



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 7 p.m. OOS Board Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 2 p.m. OOS Monthly Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1 October Spike Deadline						

Welcome! Upcoming Activities at a Glance

September 17, 2023: We welcome Terry Kennedy of 'Orchids in Our Tropics', who will be presenting an interesting talk on pseudobulbs.

Thursday, October 12, 2023: Orchids Discussion Group.

Sunday, October 15, 2023: We welcome Thomas Mirenda who will give a fascinating talk on the orchids of Australia.

Thursday, November 9, 2023: Orchids Discussion Group.

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Table of Contents

Upcoming Activities at a Glance.....	1
Board of Directors.....	2
President's Message	3
Program Updates	4
Upcoming Events.....	4
2024 Preview.....	5
Workshops.....	5
Plants Wanted for the Central Ontario Orchid Show.....	5
We Have a New Accredited Judge – Kudos to Jean Hollebone.....	6
Pronunciation Guide.....	6
Orchids Discussion Group – Update.....	7
Volunteer Wanted – Online Auction Chair.....	7
Conservation Corner: Field Trips and Orchid Census.....	8-9
Plants Awarded at Orchidophilia 2023.....	10-12
Montréal Judging Centre.....	13-16
The Toronto AOS Judging Centre	17
Editor's Wrap.....	18

President's Message



Welcome back! I hope you all had a great summer. As usual, it has gone by in a flash and we are back to our regular schedules of school, work – and the love of orchids!

The OOS Board has been working throughout the summer (with a little downtime) to plan for our 2023-24 season. Many thanks to all for their dedication (names on page 2). It is wonderful for me to have a Vice President who is so willing to share her expertise and advice. Thanks Jennie.

The Conservation Committee has also worked hard this summer. We have had two outings to see our local, native orchids and performed the first orchid census at Purdon Fen for quite some time. Many thanks to Daniel Brumar, our Conservation Representative, for his work organizing and collating results and to John Alexander and Jean Hollebhone for their guidance in the field. We look forward to the results of the census which will be analyzed by the Conservation Committee and shared with the membership and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

We have searched for a more central location for meetings, but were not able to locate a suitable venue within our budget for the first half of our season. We will be back at the Nepean Sportsplex in Hall F from September to December with meetings beginning at 2 p.m., but will continue to look for a more central and affordable space for 2024.

Jean Hollebhone has planned an exciting Program for us for the first half of the year, check page 4 for details. For our opening event, we look forward to the return of Terry Kennedy and her talk on pseudobulbs. It will be both a useful and enjoyable presentation. Don't forget to preorder from Orchids in our Tropics! The preorder list has been sent by email.

This season we are planning some exciting additions. We are going to schedule four hands-on workshops on Saturday afternoons at a central location. These are meant to be small groups – two workshops will be for beginners and two for more experienced growers. There will be limited space – so first signed up, first booked in. Please watch for upcoming information, if you are interested.

The second is the return of our auction – but at a new time and format. We are planning an online auction that will take place over two weeks November to December ending a week before our meeting on Sunday, December 17. The distribution of winning items will take place at the December meeting and will be ready for holiday giving! This depends on you – our volunteers. To make this happen, we need to have a volunteer to Chair the Online Auction Committee. Please see page 7 for details, if it is something you would like to do.

Finally, a big thank you to Hang Tran, our new webmaster. She has been working on our new website, Phase 1, which will be released later in September. All the necessary items will be online in Phase 1. We will be adding resources and items of interest over the next few months in Phase 2.

As a final note – don't forget to renew your membership! I look forward to seeing you in September!

Jan Johns

Program Updates 2023

September 2023:

Meeting Location: This meeting will be a hybrid meeting. The Zoom meeting invite will be sent separately.

Meeting Time: Sunday, September 17, 2023, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Hall F, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue; **DOOR 2** (at the rear). Enter Door 2 and go through the next door to your right, and take the stairs to Hall F, overlooking Arena 2. The elevator is to your left upon entering Door 2.

Our speaker for the September meeting is Terry Kennedy of 'Orchids in Our Tropics', long time AOS Orchid Judge and current Chair of the AOS Toronto Judging Centre. She will be presenting an interesting talk on pseudobulbs, those enlarged bulges seen at the base of leaves in *Cattleyas*, *Bulbophyllums* and other orchids, and will indicate how structure affects the culture requirements of these orchids. Their lack of presence in other orchid genera signals different cultural requirements. This is a new, different presentation and should be helpful to all of us in improving the culture of our orchids. Given in Terry's warm, personable style, it should be a delightful presentation and excellent learning experience.

Terry and her husband Doug will also be bringing plants for sale from their orchid greenhouse. Terry has provided an extensive list of what is available. To avoid disappointment, preorders are recommended as they can only bring a percentage of their stock. The Kennedys specialize in species orchids although they sell some hybrids. They are excellent growers, and their material is always in excellent condition, disease and bug free.

Upcoming Events

We have an exciting program lined up for the remainder of 2023:

October 15, 2023:

AOS Ambassador and world orchid traveller Thomas Miranda will present a talk on the orchids of Australia. This is a fascinating talk that covers the native fauna from the orchid-rich area of western Australia near Perth, to desert species in the Outback, to the rich eastern tropical forests of Queensland and the east coast. He will also mention some of the other flowers and wildlife that coexist with orchids in their native habitats. A special talk not to be missed.

November 19, 2023:

This presentation will focus on conservation with a live visit from Peter Tobias, from the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OAC), California. The OAC is one of the largest orchid conservation organizations in the world, having sponsored successful projects in the US, Brazil, Colombia, Madagascar and in Western Canada.

December 17, 2023:

This month will feature our Holiday gathering and a chance to enjoy the festivities of the Holiday season.

Preview for 2024

On **January 21, 2024**, Jean Hollebhone of the Ottawa Orchid Society (AOS Judge) will tell us of her adventures of ‘Finding Orchids in the Amazon’.

On **February 18, 2024**, Joyce Medcalf of the Ottawa Orchid Society (AOS Judge) will provide us with tips and suggestions on ‘How to Set up a Winning Orchid Display’ – just in time to create our own displays at Orchidophilia 2024, next spring.

Speakers for **March 17, 2024** and **May 26, 2024**, are to be determined. If you would like to hear about a specific topic, please drop Jean a line at jean@hollebhone.ca and she will try to line up an appropriate solution/expert.

Workshops

The Society is planning four Saturday workshops throughout the 2023/2024 season – two workshops in the fall and two in the winter/spring term. In each term, one workshop will be aimed at new orchid growers, while the second workshop will target advanced growers. All workshops will be open to all members. Details regarding topic, location, and timing will be provided at the September meeting.

So here’s to happy ‘orchiding’ this year. I’m looking forward to reconnecting this fall with all of you. Contact me if you have suggestions for program improvement.

Jean Hollebhone
Program Chair

Plants Wanted for the Central Ontario Orchid Society Show

The fall show season opens with the Central Ontario Orchid Society (COOS) Show in Hespler, Ontario (near Cambridge, Ontario) on September 23-24, 2023. Jean Hollebhone will be taking the Ottawa display to this Show. If you have one or more blooming plants you would like to enter, please send Jean an email at jean@hollebhone.ca with the name(s) of the plant(s) by Tuesday, September 20. Plants should be groomed to remove dead or spotted foliage and staked for travel. Please check your plant(s) for bugs as infected plants are disqualified before judging.

Please bring your plants to Jean at 1176 Castle Hill Crescent (613-226-2395) by 8 p.m. Thursday, September 22, 2023. Please label each plant pot with your name and phone number on the side of the pot. Address stickers work well.

Please support the COOS Show with your plants. If we do not exhibit in their Show, they are unlikely to do so in ours in April. Please call Jean if you have any questions.

Plants will be returned and ready for pickup late Monday afternoon, September 25, 2023.

Jean Hollebhone
Program Chair

We Have a New Accredited Judge – Kudos to Jean Hollebhone



Congratulations to Jean Hollebhone for becoming an accredited American Orchid Society Judge. She joins Joyce Medcalf and André Couture in this elite group of experts in our Society. We look forward to making a similar announcement for Marie-Josée Bergeron and Mélanie Picard, current student judges, in the future. We are grateful to all of our AOS Judges for their work judging at our meetings and our yearly Show, their dedication to the love of orchids, and their determination and the hard work it takes to qualify as an AOS judge.

Those interested in becoming a judge first apply to be a student at one of the Judging Centres. They follow a minimum of three years (maximum of five years) in an education program under the guidance of their Centre. In our case, this would be either the Montréal Judging Centre or the Toronto Judging Centre depending on the applicant's location. If their progress is deemed appropriate, they are then promoted to Associate Judge. Once an Associate, a further three to five years of study is required. In addition to judging orchids, they must also give presentations and produce a well-researched paper suitable for publication. To maintain accreditation, all judges must participate in a minimum of 12 hours of education and 8 judgings in a calendar year. However, judges are encouraged to attend all 12 judgings at their Centre, as well as judge and/or assist with or set up displays at as many Shows as they can manage.

Are you interested in becoming an accredited Judge? It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about orchids and travel the world as an AOS Judge. Please contact any of our judges to find out more.

Jan Johns
President

Pronunciation Guide

Are you new to orchids or a long-time orchid grower? Do you know how to pronounce the name of your orchid properly?

Here are some examples:

- *Catasetum* (kat-a-SEE-tum)
- *Cattleya* (KAT-lee-a)
- *Chiloschista* (kye-loh-SHIS-ta)
- *coerulea* (see-ROO-lee-a)
- *Gongora* (gon-GOR-ah)
- *Phalaenopsis* (fail-en-OP-sis)
- *Stanhopea* (stan-HOPE-a)
- *Brassavola* (bra-SAH-vohl-la)
- *Lycaste* (lye-KAS-tee)
- *violacea* (vye-oh-LAY-see-a)

Further information can be found on the American Orchid Society website at:

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchidists-glossary.aspx>

A pronunciation guide is included in every monthly issue of 'Orchids' magazine.

Joyce Medcalf

Orchids Discussion Group - Update

The ODG meetings were a great success over the last season and will continue with monthly meetings on Zoom (preregistration is required). Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **October 12, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m.

In preparation for the ODG meetings, you may submit your questions or desired discussion topics in advance to Pat Boisvert, ODG Chair at pat.g.boisvert@gmail.com.

The Plant Corner

If you have problems with a plant and are looking for help, send close-up pictures of the plant along with a brief description and any questions you have. We will dedicate 15 minutes to identify the problem and potential solutions. There will be time for 2 plants per meeting.

Jennie McCloskey will email the question/topic list to OOS Members one week before the ODG meeting date once the meeting dates are determined, along with the link for registration.

We hope you will enjoy participating in the ODG. We look forward to seeing many of you at these meetings.

Pat Boisvert
ODG Chair

Volunteer Wanted – Online Auction Chair

This person will be responsible for organizing the Online Auction that will take place over two weeks (approximately Nov. 26-Dec. 10), including delivery of winning items at the December 17 meeting. Most of the work will take place at the end of October and through November in preparation, and then in the week of December 10-17, to organize delivery of auction items to the winners.

The position involves:

- working with a small team;
- soliciting items from Members and others;
- organizing publicity to our Members about the auction in a timely fashion;
- receiving descriptions and pictures of donated items, editing and uploading them to our 32Auctions site;
- keeping tabs on who donated what, who won what and for how much (a lot of this is completed within the 32Auctions site); and
- sending out notifications and organizing the delivery of the items at the December 17 meeting.

If the timing and the job suits you, please let us know at membership@ottawaorchidsociety.com. For more information, feel free to contact me, Jan Johns (janet.johns@sympatico.ca or 613-253-1996).

Jan Johns
President

Conservation Corner: Field Trips and Orchid Census

This Summer, the Conservation Committee organized two field trips to see some of our native orchids blooming in the wild, as well as a census to help monitor the health of one of Canada's most significant orchid colonies. Three OOS members tell us about their experiences:

1. Mer Bleue field trip to see Pink Lady's Slippers in bloom:

"Saturday June 3rd was a beautiful day. As a new member of the Ottawa Orchid Society I was looking forward to the conservation walk. It seemed like a great opportunity to get to meet some members and also to explore Mer Bleue Bog Trail - a little gem in the Ottawa area. Even though I do not live that far away, sadly, I had never visited the bog before.

What a treasure! I had no clue that this was one of the most studied bogs in the world - and it is right here within our reach. The boardwalk provided many beautiful views while at the same time protecting wildlife and keeping us dry!

Daniel was our Guide Extraordinaire. He was very thoughtful and told us to take a few minutes to look around to be able to find the orchids ourselves. I cannot put into words how much that impressed me, he knew how wonderful it felt to find your own orchid and wanted to gift that feeling to us. It was a wonderful learning moment and I'm sure it helped me to really look at the plant and learn its leaf structure too. I have never seen so many wild orchids in my life.

Everyone on the walk was lovely, we all have varied interests and were able to share interesting tidbits about all sorts of different things in the area, it made the walk all that more enjoyable. We took the time to really look at all the plants, appreciate the biodiversity and natural beauty of the area. Part of the group would go ahead and then the lagging group would find something neat so everyone would take two steps back - making it feel like a dance LOL.

Thank you to Daniel and to all those that came out and helped to make it a special walk for all of us. I wish I would have written everything down that I learned about orchids, plants and wildlife that day, ah well, I guess I will just have to go again next year!"

- Chantel Hutter



Photos by Chantel Hutter

2. Purdon Fen field trip to see Showy Lady's Slippers in bloom:

"I had visited Purdon a few years ago and I had appreciated its beauty back then. But going back as part of the Society and counting the orchids as part of the conservation efforts made me appreciate each and every one even more. It was fun and rewarding."

- Jennie McCloskey

Conservation Corner: Field Trips and Orchid Census (cont.)

3. Purdon Fen census to count Showy Lady's Slippers:

"The field trip organized by the OOS Conservation Committee in June was my first trip to Purdon Fen. Although I had seen Showy Lady's Slippers in bloom before, I was in awe at the sight of hundreds of these beauties in bloom. I subsequently took part in the census at Purdon Fen to measure the health of this large orchid colony and am so glad I did.

The task of counting the orchids was difficult at times – the terrain was difficult and the rain made it even more so. There were times when I really wanted to go home and dry out, but I am happy I stuck it out and I even went back for another counting session a few weeks later. The census was a rare opportunity to participate in fieldwork and make a small contribution to the management and preservation of one of the largest colonies of its kind in Canada. It was also a great opportunity to work with fellow members of the OOS as well as several participants from the Toronto area. In my view, the discovery of seedpods were the most rewarding moments during the census. Thank you to the members of the Conservation Committee for making this possible."

- Andrea Picher

These field trips are a great way to develop awareness of our rich biodiversity, and prompt ordinary people like you and me into conservation action. Thank you to everyone who came on the field trips, and especially thank you to all the census volunteers who donated so much time and effort, through the rain and mud, to help preserve some of our native orchids for all to enjoy. You will hear more about the results of the census soon.

Daniel Brumar

Conservation Chair

Courageous Census Crew at Purdon Fen



From left: Peter Kaellgren, John Alexander, Eamonn Tuck, Daniel Brumar, Andrea Picher, Julia Wither, Jennie McCloskey, Diana Jaber, Ethan Ackermann.
Missing from Picture: Jan Johns, Joyce Medcalf, Pat Vuurman, Pam McLennan, Carol-Ann Chabot

Plants Awarded at Orchidophilia 2023

Photos by Ed Cott

Award	Orchid	Owner
HCC/AOS 78 points	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> (Chienlung Sweetheart x LD Double Dragon) 'Keira'	Crystal Star Nursery



Award	Orchid	Owner
AM/AOS 82 points	<i>Paphiopedilum leucochilum</i> 'Oreo'	David Bryan



Plants Awarded at Orchidophilia 2023 (cont.)

Award	Orchid	Owner
HCC/AOS 78 points	<i>Paphinopea</i> 'Doug Kennedy' 'Red Pterodactyl'	Doug and Terry Kennedy



Award	Orchid	Owner
FCC/AOS 92 points	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Shin-Yi Pride 'Jardin botanique de Montréal'	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Plants Awarded at Orchidophilia 2023 (cont.)

Award	Orchid	Owner
CCM 84 points	<i>Phragmipedium x roethianum</i> 'Céline Camirand'	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Award	Orchid	Owner
Show Trophy Gold Certificate and ST/AOS 90 points	Exhibit 'La Lanterne Magique'	Les Orchidophiles de Montréal



Montréal Judging Centre

The Montréal Judging Centre extends an open invitation to the members of the Ottawa Orchid Society to attend its judging sessions. The Centre meets every month on the third Saturday. The meeting is held at the Jardin botanique de Montréal (JBM) (Montréal Botanical Garden) in the main building.

André Couture

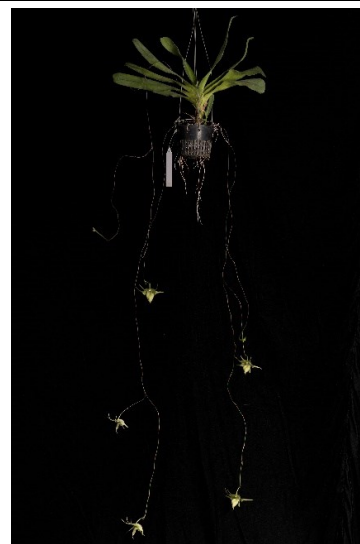
Plants Awarded in June 2023

Photos by Philippe Jolivet

Award	Orchid	
CCM/AOS 83 points	<i>Prosthechea</i> Edith Arakawa 'Raymond Lussier'	Raymond Lussier



Award	Orchid	Owner
AM/AOS 80 points	<i>Aeranthes</i> Hsingying Ramosa 'Memoria Anne-Marie Roy'	Nicole Roy



Plants Awarded in July 2023

Photos by Philippe Jolivet

Award	Orchid	Owner
AM/AOS 82 points	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Les Dirouilles 'Jardin botanique de Montréal'	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Award	Orchid	Owner
HCC/AOS 78 points	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Lussr Michel Tremblay 'Denise'	Raymond Lussier

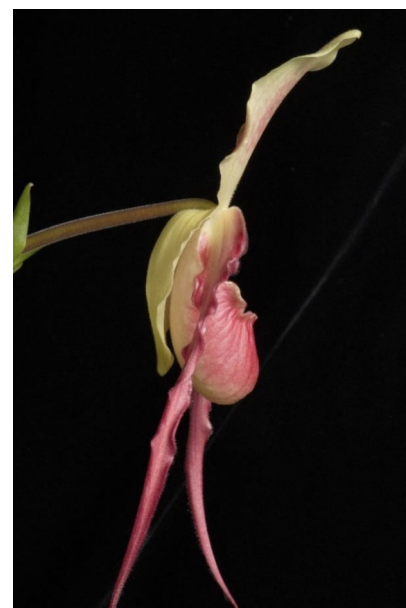


Plants Awarded in July 2023 (cont.)

Award	Orchid	Owner
AM/AOS 80 points CCM/AOS 81 points	<i>Stanhopea stevensonii</i> 'Jardin botanique de Montréal' Award subject to species identification	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Award	Orchid	Owner
AM/AOS 80 points	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Andre Poliquin	Mélanie Picard



Plants Awarded in August 2023

Photos by Philippe Jolivet

Award	Orchid	Owner
CCM/AOS 88 points	<i>Zootrophion vulturiceps</i> 'Jardin botanique de Montréal'	Jardin botanique de Montréal



The Toronto AOS Judging Centre

The Toronto AOS Judging Centre meets on the first Saturday of every month, except in August when the meeting is held on the 2nd Sunday for 'SUMMERFEST'.

The meeting is held at:

Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. East
Toronto, ON M3C 1P2

Everyone is welcome!

Judging meetings

- The meetings start at 10 a.m. with education, and AOS judging beginning at 1 p.m.
- Plant registration takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Judging

- Plants are registered; the Registrar will provide the necessary help.
- Participants must have the full name of the plants (plants with no name cannot and will not be judged).
- Participants must bring a clonal name to assign to the awarded plants (the clonal name is anything the owner chooses; the clonal name must be provided at the judging session).

NOTE:

- Plants must be clean and without pests.
- **While plants are being judged, participants are not allowed to make comments or to intervene;** if there are any questions, these can be answered after judging.
- **You do not have to stay all day. You can be phoned when your plant is ready for pick up.**

Joyce Medcalf

Editor's Wrap



Catasetum tabulare
Photo by
Andrea Picher

Well it's almost a wrap for Summer 2023. I never thought I would say this, but after what feels like 40°C temperatures this week, I am very much looking forward to some cooler fall weather. We have begun the harvest in our vegetable gardens and are very grateful to have tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables in abundance. I am looking forward to filling the freezer, which is great given the price of groceries. Growing our own food is so rewarding. Well almost as rewarding as growing and blooming orchids.

The summer was also busy on the OOS front. Several of us participated in field trips and an orchid census at Purdon Fen. It was such a great experience to see the wild orchids in our area. See the Conservation Corner for information on two nature walks and the census of orchids at Purdon Fen in the summer. It was great meeting and working with everyone at the census.

Jean Hollebone has been busy developing an exciting Program for the 2023/24 season. I am looking forward to the many great speakers as well as a presentation on her trip to the Amazon to 'find orchids'. She is also planning several workshops, so stay tuned for the details. An exciting season ahead.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jean on becoming an accredited AOS Judge. If you read Jan's message, you know that it is quite an undertaking to become an accredited AOS Judge - it takes almost as much time and work as a PhD. Well done Jean!

Lastly, we are always looking for contributions to Spike. If you have pictures of an orchid you bloomed and would like to share, or submit a review on a YouTube Channel or article, please send me an email at andreapicher1@gmail.com.

I hope to see many of you at the first members' meeting of the season.

Andrea Picher
Spike Editor