



Ottawa Orchid Society  
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This month's meeting...

***Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 1:30 p.m.  
Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview, Ottawa***

**This month's speaker is Mario Ferrusi, a well-known orchidist who has created dozens of hybrids and won numerous prizes and awards. His talk, "Mario's Orchids A to Z", will be a fun look at the wide and varied world of orchids with culture notes peppered throughout. Don't miss this great talk and slide presentation.**

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.***

***NOTE FROM SOCIETY LIBRARIAN***

Happy New Year to you all. I will be bringing a varied selection of books to the meeting in January and would just like to remind members to return any outstanding books you may have

Jane Thompson

## A Note from the President (and Editor)

We witnessed the second heaviest snowfall ever recorded for Ottawa during the weekend of our December meeting. Only 14 people from our Society risked their vehicles and lives to show up to hear a great presentation given by Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics (California). Norito arrived with 3 big boxes of paphs. and flasks and we were the first Society to have a pick of what he brought. Though we were only a small group at the meeting, Norito had such a great sale that he has made a commitment to participate as a vendor at our April show. Norito left on his own by van for Quebec City on Monday to give a presentation to the Quebec City orchid society. Norito was scheduled to return to Montreal to give a presentation to one of the two Montreal orchid societies. It seems that by this time, he had very few things to sell. Thanks go to Marilyn Light and Michael MacConaill for escorting Norito from Montreal to Ottawa, and thank you, Julie Mertens, for accommodating Norito during his time in Ottawa and helping to straighten out everything with the preorders and Sunday sales. Members attending the December meeting were very happy with the presentation and very excited with all their purchases!

We had a modest December show table but there were great plants and we had lots of food brought by our brave and bold members. We had a wonderful time notwithstanding everyone was preoccupied about getting home safe. Everyone did and Norito even became acquainted with a popular Canadian implement called a snow shovel.

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, Canada Post issued four different orchid stamps in various formats: in rolls, booklets and as a souvenir sheet. One of the orchids depicted is a cross produced by Marilyn Light called *Laeliocattleya Memoria Evelyn Light*, named after Marilyn's mother. Another orchid which is depicted is a hybrid produced by Mario Ferussi, *Masdevallia Kaleidoscope "Conni"*. Mario was successful in producing some exceptional plants with this hybrid including one which won a First Class Commendation (FCC) of 90 points and was given a clonal name after Mario's daughter. There is a picture of this cross in this newsletter. Another orchid depicted (on the U.S.- rate stamp) is *Potinara Janet Elizabeth Fire Dancer*. This is a hybrid produced in 1996 by Gorden Heaps of the Alberta Orchid Society. My wife and I happened to be visiting Margaret's family in Alberta when an article appeared in the Edmonton Journal on December 30, 2007 describing the "Local orchid given stamp of approval". Hope everyone gets a chance to pick up examples of these stamps from their local post office before the end of the new year.

Diane Aubry, one of our auction volunteers sent the picture on the right that she took of Marilyn Light and myself when we were auctioning articles at the November monthly meeting. Thank you, Diane, for this photographic souvenir.



We are pleased to announce that a Society member, Linda Schopf, has volunteered to look after the Society exhibit at our annual show in April. Thank you, Linda, for your involvement. It is hoped that folks will pitch in with plants for the Society exhibit as we will need blooming orchids to showcase our Society.

We remain in need of someone to coordinate show security, If interested, please see Dave Cooper or me or send us an e-mail advising us of your interest. Michael Barker will have volunteer sign up lists beginning with the January monthly meeting. We urge members to volunteer as we will need everybody's help this particular year given the numerous activities planned. We have a great line up of speakers for the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) Symposium and are sure that many members, visitors and others will enjoy what has been put together by Jean Hollebhone, our COC representative, and Julie Mertens, who has been assisting Jean. We urge members to register for the COC Symposium as soon as you can, particularly for the banquet as seats to this function will be limited. A registration form will be available on our Society web site as well as in this month's newsletter.

We are also looking for someone or some members who would be interested in erecting an Ottawa Orchid Society display at the Toronto Southern Ontario Orchid Society (SOOS) show this coming February 9-10, 2008. See or contact our Vice President if interested. It's a great show and will give you a chance to buy some great plants with the Society subsidizing a good portion of your traveling expenses.

Rick Sobkowicz

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## MEMBERS' CORNER



Any change in your mail address or e-mail address? If so, please advise **Theresa Lafleur** so that she can update the Society's membership list.

## SOCIETY BULLETIN BOARD



### 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](mailto: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.

## DECEMBER SHOW TABLE JUDGING RESULTS – December 16, 2007

Alliance	Prize-winning plants	Grower
CYMBIDIUM, judged by Michael Lum	1 <sup>st</sup> prize: <i>Cym. Express</i>	Theresa Lafleur
DENDROBIUM, judged by Michael Lum	1 <sup>st</sup> prize: <i>Den. Himezakura 'Sonokku'</i>	Terez Paksi
PAPHIOPEDILUM, judged by Norito Hasegawa	1 <sup>st</sup> prize: <i>Paph. spicerianum</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize: <i>Paph. Saiun*</i> ( <i>sukhakuli 'Fumi' x wardii</i> 'Cherry' AM/AOS)	Theresa Lafleur Theresa Lafleur
MINATURE, judged by Michael Lum	3 <sup>rd</sup> prize: <i>Paph. callosum</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> prize: <i>Tuberolabium kotense</i>	Theresa Lafleur Julie Mertens
MISCELLANEOUS, judged by Michael Lum	1 <sup>st</sup> prize: <i>Rudolfiella picta 'Tres Jolie'</i> AM/AOS	Marilyn Light

And, finally, the **BEST OF SHOW TABLE** choice is *Tuberolabium kotense* grown by Julie Mertens .

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.

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## **JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER - MARIO FERRUSI**

During the Ottawa Orchid Show, April 29 30, 2006, Marilyn Light took the opportunity to interview Mario who lives in Fenwick, Ontario and provided the following profile.

Mario hails from the Niagara region in south-western Ontario and worked as a GM forging press operator. (Editor's note: He recently retired from GM and will be able to devote his complete attention to his wonderful wife, Connie, his two sons, Rhys and Jared and daughter Ilia Lin, and his orchids, and not necessarily in this order of priority.)

**Orchid-related activities:** AOS accredited judge, speaker, breeder, former show chairman for the Niagara Region Orchid Society, Past President of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society with on-going executive duties, proprietor of Marsh Hollow Orchids.

**Most recent accomplishment:** One of Mario's own hybrids, *Masdevallia* Kaleidoscope 'Ilia's Beauty' FCC/AOS 90 points (Cassiope x Copper Wing) was awarded on February 7, 2004. Jay Norris took the photo on the right of Mario's hybrid when it was awarded.

**Began growing orchids:** It all began in 1980 with a *Phalaenopsis* purchased at a garden centre "on a dare by Connie".

**Hybridization interests:** Mario has interests in *Masdevallia*, *Lycaste* and *Odontoglossum* breeding and is now into the third generation with some lines. Some 360 seed lots have resulted from his hybridization attempts. His goal is to see in the next generation, orchids that are more floriferous, more vigorous, and easier to bloom. With *Lycaste*, he is trying to improve shape and segment breadth in *Lyc. skinneri*.



**First hybrid:** In the beginning, hybridization resulted because "both parents were in bloom". The result was his first cross registered as *Masd.* Ilia Lin. Now, everything is thought out beforehand.

**What I enjoy most about seeing a new hybrid bloom for the first time?** Mario recalls the surprise of what you get from a cross.

**Favourite orchid in my collection:** *Wilsonara* Hambuhren Stern 'Ilia Lin' AM/AOS which was awarded in 1988. He has grown it for 20 years and it continues to delight every time it blooms.

**Real Passion:** All orchid activities, especially interactions with orchid people.

**My views on conservation:** Would love to see CITES simplified. "If it worked properly, it would be a great thing" but plants are lost because of so-called conservation. "The more we lose, the poorer we are for it". We owe it to species to try to get seed and propagate them in flask.

**Hobby:** Gardening, especially for the fresh vegetables.

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## CANADA POST ISSUES NEW STAMPS OF ORCHIDS

Definitives: Flowers (Orchids)  
Issue Date: 12/27/2007

Four Canadian hybrid orchid species come to life on this quartet of definitives, which includes a domestic rate stamp, a U.S. rate stamp, an oversized rate stamp and an international rate stamp.



- 101334 Coil of 100 stamps - Domestic \$52
- 101335 Coil of 50 stamps - United States \$48
- 101336 Coil of 50 stamps - Oversized \$57.50
- 101337 Coil of 50 stamps - International \$80
- 111184 Booklet of 6 stamps - United States \$5.76
- 111185 Booklet of 6 stamps - Oversized \$6.90
- 111186 Booklet of 6 stamps - International \$9.60
- 401337145 Souvenir sheet of 4 stamps \$4.23
- 401337144 Official First Day Cover \$5.23

The following article was published in Canada's Stamp Details (Vol. XVII No 1; January to March 2008)

When many of us think of orchids, we think of delicate flowers that thrive only in warm, tropical countries or climate controlled greenhouses. These were also stamp designer Sophie Lafortune's thoughts before she began her research for a new set of

stamps featuring Canadian orchid hybrids. Lafortune soon discovered that orchids live in a wide range of environments in every continent with the exception of Antarctica.

Throughout the ages, these flowers have played varying roles in different cultures. Among other things, they've represented virility to the ancient Greeks, been used as aphrodisiacs in medieval times and appeared as exotic ingredients in Asian recipes. The *Vanilla planifolia*, native to Mexico and Central America, is the chief source for the popular baking ingredient, vanilla.

Of the tens of thousands of orchid species that have been identified in the world, about 80 of these can be found living in Canada in areas extending from Newfoundland and Labrador to British Columbia.

"It was interesting to learn that many orchids actually thrive in Canada," says Lafortune, who along with design partner Monique Dufour and Montréal artist Sigmond Pifko, brought four orchid species to life on this new set of definitives. Issued on December 27, 2007, this lovely quartet of stamps features a PERMANENT™ stamp, a U.S. rate (96¢), an oversized (\$1.15), and an international rate (\$1.60) stamp.

"These particular orchids were chosen based on variation in shape, size and colour – as well as the region in which they grow in Canada, says Lafortune. Each stamp shows two angles of the flower, a profile and a front view that help do justice to the beauty, uniqueness and complexity of the flowers. "Pifko's beautiful original illustrations enabled us to capture the intricate details of each flower better than photography could," says Lafortune.

Creating gorgeous flower and plant works of art for stamp designs is not new for Pifko, whose beautiful illustrations have adorned many Canada Post issues in the past. Most recently, these stamps have included the series of Flowers definitives issued on December 19, 2006. Pifko created these and the most recent hybrid orchid illustrations on board using a combination of acrylic, gouache and watercolour.

The PERMANENT stamp features Odontioda Island Red flowers, which in the spring, exhibit showy eight-centimetre-wide blooms. The parental species of this tenth-generation hybrid are wild New World orchids. The colourful blooms of the Potinara Janet Elizabeth 'Fire Dancer', which appear on the U.S. rate stamp, are influenced in size, colour and shape by four different parents. They are characterized by predominantly yellow blooms with magenta lips that help explain the flower's fiery name.

The oversized rate stamp captures the exquisite *Laeliocattleya Memoria Evelyn Light*, a delightful hybrid that blooms two to three times per year and has the fragrance of spice, lilies and roses. Completing the set is the *Masdevallia Kaleidoscope 'Conni'*, which appears on the international rate stamp. This winter-spring orchid has a wide range of textures, patterns and colours that change in different light, resulting in the kaleidoscope-like appearance for which the flower is named.

"The rest of the stamp was intentionally kept clean and simple," says Danielle Trottier, Manager of Stamp Design and Production at Canada Post. "A white, rather than coloured or natural background, makes the flowers virtually float and pop out of the frame, especially on white envelopes, ensuring that they are truly the focal point of the stamp."

Collectors will also be interested to know that all four stamps appear on a wonderful souvenir sheet.

Did you know?

It is generally agreed that the largest orchid is *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. A mature plant can weigh up to 900 kilograms (2,000 pounds) and is reputed to produce up to 10,000 flowers in nature.

Many countries have adopted different varieties of orchids as their respective national flowers. Some of these nations include Belize (Black Orchid - *Encyclia cochleata*), Cayman Islands (Wild Banana Orchid - *Schomburgkia thomsoniana*), Costa Rica ('Guaria Morada' - *Cattleya skinneri*), Seychelles (Tropicbird Orchid - *Angraecum eburneum*), Venezuela ('Flor de mayo' - *Cattleya mossiae*) and Singapore (hybrid Vanda Miss Joaquim).

Many tropical orchids grow on trees or rocks as air plants. These types of orchids are called epiphytes. In more temperate zones, such as in parts of India and Australia, orchids grow in soil.

Orchids even caught the attention of Charles Darwin who used them as the basis of his acclaimed work: "On the various contrivances by which British and foreign orchids are fertilised by insects."

Booklet of 6 stamps  
Oversized



Booklet of 6 stamps  
International



Booklet of 6 stamps  
United States



Coil of 50 stamps  
International  
Price: \$80



Coil of 100 stamps  
Domestic  
Price: \$52



Coil of 50 stamps  
Oversized  
Price: \$57.50



Coil of 50 stamps  
United States  
Price: \$48.00



Product Number: 401337145  
 Layout: Souvenir sheet of 4 stamps  
 Printing Process: Lithography in 8 colours  
 Quantity: 320,000  
 Perforations: 13+  
 Gum Type: P.V.A.  
 Price: \$4.23



Product Number: 401337144  
 Layout: Official First Day Cover  
 OFDC Cancellation Location:  
 Bloomfield Station, Prince  
 Edward Island  
 Quantity: 23,000  
 Price: \$5.23



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 19, 2008 Montreal AOS Judging, Montreal Botanical Garden, 4101 Sherbrooke St. East (& Pie IX Blvd.), 1:00 pm, contact person: Howard Ginsberg, 514-878-1900 or 514-871-0205, e-mail: [orchids@bedfordorchids.com](mailto:orchids@bedfordorchids.com)
- Jan. 20, 2008 Mario Ferrusi from Marsh Hollow Orchids is the January OOS scheduled speaker.
- Jan.23-27, 2008 19th World Orchid Congress, Miami Florida, <http://www.19WOC.com/>. Registration packets can be obtained by contacting [registration@19woc.com](mailto:registration@19woc.com) or calling 786-621-9962.
- Feb.2, 2008 Toronto Centre AOS Judging, 1:00 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto. Contact person: Mario Ferrusi, 905-892-4187, e-mail: [mferrusi@sympatico](mailto:mferrusi@sympatico)
- 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.16, 2008 Montreal AOS Judging, Montreal Botanical Garden, 4101 Sherbrooke St. East (& Pie IX Blvd.), 1:00 pm, contact person: Howard Ginsberg, 514-878-1900 or 514-871-0205, e-mail: [orchids@bedfordorchids.com](mailto:orchids@bedfordorchids.com)
- 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
- March 1, 2008 Toronto Centre AOS Judging, 1:00 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto. Contact person: Mario Ferrusi, 905-892-4187, e-mail: [mferrusi@sympatico](mailto:mferrusi@sympatico)
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:orchidae@allstream.net) <http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com>. Show times: Sat. 12:00-5:00 pm; Sunday: 9:00-5:00 pm.

## **ORCHIDOPHILIA**

### **The Ottawa Orchid Society 27th Show & the Canadian Orchid Congress Annual Meeting and Orchid Symposium Friday, April 25, 2008 to Sunday, April 27, 2008**

The Ottawa Orchid Society is pleased to host the 2008 Canadian Orchid Congress Annual Meeting, and invites and welcomes you to attend the COC meeting and our 27th annual orchid show and sale on April 26 and 27, 2008. A special feature this year will be our orchid symposium, *Orchids around the World*, featuring eight excellent speakers. We hope that many of you will be able to join us!

#### **Registration Costs:**

- ~ The registration package has been set at \$80 for early registrants (before March 20) and \$96.00 after March 20. The registration package includes entry to the show, the symposium and the banquet, as well as access to the OOS lunch area.
- ~ OOS volunteers and vendors may also purchase tickets for the banquet and the symposium. The banquet will cost \$40 per person before March 20 and \$50 per person after March 20. A pass for all eight symposium presentations will cost \$20 before March 20 and \$30 after March 20. Individual symposium presentations will be open to the public for \$5 per lecture.

~ The Banquet will take place at the International Restaurant at Algonquin College, very close to the Show venue. A four course dinner will be offered. (Please advise us of any allergies or dietary restrictions when registering.) There will be a cash bar and an opportunity to view the auction items before the banquet. The International Restaurant is a training school for future chefs and has won awards for the quality of service and food offered. Enjoy this very popular venue and the company of fellow orchidists, including our special speaker, Doug Kennedy of *Orchids in Our Tropics* and our fast-talking auctioneers Rick and Marilyn.

Saturday – April 26:

- 1:00 p.m. Symposium opens (all talks in Salon C)
- 1:05 -1: 50 p.m. Symposium: “La culture des orchidées” (in French) by Julie Mertens, OOS
- 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. Symposium: “Orchids in China” by Marilyn Light, OOS
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. Symposium: “Disas” by John Doherty, Zephyrus Orchids
- 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Symposium: “Bulbophyllums” by Bill Thoms, Florida
- 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Banquet and Auction at International Restaurant , with special guest speaker Doug Kennedy, *Orchids in our Tropics*

Sunday – April 27:

- 11:00 -11:45 p.m. Symposium: “ Orchid Culture” by Bill Thoms
- 12:00 -12:45 p.m. Symposium: Mini Cattleyas in the 21st Century” by Howard Ginsberg, Bedford Orchids
- 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. Symposium: “Paphiopedilums” by Norito Hasegawa, Paphanatics
- 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Symposium: “Phrag. kovachii” by Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name :

Address : .....

.....

Phone number : .....

E-mail address : .....

Society affiliation : .....

Please check where appropriate:

I am registering for the show, symposium and banquet (\$80 if registered before March 20 or \$94 after March 20)

I am registering for the Show and Symposium only (\$47 before March 20, \$66 after March 20)

I am registering for the Show and Banquet only (\$60 before March 20, \$86 after March 20)

I will require #additional tickets for the Banquet at \$40 each if registered before March 20 or \$50 after March 20

Cheques should be made payable to the Ottawa  
Orchid Society and mailed with the registration  
form to: Jean Hollebhone, 1176 Castle Hill Crescent,  
Ottawa, ON, K2C 2A8.