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## February 2014

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### About the February Meeting

#### February 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.

University of Washington  
Center for Urban Horticulture  
3501 NE 41st Street  
Seattle, WA 98105

### Abigail Chang: Recent Orchid Award Winners

This month, Abigail Chang will give her annual talk on recent NWOS regional award winning plants, along with a photos of the award winners. Last month we had a chance to watch the judges in action, this month we follow up with a show of the amazing plants that received awards in 2012.

#### Display Table:

We will have our regular display table, so bring your blooming plants to share. Members may bring up to 10 plants to sell. Include a tag with your name and the price with each plant.

#### Sales Table:

Members may bring up to 10 plants to sell. Include a tag with your name and the price with each plant.

#### Raffle:

The raffle will be held as usual. Win a new orchid for your collection while supporting the Scholarship Fund.

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### President's Corner

Thanks goes out to everyone that helped with this year's Flower Show display. Look for more feedback and photos in next month's newsletter.

During the last meeting, I announced that we need a nominating committee for the next group of NWOS officers. I have not heard from the general membership that they are willing to help with this. The slate of officers is your link to what is happening in your society, without them we would cease to function.

The positions are:

President  
First Vice President  
Second Vice President

Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Past President  
 Eight Trustees

The nominating committee will nominate members for these positions in March, announce the slate in April and all members will vote in May. This committee needs to start and finish canvassing members this month. At the meeting there will be a sign up sheet for the committee, please look for it and volunteer to keep your society working.

Thanks,  
*Mike Foster*, President

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## Upcoming Orchid Shows

We plan to have displays at the Spring shows listed below and will need plants for these. As usual, set up for the shows is on Fridays and we are planning to collect plants at our house on the Thursdays before, or by special arrangement. We are not having a spring show of our own this year because it has been moved to fall but it is always fun to visit the "away" shows. I urge members to consider attending one of these shows this year. Carpooling with another member would be a great way to enjoy these shows. The Vancouver Canada Orchid Society has a show March 22-23 (<http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca/>). We don't display there, but their shows are always good and provide a great excuse to head north of the border for a weekend.

Mt Baker, March 1-2, <http://orchid-society.net/mt-baker/>

Spokane, March 29-30, <http://www.spokaneorchidsociety.org/>

Oregon Orchid Society, April 26-7, <http://oregonorchidsociety.org/>

South Central Washington (Tri Cities), May 3-4, <https://sites.google.com/site/scworchidsociety/>

As usual, set up for all these shows is the Fri. before and we are planning to collect plants on Thursday or by special arrangement.

*George Grantham*, 2nd Vice President

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## Time to plan for the Annual Orchid Plant Auction

Remember that the March meeting is our annual plant auction. Start looking now for plants to sell and saving for plants to buy. If you sell a plant, you'll have both room and money to add to your orchid collection. So check for duplicates, overgrown items in need of dividing and repotting as well as plants that just don't appreciate your growing conditions. Let's have the best ever event.

The Orchid Auction is either the only or a significant source of income for many of the NWOS Funds. Members may bring up to five plants each to auction off (NWOS takes a 20% commission) and as many as you wish for a 100% donation to the Society.

**The Library Fund** is used to purchase items for the NWOS Library.

**The Slipper Fund** is used by the UW Botany Greenhouse to purchase Species Orchids.

**The Zoo Fund** is used by the Woodland Park Zoo Greenhouse to purchase Orchids.

**The Scholarship Fund** is used each year for a college student working on a Orchid related project.

**The General Fund** covers everything else, from the programs to the everyday working of your society.

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## Orchid Pot Display

Kate McMillan and Al Bryant from Spirit Line Pottery had a special display at the January meeting. Their earthenware pots are made using the ancient Japanese art of Raku. They

take the pots white-hot from the kiln and plunge them into a bin of flammables. The earthenware is quickly tempered by natural elements like air, fire, smoke and finally water. Their American style of raku comes in a rainbow of metallic finishes which are not safe for use as tea bowls as they were in the 16th century.



Their bare and naked raku pots for orchids are 100% organic, never glazed or stained with India Ink. The variations in color left by carbon deposits are a result of the weather conditions and flammables used on the day of firing. The scars left by straw, pine needles, cedar shavings or newspaper are considered part of the unique organic design.



They are hoping for feedback from orchid growers on the pots so they held a drawing. Several of our lucky members received a free pot.

Kate and Al have also graciously lent 28 of their Raku fired Orchid cover pots to use on the hanging picture frames to help make our display at the NW Flower and Garden Show one of the best ever.



**MING STYLE ORCHID POT**  
Bare Raku w/ Porcelain Drip Tray



**MING STYLE ORCHID POT**  
Bare Raku w/ Porcelain Drip Tray

## Report from the January Meeting

Mike Foster opened the meeting by introducing new members and visitors. Caroline Mann introduced Kate McMillan of Spirit Line Pottery who spoke about the art of Raku pottery. Joff Morgan then gave us an update about our participation in the NW Flower & Garden show.



Jennifer Ritchie, PNWJC Chair  
talks to a packed room

Our main event began with PNW Judging Center Chairperson Jennifer Ritchie talking about the process of AOS Judging. She explained that Ribbon Judging at a show is done by the sponsoring club and can be given for anything that the society decides. It requires no training.

AOS judging is quite different. It takes place at sanctioned events or at regular monthly meetings of the judging center. The award becomes a permanent record for the plant or the grower (in the case of cultural awards). It takes 6 years to train to become a qualified orchid judge; 3 years as a student and 3 years as a probationary judge. The awards are given in three categories: Quality, Cultural and Botanical. Awards are put thru a rigorous and anonymous process to assure the standards and fairness of the judging and it's outcome. After her interesting presentation, the actual judging started.

A panel consisting of Jennifer Ritchie, Diane Dunn, David Edgley, Bill Zimmerman and Abigail Chang reviewed six special plants that they chose from our ample orchid display table. It was both

fascinating and informative to watch and listen to the judging process. We gained many insights by being privileged to observe the complex and meticulous judging process.



The Judges in Action: looking at the plant & flowers, checking the computer records and considering each of their opinions

Once an award has been made, the judges then have to measure and record all the vital information about the plant and flowers.

Here are the plants that were nominated for judging:



Paph. fairrianum, Dick Hanson



Paph. Fairre Helen (P. fairrianum x Pacific Shamrock), Ellen Macomber



Phrag. eric Young 'Rocket Fire' 4N x Phrag. kovachii, Mike Foster & Donna Pierce



Paph. Magic Pops (Magic Pops 'Blushing Magenta x Raisin Magic 'Pink Skies'), Steve Dorsey



And 2 special plants were judged and received awards



Jon Owens with his awarded Miltoniopsis



Miltoniopsis Evergreen Premier 'Norma', HCC/AOS, 77 points (photo courtesy Mike Pearson)



Lycaste (Island of Vulcorn x Chita Melody) 'Aldarra' AM/AOS, 83 points (photo courtesy Mike Pearson)



Scott Ware receives an Award of Merit for his beautiful Lycaste

And there's one more thing after an award is made. Each plant needs to have it's official portrait taken.



Staged and ready for it's beauty shot



Mike Pearson is the official AOS photographer

**Photos of the plant table will be posted shortly. Please check back.**

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**Schedule of Upcoming Events**

**February 5-9, 2014** - NW Flower & Garden Show, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle

**February 10, 2014** - Abigail Chang: Recent Orchid Award Winners

**March 10, 2014** - Annual Orchid Auction

**March 17, 2014** - Annual Potting Clinic

**April 14, 2014** - NWOS meeting

**April 26, 2014** - Tentative date for NWOS Volunteer Day at the Zoo

**May 12, 2014** - NWOS meeting

**June 9, 2014** - NWOS meeting, Pot Luck Dinner and Gary Baker Service Award

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**Reminder for Officers & Board Members**

The schedule of Board Meetings for the rest of this fiscal year is: 3/4/14 and 5/6/14. Meet at 7 p.m. at Mike Cory's house unless notified that it's been moved elsewhere.