



Orchidata

Message from the President

November / December 2016

Leaves have fallen from the trees which signifies it's time to give some of orchids a rest for the winter. I only have a few plants that need a specific rest but if I forget they never do as well in the spring. Winter can be hard a season for us indoor growers, humidity is down because the furnace is on. A little extra misting will really help solve that issue. Light can also change through the windows. Winter does have less daylight hours but be careful some windows may get an increase in light intensity as leaves drop. Bugs can also come on strong this time of year, so a good inspection of your plants is a wise idea.

We are only a few short months away from our annual show and the planning is in full swing. We are always looking for volunteers to help plan and run the event, if you have any interest it helping out please speak to any of the executive for details.

Next month is our annual auction which is my favorite meeting of the year. We have a fabulous orchid auction with plants and orchid related items generously donated by the society members. Following the auction, we share goodies and socialize. Please bring your treats and auction items next month and come have a great time!

Drew



B. Jimminy Cricket
Photo By Drew Goddard

Upcoming Events

November 20, 2016 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Doris Jensen, Paphinia and its close relatives

December 18, 2016 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Christmas Auction & Social.

January 15, 2017 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Jean Ikeson, Australian Dendrobiums.

February 11& 12, 2017 – Southern Ontario Orchid Society Annual Show, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario

February 19, 2017 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Ben Boers, Show Preparation.

February 25 & 26, 2017 – OSRBG Annual Show. Setup for show is on Friday, February 24, 2016.

March 19, 2017 – OSRBG General Meeting, The Annex. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Repotting Session

March 25& 26, 2017 – Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Orchidexpo 2016, CÉGEP de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere Street, Montreal, Quebec

April 22 & 23, 2017 – Ottawa Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale, RA centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Monthly Meeting Schedule OSRBG

Date	Location
November 20, 2016	Room 5
December 18, 2016	Room 5
January 15, 2017	Room 5
February 19, 2017	Room 5
March 19, 2017	Room 5
April 23, 2017	Room 5
May 28, 2017	Room 5
June 25, 2017	Room 5
July 2017	Annual Picnic
August 20, 2017	Room 5
September 17, 2017	Room 5
October 15, 2017	Room 5
November 19, 2017	Room 5

COOS Orchid Show Report

By Wendy Hearder-Moan



Our Society members did nicely at the 2016 COOS Show, with Sherry and Peter Decyk's *Epidendrum diffusum* once again taking the prize for Best Laeliinae along with a first place ribbon and a 3rd in the specimen class. Their beautiful *Dendochilum magnum* 'Champagne' CCM/AOS and *Oncidium* 'Sharry Baby' both picked up second place ribbons and the *Dendochilum* was second in the specimen class as well. Congratulations, Peter and Sherry!

Congratulations to Chris Varady too. His *Epidendrum peperomia* was entered as a separate display (on Pat Vuurman's suggestion) and it was

first in that display category with a second place ribbon for the plant itself.

RBG's *Pholidota imbricata* got a first place ribbon and also a third in the specimen class. Two *Brassavola nodosa* plants were entered from the RBG collection and they won 2nd and 3rd respectively. *Phragmipedium Cardinale* 'Kilworth' AM/AOS merited a 3rd place ribbon this time around.

Other results were as follows:

Ben and Cindy Boers

Cattlianthe Barefoot Mailman – 3rd
Cattleya Walkerinter v. coerulea – 3rd

Gavin Clark

Oncidium (Dancer x Robert Dugger 'Unicorn Ruby'
Am/AOS – 1st
Dendrobium Hibiki – 3rd
Xylobium varigatum – 3rd

Gretta Culley

Cischeinfia pusilla – 2nd
Phragmipedium Hanne Popow – 3rd

Wendy Hearder-Moan

Phalaenopsis pulchra – 3rd

Pat and Lynda Vuurman

Cymbidium sinense – 2nd

Linda Will

Paphiopedilum Dollgoldi – 1st
Paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn – 2nd
Paphiopedilum Great Inuyama – 3rd
Phragmidpedium Carol Kanzer – 3rd

The exhibit itself received a 3rd place ribbon. Thanks go to Frank Washburn, Gavin Clark, Jacqui Arindell and Rob Vanderheyden who, along with myself, travelled to Cambridge to set up the exhibit. Frank, Gavin, Jacqui, Jim Johnston and I also dismantled the display and returned everything to the RBG greenhouse on Sunday night. A great team effort!

Windsor Orchid Show Report

By Pat Vuurman



Once again the Windsor Orchid Society held a very successful orchid show the 3rd weekend in October. (Sorry we missed a good presentation at the OSRBG meeting!) Your trusty troop of Cindy and Ben Boers, Lynda and Pat Vuurman went off with your precious plants and ancillary equipment and supplies to set up the display (picture elsewhere in the newsletter). Upon arrival we four were ably assisted by Chris Varady, thank you. Thanks to Wendy, Sherry and Peter, Joe, Ben and Cindy, Lynda and Pat and the RBG for allowing their plants to participate. Ribbon results are:

Best of Class:

- for Best Cattleya species: *Cattleya maxima* *coerulea* ('Gigi' x 'Ange'), Ben and Cindy Boers
- for Best Dendrobium hybrid: *Dendrobium Hibiki* 'Pauwela', Sherry and Peter Decyk
- for Best Phalaenopsis: *Phalaenopsis Sogo* *Yukidian*, Joe DiCiommo

1st Place Ribbons:

- for Best Visiting Society Display of 15 to 25 plants: Chris Varady, Cindy and Ben Boers, Lynda and Pat Vuurman
- for Cattleya species: *Cattleya maxima* *coerulea* ('Gigi' x 'Ange'), Ben and Cindy Boers

- for other types of *Dendrobium* hybrids: *Dendrobium Hibiki* 'Pauwela' (*Den. bracteosum* x *Den. laevifolium*), Sherry and Peter Decyk

- for *Phalaenopsis* hybrids: *Phalaenopsis Sogo* *Yukidian* (*Phal. Yukimai* x *Phal. Taisuco Kochdian*), Joe DiCiommo

- for multifloral pink *Phalaenopsis* hybrids: *Phalaenopsis Sogo* *Pinky* (*Phal. Sogo Vivien* x *Phal. Sogo Wedding*), Joe DiCiommo

- for larger flowered lavender *Cattleya* hybrids: *Cattleya Irene's Circle* (*C. Irene Finney* (1964) x *Slc. Circle of Life*), Joe DiCiommo

- for larger flowered yellow / orange *Cattleya* hybrids: *Cattleya Luminosa* (1901) (*C. dowiana* var. *aurea* 'MAJ' x *Laelia tenebrosa*), Joe DiCiommo

2nd Place Ribbons:

- for other coloured *Phalaenopsis* hybrids: *Phalaenopsis Heliodor* 'Darwin' (*Phal. Jiuobao Stream* x *Phal. Morning Moon*), Wendy Hearder-Moan

- for *Cattleya* species: *Cattleya bowringiana* var. *coerulea* (var. *coerulea* 'High Blue' x var. *coerulea* 'Blue Smoke'), Sherry and Peter Decyk

- for larger flowered lavender / mauve *Cattleya* hybrids: *Cattleya White Island* (*Laelia jongheana* x *C. walkeriana*), Sherry and Peter Decyk

- for semi-alba *Cattleya* hybrids: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (syn. *Blc.*) *Chian-Tzy Lass* (*Rlc. Mount Hood* x *C. Shellie Compton*), Joe DiCiommo

- for species not covered elsewhere: *Dendrochilum magnum*, Sherry and Peter Decyk

- for specimen plants: *Dendrochilum magnum*, Sherry and Peter Decyk

- for *Cattleya* species: *Cattleya labiata*, RBG

3rd Place Ribbons:

- for Cattleya species: Cattleya intermedia (semi-alba x coerulea), Ben and Cindy Boers

- for specimen plants: Pholidota imbricata, Sherry and Peter Decyk

- for orchids grown for their foliage: Cymbidium sinsense, Lynda and Pat Vuurman

A Personal Orchid Obsession

By Pat Vuurman

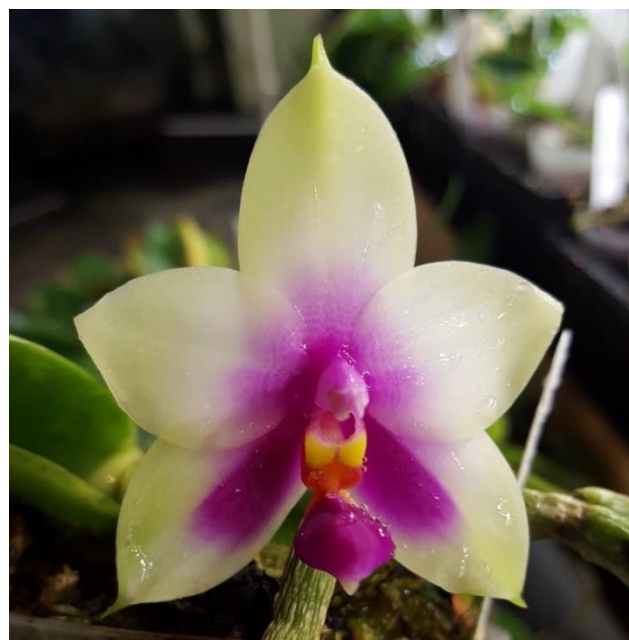
Pat and Lynda have lived in the Hamilton area for many years, both having worked until retirement as high school Mathematics teachers. Both of us are long time indoor and outdoor gardeners. For the last couple of decades or so we first became orchid fanciers, then growers. Like many others, we started by going to a local annual orchid show, attending their orchid lectures series and gradually falling under the spell of Orchid Fever! We have been growing these intriguing plants with more or less success ever since! Well, actually this is not quite accurate. We still have the original orchid we ever owned and it remains in flower to this very day. It turns out we unknowingly bought a painting of a lovely flowering plant a couple decades earlier that is probably a species Paphiopedilum. Apparently we had been mesmerized for much longer!

Like most orchid growers, we are able to accommodate only a limited spectrum of orchid growing habitat so acquiring only those genera that are more likely to cope is a challenge! We are restricted to one narrow South-East facing window ledge plus a 3.5m x 3.5m basement room with uncontrollable temperatures in the warm / intermediate range. There, light is provided by T5 fluorescent bulbs about 13 hours per day but supplied at night so as to reduce the electricity costs. They are suspended over several benches carrying shallow plastic trays with suspended plastic grids over a few cm's of water for extra humidity. Several small fans gently circulate the air constantly. Also, like most growers, many plants have made the ultimate sacrifice in order for us to

better understand which will survive and hopefully thrive under our conditions. Early failures with Tolumnia (loved the brightly coloured flowers on tiny plants but didn't give them enough light), Phalaenopsis (allowed their roots to drown), Masdevallias (needed cooler conditions), Lepanthes calodictyon (lovely tiny delicate flowers on beautiful foliage, killed at least half a dozen – slow learners, I guess) and so on, helped shape our 'learning curve'. As well, a number of excursions to the natural habitat of these plants have provided some appreciation for their subtleties and invaluable lessons to better understanding of orchid growing conditions.

At present we enjoy the company of an eclectic collection of a few hundred orchids from several genera with about a quarter each of Paphiopedilum, Phalaenopsis and Phragmipedium. The remaining plants fall into many categories with a few from Bulbophyllum, Catasetum, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Dendrochilum, Galeandra, jewel orchids, Masdevallia, Neofinetia, Pleurothallis, Promenaea, Restrepia and several others. Our saga continues to be a learning adventure – learning from many sources especially from other growers and vendors. Please be generous with your knowledge.

May your orchids prosper, Pat Vuurman



Phalaenopsis bellina('Ingrid Ohh' x 'joy')
Photo By Drew Goddard

Chinese Cymbidiums – Culture Guide

Chinese cymbidiums have been in cultivation for centuries throughout the orient, where they have been prized for their graceful leaves, dainty flowers and delicate fragrances. They are often used to landscape koi ponds. Plants with variegated foliage or peloric flowers are highly prized, and draw significantly higher prices. They are remarkably easy to grow in almost all parts of the mainland U.S., as they don't require the cool, sunny conditions needed for standard cymbidiums.

Temperature

Growing temperature is the most critical factor in blooming the oriental cymbidiums. During the height of summer, Chinese cymbidiums should be grown under 80% to 95% shade, with temperatures from 75 to 85 deg F. Higher temperatures may be maintained if increased air movement is provided. Night temperatures in late summer and early fall (August to October) must be 50 to 60 deg F to initiate flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45 to 55 deg F at night and 65 to 75 deg F during the day. Most Chinese cymbidiums can withstand light frost and survive, but it is not recommended.

Light

Shade more heavily during the summer months (about 80-90%) and increase the air movement. Keep about 60% shade during the spring and fall and gradually remove shade in winter. The leaves should be a dark green color, not medium green or golden, although this will vary a bit with the species.

Water

The plants roots should be kept moist (but not sopping wet) all the time. Frequency of watering is dependent on the mix that you're using, so watering could be anywhere from every three days to once a week. We grow all of our cymbidiums using our Semi-Hydroponic culture. During summer, avoid watering during the hottest part of the day. Whatever your culture method, it is advisable to use a pot / medium combination that dries out evenly.

Humidity

In winter, try to keep humidity at 50% to 60%. Higher humidity is recommended during the summer.

Fertilizer

We find that fertilizing at about 35-50 ppm N with every watering is preferred. The specific formula is not critical, as long as the plant gets plenty of calcium, magnesium, and trace elements with it.

Potting

Chinese cymbidiums have very long roots, so deep containers are recommended. Slim, deep containers, such as Chinese, Korean and Japanese pots are considered by some to be the best as they restrict the roots. The growers from mainland China typically use large pots with rocks taking up all of the bottom, and surrounding the medium. Repot in the spring after flowering. As with most plants, select a container that will allow for two to three years of growth before crowding the container. These are fairly fast growers, typically putting up 2 or 3 bulbs a year. Carefully remove all old potting medium from the roots. If you wish to divide the plant, maintain 2 to 3 bulbs with leaves in each division. Place the active growing bulb furthest from the side of the container. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the container. Fill the remainder of the container with mix and by tapping the container to seat the mix. Do not compact the mix. The rhizome should be about 1/2" below the surface of the medium. Supply limited amount of water and keep under shade until new growth starts.

Courtesy of First Rays LLC

<http://firstrays.com>

Membership

Memberships were due June 1, 2016.

You can renew your membership at the next monthly meeting, or by mailing your cheque to:

Yvette Mondésir
3010 Silverthorn Drive
Oakville, ON L6L 5N6
e-mail: ydesir521@gmail.com

Membership Fee: \$20.00

Receive a \$5.00 discount if you would like to receive the Orchidata newsletter via e-mail.

Greenhouse Volunteers Needed

As you may know, the Orchid Society maintains the collection of orchids in the RBG greenhouse. This is a significant commitment which cannot be carried out without the help of volunteers.

Currently a group of volunteers meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to noon, more or less, and another group meets on Sunday mornings from about 10 until 12:30. This schedule is dictated by watering requirements. Volunteers are currently being sought for both these teams. "On the job" training is provided if needed.

In addition to watering, volunteers look after repotting the orchids, cleaning any plants that are being attacked by pests, removing dead leaves, sterilizing pots and other equipment, preparing plants for display and many other small but important tasks.

Volunteers are not required to attend every week, but some commitment to the collection should be demonstrated. If you are able to devote some time to helping us maintain the orchids, please contact Pat Vuurman (pvuurman@hotmail.com) regarding the Thursday group, or Denise MacLeod (pmacleod5@cogeco.ca) if you can volunteer on Sundays.

Flasking Group

Anyone interested in flasking please give Ben Boers, Pat Vuurman or Bob Gibbon a call for details

2016 – 2017 Executive & Contacts

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Orchid Collection..... **Pat Vuurman** 905-527-4951
RBG Liaison..... **Ben Boers** 905-701-8102

Honorary Lifetime Member

Dr. James Brasch

Membership and Address Changes

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Orchidata

**Deadline for the next Newsletter is:
January 6, 2017**

Please note that Orchidata news and orchid society newsletters should be sent to:

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