



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 7 p.m. OOS Board Meeting	19	20	21	22	23	24 10 a.m. Purdon Fen Conservation Area
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 July Canada Day

Welcome! Upcoming Activities at a Glance

June 24, 2023 (rain date June 25): Field trip to Purdon Conservation Area to see Canada's largest colony of Showy Lady's Slipper orchids. See page 11 for details.

July 29, 2023 (rain date July 30): Orchid Census in the Purdon Conservation Area. See page 11 for details.

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
jmedcalf@1000island.net

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
The May 28, 2023 Meeting in Pictures	4
Highlights from Hesselene's Presentation: Growing Your Orchids Outdoors.....	5-6
Montréal Judging Centre.....	7-9
The Toronto AOS Judging Centre	10
Conservation Corner: Field Trips and Orchid Census...	11
DFOrganico at Ottawa Markets this Summer.....	12
OOS Show Table for May 28, 2023.....	13-18
Editor's Wrap.....	19

President's Message



This will be the last Spike newsletter until the start of the new Season 2023-2024 in September. I am delighted to be working once again with Pamela McLennan, Secretary, and Doug Vye, Treasurer, and I am especially grateful to Jennie McCloskey for stepping up to the job of Vice President. Jennie has been acting in this position for most of this year and I am pleased that her work will be recognized. She will continue in the Membership role as this is one of our key areas of interest as we recover from Covid-related restrictions. We are so happy to welcome many new members and we will work to ensure that we meet the needs of all our members, both new and seasoned! Our Board meetings usually take place on the Sunday prior to the monthly meeting. Let us know if you wish to bring forward any concerns that need addressing, or ideas that would make our Society stronger.

I hope that those of you who joined us on the Mer Bleue Bog field trip enjoyed the outing. I certainly did. It was a perfect day and the *Cypripedium acuale* clearly knew we were coming! Thanks to Daniel Brumar for leading us and providing us with such interesting information about the orchids, other plants and the Bog itself. There are a couple more outings planned for this summer at Purdon Fen. Please check page 11 for details.

As I said at the May meeting, we have many thanks to bestow on our volunteers. We are a volunteer Society. It takes many helpers to make it work. In general, I find that often the more you put into something, the more you get out of it – so, if you have not had an opportunity, please let us know that you are interested in helping. We can discuss finding a place for your talents. For this year I specifically thank our Board Members, our meeting helpers both in-person at the meeting and online, our Society speakers and workshop leaders, the leaders of our Orchid Discussion Group, our Conservation Committee members, our Show Committee members, and all those who helped out at the Show. This is a lot of people! The more participation we have, the more we can offer. Next year is looking good.

We have three items on our agenda this summer. The first is negotiating for Orchidophilia 2024. We are hoping to keep the same venue and the same weekend next year. We will let you know when the date and location is finalized.

Secondly, we are trying to find a Sunday meeting place that is large enough, affordable, has Wifi, free parking for easily unloading plants much like the Nepean Sportsplex, but that is more central. If you have any ideas, please send them to us as soon as possible as we need to come up with a plan by the end of June, or we may lose our space at the Sportsplex.

The last item is updating the website. We are currently reviewing our hosting site and planning a new website. This may mean we have a time when our website is not available, or it may be available, but with limited information. Please do not be concerned. You can always contact us through Facebook or at membership@ottawaorchidsociety.com. We will be back with a new look by September.

Finally, a special thanks to Andrea Picher without whom this newsletter would not be produced. Together with Arlene Lang (editor par excellence) and Joyce Medcalf (orchid knowledge base par excellence), she puts together the many bits and pieces and more to make the newsletter useful for you. She also takes care of our social media Facebook page and Instagram. If you have something to share, please reach out to her.

Jan Johns

The May 28, 2023 Meeting in Pictures

Photos by Arlene Lang

Our May meeting was the last for the 2022-2023 season. We celebrated our Show Award winners and the expertise of our membership.

Margaret Haydon, our Orchid Doctor, answered the top three orchid-related questions that were asked at the Orchid Care desk at the Show.



André Couture showed us how to repot our *Cattleya* orchids.



Jan Johns presenting Tommy Wingreen with the Hans Bode Trophy for best Plant Grown by an OOS Member at Orchidophilia 2023.



Hessalene Attong shared with us her expertise in growing some of her orchids outdoors in her beautiful garden.



Rynchosstylis retusa blooming in Hessalene's garden last summer.

Photo by Hessalene Attong

Congratulations

To our re-elected and newly-elected Board members.



Thank you to our many volunteers for making Orchidophilia 2023 a great success. Have a great summer!

Highlights from Hesselene's Presentation: Growing your Orchids Outdoors

Summary by Andrea Picher

Photos by Hesselene Attong

It is possible to bring your orchids outdoors for the summer and bring them back inside when temperatures begin to drop to below 15° Celsius on a consistent basis. Hesselene's presentation at our meeting on May 28, includes valuable information on what to do and what not to do when taking your orchids outside for the summer. Below is a summary of her presentation.

Why put orchids outside?

- The natural day/night temperature differences will help with flowering in the fall and winter.
- High outdoor humidity during the warmer days and nights benefits the plants.
- The sun is the best source of light for plants. Most orchids cannot tolerate direct sun, so try to keep them in bright dappled light. Also take care to acclimate the orchids to the outdoors to prevent their leaves from burning.

Before putting your orchids outside, familiarize yourself with your outdoor environment, including air movement, temperature, the path of the sun over your property, wildlife and garden pests that may damage your orchids. Choose a location that is well suited for your orchids, avoiding direct sun and wind. Remove any decorative outer pots to ensure proper drainage so the roots do not sit in water for extended periods of time.

Orchids that are placed outside may need to be watered more frequently, so be prepared to check on them several times a day and water them when necessary. You can also make adjustments like adding a shade cloth, when possible, or adding layers to your orchid set-up that may include other plants to help shade, cool or add humidity. Some examples include using Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) around *Vandaceous* roots, baskets or potted orchids, or adding companion plants in planters such as dinner plate dahlias, palms, Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia*), Cannas, even some taller varieties of Coleus to shade orchids.

Hesselene's advise is to start with one or two orchids (not your favourites, just in case something goes wrong). Knowing the parentage of your orchids and their requirements may help to determine if an orchid could benefit from being outdoors and the best environment for the orchid.

Angraecums, *Catasetums* and *Vandas* are some genera that do well outside in the sun, but make sure to slowly acclimate the plants to the outdoors. *Cattleyas*, *Dendrobriums*, *Cymbidiums* and *Grammatophyllums* are also well suited to outdoor growing. Begin by exposing your orchids to early morning and late afternoon sun, and avoid strong, direct sun.



Vandaceous orchids on a trellis on the right. Roots are covered with Spanish moss for moisture retention.

Highlights from Hesselene's Presentation: Growing Your Orchids Outdoors (cont.)

Water your orchids often! *Vandaceous* orchids may need water 2-3 times a day when outside, potted orchids also may also need water several times a day.

Monitor your orchids closely to prevent pests from harming your plants. Orchids that produce sap may attract insects that can damage your plants. You can use a Q-tip dipped in warm water to remove the sap. Remove dry leaves, dry sheaths and other debris from the media surface and the orchid itself, eliminating potential hiding places for insects. If you use Neem oil, insecticidal soap or other products, spray in the early morning or late afternoon to prevent the sun from burning the leaves of your orchids.

Prepare to return your orchids indoors at the end of August to mid-September when temperatures reach 15° Celsius or lower on a consistent basis. Gradually, over a two week period reduce light exposure by keeping the shade cloth on longer or by moving the orchids to a shady/protected area. This is also a good time to closely inspect your orchids for pests and damage and to repot them, if necessary. As a precaution you may want to spray them with an insecticide. Hesselene noted that she has good success with Safer's 3-in-1 Garden Spray. This fungicide, insecticide, and miticide controls powdery mildew, black spot, rust, aphids, mealybugs, spider mites, brown scale, and many other listed pests and combines the effectiveness of insecticidal soap with a sulphur-based fungicide. Repeat several times at regular intervals to prevent infestations.

Happy Growing.



Oncidium hung from a tree.



Can you see the flower spike?



Vandaceous orchids in a basket and on a trellis.

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 is held on the second Saturday). The meeting is held at the *Jardin botanique de Montréal* (JBM) (Montréal Botanical Garden) in the Main building.

Judging

- Participants must have the full name of the plants (plants with no name cannot and will not be judged as their correct pedigree must be ascertained).
- Participants must bring a clone name to assign to the awarded plants (the clone name is anything the owner chooses); the clone name must be provided at the judging session.
- The name of the plants should also include any designation, such as: AM/AOS, HCC/AOS, **CCM/AOS, etc. It will be easier if you bring the plant tag.**
- Plants must be clean and without pests.
- Inflorescences should be staked (for better presentation); however, the stake should not be obtrusive. As awarded orchids will be photographed, the Centre reserves the right to remove the stake (in cooperation with the members).
- **While plants are being judged, participants are not allowed to make comments or to intervene.** If there are any issues, these can be explained after judging.

André Couture

Orchids awarded in May 2023

Photos by Philippe Jolivet

Award	Orchid	Owner
20236936 HCC/AOS 76 points	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Faust's New Generation 'Jean-Pierre'	Carlos Agudelo



Awarded Orchids (cont.)

Award	Orchid	Owner
20236937 CCM/AOS 82 points	<i>Coelogyne</i> Burfordiense ‘Jardin botanique de Montréal’	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Award	Orchid	Owner
20236938 CCM/AOS 83 points, and 20236939 AM/AOS 80 points	<i>Oncidium sphacelatum</i> ‘Jardin botanique de Montréal’	Jardin botanique de Montréal



Awarded Orchids (cont.)

Award	Orchid	Owner
20236940 CCM/AOS 86 points, and 20236941 AM/AOS 82 points	<i>Sobennikoffia robusta</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

Conservation Corner: Upcoming Field Trip and Orchid Survey

We had a great time on the field trip to Mer Bleue Bog on June 3. A total of 18 people in two groups came on this field trip! There were new and veteran members, novice and experienced orchid growers, and people from as far away as Montreal! I hope you enjoyed it and learned something new from each other. I know I learned some new things as well.

If this trip got you more interested in native orchid conservation, consider volunteering for the Purdon Census in July. We could use a couple more people.

Our next field trip will be to Purdon Conservation Area to see Canada's largest colony of Showy Lady's Slipper orchids, *Cypripedium reginae*, and many other fascinating plants. On this ~1.5 hour walk, expect to see lots of plants blooming right against the boardwalk. **Planned for June 24 (rain date June 25).**

On **July 29 (rain date July 30)** we NEED 15-20 VOLUNTEERS to help out with a survey of the orchids at Purdon Fen (long after the flowers fade). This consists of walking off the boardwalk in teams of 2-3 people and counting plants. It should take ~4-6 hours, and you will contribute to the information that helps the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority keep this orchid colony healthy.

If interested in the field trip, email Daniel at DB_4321@yahoo.com with "OOS Field Trips" in your subject line. Spaces are limited.

For volunteering with the orchid count, contact John Alexander at alexanderarts@sympatico.ca with the subject line "OOS Purdon Census Volunteer" and your availability.

Daniel Brumar
Conservation Chair



View of Mer Bleue Bog
Photo by Jan Johns



Cypripedium acaule
Photo by Ethan Ackermann



Dragonfly at Mer Bleue Bog
Photo by Chantal Hunter

DFOrganico at Ottawa Markets this Summer

Photos by DFOrganico

DFOrganico Inc., an Ottawa-based orchid grower and vendor, and member of the Ottawa Orchid Society, will be offering orchids at various markets in Ottawa this summer. In June, you can find them at:

- **Parkdale Night Market** - every Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. So far confirmed for June 14, 21, 28, and July 5.
- **Byward Market** - June 17, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **The Original Navan Market** - June 24, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

DFOrganico Inc. plans to continue at the Parkdale and Byward Markets throughout July and August with possible pop-ups here and there.

If there is a specific orchid you are looking for, please reach out to Ashley of DFOrganico Inc. at info@dforganico.com or on social media @organico_df (Facebook and Instagram). You can also check market dates for July and August on their website at <https://www.dforganico.com>. Members of the Ottawa Orchid Society (OOS) can receive a 10% discount. Show your membership email or provide your name and membership number.

DFOrganico Inc. has a great selection of orchids right now. Most plants have spikes, buds and/or are flowering, so the next few weeks will be a great opportunity for OOS members if there is something you're looking to add to your collection. There will be a good selection of *Miltoniopsis*, *Oncidiums*, *Cattleyas*, a few large *Vandas*, extra-large *Grammatophyllum* and some *Cymbidium finlaysonianum*, which are huge (6-12" clumps), if you're looking for something 'specimen size'.



Cattleya Hawaii Island Bride



Maxillaria tenuifolia
'Yamada' AM/AOS
(yellow coconut orchid)



Wilsonara Pacific Passage (orange/yellow blooms) and *Oncidium* Pacific Pagan Kilauea (red and white blooms)



Parkdale Market

OOS Show Table for May 28, 2023

ALLIANCE	RIBBON AWARD	NAME OF PLANT	OWNER
Phalaenopsis Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf	1 st	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Newberry Parfait ‘Picotee’ AM/AOS (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Henry Fuller x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Abendrot)	Daniel Brumar
	2 nd	<i>Phalaenopsis violacea</i> f. <i>coerulea</i> ‘Indigo’	Serge Croteau
	2 nd	<i>Phalaenopsis bellina</i> ‘Red Apple’	Hang Tran
	2 nd	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Meidarland Kaiulani (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Princess Kaiulani x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> KS Happy Eagle)	Maria Martins
	2 nd	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> No Name Hybrid (purple)	Annie Smith
	2 nd	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> No Name Hybrid (mauve)	Annie Smith
	3 rd	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> No Name Hybrid (yellow)	Annie Smith
Vandaceous Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf	1 st	<i>Vanda falcata</i> ‘Kibana’	Serge Croteau
	2 nd	<i>Vanda</i> Dino Dream (<i>Vanda</i> Viboon (1990) x <i>Vanda</i> Bitz's Heartthrob)	Maria Martins
Oncidium Alliance Judged by André Couture	1 st	<i>Oncidium</i> Splinter (<i>Oncidium sphacelatum</i> x <i>Oncidium leucochilum</i>)	Maria Martins
	2 nd	<i>Psychopsis</i> Kramvers de Paris (<i>Psychopsis krameriana</i> x <i>Psychopsis versteegianum</i>)	Ian Philips
	2 nd	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Tome Yokoyama ‘Golden Gate’ (<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Hajime Ono x <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Pearl Ono)	Maria Martins
	3 rd	<i>Psychopsis</i> Kalihi ‘Yellow Bird’ (<i>Psychopsis krameriana</i> x <i>Psychopsis papilio</i>)	Serge Croteau
Dendrobium Alliance Judged by André Couture	1 st	<i>Dendrobium moniliforme</i> ‘Benikida’	Andrea Picher
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Lucky Girl (<i>Dendrobium</i> Romance x <i>Dendrobium</i> Happy Toy)	Tina Furano
Miscellaneous Judged by André Couture	1 st	<i>Zygonisia</i> Cynosure (<i>Aganisia cyanea</i> x <i>Zygopetalum</i> Skippy Ku)	Serge Croteau
	2 nd	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Maria Martins
	2 nd	<i>Coelogyne chloroptera</i> ‘Leprechaun’ CHM/AOS	Joyce Medcalf
Pleurothallid Alliance Judged by André Couture	1 st	<i>Dracula sodiroi</i>	Joyce Medcalf
	2 nd	<i>Dracuvallia</i> Gualaquiza (<i>Masdevallia bicornis</i> x <i>Dracula vampira</i>)	Doug Vye
	2 nd	<i>Lepanthes</i> Sherry Bridygham (<i>Lepanthes calodictyon</i> x <i>Lepanthes telipogoniflora</i>)	Hang Tran
	3 rd	<i>Lepanthes uxoria</i>	Hang Tran

OOS Show Table for May 28, 2023 (cont.)

	NAME OF PLANT	OWNER
Best of Show Table Judged by André Couture & Joyce Medcalf	<i>Oncidium Splinter (Oncidium sphacelatum x Oncidium leucochilum)</i>	Maria Martins
Member's Choice Judged by Steve Levick	<i>Oncidium Splinter (Oncidium sphacelatum x Oncidium leucochilum)</i>	Maria Martins

Member's Choice Comments

One long branching spike with lots of leaves. Flowers well arranged, impressive. New pseudobulbs larger than previous ones.

Best of Show Table and Member's Choice Winner

Maria Martins with her *Oncidium Splinter (Oncidium sphacelatum x Oncidium leucochilum)*

Show Table Photos by Arlene Lang



Phalaenopsis Alliance

1st



2nd



2nd



2nd



2nd



2nd



3rd



Vandaceous Alliance

1st



2nd



Oncidium Alliance

1st



2nd



2nd



3rd



Dendrobium Alliance

1st



2nd



Miscellaneous

1st



2nd



2nd



Pleurothallid Alliance

1st



2nd



2nd



3rd



Editor's Wrap



Cism. tenebrosum 'Jim'
AM/AOS x
Cism. tenebrosum
'Ed Wise #2' AM/AOS

This is the final edition of Spike for the 2022-2023 season. It is also the last edition of my first year as Spike Editor. I experienced a bit of a learning curve, but with the help of Arlene I have settled into a good routine, allotting quite a bit of time every month to put together everyone's input. I must admit that I am looking forward to the summer break as work in the garden is occupying more of my time and I do enjoy being outdoors. Hopefully, we will have time to spend a few days kayaking on the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers and maybe explore some other areas in the Ottawa Valley this summer.

We had a great members' meeting on May 28, marking the end of the season with many of you showing your beautiful, blooming orchids. Congratulations to all the ribbon winners.

On June 3, some of us enjoyed the wild orchids (*Cypripedium acaule*), as well as many other beautiful plants that grow at Mer Bleue Bog. I am so glad I was able to join the field trip. If you have the time, there is still time to sign up for the second field trip of this season to the Purdon Fen Conservation Area to see Canada's largest colony of Showy Lady's Slipper orchids, *Cypripedium reginae*, as well as the many other plants that grow in that area. I am so glad I joined the OOS. Not only am I getting better at growing my orchids, but I am also learning so much about our beautiful, native orchids and plants that grow in our area. Wishing you all a great summer break and see you in September.

Andrea Picher
Spike Editor



A beautiful bouquet of wild orchids on a private property in Stittsville.
Photo by Andrea Picher