



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

November 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 7 p.m. Orchids Discussion Group | 10 | 11 |
| 12 7 p.m. OOS Board Meeting | 13 | 14 7 p.m. Conservation Committee Meeting | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 2 p.m. OOS Monthly Meeting | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Last day for Online Auction donations | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 December Spike Deadline | |

Welcome! Upcoming Activities at a Glance

Sunday, November 15, 2023: We are looking forward to welcome Peter Tobias who will talk to us about the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA), California.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023: Conservation Committee Meeting.

Sunday, December 17, 2023: The December meeting will feature our Holiday gathering and a chance to enjoy the festivities of the Holiday season.

Thursday, January 11, 2024: Orchids Discussion Group.

Board of Directors

President

Jan Johns 613-253-1996
janet.johns@sympatico.ca

Vice President

Jennie McCloskey 613-731-5918
jenjm777@gmail.com

Secretary

Pam McLennan 613-710-9336
mclennan48@gmail.com

Treasurer

Douglas Vye 613-722-6738
douglas.vye@sympatico.ca

Membership

Jennie McCloskey 613-731-5918
jenjm777@gmail.com

Program Director

Jean Hollebone 613-226-2395
jean@hollebone.ca

AOS Representative

Joyce Medcalf 613-852-2279
joycemedcalf@gmail.com

COC Representative

Jan Johns 613-253-1996
janet.johns@sympatico.ca

Conservation Representative

Daniel Brumar
DB_4321@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Andrea Picher
andreapicher1@gmail.com

Mailing Address

Ottawa Orchid Society
41 State St.,
Ottawa, ON K2C 4C5
membership@ottawaorchidsociety.com

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Upcoming Activities at a Glance..... | 1 |
| Board of Directors..... | 2 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| Program Updates | 4 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 4 |
| Preview for 2024..... | 4 |
| ORCHIDOPHILIA 2024 IS ON – Save The Dates..... | 4 |
| Online Auction (December 2023)..... | 5 |
| Roehampton Orchids – Pre-orders.....! | 5 |
| Welcome to Our New Members..... | 6 |
| Barker Board for Sale..... | 6 |
| Beautiful Orchid Display by Hesselene Attong..... | 6 |
| Orchids Discussion Group – Update..... | 7 |
| Show-and-Tell..... | 7 |
| Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) Calendars for Sale – Limited Quantity Available..... | 8 |
| Workshop on Flasking with John Barnes October 28, 2023)..... | 8 |
| Orchid Flasking Workshop – The Details..... | 9-12 |
| Sharing My Guiding Thoughts (for beginners and those not so new)..... | 13 |
| Conservation Corner: <i>Ex-situ</i> Conservation..... | 14 |
| Montréal Judging Centre..... | 15-17 |
| The Toronto AOS Judging Centre | 18 |
| OOS Show Table for October 15, 2023..... | 19-24 |
| Editor's Wrap..... | 25 |

President's Message



I am writing this just after Halloween. I hope you all managed to celebrate in the snow! The cold weather sure cut down on the trick-or-treaters in our neighbourhood. Once Remembrance Day is upon us, the cold will stay – and it is on to the Holiday Season.

Good news! Jennie McCloskey and Hesselene Attong have stepped up to co-Chair the annual online auction this December. Many thanks to these very busy ladies. In addition, Ethan Ackermann, Chantel Hutter, Andrea Picher and I will fill out the Committee for now. We are looking for a couple of people to help with collection and distribution at our December 17 meeting. Please let us know if you can assist. This is a change from the past when we used to hold the auction in February. However, the timing of the event will allow us to concentrate on the Show once the December meeting is over. Please search your collections of plants, potting mix, books, or other orchid items for a donation. We are grateful to Roehampton, Manu's Orchids and DFOrganico for offering donations. Funds collected go to our Judging Centres (Montréal and Toronto) and Conservation (see page 5 for details).

More good news! We have signed the contract! Our OOS Show and Sale, Orchidophilia 2024, will be held at Algonquin College on the weekend of April 26-28, 2024. Please SAVE THE DATE! (See page 4 for details.)

Thanks to Jean Hollebhone for organizing the very useful and interesting workshop on flasking with John Barnes and for hosting his visit in her home! Those who attended were excited by the possibilities. It is always rewarding to see our members excited by new events as we move forward (see page 6 for details).

In November we look forward to having Peter Tobias speak to us about the Orchid Conservation Alliance. He was planning to travel to see us in person, but he has opted for joining us on Zoom for this meeting. He will be on Zoom in person to answer questions for sure. We will also be having Roehampton Orchids visit us from Toronto. Make sure you pre-order and take advantage of the discount (see page 57). We will also be selling the outstanding COC calendars – an amazing bargain at \$20 (see page 7). Many of us sent in pictures for the picture competition, but the only picture selected from the Ottawa Orchid Society submissions was Julia Parshina's *Vanda (Neofinetia) falcata*. Congratulations Julia!

See you at the November 19 meeting, in person or online!

Jan Johns

Program Updates 2023

November 2023:

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

Meeting Time: Sunday, November 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.

This month's presentation by Peter Tobias, of the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA), California will focus on conservation. The OCA 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.

Upcoming Events

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 Hollebone 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@hollebone.ca and she will try to line up an appropriate solution/expert.

Jean Hollebone
Program Chair

ORCHIDOPHILIA 2024 IS ON – Save The Dates

Where: Algonquin College, 1385 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa ON

When: Friday April 26, 2024: set-up

Saturday April 27, 2024: morning judging, 12 noon to 5 p.m. open to the public

Sunday April 28: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. open to the public

We need all hands on deck to volunteer for this event. It takes up to 100 volunteers to ensure the Show runs smoothly. Please mark the date in your calendar and plan to help out on that weekend.

If you are interested in serving on the Show Committee, please contact us: janet.johns@sympatico.ca or membership@ottawaorchidsociety.com

Silent Online Auction (December 2023)

The Ottawa Orchid Society will be holding a silent online auction from Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 6 p.m. until Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 9 p.m. The auction will be **open to members of the Ottawa Orchid Society only**.

Call for donations: To make this auction a success, we are asking our membership for donations of orchids, orchid-related books, orchid related art, and orchid supplies that are valued at \$10 or more. If you would like to make a donation in support of your Orchid Society, please send an email to membership@ottawaorchidsociety.com.

Auction donations are to be dropped off at the December 17 meeting **AND** the winning items will be distributed to the winning bidders **AT THE SAME MEETING**.

Stay tuned for additional updates in the coming weeks.

OOS Silent Online Auction Committee

Roehampton Orchids - Pre-orders

We are delighted that Roehampton Orchids will be at our November 19 meeting with orchids to sell. To make sure that you get what you want, pre-orders are recommended. Our members will receive 15% off (20% off for cash orders).

How to take advantage of the pre-orders.

1. Message Roehampton Orchids by using the chat feature at the bottom right of the website <https://roehamptonorchids.ca/>. Request to be enrolled with the Ottawa Orchid Society Members List. You will need to provide your name and email. If they do not get back to you, that is ok. They will email you a response later. You can also request this via social media if you prefer.
2. When you are enrolled, you will have two discount codes to enter when you shop. Both codes need to be entered in the discount box to apply the discount and free shipping.
OttawaOrchidSociety - 15% off order for all members (20% off total if cash)
Ottawapickup - free shipping.
3. You must pick up your order in-person at our meeting on Sunday, November 19, between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Nepean Sportsplex Hall F (Door #2 at the rear of the building).

We are most appreciative to Roehampton Orchids for bringing our orders in person and for donating orchids for our December online auction.

Welcome to Our New Members

I'd like to welcome Heather MacLeod (member #1461) and Sébastien Rivest (member #1462) to our Society. I sincerely hope that they take part in all that our Society has to offer and to learn, enjoy and share in all things related to orchids.

Jennie McCloskey
Membership Chair

Barker Board For Sale

Used 4'x8' Barker Board panels for a grow room. Can fit an 11'x17' size room. Flexible price.



Contact Robert St-Jean at 819-827-8149 for any questions.

Beautiful Orchid Display by Hessalene Attong



Photo by Eamonn Tuck

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, **January 11, 2024**, 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

Show-and-Tell

A reminder that we will hold a Show-and-Tell during the break at our monthly meetings. Do you have a picture of your favourite orchid that came into bloom between meetings? Do you have a picture of an orchid you would have brought to the Show Table but can't this month? We want to see all the orchids you are so proud of. As these will NOT be judged, **photos can be submitted up to the Friday (November 17) before the Sunday meeting**. Please include:

- Your name;
- The name of the orchid; and
- A very brief sentence on growing conditions (i.e., is it under LED lights, in a southeast window, above a tub of water for humidity? Why does it do so well for you?).

Please send good quality pictures in an email (separate emails for each orchid please) to Jan Johns at janet.johns@sympatico.ca. I will compile them into a slideshow. They may even get into Spike or on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

Jan Johns
President

Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) Calendars For Sale – Limited Quantity Available

The COC calendars will be available for sale at the November 19 meeting.

Cost: \$20, you can pay by cash, cheque, or e-transfer.

The photos are stunning, including one by Julia Parshina of the OOS, and there are orchid culture tips throughout. The monthly Orchid Task Checklist is very useful. We have only 30 copies left, so make sure you get yours at the November meeting.

Please note: If you miss out and did not get a copy, please let us know. We may be able to do a second order in time for the December 17 meeting.



Calendar Front Page



Julia Parshina's calendar page

Workshop on Flasking with John Barnes (October 28, 2023)

On October 28, sixteen of our members met at the Nepean Centrepointhe Library for a workshop on how to grow orchids from seed. John Barnes was an excellent speaker who went through the process with us and shared flasks of the three stages of growth. Flasking is a long process that requires sterile procedures, but so exciting. It was amazing to see the millions of seeds from a single seed pod.

There were flasks of 4-5 plants for sale. The enemy of orchid flasking is mold. If you purchased a flask with mold, please contact John at flaskingcanada@gmail.com. He will replace if possible, or return your funds. We have started an email group for those interested in flasking to exchange information. If you would like to join the group, please let us know: membership@ottawaorchidsociety.com.



John Barnes demonstrating flasking techniques.

Photo by Jan Johns

Jan Johns
President

Orchid Flasking Workshop –The Details

Led by John Barnes, Southern Ontario Orchid Society

October 28, 2023

Photos by Jan Johns

1. Preface

- As a matter of background, John indicated that he started with one orchid to fill a window space, but over time his collection grew to fill a very large greenhouse.
- Mold is the enemy of successful flasking. When you see it, best to throw out the flask and start again.
- Maxim, if you can get someone else to do your flasking, do it. It is probably cheaper and easier.

2. Germination in the wild

When the seed pod breaks open 6-800,000 seeds are released and dispersed by wind/air currents. To germinate naturally, a seed must land on an appropriate site, with a secure landing site, nutritive sugar source and moisture. Time from seed pod formation to splitting varies depending on species, e.g., *Cattleya* take 9 months to 2 years, *Ludisia* take 3 weeks, *Phalaenopsis* take 3 to 6 months, depending on size.

3. Germination in cultivation

Germination occurs usually about two weeks after sowing, but this and the growth rate vary with species, some may take up to 14 months to germinate. *Phals* are among the fastest, usually taking from 18 months up to 2 1/2 years from germination to flowering.

Best time to pollinate: 3 to 4 days after flowers open or when a flower has reached its best colour.

Highest germination rate occurs when the seed pod splits (> 90 %) or just before seed pod opens (get close to 100% germination).

The two methods to process a seed pod:



Cattleya seed pod

Green Pod

A green pod has not opened yet, can be easily manipulated and surface sterilized.

Dry Seed

The more laborious process of the two, the seeds are obtained once the pod has opened, or they may have been stored from earlier use. If they have been exposed to the elements, they will be contaminated requiring cleaning to sterilize them, hopefully removing all mold.

4. Materials required

Autoclave, use a pressure cooker, or some other method to sterilize bottles, tools and other equipment.

- Hydrogen peroxide, sterilant, add one drop of liquid dishwashing soap to the peroxide, agitate gently, do not shake to mix.
- Alcohol 70% isopropyl (from drugstore), sterilant.
- Bleach, sterilant (for equipment like tweezers); add one drop of liquid dishwashing soap to the bleach/water mixture, agitate gently, do not shake to mix.
- Tweezers (9 inches).

Orchid Flasking Workshop – The Details (cont.)

- Disposable plastic pipettes.
- Flasks (very small 1-3oz jars, small jam jars, baby food and Mason jars, 250 & 500 ml see-through plastic containers with lids). Lids should have a small hole made in top to allow air pressure exchange. Cover hole with a round bandage to keep mold out. John uses Nexcare ‘button’ bandages as they will survive repeated uses in the autoclave.
- Coffee filters for storage of unused seed.

Flasking Media: P668 from Phytotech Labs is readily available and will germinate most orchids.

Note: Although P668 is available on Amazon, it is considerably more expensive than a direct purchase from Phytotech Labs in the U.S. They also have a division in Montréal (refer to page for details).

- One litre distilled or reverse osmosis (RO) water (not salt-treated or water softener water).
- Physan 20, liquid sterilant, fungicide.

Note: P668 germination medium is an all-purpose germination medium that works well for a broad range of epiphytic orchids. Generally, as the medium for tropical terrestrials differs from epiphytes you'll need to add proportionately more P668 for *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums*. P668 is not recommended for temperate terrestrials such as *Cypripediums* (see other media for that genus). P668 is the old standby based on Murashige and Skoog basal salt medium with 20 g of sugar and all the other requirements (inositol, peptone, B vitamins, the whole kitchen sink is in there). It is inexpensive and reliable. Sold as a packet ready for mixing with one litre of water, contains gelling agent (agar). One litre of medium makes 25-40 baby food jar mother flasks.

Please remember though that packet products are full strength, so using it at half strength affects all the contents including the agar. The P668 label shows 27.31 g per litre; however, most recipes call for “half strength” being 13.5 g per litre.

5. Making the media

Please note, some websites will recommend adding pineapple to the mixture, this is done to sabotage your work. Pineapple contains a very strong digestive enzyme and will actually destroy your agar, turning the mixture to a fluid and will also literally eat the seeds.

The following recipes are for one litre of media, you can adjust the required volume by the proportionate ratio. Make a 250 ml batch of **germination media without agar**; this will be used during the germination flasking process.

- **Germination Media**

To one litre distilled water, add 13.5g of P668, 5g of white table sugar, and 7g of agar. Optional is the addition of 150ml of fresh coconut water, but not required.

- **Replate Media**

To one litre distilled water, add 13.5g of P668, 5g of white table sugar, 75g of steamed pureed white potato and 7g of agar. No Coconut water (I usually put the finished potato in a blender to puree it).

Orchid Flasking Workshop – The Details (cont.)

• **Final Replate Media**

To one litre distilled water, add 13.5g of P668, 5g of white table sugar, 25g of green unripe banana, 75g of steamed pureed white potato and 7g of agar. No Coconut water (I usually put the finished potato in a blender to puree it).

If final replate jars/vials are to be shipped, you can use up to 9g agar in medium. It will be a very stiff medium, but will hopefully survive shipping and will keep the plantlets better secured.

Preparation

Have your jars ready and as clean as possible. Bring contents of the pan with the media to a rolling boil and stir constantly or the mixture will stick to the pot, resulting in weak media and great difficulty cleaning the pot. Once it reaches the near boiling point, be prepared to quickly move the pot from the heat as it will very quickly swell and overflow, similar to boiling potatoes, but faster and very messy. Using a ladle, stir the mixture with each pickup, pickup and pour about a half inch layer of the liquid into each jar, one inch for replate and final flasks. Autoclave or sterilize for 15 minutes.

Remove the flasks from the autoclave while still warm, placing them on a flat surface. If not flat, the media will set solid on an angle, causing your germination seeds to swim to one edge. I usually fill a jar about half inch (1 cm) until the curve at the bottom of the jar is covered and liquid rests against straight walls of jar (makes it more steady in handling). Autoclave following label instructions, use all safety precautions and do not leave unattended at any time. Make enough media to be used within 30 days; media is best used within 4-6 months. At the 2 month mark, it's starting to get pretty hard to work with, making seedling removal later quite challenging.

6. Sterilizing

Green pod: In a laminar flow chamber or in a “clean room”, put green seed pods in hydrogen peroxide, remove the pod after a minute or two and rub it with an old toothbrush to remove bubbles, and then leave re-submerged for 15 minutes. Remove and let dry. With a sterilized knife cut or bend seed pod to open along dehiscence lines, remove a small amount of seed by tapping the pod and disperse over sterile media. Seal bottle and store.

Dry Seed: (For most Orchids except for *Paphiopedulums*, *Phragmipediums*, *Cypripediums* and some others) For dry seeds, place the seeds in a very small, 1-3 ounce (30-90 ml) jar, add ½-1 ounce (15-30ml.) of 3% hydrogen peroxide. Shake the seed mixture occasionally. After 15 minutes, pour the mixture onto a sterile piece of cloth, using a pipette. Use the non-agar media fluid to “steer” the seeds to the edge of the cloth, pick up the cloth with the tweezers and squirt a small amount of fluid above the seeds causing them to drip into the jar, agitate the jar to spread the seeds around; add a few drops of the liquid if required to disperse the seeds around the jar.

Paphs and Phrags: While the green seed pod can be processed normally, the seeds require a completely different and gentle technique. Mix an amount of tap water, about a cup or two, with one heaping spoonful of sugar and one drop of liquid dishwashing detergent. Stir gently until dissolved. Into a small 1-3 oz jar add seeds and fill the jar ¾ full of the water solution. Shake well and let sit for 24 hours shaking occasionally (this process will bring the mold to life, making it easier to kill). The previous step may be performed anywhere.

Orchid Flasking Workshop – The Details (cont.)



Stage 2 flask

After 24 hours and in the laminar flow chamber, place a sieve into a bowl, place a sterile cloth into the sieve and gently pour the seed mixture onto the cloth, allowing the fluid to drain away. Start your timer and using a pipette, flood the seeds with alcohol/soap mixture for seven minutes, then rinse the seeds with autoclaved distilled water for two minutes. Next, flood the seeds with hydrogen peroxide every minute for five minutes, followed by a two minute water rinse.

Once complete, use the pipette and water to steer the seeds to the edge of the cloth. Pick up the cloth using the tweezers and with the pipette loaded with non-agar germination fluid, transfer the seeds to the media, swirling the seeds to spread them out using a few more drops of the pipette media if necessary. Replace the lid and place the jar in a low light warm location (the seeds may take up to twelve months to germinate).

7. Replating



Stage 3 flask

About two weeks after the initial plating a green fuzz should be seen across the surface of the flask or jar. Check for mold and discard any flasks with mold. Replate into a new flask. Choose the largest plantlets to transplant up to around 25 per bottle (or choose your own number). John prefers to plant about 10 per bottle, giving more growing space and producing an enhanced growing rate than if too crowded. When plants are *circa* half an inch high, replate again into the third flask with less agar, choosing the biggest of the plants.

When plants are getting too big for the flask, they are ready to be planted into community pots. Go to a sink, gently shake plants out of the flask into a strainer or colander and run lukewarm water gently over them to separate off large clumps of agar, then rinse them with Physan 20. Plant the seedlings directly into moist sphagnum. For the first and second waterings, use half strength Physan 20 to cut down on antimicrobial contamination of newly potted seedlings.

8. Storing Seeds

Remaining dry seeds can be stored in coffee filter paper in a cool, dry area for up to one year.

9. Sources for media and small supplies:



Stage 4 flask

Amazon: [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)

eBay: <https://www.eBay.ca>

Boreal Science: <https://www.boreal.com/>

PhytoTech Labs: <https://phytotechlabs.com>

PhytoTech Canada, contact Eric Michell at eric@phyto-sciences.com

Hydroculture Emporium, 1315 Richmond Rd., Ottawa

Physan 20 is also available from some vendors at Orchid Shows.

John Barnes

Sharing My Guiding Thoughts (for beginners and those not so new)



Vanda Pachara Delight
Photo by
Hessalene Attong

Adapt your mindset. As a life-long grower, my mindset has evolved to be more open to seeking different platforms to grow my knowledge, kindness to myself when appreciating failure and resilience to get back up and try again (if not the same genus, then another).

Remember to have fun. You're learning about a new genus/orchid, explore all of the facets of growing (good/bad/in-between). It's only when you get to know challenges intimately that you can become more innovative with effective methods for successful resolution. Growth is not always about all the fun aspects growth = challenge. I believe wisdom demands adversity and I no longer see it as a negative.

Build resilience. Too often, I got bogged down by stressing about neglect, watering frequency, no blooms and pests. Grow orchids to adapt to your conditions, cultivate and appreciate new leaves and roots. If you can do that, then those blooms will follow. If you lose an orchid, go buy another one and use what you learned previously to move forward. Do more research. Try again. Repeat. These are life-long skills and lessons to hone.

Re-evaluate your orchid collection (read, edit those that aren't thriving) to grow those that will thrive or can adapt to your grow environment or lifestyle. BUT, for those truly stubborn souls (like myself) who embrace challenge . . . adapt your growing environment or lifestyle for that nearly-impossible-to-grow orchid. Understanding that there may be/will be a steeper learning curve. I can tell you that success is so sweet when it happens!

Visit your orchids every day and take them in (close-up), especially when not in bloom. It can be as little as five minutes or longer, if you have the time. If your pet walked up to you and demanded to be acknowledged and loved, you'd unconsciously pet them. So, why not? Make it a routine that becomes unconscious, bring your coffee and sip while inspecting (a new leaf, swollen node/bud, new root, media). With early vigilance, pests do not get a foothold to become "real work" to eradicate.

Every greenhouse grower (large or small) or successful orchid hobbyist that I personally visited always checked on their orchids every day - not just when it was watering time. One small-scale grower walks around his greenhouse with a glass of wine or a cappuccino (depending on time of day) and takes in his orchids, removing spent flowers, noting coming blooms, the need for repotting, etc. When I made this observation and compared it to mine at the time, I realized that I was only looking at my orchids maybe once or twice a week . . . only when I watered. Once I changed my routine, my growing success spiked as did my watering schedule. Not all orchids need watering at the same time, nor do they all dry out at the same speed. Yet, we water ALL of our orchids on the same day, whether they need it or not, and then issues pop up. Getting to know your orchids and their requirements takes slowing down your expectations and leads to an appreciation of slow living and greater happiness. So needed in our fast-paced lives. This action of connecting with living green plants in our homes, biophilia, can ease anxiety/stress and give our bodies/minds a boost by flooding us with positive emotional feelings. I like to refer to these feelings as DOSE (Dopamine, Oxytocin, Serotonin and Endorphins). I may not have a doseatron (water powered dosing equipment), but I get my daily dose several times a day, every day.

Hessalene Attong

October 2023

Conservation Corner: *Ex-Situ* Conservation

While *in-situ* (on-site) conservation is always preferred, this is not always possible. In the midst of extreme poverty, famines and warzones, in the aftermath of hurricanes, or when people are fleeing wildfires, nature conservation is the last thing on people's minds. *Ex-situ* (off-site) conservation like zoos and botanical gardens offer a back-up plan in the event that we cannot save species in the wild.

So here is a thought experiment: What if each of the 8,000,000,000 people on earth decided to do a tiny bit of gardening, and chose just **one** specimen to grow of just **one** of the 400,000 plant species in the world? There would be a whopping 20,000 specimens(!) of **every plant species** - 100 of each just in Canada - backed up in safe places in case disaster strikes in the wild. That's 20,000 specimens of every single species of orchid, every tree and cactus, every dandelion and aster, every fern, moss, cactus, bromeliad, aquatic plant, grass, and liverwort alike. This demonstrates both the staggering diversity of plants, and our own staggering population. For critically endangered species whose populations often comprise just hundreds or dozens of individuals, this would also represent a huge population boost.

But *ex-situ* conservation is not without its troubles. In order to be effective, there needs to be a means to keep track of *ex-situ* plants, and a viable path towards their reintroduction in the wild if and when the need arises. Luckily a few institutions have started doing this. BGCI PlantSearch (plantsearch.bgci.org) is one such database for tracking and exchange of living plants, seeds, and pollen among botanical gardens around the world, and the Center for Plant Conservation's Reintroduction Database (saveplants.org/reintroduction-database) monitors the success of reintroduction efforts in the United States. Another challenge of *ex-situ* conservation is maintaining a gene pool that is large and diverse enough to represent the species. Gardeners have a habit of selecting plants that are more vigorous and floriferous, meaning that vital traits like adaptability to habitat conditions, pollinator attraction, and disease resistance are easily lost over time in captivity. Captivity is not a long-term solution to protecting endangered species.

Finally, *ex-situ* conservation should never be taken as a substitute for preserving and restoring natural habitats. Species don't mean much outside the context of the other species that they co-evolved with. What good does it do to reintroduce an endangered *Angraecum* back into the wild, if the only moth species that can pollinate it is extinct? Plants need to be protected together with the pollinators, seed dispersers, herbivores, trees, *mycorrhizal* fungi, decomposers, megafauna, and other keystone species that they are intimately linked with. The only effective way to do this is to leave large areas of wilderness untouched.

That doesn't mean *ex-situ* conservation isn't important too. If you have a substantial orchid collection, take a closer look. Do you have any rare species (not hybrids) that might have conservation value? Can you connect with other growers of that species to share pollen? Does your favourite orchid nursery have a plant collection that is connected in a database such as BGCI's PlantsSearch?

Daniel Brumar
Conservation Chair

References:

BGCI Plant Search. (2023). "A global database of living plant, seed and tissue collections, with 1,052,593 records representing 263,089 taxa from 970 institutions worldwide." Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Richmond, U.K., <https://plantsearch.bgci.org>.

Center for Plant Conservation (2023). "Reintroduction Database". Center for Plant Conservation, Escondido, U.S. <https://saveplants.org/reintroduction-database>.

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 October 2023

Photos by Philippe Jolivet

| Award | Orchid | Owner |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CCM/AOS 85 points | <i>Cattlianthe</i> Portia 'Jardin botanique de Montréal' | Jardin botanique de Montréal |



| Award | Orchid | Owner |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CCM/AOS 84 points | <i>Maxillaria bracteata</i> 'Jardin botanique de Montréal' | Jardin botanique de Montréal |



Plants Awarded in October 2023 (cont.)

| Award | Orchid | Owner |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CCM/AOS 80 points Award subject to species identification | <i>Cyrtochilum divaricatum</i> 'Jardin botanique de Montréal' | Jardin botanique de Montréal |



| Award | Orchid | Owner |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| AM/AOS 83 points | <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Paul Parks 'Jardin botanique de Montréal' | Jardin botanique de Montréal |



Plants Awarded in October 2023 (cont.)

| Award | Orchid | Owner |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CCM/AOS 80 points | <i>Phragmipedium</i> Fremont Point 'Jardin botanique de Montréal' | Jardin botanique de Montréal |



| Award | Orchid | Owner |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CCM/AOS 86 points | <i>Bulbophyllum sicyobulbon</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

OOS Show Table for October 15, 2023

| ALLIANCE | RIBBON AWARD | NAME OF PLANT | OWNER |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Cattleya Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf | 1st | <i>Cattleya Cruella (Cattleya tenebrosa x Cattleya tigrina)</i> | Tommy Wingreen |
| | 2nd | <i>Cattleya Mareeba Tiger (Cattleya tigrina x Cattleya schilleriana (1857))</i> | Monique Savard |
| | 2nd | <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hsinying Williette (Cattleya Tokyo Magic x Rhyncholaeliocattleya Williette Wong)</i> | Masa Matsuo |
| | 3rd | <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya Mark's Valentine (Cattleya Circle of Life x Rhyncholaeliocattleya Little Toshie)</i> | Masa Matsuo |
| | 3rd | <i>Cattleya Patricio Almeida (Cattleya Cruella x Cattleya Maria Ozzella)</i> | Masa Matsuo |
| Cypripedium Alliance Paphiopedilum Judged by | 1st | <i>Paphiopedilum philippinense</i> | Serge Croteau |
| Phalaenopsis Alliance Judged by André Couture | 1st | <i>Phalaenopsis No Name Hybrid</i> | Maria Martins |
| | 2nd | <i>Phalaenopsis No Name Hybrid</i> | Monique Savard |
| | 2nd | <i>Phalaenopsis No Name Hybrid</i> | Ann Smutylo |
| | 3rd | <i>Phalaenopsis No Name Hybrid</i> | Chantel Hutter |
| | 3rd | <i>Phalaenopsis No Name Hybrid</i> | Ian Philips |
| Oncidium Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf | 1st | <i>Oncidium Twinkle 'Red Fantasy' (Oncidium cheirophorum x Oncidium sotoanum)</i> | Ian Philips |
| Dendrobium Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf | 1st | <i>Dendrobium No Name Hybrid</i> | Hessalene Attong |
| | 2nd | <i>Dendrobium No Name Hybrid</i> | Hessalene Attong |
| | 3rd | <i>Dendrobium Raspberry Stripe (Unconfirmed name)</i> | Ann Smutylo |
| Vanda Alliance Judged by André Couture | 1st | <i>Aerangis (distincta x modesta)</i> | Tommy Wingreen |

OOS Show Table for October 15, 2023 (cont.)

| ALLIANCE | RIBBON AWARD | NAME OF PLANT | OWNER |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Lycaste Alliance Judged by André Couture | 1st | <i>Zygonisia</i> Cynosure 'Blue Birds' AM/AOS (<i>Aganisia cyanea</i> x <i>Zygopetalum Skippy Ku</i>) | Serge Croteau |
| | 2nd | <i>Coelogyne bracteosa</i> (Syn. <i>Dendrochilum longifolium</i>) | Ann Smutylo |
| | 3rd | <i>Zygom</i> Louisendorf grex 'Rhein Moonlight' AM/AOS (<i>Zygosepalum labiosum</i> x <i>Zygopetalum Artur Elle</i>) | Maria Martins |
| Best of Show Table Judged by André Couture Joyce Medcalf | | <i>Paphiopedilum philippinense</i> | Serge Croteau |
| Member's Choice Judged by Nick Cox | | <i>Paphiopedilum philippinense</i> | Serge Croteau |

Member's Choice Comments

A beautiful plant with nicely shaped flowers. It looks well looked after.

Best of Show Table and Member's Choice

Serge Croteau with his *Paphiopedilum philippinense*.

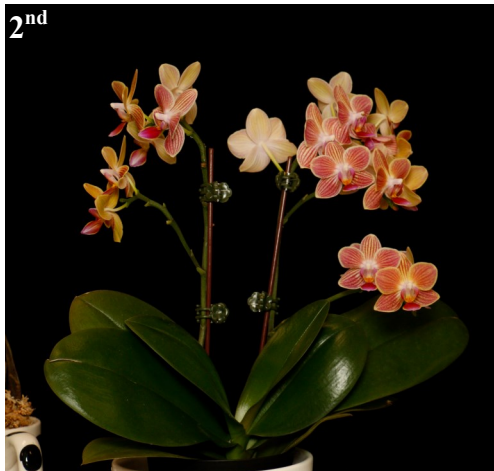
Show Table Photos by Eamonn Tuck



Cattleya Alliance



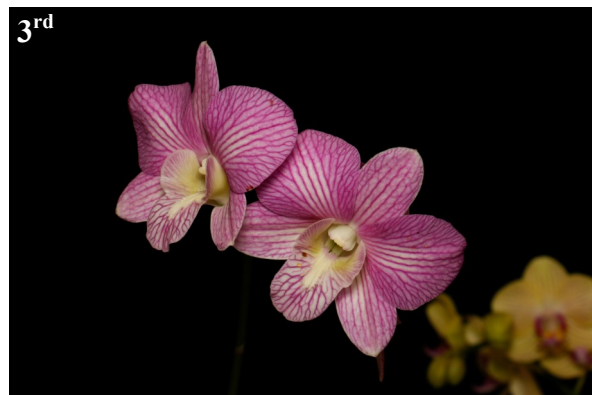
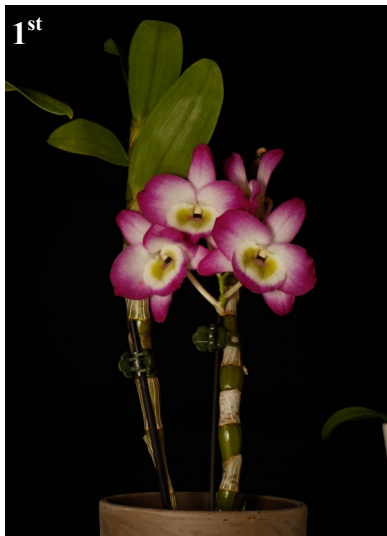
Phalaenopsis Alliance



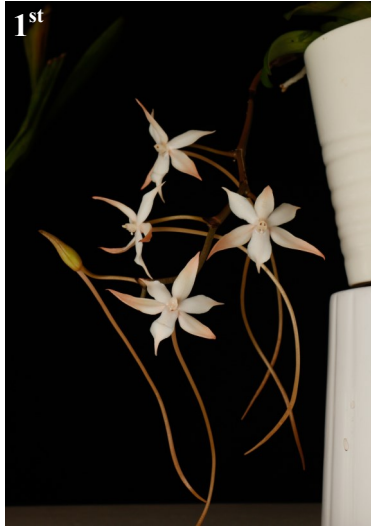
Oncidium Alliance



Dendrobium Alliance



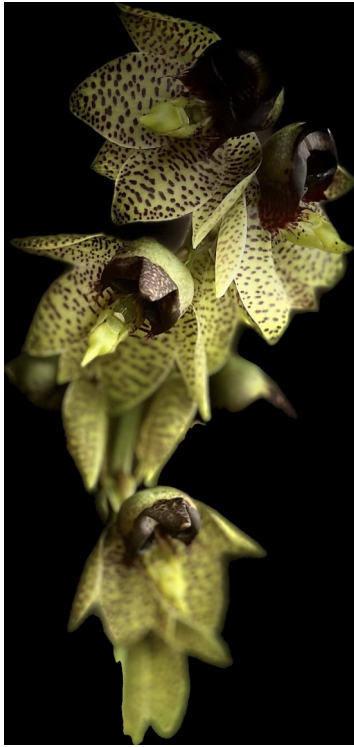
Vanda Alliance



Lycaste Alliance



Editor's Wrap!



Catasetum sanguineum (*Ctsm. sanguineum* 'Monkey Face' x *Ctsm. sanguineum* 'Excellent Shape')

Photo by Andrea Picher

Oh no! Cold weather season is upon us... I am definitely not a fan, but am trying to look on the bright side. With the work in the garden complete (well almost), I have more time to spend with my orchids. On the really cold days, I like to stay inside, wrapped in a warm blanket reading a book and cuddling with my four (yes four!) poodles. Except for the first week of the month, when I'm busy putting together the Spike Newsletter, admiring all the beautiful pictures from the Show Table and taking in all the interesting articles that members have submitted. So winter is not that bad, not bad at all.

I enjoyed several orchid blooms in the past month, but my favorite was *Catasetum sanguineum* (*Ctsm. sanguineum* 'Monkey Face' x *Ctsm. sanguineum* 'Excellent Shape') - see photo to the left. Not only does this orchid have beautifully weird flowers, it also has an incredible scent. I truly enjoyed its blooms while they lasted and am looking forward to its blooms next year.

Catasetum season is almost over for me. I only have one late bloomer, which is in spike and should be blooming in the next few weeks. Most of my other plants are getting ready to rest. Watering has slowed down and they are no longer getting fertilizer. Leaves are starting to yellow and by the end of December they should all have entered dormancy, except for my only *Cycnoches*, which I purchased at the Show in April. It is having a very difficult time recovering from being transported bare-rooted, but there are signs (a new growth and roots) that it may survive after all.

My collection includes quite a few *Catasetums*, which means that my workload of orchid-related tasks will be considerably reduced during the winter months when they are all dormant. This will allow for extra time to repot non-*Catasetum* orchids that need it and to reorganize my grow space, which has become quite chaotic during the past few months. This doesn't mean that I don't pay attention to the *Catasetums*. I do check them regularly, making sure the bulbs don't shrivel too much and if they do, I give a bit of water. I also watch the pseudobulbs for rot, so I can catch it early and of course starting the end of February, I will be on the lookout for the ever anticipated little nubbins that signal new growths.

How are you growing your *Catasetums*? Have you reduced watering and fertilizing yet?

Happy growing...and see you at the meeting on November 19.

Andrea Picher
Spike Editor