

NROS News

Home of Ontario's Best Show Table

JANUARY 2008

Wednesday, January 9th, 2008

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall
21 Queen Street
Thorold

PROGRAMS

"CATTLEYAS 101"

BY

RICK REMPEL



EXECUTIVE 2007-2008

President	Rick Rempel	905-734-1588
Past President	Yvon Doucet ydoucet@cogeco.ca	905-834-6896
Vice-President	Colin Burns burnscolin@hotmail.com	905-684-9705
Treasurer	Tom Cunningham tessiercunningham@cogeco.ca	905-934-8289
Secretary	Aimee Roger	905-685-8159
Newsletter	Lydia Stewart lydjim@vaxxine.com	905-354-4110
Membership	Marilyn Gomme marigomme@cogeco.ca	905-682-2329
Show Chariman	James & Jodi Shannon jshannon7@cogeco.ca	905-641-1934
Librarian	David Culp	905-688-4101
Telephone	Nel Dekker	905-934-0887
Show Table	Nancy Vandenberg	905-384-2381
Hospitality	Rod & Bev Craig rcraig@becon.org	905-892-3420
AOS/COC Rep	Susan Pearce-Deighton	905-688-3294

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.niagaraorchidsociety.org



DECEMBER SHOW TABLE

Class 1 Cattleya Alliance

Bc. Hippodamia	S. Holierhoek	1 st .
Epi. Green Hornet	S. Holierhoek	2 nd .
Cattleyana Memoria Henry Goldberg	D. & B. Eastman	3 rd .

Class 2 Paphiopedilum

Phrag. Cardinale	M. Havinga	1 st .
Paph. spicerianum x sib	W. Muste	2 nd .
Paph. Black Cherry "Flame Arrow"	B. Burke	3 rd .
Paph. Miller's Rose	W. Muste	
Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements	M Havinga	

Class 3 Phalaenopsis

****Phal. Jet Green	A. Roger	1 st .
Phal. Sweet Memory x Phal. tetraspis	D. & B. Eastman	2 nd .

Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

Oncidioda Charlesworthii	S. Holierhoek	1 st .
Oncidium Charlesworthii	G. Streeter	2 nd .
Oncidium ?????	A. Roger	3 rd .

Class 5 Cymbidium

Cymbidium Apple Green	A. Roger	1 st .
-----------------------	----------	-------------------

Class 7 All Others

Masdevallia Marguerite	D. & B. Eastman	1 st .
------------------------	-----------------	-------------------

*****PLANT OF THE MONTH

BULLETIN BOARD

Meeting

Anyone not quite sure if they are growing cattleyas the way they should, or not having a lot of luck growing them at all (like me!!), well make sure that you show up at the January meeting!! Rick Rempel, our resident cattleya expert, will be giving a talk on this particular genus and it sounds like he will be starting with the basics. "Cattleya 101" will be his topic. Rick always gives a knowledgeable and entertaining talk.

Membership

Just a reminder to any member that hasn't paid their \$20.00 membership fee, please do it now. The last newsletter for unpaid membership is the March edition.

Christmas Party

Thank you to all the members that participated in our annual Christmas Party. It went extremely well and everyone that I have talked to have said that they enjoyed holding it the night of the meeting. Thanks again, everyone. Any suggestions for next year would be gladly received.

Apologies

My apologies to Tudy McIntosh....she entered a plant into our November Show and I left off her name as receiving a ribbon. Apparently Tudy has had this plant for some time and this plant finally bloomed and won her a ribbon. Tudy won a First for her Paph. spicerianum. Congratulations, Tudy!!

Goodies

Just a reminder to Bev Craig and Marilyn Gomme that they are signed

up to bring the coffee goodies for the January meeting. Thank you very much, Ladies!!

Jodi was sent the following web site. Take a look if you are interested in taking a trip to New Zealand. You might want to visit one of these gardens.

www.gardenstovisit.co.nz



Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and here is wishing everyone has a wonderful 2008!!

The following article was found in the November issue of Central Ontario Orchid Society newsletter and reprinted from the following website...

www.sciencedaily.com

First Orchid Fossil Puts Showy Blooms At Some 80 Million Years Old

ScienceDaily (Aug. 30, 2007) — Biologists at Harvard University have identified the ancient fossilized remains of a pollen-bearing bee as the first hint of orchids in the fossil record, a find they say suggests orchids are old enough to have co-existed with dinosaurs.

Their analysis, published recently in the journal *Nature*, indicates orchids arose some 76 to 84 million years ago, much longer ago than many scientists had estimated. The extinct bee they studied, preserved in amber with a mass of orchid pollen on its back, represents some of the only direct evidence of pollination in the fossil record.

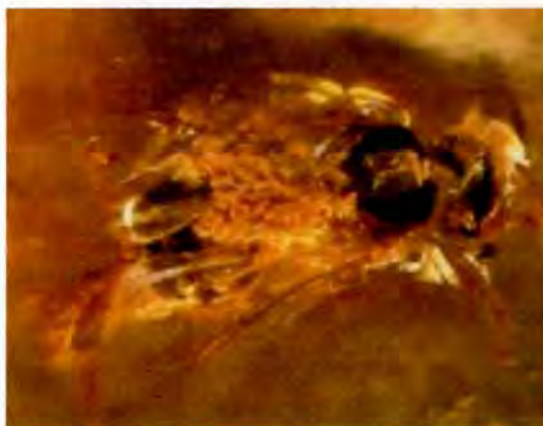
"Since the time of Darwin, evolutionary biologists have been fascinated with orchids' spectacular adaptations for insect pollination," says lead author Santiago R. Ramirez, a researcher in Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology and Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. "But while orchids are the largest and most diverse plant family on Earth, they have been absent from the fossil record."

The fossil record lacks evidence of orchids, Ramirez says, because they bloom infrequently and are concentrated in tropical areas where heat and humidity prevent fossilization. Their pollen is dispersed only by animals, not wind, and disintegrates upon contact with the acid used to extract pollen from rocks.

Orchids' ambiguous fossil record has fed a longstanding debate over their age, with various scientists pegging the family at anywhere from 26 to 112 million years old. Those arguing for a younger age have often pointed to the lack of a meaningful fossil record as evidence of the family's youth, along with the highly specialized flowers' need for a well-developed array of existing pollinators to survive. Proponents of an older age for orchids had cited their ubiquity around the world, their close evolutionary kinship with the ancient asparagus family, and their bewildering diversity: Some 20,000 to 30,000 species strong, the showy plants comprise some 8 percent of all flowering species worldwide.

"Our analysis places orchids far toward the older end of the range that had been postulated, suggesting the family was fairly young at the time of the extinction of the dinosaurs some 65 million years ago," Ramirez says. "It appears, based on our molecular clock analyses, that they began to flourish shortly after the mass extinction at the so-called 'K/T boundary' between the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods, which decimated many of Earth's species."

Orchids, unlike most flowering plants, package pollen in unique structures called pollinia, which consist of relatively large masses of compact pollen grains. The 15- to 20-million-year-old specimen of a worker bee carrying orchid pollinia, recovered by a private collector in the Dominican Republic in 2000, came to the attention of Ramirez and his colleagues at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology in 2005. While this particular species of stingless bee, *Proplebeia dominicana*, is now extinct, the scientists' analysis of the shape and configuration of its



*Amber-preserved stingless bee carrying pollinia of *Meliorchis caribea*, the first unambiguous fossil orchid known to science. This discovery enabled researchers to calculate the time of origin of the orchid family. (Credit: Santiago Ramirez)*

cargo of pollen places it firmly within one of five extant subfamilies of orchids.

The specimen is one of just a few fossils known to illustrate directly a plant-pollinator association. The specific placement of the pollen on the bee's back not only confirms the grains were placed through active pollination -- as opposed to a random encounter with an orchid -- but also sheds light on the exact type and shape of orchid flower that produced the pollen tens of millions of years ago.

By applying the so-called molecular clock method, the scientists also estimated the age of the major branches of the orchid family. To their surprise, they found that certain groups of modern orchids, including the highly prized genus *Vanilla*, evolved very early during the rise of the plant family.

"This result is puzzling and fascinating at the same time because modern species of *Vanilla* orchids are locally distributed throughout the tropical regions of the world," says Ramírez. "But we know that tropical continents began to split apart about 100 million years ago, and thus our estimates of 60 to 70 million years for the age of *Vanilla* suggest that tropical continents were still experiencing significant biotic exchange much after their dramatic split."

Ramírez's co-authors on the *Nature* paper are Charles R. Marshall and Naomi E. Pierce, both professors in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Barbara Gravendeel of the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland in Leiden, The Netherlands; and Rodrigo B. Singer of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Their work was funded by the National Science Foundation, the Fulbright scholar program, and the Barbour Fund at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Adapted from materials provided by Harvard University.

Need to cite this story in your essay, paper, or report? Use one of the following formats:

APA

MLA

Harvard University (2007, August 30). First Orchid Fossil Puts Showy Blooms At Some 80 Million Years Old. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved January 2, 2008, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/08/070829143719.htm>

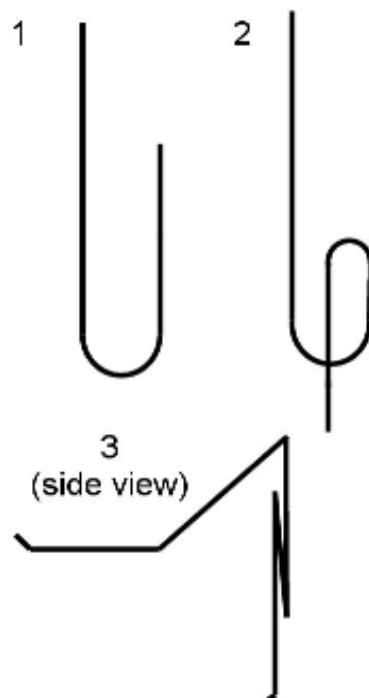
Anchoring Plants

Make your own Pot Clip

After repotting a plant, it is often wise to "anchor" it firmly so it cannot wobble around.

One of the easiest ways is to use a "pot clip" or "rhizome clip" to hold the plant steady in the pot. Here's how to make your own (refer to the sketch below):

1. Using a straight piece of heavy wire, bend a deep "J", with the short part about 4" in length.
2. Bend the short part of the "J" back down through the middle of the first curve you made. Keep the wire as close to the original as possible, but you can always crimp it with pliers to "tighten" the grip.
3. Bend the long, upper part over so it would poke back down in the pot.
4. Flatten the length that will press down on the rhizome.
5. Press the "loopy" part of the clip over the lip of the pot with the single wire running down along the inside wall.



If you have a tall plant, you can stop at step 2 and tie it to the upright stake.

(This article is courtesy of) www.firstrays.com