



SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

OCTOBER 2021

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Dendrobium bracteosum
Photo by: Arlene Lang
Grown by: Janet Lang

ODG: Orchids Discussion Group
OOS: Ottawa Orchid Society

Welcome and Happy Thanksgiving to All!

This Month's Activities at a Glance

October 17, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.: OOS meeting. Henry Steger will speak about Orchids of the Ottawa Region.

October 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.: ODG meeting.

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President's Message



How quickly the weather changes. It seems like last week was summer - and now we are into the fall. Time to worry about bringing plants in if you have not done so already. Marilyn Light's presentation on this at our September meeting was more than timely! Thanks, Marilyn, for sharing those key notes with us. I hope you all enjoyed our presentation on Black Orchids with Dr. Leslie Ee ND. I found it both entertaining and interesting. I had no idea that we now have so many different black hybrids to choose from. In October, our own Henry Steger will tell us about the orchids in and around the Ottawa area. For those of you who enjoy orchid hunting, that will be a treat! Please always respect our native orchids – just look and photograph, do not pick, harvest or trample.

Sadly, we are still Zooming, but until we can accommodate everyone in a safe space, this will be the norm. We are looking at the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, which has a nice space and meets all the needs for public transport, free parking and WiFi. While the rent will increase, the space is excellent. Thanks to Jean Hollebhone for finding this place. At the moment, capacity is limited by the 6-metre rule, so the space cannot accommodate us all. Please note that we will be required to be fully vaccinated to enter the space as per provincial regulations.

In the meantime, we are trying to engage the Society and make it friendly for all. There are many activities planned. Jean Hollebhone and André Couture have arranged 3 group orders for those desperate for their orchid fix. If you need to chat about orchids, join the Orchid Discussion Group each month, at the end of which (8:00 p.m.) there will be a market session to buy/sell/exchange orchids between members. If you need something a little more intense, perhaps you need a mentor – great idea from Jennie McCloskey, our Membership Chair. If you are interested in Conservation activities for orchids, Pat Boisvert is organizing a committee to work on this (see pages 5-8).

We are also planning to hold an online auction this year. The auction is traditionally held at our February meeting as a fundraiser. Money from the auction goes to our Judging Centres and other OOS endeavours. We are hoping that many of you will participate by donating items for sale and/or bidding on items at the auction. We still need a couple of volunteers to assist with this – thanks to those who have already volunteered. Going online ensures that we can still have our auction and have a speaker in February too!

On behalf of you all, I also need to express our sincere gratitude to our anonymous benefactor who has donated \$4,000 to the OOS to ensure that we can continue to operate with great speakers without being worried about loss of revenue from our cancelled shows. Thank you, thank you, thank you! So we have a busy year ahead! I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you all at our October Meeting.

Jan Johns

Tentative Program for 2021 (all talks will be held virtually at 1:30 p.m.)

We are pleased to announce what we hope will be an exciting program for you this fall. However, if you have suggestions or wishes for a specific topic to be covered at one of our meetings, please send your suggestions to Jean Hollebhone.

October Meeting

This month we are pleased to welcome our own Henry Steger who will share with us information on the Orchids of the Ottawa Region. Henry has been a member of our Society for 15 years, setting a record for the longest membership in the Society. His membership can be traced back to almost the first meeting of the Society! Henry has served with distinction in many capacities including Vice President and President, and has helped in many other positions through the years. His style is efficient, quiet service without fanfare, helping where it is needed.

Perhaps the most important and essential contribution was as Registrar for our Show for a number of years. He was responsible for converting our cumbersome, hand-written registration process into a streamlined and computerized system, which not only was essential to the smooth running of our Shows but was shared with and continues to be used by other Societies such as the Fraser Valley Orchid Society and the Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. Currently, he continues to serve as Chair of the Awards Committee. Outside of the Ottawa Society, Henry has been active in the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, where he is currently the Chairman of the Registration Committee. In this day of expanding urbanization, natural habitat is shrinking and with it, native orchids are under increasing pressure to thrive and survive. Henry will share with us his wide knowledge of the rich and little known orchid habitat of the Ottawa region.

Upcoming Events

November 2021: Betty Kelepecz from the Pacific South Orchid Judging Center in the United States will speak to us about the orchids of the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Her talk is interlaced with interesting photos of some of the very famous orchids from this region, as well as information about the unique and mysterious native tribes she met while on her orchid adventure. This is a fascinating talk that you will not want to miss.

December 2021: Annual Christmas party. It is hoped that by this time we may be able to meet face to face, but if that is not the case, we will still meet and have a fun social program virtually.

Jean Hollebhone (Program Chair)

Group Plant Orders

Recently, we received the group orders from Paph Paradise and Gold Country Orchids. The plants were in exceptional condition, generously-sized, healthy and vigorous. Although it was a long wait for permits, the result was worth it. By the time Spike comes out we should have delivery of the group order from Ecuagenera and the orders for Crystal Star and Sunset Valley Orchids would have been placed. This is all we are planning for the fall season although we could organize a group order from Ravenvision for orchid supplies if there is enough interest. In the spring, depending upon the COVID situation, we will either have a Show or organize additional orders, this time from some of the Taiwan vendors and Paramount Orchids in British Columbia. More on this later.

Jan Johns (President)

Montréal Judging Centre News

The Montréal Judging Centre will resume its American Orchid Society (AOS) judging activities at the **Jardin Botanique de Montréal** on October 16, 2021. Members are welcome to bring their plants for judging.

The Centre will abide by the following health and safety rules:

- all participants must bring a proof of having received two doses of a provincially-approved COVID vaccine (i.e., a provincial vaccination certificate)
- all participants will have to wear a mask
- only the members of the Centre including students and individuals who have submitted an application to the AOS, exhibitors bringing plants for judging and the designated photographer will be permitted
- observers will not be allowed.

In the following months, the Centre will meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month, except in December when Centre will meet on December 11th.

The Centre would like to thank all members of the Society for their support.

André Couture

Virtual Show Table Update for November 2021

The November Show Table will follow the same format as last season, and we invite you to send in photos of your blooming plants once again. The **deadline for entries will be November 14th**. You can take and send in your photos any time between Thursday, November 11th and Sunday, November 14th. Please send your photos to Dave Cooper at orchidae@storm.ca. Remember to include your name as well as the full name of each plant (or NOID if you don't have the name).

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

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

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

Dave Cooper

Past President

The Orchid Superhero Team!

Just a quick note from your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man... What do you mean this isn't the Superhero Society? Wrong group? Maybe not... If you are interested in being an Orchid Superhero and be part of a small Orchid Conservation Committee, please contact me. What will we do, you ask? First, we will talk about opportunities and ideas. We will brainstorm. Should we find something that we think the Society can do, we will present these to the Board to see if we can move forward with the proposal. This does NOT mean the Committee will do everything. You will be able to do as much or as little as you desire.

I hope to have you on my team - The Orchid Superhero Team!

Pat Boisvert (Conservation Rep.)

Pat.g.boisvert@gmail.com

Orchids Discussion Group Update

The ODG meeting was a great success over the last season and will be continued this season, with monthly meetings on Zoom (preregistration is required). Our next meeting will be held on November 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

In preparation of 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.

A Call for Volunteers and Member Participation

The OOS Board is seeking members for the following:

Mentorship Program

Intent: To match novice (less experience) and expert (some experience) members for contact about orchid culture.

If you want to be able to contact an experienced member of the Society on a regular basis, please email Jan Johns at janet.johns@sympatico.ca with your name and the area in which you would like help (i.e., beginner, general) or Alliance specific guidance (i.e., growing *Cattleya*, *Catasetum*, etc.). Similarly, if you are willing to offer help by being a mentor, please send your name and the area of your expertise. Please note that we already have one beginner/intermediate who would like more assistance with culture. If you can help, please let us know.

Online Auction Assistance

Intent: To plan and organize an online auction for the spring. We already have two volunteers, however, it would be wonderful to have a couple of additional volunteers to help with this. If you have experience with online sales or other similar online platforms, that would be wonderful but not necessary. Please email Jan Johns at janet.johns@sympatico.ca.

OOS Marketplace

Intent: To provide a time and place for members who wish to buy/sell/trade orchids between the Society members.

The Orchids Discussion Group meets on the first (or occasionally the second) Wednesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in purchasing orchids from members or if you are interested in selling your orchids to members, please join us at 8:00 p.m. to discuss arrangements.

The OOS will not be responsible for the arrangements made between the members – it would be strictly between members.

No emails needed – just remember to register for the ODG when you receive the email. Join us by 8:10 p.m.

The OOS Board

Zooming Information

We will continue to use Zoom for our meetings this year at least until December. Here are a few tips to make your experience enjoyable.

Before the Meeting:

1. Make sure your Zoom Client (laptop) or App (phone (not recommended)/tablet) is up-to-date. If you have not used it for a while, you might want to uninstall and reinstall it. If you are using a laptop or computer, you cannot use the App. You need the Client which can be downloaded at [Video Conferencing, Cloud Phone, Webinars, Chat, Virtual Events | Zoom](#). Please refer to the Resources tab.
2. Register for the meeting as soon as you get the notice, which will be sent with the notice for Spike. You must enter your name and email. Register by Friday at 5:00 p.m. before the Sunday meeting. You will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours with the link to the meeting. If you do not receive it, please contact janet.johns@sympatico.ca well before the start of the meeting to figure out why. I cannot troubleshoot and run the meeting at the same time!
3. You will be resent the link on the Sunday morning of the meeting just in case it gets lost in your email list.

During the Meeting:

4. Please log on at least 10 minutes before the meeting begins. You will be put into a Waiting Room until the host lets you in.
5. Familiarize yourself with the controls for speaker view and gallery view. Please keep your microphone muted during presentations and, if asked, also your video.
6. Questions can be put into Chat and you are welcome to use the Reactions which are fun. Please do not use any of the other annotation devices.

If you are unsure of how to use Zoom, or would like a practise session, please feel free to call me at 613-253-1996 or email me at janet.johns@sympatico.ca.

Jan Johns

September Zoom OOS Meeting Recap

48 people registered for the meeting, but only 35 attended most likely due to the beautiful summer afternoon.

1. Jan Johns opened the meeting with greetings, meeting protocols and the agenda. Thanks to Pat Boisvert for serving as cohost and for letting people in!
2. Marilyn Light spoke about the benefits and challenges of keeping orchids outdoors. She provided details on planning for bringing plants in and how to avoid/mitigate pest and disease issues during the process. She stated that it is best to assume that plants will be buggy when they come in, and thus, stressed on vigilant inspection and treatment to make sure they are cleaned, repotted if necessary, and isolated from the rest of plants that stayed indoors, for at least 3 months. She answered many questions and there was good discussion about when to bring different Alliances indoors after their summer freedom. Her written notes can be found in the September Spike on page 10.
3. Jean introduced Dr. Leslie Ee ND. He spoke from Vancouver, where he is visiting family. He discussed how black flowers, particularly orchids, have been presented in literature symbolizing luxury (something not easy to obtain), and giving the owner/grower a sense of power. For this reason, black orchids are much sought after. There are some types that exist in the wild, but these are quite rare. Black is due to an absence of color being reflected to the eyes. Black orchids have anthocyanins, chemicals that absorb different colors of light. Cyanidin is the most common one. Most black orchids have a purple or red sheen due to the presence of anthocyanin. The key is the layering of many of these pigments – the more the pigments, the blacker the flower, as UV and visible light are almost completely absorbed. The color is influenced by pH, light, temperature, structure and the co-pigmentation of metallic ions or flavonoids. Leslie then went through the breeding of several different species of black orchids including *Paphiopedilum* with the vinicultures. *Catasetinae* were described with Fred Clarke's remarkable *Fredclarkeara* Sunset Valley variety. Many of these are *Catemodes*. *Vanda*, *Dracula* and *Cymbidium* have many lovely black hybrids. Black *Phalaenopsis* are due to the pigments in the Harlequin spots. In some hybrids, the spotting is overactive and many spots overlap creating the black colour. In these flowers, the back is often coloured, while the front of the flower is black due to the spotting. Breeding is continuing with *Dendrobium*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Maxillaria*, *Stanhopea*, *Oncidium*, *Odontoglossum*, *Pleurothallis* and *Zygopetalums*. From only three first found in the wild, we can now look forward to purchasing many hybrids of black and blacker orchids. Thanks to Pat Boisvert for fielding the many questions to Leslie.

4. The Virtual Orchid Show Table was next. Many thanks to Dave Cooper for collecting and organizing the photos, and to Joyce Medcalf for checking all names. Thanks to our judges, Pat Boisvert (photography), Joyce Medcalf, Jean Hollebhone, Marie Josée Bergeron, Scott de Vito and André Couture. Thanks to all our members who provided photos for our enjoyment (9 members submitted 15 plants) and congratulations to the winners (see pages 13-17). André and Joyce advised us that both the Toronto and Montréal Judging Centers are meeting again.
5. There were a lot of notices, many of which were sent out via the Membership emails, thanks to Jennie McCloskey. They are also noted in this edition.
 - a. Notes from President, Jan Johns:
 - i. Spike is now on the website, openly accessible by all members and non-members. Spike lists all the members of the OOS Board if you want to contact any of us.
 - ii. We are planning to Zoom until November as meeting space is not easily available. The Tom Brown Centre is unavailable, but we are looking at the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre.
 - iii. We are not sure if we will be able to hold a Show in April. That decision will be made closer to November/early December.
 - iv. Many thanks to our anonymous benefactor who has generously donated funds to keep us going despite lack of fundraising capabilities.
 - v. Although we have the Orchids Discussion Group, we would like to set up a mentorship program. This would link expert or experienced member growers with those less experienced for a robust discussion and for sharing tips and tricks of orchid culture. See page 7 for more details.
 - vi. There are plans to hold an online auction this year. A poll was held to see if this was something members might participate in. Over 80% indicated a positive response and 3 of our members indicated interest in working on a committee to make this happen. See page 7 for a request for volunteers and member participation.
 - b. Notes from Program Chair, Jean Hollebhone:
 - i. Our speakers are all lined up for 2021. They are listed on the website and will be noted in Spike.
 - ii. A group order for Equagenera was sent out with a short deadline. This was too good an opportunity to miss. We are planning an order from Paramount in BC and from Sunset Valley Orchids in USA in the near future. Please watch your emails for information. We are hoping that the order from Paph Paradise will be here soon. It looks like the CITES certificates have been procured. Jean will notify anyone with an order by email. This would complete any orders for the fall to make sure plants arrive before it is too cold. Group orders will resume in the spring. We are hoping for some orders from Taiwan.

- c. Notes from Membership Chair, Jennie McCloskey:
 - i. Welcome to our new members.
 - ii. Reminder, that while you can always see Spike this year, to receive membership emails, participate in group orders and receive the link to the Zoom meetings for next month, you must renew your membership (\$25) by October 1. Payment can be made online at [Payments \(ottawaorchidsociety.com\)](https://ottawaorchidsociety.com/payments), by cheque (see address online) or by e-transfer to sales@ottawaorchidsociety.com.
- d. Notes from Pat Boisvert, Conservation Chair:
 - i. We will resume our Orchids Discussion Group on Wednesday October 6 at 7:00 p.m. Please send us any questions you would like to discuss. Members can join us at 8:00 p.m. to make arrangements to sell/buy/give away orchids. Arrangements would be strictly between members and will not involve the OOS (see page 7).
 - ii. We would like to begin a small Conservation group to meet our mandates. If you are interested, please let Pat Boisvert know (see page 6).

September Virtual Show Table Results

SEPTEMBER 2021 VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE RIBBON WINNERS			
ALLIANCE	MEMBER'S NAME	NAME OF PLANT	RIBBON AWARD
<i>Cattleya</i> Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf	Sabina Gupta	<i>Cattleya</i> NOID	1 st
<i>Cypripedium</i> Alliance Judged by Joyce Medcalf	Serge Croteau	<i>Paphiopedilum philippinense</i>	1 st
<i>Dendrobium</i> Alliance Judged by Scott de Vito	Joyce Medcalf	<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i>	1 st
	Joyce Medcalf	<i>Dendrobium</i> Swiss Mountain Palace (<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i> x <i>Dendrobium</i> Mtn's Butterfly Kisses)	2 nd
	Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hibiki (<i>Dendrobium bracteosum</i> x <i>Dendrobium laevifolium</i>)	3 rd
<i>Oncidium</i> Alliance Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Monique Savard	<i>Psychopsis papilio</i>	1 st
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Alliance Judged by André Couture	Sabina Gupta	<i>Phalaenopsis x valentini</i>	1 st
	Jan Johns	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Pylo's Slurpee (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Lawrie Springate x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mituo King Bellina)	2 nd
	Bev Burtnyk	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Sunhope Raraavis	3 rd
<i>Pleurothallid</i> Alliance Judged by Marie-Josée Bergeron	Joyce Medcalf	<i>Lepanthes sijmii</i> 'Hill Island' CCM/AOS	1 st
Miscellaneous Judged by Jean Hollebone	Vivian Brownell & Pauline Catling	<i>Stanhopea</i> Yolanda Breck (<i>Stanhopea</i> Dachart x <i>Stanhopea</i> Lydia Bush)	1 st
	Jane Thompson	<i>Gongora armeniaca</i>	2 nd
	Serge Croteau	<i>Habenaria rhodocheila</i>	2 nd
Photography Judged by Pat Boisvert	Joyce Medcalf	<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i>	1 st
Best of Show Table	Sabina Gupta	<i>Phalaenopsis x valentini</i>	
Member's Choice Poll Winner	Serge Croteau	<i>Paphiopedilum philippinense</i>	

Best of Show Table

Phalaenopsis x valentinii
Sabina Gupta



Member's Choice

Paphiopedilum philippinense
Serge Croteau



Photography Award

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii
Joyce Medcalf



Cattleya Alliance

Cattleya NOID
Sabina Gupta



Oncidium Alliance

Psychopsis papilio
Monique Savard



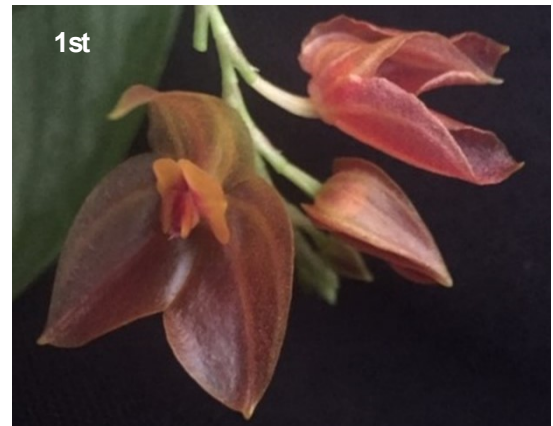
Cypripedium Alliance

Paphiopedilum philippinense
Serge Croteau



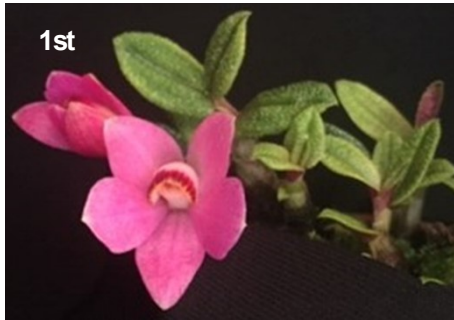
Pleurothallid Alliance

Lepanthes sijmii 'Hill Island' CCM/AOS
Joyce Medcalf



Dendrobium Alliance

Dendrobium Alliance		
Joyce Medcalf	<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i>	1 st
Joyce Medcalf	<i>Dendrobium</i> Swiss Mountain Palace (<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i> x <i>Dendrobium</i> Mtn's Butterfly Kisses)	2 nd
Marie-Josée Bergeron	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hibiki (<i>Dendrobium bracteosum</i> x <i>Dendrobium laevifolium</i>)	3 rd



Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous		
Vivian Brownell & Pauline Catling	<i>Stanhopea</i> Yolanda Breck (<i>Stanhopea</i> Dachart x <i>Stanhopea</i> Lydia Bush)	1 st
Jane Thompson	<i>Gongora armeniaca</i>	2 nd
Serge Croteau	<i>Habenaria rhodocheila</i>	2 nd



Phalaenopsis Alliance

Phalaenopsis Alliance		
Sabina Gupta	<i>Phalaenopsis x valentini</i>	1 st
Jan Johns	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Pylo's Slurpee (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Lawrie Springate x <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mituo King Bellina)	2 nd
Bev Burtnyk	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Sunhope Raraavis	3 rd



Editor's Wrap



Thanksgiving is around the time when the sun starts receding from the Northern Hemisphere, reflecting a change of pace and even focus in life. Many animals prepare for winter hibernation and trees and plants do the same too. For a while, the atmosphere is filled with colors as the chlorophyll, the green pigmentation in leaves starts breaking, allowing the sun's rays to penetrate in places where it had not before, resulting in a full display of a spectrum of colours. The trees put up a great show just before they all go dormant for the winter. They do it every year and year after year, reminding us

that everything and everyone needs that downtime to reflect, recharge, refocus and rejuvenate. I guess we all need that downtime now more than ever after witnessing an exhaustive pandemic that hasn't yet left us completely.

The Canadian Encyclopedia lists many different reasons for observing Thanksgiving in North America dating back to 1578. It is a day in October or November and is in fact, observed all around the world under different names to celebrate the bountiful harvest, but also simply to be thankful for all the good things that we are blessed with. For me, everyday is a Thanksgiving day. There is so much to be thankful for in this life, one day is simply not enough.

So I take this opportunity to say Thanks to all of you, the members of our Society for your friendship, participation, support and more importantly for your passion that unifies us in a cause. Thanks to the Board members for their continued hard work in getting us together every month with new activities, to all our members for sending the beautiful pictures of their blooming orchids and our Show Table judges for their efforts that bring colour to our meetings, to our speakers for sharing their knowledge and taking us to places which we may never be able to visit in person, and finally, thanks to all who continue to contribute to Spike.



Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone! See you all next week.

Sabina Gupta (Editor, Spike Newsletter)