



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Spike Deadline	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 7:00 p.m. Orchids Discussion	11 Remembrance Day	12
13 OOS Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19 10:00 a.m. OOS Hosting (AOS) Montréal Judging Centre
20 1:30 p.m. OOS Monthly Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Welcome! Upcoming Activities at a Glance

Saturday, November 19, 2022: OOS Hosting (AOS) Montréal Judging Centre.

Sunday, November 20, 2022: Jean Ikeson, National Education and Training Coordinator for the American Orchid Society, will speak about **Australian *Sarcochilids*** at the meeting in person.

Sunday, December 11, 2022: OOS Board Meeting.

Sunday, December 18, 2022: Christmas/Holiday Party.

Thursday, January 12, 2023: Orchids Discussion Group.

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President's Message



As I write this, Halloween has just passed. It was wonderful to see so many joyous young people filling the streets once again. I hope your Halloween was filled with more “treats” than “tricks”.

I am grateful to Dr. Leslie Ee ND for his gracious offer to deliver his most interesting talk on the *Cyrtorchilids* of the Andes on my behalf at this past meeting. Those orchids are amazing. I wish I had the room and the energy to entertain growing orchid

“Christmas lights”. I enjoyed working with the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) for many years. Leslie is always filled with wonderful ideas and had the success of Canadian orchid societies deep in his heart as does the rest of the COC team. The newsletter issue on Jewel Orchids and the subsequent COC Speakers’ Day was entirely due to his work pulling the authors and speakers together. I am looking forward to seeing if we have any of our member’s pictures in the COC Calendar. Hopefully they will be ready for us to purchase before the New Year. Keep the idea on your Xmas list!

Once again, many thanks to those who shared all those wonderful treats on the raffle table – enough for everyone and there is still more to share. If you can manage to come to the meetings in person there are bonuses! Additional thanks to those who helped at the meetings: our judges, Joyce Medcalf, Jean Hollebhone and André Couture, Eamonn Tuck with photography and general help with set-up, Ethan Ackermann with the raffle and set-up, Pat Boisvert as online host, and last – but not least by any means, Jennie McCloskey who looked after the Membership table and assisted with Zoom. If you took your nametags home by mistake, please make sure they come back to the next meeting. They are a sign that you are a paid-up member. It was great that so many new members have joined for the love of orchids. Our newer members all have numbers above 1400. If you are at a meeting and a new member is sitting beside you, please feel free to welcome them in the wonderful way our members of the OOS usually do.

If you are not able to join us in person, take advantage of the online meetings and, of course the Orchids Discussion Group. This is a great way to interact with other members, share your knowledge and learn from others. Thanks to Jennie and Pat Boisvert for keeping this running.

A big thank you to Barbara Wysocka for volunteering to act as Co-Chair for Orchidophilia 2023. We are in the process of finding a new place for this year’s show sometime in April. We will keep you posted. We are still looking for volunteers. These can be very short time commitments or longer time commitments. More hands make less work – and time, which is important for all of us. Please see the list on page 9.

This month we have two events to attend – it is a busy month. The first is the Montreal Judging Outreach Meeting. This is a good time to observe an AOS Judging session. If you have plants ready to be judged, take them! Our monthly November meeting will have Jean Ikeson’s presentation on *Sarcochilus*. If you have these in your collection, this is a “must attend” meeting! Jean is excellent with these plants, and will share many culture tips. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Jan Johns

Farewell to Dave Cooper

It was a beautiful Saturday in Almonte. Hesselene Attong with her husband, Don Town and myself arrived at the Gamble Funeral Home at 1:00 p.m. with plants, baskets, and black material to set up the memorial display for Dave's visitation. We were finished at exactly 2:00 p.m. Many thanks to those who sent orchids for us to use in addition to our own: Bev Burtnyk, Ann Smutylo and Jean Hollebhone. It was lovely to see many of our members there – both new and experienced members. We stayed, chatted and met Dave's family – his wife, son, daughter-in-law, three grandchildren and more. We were treated to photos with his family – and lots of memories of Dave's interest in the outdoors, his helpfulness and ability to fix or make anything, and his love for his family and the Orchid Society. I am sure he would have enjoyed being there with us.

Suzie, his wife, and his son, Vince, were most grateful that the Ottawa Orchid Society honoured Dave's memory in this way. Those of you who have a plant or an item of his, think of him fondly and hug your loved ones. We will be discussing honouring his memory in a more permanent way in the near future. Many thanks to Hesselene, Don for assisting with set up, to Jean for collecting plants and to Arlene for taking the pictures.

Jan Johns
President



Photo by Arlene Lang

Program Updates 2022

November 2022 Meeting

This month, please join us for a program from down under as Jean Ikeson talks about Australian *Sarcochilus* orchids, beautiful red, white and yellow orchids native to eastern Australia. Several members have bought these plants from Fred Clarke in the last few years and this is an opportunity to learn about how to make them grow spectacularly for you, and in particular how to make them bloom.

Jean comes from Dundas, Ontario and is both an AOS judge, as well as a member of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society, and is very active in the American Orchid Society where she is National Education Coordinator for the judging program. As such, she sets the learning program for students in the judging system, so there is very little she does not know about orchids. Jean is also Chair of the Editorial Board of the AOS and is responsible with her team for soliciting and editing the interesting articles you see in *ORCHIDS Magazine* each month. The AOS has just published their annual supplement to the magazine. This year it is on orchid hybridizers and it was largely put together by Jean. She is a knowledgeable and interesting speaker and we look forward to welcoming her to the OOS.

After the Sunday meeting, we are taking Jean out to dinner at 6 p.m. at the Mandarin Buffet, 290 West Hunt Club. If you would like to join us for an interesting evening of orchid chat, you are most welcome, please just let Jean Hollebhone know your number of participants (jean@hollebhone.ca) so she can make a group reservation.

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

Meeting Time: Sunday November 20, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Richmond Room, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue; **DOOR 4** (at the rear - the Southeast corner of the building). Take the stairs on the right to the second floor or use the adjacent elevator.

Directions to the Sportsplex

From the Queensway:

- Exit at Woodroffe South. Continue south on Woodroffe.
- Once you have driven past Hunt Club Road, take the **second entrance on the left** into the Sportsplex.
- Drive to the rear of the building and turn left to the large parking lot.
- Look for **DOOR 4** on the rear of the building. (This is the same entrance we used when the Show was held here many years ago).
- Enter **Door 4** and immediately go up the stairs. Room is 30 feet (10m) straight ahead. There is a small elevator to the right of the entrance that can hold 2-3 people and plants at a time. Go to the second floor. The Richmond room is straight ahead off the hall.

From Woodroffe South:

- Heading north, turn right at the first entrance to the Sportsplex and follow the above instructions to **Door 4** and the Richmond Room.

November Meeting (cont.)

If you intend to join us in person, please note the following:

1. While masks are not mandatory, it is highly encouraged that you wear a mask to protect yourself and those around you.
2. Refreshments will not be served due to Sportsplex rules. Please bring your own drinks and snacks.
3. If you are feeling unwell, please join us online rather than in person. Make sure to register for the online meeting even if you intend to join us in person just in case one of the above occurs.
4. There will be an in-person Show Table only. If you wish to show your orchids, please make sure they are clean, disease and pest free and delivered to the Show Table by 1:10 p.m. at the latest. Fill out the registration form for each plant with the names of the orchid and grower, and place both the plant and the name tag in the correct Alliance. If you need help, please ask. If you have shown the plant before, and its name was corrected for Spike, please use the corrected name. This saves Joyce a lot of time checking them out before publication. It is always wise to quarantine your plants for a few weeks on their return to your home.

Raffle Table, October 2022 Meeting

Photo by Eamonn Tuck



Upcoming Events

December 18, 2022:

Location: Richmond Room Nepean Sportsplex, Christmas/Holiday PARTY! Details in November.

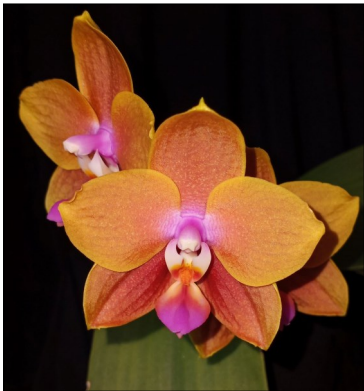
January 2023: Location: TBA

February 2023: Location: TBA

Ron McHatton, Editor of *ORCHIDS Magazine* and author of the *AOS Greenhouse Chats* aired twice monthly by the AOS will be here in person to talk about orchid culture. This will be an interactive session. Here is your opportunity to pick the brain of one of the most knowledgeable orchid experts in the USA who can answer your culture questions. If you enjoyed his talk on Sex Among the Orchids a few years ago, you will enjoy this. He is an entertaining speaker and he knows his orchids.

Jean Hollebone
Program Chair

Orchids Discussion Group - Update



Phalaenopsis Pylos Slurpee 1
Photo by Jan Johns

The ODG meetings were a great success over the last season and will continue, with monthly meetings on Zoom (preregistration is required). Our next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2023, 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. We look forward to seeing many of you at these meetings.

Pat Boisvert
ODG Chair

OOS Hosting (AOS) 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.

Exception:

For its November meeting, the Montréal Judging Centre will meet in Ottawa on November 19th at the Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, (Door 4 at the back of the building -- Room "C-D", 2nd floor). Enter by **Door 4** (at the rear - the Southeast corner of the building). Take the stairs on the right to the second floor or use the adjacent elevator.

The program will be as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. Introduction (André Couture).
- 10:10 a.m. Presentation by Michel Tremblay – New breeding direction in *Phalaenopsis* hybridization.
- 11:10 a.m. Plant registration (**for judging**) – Nicole Roy will assist members, as needed.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch - Members must bring their own lunch as there is no restaurant on site.
- 12:30 p.m. AOS Judging.
- 4:00 p.m. End.

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 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 reserve 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.

The Ottawa Orchid Society Needs Your Help - Volunteers Needed

MAJOR TIME COMMITMENT

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: Webmaster

Someone with developer experience to design an easy to update Wordpress site. Once this is done, we can train others to update the site (shorter time commitment). If we cannot find anyone to do this, we will have to hire a developer.

Vice President

Someone willing to assist with meetings and chair meetings if the President is absent, out-of-town displays and raffle. This person should have some facility working with Zoom, computers, speakers and projectors.

Online Auction Chair

Someone to chair the online auction committee. This will take place in January/February and requires someone with good organizational skills and basic ability to work online and write descriptions on the online auction site.

SHORT TIME COMMITMENT

Publicity Committee

Assist with getting the message out to the public using different forums and give feedback to the Publicity Committee about member retention.

Spike

Write reviews about websites, videos, articles useful for our members on an occasional basis.

Program Assistant

Someone to assist Jean with in-person speakers – picking up and dropping off as required, hosting or entertaining. As many of our speakers are visiting via Zoom, this will be an occasional event – but really necessary for the weekend of particular meetings.

Meetings

We already have several people to help – but if you are interested in helping to set up or take down, sell raffle tickets or assist with Zoom, please let us know. Sometimes we cannot all attend an in-person meeting, so it helps to share the load.

Catasetum Challenge – Update

In May 2022, the *Catasetum* Challenge was launched and a number of members bought seedlings of *Catasetum (Ctsm.) tabulare* and *Ctsm. maculatum*. The idea was to challenge members in blooming these two species native to Colombia and Mexico.

This month is more about seeing how well we have been able to grow them. Both are warm growers and prefer bright light and high humidity. Here are a few observations made to date.

Catasetum tabulare:



During the warm summer months, these seedlings grew well and produced a second pseudobulb. This species has not shown a marked dormancy period, but once the second pseudobulb is fully developed there is a marked rest period. The seedlings have not shed their leaves. This does not mean that the seedlings will never shed their leaves; as they age, they will likely shed their initial leaves as do most orchids. The second pseudobulbs have grown up to 11 x 2 cm; this is remarkable since the initial pseudobulbs were no more than 2 cm long. As can be seen in the picture, the pseudobulbs are quite elongated.

Catasetum maculatum:



As its Colombian cousin, this species grew very well during the summer. Contrary to the *Ctsm. tabulare*, this species had a marked rest period after the initial growth; however, the rest period was rather short contrary to its Mexican cousins, which could be dormant for 2 to 4 months. The seedlings have not lost their leaves. The pseudobulbs are about half as long (4 x 2 cm) as those of the *Ctsm. tabulare* and instead of being elongated, they are more obovoid (egg shaped).

N.B.: A few seedlings will be available for sale at the next meeting.

Catasetum Challenge - Update (cont.)

Conservation: One important aspect of this project is conservation. As the Conservation Representative, Daniel Brumar (DB_4321@yahoo.com) would be interested in tracking the project evolution and obtain some data. The first set of information would be to obtain:

- the member's name who purchased the seedling(s);
- which seedlings were acquired (*tabulare*, *maculatum* or both);
- size of the latest fully-grown pseudobulb; and
- whether or not some (unfortunately) have passed on (!).

Please forward your input to Daniel with the subject line “*Catasetum* Update Fall 2022”.

André Couture

Dr. Leslie Ee Becomes Full, Accredited AOS Judge

The American Orchid Society held its Annual Fall Meeting in Sacramento last week. At this meeting, our speaker from last month, Dr. Leslie Ee was promoted after 6 years of study to full status as an accredited AOS judge. This is quite an achievement and we wish to congratulate him on his well-deserved success.

The photo below was taken at the Toronto Judging Centre meeting on Saturday, November 5, 2022, with Toronto Judging Chair Terry Kennedy who announced his success, and he was again warmly congratulated.

Jean Hollebome
Program Chair



Malaxis - A Genus of Little Orchids



M. monophyllos

Photo by Daniel Brumar

Orchids come in all shapes and sizes. Most of the 25,000+ orchid species in the world are not show-stoppers like *Cattleyas*, but that doesn't make them any less remarkable. Some of my favourite native Ontario orchids belong to the under-appreciated genus *Malaxis* (*M*). *M. monophyllos* and *M. unifolia* are the two species you are most likely to find in Ontario. Each one carries a single attractive leaf about 5-10 cm tall, and a spike of tiny green flowers. Despite their small stature and subtle colours, I find them quite charming and cute. *M.*

monophyllos has a tall slender spike with some of the smallest flowers of any orchid (not far behind several *Platystele* and *Campylocentrum* species). *M. unifolia*'s flowers look like little gnomes and cluster near the top of the spike creating a flattened appearance. They are extremely challenging to find because they often grow surrounded by abundant *Maianthemum* (false lily-of-the-valley) with nearly identical leaves. Photographing their tiny flowers is another challenge.

Both of these *Malaxis* species have very wide distributions, and their future is considered secure for now. *M. monophyllos* is circumboreal – it is found throughout the northern hemisphere, from Newfoundland to Alaska, from Japan to France. *M. unifolia* is found throughout eastern North America and into Guatemala and Jamaica. They are common, right?

But this isn't the whole story. These shy little orchids highlight an interesting problem throughout plant conservation.

M. monophyllos seems to grow abundantly, but only in a very specific type of habitat. I have only seen it in a single swamp. *M. unifolia* seems to grow in almost any kind of soil and habitat, but only ever alone or in pairs in any one location. Pollination seems to be rare, since few seed pods are produced. How is a tiny insect supposed to find not one, but TWO of these elusive plants to visit, maybe kilometres apart? Claiming these huge geographic ranges doesn't really capture how rare or precarious a species might be. If they are so elusive, how can we tell if these plants really are common, or become threatened in the near future?

When swamps are drained or bulldozers drive over these tiny orchids to make room for cornfields, suburbs, asphalt, and turf, does anyone notice?



M. unifolia

Photo by Daniel Brumar



M. unifolia

Photo by Daniel Brumar

But who cares about *Malaxis*? Several other species are also fascinating. *M. paludosa* (now *Hammarbya paludosa*) is an unbelievably small plant that is very rare in North America. A dozen plants can fit on a quarter. While most orchid flowers are either non-resupinate (lip uppermost, like many *Prosthecheas*) or resupinate (flower buds twist 180° so the lip is lowermost, like a *Cattleya*), *M. paludosa* flowers twist a full 360° as they open, bringing them back where they started. This orchid was integral to the development of Charles Darwin's ideas of evolution happening through random incremental changes, without foresight or planning.

Malaxis - A Genus Of Little Orchids cont.



Malaxis monophyllos
Photo by Daniel Brumar

He argued, no intelligent designer would make a silly design choice like this 360° twist; it happened by chance. Another notable species is *M. bayardii*, which is critically endangered. Fewer than 50 plants occur at about 12 sites just south of the border, with only 1-5 plants at each site. It is threatened with imminent extinction by land development and invasive plant species altering its habitat. Finally, several tropical species are prized by orchid hobbyists for their unusual flowers and their showy foliage, like *M. acuminata*, *M. calophylla*, and the incredible shiny purple-leaved *M. metallica*!

Malaxis is a genus of quiet little plants full of beauty and surprises.

Daniel Brumar
Conservation Representative

References:

Bruce and Grey Plant Committee. *The Orchids of Bruce and Grey*. Stan Brown Printers Limited, 2002.

Canadian Orchid Congress. *Jewel Orchids*. Special Issue, 2021.

Endersby, Jim. *Orchid: A Cultural History*. University of Chicago Press, 2016.

IUCN Red List: Bayard's Adder's-mouth Orchid, <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/64176353/64176361>

North American Orchid Conservation Center: *Malaxis unifolia*, <https://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/species/malaxis/unifolia/>

North American Orchid Conservation Center: *Malaxis monophyllos*, <https://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/species/malaxis/monophyllos/>

Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia: *Malaxis unifolia*, <http://orchidspecies.com/maxunifolia.htm>

Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia: *Malaxis monophyllos*, <http://orchidspecies.com/malmonophyllos.htm>



M. calophylla
Photo by Andrew Geimar,
Roehampton Orchids



M. calophylla
Photo by Heidi Chung



M. commelinifolia
Photo by Diane Özdamar

October 2022 Show Table Results

Alliance	Ribbon Award	Name of Plant	Owner
Cattleya Alliance Judged by André Couture	1st	<i>Cattleya</i> C. G. Roebing (1916) 'Blue Indigo' (<i>Cattleya harrisoniana</i> x <i>Cattleya mendelii</i>)	Angèle Biljan
	3rd	<i>Cattlianthe</i> Sagarik Wax (<i>Cattleya</i> Summerland Girl x <i>Cattlianthe</i> Chocolate Drop)	Angèle Biljan
Phalaenopsis Alliance Judged by Jean Hollebhone	1st	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mituo Diamond 'Big Pink' (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Diamond Beauty x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> LD's Bear King)	Bev Burtnyk
	2nd	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> No Name	Maria Martins
Oncidium Alliance Judged by Jean Hollebhone	1st	<i>Psychopsis</i> Kramvers de Paris (<i>Psychopsis krameriana</i> x <i>Psychopsis versteegianum</i>)	Ian Philips
	2nd	<i>Aliceara</i> Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy' HCC/AOS (<i>Bratonia</i> Cartagena x <i>Oncidium</i> Gledhow)	Angèle Biljan
Pleurothallid Alliance Judged by André Couture	1st	<i>Restrepia</i> Frank Feysa (<i>Restrepia sanguinea</i> x <i>Restrepia guttulata</i> 'Willow Pond')	Joyce Medcalf
Best of Show Table Judged by Jean Hollebhone and André Couture		<i>Restrepia</i> Frank Feysa (<i>Restrepia sanguinea</i> x <i>Restrepia guttulata</i> 'Willow Pond')	Joyce Medcalf
Member's Choice Judged by Hessalene Attong		<i>Cattleya</i> C. G. Roebing (1916) 'Blue Indigo' (<i>Cattleya harrisoniana</i> x <i>Cattleya mendelii</i>)	Angèle Biljan

Member's Choice Comments

Mature plant with five flowers and three buds; beautiful amethyst colour (a favourite of mine); fragrant.

Best of Show Table

Joyce Medcalf with her *Restrepia* Frank Feysa (*Restrepia sanguinea* x *Restrepia guttulata* 'Willow Pond')
Show Table Photos by Eamonn Tuck



Member's Choice

Cattleya C. G. Roebling (1916) 'Blue Indigo' (*Cattleya harrisoniana* x *Cattleya mendelii*)



Cattleya Alliance

1st



3rd



Phalaenopsis Alliance

1st



2nd



Oncidium Alliance

1st



2nd



Pleurothallid Alliance

1st



Editor's Wrap



Phalaenopsis celebensis
Photo by Andrea Picher

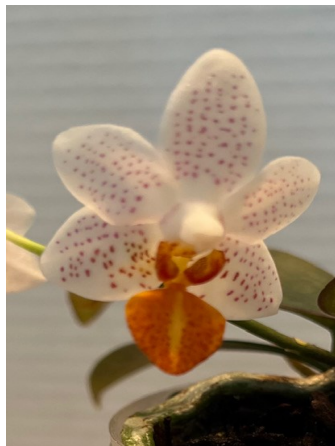
I hope you all enjoyed the beautiful, unseasonably warm Fall weather during the first part of November. I sure did! I love the warm weather and was grateful for the additional time to clean up my garden. Now that all (well almost all) is taken care of outside, I hope to have time to focus a bit more on my indoor plants, including the orchids, and a set-up for a small indoor vegetable growing space. I am fortunate to have Dave Cooper's growing shelf, which I will put to good use for overwintering some of the orchids that spent the summer outside, but also to grow lettuce and microgreens over the winter.

For the first time, since the pandemic started in 2020, I visited family in Europe. I met up with my mother and uncle at my sister's place, who with her family lives in a small village in the mountains of Austria. It was a great opportunity to get back to basics, enjoy good and healthy food, and spent time hiking and enjoying each other's company in the evenings. I didn't discover any wild orchids on our hikes, but my sister who forages for herbs pointed to several interesting plants and mushrooms. While I was away, my husband tended to my orchids. He did a great job and I was delighted to discover that most of my complex *Phalaenopsis* orchids are growing spikes. I am looking forward to their blooms brightening the cold and dark winter days of January, February and beyond.

Starting to travel again makes me wonder how everyone takes care of their orchids while they're away. Do you have family members or friends water and care for them or do you make other arrangements? Do you have a self-watering set-up that keeps your plants hydrated while you are away? Surely I am not the only one interested in finding a way to grow orchids, but have some freedom to travel again now that pandemic restrictions have been lifted. Please share your arrangements and/or set-ups that keep your orchids happy while you are away via email (andreapicher1@gmail.com). Discussing some of the options would make for an informative article in Spike as people travel south in a few months.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our meeting on November 20, 2022.

Andrea Picher
Spike Editor



Phalaenopsis Mini Mark
Picture by Andrea Picher