



# SPIKE

Newsletter of the Ottawa Orchid Society

## SEPTEMBER 2021

| SUN              | MON | TUES | WED | THURS            | FRI | SAT |
|------------------|-----|------|-----|------------------|-----|-----|
|                  |     |      | 1   | 2                | 3   | 4   |
| 5                | 6   | 7    | 8   | 9                | 10  | 11  |
|                  |     |      |     | Photo submission |     |     |
| 12               | 13  | 14   | 15  | 16               | 17  | 18  |
| Photo submission |     |      |     |                  |     |     |
| 19               | 20  | 21   | 22  | 23               | 24  | 25  |
| OOS meeting      |     |      |     |                  |     |     |
| 26               | 27  | 28   | 29  | 30               |     |     |

OOS: Ottawa Orchid Society



*Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*  
Photo by: Sabina Gupta

**Welcome Back!**

**This Month's Activities at a Glance**

**September 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.:** OOS meeting. Dr. Leslie Ee will present 'The Lure, Lust and Lasciviousness of Black Orchids'.

**Membership dues:** Membership renewals are due by October 1 2021. The cost of membership is \$25, payable to the Ottawa Orchid Society by cheque, E-transfer or credit card. For more information on the payment methods, please see Page 5.

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## **Table of Contents**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| This Month's Activities at a Glance.....                                 | 1     |
| Board of Directors.....  | 2     |
| President's Message.....   | 3-4   |
| Membership.....  | 5     |
| Tentative Program for 2021.....  | 6     |
| Upcoming Events.....   | 6     |
| Group Plant Orders.....  | 7     |
| Virtual Show Table Update for October 2021.....                          | 7     |
| Zooming Information.....   | 8     |
| Thank You Dave Cooper.....   | 9     |
| Getting Ready for Winter.....  | 10-11 |
| Orchids Discussion Group.....  | 11    |
| News of Potential Interest to You.....                                   | 11    |
| Summer Activities and Summer Blooms .....                                | 12    |
| - A Visit to Purdon Fen .....  | 12    |
| - Summer Orchid Hunt by Daniel Brumar.....                               | 13    |
| - A Find by Joyce Medcalf, <i>Goodyera pubescens</i> at Higley Lake..... | 14    |
| - An Unusual Orchid Hunter at Dave Cooper's... ..                        | 14    |
| - Summer Blooming Orchids Shared by OOS Members.....                     | 15-17 |
| Editor's Wrap.....   | 18    |

## President's Message



Welcome to the new season of the Ottawa Orchid Society. I wish it could be in person this September, but sadly we will have to wait a little while for that to happen. We are hoping (as is the rest of the world) to be back live and online also in 2022. In the meantime, Jean Hollebhone has developed an exciting virtual program for us, beginning with Dr. Leslie Ee on Black Orchids. Many thanks to Jean for this and for searching out possibilities for a new venue as it does not look as though we will be able to return to the Tom Brown Arena – so many changes! We are looking forward to continuing the Orchids Discussion Group, thanks to Pat Boisvert, and will have Orchid Doctor Sessions thanks to Margaret

Haydon. Dave Cooper will look after our monthly Virtual Orchid Show Table with our judges: Joyce Medcalf, Jean Hollebhone, Marie-Josée Bergeron, Scott de Vito and André Couture, and Pat Boisvert will judge for photography. It takes a lot of effort by many willing volunteers to make our Society bloom! It is not possible to let you know whether Orchidophilia, our April Show, will be back for 2022 yet. However, if it is on, we will be looking for many more volunteers.

A big thank you to Margaret Haydon for keeping up the subscriptions for the Society of Great Britain Orchid Journal (for those of us who have subscribed in the past). Margaret also makes sure that the Society gets Orchid Digest and the AOS Orchid Journal. When we are back to live meetings, we can lend these out for the membership to enjoy.

I hope you have enjoyed the summer and managed to allow your orchids to enjoy the heat or keep them protected from it. If you put them outside this summer, Marilyn Light will give you tips on how to bring them in safely at our September meeting. Several of you have been searching for orchids in the wild. A small group joined Jean at the beginning of the summer in Purdon Fen. Others have been hiking locally, taking photographs which can be seen here in Spike this month. Thanks to those of you who have submitted pictures of our summer activities. Many thanks to Sabina Gupta for preparing this edition of Spike.

You will see that there is a notice when you sign up for membership or for payment indicating that your email, phone number and address are used for our contact and email list (not shared) and that pictures taken may be used in Spike, on the website, Facebook or Instagram. Please be aware of this. If there are any concerns, feel free to contact me at [janet.johns@sympatico.ca](mailto:janet.johns@sympatico.ca). Jennie McCloskey, our Membership Chair, will send out notices via [membership@ottawaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:membership@ottawaorchidsociety.ca). We strongly suggest that you add this email address to your own email list so that these messages do not go into junk. Many thanks to Jennie for organizing these notices and keeping track of all our members.

We have managed to organize the legalities of the new leadership for banking and government regulations. Please note that our address is now 41 State Street, Ottawa, ON, K2C4C5. Many thanks to Henriette Watkins for allowing us to use her address for the past several years and for collecting all our mail. The change has been made to save an extra transfer step for membership

cheques. Thanks to both Doug Vye our Treasurer, and Pam McLennan our Secretary, for making sure that the transition was smooth.

We also need to thank our Past President, Dave Cooper, for leaving everything in such a good position to start the year, and for his longstanding dedication and hours of work to our Society. Please see Page 9 for a little more about his achievements with the Society.

I look forward to 'Zooming' with you on the 19<sup>th</sup> and hopefully seeing you all in person at least in 2022!

*Jan Johns*

## **Membership Renewal**

I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the summer while avoiding the intense heat we faced at times. It's difficult to believe that we are in September already and the time for the start of another season for the Ottawa Orchid Society has arrived.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue to have our monthly meetings using Zoom at least until November. Although we miss our in-person meetings, we will continue to enjoy most of the benefits that we have enjoyed as members of the Ottawa Orchid Society. In order to participate, we encourage you to renew your membership by October 1. The cost of membership will remain \$25, payable to the Ottawa Orchid Society by cheque, E-transfer or credit card.

### **Payment Options:**

Please mail cheques to:

Ottawa Orchid Society  
41 State St.,  
Ottawa, ON, K2C4C5  
Canada

E-transfer: [sales@ottawaorchidsociety.com](mailto:sales@ottawaorchidsociety.com)

Credit Card: Please click here => [Credit Card payment to OOS](#)

Please note that by becoming a member (or attending a meeting as a guest), you are giving permission to the Ottawa Orchid Society to send announcements to you by email, and to use photographs of your plants and/or yourself in various media (OOS Newsletter "Spike", OOS website, Facebook or Instagram pages, etc.).

On behalf of the Board, we hope that we can count on your continued support. Information about the virtual meetings will be published in Spike and on the Website. Thank you and we look forward to meeting with you again virtually.

*Jennie McCloskey* (Membership Chair)

## **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.

### **September Meeting:**

We start the new season off with an exciting talk on black orchids by Dr. Leslie Ee from the Southern Ontario Orchid Society. He will talk about 'The Lure, Lust and Lasciviousness of Black Orchids'. Black orchids have always been mysterious and elusive. Their rarity in the past has attracted many to search deep in the jungles and to concoct ways to create them in laboratories, driving many to their demise. In this presentation, you will learn about the history of the black orchid mystique and their lure, and see what black orchids exist in reality in today's world. Leslie is no stranger to the Society as he has presented multiple times in the past to our Society.

### **Upcoming Events**

**October 2021:** Henry Steger has agreed to give a timely talk on the orchids of the Ottawa region. Many local habitats are under pressure from encroaching development and we need to understand and value the diversity we have on our own doorstep as a first step to conservation.

**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.

For January through to May, I am still finalizing speakers. We have extended invitations and are just waiting for answers. As of now, due to the fourth wave of COVID, our meetings will continue to be virtual. I am considering plant orders and am currently waiting for the City to tell me if we could have an outdoor sales event with vendors from Montreal and/or Toronto in late September-early October. This would be held in an outdoor parking lot with proper distancing and masks for vaccinated members but we do not yet know if the City will allow this to take place. Hopefully, I will have some answers by the September meeting.

*Jean Hollebhone* (Program Chair)



## **Group Plant Orders**

We are happy to provide some group orders for our members during the year. You must be a fully paid-up or lifetime member to participate. Please be aware that these are a lot of work for Jean Hollebhone and André Couture who organize them. This year, any group discounts or credits received from the vendors will first be used for shipping charges, customs and permit fees and the remainder will be absorbed by the Society to defer costs for our speakers. We will always attempt to get recourse from the suppliers if plants are not in pristine condition when they arrive, but we do not assume any financial liability for such issues. Please watch for messages from [membership@ottawaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:membership@ottawaorchidsociety.ca) and notices in Spike for the offers, deadlines, payment and pick up details. These should be read carefully and must be respected.

*Jean Johns* (President)

## **Virtual Show Table Update for October 2021**

The Virtual Show Tables have worked very well up to now, and we published all the results in Spike each month as usual. The October 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 October 10<sup>th</sup>**. You can take and send in your photos any time between Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Please send your photos to Dave Cooper at [orchidae@storm.ca](mailto: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 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>.

*Dave Cooper* ([orchidae@storm.ca](mailto:orchidae@storm.ca))

## **Zooming Information**

We will be using Zoom for our meetings from September to November this year at least. 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](#). Check out 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](mailto:janet.johns@sympatico.ca) well before the start of the meeting to find out why. I cannot trouble shoot 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](mailto:janet.johns@sympatico.ca).

*Jan Johns*



## Thank You Dave Cooper

This is a good time to remind everyone of just how much we owe to our Past President, Dave Cooper. Dave joined the Orchid Society many years ago. He isn't even sure just when. He quickly offered his expertise in 1993 to run the Show Layout and in 1995, he assumed the role of Vice President and Show Chair; he has held the latter position since that time with a couple of years off here and there for holidays in Europe! He served as President in 1997-98 and 2016-2021. While he is not an orchid grower, he is an avid photographer of orchids in the wild – both here in Canada and in Europe, Italy in particular. His pictures are just Wow!

Recently, in his role as President, he developed and documented a process for Member Awards. He also continues to chair the Virtual Show Table, collecting, organizing and coordinating all entries, for the Virtual Show Table, which has been a great success and loved by all.

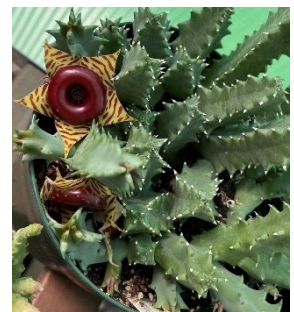
As Show Chair, he has led the Show Committees with a steady hand for many years. He was responsible for putting together the Show Layout, creating the Show Poster and in recent years, also assumed the responsibilities of the Vendor and Exhibitor Chair. He documents all the information for the Show including registration on the Website. The lists of winners are archived, and he uploads all the pictures provided by Arlene Lang for a comprehensive history of the Show.

Besides his leadership expertise, his skills in information technology and communications have been a *tour de force* for our Society. Back in 1995, he and the late Jeanette Arthurs rewrote the Constitution which is still in use today. Around 2000, he developed our Website and as our Webmaster, he has completely updated it not just once in 2008, but twice – again in 2018, adding historical archives and preserving the records of the Ottawa Orchid Society. He has supported our virtual year by launching online payments with Square, redesigning the Membership pages and updating the website as needed.

In short, Dave has spent hours and hours on behalf of the Ottawa Orchid Society, and will continue to do this as Webmaster, Show Chair and Past President. He is so willing to step up when asked, despite dealing with his health issues. Thanks Dave. We appreciate your dedication to the Ottawa Orchid Society.

*Jan Johns* (President)

*Huernia zebrina*  
Grown by Dave Cooper



## **Getting Ready for Winter**

Marilyn H.S. Light © 2021

Adapted from material first published at [www.orchidsafari.org](http://www.orchidsafari.org) in September 1998.

### **I - For those hobbyists having plants outdoors and intending to bring them indoors:**

Make sure that the orchids are as healthy as possible before bringing them indoors. Check for slugs, sow bugs, earwigs and similar pests which could damage orchids.

### **II - Disease control begins in Autumn.**

As days shorten and nights become cooler, certain orchids will become prone to rot beginning within emerging shoots especially if the shoots are vase-shaped and hold water. Be cautious watering such orchids. If night temperatures drop to 10°C or cooler, cold-susceptible orchids should be brought indoors. Some species are more susceptible to cold than others.

### **III - Pest control - Begins outdoors**

Know your enemies – Snails, slugs, sow bugs, earwigs, blossom thrips and spider mites can be picked up outdoors but mealy bugs and scale will persist only from previous infestations. With the exception of slugs/snails, pests rarely cause a problem over summer but quickly respond to the absence of natural predators once plants move indoors. We must ensure that our plants are pest-free before bringing them indoors then be vigilant for any outbreaks thereafter.

### **IV - Before bringing indoors**

Treat the outdoor growing area/pots with an anti-slug product for 2 weeks before bringing pots indoors. Immerse pots in tepid soapy water to eliminate sow bugs and earwigs (they will leave the container). Use fresh water to rinse afterwards. Clean pots and groom plants. Remove thrips-infested flowers. My strategy to minimize mites is to induce leaf drop in *Catasetum* and *Lycaste* according to their natural life style. The problem disappears with the old leaves that drop naturally. Foliage can be sprayed with soap solution but there may be eggs so vigilance over winter is always required.

### **Indoor success – placement, light, watering, feeding and humidity**

Where and how you choose to raise your plants over winter will determine how healthy they can be. Windows provide weak morning sun, hot unrelenting afternoon sun, or even no sun at all. Supplemental lighting or shading may be required during winter months when the quantity of light is variable. Raising plants with only artificial lighting is another possibility.

## **V - For those hobbyists who maintain their orchids indoors year round either on a window sill, under lights or in a greenhouse:**

Give your orchids a 'fall check-up'. Divide, re-pot, cull as needed. Look for pests that may have flourished while you were on summer vacation. Identify pests and treat as required. Examine your collection at least weekly for signs of disease and pests. Have a 'hospital bench' to isolate sick plants.

Happy growing!

### **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 October 6, 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](mailto:Pat.g.boisvert@gmail.com). Jenny 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.

*The OOS Board*

### **News of Potential Interest to You**

#### **Orchid Digest Event**

SAVE THE DATE! Check out <https://www.orchiddigest.org/> for more details.

International Speakers Day

Saturday, November 13, 2021

12:30 p.m. until 5:00 PM EST (9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. PST)

#### **Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) Special Issue on Jewel Orchids**

Learn all about Jewel Orchids both in your homes and in the wild from conservation experts, growers and hybridizers both international and local. You may be able to download the COC Jewel Orchid Special Issue Summer 2021 through their website at <https://canadianorchidcongress.ca/>.

## Summer Activities and Summer Blooms

### A Visit to Purdon Fen

Many thanks to Jean Hollebhone for leading a socially-distanced group to Purdon Fen on June 20, 2021. Rachel and Kevin Van Der Linden, his parents and Mila Kouznetsova joined Jean for the tour.

Jean wrote:

It was a beautiful day. Purdon had an officer there taking attendance. The place was very busy. I counted 24 cars in the parking lot with many more coming and going but the boardwalk was not crowded, virtually everyone had a mask and everyone was very respectful of the flowers, each other and the site. Very encouraging! The orchids were in peak condition; a good number of inflorescences on plants had 2 flowers and the plants were very healthy with no obvious insect or other damage. There was lots of light and it was nice to see them doing so well. There were also plenty of immature plants. At the time of ur visit, they were about 85% out and it seemed like the season would last for 2 more weeks depending on the weather. It was truly an enjoyable sight! If you haven't yet seen them in the wild, it is surely something to add to your agenda in spring 2022!



**Middle picture, left to right:** Rachel and Kevin Van Der Linden, Kevin's parents, and Mila Kouznetsova.



## Summer Orchid Hunt by Daniel Brumar

These pictures were taken this summer by Daniel Brumar, one of our newer members. He spends his spare time orchid hunting in many out-of-the-way places around Lanark County and beyond. It is a unique observational talent to find these gems hidden in the byways, identify them and remember exactly where they are so that he can return and take pictures of them when they flower. Thanks for sharing them with us, Daniel.

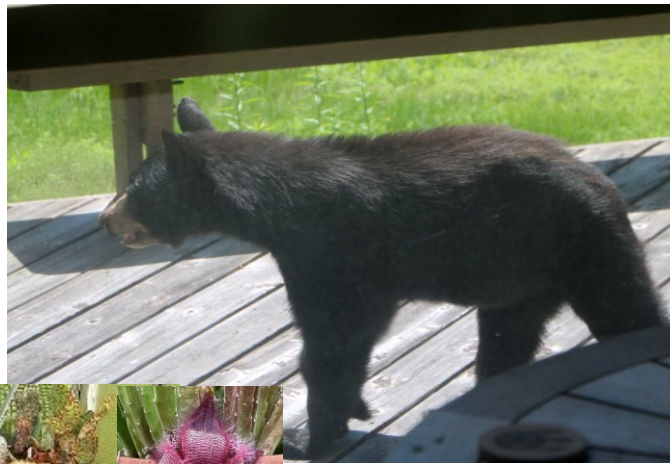




**A Find by Joyce Medcalf, *Goodyera pubescens* at Higley Lake**



**An Unusual Orchid Hunter at Dave Cooper's, Wasn't Expecting to Find *Stapelia*, Left Disappointed**



**Summer Blooming Orchids Shared by OOS Members**

*Vanda* Noppadol Delight  
Grown by H el ene Mondou



*Lc.* Pink Treasure 'Chalice of Life' x  
*C. harrisoniana* 'Volcano Queen'  
mutation

Grown by Jane Thompson



*Gongora armeniaca*



**Summer Blooming Orchids Shared by OOS Members**

**Grown by Sabina Gupta**



*Leptotes bicolor*



*Phal. corningiana*



*Rhyncattleanthe Young Min Orange*



*Myrmecatavola  
Frances Fox*



*Dendrobium hellwigianum x  
Den. violaceum blue*



*Phal. Alberla (pulchra x  
speciosa)*

**Summer Blooming Orchids Shared by OOS Member s**



*Epipactis helleborine*  
A wild orchid found nearby Arlene  
Lang's house

Grown by Janet Lang  
(Photos by Arlene Lang)



*Coelogyne* NOID



*Dendrobium nobile* NOID



*Prosthechea cochleata*



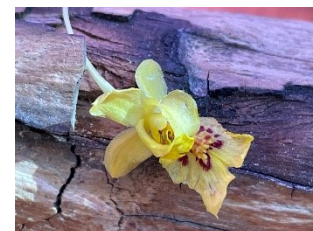
*Epiphyllum oxypetalum* (This is not an orchid, but  
is sometimes called an Orchid Cactus. It only  
blooms at night, just for a few hours.)

## Editor's Wrap



Welcome back everyone! 'Time flies' is a phrase that is overused these days. I don't know how many times I use it or hear others saying it in a day. But it is true, time doesn't stop for anything or anyone. It feels like it was just yesterday that we were all anxiously waiting for the summer to arrive and now my kids told me that it has already passed! Today was their first day at school! What? Where did the summer go? I only have myself to blame because I spent my

summer like a hermit indoors working away ☺. I am glad to be back writing this note as it brings back some sense of orientation in my life, as I feel I somehow lost it in the summer. I hope you all enjoyed your summer and did something fun.



Welcome to Jan Johns, our new President! Thanks to our outgoing President Dave Cooper. It seems like a big change but in reality, just the roles have changed. They both work very hard for the Society already and now, they have agreed to continue doing so in their new capacities ☺! I am looking forward to another eventful season with them.

With time ticking away so rampantly, even if we have not fully resolved our ongoing pandemic situation, we have come closer to finding a resolution, I believe. I do hope that before the end of this year, we will be able to meet in person! Regardless, thanks to our relentless Program Chair Jean Hollebne, we have an exciting virtual program with a great speaker lineup for this season. Don't miss the first talk by Dr. Leslie Ee. Thanks to Dave Cooper for agreeing to chair our Virtual Show Table and thanks to all our returning Show Table judges. Thank you Marilyn Light for kick starting the Orchid Doctor session at the September meeting, and thanks for sharing the information ahead of time. Thanks to Pat Boisvert for agreeing to continue to chair the ODG sessions. It is another great platform to interact with other members, to share and learn about growing healthy orchids. So in short, don't miss out on any of these exciting opportunities to learn more about orchids. Thanks to Jean Hollebne and André Couture, we may have another opportunity to purchase orchids through group orders or if the City allows, we may even be able to attend a small outdoor sale (to be determined). But make sure to renew your membership by October 1<sup>st</sup>, as that is needed to participate in these events.

I am sure your orchids didn't know that we didn't have Virtual Show Tables during the summer and bloomed away anyways! Some of you were kind enough to share the pictures of your blooming orchids for inclusion in Spike and others have sent pictures of their summer orchid finds. My sincere thanks to all of you. You can see them on Pages 12-15.

Well, I shall stop here. I look forward to another season with you all. See you on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Sabina Gupta* (Editor, Spike Newsletter)