



Orchid Society of Alberta

NEWSLETTER

Volume 32, Number 4

January 2008

Sharpen those growing skills!

- Learn how to grow Phragmipediums with master grower Chuck Taylor, our featured speaker for January!
- Don't miss our January culture session on slipper orchids with Mike Gabrielson!

Inside this issue

Coming Events	2
2008 Show Vendors	3
2008 Meeting Schedule	4
Annual Meeting Report	5
Orchid Hybrid Stamps	6
Orchid Word Scramble	7
Matters of Note	7

The Good Ship OSA

If you've seen the recent "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies, you'll know that the hero, Captain Jack Sparrow, sails the seas using a magic compass. Instead of pointing north, its needle shows him how to find what he most desires.

As your new OSA President, it occurs to me that a compass like Jack's would be a handy thing. We certainly have a challenging course to chart for our Society in 2008.

One thorny issue that needs to be addressed this year is meeting planning. What aspects of our meetings do members most enjoy? What speakers and culture sessions would arouse the greatest interest?

We know from surveys that the majority of our members are new to the orchid hobby and need basic information on how to grow. However, we also have many experienced growers, who enjoy speakers and plants that would be challenging for the beginner. How do we balance the needs of both groups as we allocate our resources in 2008?



Odontioda Sacred Heart, grown by Paramount Orchids and photographed by Chuck Morin. Photo copyright Paramount Orchids.

Another issue is our commitment to the new AOS judging centre in Vancouver. Last year we made a substantial donation to support its activities. Do we want to make this a regular commitment? How important is the AOS to our members?

Orchid conservation is another area that warrants attention. Should we be doing more to promote protection of habitat?

Locally? Internationally?

Still more questions: our OSA by-laws are old and out of date – should we revise them? Should we be more involved in the Canadian Orchid Congress?

How much time and energy should we devote to our

annual show, and to participating in other societies' shows?

Since we don't have a magic compass, we'd appreciate input from you, our Society's members, to help steer the ship. If you'd like to share your thoughts on any aspect of OSA business, just get in touch with anyone on the Executive. With your help, it'll be smooth sailing in 2008!

— Lynne Copeland, President

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY MEETING

Our first meeting of the New Year will showcase some impressive local talent. Our featured speaker is the OSA's own **Chuck Taylor**, who grows Phrags and other orchids to perfection in his Edmonton greenhouse. Chuck (aka the Fat Old Bald Guy) will be explaining culture of his specialty, Phragmipediums, a topic he is eminently qualified to discuss. As an added attraction, he will illustrate his talk with photos from his own collection. Regular readers of this newsletter will know that Chuck takes photos almost as well as he grows orchids.

Our culture session will be presented by another very accomplished local grower, longtime OSA member **Mike Gabrielson**. Like Chuck, Mike is a regular winner at our monthly show tables and our annual shows, growing a variety of plants enviably well. His specialty, the slipper orchids, will be the focus of his talk. Don't miss "Growing Slipper Orchids", starting at 12:30 PM in room 106.



Aerangis fastuosa, grown and photographed by David and Suzan Hon.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

If you saw Jim Rassmann's presentation at our meeting in September, you may recall there's something special coming up in Colombia this year. The XXXII International Exposition of Orchids will be held in conjunction with the Colombian Orchid Society's 15th annual show, "Orchids, Birds and Flowers", from August 4 to 10, 2008 in Medellin. The Odontoglossum and Pleurothallid Alliances will also hold their annual meetings as part of these joint events.

Previous shows in Colombia have been spectacular, and this event seems destined for greatness as well. The shows will feature outstanding displays, lectures and vendors from many countries, but a major draw is the breathtaking beauty of Colombia itself. Tours of the countryside and of local orchid nurseries and botanic gardens are being offered as part of the show experience.

There are many excellent hotels in Medellin that can accommodate guests in comfort. The newly renovated Intercontinental Hotel is the official hotel for the show; reservations should be made directly with Mrs. Ivonne Echavarría or Mrs. Denise Garcés by telephone at (574) 315-4443, by fax at (574) 315-4404 or by e-mail at mdeha.reservas@ihg.com. When making the reservation, please mention the code word ORQUIDEA. For a photo tour of the hotel see: <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hotel/mdeha?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/ic/1/en/hotelsearchresults>.



For more information on the show, tours, accommodations, travel arrangements, etc., e-mail the Colombian Orchid Society at sorqui@une.net.co or Jim Rassmann at rassmann541@msn.com. For the adventurous, this may be the trip of a lifetime!

Left: *Doritaenopsis* Kenneth Schubert, grown and photographed by Horst Bohne.

COMING EVENTS

“ORCHIDACIOUS!” — YOU NEED MORE PLANTS, DON’T YOU?

Hopefully you all know by now that “Orchidacious!”, the OSA’s annual orchid show and sale, will take place February 21 to 24 at Grant MacEwan College South Campus in Edmonton. And hopefully you’re also aware that we need lots of help to make the show a success. We will be signing up show volunteers at our January and February meetings, so keep those pencils sharpened.

Now, some of you may be asking, “What’s in it for ME?” The answer, of course, is PLANTS! As always, our show provides the year’s best orchid purchasing opportunity. We have vendors coming from far and wide, so if you want to expand your collection with style, now’s the time to do some serious pre-ordering.

Following is a list of vendors who will be attending “Orchidacious”. Any of them would be happy to pre-sell plants for delivery at our show. Please note that the farther away the seller, the more time needed to prepare your order. So if you’re ordering from Ecuagenera or J & L (both of whom offer plants you won’t find anywhere else), you should get on it ASAP. The official deadline for orders from Ecuagenera is January 28, but the earlier the better when international paperwork is involved. So get busy!

VENDORS AT “ORCHIDACIOUS!”

Alex Orchids - Alex Hang Ph (403) 819-9201
E-mail alexander.hang@hotmail.com

Bedford Orchids - Howard Ginsberg
E-mail orchids@bedfordorchids.com

Chanthorn Orchids - Niya Arkell
Ph (604) 598-3400
Email chanthorn_orchids@hotmail.com
Website www.chanthorn.com

Ecuagenera - Ivan Portilla
Ph 593 7 2255237
Email sales@ecuagenera.com
Website www.ecuagenera.com

Fat Old Bald Guy Orchids - Chuck Taylor
Ph. (780) 487-1848 cell 499-4139
E-mail fatoldbaldguy@shaw.ca

Forestview Gardens
Terry Groszeibl, Charlotte Teggin
Ph (604) 796-0260
E-mail info@fvgardens.com or cteggin@shaw.ca
Website www.fvgardens.com

Garden Slippers - Shawn Hillis
Ph (403) 287-8397
Email sthillis@telus.net
Website www.gardenslippers.net

J&L Orchids - Cordelia Head Ph (203) 261-3772
E-mail jlorchid@snet.net
Website www.jlorchids.com

Maldawn Orchids - Don Hawker
Ph (780) 988-5020
E-mail maldawn@aol.com

Mike Gabrielson Ph (780) 410-1571
E-mail mikegab@telus.net

Monica De Wit Ph (780) 470-0910
E-mail mdewit@interbaun.com

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation
Doug Bovee Ph (780) 439-8239
E-mail ospf@orchidspecies.ca
Website www.orchidspecies.ca

Orchids by Kimberly - Kimberly Pronyshyn
Ph (204) 632-6177
E-mail bamboobaby@shaw.ca
Website www.members.shaw.ca/orchidsbykimberly

Orchids In Our Tropics - Terry Kennedy
Ph (905) 727-3319
E-mail ourtropics@sympatico.ca
Website www.orchidsinourtropics.com

Paramount Orchids - Bryon Fischer, Chuck Morin Ph (403) 686-7021
E-mail info@paramountorchids.com
Website www.paramountorchids.com

Terry’s Orchids-Terry Letendre
Ph (780) 486-4474
E-mail tletendre@shaw.ca

Wendy Tang
Ph (780) 430-7120
E-mail wendycane@yahoo.com

COMING EVENTS

OSA MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2008

Mark your calendars! Following is our meeting schedule for the coming year:

January 20
February 17
March 16

April 20
May 25
June 15

September 21
October 19
November 16

Our meeting time and place remain the same — Sundays at 12:30 PM at St. Mark Catholic Junior High School. And as always, there are no meetings in July, August or December.

AWARDS BANQUET 2008



The OSA's 2008 Awards Banquet for "Orchidacious!" will be held on Saturday, February 23 at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. In addition to the usual good food, good friends and good times, this year we are having a banquet speaker to keep us entertained after we chow down!

Tickets will be available at the January meeting. Please come prepared with cash or cheque; cost is \$35 per person. Cocktails start at 6:30 PM. with the meal served at 7:15 PM. If you have any special dietary requirements (vegetarian, allergies, etc.), please contact Liz Miller at (780) 922-2640 or by e-mail at jemiller101@hotmail.com.

Left: Maxillaria houetteana, grown by Paramount Orchids and photographed by Chuck Morin. Photo copyright Paramount Orchids.

HIT US WITH YOUR BEST SHOT(S)!

The photo competition at our annual show has been getting bigger and better every year, thanks in no small part to our expert organizer, Tom deBoer. Tom would like to remind you all that entry forms for photos are available on the OSA website, www.orchidsalberta.com, and will also be given out at our January meeting.

Photos can be entered in the following classes: black and white; colour photo up to 5" x 7"; colour photo larger than 5" x 7"; and enhanced photograph (hand re-touched or digitally altered). Photos can be with or without mats, framed or unframed, but must feature an orchid or orchids as the dominant part of the picture. Please note that the deadline for entries is 8 PM on February 17, 2008.



Above right: Masdevallia pachyura, grown by Paramount Orchids and photographed by Chuck Morin. Photo copyright Paramount Orchids.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 2007

- Adoption of minutes of Annual Meeting 2006: Marysia Auschrat, Ron Forster
- Nadia Koscielnuk advised there will be desserts and appetizers only at the OSA Christmas Social at the Auschrats' house in December. Door prize donations are also needed.
- Nadia announced that posters for "Orchidacious!", our annual show for 2008, have now been printed and are available for distribution. Members are encouraged to put up posters around town, at their places of work, and anywhere appropriate.
- A volunteer is needed to take over the cut flower competition for our annual show. Members are encouraged to come forward to take on this position.
- Past President Terry Letendre then conducted the Executive election for 2008. Nominations for each position were called from the floor three times, and the following slate was elected by acclamation:

Directors at Large: Teresa Ewasiuk, Julian Hnatiw, Duncan McLean

Newsletter Editor: Lynne Copeland

Raffle: Judy Klaassen, Nelly Scheper

Plant Sales: Heinz Auschrat

Social Convenor: Yp deBoer

COC/AOS Representative: Liz Miller

Membership Director: Brian Grant

Librarian: Marilyn Elyk, Liz Miller

Second Vice-President: Paul Klaassen

Treasurer: Ron Forster

Secretary: David Whitaker

The position of **First Vice-President** remained open.

Two nominations were received for the position of **President:** Debra Laschowski and Lynne Copeland. A vote of members was then taken and Lynne Copeland was elected by written ballot.

Meeting adjourned.



Paphiopedilum Buttercream, grown and photographed by Horst Bohne.

— Lynne Copeland, Acting Secretary

LUNCH TABLE REPORT

First off, a correction and apology to Mrs. Kay Yee for spelling her last name wrong in the November newsletter.

Our November lunch table was very well supplied with nice sandwiches and delicious desserts. There were again so many choices. Our thanks to Vivian Lopetinsky, Mary Dolynchuk, Catherine Millson, Mary Wilke, Alice Yannagas, Judith Jones, Julian and Shirley Hnatiw, Fran James, Donna Cuyler, Erna Braul, Jean Tarr, Bev Derworiz, Donna Grandlund, Karl Strickler, Suzan Hon, Rozanne O'Neill, Marilyn Elyk, Niel Berk, Darrell Albert, Marline Prosper and Shannon Leedham.

— Yp ("Eep") de Boer

Silent Auction 2007 is Another Winner

Our Society's annual Silent Auction was held at our November meeting, and I'm happy to say it was one of our most successful ever. Members donated hundreds of items, enough to fill more than 30 tables, and the bidding for most lots was enthusiastic. There was a nice selection of plants, many in flower, with other items ranging from potting supplies to books to children's toys. When the dust settled, the event raised a whopping \$3268 for the Society!

The auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and covers a lot of our operating expenses. On behalf of the Executive, a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated or purchased items to make the event a success. A special thanks also goes out to our largest single donor, Sherwood Park Home Depot, for their very generous contribution again this year (see below).
— Lynne Copeland

THANK YOU TO HOME DEPOT!

Once again we would like to thank the Sherwood Park Baseline Road store of Home Depot for their continuing support with a very generous donation to the Silent Auction in November. Special thanks to Jan Soutar in Seasonal for her continuing help with the donations, and of course to the store management. They have donated some very nice plants, in very good condition, and most are in nice ceramic pots. It is wonderful when a large corporation supports small community groups such as ours. Cheers guys!

— Sandy Bedford

Gordon Heaps Orchid Honoured on a Stamp!

An orchid hybrid created by longtime OSA member Gordon Heaps has been featured in a new set of stamps released by Canada Post.

The plant, Potinara Janet Elizabeth "Fire Dancer", was developed by Gordon and first bloomed for him in 1996. It is one of four Canadian orchid hybrids commemorated on stamps issued by Canada Post on December 27, 2007. The picture on the stamp was modelled on a photo of the plant taken by Gordon's wife Janet, an avid amateur photographer.

The other orchids in the set are Odontioda Island Red, Laeliocattleya Memoria Evelyn Light, and Masdevallia Kaleidoscope "Conni".

Potinara Janet Elizabeth appears on the \$0.96 stamp for mailing to the United States, so the plant will be seen all over America!

Congratulations to Gordon and Janet on this outstanding honour!

Left: The set of four Canadian orchid stamps issued by Canada Post on December 27. Gordon Heaps's plant, Potinara Janet Elizabeth, appears on the \$0.96 stamp at top right.

Above: Janet Heaps's original photo of Potinara Janet Elizabeth, which was used as the model for the stamp.



Orchid Word Scramble by Laurie Lywak

Unscramble the words below (related to orchid repotting). Then use the letters in the grey boxes to solve the clue. Good Luck! **Clue: Dancing Ladies. Answers on page 8.**

1. ILTRSIEEZ

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2. IDVNIOIS

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3. CABELH

--	--	--	--	--	--

4. RAEMKR

--	--	--	--	--	--

5. CLAOLHO

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. RECD A

--	--	--	--	--

7. NRIES

--	--	--	--	--

8. IMUPEC

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Matters of Note

- Hey, do you know when the Society tables shut down at our general meetings? To avoid disruption of the formal proceedings, the OSA raffle, lunch, plant sales, membership and library tables close promptly at 2 PM. So please make sure you've finished your business in these areas by that time, so our dedicated volunteers can enjoy the meetings like everyone else!
- At most meetings, we are blessed with a large number of plants on our Society display tables. However, this means it's usually a scramble to get them all judged by 2 PM. If you're bringing orchids for display, please have them on the table by 1:30 PM at the latest. Plants that arrive after 1:30 will be admired, but they can't be judged due to time constraints.
- Starting at our January meeting, you will have to show your OSA membership card to borrow material from our Society library. Lost your card? Don't worry, we'll have a member list handy to verify names!
- Want to win friends and influence people? Wear a name tag! Attractive green and gold OSA member tags can be ordered at the membership desk at any general meeting. Your 2008 Executive has made a New Year's resolution to wear their tags consistently, instead of forgetting them at home!



Above right: BLC Hawaiian Style "Callie Ruby", grown and photographed by Suzan and David Hon.

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OF
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Www.orchidsalberta.
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The Canadian Orchid
Congress Newsletter is
available to all our
members, on the COC
website:

Www.canadianorchid
congress.ca

Answers to Word Scramble
on p.7:

1. Sterilize 2. Division
3. Bleach 4. Marker
5. Alcohol 6. Cedar
7. Rinse 8. Pumice
Solution: *Oncidium*

Volume 32, Number 4

January 2008

January Meeting Information

Date

Sunday, January 20, 2008

Location

St. Mark Catholic Junior High School
11625-135 Street, Edmonton

Meeting Program

12:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Plant and Raffle Ticket Sales

1 PM to 2 PM

Display Tables

1 PM to 1:30 PM

Coffee and Snacks

Served 1 PM to 2 PM

Library

Open 1 PM to 2 PM

Culture Session

12:30 PM to 1 PM

Mike Gabrielson,
"Growing Slipper Orchids"

Speaker

Chuck Taylor, Fat Old Bald Guy Orchids
"Growing Phragmipediums"

Orchid Society of Alberta - Executive 2008

- President - Lynne Copeland—(403) 227-6515; OSAnews@xplornet.com
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Publishing Information

The **OSA Newsletter** is published monthly, nine times per year. There is no newsletter in July, August or December.

Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month preceding publication.

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To arrange for submission of articles, contact the editor, Lynne Copeland, by telephone at (403) 227-6515; by mail at Box 17, Site 8, RR #3, Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1T8; by e-mail at OSAnews@xplornet.com.