

NROS News

APRIL 2009

Wednesday, April 8th, 2009

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall
35 Queen Street
Thorold

PROGRAMS

Jean Allen-Ikeson
on
"Breeding Characteristics
of Cattleya Species"



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WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.niagaraorchidsociety.org

MARCH SHOW TABLE

Class 1 Cattleya Alliance

**** Laelia angerii x self	Y. Doucet	1 st .
Cattleya intermedia	N. Vandenberg	2 nd .
Cattleya guatemalensis	N. Vandenberg	3 rd .

Class 2 Paphiopedilum

Phrag. Cardinale	N. Vandenberg	1 st .
Paph. Bernice	P. Hinman	2 nd .
Paph. Via Jardin Lustroso x Gege Hughes	N. Vandenberg	3 rd .
Paph. Judge Philip	P. Hinman	

Class 3 Phalaenopsis

Phal. ???	A. Fortin	1 st .
Phal. Malibu Leopard	N. Vandenberg	2 nd .
Dtps. Mount Lip x Phal. Kuntrarti Rarashati	M Booy	3 rd .

Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

Oda bictoniense 'alba'		
X (Onc. ornithorincum x ineurum 'Rose')	A. Fortin	1 st .

Class 5 Cymbidium

Cym. Taboo Black Imp x Cym. devonianum _____	P. Hinman	1 st .
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Class 7 All Others

Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite 'Chariots of Fire'	P. Hinman	1 st .
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Class 9 Vanda Alliance

Sedirea japonica	P. Hinman	1 st .
Ascda. Orpin	A. Roger	2 nd .

*****PLANT OF THE MONTH

The following are the results of the RBG Orchid Show held on the week-end of February 28/March 1.

Nancy Vandenberg	Cymbidium Unknown	2 nd .
	Phrag. Cardinal	2 nd .
Cloud's Orchids	Cattleya intermedia	1 st .
	Paph. Oto	3 rd .
	Phrag. Kelly Nash	3 rd .
Kathy & Fred Wilkinson	Cymbidium Sylvia Miller 'Canary'	2 nd .
	Cymbidium Ming	3 rd .
	Coel. cummingii	3 rd .

We also won 2nd. for Society Display.

Thanks to the above members and also Sylvia Dietsch and Aimee Roger for donating plants. Thanks to Nancy Vandenberg and Kathy & Fred Wilkinson for setting up the display and Nancy Vandenberg for taking it down. A special thanks to Warren and Claudio for letting Nancy borrow some of their plants for our display. Thanks everyone!

Congratulations to Diana Vandenberg for winning as Best Junior Exhibit for her display of 5 orchids. Way to go, Diana!!

The following are the results of the London Orchid Show on March 21/22.

Cloud's Orchids	Odm. Midnight Miracles 'Moonless Pacific'	2 nd .
	Cattleya intermedia v. orlata	
	x intermedia v. aguinii	2 nd .
	Laelia sincorana	3 rd .
	Burr. Austin Powers 'Sweet Summer Morn'	3 rd .
Simon Holierhoek	Blc. Lester McDonald	2 nd .
	Bl. Yellow Bird	3 rd .
Aimee Roger	Accda. Orapin	3 rd .
Astrid Fortin	Phal. Altria	3 rd .
Colin Burns	Oncidium Mendenhall 'Hildos'	3 rd .

We won a 3rd. for Society Display.

Thanks to the above members and also Nancy Vandenberg and Sylvia Dietsch for donating plants. Thanks to Colin and Cathy Burns for setting up our Display and thanks to Warren Steele for taking it down. Thanks, everyone!!

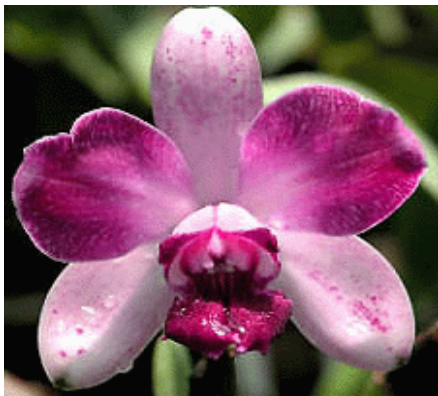
BULLETIN BOARD

Meeting

Our speaker for the April Meeting will be Jean Allen-Ikeson on Breeding Characteristics of Cattleya species. Jean is an AOS Probationary Judge and her talk should be quite interesting. Jean will be providing plants for sale, so we ask members **NOT** to bring any of their plants for sale as a courtesy.

Plant Contest

Well, we will be having another plant contest this year. The plant that has been chosen is Cattleya Penny's Spot "Hawaiian Dream" and it is also fragrant. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April Meeting if you wish to enter the contest. The cost is \$6.00 and it must be paid in advance. The plant will be available at the May meeting. Here is a picture of the bloom



Cloud's Open House

The next Open House week-end for Cloud's Orchids will be held on the week-end of April 18th. & April 19th. The 12:00 p.m. workshop will be on "Repotting Orchids".

Goodies

Just a reminder to Maria Booy, Barbara Burke and Bea Eastman that they are signed up to bring the goodies for coffee for the April Meeting. Thanks, Ladies!!

The following text came courtesy of the December 2004 issue of the newsletter of the Orchid Society of Nova Scotia.

As printed in the Orchid Digest, Oct.,Nov.,Dec., 2004.

TEN TYPES OF ORCHID GROWERS

CAROL SIEGEL

IT IS A WELL-DOCUMENTED FACT that orchid growers are smarter, nicer, cuter and more interesting than everybody else. Although our hobby makes us all poor, we are not all the same. We are easily divided into recognizable types, each as different from the other as a Cattleya is from a Masdevallia.

THE INNOCENT

Clutching his Home Depot orchids, the new member radiates enthusiasm and optimism. He proudly owns three orchids, although he doesn't know what they are, since the tags just say "Plant". His orchids look better than yours because he just bought them. Armed with the knowledge that orchids are just like any other houseplant, he enthusiastically waters them every day, leaves them in the dark, and repots in soil. It starts innocently enough, this new fascination with orchids. Walking into Home Depot, he can't resist the \$15 orchids in glorious bloom. He is going to buy just one. Now he dreams at night about orchids. Experienced growers know that orchids contain some unknown opiate and that one orchid is never enough, but the new member hasn't figured out why he now spends all his time visiting a hardware store. He enters his first orchid meeting like the devoted entering a church, starry-eyed at the plants in bloom and salivating over the plants for sale. Orchid clubs love the new member. Though clueless, he radiates the infatuation and thrill of the early orchid addiction – and he will buy anything in bloom...anything...even if it doesn't have a tag.

THE DECORATOR

This member really wants an orchid for her kitchen table, one for her nightstand, and maybe one in the entry. She doesn't actually want to grow orchids. She wants orchids that are always in bloom, full of flowers, bugfree, and low maintenance, plastic flowers with real petals and a great smell. Favoring designer clothes, this attractive member really loves anything beautiful and will spend big bucks to buy large, pretty plants with gorgeous flowers. She wants it all. She wants the orchids but she doesn't want the work. Like the self walking dog or the diaper-free bay, the care-free orchid is an urban myth. At one meeting, she comments to a friend, "But they only bloom for three months a year...What am I supposed to do with them the other nine months?" Orchid clubs love the decorator. She is a wonderful source of donated plants for the raffle.

THE BREEDER

Recognized by the fact that she never goes anywhere without her toothpick, the breeder will brashly approach you with an offer to be your pod parent. Smelling of chlorox, she collects baby food jars and agar like others collect stamps. She is genuinely interested in your caudicles. Invited into your greenhouse, she eyes your Cattleya and then slowly says, "Nice pollinia..." She adores having thousands of the same little tiny plants and is more patient than most mortals as the years pass into a decade before her creations bloom. Although she will never admit it, crossing orchids makes her feel like God. She is eternally optimistic that the next cross will be

bigger, thicker, taller, and more award-worthy...Her goal in life is to produce a black orchid with five-foot petals. Orchids clubs love the breeder. She has thousands of the same plant and will sell her less stellar efforts real cheap.

THE SHOW-OFF

Truth be known, there is a little of the show-off in every orchid grower, but the show-off just has a terminal case of the Look-At-Me-And How-Good-I-Am. The sure tip-off that you are dealing with a show-off is that he never has any problems with his plants. None of his plants die. He always asks, "Scale? What is scale?" and never had any of his buds blast. He lies a lot. Like the fisherman's big one that got away, the one he has at home is much bigger than the one he brought to the show. Every conversation is peppered with Latin.

Bulbophyllum grandiflorum and *Angraecum sesquipedale* end every sentence, and he pronounces them all correctly. No matter what the question, he has the answer, and he always knows a better way to do anything than you do. He calls Ned Nash and Robert Fuchs "Ned" and "Bobby," and he always tells you he had some judging chairman staying at his house last week. He has the newest potting material and calls his growing area "The Conservatory." Orchids clubs love the show-off. He is usually the president.

THE INDIANA JONES

Most of us get to know the Indiana Joneses of the orchid world because, after surviving yellow fever and malaria in the jungles of South America, they all become speakers at orchid meetings. None of their clothes match, and they always wear shorts and Texas. Be careful about shaking hands with them since they may still be infected with some incurable jungle rot. They have fabulous slides of native orchid huts and snakes, and their adventures always cause a shiver of delicious envy to go through the group. They know the most interesting people, most of whom exist on the edges of polite society, and they go places and do the things that the rest of us only dream of. They always show at least one slide of an orchid that sells for \$5000 on the black market that they DID NOT take back with them because they are good people not like the other thieves and non-environmental-conscious explorers. Orchid societies love the Indian Jones. They bring the jungle to us in air-conditioned comfort.

THE SAINT

This orchid grower exists in a state of grace. She blooms Masdevallias in the desert and laelias in the arctic circle. She wins lots of AOS awards because her paphiopedilum blooms with fifteen spikes while yours only puts out one spike every leap year. She built her greenhouse herself from sticks she found in the street while helping on a Girl Scout clean-up and heats and cools it for only \$15 a year. She is the first one to offer you a division of her prize-winning plant and invites new members over to watch her repot her plants. She is happy to bring food to orchid club meetings and always vacuums. Orchid clubs love her. Who wouldn't? (Of course, there is the rumor she belongs to a cult that practices black magic, but maybe that is just jealousy...)

THE VENDOR

Professional growers don't like to be called vendors. It sounds like the man with the accordion, the monkey and the tin cup, plying his wares in the street. Orchid growers like to think they are green activists spreading joy and beauty utilizing the most advanced techniques science has to offer. They are actually orchid hobbyists who ran out of space. They have to sell the stuff to make room to buy more. Most growers didn't mean to become growers. They just had to do it to support their habit. Many just became embarrassed by getting caught by their mate bringing another orchid into the house. The quick response, "oh, I was thinking of starting a business," turned into the actual business. Of course, there is always the BLUE BLOOD orchid grower whose father gave them the business. These are the orchid dynasties that are always trying to live up to their father's legacy by becoming fiercely active in the AOS. Orchid clubs love the vendor. Vendors are to orchid growers what drug dealers are to junkies.

THE NATIVE ORCHID NUT

The native orchid nut thinks it is a sin to actually CAGE orchids in a greenhouse and would never dream of actually CAPTURING an orchid and growing it outside the jungle. They will tell you that you don't need to own an elephant in order to love and protect elephants. In fact, you shouldn't own any at all. These are frequently college professors with many books and papers to their names, smarter and better-educated than the rest of the mere mortals in the orchid world. They publish a lot and debate the morals of collecting seed in the wild. They go on their honeymoon to a rain forest in Venezuela where they trek through the mud with their beloved in search of the ultimate blue *Cattleya mossiae*. Instead of watching TV at night, they study the little maps of the states with dots on it indicating where the native orchids are found. Their idea of a good time is rediscovering *Spiranthes diluvialis* in Panaca in a hay field. They dream of going to heaven and having a native orchid named for them. They wonder if there are any undiscovered native orchids in heaven. Orchid clubs love the native orchid nut. They make members feel they are part of a conservation movement.

THE SPECIALIST

After collecting orchids for five years, your orchid area is stuffed with stuff that you won in the raffle when they were very small plants, and you didn't know better. They are so big now that you now call them "Madame," and, like a first wife, you dream of trading them in for something that is more to your taste these days. There is one special kind of orchid that grabs your heart and your mind. You want to have one of every color of *Cattleya intermedia*, or the like, and you regard stuff you once cherished as simply "ordinary." You have become a specialist. Your e-mail address now proclaims your single-minded devotion and you become Phragman@cox.net or Laeliagirl@aol.com. Your first act of the day is to check websites that have your beloved genus or species, and they know you by your first name at those nurseries. You are the first one they call when a weird and exotic bulbophyllum arrives, and you actually fantasize about winning an AOS award with something in your collection. You now regard anything but species as too pathetic to collect. Orchid clubs love the specialist. They are usually the only ones who know what they are talking about.

THE SPOUSE

Often neglected, impossible to ignore, the orchid spouse is often the unwilling grower of orchids. Although occasionally there are two enthusiasts in the home, usually one spouse is the addict, and the other is the Al Anon partner. The spouse begins to suspect that something is wrong when entries in the checkbook read only "O," the code name for orchid. Orchids begin to enter the house through the garage or when the spouse is at the hairdresser or at golf. Special areas of the house are devoted only to orchids, and mold starts to grow on the walls of the house because of all the humidity. Vacations are planned around the orchid shows and nurseries, and a broken spike means a day of depression. The orchid spouse is the unsung hero of heroine of the orchid grower's life. Sucked into helping with watering and schlepping, the spouse learns to take a second place to the affair with orchids. Orchid clubs love the spouse. They bring the best cookies to the meetings.

No matter what kind of orchid grower you are, know that you belong to a select group of very special beings, those whose hearts belong to orchids.