

THE ANATOMY OF AN ORCHID SHOW

The Southern Ontario Orchid Society 43rd Annual Orchid Show and Sale is a wonderful opportunity to visit a tropical paradise without the hassle of airports. Masses of vibrant orchid blooms bring the wild glory of nature up close and personal.

Besides the floral exhibition and sale of plants, the visitor can take in lectures by orchid experts, learn from the educational displays or admire the orchids captured in beautiful works of art and photography.

Over thirty professional orchid growers, conservatories, orchid societies, individuals and conservationists contribute to the eye-catching exhibits. The diversity of the flowering orchids to be observed is astonishing, and the quality, astounding.

Prior to the Show's opening, these dazzling orchids and brilliant exhibits are judged. Competition is stiff. Ribbons designate superb flowers worthy of gracing any collection, and the rosettes, the best of the best. Exceptional, world-class specimens are temporarily removed for American Orchid Society (AOS) Award Judging. Out of the thousand or so entries, only ten or so are superb enough to receive a coveted AOS Award.

Sales are heaviest on Saturday with visitors vying for the best and the most unusual plants. Rare and hard to find varieties abound. SOOS is once again holding the Early Bird Shopper's Hour from 11 am to Noon on Saturday for 125 lucky shoppers. Online sale of the \$30 tickets will start in January.

Growers from as far away as Taiwan and Ecuador join Canadian and American vendors to showcase the very best of their orchids. A list of confirmed vendors can be found at soos.ca; many of whom will take pre-orders. Several only take cash.

After purchasing a new orchid to take home, visitors can find all the growing supplies necessary to keep their new acquisition happy. An excellent assortment of orchid memorabilia and jewelry is also available.

On Sunday morning from 9 to 11 am, a limited number of photographers and their tripods enter the Exhibition to capture these vibrant and charming orchids on film. Online sale of the \$20 tickets will start in January.

Sunday morning from 9 to 11 am is the ONLY time slot that unipods and tripods are allowed into the Exhibition Hall. This is great opportunity for photographers to capture the vibrant and charming orchids on film. Online sale of the \$20 tickets will start in January. Hand-held cameras are allowed anytime.

Free one-hour lectures conducted by orchid experts are held both afternoons. Sessions cover repotting, growing orchids in the home, reblooming and conservation.

A free coat and plant check is offered to assist the orchid aficionado in getting the most out of the Show.

For the best visitor experience, final entry to the Show and Sale will be 4:30 pm on Saturday and 3:30 pm on Sunday.

The 2025 Show and Sale celebrates the Sixtieth Anniversary of the creation of SOOS. The Show runs from Noon to 5 pm on Saturday, February 8th and from 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday, February 9th at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1P2.

General admission is \$10 and free for supervised children under 12.

