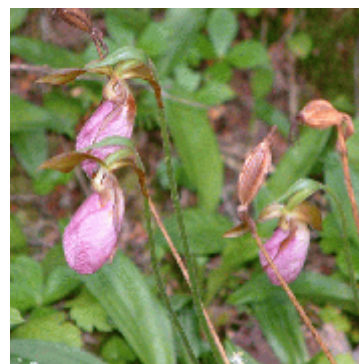


SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

February 2009 NEWS

Volume 44, Issue 2



Cypripedium acaule, Northeast of Toronto, photo by PP

Executive: President, Tom Atkinson 416 449-7907;

Vice-president, Yvonne Schreiber, 905 473-3405 ;Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281;

Treasurer, Elizabeth McAlpine, 416 487-7832

Membership: Annual Dues \$25.00/Calendar Year(January 1- December 31). 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: Terry Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Inge Poot, Peter Poot, Joe O'Regan, Diane Ryley , Wayne Hingston

Next Annual Show: February 14 -15, 2009, Get ready!!!

February 1, Toronto Botanical Garden, Sales at 12 noon, Program at 1 pm.

Terry Kennedy will discuss some of the intrigues (intricacies? ed.) of Orchid Show participation.

Many of you do know that she has had some experience in this field. Over 35 years Terry has lost count of the shows that she and Doug have successfully participated in.

At this meeting she will share her secrets.

It is essential to understand that every orchid grower who enters a plant or a display in the Valentine Day Orchid Show has the potential to win a trophy. Sometimes the difference between a winner and a runner up can be as simple as the proper staking of the flowers. Sometimes it just requires entering your plant in the right Class. Sometimes it is that last detail on your exhibit or basket. A quick review, with pictures of course, will make sure that you get the most out of your show!

As the SOOS show is February 14, 15, this is a timely topic for us.

As well, we will be encouraging those members who have not yet had the opportunity to sign up for show duty to do so.

Vendors and Buyers please note: Sales start at 12 noon. We need to have time to set up the room and the vending stations without the interference of the public and members not involved in the setup process. Please do not attempt to buy or sell before 12 or during the meeting.

Your 2009 SOOS Membership Renewal form was included in the October and November newsletters. Please fill it out and mail it to the Membership secretary Hess Pommells, Apt. 503, 370 Dixon Road, Weston, Ontario, M9R 1T2. Membership remains at a bargain \$25 per calendar year. Hesse and Chee, the cheerful people at the membership desk, would also like to remind those who have ordered name badges to please pick them up.



S O O S President's Remarks

Hello fellow orchid lovers.

The 2009 SOOS Show is - as you know, and will read about throughout this issue of the newsletter - coming up, and fast.

So, the show, and you and me. If you have not signed up yet for duty at the show, please do so; there is information in the newsletter on many aspects of the show, and we will remind you again at the February 1 meeting - count on it!. The perks include free entry, a chance to see judging being done (if you sign up for clerking), fellowship with members and the public at large, and a stunning array of orchids, some in displays and some which crave your willingness to part with a few dollars and take them home. No matter how resolved I am to "buy less this year", temptation always trumps a steely will.

We are ambassadors when we volunteer for the show: we can assist people in finding their way around the TBG; we can direct them to the displays, the 2 sales areas, the seminars, the tours, and even the washrooms. There will be a separate membership table in the lobby this year. Hess Pommells, with Chee Chong's help, always handled membership and the plant-&-coat check. This was too much of a load. As we want to encourage membership, there will be a division of labour this year: 2 tables, one for membership, and one for plant-&-coat check. So after you talk up the society and orchids to members of the public, if they seem interested, direct them to the membership table. For \$25 measly bucks a year, there is so, so much for even the most experienced gardener to revel in.

As my ability to grow orchids that you might wish to have in your own house is close to zero, I am always amazed and even delighted at what many of you can do. We see these labours of love at the monthly

meetings and the Show (& Tell) table. Yet how many members will offer to lend one of these gems to Laura Liebgott for our own SOOS display at the Show? If you do have orchids, I know she would be delighted to hear from you. You may reach her at lliebgott@rogers.com or 905-883-5290; alternatively, there is a way to pre-register your plant(s) via the on-line registration system. It will be ready for you (that is, it will be live) on January 26, through February 12. If you elect to use this method, and have trouble, Max Wilson or I will assist you.

One other point, and that is the Tet (Lunar new Year) show held by the Vietnamese Association of Toronto. Last year I went to it as a look-see. This year, Don Wyatt and Joe O'Regan will man a booth and have a small display at this event. We are hoping to interest members of this good-sized community in orchids, and in joining SOOS. This outreach is an experiment, so we are keeping our fingers crossed. For Paphiopedilum lovers, Vietnam is a true "hot spot"; many new-to-science slipper orchids have been found there in the past 15+ years. How many citizens of any given country know very much about their own, indigenous flora? The answer is, I fear, not many. Canada is no exception and, I suspect, Vietnam follows our example. So if we are bringing proverbial coals to Newcastle, at least the residents will then understand what treasures there are not only in the ancestral homeland, but also in the orchid trade here in Canada.

I keep hoping for feedback on anything that the society is up to, should be up to, or that I have written. Hope springs eternal! (To contact me: asiminasympatico.ca or 416-449-7907.)

Cloud's Orchids

Special Spring Catalogue Preview
February 28 & March 1,
11 am. to 4 pm.

For details, visit our web site at
www.cloudsorhids.com

Welcome New Members
Yvonne Almeida, Dannie and Julia Kan,
Steven and Kathy Bozicevic, Carol
Warkentin

Coming Events

2009

February

1, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon
14,15 SOOS Show, **Toronto Centre February judging**, Toronto Botanical Garden .

28, Mar. 1, RBG Orchid Society Show , **Toronto Centre March judging**, Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington.

March

1, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon
21-22, London Orchid Society Show

28-29, Orchidexpo, Montreal, **Montreal Centre judging**.

April

3, Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, Rochester, N.Y.

4, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm.

5, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon
11,12, TAOA show, Toronto.

18-19, Les Orchidophiles. de Quebec show, **Montreal Centre judging**, Quebec City.

25,26, Ottawa Orchid Society show.

The 30th Annual Orchid Show

22-26, American Orchid Society members meeting and show, Houston, Texas.

The 30th Annual Orchid Show

The show on Feb. 14 and 15, 2009 is our thirtieth show. Every year, the show committee has



organized a remarkable showcase to display orchids. Thousands of visitors and members have experienced the show. This year it happens on Valentine's Day, an occasion associated with love and beauty. We supply the beauty part of the equation.

LARGE NEED for VOLUNTEERS at the Show

This show must be a success. Our society relies on the show to fund speakers and conservation projects. We still need volunteers for several important jobs. Please volunteer for as much time as you can.

Clerking at the Saturday morning judging. Get in touch with Jay Norris at jayrn@rogers.com.

Security - Saturday and Sunday, checking that people have paid and giving them directions, we need about 5 people on duty at all times

Kitchen - Friday, Saturday and Sunday; serving food to volunteers and exhibitors

Coat & Plant Check - Saturday and Sunday; checking coats and plants for visitors to the show.

Judges' Breakfast - early Saturday; serving coffee and muffins/donuts

Clean-Up - Sunday after 5 pm; taking down tables and staging material

Please call Wayne Hingston (905-649-2467), register on the website at www.soos.ca/ Annual Show/ Volunteers or sign up at the Feb. 1/09 meeting

Memorial Trophies at SOOS Show

Our February show will feature three awards in honour of society members. The Walter Norman Memorial Trophy will be given for the Best Cattleya. The John Kafka Memorial Trophy will be given for the Best Oncidium. The Gary Schreiber Memorial Trophy will be given for the best Paphiopedilum species.

These trophies will be given for the next ten shows. The Walter Norman and John Kafka trophies are fully sponsored. If you would like to donate toward making the Gary Schreiber Memorial Trophy fully sponsored, your donation will be greatly appreciated. Presently this trophy is only partially sponsored.

Registering your Plants or Artwork for Judging

Visit our website at www.soos.ca and look under Annual Show. There you will be able to Register your plants on-line before the show. You need to first obtain a username and password unless you are a confirmed registrant. You can register your plant even if it is going to be in the Society display being created by Laura Liebgott.

ORCHID ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Deadline for entries: February 1 , 2009

Artists may request space for 1-4 paintings in the following categories

paintings, etchings, charcoal etc

photographs

sculptures, ceramics, china, jewelry and metal art, needlepoint, fibre art, quilts

collectible orchid -related art or crafts (Display must contain orchids).

In order to exhibit, the Artist must remit 15% commission of any sale to the Southern Ontario Orchid Society. This amount will be deducted at the time of sale

For further information, please email artandphotos@soos.ca

Work previously shown at a Southern Ontario Orchid Show will not be accepted.

Volunteers and exhibitors have one free pass to the show. If you could volunteer for security or setup, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us with the times you are available to volunteer.

Artwork and Photography has a separate registration form that can be obtained on the website at www.soos.ca under Annual Show. Please read the website and form for restrictions and conditions.

Plants, Artwork and Photographs may be registered at the Show on Friday. Plant Registration closes at 9:00 pm SHARP. Art and Photography should be registered by 7 pm to allow their display.

Show Publicity

Please promote our show to anyone that may be interested. Posters and coupons (for \$2 OFF) can be printed from the website. We need over 2400 paying visitors for our show and that may be difficult with snow, economy and other turmoil. YOU are our best advertisers. If you have any questions contact Wayne Hingston (905-649-2467).

SOOS High-Lighted in SNAP

The last two editions of SNAP Downtown Toronto have drawn attention to SOOS and promoted our show. We are grateful for their support and we hope that you would support them.

If you are unable to make the meetings or have any questions call Wayne Hingston at 905-649-2467.

Show Vendors

Terry and Doug Kennedy

Orchids In Our Tropics

15 Wilmac Court, Gormley, ON L0H 1G0
905-727-3319

Calvin Wong

Tropical Gardens Orchids

27 Greenhill Avenue, Richmond Hill, ON K4B 3W3
416-471-6939

Rob & Ruthanne Gardiner

Hamilton Greenhouse

2247 2nd Concession W, RR #1, Lynden, ON L0R 1T0
519 647-3301

Eric and Ellen Lee

Plant Exotica

4396 Steeles Ave, # E9, Box 67, Markham, ON L3R 9W1
905-948-8398

Jay Norris and Robin McLaughlin

Ravenvision Photographic

50 Birmingham St. Stratford, ON, N5A 2S6
519-271-7964

Mario Ferrusi

Marsh Hollow

1129 Cream Street, Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0
905-892-4187

Claudio Rossi

Cloud's Orchids

2409 Honsberger Ave, R.R.#1, Jordan Station, ON L0R 1S0
905-562-8950

John Doherty
Zephyrus Orchids
3191 Munsen Crescent, Burlington, ON L7M 0B9
905-331-5515

Joe DiCiommo
DiCiommo Orchids
414 Upper Ottawa Street, Hamilton, ON L8T 3T1
905-389-9339

Peter and Sherry Decyk
512 Enfield Road, Burlington, ON L7T 2X8
905-632-1985

Lynne Guimond
Exotic Orchids Plus
20474 Concession 8, Green Valley, ON K0C 1L0
613-525-0164

Tom Shields
Orchids Primeval
19 Lakeview Ave, Toronto, ON M6J 3B2
416 531 7082

Roger and An Li Sheng
37 Mill Road, Ajax, ON L1S 6J9
905-426-3478

Joe Kunisch
Bloomfield Orchids
251 W. Bloomfield Road, Pittsford, NY 14534
585-381-4206

Francisco Miranda
Boa Vista Orchids
4763 Polk City Road
Haines City, FL, 33844
863-422-9398

Mike & Chris Ugarenko
Stone Gardener
544 Raymerville Drive, Markham, ON, L3P 6G2
416-895-8978

AOS Judging Results

Toronto Judging Centre, January 3, 2009:
Dendrochilum propinquum 'Coral Tresses' CHM-AOS
82 points, Doug and Terry Kennedy
Masdevallia patula 'Marsh Hollow' AM-AOS 82
points, Mario and Conni Ferrusi.
Odontioda Joe's Drum 'Achille Ferrusi', HCC-AOS
76 points, Oda. Joe Marshall x Oda. Drumory,
Mario and Conni Ferrusi.

Please Note: The February judging will be combined with the SOOS show February 14, and the March judging will be combined with the RBG show at the RBG on February 28. We welcome all exhibitors at

our monthly judgments. Remember your plants cannot win if they are not shown, and even if they do not win they are invaluable as a teaching tool for our students and judges, and much appreciated by all of us.

Programme Notes for November, 2008: Colombian Orchids, by Andrea Niessen (transcribed by Inge Poot)

Andrea Niessen and her husband are the owners of Orchideas De Valle and they decided to grow orchids instead of the traditional coffee. It is fitting since the Colombian national flower is Cattleya trianae and that of Panama and Costa Rica, is Cattleya dowiana aurea. The latter is found in the Amazon basin, in the southern, most eastern tip of Colombia.

The western third of Colombia consists of three mountain ranges (the Cordigera) that run mostly north to south, yet there are 44 million people finding places to live. In spite of the fairly high population density the country is home to the greatest number of butterflies, has a great diversity of birds and best of all has about 5000 species of orchids of which only about 3500 have so far been described. Only Brazil has more species of orchids, but since it is seven times bigger than Colombia this is no great surprise! There are many ecosystems in Colombia due to its great differences in terrain.

The northern tip of the country is a desert. Further south in the interior there are swamps. Further south still we come into the regions dominated by the three mountain ranges. On the western coast, up the most western mountains and in the south-eastern portion of the country there are rain forests. In the valleys between the mountain ranges and east of the ranges there are dry tropical forests. On top of the middle range there are cloud forests. On mountains over 4000m there is snow.

The regions that will be discussed are:

The Atlantic Region, is located in the north-western portion of Colombia and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the north- west, the most eastern branch of the mountain ranges and Venezuela on the east and the foothills of the two western mountain ranges on the south.

The Pacific Region is the band of terrain that runs along between the Pacific Ocean and the most western mountain range.

The Andean Region is the area covered by the three mountain ranges and the valleys between them.

The Orinoco Basin Region or the Eastern Plains are bordered by Venezuela and the Meta River on the north, the most eastern mountain range on the west, the Orinoco River on the east and the Guayabero River in the south.

The Amazon Basin Region is bordered by the

Guayabero River to the north, Brazil in the east, Peru and Ecuador in the South and the mountain ranges in the west.

The Atlantic Region

In the Atlantic Region there is a wonderful new tourist attraction that will soon rival Machu Picchu of Peru. It is the "Lost City" and at the moment is only accessible by helicopter. Near the Lost City we find *Encyclia cordigera* var *semi-alba* with heavy, gracefully curved, light olive overlaid dark brown, sepals and petals and a white lip with a basal, red-veined, pink blotch. Another species found there is the snowy white *Caularthron bilamellatum* and the spectacular *Oncidium ampliatum* with its turtle-shaped pseudobulbs and huge branched sprays of 2cm yellow flowers whose sepals and petal bases are spotted with brown.

Atlantic Coast Region:

Banana plantations are very frequent here. Some of the orchids found in this warm region are: *Lycaste campbellii*, a species with numerous about 5cm, full flowers with chartreuse sepals and bright yellow petals and lip, all borne on the plants while they are leaf-less; *Masdevallia velella* with heavy-substanted flowers held below the leaves. The dorsal is chartreuse, the strap-shaped lateral sepals are fused to the apex, leaving only the caudae free. They are light gold in colour with a central purple flush, the whole off-set by the small but deep magenta lip and petals. The similar *Masdevallia velifera* is found there as well. Its lateral sepals are only fused half way and the lip is light mahogany and the tiny petals light yellow. The showy natural hybrid of *Cattleya warscewiczii* and *Cattleya dowiana* is called *Cattleya Hardyana* and this area is its natural habitat. Good forms of it will have flat, if not very full, purple flowers with a large deep purple lip that has two large bright yellow eyes and red veins between the eyes leading into the tube of the lip.

Pacific Coast Region:

The "seven-coloured sea" is often visible from this area. The slide showed bands of different shades of blue and green extending from the beach to the horizon. And if you look under the water you would also see many colourful fish - a lovely area.

Brassavola grandiflora is found here. It is a larger version of night-fragrant *Brassavola nodosa*, the "Lady of the Night", that has wider leaves and the dorsal sepal seems to droop more than in *B. nodosa*. Both species produce small clusters of flowers with narrow green sepals and petals and a large white heart-shaped lip.

The northern portion of this region is the Choco. It has an enormous rainfall of 8000mm (8m) per year! This results in the highest biodiversity found in Colombia. The Choco has many gold mines and a large African population that were originally brought

there to work in the mines.

Phragmipedium longifolium is found near the sea and in some places the plants are washed with sea water at high tide. As the name suggests this plant can be huge with long, successively flowering inflorescences. The flowers are in shades of olive, high-lighted by the narrow almost horizontally held purple petals.

Mangrove forest line the coast line, facilitating fishing as a good source of income. There are six Inca languages spoken in the area and the sale of nice handicrafts supplement the income of the native population.

Some of the orchids growing in this area follow:

First a group of genera with fan-shaped growth - much like less leathery *Paphiopedilums*. The flowers come out of the sides of the growths and are usually on short stems that reach out more or less horizontally to get the flowers into the light.

Pescatorea coronaria is one of the most beautiful orchids found in this very humid area. The 5-8 cm flowers are held low on the plant and vary in colour from light to deep purple. The lip has shiny deep purple lamellae on the base and thick white hairs on the apical half. The good clones are also quite well overlapped in the segments.

Another two very similar *Pescatoreas* are found in this habitat. *Pescatoria dayana* and *kabochiorum* both have about 5cm white flowers with purple tips to the segments. *P. dayana* has an all purple lip and a column with a yellow underside, while *P. klabochiorum* has an all purple column and a white haired tip to the purple lip.

Chaubardiellas are a genus with up-side down flowers, whose lips are more or less hooded over the centre of the flower. Otherwise they resemble *Pescatoreas*. The three species shown had cream flowers, with the large *C. pubescens* being overlaid everywhere with purple spots, the smaller *C. chasmatochila* having only an orange spot under the column and the smallest of the three, *C. subquadrata* having the lip veined with purple.

Euryblema or *Chondorhyncha andreae* is a charming species, probably related to the above genera. The flowers are cream with raspberry spots over all the sepal and lip tips, the spots being especially heavy on the fringed expanded margin of the tubular lip. The lip is further decorated with a dark red interior of the tube. The slender petals rise like wings of a soaring bird over the flower.

Kefersteinia ocellata is a dainty species with graceful chartreuse flowers and a shell-shaped lip that is decorated with two red blotches just below the red veins at the tip. *Kefersteinia tolimensis* has a similar colour scheme. However, the flowers are fuller and look more like bearded gnomes than something graceful! The flowers are chartreuse with dark purple spots. The spots are heaviest on the base of the

segments and they are denser on the petals and densest on the fringed lip. The column is long and club-shaped and forms a green nose for the "gnome". Another species, *Kefersteinia mystacina* has flat translucent chartreuse sepals and petals and a large snowy white deeply fringed lip. There is a hint of pink at the base of this lovely lip. *Kefersteinia niesseniae* is translucent chartreuse with a solid bright yellow blotch in the centre of the lip.

Galeottia fimbriata has a short inflorescence with about four flowers that look like birds trying to fly off! The petals have the shape of heavily beating wings. The sepals and petals are chartreuse with a heavy overlay of brown, leaving a narrow chartreuse picotee. The basal half of the segments have dark brown veins. The wide, curled under, white lip is veined purple centrally. This species is hard to transport, because it must stay wet.

The last genus with fans of leaves is represented by *Huntleya burtii*, the loveliest of the *Huntleya* species. The shiny, thick, flat flowers are white with all segments overlaid brick-red on the apical half. The basal half of the sepals and petals have a yellow blotch and the petals have the added decoration of a black "eye" at the base of each petal. The column tip is green. Stunning!

There are many *Maxillarias* in this type of habitat. The species shown were not identified, but all had the typical forward bent petals and one had white spots on the leaves that looked like "bird droppings"! This may be the species *pseudoreichenbachiana* or *reichenbachiana*.

Psychopsis krameriana is one of three similar species of "butterfly" orchids. The three species are told apart by the cross-section of the tall flowering stems. *P. kramerianum* has flat stems and of the other two species, one has round stems and the other has a flower stem that is round at the base and flat near the tip. *P. krameriana* has flat flowers with very narrow brown sepals that are bent up and fan out above the petals. The petals are wide, bent down slightly, yellow with brown blotches arranged in bars. The round lip is yellow and has a row of red-brown spots around the margin.

Psychmorchis pusilla is a twig epiphyte that has 4cm tall, succulent leaves arranged in a fan, but no pseudobulbs. It produces comparatively large, 2cm, flat, yellow *Oncidium*-like flowers and not surprisingly, *Oncidium* was the genus it used to be placed in. Our speaker told us that it is reluctant to bloom, but can be shocked into blooming by separating the fans of the plant into single fan pieces! Other members of the *Oncidium* alliance found in this area are *Brassias* (spider-orchids) and *Miltoniopsis roezlii*, the white pansy orchid with the prominent purple eyes at the base of the petals and the large yellow blotch (called the mask in this genus) at the

base of the lip. The latter species was chosen to adorn the label on the Blanco (white) brand of Agua Diente, or the famous Fire-water of Columbia!

Several genera of the *Stanhopea* tribe are also found in the Choco. They of course are all warm and wet growing. The *Gongoras* with their long pendant inflorescences of 2-4cm praying mantis-like flowers were illustrated with the three, at first glance very similar species *Gonora chochoensis*, *fulva* and *histrionic* -all three have cream flowers with dense red-brown spots. The flowers are presented around the stem on curved down pedicels and the lip is held horizontally and looks like the mantis abdomen. The slender column curves downward and has two long claw-like wings that together with the narrow petals create the illusion of the grasping forefeet of a mantis. The sepals are flipped back like wings -a really neat genus! The other two species are more colourful, where *Gongora gratulabunda* has mustard flowers with a purple flush on the tip of the lip and the *Gongora latibasis* shown had red flowers.

Another genus in this tribe is *Polycycnis*. Both species shown had horizontally held inflorescences full of dainty, about 2cm wide, cream flowers with maroon spots. *Polycycnis muscifera* had a chartreuse pointy lip, full of upright white hairs, while the species *lepida* had a white lip also with a "brush" of upright white hairs.

The third genus was illustrated with *Coeliopsis hyacinthosma*. It has small, snowy white, slightly cupped flowers that are presented as a ball at the base of the plant. The centre of each flower is high-lighted by a black-maroon spot at the base of the lip and this spot is surrounded by a mustard band.

The last genus of the *Stanhopinae* shown was *Sievekingia*. It is a delightful genus with plants that look like miniature *Stanhopeas*, that is they have ridged onion-like pseudobulbs topped by plicate (longitudinally ridged) leathery leaves. The flower stems are pendant as in *Stanhopeas* and even the flowers at first glance resemble the primitive members of that genus, but on closer inspection it is noticed that the lips are simple -not at all intricate as in any *Stanhopea*, no matter how primitive. *Sievekingia suavis* has delightful full white flowers with a peach flush on the sepal edges and a deep peach overlay on the petals, lip and column. The white anther cap is a perky touch!

Next some of the most delightful members of the *Lepanthes telipogoniflora* photo courtesy Andreea Niessen *Pleurothallid* tribe found in the



Choco were shown. The amazing *Lepanthes telipogoniflora*, a tiny miniature with huge flat round orange flowers made everyone's mouth water. Our speaker recommended growing it in a mound of moss in a glass jar that has an opening in the side. If your home is very dry you may have to cover most or all of the opening with Saran wrap. Water by pouring rainwater or distilled water into the jar, allow a minute and then pour out the excess.

Another irresistible miniature shown was *Platystele umbellata* and the almost as cute *Platystele ortiziana*. Both have flower stalks that present a ball of flowers just above the leaves, both have waxy, velvety raspberry purple flowers, but the latter species has a looser ball of flowers. (Your transcriber could not resist buying a *Platystele umbellata* and planted in New Zealand sphagnum moss in a glass jar it has not stopped producing new inflorescences -it has been in bloom now for two months).

Rubellia (formerly a *Pleurothallis*) *rubella* is another choice warm growing miniature. It has dainty flowers of typical *Pleurothallis*-like shape. The dorsal and the fused lateral sepals are translucent pale peach, the solid quadrangular petals are orange with purple tips and the large lip is also orange with a few deep red blotches at the base and at the lip tip. The anther cap is snowy white. The inflorescences appear to be successively flowering, so a plant should be in bloom for a long time.

Dressleria is a new genus related to *Catasetum*. *Dressleria kerryii* looks like a *Catasetum* with lots of waxy, white flat and full flowers that look to be less than 5cm across in size. The plant needs high humidity, warmth and watering all year long.

Another interesting genus found in this warm, wet region is *Warrea*. The as yet undescribed species shown, had an ascending tall inflorescence with white flowers that are a bit like *Phaius* flowers. They face downward, but are full in shape and the lip is decorated with purple veins and flushes on the basal half.

The last species shown from this habitat was *Oncidium fuscatum*. This species has changed names from the genus *Miltonioides*. Whatever its current name, it is a showy species with long dense inflorescences of about 2cm flowers. The sepals and petals are white, narrow with crisped edges and a central brown overlay. The lip is large, white with an undulating margin and a small gold blotch at the base followed by a red-brown wide band of colour. Never cut off the flower spike unless it turns brown, because it reblooms from old inflorescences.

The Andean Region:

This is the area enclosed by the three mountain ranges. The Cauca Valley is between the western and central ranges and the Magdalena Valley is



Bollea coelestis Photo courtesy Andreea Niessen

between the central and the eastern ranges.

The western mountain range, called the Cordillera occidental, is forested and the higher parts are often in the clouds.

Close to the city of Cali is the native habitat of the dramatic *Bollea coelestis*. The specimen shown in the presentation was beautifully flowered. There were 13 flowers on the front of the plant and lots of hints of many more on the back-side! The plants we see in Southern Ontario tend to have one or two flowers! The flowers had heavy substance, sparkling texture and were flat and the segments filled the empty spaces between them. The base colour was white, but was almost entirely overlaid with medium purple and with the purple being darkest in a central band forming a circle around the flower. The lip was like a cup with a rim around the deep yellow callus. The callus consisted of upright plates arranged side by side, that filled the cup. The wide stubby column curved over the "cup" and was deep red-brown at the tip.

In this habitat, in open places, we find *Anguloa clowesii*, the yellow "tulip" orchid and on trees, the white *Trichopilia hennisiana*. The large tubular lip of this species has a frilled expanded margin and yellow blotches in the tube to guide the pollinator.

Road cuts are a good habitat for orchids, because there they get more light and no adjacent trees are allowed to grow up and shade them out. You can find *Draculas*, *Sobralias* and *Maxillarias* among other genera right beside the road or trail. The plants in tall trees adjacent to road cuts have a better chance of not being collected or eaten by passing humans and their live-stock. A broken branch gives a good chance of collecting a choice plant by rescuing it! Rocks can shelter plants as well.

Ida (*Lycaste*) *jimenezii* likes to grow on tree fern. When happy, it produces masses of nodding, pale chartreuse flowers on stems about half as tall as the massive leaves. *Ida fragrans* is very similar, but the nodding flowers appear to be smaller, but fuller.

Another similar species is *Ida grandis*, but it has a brilliant orange lip offsetting the pale green segments. *Ida uribei* has slightly wider segments than *grandis* but the same attractive colour scheme. *Ida fulvescens* is even more colourful with a rust-brown overlay on the sepals and petals and a fringe added to the orange lip.

The natural hybrid *Lycaste X niessenae* is very variable. The narrow sepals can be green to brown to red. It is a hybrid of the small, but fuller *L. oculta* and the huge green stately *L. schilleriana*. Both parental species have cream petals and lip, but other colour forms may occur. The hybrid is very floriferous.

Pleurothallids are found in great diversity in the Andes.

The genus *Dracula* is found all over the Andes from Bolivia to Peru and 76 species are known to occur in Columbia. They tend to have single flowers produced in profusion on pendant stems. Most species have white sepals with lots of spots and hairs and insignificant petals but interesting to stunning shell-like lips. Most like to grow at intermediate temperatures, but some do like it warm, such as *D. diana* and *D. gorgona*. Both species represent the norm for the genus, with their white, hairy brown spotted sepals. *Dracula diana* has a spatula shaped pink lip, while the lip of *gorgona* is yellow and slipper-shaped. Other species of distinction are *Dracula amaliae*, which has white flowers with no spots, but red sepaline tails and a yellow flush in the centre of the flower. It can produce several flowers from the same stem, so don't cut it off until it yellows. *Dracula niessenae* is similar to *amaliae*, but it has longer sepaline tails and produces masses of flowers at one time if happy. *Dracula chimaera*, one of the three "bits-of-fur" species, has the distinction of being the largest species. Mario Ferrusi observed one in the wild that was 45cm (18") from top tail to bottom tail. This species reblooms from the same stem too. But when his group tried to feast their eyes on the plant again on the way back from their trip, someone had collected it!

Restrepias are common in the Andes. Again they tend to have fused strap-shaped lateral sepals in beige or chartreuse that are decorated with spots and/or lines. The dorsal is usually slender with a tail. The petals are hair-like with a knob on the end. Other colours are found as well. The smaller flowered genus *Restrepiella* has shorter, wider petals that have no knobs. They tend to be mostly yellow flowered.

Lepanthes are miniatures found from the low lands to the high elevations and therefore some species must be grown warm, others, cold. Their intricate flowers come in yellow to red to purple, green and combinations of colours. Most have wide sepals fused on the sides and a ring in the middle of the flower formed by the petals and lip. The flowers are

produced at the base of the leaf blade and are held over or under the leaf middle.

Lepanthes calodictylon which grows at intermediate temperatures is very desirable, since it has such beautiful leaves, that the tiny red and purple flowers are only the icing on the cake. The leaves are thick and flat with crimped edges. The central portion of the leaves is veined and shaded dark brown. If you do get the plant to bloom the flowers will be positioned in the centre of the leaf and simulate a sexy, gaudy fly, with the lateral sepals simulating translucent wings, the lip a red abdomen and the petals and column a trumpet shaped gaudy, fly sex organ!!

Lepanthes niesseniae is a species with pretty soft orange flowers with a yellow centre and two black "clubs" coming out of the centre. *Lepanthes uribei* has smaller pale peach flowers with the petals forming a green, fairly large "tongue" with a red-brown central blotch.

Pleurothallis niesseniae is a cute species with little orange and purple globs on strings. The species *Pleurothallis colossus* is as big as the previous species is miniature. It can get taller than a man and produces bunches of plume-like inflorescences of white flowers.

The most famous genus in the *Pleurothallidinae* is *Masdevallia*. The foliage can be very varied. *Masdevallia caesia* (intermediate to cool growing), has very atypical long, leathery pendant leaves, but the flowers presented only slightly pendant, are leathery with elongated beige sepals extended into tails, and thus are more typical for the genus. The lateral sepals have a dark purple blotch at the base and the white column and tiny petals add to the contrasts. *Masdevallia wendlandii* is a more conventional species with a small growth habit and masses of white flowers with purple, tiny lips and petals. *Masdevallia herradurae* is also fairly small and when well grown, produces masses of red-brown flowers low on the plant, but held out from amongst the leaves.

Some tall flowering *Masdevallias* are also found in the Andes. *Masdevallis ignea* is an example. It has a tall flowering stems with orange flowers. The lateral sepals are wide and flat and have three red veins each. The dorsal is very slender and nods strongly over the centre of the flower. *Masdevallia niesseniae* has yellow flowers on tall stems and a more erect wider dorsal. All the sepals are lightly streaked with peach. Its biggest fault are the strongly curled under lateral sepal tips. But the tiny column, petals and lip are an intriguing amethyst colour, making you overlook the messy laterals.

(to be continued)

January 2009 Show Table by Iryna Bonya

| Class | First | Second | Third |
|--|--|---|--|
| <i>Class 1</i> Cattleya Alliance | Cattleya trianaei <i>Wendy Hoffman</i> | ? | Pot. Princess Takamado 'Taida' <i>John Vermeer</i> |
| <i>Class 2</i> Paphiopedilum | Paph. In-Charm Space <i>Thanasak Talerngsri</i> | Paph. Sugar Suite <i>Anita Kho</i> | Paph. Jade Dragon <i>Synea Tan</i> |
| <i>Class 3</i> Phalaenopsis and Vanda | Phalaenopsis Ambonosa <i>Synea Tan</i> | | |
| <i>Class 4</i> Oncidium & related | Oncidium ornithorhynchum <i>Rosanna Li</i> | Osmoglossum pulchellum (Cuitlauzina pulchella) <i>Anita Kho</i> | Miltonia Breathless 'Florence' <i>Anita Kho</i> |
| <i>Class 5</i> Cymbidium | Galeandra dives <i>Wendy Hoffman</i> | | |
| <i>Class 6</i> Dendrobium | Masd. meijiana 'Tina' <i>Anita Kho</i> | Dendrobium Angel Baby 'Little Darling' <i>Sue Loftus</i> | Dendrobium Hamana Lake <i>Sue Loftus</i> |
| <i>Class 7</i> All Others | ? | Dendrochilum propinquum <i>Doug & Terry Kennedy</i> | Angraecum Memoria George Kennedy (A. giryamae 'Penn Valley' x Angraecum comorense 'Gwen Copley') <i>John Spears</i> |
| <i>Class 9</i> Baskets or Displays | Basket of winter whites <i>Erika Lorincz</i> | | |

Several plants that won are missing from this table. When you remove your plants, please leave the information sheet behind as it gives us the record for this table and to give you credit toward our annual show table award.



Plant of the month was *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* grown by Rosanna Li and shown here by Susan Cheung. This plant grows at intermediate to warm temperatures. Regular watering and fertilizing during active growth in spring and summer, cooler and dryer during our winter. It is summered outdoors in good light, but not direct sun. Congratulations Rosanna.