

NROS News

JUNE 2009

Wednesday, June 10th., 2009

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall
35 Queen Street
Thorold

PROGRAMS

JOHN DOHERTY OF
ZEPHYRUS ORCHIDS
ON "DISAS"



EXECUTIVE 2009-2010

President	Colin Burns	burnscolin@hotmail.com	905-684-9705
Past President	Rick Rempel		905-734-1588
Vice-President	George Rusztyn	rusztyns@iaw.on.ca	905-935-8880
Treasurer	Tom Cunningham	tomcunningham@cogeco.ca	905-934-8289
Secretary	Isabel Streeter		905-682-7792
Newsletter	Lydia Stewart	lydjim@vaxxine.com	905-354-4110
Membership	Aimee Roger		905-685-8159
Show Chairperson	Nancy Vandenberg		905-384-2381
Librarian	George Streeter		905-682-7792
Show Table	Simon Holierhoek		905-894-2135
Hospitality	Barbara Berry		905-227-4307
Telephone	Justin Dunning		289-686-1134
AOS/COC Rep.	Rick Rempel		905-734-1588
Webmaster/Program Co-ordinator	Warren Steele		

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.niagaraorchidsociety.org

MAY SHOW TABLE

Class 1 Cattleya Alliance

Lc. Fire Dance 'Patricia'	S. Holierhoek	1 st .
Blc. Pamela Finney 'Pink Beauty'	P. Hinman	2 nd .
Lc. Summer Belle 'Miss Liberty'	N. Vandenberg	3 rd .
Blc. Ports of Paradise	C. Fuerniss	
Encyclia cordigera	N. Vandenberg	
Slc. Vermillion Cherub	P. Hinman	
Cattleya skinneri 'alba'	P. Hinman	

Class 2 Paphiopedilum

Paph. Bernice	P. Hinman	1 st .
Paph. Deperle	W. Muste	2 nd .
Phrag. Paul Eugene Conroy	P. Hinman	3 rd .
Paph. Utgard x Paph. glanduliferum	P. Hinman	

Class 3 Phalaenopsis

Phal. Everspring King	A. Fortin	1 st .
Dtps. I-Hsin Zebra x Phal. Leopard Prince	M. Booy	2 nd .

Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

Oncidioda Charlesworthii 'Mishima' HCC/AOS	A. Fortin	1 st .
Oncda. Pacific Pagan 'Discard'	N. Vandenberg	2 nd .
Mtdm. Issaka Nagada	P. Hinman	3 rd .
Oncidium ???	M. Booy	

Class 7 All Others

Bulbophyllum Jersey	W. Muste	1 st .
Eulophia quartiniana 'Robert Baird' HCC/AOS	R. Rempel	2 nd .
Eulophia quartiniana 'Anne' HCC/AOS	S. Dietsch	3 rd .
Coelogyne Louis Rajet	P. Hinman	
Cyclopogon lindleyanum 'Silverscreen' CBR/AOS	R. Rempel	

Class 8 Specimen Plants

****Bulbophyllum wendlandianum	R. Rempel	1 st .
Oncidium sphacelatum	S. Holierhoek	2 nd .

Class 9 Vanda Alliance

Vanda dennisoniana	R. Rempel	1 st .
Angraecum sesquipedale	S. Holierhoek	2 nd .

****PLANT OF THE MONTH

BULLETIN BOARD

Meeting

Our guest speaker for the June meeting will be John Doherty of Zephyrus Orchids. John will be speaking about the lesser known orchid, the Disa. John attended the University of Guelph, earning a degree in Plant Biotechnology. He is an American Orchid Society judge as well as a writer and speaker. If you want to find out more about those "mysterious" Disas, come on out and listen to John.

Picnic

We will be holding our annual NRS picnic again this summer. The date is Sunday, July 12th. and will start at 4:00 p.m. It will be held at the home of Colin and Kathy Burns. It is a pot luck picnic, so there will be a sign-up sheet at the June meeting.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided by the Society. Please bring your own beverages and chairs. Paper plates will be provided, but if you wish to bring your own "china" plate and cutlery, please feel free to do so! Colin and Kathy's address is 49 Dunvegan Road, St. Catharines.

Clouds Open House

The next Open House at Clouds Orchids will be held on Saturday, June 20th. & Sunday, June 21st. from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop starts at 12:00 p.m. both days and it will be on Cymbidiums.

Goodies

A reminder to Agnes Holierhoek and David Culp that they are signed up to

bring the baked goodies for coffee at the June meeting. Thank you Agnes and David!

SUMMER ORCHIDFEST

SATURDAY August 2, 2009 - at the Toronto Botanical Garden

COME TO CELEBRATE SUMMER AND ORCHIDS WITH SOOS.

A chance to indulge all the essentials of summer for orchid growers.

Summer is a time to enjoy the wonderful warm summer sun. (after all, we do live in the great white north, Canada) Summer is time to share good food.(food for the body and food for the mind)

Summer is a time to renew old friendships.(orchids are only one of the common bonds we share)

SUMMER ORCHIDFEST

JUDGING: (10:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Here is an opportunity to show off your best summer blooming orchids, and also a chance to observe the process. See what happens when the judges consider your plant for potential awards.

FOOD:(12:00 pm - 2:00 pm) The BBQ lunch not only nourishes the body, but also allows the interchange of ideas and the development of friendships. Orchids are only one of the numerous subjects that you will hear discussed. We all know that nothing goes together better than orchids and food.

PLANTS:(10:00 pm - 2:00 pm and after lectures) Not only do the speakers bring their expertise, but

they also bring the orchids that they grow to perfection. It is a chance to acquire unusual plants. When you purchase plants from the experts, they can tell you how to grow them well too.

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LECTURES:(2:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Carefully chosen, famous speakers are invited to share their expertise with us.

This year, experts from J&L Orchids will be discussing Miniature Orchids and H&R Nurseries will be talking about Mini Cattleyas

SUMMER ORCHIDFEST is the annual educational summer event held by the **SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY** with the proceeds of the annual Orchid Show and Sale, which is usually held in conjunction with Valentine's Day.

ALL MEMBERS OF ORCHID SOCIETIES WELCOME.

ADMISSION: An Orchid Society membership card, a dish to share and a desire to participate in the wonderful hobby, orchids, that we have in common.

COME TO CELEBRATE SUMMER AND ORCHIDS WITH SOOS.

The following article is courtesy of the May 2009 COC Newsletter:

Cutting It Off and Throwing It Out
By Carol Siegel

They say an orchid expert is someone who has killed more than a

thousand orchids so you would think we would be experts on when something is dead. However, when it comes to orchids, you can be fooled. Plants that look dead sometimes are just resting, and flower spikes that look finished often come back and produce flowers for months.

I get calls all the time from very upset people who say that all the leaves have fallen off their orchids. They wonder what they have done wrong. Well, some orchids naturally lose their leaves. The bottom old leaf of an orchid like a phalaenopsis often dies and turns yellow. It is not your fault when some other pseudobulb sits there all naked for months on end. In October or November, the leaves of plants like Lycaste begin to turn brown and fall off preparing for the dormancy of the plant. Catasetum and some Calanthe, like Calanthe Rozel orchids, lose their leaves at a time when the dry season would naturally occur. Reduce watering to a bare minimum and keep the plant on the cool side if possible. One day a little green sprout will occur, and you can resume watering and fertilizing normally as the green sprout seems to mature over night. Some like pleiones require a completely dry rest and shut down for the winter.

Cycnoches species and hybrids, called the "Swan Orchids" are deciduous, too. One of the most beautiful is Cycnoches chlorochilon whose male flower really looks like a swan. It has several huge green to yellow flowers up to six inches across with a white lip and a column forming the shape of a swan. Don't

be upset when the leaves fall off. In a few months, another swan will emerge.

Mormodes, related to *Catasetum*, loses its leaves as well. Although the growth looks just like a *Catasetum*, the flowers are highly unusual. The lips always twist and the flower spike is often slightly pendant with fragrant flowers. *Mormodes*, *Cycnoches* and *Catasetum* all have heavily-perfumed flowers that drive male euglossine bees wild. They collect the fragrant waxes with their little brushes on their front feet, becoming drunk, staggering around, losing all muscular control - and pollinating the orchid.

Dendrobium loddigesii and the noble-type *Dendrobium* as well as the *D. anosmum* group should be allowed to get dry so the leaves fall off. Usually there is a bract around all or part of the pseudobulb that will turn brown when it has stopped growing. The cane also makes a terminal leaf at the top to show that it is complete. It then rests until a new shoot appears at the base of the most recent pseudobulb. Until then, just give enough watering to prevent shriveling or flower production will be way down in the spring. Relax and enjoy your rest, and don't water for a couple of months.

Galeandra is a small jewel which fools us twice. Like *Catasetum* and the others, it loses its leaves but fools us again by blooming again on an old spike like an equitant *Oncidium*. You think the spike is dead, just all played out, and then it will bloom again. **DON'T CUT THAT SPIKE!!** This small orchid can be in

bloom for long periods before ending its blooming cycle. The pseudobulbs are only an inch wide with the inflorescence rising from the middle of its six to eight soft, matte green leaves. *G. baueri* and *G. batemanii* are easy to grow and flower. As the plant matures, it blooms consecutively for longer and longer periods, throwing clusters of five or six blooms. I had a *Galeandra divas* that had some buds blast, and I despaired, but soon more buds were forming.

What are some of the orchids that will bloom again on an old spike? The Butterfly Orchid, *Psychopsis papilio*, syn *Oncidium papilio*, thrusts forth one rigid elongated oval leaf, and a long wiry inflorescence emerges from the base of the pseudobulbs. Good growers can have as many as ten or more spikes, each of which can bloom every three to five weeks all year for many years until the old spikes die. Don't cut that spike or you miss all that fun. The spike may look dead—but it is not!

Encyclia cochleata, the Clamshell Orchid, can also bloom consecutively for several months on the same spike. The sheath emerges from between two sword-shaped, skinny leaves on top of the oval pseudobulb and can take several months before they flower. When mature, this orchid can bloom year-round, emitting a sweet fragrance. The flower looks like a clam shell, usually with an almost-black, purplish shell top and lime-green petals radiating from the base of the shell. Even if you repot this plant when in bloom, it will continue to flower. This one loves to bloom.

There is a group of Masdevallias that re-bloom when you don't cut the spike off. The easiest to grow is Masdevallia infracta, normally with a small purple and white flower

with yellow tails. Its re-blooming traits are transmitted to its hybrids, such as M. Pixie which can have ten or more flowers open three or four times a year. Another beautiful Masdevallia that will send out a bud weeks after the first has fallen is Masdevallia Red Wing, The flowers are intensely colored and rise high above the lovely foliage.

The perfect orchid to bloom for the home grower is Phalaenopsis, and several species also have this same re-blooming orchid. Phalaenopsis amboinensis, P. lueddemanniana and P. celebensis are other species that keep blooming after the first flowers have faded. Most of the phals sold by growers like Norman's Orchids will re-bloom for months. In addition, cutting back a flower spike to a lower node will almost always get you a second blooming on that spike.



A single plant can be in bloom for as much as nine months!! No wonder phals are the best-selling orchids in

the world.

My personal favorite among all orchids is anything phragmipedium at all. There is a group of species that do the sequential blooming trick, and the spikes last as much as six months. The spike continues to elongate, producing flower after flower after flower. I had a Sorcerer's Apprentice where I finally had to cut off the spike because it had elongated so much that it touched the ceiling!! Talk about value. Some of the easy to cultivate species are P. longifolium, P. pearcei, P. sargenteanum, P. schlimii, although the slightly more difficult P. besseae and P. boissierianum are just lovely. All their hybrids keep their flowering habit, I especially like P. Eric Young and P. Dick Clemens and P. Grande and Get it?

Another slipper orchid that sometimes sends out bud after bud is the genus Paphiopedilum. Paph chamberlainianum, P. glaucophyllum, P. primulinum, P. victoria regina are just some of the sequentially-flowering paphs. Many of the hybrids like P. Pinocchio (primulinum X glaucophyllum) will act in the same way,

There are many other orchids with spikes that rebloom and leaves that fall off. Just remember that when an orchid or its spike looks dead, it may be just the beginning.

From Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society Newsletter, June, 2004