

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

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Executive: President, Jay Norris 416-463-7411; Vice-presidents, Wayne Eyles and Mario Ferrusi ; Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281; Treasurer, Joe O'Regan 416-759-2538

Membership: Annual Dues \$25.00/Calendar Year. Membership Secretary, Hess Pommells 416-245-0369, Apt. 503, 370 Dixon Road, Weston, Ontario, M9R 1T2

Web site: www.soos.ca Member of the Canadian Orchid Congress; Affiliated with the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society, and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance

Honorary Life Members: Walter Norman, Terry Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Inge Poot, Peter Poot, Joe O'Regan

Program: November 5, Toronto Botanical Gardens, Floral Hall, Sales 12:30, program 2:00 pm: Terry Kennedy of Orchids in Our Tropics on Orchid Travels in Thailand

Terry and the gang went to Thailand and came back with orchids as well as exotic pictures. Don't miss this entertaining show.

President's Message.

Hi Folks

Boy, did summer ever finish of with a bang!! Is anyone else shocked to realize that it is now the middle of October? The time just seemed to fly past this year. Well, by now, everyone will have the last of their orchids inside, except for the few who manage to flower cymbidiums. Be careful folks, I have killed my fair share by leaving them out just that one or two nights too long. And everyone needs to keep an eye on those who enjoyed the summer outside to make sure there were no hitch hikers.

On a more serious note, your Executive has taken the steps required to register with the Provincial Government for the purpose of the PST. We are a big society, with substantial revenues in some years. We felt that it was only a matter of time before we were faced with being forced to pay PST, so we proactively dealt with the matter. In the financials for this year you will see a charge for around \$5000, and this represents the taxes owed for the last five years, for funds collected on sales tables at meetings and at shows, along with penalties.

I would also like to remind everyone about our upcoming auction at the December Society meeting. This is the single largest fund-raiser for the Toronto Judging Centre, and your participation is greatly appreciated. We will be auctioning plants from judges' personal

collections, as well as from many of the vendors who support SOOS at our local shows. If you have anything you wish to donate to the auction, please contact either myself (president@soos.ca) or Dave Bryan. The event is also the social event of the year, and as in past years is a POT LUCK. The society will provide the drinks, plates and cutlery, but we need your assistance in making the event as memorable as it has been in previous years. If you have any questions, please contact someone on the Executive.

Happy Growing!!

Jay

Have you paid next year's dues yet?

Beginners Meetings

Wayne Hingston will once again run a series of introductory culture sessions for beginners this fall on the following Tuesday evenings: September 19: Introduction, media, watering; October 17: Fertilizers, repotting; November 14: Light, humidity, air movement, pests and diseases; December 12, 2006: Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum; and January 9, 2007: Cattleya, Dendrobium. These sessions are open to all SOOS members but will emphasize culture of the more commonly grown orchids. Sessions will be held in the Boardroom at the Toronto Botanical Garden and start at 7 pm.

Welcome New Members

Scott Norris

John and Lorraine Walker

Coming Events

October

21-22, Eastern Canada O. S. Show, Orchidfete, Montreal.

November

3-5, AOS Members meeting, St.Louis Airport.

4, Toronto Centre Judging, 1 pm, Toronto

Botanical Garden

5, SOOS meeting, **Terry Kennedy,**

Thailand, Toronto Botanical Garden

11-12, Niagara Region O.S. Show, St Catherines.

18, Montreal Centre Judging, 1 pm, Jardin Botanique de Montreal

December

2, Toronto Centre Judging, 1 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden

3, SOOS meeting, **Social and auction,** Toronto Botanical Garden

16, Montreal Centre Judging, 1 pm, Jardin Botanique de Montreal

ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY SHOW

Feb 10 --11, 2007,

(Set-up Fri Feb 9)

TORONTO BOTANIC GARDENS

It is time to start thinking about how you will contribute to its success. The more you get involved, the more you will enjoy the show. Next month the volunteer sheets will come out. Where will you sign your name?

Watch for those emerging spikes that will be

in perfect bloom for the show. This is when they are at their most tender and vulnerable stage. Be vigilant. Don't let the slugs get them.



Display at the Niagara Show in 2005

**March 23-25, 2007,
The Manitoba Orchid Society
presents "Orchid Fascination"
in conjunction with the 2007
Annual Meeting
of the
Canadian Orchid Congress.**

AOS Judging Results

**Central Ontario Orchid Society Show,
September 23, 2006:**

Masdevallia trifurcata 'Guacamole' CCM-AOS
83 points, Mario and Conni Ferrusi
Bulbophyllum klabatense 'Kramer' CHM-AOS,
82 points, Peter and Sherry Decyck
Restrepia lankasteri 'Alrik' , CHM-AOS 82
points, Erica and Gerhard Kompter.

Paphiopedilum (Ruby Peacock x *henryanum*)
'Yvonne', AM-AOS 80 points, Schreibers
Orchids.

There was one more CHM, but it was
rescinded because the owner did not wish to
get the necessary identification.

**Niagara Frontier Orchid Society Show,
September 30, 2006:**

Brassolaelia Memoria Bernice Foster (Bl.
Richard Mueller x *Brassavola cordata*), HCC-
AOS 76 points

Colax jugosa x *Zygopetalum* Arthur Elle, JC-
AOS (judges commendation)

Christeara Lava Gold x *Prra Luk Thai*, HCC-
AOS 77 points.

Toronto Judging Centre, October 7, 2006:

Paphiopedilum Hsinying Maru x *Impulse*,
HCC-AOS 77 points, Doug and Terry
Kennedy.

Rumrillara Sugar Baby, CCM-AOS 86 points
(*Neostylis Lou Sneary* x *Ascocentrum*
miniatum) Gail Schwarz, N.S.


Schreibers Orchids
 We are having an
Open House
 Nov. 25 - 26 10 am to 5 pm
 280 Zephyr Rd , Zephyr 905-473-3405
 Map Location
www.yvonesorchidfancy.com


***Lycaste*, transcription of a talk
given by Doug Kennedy on October
1, 2006, by Inge Poot.**



Lycaste Avalon

Doug and Terry Kennedy have been growing lycastes for 33 years and have a good collection of them amongst the 15,000 plants housed in their greenhouse. To keep the summer temperature within bounds, they employ a power fogger and recommend it highly for rapid lowering of temperature. They also employ a wet-pad at one end of the greenhouse and this cools as well as humidifies the air. They have replaced their stationary wooden benches with the more durable aluminum rolling benches. They of course also gained a lot of space with them. They collect rainwater for watering and store it in eight 300 gallon nylon cisterns. These cisterns are stored under the benches and contribute to equalizing temperature fluctuations. Fertilizers are mixed into the cistern that Doug uses at that time. Since the greenhouse is recessed into the ground about three feet (about 1 m) they employ two sump pumps to keep the floor from flooding.

The people that Doug knows in Southern Ontario that grow lycastes well are: Glen Alm, John Doherty, Mario Ferrusi and Doug Kennedy. Consult them if you have a problem.

Lycastes are found in Central America, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

The best source of plants is from **flasks**, but beware!!! Only the most experienced should attempt a mother flask or even a first replant. At best seedling survival is low. Do buy a flask in which the plantlets have little bulblets. These seedlings have a good chance of surviving deflasking.

Mario Ferrusi mentioned that too much inbreeding, especially with *Lycaste skinneri* has been done in the genus. As a result the seedlings will grow well for two to three years and then they just die! To overcome this, he has been outbreeding in this species and has selected seedlings for vigour, wide sepals and good colour. Very soon he plans to wow us all with his gorgeous *Lycaste skinneri* plants in bloom!

Culture of lycastes:

In a nutshell: Keep them **wet** and give them **high light!** The one important modification of this advice pertains to the deciduous species. The latter have to be dried off for a time after the leaves have fallen off and before they bloom. In the latter species only the new growth has leaves. Some species in this section flower with the emergence of the leaves, some flower before the leaves emerge.

Potting Mix:

A bark mix may pose a problem, because it may not stay moist enough. If you examine *Lycaste* roots, you will notice that they are exactly like *Paphiopedilum* roots. They have hairs covering the surface of the root velamen. This should give you the hint that both genera like evenly moist, but of course not dripping wet, potting mix.

Glen Alm grows his lycastes in New Zealand sphagnum.

Mario Ferrusi grows his in New Zealand sphagnum and sponge rock.

When you repot your lycastes check where the roots are and where they are not. If they are throughout the potting medium, then repot them into the same mix again. If they are not everywhere, figure out why they avoid a certain area and change the medium to rectify the problem.

Watering:

Water when necessary. This means once a week on average under greenhouse conditions. Be sure not to let the moss dry out.

For the deciduous species only, withhold water when the leaves fall. Dry them enough so that the bulbs shrink a bit before flowering. Since most complex hybrids have *Lycaste skinneri* numerous times in their background, they must be kept evenly moist and never allowed to dry out. The leaves will not fall off.

Fertilizing:

Most lycastes should be fed continuously. Doug uses one quarter strength balanced (20-20-20) fertilizer for this continuous feeding and flushes with clear water once a

month.

Air Movement:

There should be gentle air movement across the leaves at all times.

Humidity:

Lycastes don't seem to really need high humidity. Perhaps this is because they are in a constantly moist medium and all the roots are contained within the pot..

Light:

Give them Vanda light. Doug hangs his plants up high in the greenhouse.

Temperature:

The plants can tolerate temperatures up to 90F (30C) and down to 55F (13C). It is not too critical. In contrast to the genus *Miltoniopsis*, flowers produced by lycastes in the winter are only slightly larger than those produced in summer.

Pests and Diseases:

Scale insects may be a problem. Before you try to use the poisonous stuff, try Windex. Spray it on the scales and wipe off the Windex plus the scales.

Taxonomy:

The genus is divided into four sections: Deciduosae, Longisepala, Fimbriatae and Macrophyllae. With DNA research it was found that the section Fimbriatae should be a separate genus. It is now called *Ida*. (See an article in OD in 2003).

Section Deciduosae is divided into two subsections:

Subsection Xanthanthae:

The plants have to be dried off before flowering. The leaves will yellow and drop off at that time.

The flowers of plants in this group are mostly yellow and fragrant.

The flowers of plants in this subsection tend to come into bloom all at the same time and lend themselves well for specimen plants. Doug showed slides of specimen plants of ***Lycaste aromatica*** 'Santa Barbara' with 235 flowers all emerging from last year's bulbs and :

L. consobrina 'Our Tropics Gold' with 140 flowers. Both were leafless and were completely covered with yellow blooms.

L. campbellii is the smallest species of this group.

L. cochleata was illustrated with the clone 'Mayan Sunrise' AM-AOS and was very colourful with green sepals, orange petals and a brighter orange lip.

Subsection Paradecimalosae contains about 5 to 6 species.

L. brevispatha is a tiny plant whose flowers have green sepals with mahogany overlay, white petals and a white and pink lip.

L. tricolor, from Costa Rica has green sepals, white petals and lip. The lip has a red blush.

Section Longisepalae contains only one species.

Lycaste schilleriana has usually tan sepals (green in alba varieties) and white petals and lip with the lip being decorated with red marks. This species is always in bloom!

The species comes in two forms. In Panama we find a huge form where even the alba form is 7 inches (17.5 cm) wide and the non-alba

form, which has red markings on the lip and petals that are lacking in the alba form, is even bigger. In Ecuador the same species is only 3 - 4 inches (7.5 - 10cm) wide.

Section Fimbriatae is in the genus ***Ida***.

The plants in this group are fairly deciduous. In some of the species in this group the face of the flower points down. The lip is fringed. The leaves may not be quite gone when the plants flower and could result in an unsightly exhibit. If the leaves are almost completely yellow, they could be cut off for the exhibition, or the yellow portions trimmed off, or the leaves bent out of the way and maybe hidden by a dainty fern!

Ida (Lycaste) fimbriata is an elegant species with upright, pale green flowers on short stems. Some authors consider the name to be a synonym for *Ida (L.) ciliata*.

Lycaste Doug Kennedy 'Ivory Rose' AM/AOS is a hybrid of *Ida (L.) ciliata* and *L. skinneri* and shows how dominant the *Ida* parent is in the shape of the flowers. The clone shown had upright clear pink flowers with slightly bowed lateral sepals.

Ida (L.) locusta has upright dark green flowers with an even darker green lip. Unfortunately the green colour is recessive in breeding

Ida (L.) reichenbachii has light green sepals, white petals, a yellow lip with a burnt umber base and a white fringe. This species is easy to bloom.

Ida (L.) fulvescens has bell-shaped flowers with gold sepals and petals with white bases and a peach lip. It too is easy to bloom.

Ida (L.) longipetala has hanging flowers with green sepals and petals and a burnt orange lip on tall stems. The petals are

relatively long.

Lycaste Brugensis is a hybrid of *I. longipetala* and *L. skinnerii* and the contribution of the *Ida longipetala* is an increase in flower size and an orange lip. The *L. skinnerii* contributes fullness and a slight pink flush, but cannot do away with the slightly starry shape of the flowers.

Section Macrophyllae:

Lycaste macrophylla has long flower stems that emerge erect, but become horizontal as the flower opens. According to J.A.Fowlie, there are seven subspecies of this species. Most have flowers with wide glossy brown sepals and white petals and lip, both with or without red flushes or markings. The subspecies *desboisiana* may have olive green sepals and with line breeding clones have been produced with green sepals and white and red petals and lip. 4n clones have also been obtained and Doug showed a slide of 'Sunset' HCC-AOS, an F3 (three generations of line breeding) that had a red lip and green-black sepals with superb shape.

Lycaste dowiana has flowers with light tan sepals and white petals and lip blushed pink. This species is always in bloom! The alba form has clear green sepals with white petals and lip.

Lycaste skinnerii is floriferous and has large flowers with wide sepals that are white to pink, short broad petals that are white to pink and a lip which may be white to pink to red. Line breeding has produced very full, 4n flowers. Mario Ferrusi is working on improving vigour in cultivation as well. This species must never dry out.

Hybridizing:

The most important species in most complex hybrids is *L. skinnerii*. It is used again and again to improve shape and size. Hybrids having this species in their background are almost never deciduous and must be kept evenly moist. When showing the plants the leaves may have to be bent out of the way to let the flowers come into their own.

As an example, Doug showed us two slides of **L. Elisabeth Powell**, a hybrid of *L. skinnerii* and L.Wyld Court. It has very full, flat clear pink sepals and variously coloured petals and lip. The colour came from L. Wyld Court, which has the glossy brown *L. lasioglossa* and *L. skinnerii* in its background, while the *L. skinnerii* improved the shape.

Lycaste Auburn, (L. Balliae X L. Sunrise) has been used very often in hybrids. It has *L. skinnerii* (contributes shape and colour), *L. macrophyllum* (size and some colour) and *L. cruenta* (floriferousness) in its background. It is an example of breeding the floriferous small, yellow-flowered *L. cruenta* with coloured lycastes. In most genera yellow will intensify colour, but in lycastes the yellow inhibits colour expression and we get white flowers. Only in further generations can the colour be re-instated by selecting clones that do not have the *L. cruenta* colour genes. The first *Lycaste skinnerii albas* were thought to be a hybrid swarm with one of the yellow small-flowered species. They were smaller than an ordinary *L. skinnerii*. Only numerous generation of line breeding has brought back the large *L. skinnerii* size.

L. Auburn 'Santa Barbara' FCC-AOS is a lovely example with white flowers that have central pink dotting on the sepals and a bit on the petals. The flowers are huge and very

flat and full. A picture cannot do it justice!

L. Auburn 'Ditchling' AM-AOS has yellow sepals, red petals and a lip with red markings on the edge.

L. Auburn 'Black Knight' HCC-AOS is an example of selecting for deeper colour. It has red flowers and this clone was used as one parent for L Jackpot.

Lycaste Cassiopeia 'Wyld Lips' HCC-AOS (L. Brugensis X L. Wyld Court) shows more of this breeding. It has large peach coloured star-shaped flowers. Crossing it with a dark chocolate L. Auburn results in:

Lycaste Andy Easton 'Geyserland' AM-AOS is a clone with lovely full red flowers.

Back-crossing L. Auburn to its L. Balliae parent resulted in the cross:

L. Wyld Splendour. Doug showed us a well-coloured red clone of this cross.

L. Shoalhaven, a cross of *L. skinneri* onto (L. Auburn X *L. skinneri*, or L. Kooleana). The flowers can be full to more star-shaped and vary in colour from white to deep pink. It is twice in the background of the L. Cherish parent of:

L. Terry Kennedy 'Midnight Raspberry' AM-AOS (L. Cherish X L. Wyld Sunset) has full, raspberry-red flowers. The L. Wyld Sunset parent is L. Wyld Court x L. Kooleana and the best clones are full and burgundy-rose in colour.

Another famous L. Auburn progeny is:

L. Jackpot resulting from crossing L. Auburn with L. Wyld Court. Doug showed us slides of the 'Royal Flush', 'Lynn' and 'Dandy' clones. They were all gorgeous reds with the 'Dandy' clone being one of the darkest coming from that cross.

L. Wyld Fire, where L. Balliae, one of the parents of L. Auburn is crossed onto L. Wyld

Court, can be white to red. Doug showed us the clone 'Red Hot' AM-AOS, with full, clear red flowers and the clone 'Mt Vernon' AM-AOS a cream flower with red lines in the lip.

The unnamed cross of :

L. Wyld Fire X L. Wyld Court produced a black-red , full flower! Undoubtedly the *L. lasioglossa* genes in both parents are responsible for the stunning colour of this clone.

There are also **intergeneric hybrids** made with the genera *Anguloa*, *Zygopetalum* and *Bifrenaria*.

Anguloas are called the "tulip" orchids, since their flowers are reminiscent of tulips. Their lips are hinged. Water seems to have no trouble entering the flowers at the top and draining out at the base. Anguloas like it wet and need high light. Since they are big plants they should be given lots of room hanging up. A crowded plant does not do well and may well fade away.

Anguloa Acostae 'Marsh Hollow' CCE-AOS grown by Glen Alm (a cross of the red *A. hohenlohii* and the white *A. eburnea*) was a 7 foot (over 2m) plant with over 200 flowers.

Anguloa uniflora 'Double Bubble' HCC-AOS smells like bubble gum and emits so much of the scent that it smothers any other scent around it! An ideal candidate for a fragrance competition. The flowers are white "tulips" with a pink blush, but they are held so that the opening faces sideways.

Anguloa clowesii is a much used yellow "tulip" orchid species. One of its progeny is:

Angulocaste Olympus 'Honey' AM-AOS is a cross of Angcst. Apollo X Lycaste Sunrise.

Angcst. Apollo is a cross of *A. clowesii* and L.

Imschootiana. L. Imschootiana contains the yellow deciduous *L. cruenta*. The other parent, **L. Sunrise** is also one of the parents of Lycaste Auburn. The 'Honey' clone is the easiest of the Angcst. Olympus to bloom and it has huge yellow flowers.

Crossing Angcst. Olympus with L. Auburn gives the cross:

Angcst. Paul Gripp, has flowers that can be yellow, also as in the 'Santa Barbara' clone, white with pink flushes, to somewhat orange. The sepals are full and generally flat.

Angcst. Santa Barbara 'Double Meringue' AM-AOS resulted from the cross of Angcst. Paul Gripp with L. Auburn. The clone shown had two white flowers per inflorescence.

The clone 'Nike' AM-AOS was red. The cross can produce white to pink blushed to pure red flowers.

Angcst. Marie Riopelle was another attractive cross, with the clone shown having the sepals chartreuse and flat, the lip orange and the column white.

Zygopetalums can breed with lycastes. Zygopetalums are cool growers and need lots of light to bloom. Their contribution to hybrids are 5 to 7 flowers per inflorescence, green and dark brown sepals and petals, indigo blue lips and strong fragrance.

Crossing Zygopetalum Arthur Elle with *Lycaste skinneri* gives:

Zygocaste Northwest Passage, with one clone having six flowers and one bud on one inflorescence. The flowers were shaped and coloured like the *Zygopetalum* parent, but had the size closer to the *Lycaste* parent. Another clone had white flowers with blue tips and a blue lip. However the flowers were not fragrant and the plants were rather large! They need high light to bloom.

Bifrenarias can also breed with lycastes.

Lycasteria Tropical Honey 'Honey Mustard', a cross of *Bifrenaria aureofulva* and Lycaste Jason, received a JC for the interesting orange colour of the sepals and petals with the contrasting red and gold lip as well as the unusual number of flowers per inflorescence. The plant shown had 4 flowers and 3 buds on 3 inflorescences plus one immature inflorescence. This might be a stepping stone to multi-flowered sprays of orange lycastes!

Doug closed the programme with a wonderfully flowered clone of **Lycaste Pixie** 'Trident's Golden Beauty' CCM-AOS, a cross of *Lycaste campbellii* X *Lycaste cochleata*. The leafless plant was covered with flowers that had chartreuse sepals, yellow petals and a golden lip. Stunning!

**It will soon be 2007
Beat the rush
Renew your SOOS Membership now**

OCTOBER SHOW TABLE

CLASS	1st	2nd	3rd
CLASS 2 Paphiopedilum	Paph - " NO NAME" Synea TAN	Phrag. Mem. Dick Clements Anita KHO	
CLASS 3 Phalaenopsis & Vanda	Dtps. Kenneth Schubert (Doritis pulcherrima x Phal. violacea) Henry GLOWKA		
Class 4 Oncidium, Brassia, Odonts	Onc. Florida Gold x Onc. maculatum Anita KHO	Rodriguezia venusta Anita KHO	Howeara Lava Burst 'Puanani' Anita KHO
CLASS 6 Dendrobium	Den. Capituliflorum Sue LOFTUS		

Plant of the Month

The plant of the month was Anita Kho's (Oncidium Florida Gold X Oncidium maculatum). We were amazed that she managed to put a large flower spike on this mule-eared leaved plant even though she does not have a greenhouse, but grows under lights. She grows the plant semi-hydroponically in clay pellets. The pot has a row of holes 1.5 inches above the bottom, so that there is always some water for the plant in the bottom of the pot. She stressed that she killed another plant of the same cross, by allowing the holes to get plugged up, thereby allowing the water level to get too high.

The plant promptly rotted. She waters once per week with RO water and ¼ teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water. She has a TDS-total dissolved salts-meter and adjusts the fertilizer concentration to get a TDS reading of 200ppm. Once a month she flushes with plain water. She found the MSU fertilizer to work best for her, especially for Phalaenopsis. The plant is grown one foot (30cm) under 200 watts of compact fluorescent lamps producing about 1400 lumens.

Give Yourself a New Years Present, Renew Now