

# NROS News

Home of Ontario's Best Show Table

FEBRUARY 2008

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall  
21 Queen Street  
Thorold

## PROGRAMS

Margaret Hewings  
on the  
Wild Orchids of the  
Bruce Peninsula



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WEB SITE ADDRESS: [www.niagaraorchidsociety.org](http://www.niagaraorchidsociety.org)



## JANUARY SHOW TABLE

### Class 1 Cattleya Alliance

Slc. Tutankamen 'Pop' AM/AOS	Yvon Doucet	1 <sup>st</sup>
C. Siam Jade	Nancy Vandenberg	2 <sup>nd</sup>
C. Penny Kuroda x Bl. Richard Mueller	Simon Holierhoek	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Nobile's Bruno Bruno	Yvon Doucet	
Blc. Momiliani Rainbow 'The Gypsy' HC/AOS	Phil Hinman	
Blc. Shiang Tzy Regalia	Christel Fuerniss	
Little Toshie 'Yellow Rose'	Wilhelmina Muste	
Blc. Queen Alexandria	Simon Holierhoek	
Slc. Rajah's Ruby x Lc. Mini Purple	Aimee Roger	

### Class 2 Paphiopedilum

Paph. callosum x Shah Alan	Phil Hinman	1 <sup>st</sup>
Paph. spicerianum x insignia	Phil Hinman	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Paph. Satchel Paige x Spellbound	David Culp	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Paph. farieanum x Garnet Flame	Michael Havinga	
Paph. insigne ?	Phil Hinman	

### Class 3 Phalaenopsis

Phal. Leopard Prince	Christel Fuerniss	1 <sup>st</sup>
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### Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

\*\*\*\*Onc. ????

Wilhelmina Muste

Odc. Wildcat 'Ocelot'	Phil Hinman	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Onc. Pink Deluxe 'Maroon Delight'	David Culp	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Onc. Pink Deluxe 'Maroon Delight'	Michael Havinga	
Onc. Popoki 'Mitzi'	Michael Havinga	
Onc. Boso Sweet	Christel Fuerniss	

### Class 7 All Others

Coel. cumingii 'Renate'	Nancy Vandenberg	1 <sup>st</sup>
Coel. Salmonicolor	Nancy Vandenberg	2 <sup>nd</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*PLANT OF THE MONTH

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Here are the Grower of the Year results, courtesy of Nancy Vandenberg Thanks, Nancy! The points accumulate as follows: 10 points for Plant of the Month, 5 points for First place, 4 for Second, 3 for Third and 1 point each for other plants. Also, if you win Grower of the Year, the prize is \$50.

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>2007 POINTS</b>
<b>Vandenberg N</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Wilkinson F&amp;K</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Holierhoek S</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Muste W</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Hinman P</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Burns C</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Roger A&amp;F</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Havinga M</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Fortin A</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Dietsch S</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Fuerniss C</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Eastman D&amp;B</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Cunningham T&amp;D</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Kolchew V</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Culp D</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Shannon J&amp;J</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Dekker N</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Booy M</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Doucet Y</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Macdonald P&amp;S</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Streeter G</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Cunningham B</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Grant D</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Hoeschle W</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mcintosh T</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Culig T</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Burke B</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Munderich S&amp;H</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Botbyl M</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Warkentin C</b>	<b>1</b>

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Meeting**

Our guest speaker for the February meeting will be Margaret Hewings. She will be talking to us about the Wild Orchids of the Bruce Peninsula and Newfoundland. Also, if anyone is interested in the bus tour up to the Bruce, you can book with Margaret at this time.

### **Membership**

If you have not paid your membership fee, please do so now. March will be your last newsletter. Please see me, Lydia, at the meeting if you wish to continue your membership. Marilyn Gomme has decided to learn how to be a web designer, so she has relinquished her duties of Membership to me. Good luck, Marilyn!!

### **Niagara College Open House**

The Society has been invited to have a booth at the annual Niagara College Open House on the week-end of March 15<sup>th</sup>. & 16<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to volunteer to represent us at this event, please contact Rick Rempel.

### **Orchid Show**

We have also been invited to participate in the Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Show on the week-end of April 19<sup>th</sup>. & 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in putting up the display for this, please contact Rick Rempel.

### **Goodies**

A reminder to Kathy Burns and Isabel Streeter and Fred & Kathy Wilkinson that they are signed up to bring the

goodies for coffee to the meeting.  
Thanks, Ladies & Fred!!

**RBG ORCHID SOCIETY**

**ORCHID SHOW**

**MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>. & 9<sup>TH</sup>., 2008**

**ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS**

**PLAINS ROAD, BURLINGTON**

## Miniature Cattleyas

By Ken Girard (as printed in the Foothills Orchid Society newsletter - April 2001)

Miniature cattleyas have been popular for well over 30 years now. Back in the 1970's with the energy shortages and high cost of fuel it was becoming more and more difficult to maintain large orchid collections in large greenhouses. At this same time orchids became popular with people who didn't have greenhouses to grow their plants in, just windowsills and fluorescent light set-ups. Large cattleyas fell out of favor mainly due to their mature size. Orchid growers were looking to replace their large growing cattleya plants with smaller sized plants that produced large flowers. Unfortunately these plants were not that easy to grow, because the species used in this line of breeding were difficult to grow and flower well due to their high light requirements and specific cultural needs.

The first hybrids were between plants such as *Cattleya walkeriana*, *Laelia pumila*, *Sophronitis coccinea* and others. Besides their cultural requirements, these plants only produce one or two flowers at best per growth. This was considered another severe drawback in their chances for success with orchid growers who were used to traditional cattleyas with their large clusters of flowers.

With the use of clustered flowered species, albeit sometimes somewhat larger plants these new hybrids began to be used more. Some of the *Laelia* species from Brazil such as *L. bregeri*, *L. flava* and *L. milleri* all produce many flowers in clusters on long stalks. These long stalks were also considered a negative aspect, but the flower shape and colour contributed by these species were certainly positive and by breeding these colourful, long-stalked, multi-flowering plants with others that have shorter flower stems, single flowering, and large flowers many successful hybrids were created. Miniatures are plants that grow less than 15 cm tall and have flowers in proportion to their overall size. Small or dwarf cattleyas are plants that usually grow to 25 cm tall and can have large or small flowers. These heights exclude the inflorescence or flowering stem..

The main genera that go into making up these hybrids are *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Brassovola* and *Sophronitis*. There are others occasionally used such as *Broughtonia*, *Leptotes*, and *Encyclia*.

*Cattleya* x *Laelia* = *Laeliocattleya* (Lc.),

*Cattleya* x *Sophronitis* = *Soprocattleya* (Sc.),

*Cattleya* x *Brassovola* = *Brassocattleya* (Bc.),

*Sophronitis* x *Laelia* = *Sophrrolaelia* (Sl.),

*Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Brassovola* = *Brassolaeliocattleya* (Blc.),

*Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Brassovola* x *Sophronitis* = *Potinara* (Pot.),

*Cattleya* x *Encyclia* = *Epicattleya* (Epc.)

As you can see the combinations are endless and so are the names of man-made orchid genera. There is now a man-made genus that is a result of combining 12 different genera. Many of the newer miniature or dwarf cattleya hybrids are relatively easy to grow and flower. The colours are also much more varied than ever thought, with the classical white and purples, yellows, reds and oranges were first introduced to the cattleya world through hybridizing with these smaller growing species. Now plants with large flowers produced in clusters in a wide assortment of colours and colour patterns are available.

A few of the most famous are Slc. Falcon 'Westonburt' which lived up to its reputation of being absolutely difficult to grow, never mind flower. Slc. Jewel Box is much easier to grow and flower.

Currently, Slc. Seagulls Landing (*C. luteola* x Slc. Tropic Dawn), Slc. California Apricot (Lc. Pacific Sun x Soph. *coccinea*), Sc. Beaufort (Soph. *coccinea* x *C. luteola*), Sl. Orpetii (*L. pumila* x Soph. *coccinea*), Slc. Precious Stones (Sl. Psyche x *C. aelandiae*), Slc. Hazel Boyd (Slc. California Apricot x Slc. Jewel Box), Slc. Mahalo Jack, Slc. Tangerine Jewel (Slc. Little Beamche x Soph. *coccinea*) are all being used to create new and exciting hybrids for the future.

Because of their background, miniature cattleya plants require as high light as their larger counterparts and some in fact even like a bit more light to perform their best. Of course they will grow and flower with less than ideal conditions. Temperatures should be in the intermediate range, 15 degrees C night to 22 degrees C day, with exceptions going either warmer or cooler, again depending on the species in the background. One thing that has been bred out of many of the newer hybrids is the rest period and because of this many newer hybrids will flower more than once a year.

Today there is a multitude of miniature or small growing cattleya hybrids available for the home orchid grower to enjoy.

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## Short Essays on Orchid Culture - part 2

By Ernest Hetherington (as printed in the Fraser Valley Orchid Society newsletter - February 2001)

[Editor's Note: Some interesting ideas here - hopefully will promote some discussion on orchid culture!]

### VI. How Long Will an Orchid Plant Live?

Often the first question asked by someone just given their first orchid is, "How long will this grow for me?" What determines the life expectancy of an orchid plant? From a theoretical standpoint, an orchid plant can live forever. Orchids are perennials. If kept in good health, you just keep dividing them. It is quite possible in their native habitats there are some orchids which are hundreds of years old, perhaps older. There are accounts of enormous masses or orchids collected in the early part of this century and the latter half of the last century that were so large that it took many men to cut the clumps out of the trees and carry them. Often they would have to be cut into smaller portions for transport. In nature, plants are not subjected to disease, neglect and obsolescence [to the same extent as] orchids in cultivation. Under cultivation, orchid plants are far more subject to the conditions that shorten their life than the jungle plant. There are some highly regarded breeding plants which are known to have been in cultivation for 75 to 100 years. The average life expectancy of a plant in cultivation is 15 - 20 years. "How long will this grow for me?" Let us go on beyond this first question to assume we are thinking of someone who has a small orchid collection. The three factors which determine an orchid plant's life are disease, neglect and obsolescence. Under greenhouse conditions, orchid plants are often packed together "pot-to-pot". The conditions which are maintained for their growth are also ideal for diseases: high temperature, high humidity, close proximity. Diseases thrive under what are considered good cultural conditions. An excellent illustration is the soft brown rot of *Phalaenopsis*. This is a water-borne bacterial disease which thrives under high humidity and temperature. The dangerous thing is it spreads rapidly merely by water being splashed from a diseased plant onto a clean plant! The prevention? Good circulation of air, immediate separation and treatment of infected plants, keeping the leaves of the plants dry at nightfall, and maintaining proper night temperature, 65 - 70 degrees F.

Of curable diseases, there are fungal and bacterial. There is generous literature on the identity of these two types and on prevention and treatment. Virus is the third of our diseases. It is separate from fungus and bacteria. With the first two you can effect a cure. With virus, there is no cure. Only prevention. This is why everyone should learn aseptic technique to prevent the spread of virus. Virus is spread via mechanical means. These are infected cutting tools, pots which have contained virus-infected plants, virus-infected plants commingled with roots growing over each other in the greenhouse, and sucking and chewing insects which go from plant to plant, such as aphids, cockroaches, and red spiders. Virus on your hands can spread virus if you have handled an infected plant and it gets into a wound.

The second of your major categories is rather simply - neglect. An illustration is the person who does not repot his plants until there is nothing in the pot for the plant to grow on. Neglect is letting a plant go unpotted that has lost its roots. Learn something about pest control and how to identify a few of the major insect pests, such as scale, red spider mites, and other "wee small beasties" which are so easily eradicated by the perceptive grower. An illustration is: a neighbor as a fine *Cymbidium* collection. All year he carefully tended his plants. Fall and winter came, the flower spikes developed, and he was ready for the best crop ever next spring. Recently he asked; "My *Cymbidium* flowers are full of holes, even the stems are eaten." The cause? Slugs and snails which came out at night. The prevention? A few pennies worth of slug and snail bait sprinkled around on the surface of the mix and around the pots and on the ground when spikes are developing to save a whole year's effort. Neglect can also be killing them with kindness. Watering the plants too often at certain times, not enough at other times. Neglect can be trying some cultural practice which that orchid-growing friend of yours has told you about but which is quite different from what "Mr. Experienced Orchid Grower" has told you. Those who read this can add a few illustrations of neglect or bad culture.

The last of our three categories is obsolescence. This is probably the easiest understood. Will you love every plant in your collection next year or five years from now as you do today? No, you will not. Your tastes will change. If you actively engage in building a collection, invariably you will develop preferences. Not only that, but you will find certain plants do no flower well for you or you may no longer want to give them space because you like others more. A beginner will say, "Throw an orchid plant out? Never!" Still, obsolescence is real and plants go out of collections for many reasons. Perhaps some divisions of the variety which grows well for you but of which you have an over supply will be "seed plants" to start a beginner. If you have divisions of a plant that does not grow or flower well, do not give them to a beginner. Yes, orchid plants are perennials. In theory, they can live forever. However, "there is many a slip twixt the cup and the lip." Just remember what can shorten the life of your treasured beauties. XXXXXXXXXX