

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

November 2018, Volume 53, Issue 10 Meeting since 1965

Next Meeting Sunday, November 4, 2018, Floral Hall of the Toronto Botanical Garden.

- ★ **Vendor sales noon to 1pm**
- ★ **12:15 pm Cultural Snapshots by Alexsi Antanaitis on the stage.**
- ★ **Program at 1pm John Marcotte of Orchids Canada will reveal his culture of Disa, the South African orchid.**
- ★ **Member plant table.** Bring in your flowering plants for show and tell and points

- ★ **Raffle**

President's Remarks: Welcome Orchid Enthusiasts. After some wonderful speakers / vendors from south of the border to start off our fall meetings (Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, and Jason Fisher, Orchids Limited), our November meeting will feature some home grown talent, with John Marcotte (<https://www.orchidscanada.com>), educating us on the wonderful South African genus, Disa, and its culture. John grows Disa's very well, so this is a topic not to be missed.

If your orchids spent their summer vacationing outdoors, hopefully they are now back inside as the temperatures approach freezing. Many of my plants are now in bud, after enjoying the fresh air, rainwater, high humidity and bud inducing temperature differentials experienced outdoors that I can only dream about under my indoor light setup. My plants were still outdoors in mid-October, but the forecast of 1C night time temperatures means that I was pushing my luck.

Thank you to the members who made their plants available to Laura Liebgott and Jocelyn Webber for the SOOS displays at the COOS and Windsor orchid shows. Don Wyatt will be looking for more of your wonderful blooms for the Essex County show.

This is the last local show for the fall season, before our show in February,

- **Essex County Orchid Society Show & Sale, Nov. 3 & 4, 2018 at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, 1550 Road 3 E; Kingsville, Ont.**
Don Wyatt will be designing the SOOS display.

Thank you in advance for those members who generously lend their precious plants. The SOOS displays could not happen without you.

Our future speaker and festivities are as follows:

- **November 4th:** John Marcotte, Disa's
- **December 2rd:** Annual auction and pot luck
- **January 6th:** Preparing your plants for the "big show"
- **January 27th:** Susan Wedegaertner, President American Orchid Society (topic to be determined)

With the annual auction looming around the corner in December, now is the time to start thinking about what plants, books, growing materials, and any other orchid related (or even non-orchid related) items that you might be able to donate to the cause. Let Liz McAlpine know if you have items available for the auction, so she can start preparing the list.

Now is also the time to get your 2018 SOOS memberships. The earlier you purchase or renew a membership, the more opportunities you will have to win the draw for a blooming orchid at the November, December and January meetings. You must be in attendance to win the orchid draw, so if your name is chosen and you are not in attendance, we will draw again until a winner is chosen. All names go back into the draw for the following month, so purchase your membership early to increase your odds of winning.

Our cultural snapshots will continue to take place on the stage at 12:15 pm, with Alexsi Antanaitis running these sessions. Everyone is welcome to participate. Remember, if there is a topic you would like us to cover, please let us know.

Thank you also to those members whose names begin with the letter **S through Ta**, that supplied treats for the October meeting.

The members whose names start with the letters “To through Z” are scheduled for November’s treats.

We will see you soon.

John Vermeer

We are on facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/298874747302722/>

And

**www.facebook.com/SOOSOrchid/
On instagram at
instagram.com/soosorchid/**

Plant of the Month



Joe DiCiommo won the honours this month with his beautiful *Cattleya maxima coerulea* 'Chelsea's Smile' AM/AOS. It had two inflorescences open with about 8 to 9 flowers each and two more inflorescences about to open. He grows it in a bright spot in his greenhouse and never

moves it from there. The greenhouse gets a light coating of whitewash as shade for the summer. He “showers” it every day with fertilizer water (1 tsp/US gal) and it is doing its best when he lets it grow outside of the pot. Great growing Joe!

2019 Orchid Show and Sale Update

The 39th Annual Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, February 9th and 10th with setup on the 8th. The theme chosen for the show is “Obsession”.

We are looking for volunteers of every personality type and talents to assist with:

1. Hospitality – Aspiring chefs to help feeding the volunteers.
2. Art and Photography – Someone to set up the Competition and Display.
3. Display and General Setup on Friday.
4. Teardown on Sunday after 5 pm.
5. Coat and Plant Check during the Show.
6. Cashier at the front desk welcoming visitors.
7. Giving tours.

8. Security and answering questions.
9. Clerking at the Saturday morning ribbon judging.
10. Being available for whatever Marion needs to have done.

The benefits of volunteering include free admission, incredibly good free food and drink as well as getting to know other members and vendors. Friday volunteers can peruse vendor tables without being jostled by the crowds of Saturday and Sunday.

You can volunteer online at soos.ca or look for Marion and the sign-up sheets at our regular meetings.

Posters and coupons are ready to disperse. Feel free to take some to hand out or put up at your favourite venue. Tell your favourite blogger about our Show to get the word out about this fantastic event.

We will have a display of the artwork of Gerard Bender à Brandis. Please contact Inge Poot if you have something which you are willing to lend.

Cathy Dunn SOOS Show Chair

hopeaero@gmail.com

Coming Events 2018

October

20,21, Windsor Orchid Society Show.

27, TJC.Business Meeting and monthly Judging at TBG. (replaces November 3 judging).

November

October 31- November 4, AOS Member's meeting in Florida

3-4, Essex County Orchid Society Show, Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, Kingsville, Ontario..

4, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm, Floral Hall

10,11, Niagara Frontier Society Show, Buffalo.

17, Monthly Montreal AOS judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal

December

1, TJC Monthly AOS Judging at TBG.

2, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm, Floral Hall

8, , Monthly Montreal AOS judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal

Conservation Corner

Your society has a group of enthusiastic members that meet regularly to discuss orchid conservation issues and develop conservation action plans. The group also engages in occasional small group visits to native orchid habitats. One such was on June 21 to the Blind Lake Bog. The group is under the active chairmanship of Tom Shields

AOS Judging Results

Central Ontario Orchid Society Show September 22:

Show trophy and Silver Certificate 'Niagara's Finest' Niagara Region Orchid Society 85 pts done by Ted and Charlene Kretz

Phalaenopsis pulcherrima var chumpornensis 'Dilithium' CHM/AOS 81 points grown by Drew Goddard

Habenaria riodocheila 'Fire Dragon' AM/AOS 81 points grown by Stanley Luk

Ceratostylis retisquama 'Pumpkin' CCM/AOS 83 points grown by Sherry and Peter Decyk

Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice (longifolium x sargentianum) 'Patricia's Giant' CCM/AOS 83 points grown by Doug and Terry Kennedy

Next judging October 27, 2018 at the TBG

Agenda

10.00am Judges education and TJC Business meeting

1:00pm: AOS Judging

AOS Judging is a service of the American Orchid Society and is open to all! Bring us your flowering orchids.

COOS Show awards 2018

1st Place Ribbons

Oncidium Windward Beauty 'Waianne' Agnes Hastick
Phragmipedium Silver Eagle Agnes Hastick
Paphiopedilum St. Swithin Synea Tan
Phragmipedium tetzlafricanum Agnes Hastick

Rosettes

Oncidium Windward Beauty 'Waianne' Agnes Hastick
Paphiopedilum St. Swithin Synea Tan

2nd Place Ribbons

Phalaenopsis Sogo David Inge & Peter Poot
Brassidium Yellow Star Inge & Peter Poot
Phragmipedium Eric Young 'Marnie' Agnes Hastick

3rd Place Ribbons

Oncidium May Fair 'Trinity' AM/AOS Synea Tan
Cattleya Crown Fox Sweetheart 'Paradise' Synea Tan

Renanthera monachica Synea Tan
Dendrobium faciferum Laura Liebgott
Cattleya Orchidglade X Rhyncholaeliocattleya Little Toshie John Vermeer
Gaidy Falambeau ??Laeliocattleya Prism Pulotte?? (Lc. X C. Walkeriana) John Vermeer
Display Jocelyn Webber and Laura Liebgott.
Phragmipedium longifolium Var. ininksianum Agnes Hastick



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SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY
ORCHID SHOW & SALE
 Toronto Botanical Garden

FEBRUARY 9 & 10, 2019 • SAT & SUN 11 - 5

General Admission: \$12.00 cash only
 Supervised children under 12 are free
 NO large backpacks or tripods permitted
 Hand-held cameras only

Over 30,000 EXOTIC ORCHIDS on display and for sale!
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Angrecom dielsii by Terry Kennedy

For photographers only:
 Limited admission: \$20
 Sunday 9:00 - 11:00 am
 Tripods permitted

Toronto Botanical Garden
 777 Lawrence Avenue East
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 (905) 640-5843

SOOS is a not-for-profit organization; proceeds support conservation

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Orchid Show & Sale

American Orchid Society Judged Show
 Sponsored by The Windsor Orchid Society

Habenaria medusa © Pat Barnett

Hundreds of Orchids, Photography & Artwork – Orchid lectures, Photography Workshop and repotting demonstration.

St. Cyril's Slovak Centre
 1520 Chandler Rd
 Windsor, Ontario (off Seminole)

October 20-21, 2018

Hours: Saturday 11am – 5pm
 Sunday 11am – 4pm
 (Hand-held Cameras Only)

ADMISSION
 Adults \$ 6.00
 Children 12 & under free (with adult)

Special PHOTOGRAPHERS Session (tripods permitted)
 Sunday 9am - 11am

 For more information visit us on Facebook or at www.windsororchidsociety.ca

ORCHID SHOW & SALE
 ESSEX COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOV 3 & 4, 2018
 SAT 11 - 5 pm
 SUN 10 - 4 pm

View amazing orchid displays, Unusual Orchids, Orchid Sales, Arts & Demos

Photographers' hour- Sunday 9-10 am
 Tripods permitted

Colasanti's Tropical Gardens
 1550 Road 3 E, Kingsville ON
www.essexcountyorchidsociety.webs.com

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About SOOS

Web site: www.soos.ca ; SOOS Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/298874747302722/> Member of the Canadian Orchid Congress; Affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance.

Membership: Annual Dues \$30 per calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Surcharge \$15 for newsletter by postal service
 Membership secretary: Liz Mc Alpine, 189 Soudan Avenue, Toronto, ON M4S 1V5, phone 416-487-7832, renew or join on line at soos.ca/members.

Executive: President John Vermeer,; 905-823-2516 Vice-President ? Treasurer, Cathy Dunn, Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281; Past President Laura Liebgott, 905-883-5290

Other Positions of Responsibility: Program, Terry Kennedy; Plant Doctor, Doug Kennedy; Meeting Set up, Yvonne Schreiber; Vendor and Sales table coordinator, Lynda Satchwell ; Library, Liz Mc Alpine ; Web Master, Max Wilson; Newsletter, Peter and Inge Poot; Annual Show, Cathy Dunn; Refreshments, Joe O'Regan. Conservation Committee, Tom Shields; Show table, Synea Tan, Cultural snapshots, Alexsi Antanaitis, Directors at large Marion Curry, Jay Norris, Judy Palmer, Sherry Xie, Eric Tai, Anne Antanaitis.

Honorary Life Members: Terry Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Inge Poot, Peter Poot, Joe O'Regan, Diane Ryley, Wayne Hingston.

Annual Show: February 9-10 , 2019.

October 7, 2018 Show Table Ribbons

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance	C. maxima var coerulea 'Chelsea'sSmile' AM/CCM/AOS John Barnes	C. maxima var.coerulea 'Hector' X Gigi Yvan Richard C.Brabantiae John Vermeer	C. Valentina?var coerulea David Bryan
Class 2 Paphiopedilium	Paph henryanum Stanley Luk	Paph concolor Stanley Luk	Paph Maudiae hybrid Stanley Luk
Class 3 Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance		Vanda (Neofinetia) falcata 'Nishidewiyako' Terry Kowalczyk	
Class 4 Oncidium and related	Onc Wildcat 'Bloodshot' Synea Tan		Psychopsis (Pyp) Mariposa 'Special'(3 lips) Marian Curry
Class 5 Cymbideae	Cym Golden Elf Synea Tan		
Class 7 All Others	Habenaria rhodocheila 'Fire Dragon' AM/AOS Stanley Luk	Anguloa ruckeri sp Inge Poot Catasetum fergusonii 'Loon Landing' AM/AOS Synea Tan	Warczewiczella (Cochleanthes) Amazon Beauty (Warczewiczella amazonica X Warczewiczella lobata) Synea Tan



Catasetums, (Cycnoches, Mormodes, Clowesia) and How to grow them, by Fred Clarke, transcribed by Inge Poot

I would like to thank Fred for allowing me to use whatever pictures or texts I wanted from his presentation – it sure helps to save time! And our members don't have to cope with my transcription errors....Fred actually gave me a copy of his straight Catasetum programme by mistake so I had to improvise the other genera from my skimpy notes. Sorry for any inaccuracies.

Fred Clarke was 18 years old when he discovered orchids. He helped a neighboring lady repot her orchids and she let him have pieces of some of them as a thank you. He soon loved them, but he soon wanted to grow something different. He happened on a Cycnodes (a hybrid of a Cycnoches, a swan orchid, – pronounced sik-NO-kees and a Mormodes) and when he flowered it, he promptly got a First Class Certificate for it! Talk about a green thumb and incredible luck in getting the highest award right on your first try! That must have been highly addictive

Now to start with Catasetums (whose name translates to “downward hairs”- referring to the pollen trigger):

☐ Pronounced (kat-ah-SEE-tum)

- ☐ *cata* from the Greek indicating 'downward' and *seta* from the Latin meaning 'bristles'
- ☐ Members of the Cymbidieae tribe
- ☐ Have been in cultivation since the 1800's
- ☐ They make excellent hobby plants!

Catasetums are widely distributed from Mexico, Latin America and thru out South America. Environmental conditions they prefer are:

- ☐ Open areas
- ☐ Good light levels
- ☐ Lots of air movement
- ☐ Monsoonal summers
- ☐ Dry winters

Where do Catasetums grow?



They love the leaf axils of palms. And as you can see that would only shade them from the noon sun.

Note the debris that collects in these axils. But they have also been found on weathered creosoted wooden telephone/electricity poles! Full sun there! Of course they are also found on some trees, occasionally in exposed areas on soil and even on cacti and -

houses!

Catasetum characteristics:

- ☐ Widely variable flower shape, color, and form
- ☐ They have pollen ejecting triggers located under the column and they can shoot quite far and forcefully!
- ☐ Male and female flowers are 'Sexually Dimorphic', which means the sexes look different. The showy male flowers are short lived
- ☐ Easiest to grow of the four genera
- ☐ Can flower 1-5 times per season
- ☐ They make excellent hobby plants

Catasetum pileatum is one of the hybridizers' corner-stone species, because of its large lip and many Colour varieties



. **Sexual dimorphism** is shown in the *Catasetum pileatum* slides. Both male and female flowers have the same scent. After a pollinating insect – a species of male euglossine bee – has been shot at with the pollinia, it is not likely to visit such a flower again! But when it smells the same fragrance from a female flower the flower

looks unthreatening and it will be tempted to collect the desired scent from it, so as to adorn itself with the scent and this way be attractive to female bees. Rooting around the opening of the helmet to try to get to the scent glands (osmophores) it will deposit the pollen stuck to it on the stigma.

The female flowers of all species are helmet shaped, usually produced in twos and threes and tend to be more or less green. Only strong, well-lit plants will produce female flowers. The stronger the plant the more female flowers it is able to produce.



The male flowers are produced in large inflorescences and the flowers are usually very showy. They are built to attract the insect first – to pick up pollen by disturbing the trigger. Only after they have become frightened by the violent pollen deposit would they notice the demure female flowers and only because they have the same

scent as the male flowers of the same species.



Ctsm. expansum

A similar species is *Catasetum expansum*. Its flowers are smaller than *pileatum* and the amount of spotting can be more than in the clone shown, or absent altogether. The lip is not triangular, but somewhat five-sided. Also the swelling around the fake spur entrance is much more pronounced in *expansum*.

A corner-stone species for breeding black orchids is *Catasetum tenebrosum*. The clone shown has exceptionally wide, flat and richly coloured sepals and petals.

Male and female flowers on same inflorescence



Ctsm. tenebrosum



Male flower

Female flower

But some inflorescences can't make up their mind what sex to be!!! When they are not in full sun or not quite shady enough to produce only male flowers. Other species are used in hybrids for colour, shape, floriferousness, ease of culture. Some of the species shown were:

Ctsm. spitzii



Ctsm. vineacum



Ctsm. osculatum



Ctsm. denticulatum



Ctsm. denticulatum "Sunset Valley Orchids" AM/AOS

Ctsm. saccatum



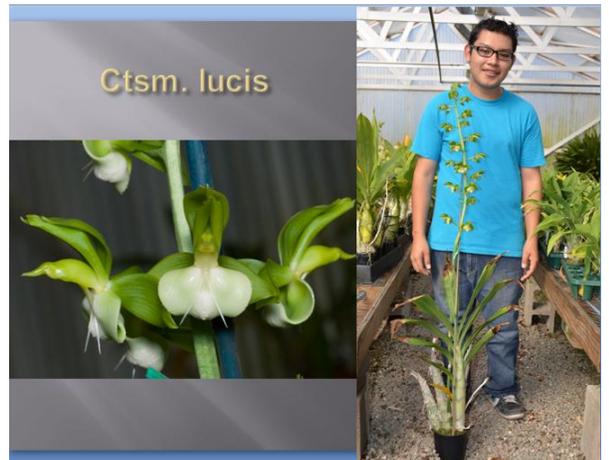
Ctsm. barbatum



Catasetum barbatum has thick white hairs along the edge of its narrow lip, making it look positively bearded. The hairs come through in hybrids, albeit in a reduced way.

Catasetum lucis has a very strong upright inflorescence habit and is sure to be noticed when in bloom!

Ctsm. lucis



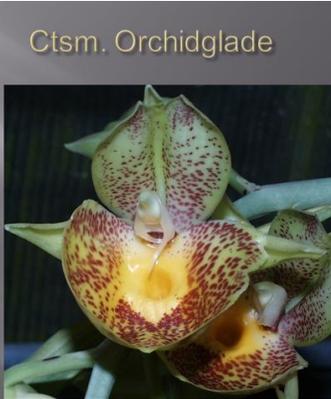
Some you grow just for the

sheer weirdness of the flowers!

Hybridization

- ☐ Catasetum flowers come in many colors, shapes and bloom periods
- ☐ They make wonderful hybrids
- ☐ Sometimes breeding can be difficult as both flower sexes are required
- ☐ Are easy to grow
- ☐ Can flower 1-5 times a season
- ☐ They make excellent hobby plants

A very famous hybrid is Catasetum Orchidglade. It is used in a lot in hybrids.

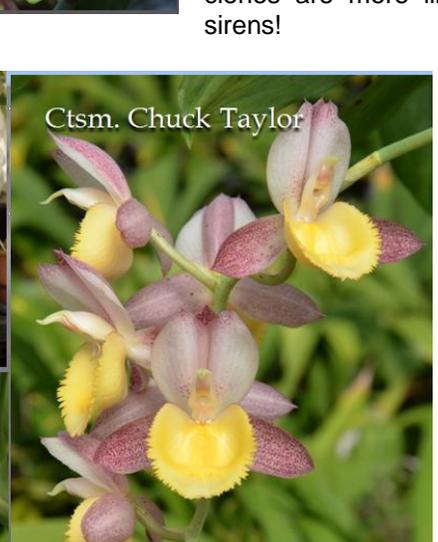


Crossing it with *Ctism. expansum* results in **Ctism. Susan Fuchs**, a hybrid with many lovely clones.

Another *Ctism* Orchidglade cross with *Ctism tenebrosum* is **Ctism Donna Wise**. The clone shown is very floriferous, but the flower shape is nothing to write home about. But other clones more than make up for this so-so one.



But the next cross using Susan Fuchs as a parent, **Catasetum Karen Armstrong**, has breathtaking colour! The first clone shown of the cross **Ctism Chuck Taylor** has rather feminine pastel colours, but other clones are more like sirens!





Talk about variety in the offspring: **Catasetum Melana Davidson** can be solid mahogany to white with mahogany speckles!



When both parents are complex hybrids, you never know what to expect. In the cross **Catasetum Sheriff Frank Drew**, which is Ctism Frilly Doris crossed with Ctism Susan Fuchs we get large triangular frilly lips in lots of shades, including dark mahogany highlighted by bold blotches of white or pink.

Another so far unregistered **Ctism Frilly Doris** cross with **Ctism Voodoo Dragon** as the other parent produced a delightful progeny with a pink frilled lip highlighting a solid mahogany flower.

Crossing a dark brown-black Ctism. Jose Abalo sporting a white column with a Ctism Orchidglade that had a yellow-lip but demure sepals and petals in pale dusty pink, produced **Ctism Fong Cinq** illustrated with a clone that had a somewhat circular flower of cream, heavily overlaid with red-mahogany spots, coalescing to solid red in a wide band in the

lip.



Another great cross is **Ctism Louise Clark**. A dark brown Ctism Donna Wise was crossed with their colourful cream mahogany and yellow clone of Ctism Susan Fuchs and got many lovely progeny in red mahogany and yellow with lovely coloured and well- shaped lips in both solid and speckled colour schemes.

Best Cultural Practices

- When in active growth water like a 'monsoon'
- Fertilize every watering @ 1 tsp per gallon
- Use an open well drained medium
 - Sphagnum moss
 - Fine bark and Perlite
 - Re-pot and divide just as new growth is started
- Don't begin watering until the new growth has new roots that are 3-6" long.

Environmental Conditions

Catasetinae prefer *Cattleya* like growing conditions

- Summer lows: 60 – 75 F (16 – 24 C)
- Summer highs: 80 – 95 F (26 - 35 C)
- Winter highs: 60 – 75 F (16 – 24 C)
- Winter lows: 50 – 60 F (10 – 16 C)
- Light levels: 2000-5000 fc

☐ Humidity: 40-85%

Growth Cycle

In nature it is hot and wet in summer and cool and dry in winter

- ☐ *Catasetinae* require these seasonal changes
- ☐ Watering begins when the new roots are 3-8" long
- ☐ Watering too early may cause bulb rot and will discourage new root development
- ☐ 80% of the prior year's roots die during dormancy

The late Dr Sal Naqi who for many years exhibited his superbly grown plants with Doug and Terry Kennedy used to keep the night temperature of his *Catasetinae* plants above 65F (~18C) which prevented them from going into dormancy. He got another year's worth of growth and flowers out of the plants with this technique.



Summary of Catasetum Plant Culture:

- ✓ Wait to irrigate until new roots are 3-8" long
- ✓ Well drained potting media
- ✓ When in active growth, water and fertilize frequently
- ✓ Scout for insects early, treat accordingly
- ✓ Reduce irrigation when leaves begin to yellow
- ✓ Stop watering when bulbs are leafless
- ✓ Re-pot and divide when new growth starts



Pests In our area (Southern Ontario), two species of **false spider mites**, also called **cyclamen mites** cause much more damage than the red and two-spotted true spider mites. They do not spin any webs and on top of it are 1/10th the size of the true spider mites. They are considered to be invisible to the naked eye – but in my



youth I was just barely able to see them.....Their damage looks similar to that of the true spider mites. If you suspect you have them, rub a white Kleenex over the affected surfaces and if you see the odd red smear, you have them. But very few mites can do an inordinate amount of damage, some of it looking like viral damage circles. But most circles will be partial and the rings are thicker. **Kelthane** (no longer available in Canada) is the best pesticide for them, but some chemicals that work on true spider mites do not work on the false ones (eg Aramite – have not seen THAT for years either!). In cool weather repeated **horticultural oil sprays** work. See Rebecca Northern's book: Home Orchid Growing, for more information. To be continued with **Cycnoches, Mormodes, and Clowesia in a future Newsletter.**