



Spokane Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2026

Board Members:

- * President: Jim Pearce
- * Vice President: Erin Nelson
- * Secretary : Savannah Brommer
- * Treasurer: Jo E. Cook
- * Show Chairperson: Linda Drummond
- * AOS Representative: Harvey Singleton
- * Newsletter Editor: Suzanne Sawyer
- * Member at Large: Donna Foreman
- * Member at Large: Ernie Smith

Committee Chairs:

- * Librarian: Scott Rettenmund
- * Refreshments: Jeanne McKinnie

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President's Thoughts

Happy New Year to All !

I hope this year brings all of you Peace and Joy! And with the new year our society will be looking for new, innovative, and interesting ideas for improving our knowledge base within our society goals:

EDUCATION, CONSERVATION and CULTURE.

January's meeting will be focused on ways to reach these goals through diverse programs and modes. I want you to bring your ideas on new programs, new ideas, and innovative ways to use them in 2026 and beyond.

Also, we will nominate and elect a co-secretary, with Savannah, helping us to keep and maintain a history of our meetings. One or both of the co-secretaries should cover both general and board meetings. As of now, board meetings are on Zoom. This is not a time consuming position, so, dig deep and VOLUNTEER.

Plan on attending February's meeting when Ben Johnson from Seattle will be speaking on his interest in propagating orchids.

See you Wednesday at 6 pm.

Jim

SOS Calendar of Events

JANUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Date	Event	Time/Location
Jan.14, 2026	Orchid Society General Meeting	5:30 PM: Social Time 6:00 PM: Meeting starts Manito Park Meeting Room
Feb. 11, 2026	* Orchid Society General Meeting	5:30 PM: Social Time 6:00 PM: Meeting starts Manito Park Meeting Room
March 13, 2026	Set-up for SOS Orchid Show at Spokane Community College	Need Volunteers from 2:00 PM until early evening at the SCC Lair
March 14 -15, 2026	Spokane Orchid Society Orchid Show!	Spokane Community College Student Lair Bldg.

*Our speaker for the February 11th SOS General Meeting will be Ben Johnson of Standard Orchid, a Seattle-based orchid propagation business. Standard Orchid has a commercial laboratory specializing in seed propagation and tissue culture of orchids.

AOS CORNER with Harvey

Here we go. Winter break is over, at least for us. Your orchids that require a winter chill, like many dendrobiums, should be well into their dormancy period. However, now is when the repotting marathon begins. While it is still a bit early to repot many orchids, I have plants that haven't been repotted since the Roman Empire - well, at least for a couple of years, and they are showing it. So - I have started repotting. Early transplant shock is low on their list of issues. Remember that repotting usually takes longer than one might think. My best repotting time, when plants come out of their pots easily, I have all of my materials readily available, the dogs are outside and not chewing on tools, pots, or plants, etc., is about 4 per hour. Divide that into your number of plants - well, you get the idea. If you have been more diligent in your orchid care, the best time to repot is typically when your orchids are just beginning to grow new roots - which many will start to do over the next few months.

AOS has started a new year of activities. February 10 at 5:30 pm, PST, will be the first Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton. AOS members and nonmembers can access the Greenhouse Chats. For those of you who have an interest in what goes on at the orchid judging table, there are recorded videos available at www.aos.org/webinars.

Tidbit

The Member Table at our upcoming SOS Show in March is going to be greatly expanded from last year. There should be plenty of space for everyone to display their orchids and related items for sale. Think about preparing plants for this event. Also, you may have back bulbs or splits that might sell as starter plants for customers who want to experiment with new varieties at low cost.

Harvey Singleton

Here are a couple of winter bloomers from Harvey



Important Information

The SOS Orchid Show Committee has decided to allow the following plants to be sold at the SOS member's sale table during the 2026 Orchid Show:

Monstera, Pinguiculas (butterworts), Cactus/Succulents and Cactus Orchids, Hoyas and Air Plants and of course - ORCHIDS!

Orchid Tips and Information for New Growers

Understanding Orchid Light Requirements

I know my orchids always respond to the winter and summer solstice and yours may too. December 21, may have been the first day of winter, but it also signals the beginning of longer days and more light for our orchids.

Orchids need bright, indirect light, mimicking their natural habitat under tree canopies, with specific needs varying by type: Phalaenopsis (moth orchids) prefer low-to-medium (East windows), while Cattleyas, Vandas, and Cymbidiums need brighter, high-intensity light (South/West windows).

Dark green leaves mean too little light, while yellowish-green or red-tinged leaves signal too much. Use sheer curtains for strong sun and supplement with full-spectrum grow lights (12-16 hrs/day) if needed, positioning them 12-24 inches above plants.

Light Levels by Orchid Type:

- * Low Light (1,000-2,000 fc): Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum (Lady's Slipper).
- * Medium Light (2,000-3,000 fc): Cattleya, Dendrobium, Oncidium.
- * High Light (3,000+ fc): Vanda, Cymbidium, Brassavola.



Placement & Windows for Optimal Light:

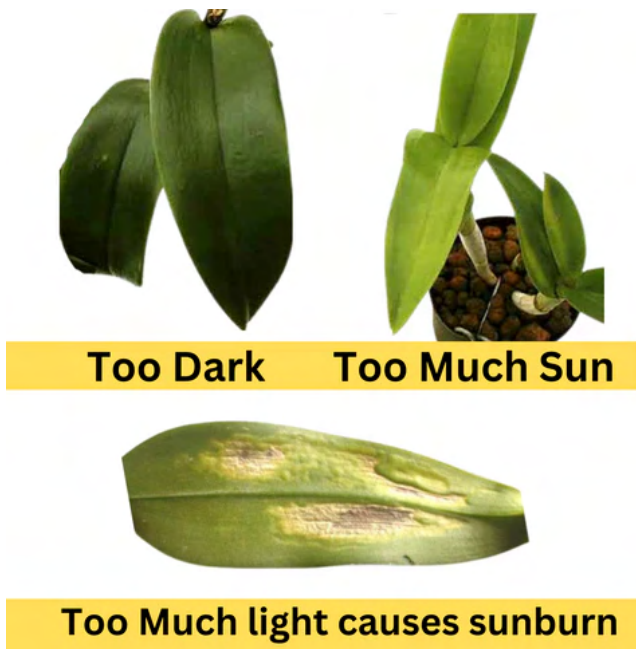
- * East-facing: Good for many low-light species - with gentle morning sun.
- * South-facing: Very bright; need window treatment to reduce UV or shade.
- * West-facing: Good, but afternoon sun can be intense; use shading.
- * North-facing: Low light, suitable for Phalaenopsis.

Using Grow Lights:

- * Type: Full-spectrum LEDs are energy-efficient and effective.
- * Distance: 12-24 inches above plants, adjust as needed.
- * Duration: 12-16 hours daily, using timers for consistency.

Signs of Light Issues:

- * Too Little: Dark green, leggy growth, few or no blooms.
- * Too Much: Yellowing or reddish leaves, scorched spots.



GENUS	LIGHT LEVEL
Cattleya	Medium to High
Cymbidium	Medium to High
Dendrobium	Medium to High
Miltonia	Low to Medium
Oncidium	Medium to High
Paphiopedilum	Low to Medium
Phalaenopsis	Low to Medium
Phragmipedium	Medium to High
Stanhopea	Medium to High
Vanda	Medium to High



Orchid Show & Tell From Society Members



Spathoglottis Lavender Blush
Grower: Ken Nguyen-Scott



BLC. Maikai 'Louise's'
Grower: Ken Nguyen-Scott



Bulbophyllum dearei
Grower: Ken Nguyen-Scott

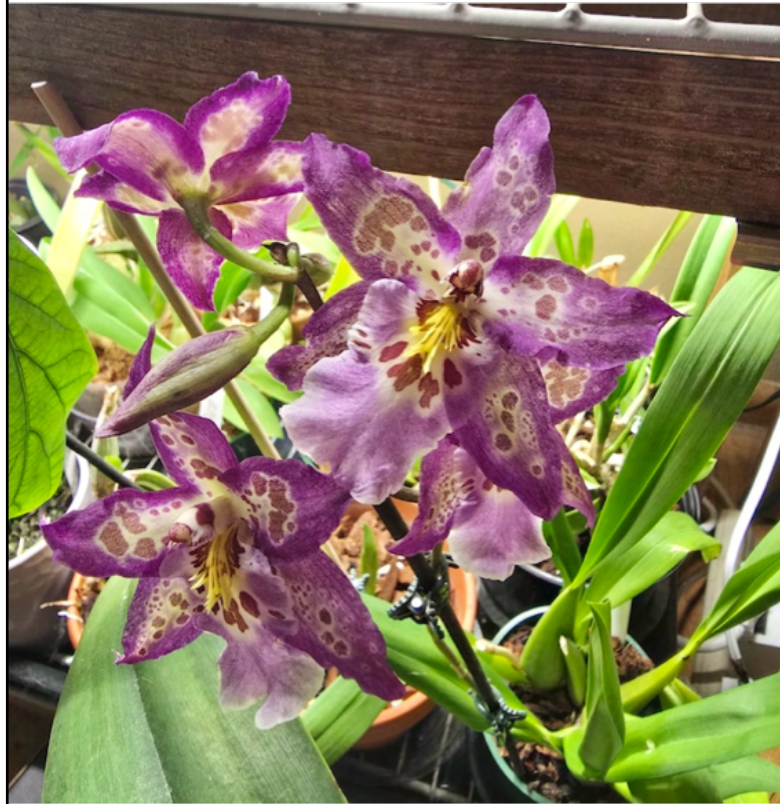


Epidendrum nocturnum (Night Fragrant)
Grower: Suzanne Sawyer

The four orchids on this page were grown by Donna Foreman



Habenaria carnea



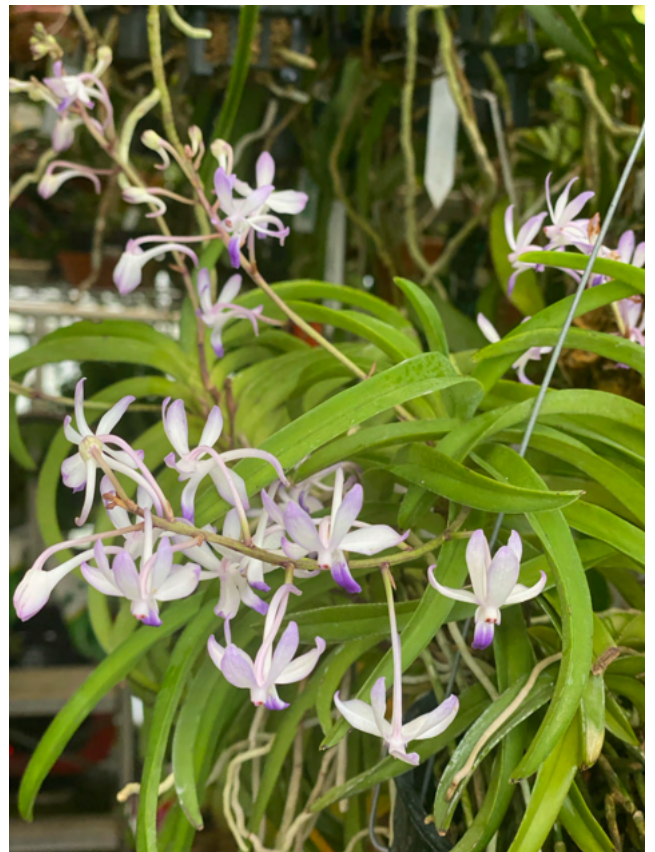
Wilhelmara shibumi 'Purple Rain'



Bulbophyllum purpurascens



Rhychostylis gigantea 'Cartoon'
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Vanda Ladda Gold
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Ascocenda Brighton Gold
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Odontioda Marie Noel Verano
Grower: Mem Weisbeck



Bulbophyllum gracillimum
Grower: Ken Nguyen-Scott



My *Angraecum sesquipedale* (pictured left) opened for me on Christmas day. This orchid is also known as Darwin's orchid, Christmas orchid, Star of Bethlehem orchid, and king of the angraecums. It is an epiphytic orchid that is endemic to Madagascar. It almost always blooms between Christmas day and New years day, with a lovely fragrance at night.

Happy New Year to all SOS Members!

Suzanne Sawyer

Orchid of the Month

Miltoniopsis roezlii v. *xanthina*



I have had this orchid for three years and this is the third bloom, which leads me to believe that this species will be a very reliable bloomer. Best thing about this orchid is the wonderful fragrance that is like a mix of licorice and lemons. The species is endemic to Panama, Ecuador, Columbia and Peru. The *xanthina* variety is yellow and occurs naturally in the wild, but is less common than the white flowers of *Mps. roezlii*. Last year, this orchid bloomed in April and I brought it to the SOS Orchid Show, but it is unlikely to bloom for the show this year. Seems like our very long fall and warm winter temperatures are making my orchids bloom earlier than normal. The flowers are large, bright yellow and quite showy.

Here is some cultural information about this lovely species:

This epiphytic species prefers warm temperatures of 60-85 degrees F, with a slightly cooler nighttime temperature. Keep roots moist at all times without being soggy. Over-watering can cause root rot. If leaves wrinkle like an accordion, increase water. Mist emerging flower spikes if they get stuck in their sheaths. Humidity levels of at least 70% are ideal. Provide well filtered light to partial shade. Provide moisture retentive media. Do **not** provide a winter rest.

Orchid Trivia & Fun Facts

Which Orchid Has the Longest Petals?

That honor belongs to *Paphiopedilum sanderianum*, a rare, lithophytic species that is endemic to northwestern Borneo. The twisted petals of this species can be a meter in length (3.3 feet). The species has been extensively used to create *Paphiopedilum* hybrids, but so far, none of the hybrids have petals that reach the extraordinary length of *Paph. sanderianum*. After its discovery and introduction to horticulture in 1885, this orchid was over-collected and was thought to be extinct in the wild. A small population of the species was re-discovered in 1978, and now grows in a protected area within Borneo's Gunung Mulu National Park.



Paph. sanderianum in cultivation on left and growing wild on the right