



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 6 p.m. Silent Online Auction starts	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9 p.m. Silent Online Auction ends	11	12 7 p.m. Conservation Committee Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 2 p.m. OOS Monthly Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	1 January New Years Day	2 January Spike Deadline				

Welcome! Upcoming Activities at a Glance

Sunday, December 10, 2023: OOS Board Meeting.

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

Tuesday, January 9, 2023: Conservation Committee Meeting.

Thursday, January 11, 2024: Orchids Discussion Group.

Sunday, January 21, 2024: Jean Hollebhone of the Ottawa Orchid Society (AOS Judge) will speak to us about her adventures of 'Finding Orchids in the Amazon'.

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President's Message



And now we are in the Holiday Season! I hope that your plans – whether a quiet Holiday with a few, or a huge celebration with many – are going well...and as always, safe travels.

Last meeting gave us an interesting insight into the threats and the preservation of orchids and more in highly biodiverse areas of South America. Peter clearly outlined the issues and offered some solutions in which all of us can participate. If you have not yet supported the Orchid Conservation Alliance, why not gift someone who loves orchids with a donation in their honor? For information go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OrchidConservationAlliance/>.

Speaking of gifts and donations, many thanks to our members who donated items for the Annual Silent Online Auction, and to those who bought them! This was all possible due to a small group of people who worked extremely hard for a few weeks to make it work: Our Co-Chairs, Jennie McCloskey and Hesselene Attong, and our worker bee (who made my work on the team a lot easier) Ethan Ackermann. We did have a great boost from our vendors, Manu's Orchids, DFOrganico Inc., Roehampton Orchids and C & C Orchids, and we really appreciate their donations too.

We also thank Manu's Orchids for organizing a group order for us, as well as Hesselene Attong and her husband, Don Town, for offering to pick it up. There will be many orchids changing hands at our December meeting!

Those of you who have been with our Society for many years will be seeing changes to our December meeting and to our Auction. There are good reasons to change what we do occasionally to make our Society more inclusive and to adapt to the times.

Holding our Auction online at this time of year separates the work associated with it from the Show, which will keep us busy in 2024. In addition, some of the items previously brought to the in-person Auction, such as pots, supplies, some lesser-value books and orchid magazines will be shared at the Raffle Tables where our newer members may appreciate them throughout the year. Please note that at this December meeting, we will not be holding a raffle, but we will have an optional gift exchange. This ensures that if you bring a gift, you will get a gift. This was not always the case in the past. Please hold on to any raffle items for our January, February, March and May meetings.

Our last new item will be the OOS Trivia Challenge! We will set up groups to answer questions about orchids and other topics while socializing and enjoying the potluck refreshments...and there will be prizes!

I look forward to celebrating the Season with you on December 17.

Jan Johns

Program Updates 2023

December 2023:

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

Meeting Time: Sunday, December 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.

Please join us to celebrate the Season on Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. in Hall F at the Nepean Sportsplex. This will be a hybrid meeting. Members should look for the Zoom invitation to register. Our guests online will be able to enjoy the presentation, participate in the OOS Trivia Challenge and see the Show Table.

There will be two feature items:

- A short presentation on the American Orchid Society and the Canadian Orchid Congress, how they support the work of the Ottawa Orchid Society and why we support them.
- The OOS Trivia Challenge – you will work in convivial groups while enjoying refreshments to answer some questions and perhaps win prizes!

We will have the usual Show Table, you will pick up pre-orders from Manu's Orchids, pick up your winnings from the Annual Silent Online Auction and, instead of a raffle, we will have an optional Gift Exchange (see details below). And...if you haven't finished shopping for your favourite orchid aficionado, why not purchase a COC Calendar 2024? They will be sure to enjoy it.

We invite you to bring baked goods and sweets for an enhanced refreshment table to celebrate (see details below).

Given the presence of COVID, RSV and the flu, you may wish to wear a mask when you are not eating and drinking. If you are feeling unwell, please join us online.

Potluck: Baked Goods/Sweets only please

We would love you to share the fruits of your favourite Holiday recipes (see guidelines below) for festive refreshments. Please indicate, if they are gluten free, nut free or sugar free.

Guidelines:

Please bring baked goods or sweets that can easily be picked up and eaten without sharing any of the current COVID/RSV/flu viruses that are hanging around. No dips, no fruit, no veggies unless in an individual contained unit.

Gift Exchange: Bring a gift. Get a gift.

Please note: There will be NO raffle at our December Meeting

Many of our members enjoy sharing gifts at Christmas. In the past we have held a raffle. However, this can get complicated if some people bring something and others don't. As a result, this year we have an optional gift exchange.

If you want to participate, please bring a gift (value around \$10 - \$15) nicely wrapped. Appropriate gifts include orchids, orchid-related items, and for those who prefer, Holiday goodies (chocolate, cookies, bottle of wine, etc.). Deliver it to the Gift Exchange table and write your name on a ballot and put it into the box. At the end of the meeting, we will pull names – and those who brought a gift will be able to choose one from the selection.

Upcoming Events - 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 send Jean an email at jean@hollebhone.ca and she will try to line up an appropriate solution/expert.

Jean Hollebhone
Program Chair

COC 2024 CALENDARS



There are still some Canadian Orchid Congress calendars left that will be available for sale at the December meeting.

Cost: \$20 – cash, cheque, or e-transfer please.

The photos are stunning, including one by Julia Parshina of the OOS. and there are culture tips throughout. The monthly Orchid Task Checklist is very useful and the shows across Canada are marked right on the calendar itself. You can plan your spring trips easily.

If you have orchid lovers on your Holiday list, this is the perfect gift!

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, 2024: 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 dates in your calendar and plan to help out on that weekend.

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

Silent Online Auction (December 2023)

As this is being written, the Auction is only a few days away from going 'live'. By the time you read this, the OOS Silent Online Auction will have been completed.

In a nutshell, the past five weeks have been a blur of activity. Thank you to our membership (donors/ participants) and orchid vendors who so generously donated 50 items (of which 38 are live plants) for the Auction. Special thanks to our vendor donors: Manu's Orchids, DFOrganico Inc., Roehampton Orchids and C&C Orchids. Lastly, let us not forget our onsite Auction volunteers for helping with set-up, sorting and distribution. It takes a community of individuals to ensure successful outcomes.

We are looking forward to connecting with you at our December 17 meeting for donation drop off and distribution of Auction winnings. Your keen support of this fun event makes it all the more worthwhile.

Stay tuned, . . . more detailed results of the Auction will be available in the January 2024 Spike Newsletter.

Gratitude for another great fundraiser!

Silent Online Auction Committee

Select Orchids that were available at the Silent Online Auction



Dendrobium nobile
NOID



Encyvola Jairak Treasure 'Nightingale'
Photo by DFOrganico



Cattleya trianaei (Cuencantia
x Morlaquita)

Welcome to Our New Members

I'd like to welcome Stephanie Graham (Member #1463), Susan Connolly (Member #1464) and Sidney Bruinsma (Member #1465) 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

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 (except in December when the meeting will be held on December 9th). The meeting is held at the Jardin botanique de Montréal (JBM) (Montréal Botanical Garden) in the main building.

André Couture

Plants Awarded in November 2023

Photos by Philippe Jolivet

Award	Orchid	Owner
CCM/AOS 83 points	<i>Bulbophyllum fletcherianum</i> Portia 'Jardin botanique de Montréal'	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Award	Orchid	Owner
CCM/AOS 85 points	<i>Bulbophyllum cupreum</i> 'Jardin botanique de Montréal'	Jardin botanique de Montréal

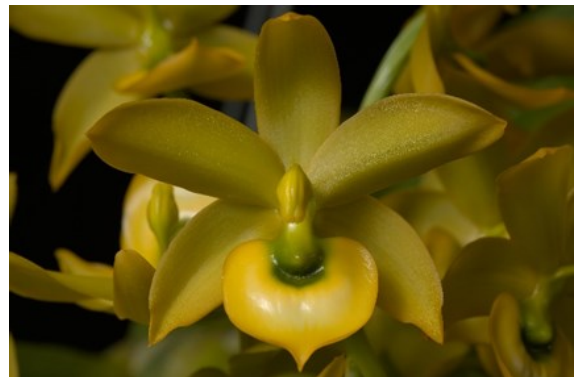


Plants Awarded in November 2023 (cont.)

Award	Orchid	Owner
CCM/AOS 83 points	<i>Cymbidium</i> Enzan Summer 'Sunlight'	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Award	Orchid	Owner
AM/AOS 81 points	<i>Cycnoches</i> Super Swan 'Nicole Roy'	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 November 19, 2023

ALLIANCE	RIBBON AWARD	NAME OF PLANT	OWNER
Cattleya Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf	1st	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Naomi's Delight (<i>Cattleya</i> Katherine Clarkson 'SVO' HCC/AOS x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Sun Spots 'SVO Best')	Masa Matsuo
	2nd	<i>Rhyncatlaelia</i> Exotic Pink Flash (<i>Rhyncatlaelia</i> Picotee Passion 'SVO' AM/AOS x <i>Cattleya</i> Mini Song 'La Primera Morada' HCC/AOS)	Masa Matsuo
	2nd	<i>Brassocatanthe</i> Little Mermaid (<i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> x <i>Brassanthe</i> Maikai)	Jean Hollebhone
Cypripedium Alliance Paphiopedilum Judged by Joyce Medcalf	1st	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>	Jean Hollebhone
	2nd	<i>Paphiopedilum barbigerum</i>	Steve Levick
	2nd	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Frying Pan River (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Desert Heritage 'Huge' x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Born Cross-Eyed 'Spotter')	Hessalene Attong
	2nd	{ <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Enzan Sholt (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Kimura Sholt x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Kimura Pacific) x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Cocoa Motto (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Enzan Motto x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Enzan Winston's Vale)}	Hessalene Attong
Phalaenopsis Alliance Judged by Jean Hollebhone	1st	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> No Name Hybrid	Hessalene Attong
	2nd	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> No Name Hybrid	Nick Cox
Oncidium Alliance Judged by Jean Hollebhone	1st	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Rene Komoda (<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Edwidge Sabourin x <i>Miltoniopsis santanaei</i>)	Betty Warrington-Kearsley
	2nd	<i>Oncostele</i> Wildcat (<i>Oncostele</i> Rustic Bridge x <i>Oncidium</i> Crowborough (1965))	Betty Warrington-Kearsley
	3rd	<i>Tolumnia</i> No Name Hybrid	Nick Cox
Vanda Alliance Judged by Jean Hollebhone	1st	<i>Tuberolabium kotoense</i> var. <i>album</i>	Serge Croteau
Miscellaneous Judged by Joyce Medcalf	1st	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Pride of Papua (<i>Bulbophyllum</i> <i>cruentum</i> x <i>Bulbophyllum</i> <i>phalaenopsis</i>)	Hessalene Attong
Best of Show Table Judged by Jean Hollebhone and Joyce Medcalf	<i>Tuberolabium kotoense</i> var. <i>album</i>		Serge Croteau
Member's Choice Judged by Andrea Picher	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Naomi's Delight (<i>Cattleya</i> Katherine Clarkson 'SVO' HCC/AOS x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Sun Spots 'SVO Best')		Masa Matsuo

Member's Choice Comments: The large flowers have a beautiful orange-pink colour contrast.

Best of Show Table

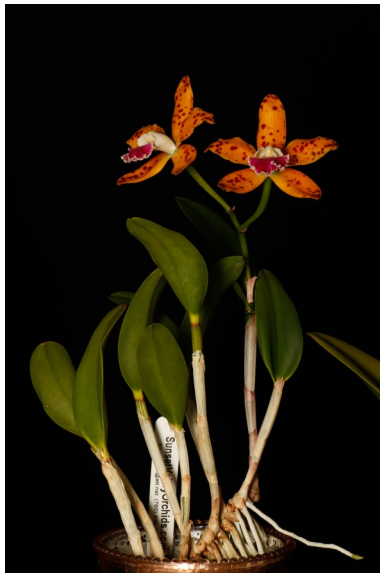
Serge Croteau with his *Tuberolabium kotoense* var. *album*

Show Table Photos by Éamonn Tuck



Member's Choice

Masa Matsuo's *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Naomi's Delight (*Cattleya* Katherine Clarkson 'SVO' HCC/AOS x *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Sun Spots 'SVO Best')



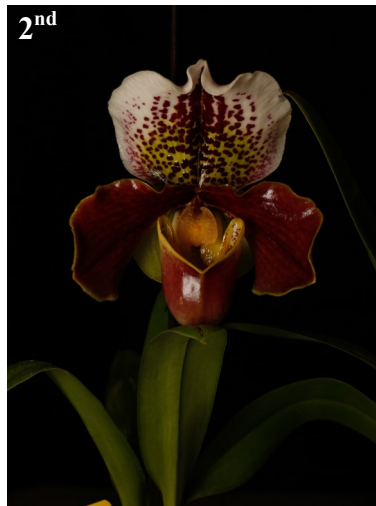
Cattleya Alliance



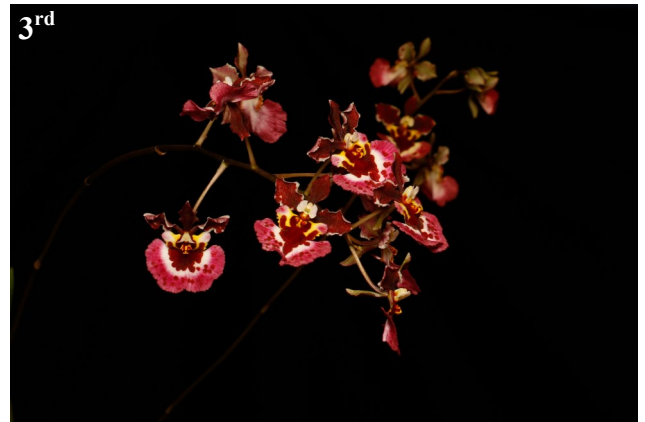
Phalaenopsis Alliance



Cypripedium Alliance
Paphiopedilum



Oncidium Alliance



Vanda Alliance



Miscellaneous



Additional Orchids on Display at the November 19 Meeting

Photos by Éamonn Tuck



Phalaenopsis Yu Pin Infrared Ray
Grown by Tommy Wingreen



Phalaenopsis Yu Pin Infrared
Ray Hamilton
Grown by TommyWingreen



Vanda Sansai Blue
Grown by José Rauda

Editor's Wrap!



Rhyncattleanthe Nell Hammer
(*Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Haadyai
Delight x *Cattlianthe* Varut
Startrack)

Photo by Andrea Picher

Winter has arrived, perhaps to stay, perhaps not, who knows. I do like the scenery as fields and trees are blanketed by a layer of snow that looks so very pretty and serene. While Mother Earth prepares for a rest, it is also a time for us to slow down. Unfortunately, this is not something that is practiced in our fast-paced society and as many of us prepare for the Holidays, we tend to get caught up in shopping and preparing for big get-togethers, while it should really be about spending time with family and friends.

This time of year is also one to reflect on the achievements of the past year and show gratitude for all that we have accomplished. This past year was a good year for me. It was so nice to visit family in Germany and Austria in August. The gardens kept me busy throughout spring and summer and we harvested an abundance of vegetables this year. Now that it is all put away, I have some time to reflect on where I want to take my orchid-growing hobby. It is fun learning how to grow diverse species and hybrids, some with more success than others. I

acquired quite a few new orchids this year, with several more coming this month. However, I must say that I am likely approaching my limit in the number of orchids I can reasonably well care for and am planning to limit my purchases to some special species and/or hybrids that will make it on my wish list.

Putting together the Spike Newsletter has become a part of my monthly routine and I am learning so much while doing it, and I am grateful for the friendships that have come with being a Member of the Ottawa Orchid Society. It is so great to talk about orchids with like-minded people.

As we are heading into the Holiday Season, I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. May you find some time to rest and recharge for the challenges that 2024 may bring.

See you on December 17!

Andrea Picher

Spike Editor



First snow

Photo by Andrea Picher