



SOUTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON
ORCHID SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2011

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15...7PM...EDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

For those of you who attended our October meeting, you participated in a good program on "Slipper orchids" presented by Erin from Small Hill Orchids. She also had a big selection of orchids for sale.

This month's program will be on "Growing Orchids Semi-Hydroponically" presented by Betty Wise.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

October 18, 2011

President Tom Walker started the meeting with a review of the International Phalaenopsis Association regional conference October 15th at Orchidaceae in Walla Walla. IPA president, Tom Harper, gave an excellent presentation on the 13 most important phalaenopsis species influencing today's hybrids.

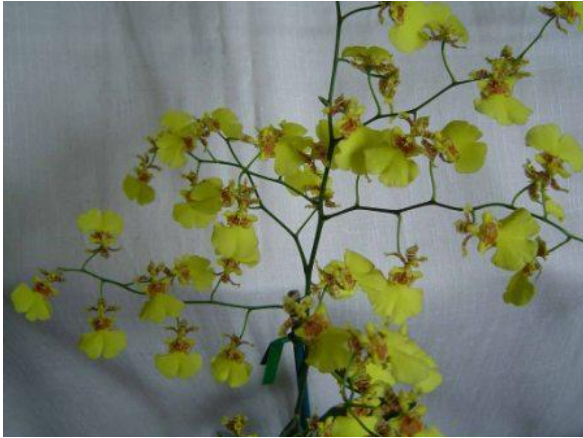
Betty Wise gave a presentation on pots and medium. She had examples of orchids happily growing in no medium at all to semi-hydroponic. She discussed bark, coconut husk, and sphagnum moss and the attributes and faults of each.

Erin Nelson from Small Hill Orchids in Spokane was our guest, she gave a presentation on Paphs and Phrags and brought plants and supplies to sell.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

PICTURES FROM THE PRESENT AND THE PAST:

I goofed last month and failed to arrange for pictures from show and tell. So here are some pictures from the past and a couple from our President Tom Walker, who always seems to have something in bloom! Way to go Tom.



Onc. Taka (Tom Walker)



Tolumnia popki 'Mitzi' (Tom)



I sent these guys to look for orchids but they failed to find any. Do you know why?

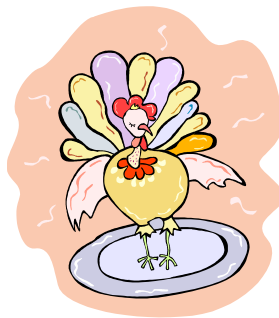


NOVEMBER 15TH PROGRAM: Do you: Have trouble with overwatering? Do your roots rot? Have trouble remembering when to water? Thought you watered last week but forgot? Forgot you watered three days ago and watered again? Hate to repot every year or two? Worry that you don't get enough humidity to your plants?

If you answered yes to any of the above, or just want more information about growing options, be sure to attend the November 15th meeting. Betty Wise will discuss "**How to grow orchids in semi-hydroponics**".



How much water do you use? During the meeting last month several of us had a discussion about the amount of water we use each time we water. I thought it would be an interesting question to ask ourselves. Some people water at the kitchen sink, some water using gallon jugs of water in the greenhouse, some use a garden hose in the greenhouse. I currently use gallon jugs of water to which I add 1 ½ tsp. of MSU for well water fertilizer. Twice each year I also add 1 Tablespoon of Epsom Salts. So on Wednesday when I watered, I counted the jugs. I used 48 gallons to water my collection of about 100 plants. So how much do you use? Think about it. Are your orchids getting enough water? Too much? Too little? Too often? Not often enough?



IN CASE YOU FORGOT: The following people are scheduled to give a short 5 to 10 minute talk about the topics listed. If you are not able to do this please let me know so I can make other arrangements.

Betty

November- Light (intensity, duration, artificial light, etc....**Ron**

December- watering, how often, type, etc. **Jeff**

January- Humidity, ways to increase...**Paula**

February- temperature, variations, highs and lows...**Paulette**

March- Fertilizer, type, NPH, amounts, etc...**Paula**

April- repotting....**Jerry**

May- Pests and Diseases...**Randy**



Phrag. Apalachian Sunset (Betty Wise)



Brsda. Orange Delight "Starbek Farm" HCC/AOS
(Tom Wilkinson & Betty Wise)

PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS:

I HAVE TO MAKE ROOM: I have several divisions of some of my plants which I will be bringing to the November meeting. So if you are in need of a blooming size "Sharry Baby" or a Paph., or Phrag. Come to the meeting. If anyone else needs to makeroom, bring your extra plants for distribution.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER ORCHID CARE:

Cold temperatures and low light will stop/slow most orchid growth. Cattleya may be displaying their new bloom sheaths. Some Phalaenopsis, papiopedilums and oncidiums will grow flower spikes during this period.

Water and fertilize your orchids less frequently than normal in these cold conditions. Always remember to use warm/room temperature water when watering your orchids.

Water only in the morning so that your plant's leaves and flowers can dry before nighttime to avoid disease and damage.

Bright light orchids should be placed on the south-facing windows or under artificial lights.

Protect your orchids from harsh cold temperatures (especially those close to windows) and ensure that your plants have the humidity and air circulation they need.

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