



Member Newsletter

Monday, March 24, 2025
AOS Video on Orchid Culture

President's Message

Happy Spring Orchid Lovers!

What a wonderful time of year it is! Snowdrops are popping up in our garden! Such a promising time of year.

You may have read in the local news that St. Joseph's Church will be closing. I found another church where we can hold our meeting, Forest Hill United Church, but they may not have room for us to store our emporium and library. If you know of a church that could rent us a room to meet the 4th Monday of every month at 6:30 pm till about 9, please ask and find out anything you can. We could always close the library since it is not used much and see if Forest Hill would let us store just our emporium stock. I am waiting to hear back from them.

Our meeting will be Monday March 24 at 7 p.m. and we will be watching a video on Orchid culture. The TAOA show is April 12 and 13 weekend. Please keep it in mind if you have time to volunteer for set up or take down of our display on the Friday morning or Sunday late afternoon. Thank you to everyone who went to the London Show and helped with our display!

At our recent executive meeting, we made some changes to the fees for the society.

- Single memberships will remain at \$25 but family/couple membership will be \$40 because we must pay fees and insurance to COC and AOS for each person, not each membership.
- Raffle tickets will be \$2, 3 for \$5 and
- The suggested minimum donation for the snacks is \$2.

Sowmya

Central Ontario Orchid Society President
@northernplantroom

Monday, March 24, 2025 at 7 p.m.

AOS Video on Orchid Culture

Ribbon Results

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens Show 2025

The display received a second for a display with more than 15 flowering plants and cut inflorescences.

Firsts

Paph. primulinum var. purpurascens – Don Ingram
Den. Kingianum – Gerhard Kompter
Masd. Excelsior – Gerhard Kompter
Masd. Freckled Monarch – Gerhard Kompter
Brassavola Little Star – Harmina Boers
Phal. Younghome Coco – Harmina Boers

Seconds

Cymbidium No Name, Ed Ratcliffe
Den. Nagasaki 'Hinomaru' – Ed Ratcliffe
Anguloa dubia – Ed Ratcliffe
Masd. Dark Star Hercules – Gerhard Kompter
Masd. O'Brians Passion Rainbow – Gerhard Kompter
Prostechea cochleate – Harmina Boers
Bl. Yellow Bird – Harmina Boers

Thirds

Paph. Hsinying Bear x Hsinying Mishima – Don Ingram
Phal. Shronk – Don Ingram
Masd. Razzle Dazzle – Gerhard Kompter
Bl. Green Bird – Harmina Boers

COOS on Facebook

Jerry Bolce

The COOS Facebook group continues to grow and now has more than 1,000 members! They are mainly non-members of COOS, but I would call them our fan club. They post their joy when some orchid blooms and their problems when looking for help. They are also people who go to orchid shows. It would be nice to see more members of COOS join in on the conversation.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/422607584612681/>

Ribbon Results

London Orchid Society Show 2025

Firsts

Paph S Gratix – Don Ingram
Paph Hsinying Leopard x California Girl – Don Ingram
Restrepia Frank Fesya – Don Ingram
Masd Razzle Dazzle "Tada" – Gerhard Kompter
Masd Ximena Nairn – Gerhard Kompter
Masd Scitula – Gerhard Kompter
Den Kingianum – Gerhard Kompter
Brassavola Little Star – Harmina Boers
Phal Cameleon – Harmina Boers
Max. variabilis – Ed Ratcliffe

Seconds

Masd Dark Star Hercules - Gerhard Kompter
Masd Ximena Nairn - Gerhard Kompter
Coel Huyneriana - Gerhard Kompter
Green Bird – Harmina Boers
Phal Younghome "Coco" – Harmina Boers

Thirds

Max
Max Variabilis – Steve Shaefer and Crystal Jewer
Paph Hsinying Bean x P Hsinying Mishima – Don Ingram
Phal Shronk – Don Ingram
Masd Belmena Spotted Beauty – Gerhard Kompter
Ludisia discolor – Ed Ratcliffe
Neobenthamia gracilis – Ed Ratcliffe
Anquloa dubio – Ed Ratcliffe



The gifts for the games at the November 2024 Pot Luck and Games Night.

Ribbon Results

Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show 2025

Harmina Boers' plant, *Prosthechea cochleata*, was the best of genera allied to *Cattleya*. Congratulations, Harmina!

Firsts

Prosthechea cochleata – Harmina Boers
Phalaenopsis Younghome Coco – Harmina Boers
Masdevallia Freckled Monarh – Gerhard Kompter

Seconds

Osmoglossum pulchellum – Harmina Boers
Cymbidium 'no name' – Ed Ratcliffe
Masdevallia exelsiore – Gerhard Kompter
Masdevallia O'Brians Rainbow – Gerhard Kompter
Restrepia Frank Feysa – Don Ingram

Thirds

Paphiopedilum primulinum fr. *purpuraseens* – Don Ingram
Paphiopedilum Little Alexander 'Dana' – Gerhard Kompter
Oncidium 'no name' – Linda Sommers
Masdevallia O'Brian Rainbow – Gerhard Kompter
Masdevallia Kimballina Golden Gate – Gerhard Kompter



AOS News

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Give Us Air! by Sue Bottom

The Importance of Fresh Air

The importance of fresh air to orchids is possibly the least appreciated aspect of growing orchids. All the orchid books tell you to ensure there is air movement around your orchids. For years I kept adding fans to my growing area thinking I was satisfying this basic requirement. But orchids do not want recirculated stale air, they want to be bathed in fresh air, particularly the wafting breezes they get when they are outdoors.

The first time Ruben Saulea of Ruben in Orchids talked to our orchid club, we talked about how I could improve my orchid growing. At that time, we had the traditional greenhouse with a wet wall at one end, exhaust fans at the opposite end and polypropylene covering all the other

surfaces. Ruben took one look at the greenhouse and said rip out the water wall and replace the side wall with stucco metal lath, keep the vents open at either end of the greenhouse and open the top vent. This allowed free movement of air throughout the greenhouse during the growing season. A retractable curtain closes off the stucco metal lath during cold weather, but otherwise the plants are always bathed in fresh air. That was the year the greenhouse exploded with new growth and an incredible display of blooms.

I struggled trying to grow vandas in the hoop house covered with greenhouse film with doors at either end. When Rafael Romero of Plantio La Orquidea looked at our growing set up, he told us to rip out the film on the side wall and replace it with stucco metal lath and a retractable curtain. Voilà, the vandas bloomed freely and the incidence of leaf spotting and rots was greatly diminished. During the summer growing season, the vandas are now all moved out into summer shade structures that allow free air on all four sides. The vandas grow like weeds in the fresh breezes.

This demand for fresh air makes sense if you think about how many orchids evolved from understory terrestrials to epiphytes. Many types of orchids left the forest floor to grow high in the canopy on the trunks or branches of tall forest trees where more light was available and where winds were stronger than on the ground.

Wafting breezes offer many benefits to your orchids:

- Fresh moving air improves gas exchange through leaf pores and around the rhizomes and roots, a process that is required for the plant's metabolic processes.
- Fresh moving air cools the leaves during warm weather when high light and high temperatures could otherwise cause the plant to overheat and restrict its metabolic processes, and possibly result in leaf sunburn.
- Fresh moving air helps distribute warm and cold air so extremes in air temperature will not harm the vegetation.
- Fresh moving air helps dry excess moisture from the leaves so bacteria and fungi will not proliferate.

Of course, air movement and humidity must be in balance. In a low-humidity environment, excess air movement will cause more evaporation and possibly result in dehydration. In a high-humidity environment, air movement is a must to prevent orchid disease problems.

During the cooler months, your orchids are probably in their winter homes inside. You can group your plants on humidity trays filled with pebbles to hold extra water after watering and provide some humidity around the plants. A fan blowing a gentle breeze around your plants is good. When the temperature is right, you can open a window by your plants and let them get a taste of the fresh air they crave.

When warm weather returns, try to find a location outdoors where your orchids can get loads of fresh air. A screened porch is great, particularly for phalaenopsis that want shadier conditions and a covered roof where water won't accumulate in the crown of the plant causing rot. Hanging your orchids under a tree where they'll receive dappled light and fresh breezes 24 hours a day will result in an incredible summer growth surge, particularly if you ramp up your watering and fertilizing schedules to match the increased plant vigor.

Proper air movement is just as important to your orchid as providing the proper amount of water and light to your plant. It is also the least appreciated aspect of orchid growing. If you struggle with fungal and bacterial problems on your plants, you can apply chemicals to treat the symptoms. However, in many instances, proper air movement would have prevented the problem from arising in the first place.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SHOWS

2025 Upcoming COOS Meeting Dates

April 28, 2025

May 26, 2025

June 23, 2025

September 8, 2025

TENTATIVE: Change in date – the second Monday

October 27, 2025

November 24, 2025
Annual Potluck and Games Night

2025 Upcoming Orchid Shows

Toronto Artistic Orchid Society Show and Sale – April 12-13, 2025
Centre for Immigrant & Community Services, Scarborough

Ottawa Orchid Society Show and Sale – April 26-27, 2025
Algonquin College - Building D - Ancillary Services

TENTATIVE: Central Ontario Orchid Society Show – September 27-28, 2025

Upcoming Meetings at Nearby Orchid Societies

For the location of the meetings, please see the various societies' website.

Windsor Orchid Society - Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

How to Pot and Grow *Thunia alba*: Workshop by CN Gibbons

Southern Ontario Orchid Society - Sunday, April 6, 2025 1 p.m.

Orchid Travel Diary – Guatemala - Part 2: Alina Furtak

2025 American Orchid Society Spring Members Meeting, - April 9-12, 2025

Annapolis, Maryland

London Orchid Society - Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 2 p.m.

TBA

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens – Sunday, April 27, 2025 at p.m.

TBA

Photo Gallery

Photos by Niki Horsman



Crystal Star Display
London Orchid Society Show



London Orchid Society



COOS Display
London Orchid Society Show



COOS Display at the
RBG Show

Some Messages from the Executive

1. **Membership:** Memberships for 2022 are now due. The membership fee for 2022 will be \$25 for either an individual or family. To show plants at the shows, you **MUST be a member by March 1.**
2. **The executive members are:**
 - President - Sowmya Johnson
 - Vice President - Don Ingram
 - Treasurer- Cathy Ralston
 - Secretary – Mizue Atkinson
3. **Membership Chair:** Steve Schaefer and Crystal Jewer
4. **Society's Mailing Address:** The society mailing address is
41 Woodside Road
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2H1
5. **Pay Pal Account:** The Society's PayPal account is coostreasurer2@gmail.com.
COOS cannot accept e-transfers.
6. **Information from the Treasurer:** If you wish to be reimbursed for an expense, please ask for and then submit a request for reimbursement form. You need to include your receipts and indication that you have paid for this. If the expense is greater than \$100, you need prior approval to be reimbursed. Cheques will be issued at general meetings and committee meetings.

Useful Sources of Orchid Information

Canadian Orchid Congress: <http://canadianorchidcongress.ca/>

Canadian Orchid Congress on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/canadianorchidcongress/>

American Orchid Society: <http://www.aos.org/default.aspx?id=1>

AOS webinars: <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

American Orchid Society Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/?ref=bookmarks>

Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia: <http://orchidspecies.com/>

Contact Information for COOS Executive and Committees

All Inquires	coosinfo@gmail.com
President	Sowmya Johnson
Vice President	Don Ingram
Past President	
Treasurer	Cathy Ralston
Secretary	Mizue Atkinson
Newsletter Editor	Cathy Ralston
Assistant Newsletter Editor	
Membership	Steve Shaefer and Crystal Jewer
Program	Sowmya Johnson
AOS/COC/MAOC Rep	Sowmya Johnson
Webmaster	Jerry Bolce
COOS Show Chair	Nelson Zabel Email: coosshowchair@gmail.com
Outside Shows Display Coordinator Hospitality	Ed Ratcliffe
Raffles	Nicole Horseman
Show Table	John Boers
Library	Gerhard Kompter
Emporium	Vacant
Emporium Assistant	Ed Ratcliffe 519-669-2542 Email: edandsharon_96@sympatico.ca

Visit our **Website** (Maintained by Jerry Bolce)
www.coos.ca

Mailing Address:
41 Woodside Road
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2H1

“The purpose of the Society [is] the promotion and encouragement of all aspects relating to the culture, development and preservation of orchids”.

~COOS Constitution, 1993

Show your membership card at the following businesses and receive **discounts**:

Homegrown Hydroponics Inc. (10%)

79 Woolwich Street
Breslau, Ontario N0B 1M0
519-648-2374

Bright-Lite (10%)

1659 Victoria Street North, Unit #6
Kitchener, Ontario
519-581-7701
www.progrowont.com

Ravenvision (10%)

www.ravenvision.ca
use coupon code COOSNL at checkout.

Toronto Judging Centre

The monthly judging is open to all orchid growers. You do not need be a member of AOS or SOOS. You can bring your plants to the Civic Garden Centre before 1 p.m. on the designated Saturday of each month. Plants are judged for AOS Awards in accordance with the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition. If your plant is awarded, the AOS charges a fee (about \$50.00 US). Non-payment forfeits the right to future judging.

The Centre welcomes interested persons to come and observe the judging. There are opportunities to assist in plant research and administrative chores

The newsletter is ONLY sent by email.

To sign up, send your e-mail address to coosinfo@gmail.com.

Add coosinfo@gmail.com to your address book.

The Emporium

Ed is fully stocked and ready to meet all your orchid potting and bug killing needs. This is just a small sample of what we have on hand.

- Plastic name tags
- Sulphur
- Wire to hang and stake your inflorescences
- Pots of all sizes including 6" slotted pots - perfect for orchid culture
- All manner of potting media including bark, husks, charcoal, perlite, moss, and premixed
- Green string for staking
- Hanging baskets in a least 3 sizes
- Fertilizers in manageable amounts

Please make sure to check out the table either before or after the meeting. Our prices are great and we probably have EXACTLY what you are looking for.

The Raffle Table

The monthly raffle is one of the club's biggest money makers and, more importantly, it offers a great opportunity to win a plant that you might never have tried to grow before.

Each meeting, there is a Raffle Table set up by the door. The plants on it come from members (LIKE YOU) who donate their excess plants. Any plants are acceptable, but if you donate an orchid, you receive a ticket for the year-end draw.

So, bring your extra plants if you have any and do make sure you buy a ticket. They're only a dollar each and you just never know what you might go home with!

Note to New Members

New members are encouraged to bring in their plants for identification to assist with determining the cultural requirements or answering questions about their plants. Meetings take place at St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall on the corner of Courtland Avenue and Madison in downtown Kitchener. The hall opens by 6:30 pm for set-up and meetings start at 7 pm.

Meeting Accessibility

Did you know that the COOS monthly meetings are wheelchair accessible? St. Joseph's has a stair lift to the Parish Hall. Please join us for our monthly meetings.



Membership Renewal Form for 2025

The 2025 memberships are due now. Please complete this form and bring it to the next general meeting or mail it along with your payment to:

COOS, 41 Woodside Road, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2H1

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

We will **NOT** share your information with outside organizations or place it on the Internet unless approved by you.

Signature: _____

Annual dues are \$25 for a single and \$40 for a family membership or \$5 for students.

The 2023 membership year expired December 31, 2023