



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

March 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 ODG meeting	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Photo submission	11	12
13 Photo submission	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 OOS meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
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Den. Kuniko 'Orchis'
Den. goldschmidtianum x Den. victoriae-reginae
 Photo by: Sabina Gupta

ODG: Orchids Discussion Group
 OOS: Ottawa Orchid Society

Welcome! Upcoming Activities at a Glance!

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

April 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.: ODG Meeting

April 10-13: Virtual Show Table Photo Submission

April 17, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.: In April, we welcome Sandra Svoboda, Editor of the prestigious Orchid Digest magazine.

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President's Message



Well, that was a busy month! I hope everyone who participated in the Online Auction got at least one thing to enjoy. I was fortunate enough to get several! Many thanks to our Chair, Hesselene Attong for the hours of work she put into this, as well as Jennie McCloskey and Andrea Picher. Thanks to Andrea and André for opening their homes, and special thanks to Jean as it seemed most of us like picking up our goodies at her house. And of course, thanks go out to you, our members, for your support.

Fred Clarke shared his very beautiful hybrids with us and all the hints we need to grow Aussie *Dendrobiums*, *Sarcochilus* and *Catasetums*. I find these plants so interesting. Confession...I had a lovely *Cynoches* that met its doom in my house. I was very good about not watering until it was growing roots but then I didn't water like a monsoon, more like a gentle rain and not often enough. I intend to do better with the *Catasetum* I purchased earlier in the year.

Many thanks to Monique Savard and Marie-Josée Bergeron for stepping up to organize the latest orchid group order through Montreal. The variety of offerings was quite superb. It is truly heartening to see our members offer to help in this way. The more that get involved, the easier the work becomes. On that note, if anyone would like to do this month's meeting notes to share the burden, please let me know at janet.johns@sympatico.ca.

The Orchids Discussion Group is also going well thanks to Pat Boisvert and Sabina Gupta, who is trying to support these discussions with articles in Spike dependent on the topics discussed at the meetings. It is great to share our common knowledge on orchid topics and learn from each other. If you haven't already done so, check it out some time.

As mentioned at our February meeting, our Past President, Dave Cooper has run into some more health issues. He will be busy with treatments and appointments for the next few weeks so will step back from his usual activities temporarily. I am sure you all join me in wishing him well for a speedy recovery.

We look forward to meeting in person at our May meeting as long as the pandemic stays at the current level and restrictions are not suddenly implemented. While driving around delivering/picking up for the online auction, I really enjoyed seeing quite a few of our members in person and it made me feel very happy. It has been too long. We will let you know all the details as soon as we have them. It is our full intention to also allow members to access our speaker via Zoom. There will be challenges as we move forward, but it will be worth it.

Until then, I look forward to Zooming with you all at the March meeting with Charles Wilson who will speak on *Bulbophyllums*.

Janet Johns

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

March Meeting



This month, the OOS is delighted to welcome Charles G. Wilson, Chair of the Conservation Committee of the American Orchid Society (AOS). He will be speaking on a very interesting, large but poorly-known group of Southeast Asian and African orchids, the *Bulbophyllums*.

He holds BS and MS degrees in Zoology and animal behavior. He was accorded Zoo Director Emeritus status on his retirement in 2001 after serving 25 years as Director of the Memphis Zoo. He and his wife Susan are both active, accredited judges at the Atlanta Judging Centee and were recently awarded the prestigious AOS Certificate of

Meritorious Achievement in Orchid Education for their work on developing training programs and webinars for orchid student judges. They live east of Atlanta on the Yellow River where they enjoy travel and fishing.



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, which is famous for its collection of heritage orchids as well as a host of other plants, including its spectacular desert, Japanese, rose and other gardens. She will be speaking to us about *Masdevallias* and *Draculas* of South America which are mostly cool, high altitude growing orchids in the Andes. Many *Masdevallias* are found in the area of the Inca historical site of Machu Picchu in Peru. *Dracula* flowers resemble little faces, some comic, some haunting, or vampires. Many of you will remember Sandra from her visit to the OOS in 2012 when she was AOS President, and her participation in our Show.

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)

Virtual Show Table Update for April 2022

The April Show Table will follow the same format as in February, and we invite you to send in photos of your blooming plants once again. The **deadline for entries will be April 10th**. You can take and send in your photos any time between Thursday, April 7th and Sunday, April 10th. Please send your photos to **Jan Johns** at Janet.johns@sympatico.ca until further notice. 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 Hollebhone, 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>.

Jan Johns (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 April 6th 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

Montréal Judging Centre Updates

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. In May 2022, the Centre will attend the Québec City Orchid Show and therefore will not meet in Montréal. In the current COVID context, the following restrictions will apply in order to attend judging (until further instructions are received from the Québec Government):

1. Only members who wish to have their plants judged will be allowed to attend
2. All participants must wear a mask while inside the JBM
3. All participants must provide proof of double vaccination against COVID (no personal data is captured) before entering the judging room

Judging meetings

- The meetings start around 9:30 a.m. but the training session (open to participants) starts around 10:00 a.m.
- Plant registration is upon arrival or after 11:00 a.m. (but before 12:30 p.m.)
- Participants must bring their lunch as there is no restaurant on the premise
- Upon entrance at the main building, participants must sign in on the sheet for the “Centre de jugement” at the security desk
- The security personnel will indicate the room number where judging takes place (usually on the second floor) – take the elevator on the right, past the double doors

Judging

- Participants will sign in
- Plants are then registered; the Registrar will provide the necessary help
- Participants must have the full name of the plants (plants with no name will not be judged)
- 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)
- **NOTE:** Plants must be clean and without pests, inflorescences may be staked; **while plants are being judged, participants are not allowed to make comments or to intervene** and if there are any questions, these will be answered after judging

André Couture

Highlights from our 2022 Online Auction

In the absence of our yearly orchid show for the third consecutive year, our online auction served two purposes:

- ♥ Raised funds for our orchid society
- ♥ Brought our membership together to share the passion for orchids

A big thank you to our membership, we could not have done it without you:

- ♥ 79 Donated items
- ♥ 32 Donors
- ♥ 34 Bidding Participants

Records set:

- 👉 Raised \$2,320.81 (highest to date)
- 👉 \$2,144.00 online auction
- 👉 \$ 182.01 monetary auction donations
- 👉 39 orchids/plants auctioned off

Unsolicited support from Orchid related businesses:

- 🙏 Orchid Arbour
- 🙏 Alexander Arts
- 🙏 Roehampton Orchids
- 🙏 Plantrunz

Some general stats:

- 👉 6,127 Auction web site views
- 👉 327 Auction bids
- 👉 10 Most active items were Orchids
- 👉 22 Highest number of bids on a single item

How will funds raised be used?

- \$ Support for Judging Centres
- \$ Future conservation project
- \$ Offset costs for speakers, and operational costs

Investment in continuous learning:

- 👉 Invest in our members to continue to learn about orchids
- 👉 Bring diverse learning opportunities like presentations, workshops, speakers
- 👉 Make available feature articles/webinars by sister societies

International Women’s Day, March 8, 2022

All around the world, March 8th is dedicated to celebrating women’s achievements. I just learnt that March 8, 1917 (Gregorian Calendar and February 23 in old Russian Calendar) happens to be the day during the Russian Revolution on which a group of women in Russia went on strike for ‘bread and peace’. Four days after the strike, the right to vote was granted to women by the provincial government in Russia. Looking back at some of the stories of these brave women who fought dearly for their fundamental rights, I get goose bumps! So much has changed over the years and I admit that we are the beneficiaries of their struggle and pain! Well, Kudos to them and Kudos to those around the world that continue to raise their voices against bias and work to change how women are treated. ‘Break the Bias’ is this year’s International Women’s Day theme.

My fellow women orchid hobbyists, the sky is the limit for your dreams if you have the will to reach it. Be proud, stand tall and celebrate being you every day!

In order to commemorate the day, I have decided to feature one of our own, Jan Johns and her orchid journey. I hope you will enjoy her story, which is told in an interview style.

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Jan Johns and Her Passion for Orchids

Jan, when did you start growing/collecting orchids?



Jan’s first Best of Show Table
Photo by: Arlene Lang

Jan Johns: On our 20th wedding anniversary (1991), my husband bought me a beautiful white *Phalaenopsis*. When it had finished blooming, I dutifully put it in a corner, which was not so bright. Months passed by and it never flowered. Then I heard somewhere that it needs light to flower. So I put it in my lovely east bay window hoping for it to bloom, but I had prepared myself to accept its demise. To my surprise, it bloomed in its new corner by the window and I was ecstatic. Up until then I had grown lots of African Violets, which I enjoyed. I think they all did well because we had good indirect lighting and they only needed care once a week – as did the orchid. I was far too busy to attend to them and so I was thrilled to find another houseplant that liked my neglect. I then went to a couple of Orchid and Plant Shows and was fascinated. I bought more *Phalaenopsis*, a *Miltoniopsis*, and a *Paphiopedilum*. Again, to my surprise, they all bloomed happily without much care at all. Being a busy person, I had the attitude that if it is happy to live in my house, then it can stay. I never got upset if something died until I lost all my African Violets to a disease. I then started taking notice and worrying about the

few orchids that I was growing. I joined the OOS in 2004 for a brief year or two to learn more about them but was just too busy to keep it up. I rejoined in 2014, the year before I retired thinking that this was something I would like to pursue. I still have several of my old orchids – the one I was gifted by my husband in 2004 (18 years old now) and my oldest I got at a Canada Blooms event around 1994 (28 years ago). They are like old friends to me. Sadly, I lost the *Miltoniopsis* and *Paphiopedilum* when we moved.

What attracted you to this hobby?

Jan Johns: When we got married in 1971, I had a very dear friend who could not attend the wedding. She had a dream that I had a bouquet of yellow and brown orchids. I decided that her dream should come true and used yellow and brown as the colour theme, which included the orchid bouquet. I have been interested in them since. I also found out that my great-grandfather, Francis Verel had a greenhouse in England and grew orchids at the turn of the century. He registered one with the Royal Horticultural Society in 1899 now called *Cattleya* (previously *Laeliocattleya*) Verelli, a cross between *C. forbesii* x *C. lobata*. Sadly, this is all I know. These two things made me very aware of orchids but it was my first *Phalaenopsis* rebloom success, attending an OOS Orchid Show and joining the Society that solidified it as a hobby for me.



Lovely Jan Johns on her wedding day with an orchid bouquet

Tell us more about how you navigated your orchid journey. What worked for you?

Jan Johns: When I began, I had little experience and in the 90's, the internet was not as good as it is now. It was going to Orchid Shows and other Plant Shows that pointed me to books/information about them. When I rejoined the OOS in 2014, attending presentations, seeing orchids at Shows and on the Show Table, attending beginner's workshops with Janet Johns and Jean Hollebhone were incredibly useful, as well as being able to talk about orchid issues with many members. One thing I learned from my first experience was not to expect advice/directions for care to be absolute. There are so many differences in light, humidity, temperature, temperature change, water quality, fertilizer, potting media and even aeration that you need to experiment with in your own environment to find what works best for each orchid. I am constantly shifting my plants around to get the best out of them.



West window, orchids growing on a Baker's shelf

I have learned over time that each household environment is different and that even within the home, there are many microenvironments that provide different advantages to plant growth. I am not overly adventurous. I know what I can grow and rebloom. I purchase good plants. Then I attend talks on different Alliances or read an article and may decide to try something new. I then find a less-expensive variety to “experiment” with. Once I can rebloom it, I go out to buy more expensive-plants. I particularly like fragrant orchids and have developed a good area for *P. violacea*, *bellina* and big leaf orchids. I have an inexpensive plastic shoe rack supported above a tank (clear Rubbermaid) of water. Recently, I purchased a new grow light and finally, the few *Cattleyas* I have are beginning to bloom. Every window in my house is a growing area – I use lights as a supplement on a baker’s rack in front of one side of a sliding door. I am not at all elegant about my displays. I am just practical.

Have you ever felt like quitting or get discouraged from growing them?

Jan Johns: When we moved into this current house, I realized that location, location, location is important. The old house had heating that we turned down at night and a perfect east bay window. Our current house has radiant floor heating, so the temperature is constant during the winter months. We have good south and west windows, but in a very small part of the house. It was quite an adjustment, and I almost gave up on growing them. I have had to find microenvironments all over the house to provide the right environment for particular orchids – every windowsill in the basement and upstairs (it is a bungalow) is different. There are times when I stagnate because I am too busy to research/repot/investigate new possibilities, but so far, I have never felt like quitting completely. We don’t travel much. I think if I were travelling and had to worry about them being looked after, that might discourage me a little. I had a little hesitation over the pandemic when I was forced to use our town water that negatively affected my plants. But it is now addressed.

What keeps you going?

Jan Johns: A few years before I rejoined the OOS, I had recovered an orchid from a restaurant that threw away orchids once they had completed blooming. It was lovely and had many flowers. As a new member, having no experience, I asked if I could bring it to the Show Table, which I did. At the time, I was truly surprised to win Best of Show Table with my first offering. Since then I have only won one other Best of Show Table ribbon. But I do keep hoping, although that is not what keeps me going. Seeing my plants blooming – their fragrance filling the house – watching buds open, and a never-ending fascination for some of the funny “faces” they have. My husband has little interest, but occasionally, I hear him on the phone bragging about all the flowers that are blooming in the house. Right now, I have 14 blooming and another 8 on the way and it isn’t even spring yet! I have enough to make sure that I have at least 3 orchids blooming at any time of year!

What types do you have?

Jan Johns: When I rejoined the Society in 2014, I had about 8 orchids. Now I have 94 healthy orchids indoors, 6 others are on their way out (yes, killing them is part of the process of learning)

and 5 outdoors. Twenty two different species in all. I might have a few more after the recent order. They grow on you!

I am most comfortable with *Phalaenopsis* (all kinds), *Paphiopedilum*, *Oncidium* (including *Odontoglossum*) and *Maxillaria*. I have *Cattleya*, *Angraecum*, *Tolumnia*, *Encyclia*, *Pleurothallid*, *Epidendrum*, and others. Some of my others are still quite experimental and we will see whether they will be added to my list of rebloomers or not. I have several *Dendrobiums* but only have one type consistently reblooming as yet. This will be my project for this year in addition to the *Catasetum*. I am struggling with *Vanda* types. I have killed several Jewel orchids and was very sad to lose a lovely *Cynoches*...something for the future once I have the new SVO *Catasetum* blooming. You just have to be optimistic!

Any secrets you want to share?



Jan Johns' wedding day with orchid bouquet

Jan Johns: Being happy to move and experiment with various species in your own home. Choosing plants that fit with your environment if you are not willing to build the environment for them (which I am not – kudos to those who do!). It helps to have a portable light meter, min/max thermometer and a humidity sensor to get an idea of each microenvironment.

If you are looking for ribbons, once you are comfortable growing and reblooming the species, research what judges are looking for and be prepared to spend bucks to get quality orchids.

Keep End All (or a similar spray that includes pyrethrins) and stamp out mealy bugs as soon as you see even one. Drench your plants (and medium) with End All once a week for 3 weeks. That will get rid of them.

Be very patient – many of my purchases have taken a few years to rebloom (especially after repotting). Speak to them kindly and they will bring you joy.

Sabina Gupta: Thank you Jan. This is one of the most beautiful orchid journeys that I have heard. You looked lovely on your wedding day and I bet those in your bouquet were *Cymbidium*!

Jan Johns: Thank you.

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Beautiful Orchid Collage Shared by Monique Savard



February 2022 Zoom OOS Meeting Recap

1. 48 members signed up for the meeting and 45 attended.
2. Jan Johns welcomed everyone to the meeting on this snowy Sunday and hoped that everyone had enjoyed the final bidding at the online auction and had won the items they wanted.
3. There was a slight delay before Jean introduced our speaker, Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids, who was kind enough to speak to us despite an electrical emergency in his business. As some of our members won *Sarcochilus* and Australian *Dendrobium*s during the auction, Fred started with a few culture notes on these two species. They are both from Australia and both prefer

slightly cooler conditions, but *Sarcochilus* prefer lower light than the *Dendrobiums*. *Sarcochilus* also need about 1 month of temperatures below 10°C at night to induce flowering. They are both hardy and robust plants. They do like to dry out between watering. They should be underpotted rather than overpotted with a tight root system that can dry out quickly. In low humidity, they will dry out faster.

Catasetums

Catasetums are New World orchids from Central and South America. They are hardy and robust growing most happily on palms where the leaves meet the trunk. They are sheltered by the umbrella and supplied with the detritus that collects there. They are also happy growing on telephone poles and houses! As orchids, they are popular for their variable flower shape, colour and forms; they are easy to grow and may flower from 1-5 times during the season. For additional interest, they have pollen-ejecting triggers under the column and are sexually dimorphic (have male and female flowers).

Variety of shapes, forms and colours

Fred provided many examples to illustrate their variety, shapes, forms and colours as below:

Ctsm. Pileatum, (broad lips) with huge flowers and different colours – including a red form

Ctsm. expansum ‘Midori’, a greenish colour

Ctsm. tenebrosum, black/chartreuse

Ctsm. Spitzii, with many variations from pink, red to yellow and amber forms and very floriferous.

Ctsm. vinaceum, a wine colour

Ctsm. saccatum with a pocket lip, inflorescences can be up to 1m long with 40-50 flowers

Ctsm. osculatum, pocket looks like lip with lipstick

Francisco Miranda from Brazil, which has the largest number of native *Catasetum*, and a group including Dr. Kleber went into the Amazon concerned about the deforestation and discovered the following recently:

Ctsm. denticulatum, a miniature that blooms several times a year

Ctsm. kleberianum, this has a bright yellow lip and stripes on the petals but the plants only flowered male so it has been difficult to hybridize. There are only 5 or 6 of these documented to be left in Brazil due to deforestation. Fred had a couple of them and finally bloomed a female flower after many years and now has two seed pods. He is hoping these are viable to preserve the species.

Ctsm. tigrinum and *Ctsm. cirrhaeoides* were also discovered on this trip.

Other fairly new species include:

Ctsm. fimbriata, bright yellow with frothy lip

Ctsm. barbatum, hard bristle looks like a big shrimp

Ctsm. callosum, elegant vinicolor with green lip

Ctsm. tabulare, lips with a tongue

Ctsm. lucis, found on the border of Colombia/Venezuela - huge 5' inflorescences

Ctsm. sanguineum, has a monkey face. There are two in which the shape is very different – they have caps, or look helmeted: *Ctsm. albobirens* and *Ctsm. globiflorum*

Sexual Dimorphism

Only the *Catasetum* and *Cynoches* are sexually dimorphic which is a very high evolutionary state. The male flowers are very diverse and used for identification of the orchid. Female flowers are almost all the same – helmeted and green. You can have male and female flowers on the same plant. In addition, Fred has seen the male and female parts in one flower of *Ctsm. spitzii*. Could this be an intermediate evolutionary stage?

Pollination

The male Euglossine bee collects nectar in his hind legs to attract the female. He is attracted to the male flower which has a heavy fragrance. When he picks up the nectar, the trigger is set and a bundle of pollinia is shot out from the flower to attach to the back of the bee, which also knocks the bee off the flower. Given this reaction, the male bee then goes to the female flower which looks different but is still scented to avoid being shot at again. Here he deposits the pollinia. The original adverse reaction is quickly forgotten as the male flower has the highest level of fragrance and the cycle starts again. Fred showed a video clip of this amazingly fast natural phenomenon. The separate flowers make hybridization difficult because you need both male and female flowers. Later he explained how to stimulate the plant to produce female flowers. These appear only on huge specimens that are older and very well grown with lots of energy to produce the seed. It takes time to produce female plants adding to the hybridization difficulty. Pollen can be kept in an envelope at room temperature for a year with no problems.

Hybrids

Fred pointed out that while hybridization is challenging, there is an infinite variety of hybrids – colours, shapes and forms. He touched on only a few of his hybrids. The interesting thing is that Fred usually names his hybrids for the grower who brought them to bloom. (Author's note: it is also interesting to look these up in Orchid Pro and realize that every plant is completely different as they are all from seed and each seed is different from the others).

Ctsm. Orchidglade (pileatum x expansum) x expansum = Ctsm. Susan Fuchs

Ctsm. Susan Fuchs x tenebrosum = Ctsm. Crownfox Voodoo

Ctsm. Orchidglade x tenebrosum = Ctsm. Donna Wise "Mark Dimmitt"

Ctsm. Penang x denticulatum = Ctsm. Melana Davison

Ctsm. Portagee Star x denticulatum = Ctsm. Chuck Taylor

Ctsm. denticulatum x tigrinum = Ctsm. Dentigrianum (spotted)

Ctsm. Chuck Taylor x Bela Vista's Sangria –Ctsm. Bel Tramonto

Ctsm. Susan Fuchs x Frilly Doris = Ctsm. Sheriff Frank Drew (grown by a Sheriff in Florida)

Ctsm. Jose Abalo x Orchidglade = Ctsm. Fong Cing

Ctsm. Donna Wise x Susan Fuchs = Ctsm. Louise Clarke

Culture (includes questions at end of talk, of which there were many)

When in active growth, “water like a monsoon”. Fertilize at every watering, ½ tsp. per gallon. Use open well-drained media like sphagnum moss or fine bark with perlite. He prefers that they be grown in organic media and does not suggest using hydroponic-type media like LECA. When growing they need to be watered every 2nd to 3rd day. They need *Cattleya*-like conditions in active growth – hot, humid, high light. In summer (growth period), they need highs 26-35°C and lows 16-24°C with winter highs (dormancy) 16-24°C and lows 10-16°C. Lights should be between 2000-4000 footcandles and humidity between 40-80%. They are semi-deciduous. When leaves start to die back, reduce watering. When bulbs are leafless, DO NOT WATER. Temperature can go down to 10°C. Indoors during the winter our houses may be too dry (lower than 50% humidity). Fill a jar that fits snugly around the pot about ¼ full of water. The pot should fit tightly at the top of the jar and sit above the water. This will provide enough humidity during the dry months. For at least 3 months they will be dormant (starting around late November). Do not water until there is new growth and the roots are 3” to 8” long. Then water like a monsoon again. Any repotting or division should be done as the new growth starts. Repotting should occur every 3 years or so, but do not overpot. Smaller pots allow for the rapid wet/dry cycle. If they are not blooming, they may need more light. They do not need a jolt of cold air to start. *Cynoches* and *Mormodes* have a similar culture. They make excellent hobby plants and with these directions, will grow well and happily.

4. Online Auction

Hessalene Attong noted that the Online Auction was now officially over. The only thing left is to distribute the winnings! She thanked everyone for their support:

- both member and non-member donors, participants,
- item hosts - Jean Hollebone, André Couture and Andrea Picher, and
- the Online Auction Committee comprised of Jennie McCloskey, Jan Johns and Andrea Picher.

The auction raised \$2,144. The Committee will be sending out a questionnaire about the auction and would appreciate your feedback for future planning. Please watch for it. There will be a short presentation with some more statistics next month.

5. Virtual Orchid Show Table

We had 18 members submit pictures of 44 gorgeous orchids. Many thanks to our members for sharing their passion with us. We also thank our judges: Joyce Medcalf, Jean Hollebone, André Couture, Marie-Josée Bergeron, Scott de Vito and Pat Boisvert. We also received two hints for our orchids this month. Jean suggested that we water our *Paphs.* a little more heavily during the flowering period to fill out the flowers. Also, if *Cattleya* flowers are getting crowded, you can remove the sheath once the flower appears and put some cotton in between overcrowded flowers. Additional thanks to Dave Cooper for collecting pictures to send to our judges without member names to ensure impartial judging. Joyce Medcalf also checks for the updated names of each plant, so please make note of the correct names, which are printed in Spike so that the next time you send the plant, it will be named correctly. Congratulations to all our ribbon winners.

6. OOS Messages

- Jean Hollebhone recognized the service of Helgi Fatovic to the OOS as both an interesting person, a great orchid grower and an excellent Program Chair for our Society several years ago. Helgi passed away recently in Ottawa. Jean has been Helgi's advocate and caregiver for several years. We extend condolences to Jean and Helgi's family. Please refer to Helgi's obituary in the February 2022 edition of Spike.
- In January, we received some membership payments. Just to clarify, the current year's membership term runs from September of 2021 to the end of August 2022. While we appreciate the enthusiasm, please hold off renewing your membership until we send out a membership notice via email sometime in August/September.
- Thanks to all our volunteers and Board members who do such a great job keeping us going and happy. We look forward to having in-person meetings perhaps as early as May. We will make sure that it is a hybrid meeting (with Zoom access as well). However, we do expect some growing pains as we move forward.
- If you want to submit your orchids for AOS judging at the Montréal Judging Centre, feel free to contact André Couture andrec.couture@sympatico.ca. If you are in the Toronto area and wish to submit an orchid for judging to the Toronto Judging Centre, please contact Joyce Medcalf jmedcalf@1000island.net.
- Just a note to let everyone know that Dave Cooper is stepping back temporarily from his position as Past President. He has been experiencing some medical issues that are taking up his time. We hope he will be back in action soon. Feel free to send him emails with best wishes.

FEBRUARY 2022 VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE RIBBON WINNERS

ALLIANCE	MEMBER'S NAME	NAME OF PLANT	RIBBON AWARD
Cattleya Alliance Judged by Scott de Vito	Ethan Ackermann	<i>Cattleya trianaei</i> f. <i>alba</i>	1 st
	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)	2 nd
	Maria Martins	{{(<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Chyong Guu Chaffinch x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Chyong Guu Linnet) x (<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Shinfong Luohyang x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Kat Green Power)}	2 nd
	Sabina Gupta	<i>Cattleya</i> Angel Song 'Kewpie' (<i>Cattleya</i> Orglade's Glow x <i>Cattleya</i> Beaufort)	3 rd
	Monique Savard	<i>Epidendrum stamfordianum</i>	3 rd
	Tina Furano	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Pat Wood (<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Bouton D'Or 'Halcyon' AM/AOS x <i>Cattlianthe</i> Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM/AOS)	3 rd
	Jennie McCloskey	<i>Cattleya</i> Walkerinter (<i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> x <i>Cattleya intermedia</i>)	3 rd
	Masa Matsuo	<i>Rhynchobrassoleya</i> Hawaiian Leopard 'Mei-Ling' AM/AOS (<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Waianae Leopard x <i>Brassocattleya</i> Richard Mueller)	3 rd
Cypripedium Alliance Judged by Jean Hollebhone	Scott de Vito	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Varuna (<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i> x <i>Paphiopedilum wardii</i>)	1 st
	Monique Savard	<i>Phragmipedium schlimii</i>	2 nd
	Maria Martins	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> SCBG Ideality (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Compensa x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Churchill Bay)	3 rd
	Scott de Vito	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> x <i>fanaticum</i> (<i>malipoense</i> x <i>micranthum</i>) (natural hybrid)	3 rd
Dendrobium Alliance Judged by André Couture	Masa Matsuo	<i>Dendrobium</i> Kumiko Dream 'Lady Smile' (<i>Dendrobium</i> Kumiko Angel x <i>Dendrobium</i> Wave King)	1 st
	Sabina Gupta	<i>Dendrobium bullenianum</i>	2 nd
	Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Dendrobium nobile</i> (?)	3 rd
Oncidium Alliance Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Princess Diana (<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Pearl Ono x <i>Miltoniopsis warszewiczii</i>)	1 st
	Monique Savard	<i>Aliceara</i> Tropic Splendor 'Everglades' (<i>Bratonia</i> Cartagena x <i>Aliceara</i> Tahoma Glacier)	2 nd
Phalaenopsis Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf	Class A: Large Flowers		
	Tommy Wingreen	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Yu Pin Infrared Ray (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Yu Pin Fireworks x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Yu Pin Ocicat)	1 st
	Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	2 nd
	Anderson Oliveira	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	3 rd
	Jan Johns	<i>Phalaenopsis amabilis</i>	3 rd

FEBRUARY 2022 VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE RIBBON WINNERS

ALLIANCE	MEMBER'S NAME	NAME OF PLANT	RIBBON AWARD
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Alliance (Continued)	Class B: Small Flowers		
	Jan Johns	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Pylo's Forever (Tying Shin Forever Love 'Orange Crush' AM/AOS x Yungho Gelb Canary 'Joseph Wu')	1 st
	Maria Martins	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Pylo's Forever (Tying Shin Forever Love 'Orange Crush' AM/AOS x Yungho Gelb Canary 'Joseph Wu')	2 nd
	Maria Martins	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Pink Girl (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Judith Stromsland x <i>Phalaenopsis violacea</i>)	3 rd
<i>Pleurothallid</i> Alliance Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Joyce Medcalf	<i>Pleurothallis bivalvis</i> 'Hill Island' CHM/AOS	1 st
	Joyce Medcalf	<i>Restrepia</i> Frank Feysa (<i>Restrepia sanguinea</i> x <i>Restrepia guttulata</i>)	2 nd
<i>Vanda</i> Alliance Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Annette Seling	<i>Renanthera bella</i> x <i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i> h.v. <i>petotiana</i>	1 st
	Monique Savard	<i>Aerangis luteoalba</i> var. <i>rhodosticta</i>	2 nd
	Serge Croteau	<i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i>	3 rd
Miscellaneous Judged by Jean Hollebhone	Serge Croteau	<i>Tuberolabium kotoense</i>	1 st
	Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Coelogyne cristata</i>	2 nd
Photography Awards Judged by Pat Boisvert	Annette Seling	<i>Dendrobium</i> Roy Tokunaga (<i>Dendrobium atrovioleaceum</i> x <i>Dendrobium johnsoniae</i>)	1 st
	Jan Johns	<i>Phalaenopsis amabilis</i>	2 nd
	Maria Martins	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> SCBG Ideality (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Compensa x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Churchill Bay)	2 nd
	Jennie McCloskey	{{ <i>Dendrobium</i> Gillieston Jazz (<i>Dendrobium</i> Peewee x <i>Dendrobium</i> Zip) x <i>Dendrobium</i> Victoria Flare} x <i>Dendrobium</i> Hunter Crash (<i>Dendrobium</i> Gillieston Jazz x <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> var. <i>curvicaule</i> 'Best')}	3 rd
	Annette Seling	<i>Renanthera bella</i> x <i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i> h.v. <i>petotiana</i>	3 rd
	Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Princess Diana (<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Pearl Ono x <i>Miltoniopsis warscewiczii</i>)	3 rd
Best of Show Table	Masa Matsuo	<i>Dendrobium</i> Kumiko Dream 'Lady Smile' (<i>Dendrobium</i> Kumiko Angel x <i>Dendrobium</i> Wave King)	
Member's Choice Poll Winner	Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Princess Diana (<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Pearl Ono x <i>Miltoniopsis warscewiczii</i>)	

February Virtual Show Table Results

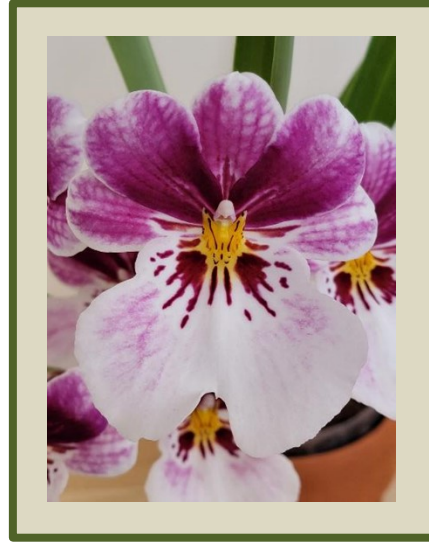
Best of Show Table

Dendrobium Kumiko Dream 'Lady Smile' (*Dendrobium*
Kumiko Angel x *Dendrobium* Wave King)
Masa Matsuo



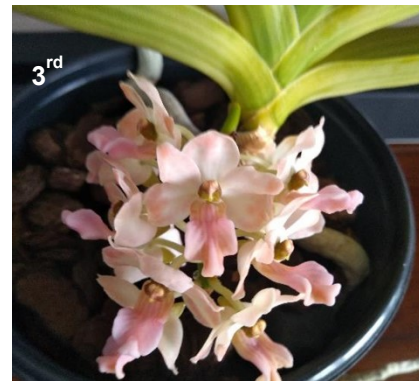
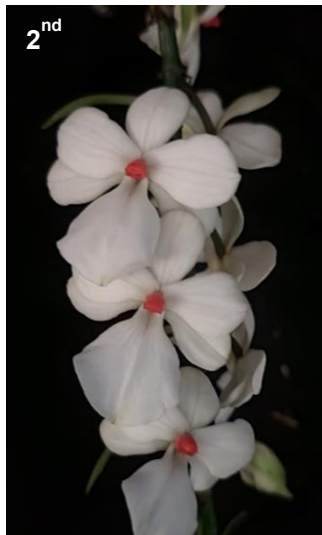
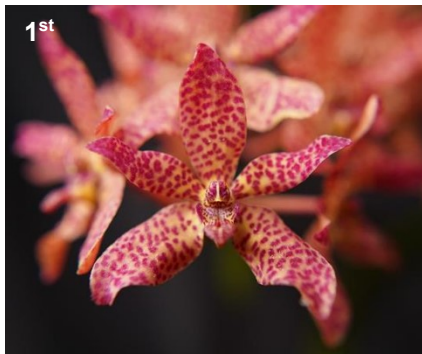
Member's Choice

Miltoniopsis Princess Diana (*Miltoniopsis* Pearl Ono x
Miltoniopsis warscewiczii)
Magdalena Gawronski



Vanda Alliance

Vanda Alliance		
Annette Seling	<i>Renanthera bella</i> x <i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i> h.v. <i>petotiana</i>	1 st
Monique Savard	<i>Aerangis luteoalba</i> var. <i>rhodosticta</i>	2 nd
Serge Croteau	<i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i>	3 rd



Pleurothallid Alliance

Pleurothallid		
Joyce Medcalf	<i>Pleurothallis bivalvis</i> 'Hill Island' CHM/AOS	1 st
Joyce Medcalf	<i>Restrepia</i> Frank Feysa (<i>Restrepia sanguinea</i> x <i>Restrepia guttulata</i>)	2 nd



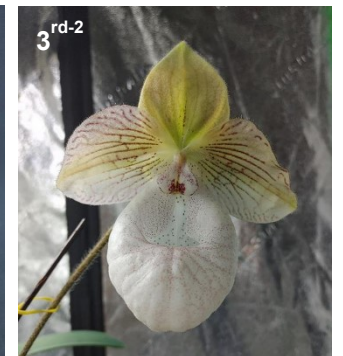
Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous		
Serge Croteau	<i>Tuberolabium kotoense</i>	1 st
Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Coelogyne cristata</i>	2 nd



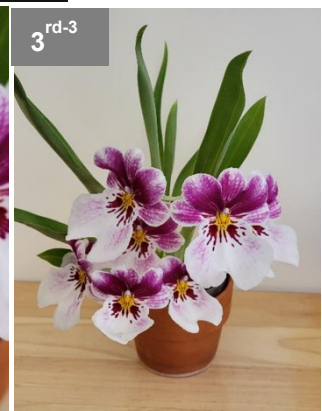
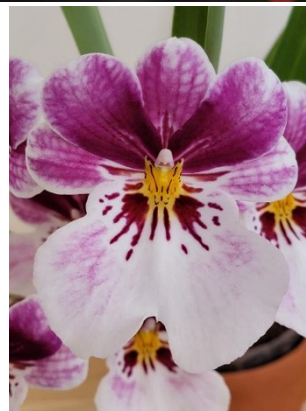
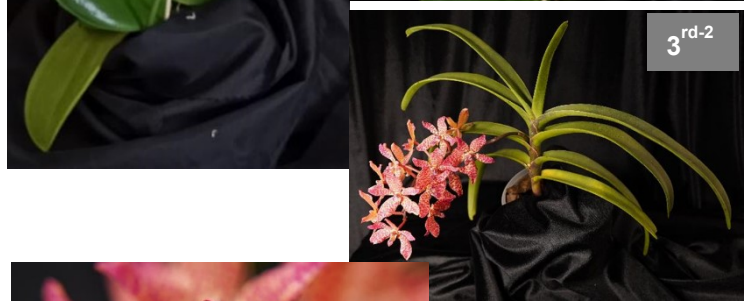
Cypripedium Alliance

Cypripedium		
Scott de Vito	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Varuna (<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i> x <i>Paphiopedilum wardii</i>)	1 st
Monique Savard	<i>Phragmipedium schlimii</i>	2 nd
Maria Martins	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> SCBG Ideality (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Compensa x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Churchill Bay)	3 ^{rd-1}
Scott de Vito	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> x <i>fanaticum</i> (malipoense x <i>micranthum</i>) (natural hybrid)	3 ^{rd-2}



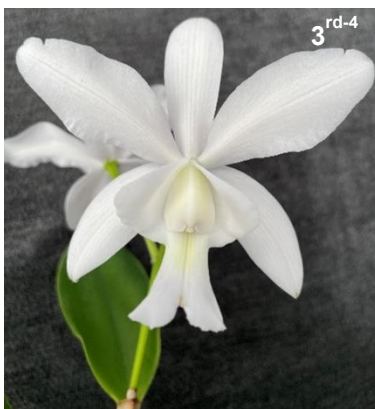
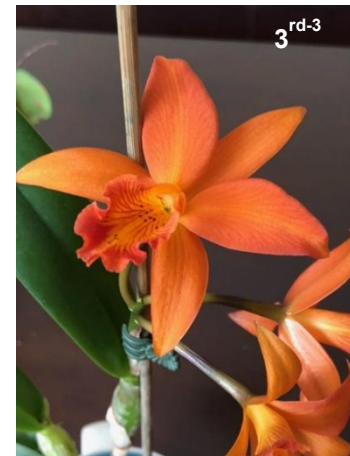
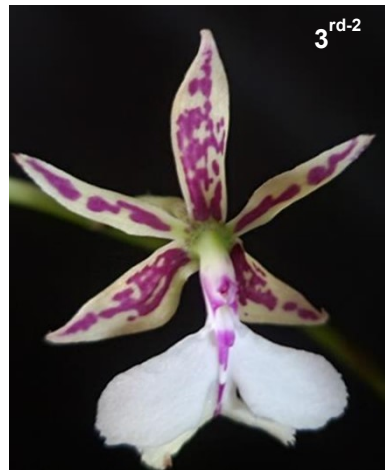
Photography Awards

Cattleya		
Annette Seling	<i>Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga (Dendrobium atrovioleaceum x Dendrobium johnsoniae)</i>	1 st
Jan Johns	<i>Phalaenopsis amabilis</i>	2 ^{nd-1}
Maria Martins	<i>Paphiopedilum SCBG Ideality (Paphiopedilum Hsinying Compensa x Paphiopedilum Churchill Bay)</i>	2 ^{nd-2}
Jennie McCloskey	{{ <i>Dendrobium Gillieston Jazz (Dendrobium Peewee x Dendrobium Zip) x Dendrobium Victoria Flare</i> } x <i>Dendrobium Hunter Crash (Dendrobium Gillieston Jazz x Dendrobium speciosum var. curvicaule 'Best')</i> }	3 ^{rd-1}
Annette Seling	<i>Renanthera bella x Rhynchostylis gigantea h.v. petotiana</i>	3 ^{rd-2}
Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Miltoniopsis Princess Diana (Miltoniopsis Pearl Ono x Miltoniopsis warscewiczii)</i>	3 ^{rd-3}



Cattleya Alliance

Cattleya		
Ethan Ackermann	<i>Cattleya trianaei</i> f. <i>alba</i>	1 st -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)	2 nd -1
Maria Martins	{(<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Chyong Guu Chaffinch x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Chyong Guu Linnet) x (<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Shinfong Luohyang x <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Kat Green Power)}	2 nd -2
Sabina Gupta	<i>Cattleya</i> Angel Song 'Kewpie' (<i>Cattleya</i> Orglade's Glow x <i>Cattleya</i> Beaufort)	3 rd -1
Monique Savard	<i>Epidendrum stamfordianum</i>	3 rd -2
Tina Furano	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Pat Wood (<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Bouton D'Or 'Halcyon' AM/AOS x <i>Cattlianthe</i> Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM/AOS)	3 rd -3
Jennie McCloskey	<i>Cattleya</i> Walkerinter (<i>Cattleya</i> walkeriana x <i>Cattleya</i> intermedia)	3 rd -4
Masa Matsuo	<i>Rhynchobrassoleya</i> Hawaiian Leopard 'Mei-Ling' AM/AOS (<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Waianae Leopard x <i>Brassocattleya</i> Richard Mueller)	3 rd -5



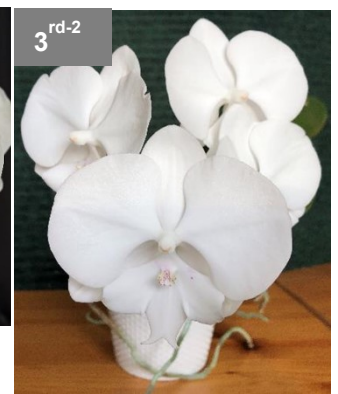
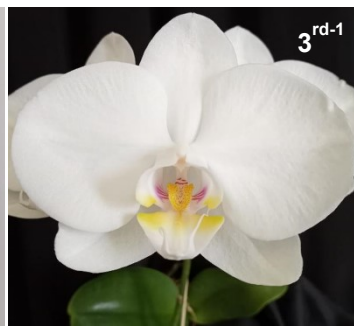
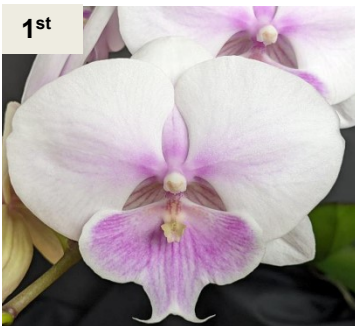
Oncidium Alliance

Cattleya		
Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Princess Diana (<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Pearl Ono x <i>Miltoniopsis warscewiczii</i>)	1 st
Monique Savard	<i>Aliceara</i> Tropic Splendor 'Everglades' (<i>Bratonia</i> Cartagena x <i>Aliceara</i> Tahoma Glacier)	2 nd



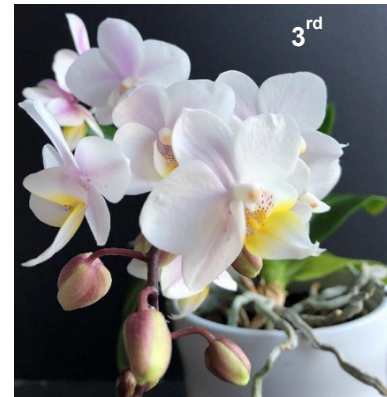
Phalaenopsis Alliance

Phalaenopsis – Class A (Large Flowers)		
Tommy Wingreen	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Yu Pin Infrared Ray (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Yu Pin Fireworks x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Yu Pin Ocicat)	1 st
Magdalena Gawronski	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	2 nd
Anderson Oliveira	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	3 ^{rd-1}
Jan Johns	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> <i>amabilis</i>	3 ^{rd-2}



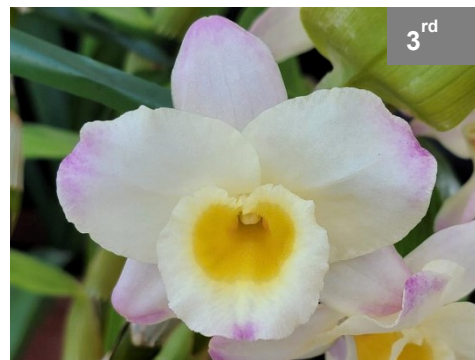
Phalaenopsis Alliance (Continued)

Phalaenopsis – Class B (Small Flowers)		
Jan Johns	Phalaenopsis Pylo's Forever (Tying Shin Forever Love 'Orange Crush' AM/AOS x Yungho Gelb Canary 'Joseph Wu')	1 st
Maria Martins	Phalaenopsis Pylo's Forever (Tying Shin Forever Love 'Orange Crush' AM/AOS x Yungho Gelb Canary 'Joseph Wu')	2 nd
Maria Martins	Phalaenopsis Pink Girl (Phalaenopsis Judith Stromsland x Phalaenopsis violacea)	3 rd



Dendrobium Alliance

Phalaenopsis – Yellow Hybrids		
Masa Matsuo	Dendrobium Kumiko Dream 'Lady Smile' (Dendrobium Kumiko Angel x Dendrobium Wave King)	1 st
Sabina Gupta	Dendrobium bullenianum	2 nd
Magdalena Gawronski	Dendrobium nobile (?)	3 rd



Novice Editor's Corner, How to Choose Grow Lights

by Sabina Gupta

At this month's ODG meeting, the topic for discussion was 'grow lights' - what type of lights to use for growing orchids indoors?. Several members shared their experiences with buying and using a variety of lights/grow lights. Pat Boisvert mentioned that he uses fluorescent lights (T5). Other members including Curran and Annette mentioned that they use LED grow lights from Barrina that they purchased from Amazon.ca. Several members shared good references for more information on grow lights, which are listed below.

An Introduction into PAR, PPF and Why You Should Forget Lumens – High Desert Orchids
<https://highdesertorchids.com/blogs/artificiallightgrowing/artificial-light-recommendations-for-orchids-and-houseplants>

Light Recommendations: PPF (PAR) for Orchids and Houseplants (herebutnot.com)
<https://herebutnot.com/light-recommendations-ppfd-par-for-orchids-and-houseplants/>

Tips for Buying, Measuring & Evaluating LED Grow Lights for Orchids, Aroids & Houseplants (herebutnot.com)
<https://herebutnot.com/tips-for-buying-measuring-evaluating-led-grow-lights-for-orchids-aroids-houseplants/>

A series: Let There be Light! By Kelly McCracken in Orchids: The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society Volume 90 No 7-11, 2021.

Part 1: An Introduction to PAR and PPF: Why You should Forget Lumens. P. 520 (July 2021)

Part 2: Target PPF for Orchids and Tropical Plants p. 596 (August 2021)

Part 3: Measuring Artificial Light Without a Quantum PAR Meter p. 676 (September 2021)

Part 4: Setting up your Led Lights – How High, How Far Apart and How Many You Need p. 758 (October 2021)

Part 5: Spectrum and Photoperiod p. 840 (November 2021)

Below, I have made an attempt to expand on this discussion derived from my own little knowledge and experience of growing orchids indoors. The following information is just an overview and should not be viewed as complete.

How to Choose Grow Lights

Several physiological processes in plants including morphogenesis and growth are light-dependant. Plants photosynthesise, the energy required for which comes from light. Photosynthesis is a photobiochemical process that uses light, water and carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and other

organic molecules such as carbohydrates. It is a process by which solar energy is converted into chemical energy. The visible colour spectrum of light spans from red/orange from one side (700 nm) to blue/violet on the other side (400 nm) on a spectral graph. Outside this visible spectral region are the infrared (700 nm +) and ultraviolet regions (400 nm and below). Plants use the visible colour spectrum for their growth, with blue supporting seed germination and root development, violet/purple supporting a plant's general vegetative growth, and red and far red supporting the blooming phase of growth. Thus, when growing plants indoors or under artificial environments, the type (different lights have different spectral (wavelengths) characteristics), amount, intensity, direction and duration of light provided to plants determines how well they thrive.

Several artificial light sources are available commercially. Traditionally, fluorescent lamps with enhanced blue/red spectra (cool white fluorescent lamps) have been used and are still in use by many. However, it is shown that the intensity of light emitted by fluorescent lights fluctuates with time and these lights generate heat. Large greenhouses use metal halide and high-pressure sodium lamps called High Intensity Discharge lamps (HID), which are suggested to be highly efficient in the context of high fluence (maximum lumens per watt) and high photosynthetically active radiations (PARs). HIDs emit heat, ultraviolet radiation and also because of their high energy requirements and varying spectral distribution, they may not be the preferred options for indoor home growing. More recently, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) have become popular as grow lights, which are available in a wide variety of sizes and spectral wavelengths (blue, green, yellow, orange, red, far red) and combinations of spectral wavelengths (mimicking morning sunlight to full sunlight and beyond). Apparently, LEDs exhibit the maximum PAR efficiency with minimum heat radiation. They also have a long life expectancy and low operating costs. Thus, LEDs provide an affordable option for small-scale plant hobbyists. In fact, LEDs are suggested to replace all other types of grow lights, promising to revolutionise controlled horticultural practices. With technological innovations, smart LEDs that can be time controlled to mimic sunlight progression from morning to evening, are now available in an affordable range. In addition to allowing the wide range of spectral emission in a controlled manner, these lights can also be controlled using a smart phone from anywhere in the world, making it easier for hobbyists to travel without having to worry about the lighting requirements of their plants.

What do I use?

I have mainly used LEDs for orchids, the selection of which has mainly depended on the cost and the life span (the life span is indicated as 'number of hours 25,000-50,000', etc., on the package). The longer the life span, the higher the price. There are several available on Amazon.ca. Locally, grow lights can be found in hardware stores such as Rona, Home Depot, and Lowes. I tend to think that they are all good for the purposes of growing and blooming orchids. If you are keen on providing optimal light conditions, some high-end, high intensity and high efficiency lights are sold by hydroponics stores and cannabis stores, optimised to grow plants indoors. Although I do check for colour spectrum (indicated on the package as K, 3000K or 5000K, etc.) of the lights I am

buying, I have a variety that are suggested to emit cool white, full sunlight to blue, red or blue/red spectra. I also use regular, flat garage LED types to successfully grow speciality *Phalaeonopsis*. The garage LEDs are low intensity lights and may require to be placed closer (6-8" from the canopy) to the plants that require high levels of light. The other 'full spectrum' ones, depending on the model, Brand, etc., can produce enough heat to damage leaves, and thus, should be placed at a distance (12" inches or more from the canopy).

The distance for placing the lights also depends on the type of plants you are growing. *Cattleyas* can take full spectrum light (LED) from a close distance of 6" but *Phalaeonopsis* will burn if kept this close to the lights. In addition to the distance, the duration and intensity of light also dictate how close plants are placed under certain types of lights.

How do you know if your plant is getting sufficient light?

Normally, a plant is considered to be happy if its leaves are light green, firm (or erect) and smooth surfaced (well hydrated). Leaves with yellow, brown or black spots are considered signs of discomfort, nutrient and light deficiency, or sickness. Leaves that are subjected to intense light develop chlorotic spots (bleaching), leaving pale yellow or yellowish white spots on the leaves. If not noticed early enough, these spots expand, eventually resulting in leaf tissue bruises. Tissue injury can result in dehydration, edema and death of the leaf. In some cases leaves look scorched (dry heat) and in other cases leaves look wet and edematous (wet heat). Plants requiring high light levels develop red tinge to their leaves, which indicates that the plant is receiving sufficient light.

Important factors to keep in mind

Know your plants' light requirements. Check LED lights mainly for the colour spectrum (blue, red, etc.). Other information such as PAR, Lumens, PPF – Photosynthetic Photon Flux, PPFD – Photosynthetic Photon Flux Density, can also be checked if you know the terminology. Select a type that doesn't emit heat, uses less energy, can be controlled by a timer, and for interconnectivity if using multiple tiers on a shelf. Adjust your shelf according to the height of your plants. Perhaps arranging them by their light requirement and then by their height could be useful. Always use a circuit breaker. Never overload the system. Check your plants from time to time after installing a new light for signs of unhappiness and discomfort.

Happy growing!

Editor's Wrap



Welcome to March, my favourite month of the year, the month of hope and new life! I did feel immense happiness knowing that COVID-19 is almost behind us and we can look forward to new beginnings! A few years from now, we can all look back and say that we were part of this painful pandemic history! My grandchildren will probably learn about this in their history or science classes 😊! Hopefully, for now, it is over!

On the other hand, some in Europe are in the middle of a dreadful crisis and my heart goes out to those innocents on both sides! I am sure this too will pass. But I know it will be more painful than what we have just been through because the COVID-19 virus didn't know any better but we humans do! We have a conscience and we have a choice! I hope and pray for all those at the centre of it, and that goodness prevails over evil!

I hope you all are keeping well in these challenging times. It is important to keep ourselves busy and focus on the brighter side of things even if it feels that there is no brighter side to some happenings! For us orchid hobbyists, it is not very hard to practice optimism. Our orchids have taught us optimism and resilience. Orchids are my hideouts from daily stress and they are my refuge (my boys are teens now 😊)! Orchids and plants in general ground me to my reality everyday and remind me that my existence on earth is transient. Their existence is also transient, but during their time, they make themselves useful to others in their surroundings by filling the space with a cool breeze, fragrance and colours! Why don't we do the same? Radiate hope, kindness and peace to all around us in these testing times!

March 8th was International Women's Day! Kudos to all women in the Society for being who you are! I am proud to be one! If you missed it, please refer to pages 8-11 to read Jan John's story of her orchid journey. Do you have a story to share? Let me know and I will make space in Spike.

This month, a large number of you (I counted 15) attended the ODG held on March 2nd. If you missed the discussion on grow lights, please see pages 25-27 for a brief overview of what was discussed, and some additional information on choosing grow lights. The ODG is turning out to be a popular event. If you haven't yet had a chance to attend one, the next one is taking place on April 6th at 7:00 p.m. Closer to the date, you will get prompts to register.

Alright, I think it is time that I wrapped the wrap. It is such a blessing to have a hobby that we enjoy and a Society to share our passion with! Take care everyone! Stay safe, healthy and happy! See you all next week!



Sabina Gupta (Editor, Spike Newsletter)