



Ottawa Orchid Society
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This month's meeting...

**Sunday, December 16, 2007 @ 1:30 p.m.
Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview, Ottawa**

A Very Special Ottawa Orchid Society Christmas Social

This month is our annual Christmas Social, the time for everyone to meet with old friends, new members and exchange orchid tales.

You are invited to bring treats and sweets for the snack table. We will also be holding a free raffle for members of the society. However, to have something to raffle, we need donations. Donations are not obligatory, but greatly appreciated. You can donate a small orchid or orchid-related item for the raffle. For those already frazzled at the idea of facing the malls for their holiday shopping, why not bring some potting material (charcoal, clay, bark, moss, etc.) an orchid picture, orchid cards, plant labels, fertilizer or an orchid book (old or new), to name just a few.

This year will also be a greater treat, with Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics Unlimited. Norito is an American Orchid Society judge, with nearly 30 years experience, who now specializes in the hybridization and propagation of Paphiopedilums. This will be a great opportunity for all of our Paph. growers to bring their blooming plant and have them judged by an absolute expert.

Please note that we will still have a show table, but that with our very full program, except for the Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, which will be judged by Norito, ribbons will be handed out without the usual explanations or comments.

Sincerest wishes for a Joyous Holiday and a Very Happy New Year!

Due to the many events planned for the December meeting, there will be no Orchids 101 this month.

And don't forget to bring your blooming orchids to our monthly show table.

The Ottawa Orchid Society meets every third Sunday of every month from September to May inclusive at 1:30 P.M. at the Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview, Ottawa. Guests are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP: \$25 from September 1 - August 31.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT (AND EDITOR)



A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from one of our members, Michael Baker, who thought it might be nice to share with everyone a photograph of the Ottawa Orchid Society exhibit erected at the Eastern Canada Orchid Society Show held in Montreal Oct. 27-28th. The photograph was taken by Michael's friend, Roger Webber-Taylor, The exhibit was erected by Marcel Carrière and André Couture with help from Glenn Hansen. Thank you Michael and Roger for sharing this picture with us.



On another note, Marilyn Light and Jean Hollebhone of our Society have done an excellent job of putting together information on what is needed to bring orchids into Canada in compliance with all the various rules and regulations governing the importation of orchids. For Society members travelling to the upcoming World Orchid Congress, this information will be especially important if you intend to buy and bring orchids back with you into Canada. The information Marilyn and Jean have compiled consist of the following three documents and can be found at <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/WOC2008.html>:

“WOC Import/Export Checklist” (1 page); “IMPORT REQUIREMENTS - For orchids coming to Canada from the World Orchid Congress, January 2008” (3 pgs.); and, Canadian CITES Import Requirements for orchids coming to Canada from the World Orchid Congress (3 pgs.)

The November auction was a great success with just a bit over \$1,200 raised! A great big thanks to Diane Aubry, Marie-Anne Delye-Payette, Femmy Mes, and Monique Jacques for doing such great work receiving everything, tagging it, recording the sales, keeping track of the payments and just making everything run so smoothly. A big thanks to Marilyn Light and Rick Sobkowicz, our two auctioneers for keeping everything rolling and getting bids, and a big hug and thanks to everyone who donated articles for the auction and who bid and bought all the great stuff. We all had a lot of fun. Two cheques of \$250 each were sent to the Toronto AOS Judging Centre and to the AOS Supplementary Judging Centre in Montreal, and a cheque of \$250 was sent to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation to support the Purdon Conservation Area where thousands of *Cypripedium victoria-regina* grow in the wild. The balance of money raised from the auction will be used to support Society activities.

Hope to see you at the December social, get safely through the holiday period, and best wishes to all.

Rick Sobkowicz

MEMBERS' CORNER

A hearty welcome to the newest members who have joined the Society! They are:

#1155 Sandra Jenkyns and #1156 Lisa Coy



There has been some discussion at the last Board of Directors' Meeting to try to reach as many members as possible by e-mail to advise you of upcoming meetings and when the next issue of Spike is available. Members have provided their contact particulars when first signing up but have not always advised the membership person of changes to e-mail addresses, phone numbers where you can be reached, etcetera. **Theresa Lafleur** has recently updated the Society's membership list. When arriving at the December monthly meeting or at some subsequent meeting, would you please have a glance at the membership list and see if your information needs updating. Or drop Theresa an e-mail providing her with your name, latest address (don't forget your postal code), your home and business phone number where you can be reached (please include your area code) and your e-mail address. Thanks a lot for your cooperation.

SOCIETY BULLETIN BOARD



NEW LIBRARY BOOK PURCHASES

Jane Thompson reports that the following new purchases have arrived and ARE available for borrowing at the December meeting:

"World of Orchids: A Practical Guide to Cultivating Orchids in Soilless Culture" by Jack Ross;

"Grow Disas" by H. Crous and G. Duncan; and,

"Orchids: A Practical Guide to Care and Cultivation" by Michael Tibbs



SALE OF PAPHANATICS ORCHIDS AT DECEMBER MEETING

Norito Hasegawa is not set up to taking preorders but intends to bring with him to our December meeting an assortment of flasks of paph. crosses of his creation to sell to members on a first-come-first-served basis. Don't miss this opportunity – the plants are in great condition and there is always something very interesting.



UPCOMING TRIP TO MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

The trip is booked and we have a full busload of members going. If you are unable to go, contact our Program Chair, Julie Mertens, at julie_mertens@videotron.ca and let her know as early as possible as we have a number of members who missed booking a seat and would be happy to buy your seat.

LIBRARIAN'S MESSAGE

A number of Society books purchased earlier and already in circulation were missing from our listing on the Society web site. Our web listing is now updated thanks to Dave Cooper. Here are the items that were missing:

"Himalayan Jewel Orchids" by U.C. and S.C. Pradan;

"Angraecoid Orchids" by J. Stewart, J. Hermans and B. Campbell;

"Orchid Species Culture Oncidium / Odontoglossum" by M & C.O. Baker;

"Growing Orchids in Your Garden" by Robert & G.M. Friend;

"Orchid Growing Basics" by Brian Petraska;

"The Genus Cymbidium" by D. Du Puy and P. Cribb.

Just a reminder that books are loaned out for one month only to allow all members to enjoy the benefits of the library. So please check your coffee tables for OOS books as all books are due back at the December meeting. Thank you from all the members.

Jane Thompson

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UPCOMING CANADIAN ORCHID CONGRESS SYMPOSIUM

The COC annual meeting and symposium will be held jointly with our annual show in Ottawa at the Nepean Sportsplex on Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27, 2008. The theme of the symposium is Orchids around the World. The program is shaping up with the following confirmed to date:

John Doherty from Zephyrus speaking on Disas;

Howard Ginsberg, Montreal, speaking on the new mini-Cattleyas;

Marilyn Light, OOS, on Chinese cymbidiums;

Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids, Maine, on *Phragmipedium kovachii*; and,

Bill Thoms, Florida on orchid culture.

A fabulous gourmet, four course banquet (and COC auction) is planned for Saturday night at the International Restaurant of Algonquin College. In a superb setting, this will be a meal to remember. Taxes, gratuity and entertainment are included in the \$40 ticket. Tickets must be purchased in advance and there is a set limit on the number of people that can attend. The COC annual general meeting will be held Sunday morning.

The registration fee is \$80, which includes the cost of the banquet (\$40), the symposium seminars (\$20), and access to lunches (\$20). If purchased separately, lectures will cost \$5 each at the door. Other exciting events are planned and will be announced in the coming months. Registration forms for the COC meeting and Symposium and for registration of plants and art for the OOS Show will be available in early February online at the OOS web site. For more information, you may contact Jean Hollebhone, our Society COC representative and the senior Vice President of the COC..

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NOVEMBER SHOW TABLE JUDGING RESULTS – November 18, 2007

Alliance	Prize-winning plants	Grower
CATTLEYA, judged Joyce Medcalf	1 st prize: <i>Lc. Bowri-Albida</i> 2 nd prize: <i>Epi. Limeade</i>	Lynne Guimond & Santos Peixe Marilyn Light
CYMBIDIUM, judged by Michael Lum	1 st prize: <i>Cycnodes Taiwan Gold</i> 3 rd prize: <i>Cycnodes Wine Delight</i>	Margaret Haydon Margaret Haydon
ONCIDIUM, judged by Michael Lum	1 st prize: <i>Psychopsis papilio</i> 2 nd prize: <i>Psychopsis papilio</i> 3 rd prize: <i>Onc. ornithorhynchum</i>	Lynne Guimond & Santos Peixe Rita Shand Terez Paksi
DENDROBIUM, judged by Michael Lum	3 rd prize: <i>Den. (Rainbow Dance ? Akazakin)</i>	Maria Martins
PLEUROTHALLID, judged by Michael Lum	1 st prize: * <i>Pleurothallis correllii</i> (syn. <i>pansamalae</i> var. <i>triangulabia</i>) 2 nd prize: <i>Masd. Confetti</i> 2 nd prize: <i>Masd. striatella</i>	Joyce Medcalf Joyce Medcalf Uli Schmidt
PAPHIOPEDILUM, judged Joyce Medcalf	1 st prize: <i>Paph. spicerianum</i> var. <i>giganteum</i> 2 nd prize: <i>Paph. (Ruby Peacock ? Hampshire Raven)</i>	Margaret Haydon Helgi Fatovic
PHRAGMIPEDIUM judged Joyce Medcalf	1 st prize: <i>Phrag. Longueville</i> 2 nd prize: <i>Phrag. fischeri</i> 3 rd prize: <i>Phrag. Eric Young</i>	Lynne Guimond & Santos Peixe Helgi Fatovic Rita Shand
PHALAENOPSIS and DORITAENOPSIS, judged Joyce Medcalf	1 st prize: <i>Dor. pulcherrima</i> var. <i>coerulea</i> 2 nd prize: <i>Phal. Mini Mark 'Maria Theresa'</i> 3 rd prize: <i>Dtps. I-Hsin Waltz 'Zephyrus 1-2-3'</i>	Michael Lum Linda Schopf Ian Philips
VANDA, judged Joyce Medcalf	1 st prize: * <i>Ascda. (Orglade's Goldspots ? Varot Gold)</i> * <i>Varot Gold (Banghuntingian Gold ? Fuchs Gold)</i>	Ian Philips
MINATURE, judged by Michael Lum	1 st prize: <i>Sophronitis pterocarpa</i>	Helgi Fatovic
MISCELLANEOUS, judged by Michael Lum	1 st prize: <i>Rudolfiella picta</i> 'Tres Jolie' AM/AOS 2 nd prize: <i>Liparis viridiflora</i> 2 nd prize: <i>Z. Kiwi Geysler</i>	Marilyn Light Rita Shand Margaret MacNamara

And, finally, the **BEST OF SHOW TABLE** choice by Joyce Medcalf and Michael Lum is *Rudolfiella picta* 'Tres Jolie' AM/AOS grown by Marilyn Light.

Show table coordinator: Jean Hollebhone

* Names reflect taxonomic changes appearing in the World Checklist <http://www.rbgekew.org.uk/wcsp/> Members

should note items indicated (*) have updated generic or grex names or the spelling has been corrected. Awards where applicable to a cultivar have been updated. Owners of these plants are requested to update tags and records and to label their orchids accordingly.

Thanks to Janet Johns, we have a number of photographs of some of the plants at the November show table.

Top row, left to right: 1st photo is that of Dtps. I-Hsin Waltz 'Zephyrus 1-2-3-' grown by Ian Philips. The 2nd photo is of Lc. Bowri-Albida grown by Lynne Guimond and Santos Peixe. The 3rd photo is of Sophronitis pterocarpa grown by Helgi Fatovic.

Bottom row: 1st photo is of Paph. spicerianum var. gigateum grown by Margaret Haydon. The middle photo is of Cynodes Taiwan Gold also grown by Margaret Haydon. The 3rd photo is of Phrag. fischeri grown by Helgi Fatovic.



Additional photos were submitted by Arlene Lang as we were in the process of putting Spike on the website. The photos are just excellent and we had to include them to show readers the high quality of work our members can produce. It is hoped that some of these photos and those of Janet are entered into our annual show into the category for digital photographs. Thanks a lot, Arlene! Hope readers do not mind viewing the same orchid from a different angle and taken by a different photographer.



The top 3 photographs and the first photo in the second row were taken by Arlene Lang. The 1st. image on the top row is of Dtps. I-Hsin Waltz 'Zephyrus 1-2-3-' grown by Ian Philips. Notice the color difference of the flowers between Arlene's photo and that of Janet's on the opposite page. Neither photographer was trying to change the actual appearance of the flowers. What happened? What are the true colors? The middle photo is of Masd. striatella grown by Uli Schmidt. The 3rd. image is of Paph. spicerianum var. gigateum grown by Margaret Haydon. Which image do you prefer? Janet's or Arlene's? Why? On the 2nd. row, the first image on the left is of Zygotetulum (Z.) Kiwi Geyser grown by Margaret MacNamara. The image on the bottom right taken by Janet Johns is of Masd. Confetti grown by Joyce Medcalf. Compare the photos taken of the same plants. What do you like about them? What don't you like? Is one picture preferable over the other? Study the photographs. One of our upcoming monthly speakers will be Michael MacConaill, an expert photographer who will be providing expert advice on how to take photographs and what to do. Have a peek at the photograph of the OOS image taken of our Society exhibit in Montreal on page 2 of this newsletter. Do you see the challenge that our photographer had with the white phalaenopsis in the middle of the display? Do you know what the problem is and how to correct for it? If not, be sure to attend Michael's presentation. In the meantime, try to take as many digital pictures as you can to better understand what Michael will be discussing and what to do with problems you may be encountering.

KINGSTON ORCHID SOCIETY (KOS)

Your editor received an e-mail from his counterpart, Paul Droll, the KOS Newsletter Editor, that there are 31 pictures of their members' plants from their last monthly meeting on the KOS home web site. If you would like to have an uplift,



go to the KOS website at: www.kingstonorchidsociety.ca and have a glance. Here is one of their photos of Blc. Oconee Mendenhall belonging to Gian Frontini. Makes you almost forget about the winter storm we just experienced and think of tropical conditions.

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The following e-mail was sent to our Society just a few days ago. The news may be of interest to OOS members travelling to the WOC in Florida.

-----Original Message-----

From: Contact Peru Flora [mailto:contact@peru-flora.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 3:47 PM

To: ricksobkowicz@rogers.com

Subject: Great Peruvian Orchids for Sale at WOC Miami

Hello there!

Sorry for contacting you, but we thought that in order to reach the people of your Orchid Society, we could send you the list of the Peruvian available Orchid plants in order to be shared with the members of your organization.

Attached is our price list for the WOC Miami. Last day for pre orders is January 5th. We have limited quantities of most of the plants, so early replies are suggested.

Conditions are stated at the end of the plant list. We will add 10% on the total value of every order to cover export and import duties, transportation from Peru to Miami, and broker fees. Prices at sales booth in Miami will be higher of course. So, the best way to get Peruvian Orchid plants at good prices, is to pre order.

Preorders are to be received at contact@peru-flora.com, and then we will send an answer of confirmation, stating the final value, and the plants that are available. Please let us know if you have a further request, we hope you can spread the attached list. Regards from
Lima, Manolo Arias, Peruflora

(Editor's note: The list is too extensive to include in this newsletter. If interested, contact your editor and he will forward the e-mail attachment to you or you can contact Peru Flora direct at the above e-mail address provided and request the plant list be sent to you direct.)

LOCAL MEMBER MAKES HIS OWN CROSSES

In last month's Spike, your editor reported the story of a phrag. cross made by Mick Morry and named after one of our Society members, Cameron Watters. I contacted Lanny Morry, Mick's mom, and asked if she and Mick could provide any more details on this and the other crosses Mick has made. Your editor also asked Lanny if she could include any photos they might have of these plants as Lanny is an exceptional photographer and her photos are just great...rich in color and detail. Lanny provided the following account with the accompanying photographs. Thanks a lot, Lanny! Hope readers enjoy this story and that it will encourage more members to follow Mick's example. Good luck, Mick, may you have many more great crosses and thanks for making the world more beautiful with your work. If any other members have stories that you think may be of interest to our members, send your stuff to me, Rick Sobkowicz. If you have photos to accompany the story, even better!

ACCOUNT PROVIDED BY LANNY MORRY

First to be registered by Mick, hybridized back in the mid 1990s and flasket for us at that time by a guy in Sacramento, California (now dead) as we could not find anyone here to do it for us was a cross between Blc. Toshie Aoki x C. Little Dipper which Mick hybridized back in the late summer of 1996. Little Dipper is a primary hybrid if recollection serves me correctly, and everyone knows how beautiful Toshie Aoki is. Mick harvested the mature pod form in early 1997 at which time we shipped it to this guy in California we found on the internet. The agreement with him was we could retain for ourselves all the viable flasks of seedlings, for a price per flask



(actually they were baby food jars) or we could take what we want and release the others for him to sell to interested third parties. We decided to have four of the flasks shipped to us and release the rest. Our original plan was to have the flasks shipped to us that December, but we were worried about cold weather shipment so we asked him if the young seedlings could last till March when I was going to North Carolina on business and that is how I got them. The really fortunate thing was, on 4 January for us, and 5 January for most of the rest of the people who lived in our region south of Ottawa, the Ice Storm hit and we were without hydro (which meant heat as we heated electrically) for 18 days, a period during which we lost virtually every tender orchid we owned (all the phals and many of our paphs) because the small wood stove in our house could not keep anything warm enough to thrive.

I often think if we had taken the flasks in December we would have lost the tender seedlings in the Ice Storm. Instead, by picking them up the third week of March in a warm environment and using a phyto to bring them into Canada with me, they grew and some prospered, and out of that came the plant that eventually bloomed for the first time in Fall 2002, and which Mick then decided he had to register. He named it Blc Evelyn Morry after his grandmother, because she loves mauves. I am clipping a photo of Evelyn Morry (who was 90 on November 6th) holding Evelyn Morry in bloom a summer or so ago. Blc Evelyn Morry continues to grow, blooming typically twice a year. This cross is now being used, we understand, by some hybridizers in Asia to create new Blcs!

The second plant was really interesting because it came out of our love of Schomburgkias. We have most of this genera of orchid growing in our greenhouse, and flowering religiously through the late winter. Last year we had 9 different schomburgkias flower, but you never see us bring them to meetings because they are big, awkward plants with long spikes and not easily transportable. Back in 1997 after we had already sent the cross that produced Evelyn Morry off to California our Schomb. thompsoniana flowered, and at the same time, and almost beside it, so did Bl Richard Mueller. Mick thought this would be a really freaky cross -- what would you get crossing this big leaved plant with the excessively long flower scape (on thompsoniana it is several feet long before you get to the flower), and he made the cross almost on a whim. And it took! We sent the pod off again to California, and subsequently brought in -- at the same time as the other flasks that produced the plant known as Blc Evelyn Morry -- the young in flask seedlings. This cross grew vigorously and bloomed just before Evelyn Morry did, but we had snails in the greenhouse and they ate most of the flowers, and distorted them, so we had to wait for rebloom to see what the flowers really looked like. Interestingly, the first time the flower bloomed -- it was almost a purply pink, but as the flower matures it yellows and the dotting becomes more intense. Some of the seedlings grown by others (this plant is in fairly wide circulation amongst fanciers of the cattleya tribe) are quite orange. You will see what I mean when you see the photos. The fabulous thing about this plant is that it reduced the size hugely, not just of the plant but of the scape. I have five of this unusual cross now growing here, and it is a vigorous growing compact plant with a lovely, sequential flower. We had no idea what such a cross would be called but found out from RHS. And when it came time to name it Mick chose to name it after me... Maclemoreara Lanny Morry. Weird and wonderful, kinda like me! Maclemoreara Lanny Morry was registered with RHS and confirmed in the 1 Jan - 31 March 2005 official registry.



That takes me to the third plant (see picture on right), which we are hoping is accepted as Phragmipedium Cameron Watters since Cameron is the one who has grown on a plant from a flask we gave him to maturity

and flowered it first. This one used a wonderful little Phrag species called *Phragmipedium hirtzii* as pod parent, and my lovely Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice as pollen parent. We had Mario flask this cross (we discovered him after the earlier flasks went to California) and we got a goodly number of them, sharing them with members of the club. It proved to be a very difficult plant, once deflasked, and few of the seedlings survived for reasons none of us can explain (David Kalb had it, so did Cameron and so did we). Cameron's is the first to flower and when he called to tell us about it ... a moderate sized plant sharing characteristics of both parents, with sequential blooming etc. we were just thrilled. Hence the decision to name it after Cameron.

(Editor's note: The registrar at RHS confirmed the registration of *Phragmipedium Cameron Watters* on November 12, 2007!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 20, 2008 Mario Ferrusi from Marsh Hollow Orchids is the new scheduled speaker. Topic to be announced
- Jan.23-27, 2008 19th World Orchid Congress, Miami Florida, <http://www.19WOC.com/>. Registration packets can be obtained by contacting registration@19woc.com or calling 786-621-9962.
- Feb. 9-10, 2008 The Southern Ontario Orchid Society (SOOS) Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto. Show hours: Saturday: 11:00-5:00pm; Sunday: Photographers only: 9:00-11:00am; public: 11:00-5:00pm. Website: <http://www.soos.ca/>.
- Feb. 17, 2008 Ottawa Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: A Recap of the 19th World Orchid Congress, with a very special plant raffle.
- Feb. 23, 2008 Day bus trip by OOS to Montreal Botanical Gardens
- Mar. 15-16, 2008 30th Annual London Orchid Society Show and Sale, Western Fair Grounds, Special Events Building, 900 King Street, London, Ontario, website: <http://los.lon.imag.net/shows.asp>. Show times: Sat. 12:00-5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00-10:00am artists and photographers only; public: 10:00-5:00pm. Show chair: Jo-Anne Eadie, telephone: 519-471-4643, e-mail: labs.kilworth@sympatico.ca.
- Mar. 16, 2008 Michael MacConaill, our expert AOS photographer in residence, will present Orchid Photography 101, just in time for you to practice your photography skills for the orchid show season!
- Mar.29-30, 2008 Orchidexpo, CEGEP de Maisonneuve, 2700 Ave. Bourbonniere (& Sherbrooke), Montreal. More details to be announced.
- April 19-20, 2008 The Annual Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Show, Chinese Cultural Centre, 5183 Sheppard Ave. East, (Markham Road), Contact person: Louisa Fung, louisafung@rogers.com, telephone: 416-292-9203. Website: <http://www.taoa.ca>.
- April 20, 2008 Henry Steger, a past President of the Ottawa Orchid Society, will speak on Local Orchids – who says you have to go far to see new orchids?
- April 26-27, 2008 27th Ottawa Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale in conjunction with the COC Annual Meeting and Symposium, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa, Ontario. Show Chair: David Cooper, e-mail: orchidae@allstream.net <http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com>. Show times: Sat. 12:00-5:00 pm; Sunday: 9:00-5:00 pm.

Orchids 101 – November 18, 2007

Getting to Know You

Marilyn H.S. Light Copyright 1998

A critical stage during the maturation of an orchid hobbyist is the point at which one realizes that orchid culture is rarely by the book. Books, articles and even club study group sessions can all help to point a grower in the right direction. Written materials can suggest appropriate methods to raise orchids well but until a hobbyist learns how to harmonize their expectations with what a particular orchid can perform, and under which circumstances, what happens with the orchids in their care is largely a matter of chance.

Successful orchid culture begins with GETTING TO KNOW AN ORCHID. Objectives are realized when a grower recognizes that an orchid is thriving under the care provided. Since each orchid by genus, species, hybrid grex and clone behaves somewhat differently to close relatives, the challenge is formidable, and therein lies the reason why so many of us grow orchids - for the challenge!

How do we go about GETTING TO KNOW an orchid?

- 1 – Read, discuss, research
- 2 – Observe daily how the plant grows and responds to our care
- 3 – Keep a diary of plant behaviour, blooming time, flower quality, number of leaves and growths, when it grows and when it does not

How can we sense that an orchid is GETTING TO LIKE the culture provided?

- 1 – Roots grow— into the potting medium or onto a mount, or even out of the pot.
- 2 – Shoots grow — sturdily. With sympodial seedlings (eg. *Cattleya*), new growths are always more substantial than previous. With monopodial seedlings (*Phalaenopsis*), new leaves are wider and longer than previous. Mature plants maintain a high standard of new growth which does not diminish over time.
- 3 – The plant flowers according to its type and in season. Flower quality reflects plant vigour.
- 4 – The orchid is less susceptible to pests and diseases.

Our challenge to get to know our collection and get to know that they all like what we are doing is multi-fold.

- 1 – We must get to know every orchid in our collection.
- 2 – We must strive to provide cultural conditions which cause each plant to perform to the best of its ability.
- 3 – We must learn how to tell when an orchid is thriving.
- 4 – We have to satisfy the varying cultural requirements of an often diverse collection of orchids.

It becomes obvious that a greater chance of success may be had with a more focused selection of orchids having similar cultural requirements. The wise hobbyist selects only those orchids likely to thrive under their growing conditions or adapts the growing environment to meet the needs of the selected group of orchids. Refrigerated cabinets, a series of greenhouses having different growing conditions, and specialist collections all arise from that realization.