

NROS News

Home of Ontario's Best Show Table

MAY 2008

Wednesday, May 14th, 2008

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall
21 Queen Street
Thorold

PROGRAMS

ANNUAL "SWAP & SELL"

MEETING



EXECUTIVE 2007-2008

President	Rick Rempel	905-734-1588
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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



APRIL SHOW TABLE

Class 1 Cattleya Alliance

**** Slc. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'	K. F. Wilkinson	1 st .
Cattleya Summer Spots	N. Vandenberg	2 nd .
Potinara Love Call 'Nona'	P. Hinman	3 rd .
Lc. Schilleriana	K. & F. Wilkinson	
Ryncolaelia glauca x Laelia crispata	K. & F. Wilkinson	
Iwanagaara Apple Blossom	M. Booy	
Cattleya intermedia aquinii	N. Vandenberg	
Cattleya guttata?	N. Vandenberg	

Class 2 Paphiopedilum

Paph. Magic Lantern	K. & F. Wilkinson	1 st .
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Class 3 Phalaenopsis

Phal. Lava Glow	C. & K. Fuerniss	1 st .
Phalaenopsis ?????	M. Booy	2 nd .
Phalaenopsis ?????	G. Streeter	3 rd .
Dtps. Malibu Leopard	N. Vandenberg	
Phalaenopsis ?????	G. Streeter	

Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

Oncidium Sharry Baby	M. Havinga	1 st .
Ocidium Twinkle Fragrance Fantasy	C. & K. Fuerniss	2 nd .
Brassidium Wild Warrior 'Chieftain'	W. Muste	3 rd .
Bakerara Truth "Silver Chalice"	P. Hinman	
Colmanara Wild Cat 'Oshima'	P. Hinman	
Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy'	P. Hinman	

Class 6 Dendrobiums

Dendrobium anosmum	A. Roger	1 st .
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Class 7 All Others

Coelogyne lawrenciana	P. Hinman	1 st .
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Class 9 Vanda Alliance

Vanda Kultana Fragrance x Vanda Dr. Anek	A. Roger	1 st .
Vanda Lumpini Red AM x Vanda Katsuulea	N. Vandenberg	2 nd .

*****PLANT OF THE MONTH

The following are the results of the Ottawa Orchid Show.

Wayne Hoeschle	Dendrobium finistenae	2 nd .
	Laelia purpurata	3 rd .
	Cattleya skinneri v. semi alba	3 rd .
	Bulbophyllum lobii 'Kathy's Gold'	2 nd .
	& in Speciman Category	2 nd .
Rick Rempel	Ascda. John Debiase 'Angela' AM/AOS	1 st .
	Aeranthes Grandiose 'Shooting Star' AM/AOS	1 st .
	Bulbophyllum wendladianum	2 nd .
	Potinara DiCiommo David	3 rd .
	& in Fragrance Category	2 nd .
Nancy Vandenberg	Vanda Lumpini Red	
	X Vanda Kaatsuulea AM	3 rd .

Thanks to Nancy Vandenberg for setting up and taking down the Society display. Nancy would like to thank the following members for donating plants: Kathy & Fred Wilkinson, Wayne Hoeschle, Rick Rempel and Aimee Roger (and Nancy!) Thanks a lot, Everyone!!

BULLETIN BOARD

Meeting

The May meeting will be our annual Swap and Sell meeting. If you have never been to one, it's where our members get together and either trade plants with other members, or sell if you wish. You may bring anything of a horticultural nature plants, pots, perennials from your garden, and of course, orchids that you would either like to exchange or share with other members! We would also like to remind members to **PLEASE CLEAN UP AROUND YOUR TABLE BEFORE YOU LEAVE!!** Please sweep up any dirt, etc. that you might leave on the floor. Thank you for your co-operation.

Open House

Cloud's Orchids open house is on the

week-end of May 10th. & 11th. From 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop for both days will be a Greenhouse tour at 12:00 p.m. If you would like to see "the other side" of Cloud's Orchids, come on out on Saturday or Sunday.

Broadway Gardens

A reminder to our members that Broadway Gardens is having their Horticultural Societies Discount Days again this year. Niagara Region Orchid Society members receive a 25% discount on any LIVE plant material. The Broadway Avenue location will hold theirs on Wednesday, May 14th. and the Rice Road location will be on Thursday, May 15th. You **MUST** show your membership card to receive the discount.

Auction

The Executive has decided to hold an auction for the June Meeting. We are asking members to donate any "orchid-related items they may have. Plants, books, magazines, prints, horticultural collectables, etc. If you have any questions as to whether an item would be appropriate, please contact Rick Rempel. Any item not sold off from the auction, will be raffled off. The funds from the auction will be used to help purchase a laptop for the Society. We ask that members refrain from bringing any plants for sale that night.

Reminder

Also, just a reminder to members that they receive a 10% discounts on merchandise at Northern Lights Hydroponics in Fonhill.

Hospitality

A reminder to Barbara Berry and Inger Christensen that they are signed up to bring the goodies for coffee. Thanks, Ladies!!

Classifieds

Nel Dekker has both small and standard-size mason jars available for free. If anyone is looking for canning jars, please contact Nel. Her number is available on the front of this newsletter.

Christal Fuerniss is looking for jam or jelly jars. She will purchase, if necessary. Please contact Christel at 905-892-1727.

Canadian-bred Hybrid Orchids Featured on New Canadian Stamps



Postal rates are going up again after January 14, 2008, and hearts are racing also with a Canadian first, news that four definitive stamps featuring red, pink, yellow and orange Canadian-bred orchid hybrids were issued by Canada Post on December 27, 2007. The Official First Day Cover bears all four values as part of a luminous souvenir sheet and is cancelled with a watering pot design out of Bloomfield Station, Prince Edward Island. More information on this series may be found in the latest issue of *Details/en détail*, January to March 2008, Vol. 17 #1 which is available at the post office or may be ordered at www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/default-e.asp

There have been more than 250 orchids hybridized and registered by Canadians since 1949 when the first was recorded in Sander's List. These small yet colourful stamps show differently coloured hybrids made in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Québec.

Odontioda Island Red (Trixon x Actrix) hybridized by Dr. Wally Thomas, West Vancouver, and registered in 1985, has the honour of being depicted on the most frequently used value, the domestic rate, now designated by P with no dollars or cents noted. Wally was the first President of the COC and was instrumental in bringing the World Orchid Conference to Canada in 1999. He bred and registered more than 70 hybrids over some 20 years, many whose names are prefixed with 'Island' after his Charles Island Orchids. *Oda* Island Red has received three awards with a Judges Commendation ('Victoria' JC/AOS) for intensity of colour

The oversize envelope value (\$1.15) depicts one of Marilyn Light's hybrids, *Laeliocattleya* Memoria Evelyn Light (C.

Cherry Chip x Roy Finley), registered in 1994, and named in memory of her mother who started Marilyn's interest in orchids in 1970 with a gift of *The Golden Guide to Orchids*. This cross has not been awarded but it is a rewarding bloomer with sprays of up to 5 long-lasting brightly coloured and fragrant flowers up to three times area. Marilyn began hybridizing orchids in the early 1980's, registering her first in 1992, and continues to raise 'babies' simply for the joy of creating something new.

The USA stamp (\$0.96) features *Potinara* Janet Elizabeth 'Fire Dancer' AM/AOS (Beaufort Gold x *Slc.* Orglade's Early Harvest) which was bred by Gordon Heaps of Edmonton AB and registered in 1996. Named for his spouse and orchid photographer Janet, this showy, floriferous yellow orchid with its stunning and contrasting red lip was awarded in 1996 at the Orchid Society of Alberta show.

For the international value (\$1.60), we have one of Mario Ferrusi's wonderful hybrid *Masdevallias*. *Masd.* Kaleidoscope (Cassiope x Copperwing), registered and first awarded in 2002, has garnered 3 awards including an FCC/AOS. Selected for the stamp is *Masd.* Kaleidoscope 'Conni' AM/AOS, the clonal name honouring spouse Conni. This clone has an orange flower with heavy brick red speckling. Mario has an active hybridization program and we look forward to new and wonderful flowers from him in future.

Look for these stamps now at your local post office or order some from Canada Post either by mail or on-line. Visit the website for details. <http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/default-e.asp>

HOW WELL DO YOUR SLIPPERS FIT?

(By W. Bischoff, Member of VOS)

That is how well do your Slipper Orchids fit in with the rest of your orchids? They are different, everyone can see that. But how do they really differ from the rest of the Orchids?

One difference is, that no Slipper Orchid, tropical or from the more temperate zones of our earth, produces pseudo bulbs. Most are terrestrial, even the species which grow on trees, only do so when there is sufficient detritus, that is decayed plant material available to protect the root system. The Slippers of northern areas, some as far north as past the Arctic Circle, are deciduous and survive the winter underground, in temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius.

Where they really differ is in the structure of the flowers. To be as different as they are they must have split off from the rest of the Orchids many million years ago. To compare them, place a Phalaenopsis and a Slipper Orchid side by side and identify the different parts as they are mentioned in this article. Perhaps wait until one of your Slipper Orchids drops a flower so that you can cut it in half to get a better view into the flower.

Just like other orchids, the slippers have all the basic flower parts that differentiate Orchids from all other flowering plants. There are petals, sepals and a central column, all arranged in front of the ovary (seed bud, inferior ovary). Of the three petals, one is converted into a lip, a very deep pouch like structure - another of the differences. The pouch is an insect trap which lures the insect by color and or scent to pollinate the flower. The slipper like structure guides these trapped insects toward the end of the pouch and provides two escape routes, past the female parts and then past the male pollen. To the best of my knowledge, no food is provided for the insects.

Of the three sepals, one is very visible, it is the top most part of any Slipper Orchid. It can either stand very erect, or in the case of some of the northern terrestrial slippers, it can bend over the pouch. In any case it is a prominent structure. The other two sepals are fused into one part which is directly behind the slipper (syn-sepalum) - this is the third difference. Occasionally the syn-sepalum is split into two parts which confirms this statement.

The central column in an orchid flower is where all the reproductive parts are located. This is where the slippers differ mostly from other Orchids. To make a comparison look closely at the Phalaenopsis flower especially the central column, just above the lip. On the very tip just below the anther cap, a thin tissue, is the pollen mass. Just behind, divided by a membrane, is the female part of the flower. This arrangement prevents self-

pollination and allows an insect to deposit pollen from another Phalaenopsis flower and thus fertilize the flower. When said insect backs out of the flower it will strip off the anther cap and pick up pollen from the flower to carry it hopefully to the next Phalaenopsis flower. Please note, the pollen is picked up and deposited as a whole package. This is true for all non-Slipper Orchids.

A Slipper Orchid differs remarkably from other Orchids in the reproductive department. The central column has the female part right on the very front of the column and the column is bent backward down toward the back of the pouch. There are two pollen masses at the back of the column, that is, on either sides of the column. The pollen is similar to the pollen in a Lily flower, sticky and waxy in consistency. This pollen is not removed in one package, rather pollinating insects brush some off every time they visit the Slipper flower. Many insects can take pollen from one flower. This is another very important difference.

To propagate Slipper orchids asexually is by division only. To date it has been very difficult to produce these plants from tissue culture. Seed propagation is the only reliable method whereas most other Orchids can readily be multiplied by other methods - this is also an important difference from other Orchids.

Where Slippers are the same as all other Orchids is in the seed department. The seed capsule is divided into three compartments and the seeds are produced by the hundreds of thousands per seed pod. These seeds are very small and are wind dispersed. They contain no nourishment for the young plants, only genetic information. As with all other Orchids, slipper seeds need fungi to help germinate the seeds and nourish the seedlings.

I hope this information is of interest to all, especially the new Orchid hobbyist and I further hope that it will induce everyone who has never grown Slippers, in the house and in the garden, to try a plant. With the diversity of Slipper Orchids available, there is a plant available for just about every growing situation. To start with buy the new plants when in flower, especially hybrids, so that you can see exactly what you get. Also consider plants with attractive foliage to enjoy them when not in flower.

Just as Cinderella found a slipper that fit her, I'm sure that you will also find a Slipper that fits into your life and brings happiness and enjoyment.

As with any general statements made about Orchids, there will be differences from the above made claims. These will be left up to the reader to research and marvel at. Happy Growing!