



Next Meeting September 14, 2019 6:30pm  
Thomas Township Public Safety Building  
8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI  
Speaker: Alan Koch (CA) G  
He will have plants for sale  
([www.goldcountryorchids.com](http://www.goldcountryorchids.com))  
[www.sagvalleyorchids.org](http://www.sagvalleyorchids.org)  
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Sue Sanderson, Editor  
grmasue2u@gmail.com

### **Officers and Board of Directors**

President Joyce Potoff (2019-2021)  
Past President Tim Hueston  
Vice President open  
Treasurer Edith Sommers (2017-2019)  
Secretary Sue Sanderson (2019-2021)  
Program Chair Sally Heinlein  
2016-2019 .... Marilyn Whittaker, Bob Schust  
2017-2020 .... Rollie Wilson, Jean Rose;  
2019-2021 .... Helmut Schick, Sally Heinlein

**Treasurer's Report:** Edith Reports a  
Balance of \$5,776.00.

### **Secretary's Report from May 11 Meeting:**

President Joyce Potoff called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. She started by saying Sue Sanderson's husband, Jan is not well. Sue may need help with the newsletter and secretarial duties while helping her husband. Edith will take minutes tonight's meeting. Joyce asked Tim to report on the April Workshop. He said there were eight participants of which there were a couple at the meeting. Ollie at SVSU will have a Fall Workshop - more information to come. Joyce mentioned that Dave Sommers has been a big help to the society with his work

on the website. Also, that the AOS books 'Orchids and Their Culture' are for sale. Tim will buy a case (24) or two for members which will bring the price to \$14 each. June study group will meet at the Public Safety Building Saturday, June 22. Dale & Pam Garden along with Kathy Mykolajenko (from MOS) will host the meeting showing us how to set up a display for orchid shows.

### **President's Corner**

Thanks to all who participated in our June study group. The discussion was led by Kathy Mykolajenko with help from Dale Garden on how to put together an orchid display. We worked with plants that we don't often see in our displays since they don't bloom during our show calendar. It was very informative and fun. Thanks also to Tim Hueston, Rollie and Jack Shumaker for bringing over some props from the storage area.



(Kathy Mykolajenko and Dale Garden, June Study Group)

The August picnic was fun for all who attended, even the weather cooperated. We made a nice profit from the plant auction thanks to the plants donated by Jack Shumaker. Eleanor Baker and Joanne Hetherington and all our generous bidders. I am looking forward to the challenge of growing the two phrags. I added to my collection

We are offering an afternoon seminar at SVSU through OLLI on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Anyone that would like to help with the presentation please contact me.

Your board had been busy planning for the November show and discussing the future of the club. We have held two board meetings over the past three months. There are many opportunities for our members to contribute their time and talents and anything you can do is welcome.

Don't forget, we also have a great speaker coming to the All State meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> in Okemos.

Joyce Potoff, President.

### **Upcoming SVOS:**

Our guest speaker Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids. He specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. He started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested

in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. He now has approx. 300,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in Brazilian Cattleyas alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleyas breeding.

### **August SVOS Picnic:**

There were 26 SVOS members who gathered at the beautiful park in Hemlock for our picnic and the weather cooperated. We had a covered pavilion with plenty of room for all the food and of course orchids. Carol and Tom Jurek again arranged for the use of the pavilion. Jack Shumaker donated most of the plants for the auction. Rollie Wilson was the auctioneer and Joyce Potoff and Carol Jurek assisted with handling of plants. As usual Edith Sommers had to keep track of the sales. We had a bidding war over many of the plants. Several left the picnic with a car loaded with orchids.



(2019 Picnic picture)



(Jack Shumaker announcements)

**Other Bits:**

1 There will be a meet and eat with our guest speaker. If you would like to have dinner with our guest speaker they will be gathering at Beef O'Brady's around 5:45. Beef O'Brady's is located at 4880 Gratiot Rd. RSVP to Sue Konkle 989-835-6898

or [p2rocks@msn.com](mailto:p2rocks@msn.com).

2. Carol Jurek received the "2019 Citizen Of The Year Award" from the Business Association of Hemlock.

3. Last May Bill Thom's was our speaker .and he mentioned he uses Bill's Best plant encourager Potion #9. Sally ordered some and he sent an extra 4 bottles. If anyone wants to buy a bottle, please see Sally. It cost \$25.00 per bottle. Sally Heinlein 989-321-1111.

**Welcome new members:**

Pam Garden, Wendy Bellinger, and Amy Beyer

**Member profiled** Edith Sommers



My interest in orchids started with my sister around 2004. She had a couple of them and knew Denise Nash (Ann Arbor Orchid Society). My sister and I visited Denise's greenhouse with beautiful flowering orchids. I had one or two at the time and heard the comment "once you start . . . you're hooked". I now have over 100. I don't have a greenhouse, they are scattered throughout my house. With the brightest light (south windows) in my bedroom where my Cattleyas and psychopsis reside. I have mostly phals but like trying to grow different kinds. I joined SVOS in 2005. My first Thanksgiving Show which was in Midland at Northwood Institute. I purchased some supplies & small plants. The meetings at that time were held in the Community Park Building on Midland Rd. in Freeland. One of my first meetings was just after I had my hip surgery and I hobbled in on a cane with my mom (I couldn't drive yet). Edith Geisler gave a talk (cattleya in her hair behind her ear). I don't remember what her topic was but my mom & I were impressed. Around that time Fred Case was at a May meeting invited the members to his "open house" the next which was mother's day weekend. We were free to roam the grounds and get a look at his greenhouse, ponds and yard where trillium would be in bloom. SVOS meetings had raffles and I would buy \$20 worth coming home with several "new" orchids. From there my collection grew. The spring "newbie" workshop was held at Paul and Roberta Bouleau's house for several years. He and Roberta did a wonderful job of hosting with "gift bags" of supplies and Roberta's delicious lunch. They were along the line of what we do today with members speaking on topics of their expertise and repotting a Phal. to

take home. I took over the treasurer position from Roberta Bouleau in 2011. Before that I was a trustee for a couple years.

I'm married to Dave Sommers who does the SVOS website

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Feel free to offer any recommendations.) We have two daughters, Brittney (who just got engaged), and Jessica who will be getting married in September. My career was with The Saginaw News where I worked in Advertising Production, Computer Systems, and Classified Advertising. I retired in 2009 after 34 years. My hobbies in addition to orchids include reading, pickleball, biking, rowing (crew), Mahjonn, gardening (I'm a Master Gardener) and puzzles.