next meeting, or by mailing your \$15.00 cheque to:

Robert Johnstone
716 Lynn Valley Road
Port Dover, ON N0A 1N2

Saturday morning greenhouse group will meet on the 1st Saturday starting September, 2004. Please let Jim Brasch know if you are interested in attending. This is a good place to learn general orchid maintenance and chat about orchids.

The Flasking Group meets every third Thursday of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Please sign-in at the Security Desk.

Anyone interested in receiving the newsletter via email, please send a request via email to willfamily@sympatico.ca

Linda Will
Orchidata Editor



**2004 – 2005
Executive & Contacts**

President.....	Robert Gardiner	519-647-3301
Vice-President.....	Tony Legault	905-631-1179
Treasurer	Pat Vuurman	905-527-4951
Secretary.....	George Armour	905-312-0782
Membership	Robert Johnstone	519-428-9913
Newsletter	Linda Will	905-304-5983
Publicity	Dave McVey	905-648-9011
Native Orchids ...	Margaret Hewings	905-634-5547
Show Chair.....	Ben Boers	905-573-4991
Society Sales	Anita Kho	416-293-1011
Programming.....	Mark Macfarlane	519-623-6505
Flasking Group.....	Ron Gravis	905-319-2056
COC Rep.....	Walter Hladyniuk	905-823-2242
Mid-American Rep.....	Doris Jensen	519-647-2331
AOS Rep	Beth Horyn	905-383-4469
Hospitality.....	June Cramer	905-331-7638
Librarian.....	Scott Milne	519-428-0339
Greenhouse.....	Olga Jokulaitis	905-544-9894
RBG Liaison	Jim Brasch	905-335-1713
Past President	Charlotte Moore	905-659-3454

Honorary Lifetime Member

Dr. James Brasch

Membership and Address Changes

Robert Johnstone
716 Lynn Valley Road,
Port Dover, ON N0A 1N2 (519) 428-9913
e-mail: rjohnstone2@sympatico.ca

Orchidata Editor

Please note that Orchidata news and orchid society newsletters should be sent to:

Linda Will
15 Southcreek Drive
Ancaster, ON L9K 1M2
e-mail willfamily@sympatico.ca 905-304-5983