



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

FEBRUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			ODG meeting			Online Silent Auction Begins
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				Photo submission		
		Online Silent Auction				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Photo submission						Online Silent Auction Ends
		Online Silent Auction				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
OOS meeting						
27	28					

ODG: Orchids Discussion Group
OOS: Ottawa Orchid Society



Epidendrum species
Photo by: Doug Vye

Welcome! Upcoming Activities at a Glance!

February 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.: Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will talk about the latest in *Catasetum* hybrids with an emphasis on culture.

February 5-19: Online Auction open for viewing and bidding.

February 26-27: Pick up of winning items.

March 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.: ODG meeting

March 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.: In March, the dynamic Charles Wilson, Chair of the AOS Conservation Committee will give a most enjoyable talk on *Bulbophyllums*, illustrated with fine specimens he grows in his Atlanta greenhouse.

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Table of Contents

Upcoming Activities at a Glance.....	1
Board of Directors.....	2
President's Message.....	3
Program Updates 2022.....	4
Online Silent Auction (February 5-19, 2022).....	5
Virtual Show Table Update for March 2022.....	5
Orchids Discussion Group.....	6
January Zoom OOS Meeting Recap	6-9
Madagascan orchid makes Kew top 10.....	9
January Virtual Show Table Results.....	10-16
Remembering Helgi Fatovic.....	17
Interesting Tidbits.....	18-19
Novice Editor's Corner.....	19-22
Editor's Wrap.....	23

President's Message



That was a great interactive January meeting! Thanks to Jean Hollebhone for organizing our speaker, Andrew Geimar on Jewel Orchids. I have killed a few orchids myself – part of the learning experience! Congratulations to Ethan Ackermann for winning the competition and thanks to Roehampton Orchids for offering the prize.

This month everyone can get a prize from our Annual Auction. It is back...in a new form...but it is back. Please go to our auction site and see what you might like to bid on. Many thanks to all those who have donated items and/or provided financial support. Money from our auction is used to support our Judging Centres and other OOS activities. Congratulations to Chair Hesselene Attong, Jennie McCloskey and Andrea Picher for their hard work. Now it is up to the rest of us to participate!

We also need to thank Jenna Rintoul Kabalik for her assistance with Facebook and Instagram over this last year. Due to her family commitments, she needs to step down for now. Many thanks to Andrea Picher for stepping up to this role. A big thank you to Hesselene Attong and this month, Annette Seling for taking the meeting notes. This is an onerous task and needs to be shared amongst many. If you take notes for the meetings anyway, please consider being part of a “team” of writers who can share this load so it is not too much for one person to manage. We promise to assist with editing where necessary. Please let me know at janet.johns@sympatico.ca if you are willing to do one meeting. The more you put in, the more you get out, as the old saying goes. It takes many volunteers to make things run smoothly.

If you are still not comfortable with Zoom, please feel free to contact me janet.johns@sympatico.ca and we can set up a one-on-one Zoom meeting where you can feel free to “play”. It appears we will be Zooming for the next few months. We do open the meeting around 1:10 p.m. and keep the meeting open at the end so that we can have some semblance of getting together with our orchid friends online. Feel free to join us during these open chatting sessions.

This month we have our good friend Fred Clarke speaking on *Catasetum* hybrids. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jan Johns

Program Updates 2022 (all talks will be held virtually at 1:30 p.m.)

February Meeting

This month we welcome well-known hybridizer Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids from Vista, California for “**A review of the amazing world of *Catasetinae***”. This will be a lively and entertaining presentation, with his usual amazing photos and a discussion of the making of his famous *Fredclarkeara* After Dark, the blackest orchid seen. The presentation includes a thorough review of plant culture for the orchids bought from SVO for the Auction (*Catasetums*, mini-*Cattleyas*, *Dendrobiums* and *Sarcochilids*), all crammed into one exciting presentation.

Fred has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of them. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located north of San Diego, California. He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, his pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently, *Fredclarkeara* After Dark, which produced “the blackest flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC’s and thirty AM’s from the AOS judges! Fred is a wonderful speaker. This is one meeting you will not want to miss!

March 2022: In March, the dynamic Charles Wilson, Chair of the AOS Conservation Committee, will give a most enjoyable talk on *Bulbophyllums*, illustrated with fine specimens he grows in his Atlanta greenhouse.

April 2022: In April, we welcome Sandra Svoboda, Editor of the prestigious Orchid Digest magazine, published four times a year out of Huntington Botanical Garden, famous for its collection of heritage orchids as well as a host of other plants, including its spectacular desert, Japanese, rose and other gardens.

May 2022: In May, we hope to be able to have our first face-to-face meeting if it is allowed. More on this later as details become clearer.

Jean Hollebome (Program Chair)

Online Silent Auction (February 5-19, 2022)

Thanks to all of our generous donors, we are able to bring you a great selection of varied items to bid on – including 39 live plants! Now that our call for donations has come to a close, we are calling on our members to come out and participate in the bidding fun, and equally important, help us raise funds.

If you have not done so yet, there is still plenty of time to join us. Serious bidding is always done down to the wire! Log into your 32auctions account (if you do not have one, please create one at <https://www.32auctions.com/login>), go to our private auction site Ottawa Orchid Society Silent Auction 2022 <https://www.32auctions.com/OOSSilentAuction2021> and start your bidding!

We appreciate your generosity and kindness as both donors and participants. In order to have a successful event, we are depending on high participant turnout. Don't just browse for yourself, think Easter, Spring, Mother's Day for fellow plant friends or family – it is a great way to offer a unique gift while supporting a great cause!

OOS Online Silent Auction Committee.

Virtual Show Table Update for March 2022

The February Show Table will follow the same format as in January, and we invite you to send in photos of your blooming plants once again. The **deadline for entries will be March 13th**. You can take and send in your photos any time between Thursday, March 10th and Sunday, March 13th. Please send your photos to Dave Cooper at orchidae@storm.ca. Remember to include your name as well as the full name of each plant (or NOID if you don't have the name).

As a reminder please take two photos, one showing the whole plant and one a close-up of the flower. If possible, please send your photos as attachments to your email because I can then see the name of the image file. All members are welcome to participate and you can send in photos of as many plants as you wish, but they must arrive by the deadline.

The same team of expert plant judges will continue to judge our plants: André Couture, Joyce Medcalf, Jean Hollebone, Marie-Josée Bergeron and Scott de Vito. They will judge all the photos in the same Alliances we use for our usual Show Tables. They will award ribbons for first, second and third in each Alliance as usual, as well as a rosette for Best of Show Table.

Our photography judge Pat Boisvert will award ribbons for the best photography, and you can see his notes at <http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com/photographing.html>.

Dave Cooper (Past President)

Orchids Discussion Group Update

The ODG meeting was a great success over the last season and continues, with monthly meetings on Zoom (preregistration is required). Our next meeting will be held on March 2nd 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. 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 and can get back the community feel of our club.

We look forward to seeing many of you at these meetings.

Pat Boisvert

January 2022 Zoom OOS Meeting Recap (Annette Seling)

Jan Johns opened the meeting with greetings, meeting protocols, and the agenda. The meeting was co-hosted by Jennie McCloskey.

1. A cautionary announcement was made by Doug Vye regarding an email scam affecting our Society. Jan Johns was the most recent subject of a hack where an email was sent using her name in the 'nickname' or 'true name' field. It asked the recipient to click on a link. DO NOT DO THIS. Instead, recipients of suspicious emails should click on the sender's name, which will reveal the true email address. If the address is not a recognized email address for the sender, the recipient should avoid clicking on any links or providing any information and should immediately delete the email.
2. The feature presentation this month was "Jewel Orchids at Home: A Story of Murder" by Andrew Geimar and was introduced by Jean Hollebhone. She stated that she had heard him speak last summer at the Canadian Orchid Congress symposium on Jewel orchids where he provided three lectures on different aspects of these orchids. She noted that they are termed 'Jewel' because of the gorgeous foliage with defined venation that shows up against the dark leaves which seem to sparkle like gemstones under light. She stated that they were very popular about 20 years ago and are now making a resurgence. The timing for this topic will support their appearance in upcoming orchid Shows and sales tables. Andrew Geimar along with his partner Felix are retailers of the beautiful Jewel orchids through their brick-and-mortar location in Toronto, Ontario – 'Roehampton Orchids'.

Andrew Geimar opened by sharing the Jewel orchid origin myth which spoke of celestial forests and faeries in the Himalayas, where the faeries' clothes were caught on branches of trees. As the clothes fell to the forest floor, out sprouted these beautiful Jewel orchids. In actuality, the leaves act as a form of camouflage on the canopy floor.

Andrew confessed that “(He) kills Jewels.” Whether it was through lack of climate control on shipping, being eaten by mealy bugs (and other pests), boiling them (intentionally to make an ancient Taiwanese herbal tea from *Anoectochilus formosanus*), or dehydration by lack of attention. He shared that “You have to kill \$10,000 worth of a plant species” before you can say you have a Masters in it. Then you can say you have a university degree in that species, so he needed more plants.

Andrew began cloning Jewel orchids from tissue samples, choosing the best for unique cultivars and growing his inventory. Using this inventory, he experimented with potting methods (bubble tea cups, clay pots), media choices (Promix, peat moss, bark, New Zealand tree fern, sphagnum moss, lime and horticultural charcoal), watering and fertilizer requirements. Further information can be found starting on page 40 of the Canadian Orchid Congress Jewel newsletter.

https://canadianorchidcongress.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COC2021_SUMMER_SPECIAL_ISSUE.pdf

The top 5 ‘indestructible’ Jewel orchids according to Andrew are: *Ludisia discolor*, *Macodes petola* prime (round form), *Dossinia marmorata*, *Anoectochilus formosanus* and *Macodes sandariana* ‘Frost’.

It can be difficult to distinguish between different hybrids and species of Jewel orchids, so he recommends checking out the leaves, then the blooms which will often help to make the final determination. He provided some tips for growing Jewel orchids:

- Jewel orchids root from nodes along the stem, so do not bury the stem. Allow the plant to crawl across the top of the media rather than staking it for upright growth as this is the way it naturally wants to grow.
- Jewel orchid conditions are like the story of Goldilocks and the 3 bears: not too hot, not too cold, not too wet, not too dry.... they like it just right. Find out what yours likes based on where it came from or what the species requirements might be.

Andrew’s presentation was filled with beautiful photographs of all of the different types of Jewel orchids. He shared some macro images taken by photographer Diane Ozdaniar which allowed the observation of the leaf structure and surfaces. A term used to describe some of these leaves are “crispate undulate”, crispate meaning “wavy or curly edges” and undulate meaning “up and down motion”. He also provided a theory on why the Jewel orchid leaves glisten due to a lack of chlorophyll in the veins.

Andrew finished his presentation with a 10-question trivia quiz on his presentation and a final Q&A period. Congratulations to Ethan Ackerman who won a Jewel orchid of his choice to be shipped from Roehampton Orchids, shipping to be paid courtesy of the Ottawa Orchid Society.

Contact information: www.RoehamptonOrchids.ca.

Twitter or Instagram: @RoehamptonOrchids Andrew@RoehamptonOrchids.ca

Facebook: Canadian Orchid Growers, Jewel Orchids North America, Canadian Orchid

Congress Jewel Newsletter:

(https://canadianorchidcongress.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COC2021_SUMMER_SPECIAL_ISSUE.pdf)

3. Lights! Camera! Auction!

Hesselene Attong discussed the upcoming Ottawa Orchid Society's Online Auction which is to take the place of an in-person Orchid Show this year.

- Deadline to send items to be auctioned is January 31, 2022.
- Donors should hold their items until after the auction closes February 20-23, 2022
- Winning Bidder pickups will be done at 3 locations on February 26-27, 2022
- Auction Dates: from 6:00 p.m. on February 5, 2022. to 6:00 p.m. on February 19, 2022

Set up a free account with an email and password of your choice and check out the items in advance at: <https://www.32auctions.com/OOSSilentAuction2021>

4. The Virtual Show Table was next. This month, the judging was done by Scott de Vito, Marie-Josée Bergeron (results presented by Joyce Medcalf), Jean Hollebhone and Pat Boisvert (photography). There were 37 submissions from 17 of our members. Jan thanked all those who submitted pictures of their stunning orchids. Thanks to Dave Cooper for organizing the submissions and Joyce Medcalf for checking the names.

Ribbon winners are shown on pages 11-17.

5. OOS Notices from President Jan Johns:

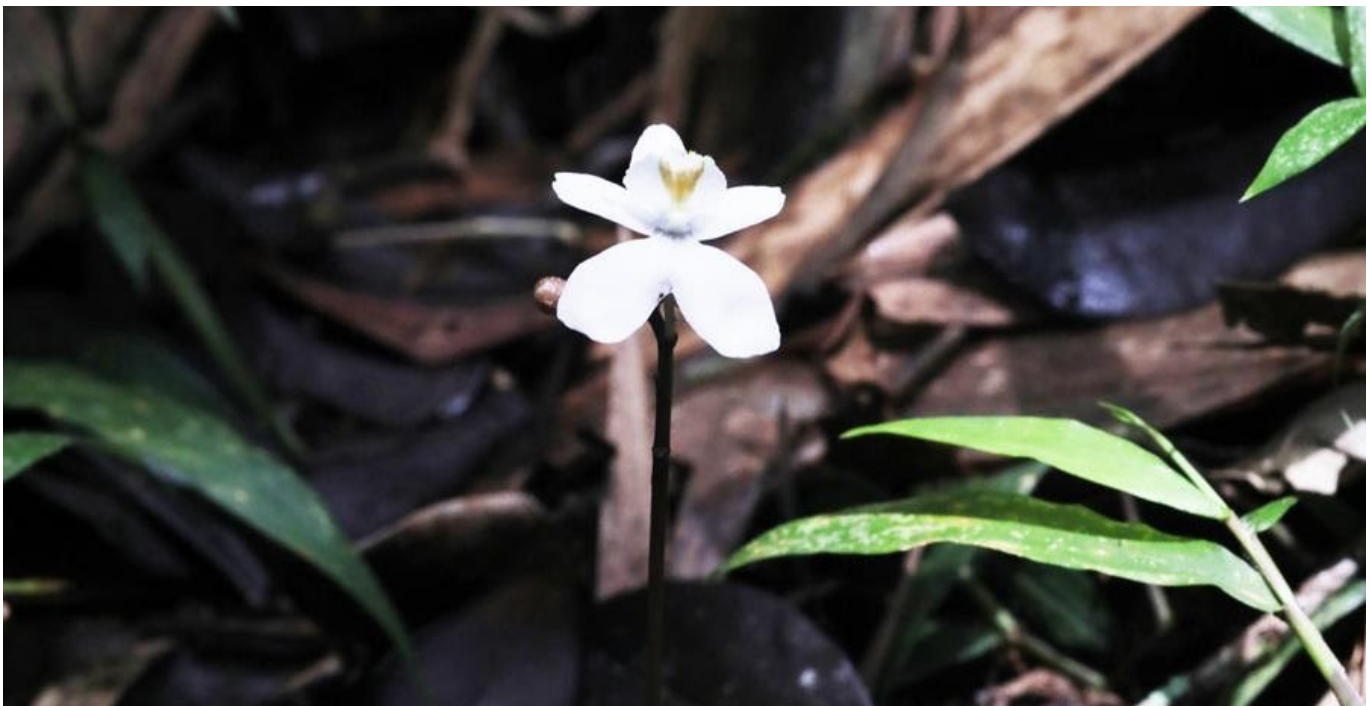
- With thanks, Andrea Picher will now be taking over OOS Facebook and Instagram administration from Jenna Rintoul Kabalik. If there are any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact her. Contact information will be in the February 2022 Spike Newsletter.
- Thanks to Hesselene Attong who has been taking Meeting notes, and to Annette Seling who has taken over the task for today's meeting, but Jan would like to find 3-5 people to share these responsibilities throughout the year.

- Jean Hollebhone shared that at the February 2022 OOS Meeting, the speaker will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids on *Catasetum* care and culture and Charles Wilson will discuss *Bulbophyllum* in March 2022.
- The meeting was closed with a review in pictures of the 2020 and 2021 Virtual Show Table winners presented by Jan Johns.

Jan Johns thanked and wished everyone well at the end of the meeting. The meeting was left open for brief socializing among members.

Madagascan Orchid Makes Kew Top 10

A total of 205 new plant and fungus species were named by Kew scientists and collaborators in 2021. In a ranking of the Top 10 by RBG Kew, number three is *Didymoplexis stella-silvae* (pictured), just losing out to a carnivorous tobacco plant and a fungus inside a banana seed. The orchid derives its energy entirely from fungi. It is actually one of 16 new orchid species named by Johan Hermans, Phil Cribb and others from the island last year, 11 of which were reported on in *The Orchid Review* (June 2021). Worryingly, three of the species are already thought to be extinct in the wild.



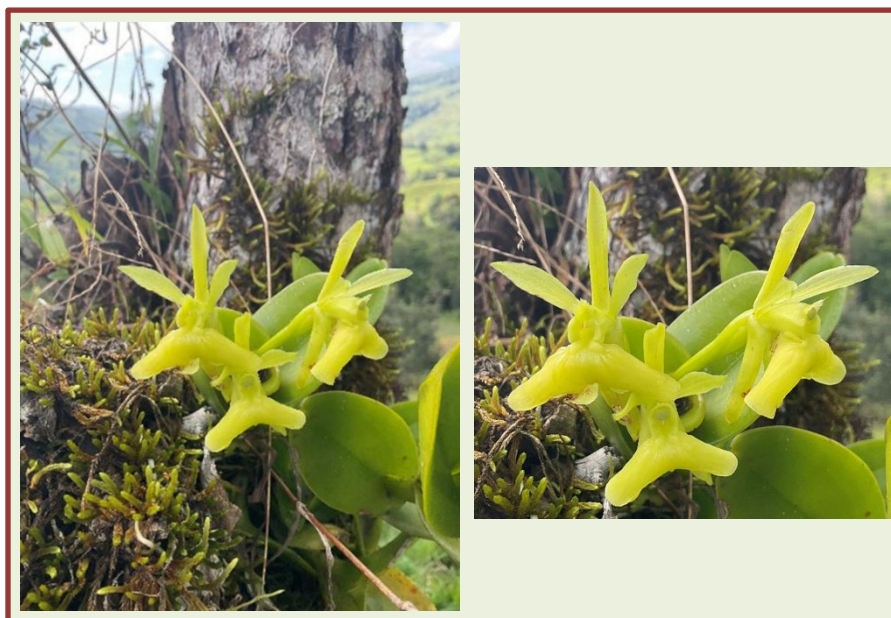
January Virtual Show Table Results

JANUARY 2022 VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE RIBBON WINNERS			
ALLIANCE	MEMBER'S NAME	NAME OF PLANT	RIBBON AWARD
Cattleya Alliance Judged by Scott de Vito	Doug Vye	<i>Epidendrum</i> species	1 st
	Jennie McCloskey	<i>Cattleya</i> Kiritsubo 'Denver Rose' (<i>Cattleya alarorii</i> x <i>Cattleya nobilior</i>)	2 ^{nd-1}
	Doug Vye	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	2 ^{nd-2}
	Ann Nakamura	<i>Cattleya mantiqueirae</i> x <i>Cattleya coccinea</i>	3 ^{rd-1}
	Sabina Gupta	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Shinfong Little Sun 'Youngmin Golden Boy' AM/AOS (<i>Cattlianthe</i> Golden Girl x <i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Taida Love Star)	3 ^{rd-2}
Cymbidium Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Nick Cox	<i>Cymbidium</i> Hiroshima 'Sweet Eyes' (<i>Cymbidium</i> Lunagrad x <i>Cymbidium</i> Fanfare)	1 st
	Nick Cox	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sunshine Falls 'Butterball' AM/AOS (<i>Cymbidium</i> King Arthur x <i>Cymbidium</i> madidum)	2 nd
Cypripedium Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf	Sabina Gupta	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Lass (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Meadow 'Absenthe' x <i>Paphiopedilum helenae</i> 'Lisa')	1 st
	Hélène Mondou	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Hanne Popow (<i>Phragmipedium besseae</i> x <i>Phragmipedium schlimii</i>)	2 ^{nd-1}
	Jean Hollebhone	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Lass (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Meadow x <i>Paphiopedilum helenae</i>)	2 ^{nd-2}
	Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Cocoa Kitty 'Flight' (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Enzan Kitty x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Yi-Ying Colorful Clouds)	3 ^{rd-1}
	Jean Hollebhone	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Valerie Tonkin (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hellas x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Stefani Pitta)	3 ^{rd-2}
Dendrobium Alliance Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Jean Hollebhone	<i>Dendrobium</i> Mtn's Butterfly Kisses 'Pink' (<i>Dendrobium glomeratum</i> x <i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i>)	1 st
Oncidium Alliance Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Jan Johns	<i>Oncidesa</i> Mayfair 'Trinity' AM/AOS (<i>Oncidesa</i> Fuchs Gold x <i>Oncidesa</i> Gower Ramsey)	1 st
	Nick Cox	<i>Oncidium</i> Espiritu Santo (<i>Oncidium noeztianum</i> x <i>Oncidium praestanooides</i>)	2 nd
	Janet Lang	<i>Oncidium</i> NOID	3 ^{rd-1}
	Hessalene Attong	<i>Oncidium</i> Splinter 'Brookside' HCC/AOS (<i>Oncidium sphacelatum</i> x <i>Oncidium leucochilum</i>)	3 ^{rd-2}
Phalaenopsis Alliance Judged by Jean Hollebhone	Hessalene Attong	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mini Mark 'Joy' (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Micro Nova x <i>Phalaenopsis philippinensis</i>)	1 st
	Magdalena Gawronska	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	2 ^{nd-1}
	Annette Seling	<i>Phalaenopsis tetraspis</i> f. <i>imperatrix</i> 'Purple' (MC)	2 ^{nd-2}
	Jane Thompson	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	3 ^{rd-1}
	Julia Parshina	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	3 ^{rd-2}
Miscellaneous Judged by Joyce Medcalf	Doug Vye	<i>Clowesia warczewitzii</i>	1 st
	Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i>	2 ^{nd-1}
	Sabina Gupta	<i>Mormodes</i> NOID	2 ^{nd-2}
	Ann Smutylo	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	3 ^{rd-1}
	Jean Hollebhone	<i>Ludochilus</i> Black Knight (<i>Ludisia discolor</i> x <i>Anoectochilus yungianus</i> {Syn. <i>roxburghii</i> })	3 ^{rd-2}

JANUARY 2022 VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE RIBBON WINNERS			
ALLIANCE	MEMBER'S NAME	NAME OF PLANT	RIBBON AWARD
	Julia Parshina	<i>Cycnodes</i> Taiwan Orange (<i>Cycnodes</i> Taiwan Gold x <i>Cycnodes</i> Jumbo Jewel)	3 ^{rd-3}
Photography Judged by Patrick Boisvert	Annette Seling	<i>Phalaenopsis tetraspis</i> f. <i>imperatrix</i> 'Purple' (MC)	1 st
	Jennie McCloskey	<i>Cattleya Kiritsubo</i> 'Denver Rose' (<i>Cattleya alarorii</i> x <i>Cattleya nobilior</i>)	2 ^{nd-1}
	Sabina Gupta	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Lass (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Meadow 'Absenthe' x <i>Paphiopedilum helenae</i> 'Lisa')	2 ^{nd-2}
Photography Judged by Patrick Boisvert (Cont'd.)	Arlene Lang (grown by Janet Lang)	<i>Oncidium</i> NOID	2 ^{nd-3}
	Doug Vye	<i>Epidendrum</i> species	3 ^{rd-1}
	Hélène Mondou	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Hanne Popow (<i>Phragmipedium besseae</i> x <i>Phragmipedium schlimii</i>)	3 ^{rd-2}
	Jan Johns	<i>Oncidesa</i> Mayfair 'Trinity' AM/AOS (<i>Oncidesa</i> Fuchs Gold x <i>Oncidesa</i> Gower Ramsey)	3 ^{rd-3}
	Annette Seling	<i>Phaiocalanthe</i> Kryptonite 'Parkside' HCC/AOS (<i>Calanthe</i> Rozel x <i>Phaius tankervilleae</i>)	HM
Best of Show Table	Doug Vye	<i>Epidendrum</i> species	
Member's Choice Poll Winner	Doug Vye	<i>Epidendrum</i> species	

Best of Show Table and Member's Choice

Epidendrum species
Doug Vye



Photography Awards

Photography Awards		
Annette Seling	<i>Phalaenopsis tetraspis</i> f. <i>imperatrix</i> 'Purple' (MC)	1 st
Jennie McCloskey	<i>Cattleya Kiritsubo</i> 'Denver Rose' (<i>Cattleya alaroi</i> x <i>Cattleya nobilior</i>)	2 nd -1
Sabina Gupta	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Lass (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Mountain Meadow 'Absenthe' x <i>Paphiopedilum helenae</i> 'Lisa')	2 nd -2
Arlene Lang (grown by Janet Lang)	<i>Oncidium</i> NOID	2 nd -3
Doug Vye	<i>Epidendrum</i> species	3 rd -1
Hélène Mondou	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Hanne Popow (<i>Phragmipedium besseae</i> x <i>Phragmipedium schlimii</i>)	3 rd -2
Jan Johns	<i>Oncidesa</i> Mayfair 'Trinity' AM/AOS (<i>Oncidesa Fuchs Gold</i> x <i>Oncidesa Gower Ramsey</i>)	3 rd -3
Annette Seling	<i>Phaiocalanthe</i> Kryptonite 'Parkside' HCC/AOS (<i>Calanthe Rozel</i> x <i>Phaius tankervilleae</i>)	HM



Cattleya Alliance

Cattleya Alliance		
Doug Vye	<i>Epidendrum</i> species	1 st
Jennie McCloskey	<i>Cattleya Kiritsubo</i> 'Denver Rose' (<i>Cattleya alaorii</i> x <i>Cattleya nobilior</i>)	2 ^{nd-1}
Doug Vye	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	2 ^{nd-2}
Ann Nakamura	<i>Cattleya mantiqueirae</i> x <i>Cattleya coccinea</i>	3 ^{rd-1}
Sabina Gupta	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Shinfong Little Sun 'Youngmin Golden Boy' AM/AOS (<i>Cattlianthe</i> Golden Girl x <i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Taida Love Star)	3 ^{rd-2}



1st



2^{nd-1}



2^{nd-2}



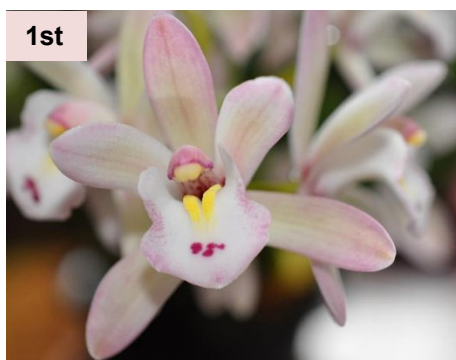
3^{rd-1}



3^{rd-2}

Cymbidium Alliance

Oncidium Alliance		
Nick Cox	<i>Cymbidium</i> Hiroshima 'Sweet Eyes' (<i>Cymbidium</i> Lunagrad x <i>Cymbidium</i> Fanfare)	1 st
Nick Cox	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sunshine Falls 'Butterball' AM/AOS (<i>Cymbidium</i> King Arthur x <i>Cymbidium madidum</i>)	2 nd



1st



2nd

Cyripedium Alliance

Sabina Gupta	<i>Paphiopedilum Mountain Lass</i> (<i>Paphiopedilum Mountain Meadow</i> 'Absenthe' x <i>Paphiopedilum helenae</i> 'Lisa')	1 st
Hélène Mondou	<i>Phragmipedium Hanne Popow</i> (<i>Phragmipedium besseae</i> x <i>Phragmipedium schlimii</i>)	2 ^{nd-1}
Jean Hollebhone	<i>Paphiopedilum Mountain Lass</i> (<i>Paphiopedilum Mountain Meadow</i> x <i>Paphiopedilum helenae</i>)	2 ^{nd-2}
Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Paphiopedilum Cocoa Kitty</i> 'Flight' (<i>Paphiopedilum Enzan Kitty</i> x <i>Paphiopedilum Yi-Ying Colorful Clouds</i>)	3 ^{rd-1}
Jean Hollebhone	<i>Paphiopedilum Valerie Tonkin</i> (<i>Paphiopedilum Hellas</i> x <i>Paphiopedilum Stefani Pitta</i>)	3 ^{rd-2}



Dendrobium Alliance

Dendrobium Mtn's Butterfly Kisses 'Pink' (*Dendrobium glomeratum* x *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*)

Jean Hollebhone

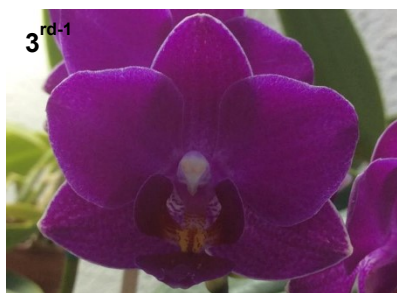
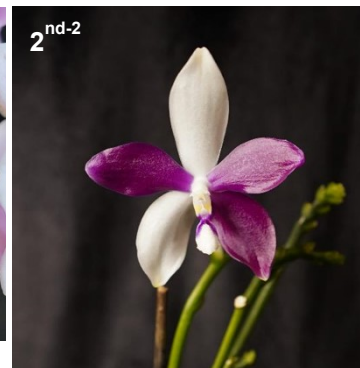
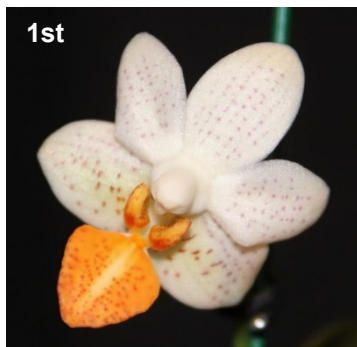
Oncidium Alliance

Oncidium Alliance		
Jan Johns	Oncidesa Mayfair 'Trinity' AM/AOS (<i>Oncidesa Fuchs Gold</i> x <i>Oncidesa Gower Ramsey</i>)	1 st
Nick Cox	<i>Oncidium Espiritu Santo</i> (<i>Oncidium noeztianum</i> x <i>Oncidium praestanoides</i>)	2 nd
Janet Lang	<i>Oncidium</i> NOID	3 ^{rd-1}
Hessalene Attong	<i>Oncidium Splinter</i> 'Brookside' HCC/AOS (<i>Oncidium sphacelatum</i> x <i>Oncidium leucochilum</i>)	3 ^{rd-2}



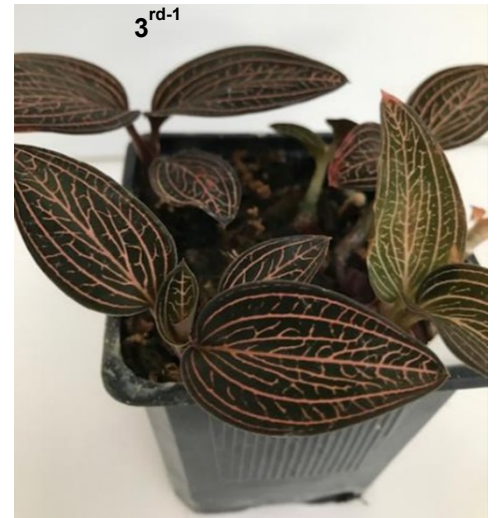
Phalaenopsis Alliance

Phalaenopsis Alliance		
Hessalene Attong	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mini Mark 'Joy' (<i>Phalaenopsis Micro Nova</i> x <i>Phalaenopsis philippinensis</i>)	1 st
Magdalena Gawronska	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	2 ^{nd-1}
Annette Seling	<i>Phalaenopsis tetraspis</i> f. <i>imperatrix</i> 'Purple' (MC)	2 ^{nd-2}
Jane Thompson	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	3 ^{rd-1}
Julia Parshina	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	3 ^{rd-2}



Miscellaneous

Phalaenopsis Alliance		
Doug Vye	<i>Clowesia warczewitzii</i>	1 st
Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i>	2 ^{nd-1}
Sabina Gupta	<i>Mormodes</i> NOID	2 ^{nd-2}
Ann Smutylo	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	3 ^{rd-1}
Jean Hollebhone	<i>Ludochilus</i> Black Knight (<i>Ludisia discolor</i> x <i>Anoectochilus yungianus</i> {Syn. <i>roxburghii</i> })	3 ^{rd-2}
Julia Parshina	<i>Cycnodes</i> Taiwan Orange (<i>Cycnodes</i> Taiwan Gold x <i>Cycnodes</i> Jumbo Jewel)	3 ^{rd-3}



Remembering Helgi Fatovic

Members will be saddened to learn that former Ottawa Orchid Society member Helgi Fatovic passed away suddenly on Sunday January 23 due to complications following COVID. Helgi had been an active member of the Society for many years, serving as a wonderful Program Director who brought many interesting speakers to our meetings including Fransisco Miranda of Brazil, Mario Ferrusi, and conservationists Steve Beckendorf and Thomas Mirenda. She had an amazing green thumb and a beautiful flowering garden filled with rare plants and shrubs. She grew prize-winning African violets, then at the suggestion of her friend Angèle Biljan, began growing many spectacular orchids, usually setting up her own display at our shows. She always took home top prizes, particularly for her *Paphs.* and *Phrags.* notably her *Paph. spicerianum* which also took Best of Show at one RBG spring Show, and her *Phrags. cardinal* and *caudatum*.

Helgi had a rich and fulfilling life. She grew up in Estonia, where she early displayed both musical and gymnastic talent, moving after the war to Canada to work with Sonia Bata in the famous Bata shoe factory at Batawa near Trenton, Ontario. There she met and married Peter Fatovic, a talented telecommunications researcher and developer, working for DND and later Nortel in Ottawa. While working, she completed her musical studies, graduating from the Royal Conservatory of Music as a talented pianist, and subsequently was prominent in the Ottawa music community, and taught many students in the Ottawa area. Always beautifully dressed, Helgi was a gracious and elegant lady. Following the passing of her husband and after recovering from a debilitating stroke, Helgi moved to Stillwater Creek Retirement Residence where she resided for the past several years, often attending Society meetings. She will be remembered for her constant smile and as a true Orchid Whisperer for the way her plants responded so happily to her care and attention.



**Helgi Fatovic's display with
Rlc. Wellesleyae (*Rl. digbyana* x *C. lueddemanniana*),
winning Hans Bode in 2010**



**Helgi Fatovic with the
Hans Bode Trophy in 2010**

Interesting Tidbits (Jean Hollebhone)

Background Information on *Catasetums*

Cynoches, *Mormodes*, and *Catasetums* are three related genera from the Tribe *Cymbidieae*. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or “botanical”, of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions. Commercially, *Catasetum*, *Cynoches* (or ‘Swan’ orchids) and *Mormodes* (or ‘Goblin’ orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of *Cymbidiums*, *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobiums*, *Epidendrums*, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society. In 2019, Fred Clarke was awarded the prestigious Hybridizer’s Award for Excellence in Hybridizing for his work with *Catasetums*.

Repotting Moth and Butterfly Orchids

I recently attended one of Ron McHatton’s Greenhouse Chats and he touched briefly upon repotting of unruly *Phalaenopsis* and hard to repot *Psychopsis* orchids. Here is what I learned.

What to do with unruly *Phalaenopsis* with aerial roots going upwards every which way and soil bound roots growing out of holes in pots?

Repot in your mix of choice: sphagnum moss, or a mixture of 2 parts fine to medium bark, 1 part perlite, a handful of charcoal and finely chopped sphagnum. Do not repot a *Phalaenopsis* when in spike. Wet the aerial roots to make them more flexible before trying to manipulate them. Dry roots will crack and break but moistened roots have a bit more flexibility and can be moved carefully. For roots emerging from a hole in a pot, enlarge the hole and gently ease the whole root out of the pot OR you can just cut it off at the point where the root leaves the pot. Clean any substrate off the roots, cut away any damaged material and dust any cut ends with cinnamon which acts as a bactericide. Put about an inch of fresh mix into the bottom of a clean pot. Grasp the root ball in one hand and fit it carefully and gently into the clean pot. Holding it carefully pour new moist mix around the root ball, tamping gently but firmly to settle roots into the pot. What I learned was, those awkward long aerial roots do not have to be left outside the pot or forced into hard-to-fit circles inside the pot. Ron trims the roots off at about a 3 inch length. He says cut roots will quickly rebranch and provide better security in the pot in a period of 3-4 weeks. During this time keep the plant warm, in lower than usual light conditions, and do not fertilize for about 3 weeks. Then return to normal light conditions.

Psychopsis repotting:

Psychopsis do not like to be repotted. Repot only if the medium has broken down or the plant is too big for the pot. These orchids should only be repotted when the plant is actively growing new roots. The roots require a fine bark and perlite mixture: 2 parts fine bark to 1 part perlite. It is critical that the mixture be soaked for a couple of days to make sure that the bark is well hydrated. Drain and repot carefully, trying to avoid root damage.

Novice Editor's Corner (by Sabina Gupta)

What Substrates to Use?



Common substrates: fern bark, charcoal, moss, coco chips, leca and lava rock

Continuing on the topic of repotting from Jean's article above, at this month's ODG, which was held on February 2, 2022, we discussed different types of substrates for potting different genera of orchids. Here, I share a synopsis of my own experience with repotting orchids in different substrates and some do's and don'ts. The choice of substrates can be a topic for an entire book. However, the intention here is not to write a book but to share some of my own methods and observations.

As you are already aware, most orchids are epi (upon) phytes (phyton – plant), a plant that grows above the ground, attached to a surface (plant) for support. Epiphytes are mostly seen attached to tree branches and they derive nutrients from air and from moisture collected on the host plants. There are others that grow on stones and rocks called litho (stone) phytes (phyton – plant), plants growing on stone or rock surfaces. Some of these plants grow close to pools of water and derive nutrients from rain water, moisture in air and some decaying material from nearby plants that runs off the stones/rocks. So in essence, stones and tree bark or branches that orchids grow attached to, provide the structural support and not necessarily the nutrients. Their roots love to breathe fresh air and are programmed to absorb moisture and nutrients from air, hence their name 'air plants'!

Some orchids are terrestrial and grow in soil. You may recall a type of Orchid '*Gastrodia agnicellus*' that made headlines last year as the 'Ugliest Orchid' in the world, grows underground. This particular one depends on fungi for nutrition and does not have any leaves. So there is a variety, and I am sure we all want to grow something that we can see everyday and enjoy, and not just the ones that hide underground for most of their lives 😊.

As far as the substrate is concerned, one can grow orchids attached to anything as long as you are able to provide nutrient-rich moisture for their roots to absorb. Having said that, some surfaces such as glass may not be preferred by their roots! Many growers and hobbyists who can afford the controlled environment of a greenhouse, prefer growing them attached to pieces of bark, tree roots, stones and rocks, mimicking their natural hosts. Interestingly, some grow them hanging bare root (e.g., *Vandas*) and in empty pots with no substrate (e.g., many



orchids grown in terracotta or plastic pots without the substrate).



However, orchids grown in this manner will have to be watered multiple times a day. So as mentioned above, as long as the plant gets the structural support to cling onto, you have fulfilled the function of a substrate. The substrate on which it grows helps stabilise its roots, which is the most important factor to remember when growing orchids and for that matter, any plant.

Now, for many like you and me, growing orchids in our houses, next to the windowsill, these simplistic but naturalistic ways of growing orchids may not be effective. Apart from ensuring the structural support, for indoor growing in pots, the substrate chosen should also allow retention of moisture and air movement around the roots, at the same time. Thus, the reasons for finding alternative substrates or methods to grow them!

Types of substrates for indoor growing

Organic substrates: wood chips – preferably fir bark (comes in different sizes), sticks, fern roots, pieces of cork, sphagnum moss, coconut husk, coconut chips, coco coir and small wooden slabs/panels.

Inorganic substrates: gravel, lava rock, river rocks, rock wool, perlite (comes in different sizes), stones, and clay pebbles are some of the ones that come to my mind. I am pretty sure that I have used all of these substrate types individually or in combination to grow my orchids. Some growers use water culture – growing orchids in water in a vase. I haven't tried it. There are many other types of substrates but the most common ones are listed above.

Things to consider when choosing the substrate

Research the plant. Know its origin and the natural environment, where it is found. Some are found in deserts and others, in rain forests ☺. This will inform you about the amount of moisture/humidity that the plant prefers.



Vanda hanging in an empty Plastic pot

- For those that like their roots moist, use a substrate that retains moisture, such as moss. When using moss, remember to follow the rules for potting in moss. If you pack the moss too loosely, it will retain excess moisture, leading to wet conditions around the roots, resulting in rot. There is a difference between moist and wet. Orchid roots like to be moist and do not like to be wet. I have not learnt the art of moss packing and so I don't grow anything in pure moss.
- For those roots that like to be dried quickly, use wood/bark chips, wooden or fern mounts.
- Most orchids fall in between moist and dry categories. For these types, you can mix and match the substrates listed above in different proportions.
- The other consideration is how thin or thick the roots are. Large pieces of bark and stones are used for thick root orchids and finer bark or gravel are used for thin root ones.

- Finally, the pots you choose also play an important role in enhancing the substrate function – slotted plastic or non-glazed terracotta pots are preferred mostly as they allow ample air movement. However, ample air movement also means quick drying. Thus, the watering regime must be adjusted accordingly.

Things to remember when using different types of substrates

- If you are replacing the store-bought fir bark with pieces of any other type of wood, ensure that the wood does not have contaminants that may be detrimental to orchids. Wash before use.
- When using coco chips, read the label carefully as some sell clean, weathered and ready to use coco chips and others indicate that it has to be washed multiple times to remove excess salt and other contaminants. I do use coco chips for some of mine and I end up washing it at least 7-8 times before adding it to the pot.
- Bark/wooden pieces have to be soaked for a night or two before use. Similarly, wash and soak clay pebbles for a day or two before use.
- When using loose pieces of substrate in a pot, the idea is to pack the substrate tight enough around the roots so that the plant/roots are stabilised. If you are low on substrate, tie the plant to a stick so that the plant does not move after repotting.
- One can grow orchids in gravel, lava rock and other stones. In my experience, roots readily cling to the rough and porous surfaces of the stones/rocks. Smooth stones are not ideal for thin roots but can be used for thick roots.



Root adherent to the terracotta pot

- The addition of stones to the bottom of the pot provides stability to top-heavy plants. For *Catasetums*, I always use stones at the bottom of the pot. These stones serve multiple purposes but in the context of stabilising plants, they help prevent the top-heavy pots from toppling over as *Catasetums* grow wild, bringing the pot down.
- Clay pebbles are fancy, non-messy and esthetic alternatives to other substrates. However, they dry out faster than organic substrates, and accumulate salts and other chemicals from fertilisers and water. The pebble pot has to be flushed with clean water once every month, at least to avoid building up of salts.

Final remarks

Be creative. There is no such thing as orchid-specific substrate. Use what you have as long as it is clean and right for the type of orchids you intend to grow (don't grow epi/lithophytes in terrestrial orchid mix 😊). Some substrates are expensive (moss) and some substrates such as fern roots and moss, are harvested at the expense of our ecosystem. You can minimise the amount of substrate used in a pot by adding fillers such as styrofoam peanuts, marbles or stones at the bottom of the pot.

Adjust your watering regimen to suit the substrate used. This is especially important when you decide to switch the substrate. For example, if an orchid has been growing in pure moss, if you switch it to bark mix and don't adjust the watering regime, the orchid will be set back heavily, if not dead. New bark is less water retentive than decomposed bark.

There are many good reources available online. Read and watch but then decide what is best for your environment and your schedule. Happy Growing!



Editor's Wrap



Happy Valentine's month! Spring is on the horizon! Days are brighter and longer but may be not warmer yet. But that too will happen soon. I am so glad that another winter is behind us!

We have an exciting talk coming up on *Catasetums*, a genera that I am interested in learning about. I do have a few. The only thing that I don't like about them is on some, blooms are short lived! Although I am now able to grow them and bloom them, I haven't yet mastered them. I like to experiment and they are full of attitudes and they don't hesitate to show them to me 😊. So for now, we are still learning to cohabitate! Well, if you are interested in growing this genera, don't miss the talk this month. It is going to be exciting and full of information.

Our online Auction is open for bidding. There are almost 75 items available and some unique ones too, including *Catasetums*! If you want to give *Catasetums* a try, this is your opportunity to experiment for less. They are usually very expensive. A picture of one of the *Phalaenopsis* that I bought at the Society's auction a couple of years ago is in bloom right now and is featured here. Thanks to our Auction Committee who continue to work and are determined to make it a successful event for the Society. Please support by participating.



I attended this month's ODG on February 2nd and I noticed that the interest and participation in the event has grown over time. Thanks to all participants. If you haven't yet attended one, connect on March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Closer to the date, you will receive a note from the Membership Chair prompting you to register for the event. Thanks to Pat for Chairing and Jennie for Hosting the February ODG.

Thanks to our President Jan Johns and other members of the Board for their continued efforts in engaging the Society. Jean Hollebone mentions that there may be a ray of hope for a return to an in-person in May? Let's keep our fingers crossed for it to happen!

Thanks to all participants of our Virtual Show Table event in January. Thanks to our judges for their time, Dave Cooper for organising it, and Jean Hollebone for those meticulously-labelled ribbons that come in the mail with her personal greetings. I love reading those little notes. Thanks to all those who contribute to Spike and a special thanks to Arlene Lang for her dedication and time to proof-reading our newsletter.



Wishing you all a very Happy Valentine's Day! See you all next week.

Sabina Gupta (Editor, Spike Newsletter)