



The ORCHID CHAT

Treasure Valley Orchid Society March - April 2023

Apologies for the recent technical difficulties with the TVOS website. We THINK we have 'em ironed out! Minutes of our last General Meeting (Wed., Feb. 15) can be found at the end of this newsletter.

We are soooo ready for Spring here in Southern Idaho! At our next meeting, **March 15**, we'll talk about getting ready for the 39th Annual TVOS Orchid Show & Sale, coming up April 15-16. This means not only how to get your blooming orchids ready to be exhibited, but making sure we have volunteers to cover the many duties during the show weekend – AND getting the word out by passing out flyers, which we'll have on hand.

IMPORTANT: You do not have to be a masterful orchid grower or even an active TVOS member to have your blooming orchids displayed. **The more plants we have in the show, the better!** And there are many tales of TVOS members who brought lovely plants, with NO intention of winning anything, and brought home a ribbon from the judges! It's a fun weekend.

Just make sure you **deliver the plants to the show site** (Hilton Garden Inn, 7688 W. Spectrum, Boise) between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 14. We'll have paperwork for you to fill out to identify your plant(s).

Have you considered **American Orchid Society** membership? You can join online at <https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew> It costs \$81 per year, and comes with lots of cool benefits for orchid lovers. One is free or reduced-price admission to more than 300 gardens and conservatories nationwide – including THREE here in Idaho! They are:

Idaho Botanical Garden, Boise - <https://www.idahobotanicalgarden.org/>
Free admission and free parking

Orton Botanical Garden, Twin Falls - <https://ortonbotanicalgarden.com/>
Free or discounted entry to educational programs & "select" special events

Sawtooth Botanical Garden, Ketchum - <https://sbgarden.org/>
Free or discounted educational programs and gift-shop discounts

The club has been busy so far this year! Chris Thomas presented a “Basic Orchid Care” seminar to folks in January at the Idaho Botanical Gardens, and in February at the North End Organic Nursery in Garden City – she reports that both groups were big and enthusiastic!

Carolyn Watts, Beverly Forbush, Tammy Dana and Pam Spencer volunteered at FarWest Nursery’s annual “Coffee, Plants & Nerds Day” mid-February. They brought blooming plants to show, and answered people’s questions about orchids, repotting, etc.



Beverly and Carolyn have all their orchid info out and ready to share at FarWest Nursery’s “Coffee, Plants & Nerds Day” event!

Did you know there’s an orchid grower in Coeur d’Alene? O’Dowd’s Orchids is a family business having a Spring Sale on plants. It also has what looks like a fun “subscription” – for \$180, you get five orchids, including a “surprise” plant. Take a look online at <https://odowdsorchids.com/>

TVOS members celebrating March and April birthdays are:

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|------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 3/11 | Tyler Lobdell | 4/21 | Janet Crist |
| 3/16 | Lynn Kinter | 4/21 | Rocky Redford |
| 3/21 | Bob Anderson | 4/26 | Tara Downes |
| 3/27 | Carolyn Watts | 4/26 | Donna Smith |
| 3/30 | Donna Groth | | |
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Chris Thomas would also appreciate hearing from you if there’s a topic you’d like to see covered in this newsletter. Thanks in advance for your input!

Newsletter orchid graphic courtesy of:
<https://poweredtemplate.com/brochure-templates/nature/letterheads/03033/0/index.html>

**Treasure Valley Orchid Society General Meeting
Boise, ID - February 15, 2023**

President Carolyn Watts called the business meeting to order at 7:27 pm. There were 13 members present as well as one virtually.

The TVOS website has not been working in the past month, so we skipped the approval of the January meeting minutes.

Rocky Redford gave the Treasurer's report. There is a \$300 payment due for the TVOS storage unit. No vote was taken to approve the report.

Terry provided refreshments. (Thank you!)

New Business: We asked the members present what topics they would like us to cover in upcoming meetings. Suggestions were orchid repotting, cool growing orchids, semi-hydro culture, orchid anatomy and lighting (lights vs windows).

Janet Crist has invited us to visit her greenhouse to see her new "wall" of mounted orchids. She would also be happy to teach a beginner's orchid care class. It would be held on a Saturday, possibly in May.

Carolyn announced that Terry is retiring from the TVOS board.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Graham brought in 2 orchids for us to check to see how they are doing. The phalaenopsis was outdoors all summer in shade. It seems to him to be doing better now that it is indoors and in a south-facing window. The other was an oncidium, which also looked to be doing very well.

Tara, who's in Arizona, virtually showed a blooming phal. All the blossoms are on the keiki. We discussed water quality – which type of water is preferable for orchid watering: tap water, RO water, filtered water, rainwater or distilled water? Most of the members use either tap water or RO water. Some use rainwater.

Tammy brought in a Masdevallia that has recently been put into a self-watering pot. So far, it looks good. Janet Crist had mentioned doing that about a year ago. It is best to use a fine bark mix rather than sphagnum moss as the potting medium.

Some tips from members included using a laser to check leaf temperature. Carolyn purchased one from Harbor Freight for about \$25. Fred has adapted a computer fan for air circulation.

Rocky showed his rain gutter/pond filter with bark to make a "fake" tree. His Pholidota is very happy growing in that container. He also showed 2 blooming slipper orchids.

The orchid show table was filled with lovely blooming orchids this evening. All were deserving of mention. After the voting, these were the results:

1 st place	Rocky's Paph. Memoria Renette L. Gatney
2 nd place	Beverly's Paph. Delenatii 'Double Dutch' X 'Second Moon'
3 rd place	Rocky's Pholidota Chinenisi

The March meeting will be about prepping your orchids for the orchid show and sale. Sign-up sheets to help with the show are at every meeting, or you can contact a board member to volunteer. TVOS needs your help and lovely blooming orchids to make a great presentation! The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Watts, Club President

Tammy Dana
Board member