

# SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

## May 2008 NEWS

### Volume 43, Issue 5



**Executive:** President, Tom Atkinson 416 449-7907;

Vice-president, Yvonne Schreiber, 905 473-3405 ;Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281;

Treasurer, Elizabeth McAlpine, 416 487-7832

**Membership:** Annual Dues \$25.00/Calendar Year(January 1- December 31). Membership Secretary, Hess Pommells 416-245-0369, Apt. 503, 370 Dixon Road, Weston, Ontario, M9R 1T2

**Web site:** [www.soots.ca](http://www.soots.ca) Member of the Canadian Orchid Congress; Affiliated with the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society, and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance

**Honorary Life Members:** Walter Norman, Terry Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Inge Poot, Peter Poot, Joe O'Regan, Diane Ryley

**Next Annual Show:** February 14 -15, 2009, Get ready!!!

## Next Meeting May 4. Toronto Botanical Gardens, Floral Hall, Sales 12:00, Program 1:00 pm

**Program:** Jay Norris, our immediate past president, an AOS judge and partner in Ravenvision Photographic, will be presenting the highlights of the 19th World Orchid Conference (WOC) held this past January in Miami. This is a triennial event, and the next one will be held in 2011 in Singapore.



Portion of Reserve Grand Champion display by Krull  
Smith Orchids  
photo by P.Poot



Singapore display

Photo by P.Poot

## **SOOS President's Remarks**

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this message to you, my fellow orchid lovers. At the SOOS meeting on April 4, we were stunned to learn that our good friend, and superb orchid plantsman, Gary Schreiber had passed away that very weekend. It is but a day after receiving this news that these words are being crafted, so the enormity of this loss is really just starting to sink in. Our immediate thoughts turn to Yvonne, Gary's partner in life and in business. Those who met Gary and Yvonne knew that he was the big bear, the larger than life giant of a man, with smiles, advice, and a joke to go along with the orchids that we bought from these two. Yvonne, was quieter, looked after the administration end of things, without which a business cannot succeed. Her loss is immense, and on your behalf I send our condolences, best wishes, and love to her.

The following quotation comes to mind "In the midst of life we are in death" (Book of Common Prayer, The Burial of the Dead, First Anthem"). It seems fitting to ponder this wisdom at this time. If we speak in modern phrases, it would be "The show must go on.". And I, for one, would think that this is precisely the advice that Gary would have for us all should one of us have passed away and not Gary. To this end, please keep the next 2 meeting dates firmly in mind. On May 4, immediate past-president and AOS judge Jay Norris will be speaking on the most recent World Orchid Congress (WOC) held in Florida this past January. As Jay is a renowned photographer, and an excellent speaker, we who could not attend this event can participate vicariously. On June 1, there will be another special speaker, Olaf Gruss from Germany. I'll write more about him in the next newsletter. Suffice it to say that no matter how enticing the spring weather may be on these 2 Sundays, you will want to be at and hear Jay and Olaf. So do update your calendars now!

I had other things written for inclusion in this month's "President's Remarks". With what has happened, suddenly and tragically, within our

SOOS family, it seems more fitting to defer them to a later issue.

## **Welcome New Members**

John Wessel

Maurice Gadishaw

Marilyn Crompton

Frances Bender

## **? Newcomers' Spring/Summer Meeting**

Tuesday April 22, 2008 at 7:00 PM

Boardroom of the TBG

The focus of this session is for newly joined members to ensure that they have the essential information for growing their orchids over the spring and summer period. Previous attenders are also welcomed as we will discuss summering some of your plants outdoors.

For further information call Wayne Hingston at 905-649-2467

## **Coming Events**

### **April 26-27, Canadian Orchid Congress in conjunction with the Ottawa Orchid Society Orchid Show.**

The joint COC meeting and Ottawa Orchid Society Show *Orchidophilia* which will be held in Ottawa at the Nepean Sportsplex on Saturday, April 26-Sunday, April 27, 2008. The theme of the symposium is *Orchids around the World*. See last month's newsletter for program information.

For more information please contact:

Rick Sobkowicz, OOS President and Show Co-chair:  
613-825-0827 ricksobkowicz@rogers.com

Dave Cooper Show Co-chair:  
613-256-2853 orchidae@allstream.net

Jean Hollebone, COC rep and COC meeting and Symposium organizer:  
613-226-2395 jhollebone@sympatico.ca

## May

3, Toronto Centre Judging, 1 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden

4, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon.

17, 18, Ann Arbor judges training seminar

24, Montreal Judging and TJC business meeting.

## June

1, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon.

7, Toronto Centre Judging, 1 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden

**SOOS Orchidfest, August 3.** All Members of Orchid Societies welcome. Plan to attend now.

## Speakers:

Glen Decker of PipingRock Orchids  
PipingRock@aol.com Has CITES now and will be bringing plants.

Erich Michel of Hoosier Orchids  
eemichel7@msn.com

Topic: 'The Orchid Species of Madagascar' (with some of Fred Hillerman's slides). He will be bringing plants.

## Show Results



SOOS display at Orchexpo by Joe O'Regan

Joe has done a number of displays for us this spring and he reports the following ribbon winners:

## Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens

**Show:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, Display by Joe O'Regan

1<sup>st</sup>. Clair Brown, Paph. Lebaudymanum 'Clair's Surprise'

2<sup>nd</sup>. Joe O'Regan, Epicattleya Rene Marques.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Joe O'Regan, Rhyn. gigantea.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Joe O'Regan, Opsistylis Mem. Mary Nattras.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Joe O'Regan, Paph. (Cyberspace x Grand Master ) x Ruby Peacock.

1<sup>st</sup>. Jay Norris, Dendrobium linguiforme.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Jay Norris, Encyclia venezueleana.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Jay Norris, Cattleya aurantiaca.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Jay Norris, Epicattleya Gold Digger.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Jay Norris, Phrag. bessea

**London Orchid Society Show:** 3<sup>rd</sup>. Display

2<sup>nd</sup>. Pam Robertson, Dtps. Everspring Prince 'Fu Sheng'.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Pam Robertson, Paph. Yerba Buena x Skip Barlett.

1<sup>st</sup>. Wayne Eyles, Phal. Tuxedo Gem.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Wayne Eyles, Phal. Yellow Treasure.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Clair Brown, Cts Marsh Hollow 'Clair's Delight'.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Joe O'Regan, Paph. Leeaum.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Joe O'Regan, Epicattleya Rene Marques.

## **Orchidexpo, Montreal:**

2<sup>nd</sup>. Jay Norris, Paph armeniacum.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Jay Norris, Paph sukhakulii.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Jay Norris, Slc. Newberry.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Jay Norris, Rollardia tripunctata.

1<sup>st</sup>. Wayne Eyles, Paph. Alice Eyles.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Wayne Eyles, Paph. Chequita.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Wayne Eyles, Phal. Yellow Treasure.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Wayne Eyles, Phal. Tuxedo Gem.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Wayne Eyles, Oncidium Tiger Glow.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Inge and Peter Poot, Cymbidium Burgundian Chateau.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Joe O'Regan, Epicattleya Rene Marques.

Congratulations and thank you all for lending us your plants.

## AOS Judging Results

### Manitoba Orchid Society Show Mar. 28/08

Slc. Mile High Magic 'Connor' HCC 79 pts (Slc. Pink Doll x Slc. Bright Angel) Joyce Jaworski

### Genesee Region Orchid Show Apr. 4/08

Paph. Macabre 'Darkside' AM 80 pts (*sukhakulii* x Voodoo Magic) Kenneth Usuki

Rodrumnia Seneca Hollow 'Owasco' HCC 78 pts (Tolum. Sundown Reef x Rrm. Sycamore Hollow) Joane Molenock

Masd. Grand Monarch 'Theresa Usuki' AM 83 pts (*coccinea* v. *alba* x Monarch) Kenneth Usuki

### Toronto Monthly Judging Apr. 5/08

Paph. *roebelinii* 'Suzy' AM 80 pts Wendy Hoffman

Rhynchovanda Colmarie 'Black Magic' AM 85 pts (Rhv. Sri-Siam x *Rhy. gigantea*) Doug & Terry Kennedy

Oda. ? HCC 77 pts. (Oda. Drumory x Odm. Stroperry) Mario & Conni Ferrusi

*Masd. mandarina* 'Tropical Gardens Orchids' CHM 83 pts Calvin Wong

**Remember**, anyone can bring plants for judging to the Judging Centre. We are there every first Saturday of the month at the TBG. Judging starts at 1 pm. May 3 is our next date. You are also welcome to come and watch.

## Cattleyas of Venezuela, Gilberto Arrieche, Part 2

***Cattleya lawrenceana* Reichenbach f.** This species was first discovered by Robert Schomburgk in 1840 to 1844 at the foot of the Roraima Tepuy- a part of the Amazonian Plateau and at the river sides of the Kukenan River. However, he confused the species with *Cattleya mossiae* and with *Laelia pumila* (originally called *Cattleya pumila*). As a result old textbooks erroneously considered *Cattleya pumila* a synonym of *Cattleya lawrenceana*.

More than 40 years elapsed until Mr Seidel, a plant collector of Sanders & Co. rediscovered the species in the same places that Schomburgk found it in 40 years earlier. He collected thousands of plants and sent them to England, but all the plants died during the trip. But the one positive outcome of this fiasco was that Seidel had prepared good herbarium samples and Reichenbach used them to describe the new species as *Cattleya lawrenceana* Reichenbach f.

About a year after this first try to bring this species into cultivation in England, Seidel went back to the habitat and collected this plant so profusely, that he practically swept the area clean of the colonies of the species. Since that time this species has been in danger of extinction. It is still found in three small areas, one near the north-east edge of the plateau, one near the south-east edge and one running south to north near the middle of the northern rim of the plateau.

The only hope remains that since the Venezuelan portion of the Guyana or Amazonian Plateau is only part of a similar habitat, in the future *Cattleya lawrenceana* may be found in Brazil, Guyana, Surinam or French Guyana.

Another complicating factor exists in the area that is not well known. The area of the western bank of the Esequibo River is claimed by both Guyana (formerly British Guiana) and Venezuela, making access to it a problem.

*Cattleya lawrenceana* grows between 60.5 and 66.5 degrees of west longitude and between 4 and 8 degrees north latitude. The populations found in their main areas of distribution are scattered and with only a few plants making up any colony. They grow mainly epiphytically in shadowy forests, but can occasionally be found growing as lithophytes

in full sun. The species adapts very well to relatively cool climates as long as the plants receive enough light.

Plants are found between 400 and 1,850 meters altitude.

They are exposed to temperatures between 15 to 26 degrees Celsius.

Vegetatively, the plants are quite compact and together with other characteristics they are easy to identify even when not in bloom. Pseudobulbs are a maximum of 50cm in height and have a very distinctive dark purple coloration. The plants branch readily and can form lovely specimens. The leaves are very coriaceous, rigid and oblong to narrowly elliptic with less purple colour than the pseudobulbs, but coloured purple none the less. New pseudobulbs are formed first, then there is a short resting period and finally the plants flower from dry flower sheathes.

Flowering takes place from February to April. Flowers last up to two weeks. Flowers have a light fragrance. There are 3 to 8 flowers per inflorescence but Mr Arrieche has seen a plant with 12 flowers on an inflorescence. Inflorescences are 10 to 23cm tall.

Flowers average 8 to 12 cm in natural spread. The petals have weak substance, but the sepals are fleshy. The lip is fleshy and completely surrounds the column, while the apical portion opens nicely into a trumpet shape. The flower texture is satiny. There are no quality AOS awards on record for this species.

Varieties found are the type form, concolor, semi-alba, alba, aquinii and coerulea forms.

***Cattleya violacea* (Kunth) Rolfe** This bifoliate species was discovered by Humboldt and Bonpland sometimes between 1799 and 1804 near the "Torrents of Atures" of the Orinoco River, located close to Puerto Ayacucho.

The naming of the species was most confusing. It was first described as *Cymbidium violacea* in 1816 by Kunth, a member of the Humboldt and Bonpland botanical expedition. Then in 1837 Schomburgk collected several samples of the species and sent them to Mr. Loddiges who in turn gave some to Lindley who considered it a new species that he described it as *Cattleya superba*. Then in 1861 and 1862 respectively, H. G. Reichenbach transferred *Cymbidium violacea* to *Epidendrum violaceum* and *Cattleya superba* to

*Epidendrum superbum*. He obviously never compared the two type specimens because he did not notice that they were the same species. Finally in 1889 Rolfe put an end to all this confusion and established the name *Cattleya violacea*. However, Venezuelan orchid aficionados refuse to go along with all the name changes and continue to call the species *Cattleya superba*.

*Cattleya violacea* has one of the largest geographical distributions of all the *Cattleya* species. The habitat covers more than 4 million square kilometres. In Venezuela it is found all along the edges and interior of the Amazonian Plateau.

It grows between 14 degrees south latitude and 9 degrees of north latitude and between 59 and 75 degrees west longitude. This area includes a huge portion of Guyana, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. In Venezuela it grows between 61 and 69 degrees west longitude and between one and 9 degrees north latitude.

The species enjoys very tropical conditions: heat, humidity, good light and air circulation.

It grows in temperatures between 15 and 36 degrees Celsius.

The most common habitat is in jungles along rivers or in lagoons formed when the rivers flood. They love to grow on branches extended over the water, since this position supplies the plants with humid moving air coming from the river and extra sunlight reflected off the water.

Pseudobulbs are narrow and long and between 10 and 30cm long. Their colour is slightly violet. Pseudobulbs generally carry two leaves, but one, three or four leaves can be found on the occasional pseudobulbs.

Plants do not branch readily.

Flowers emerge from green spathes. The natural spread of the flowers is 10 to 14 cm and there are usually 2 to 6 flowers per inflorescence but the exceptional clone may have up to 8 flowers per inflorescence. The flowers are slightly fragrant.

The sepals and petals are usually bright rose pink, the lip is white with the apex of the mid-lobe and the exterior of the side-lobes an intense deep magenta-red.

The flowers usually have a wonderful flat shape and good substance. No wonder Venezuelans insist on continuing to call it *C. superba*!

Varieties found are the type form, semi-alba, alba, aquinii, coerulea and the Peruvian biotype.

Make sure to only purchase seed propagated plants, since wild collected plants do not last more than 6 to 7 months. This is probably caused by the selection in the wild of plants that grow over flowing water and have immense root systems extending all over the trees they grow on –something that cannot be duplicated in cultivation.

***Cattleya jenmanii* Rolfe** Rolfe named this unifoliate species in 1906 in honour of its discoverer the British botanist Mr. G. S. Jenman.

However for the next 63 years no more plants of this species were found and surprisingly few attempts were made to study or rediscover the plant. Finally in 1969 a few plants were found in the southern part of Venezuela. They were given to G.C.K. Dunsterville and he identified them as the “lost” *Cattleya jenmanii*. To be absolutely certain about the identity of the plants he sent a dried specimen to Dr Leslie Garay then at the Ames Orchid Herbarium in 1970. Dr Garay ratified this re-discovery.

*Cattleya jenmanii* has not been reported in Brazil as of this date, but since the Venezuelan habitat is so close to the Brazilian border, the species will most likely be found in Brazil sometimes in the future.

The species is rare in nature and just a few different clones have been collected.

It is found in a restricted area between 4 and 5 degrees north latitude and between 61 and 64 degrees west longitude.

There are three adjacent areas of distribution ranging from the middle of the southern edge of the Amazonian Plateau to slightly east of there.

The species grows from 800 to 1200 meters above sea level.

It grows at temperatures from 15 to 26 degrees Celsius.

It grows in those parts of dense humid jungles that are adjacent to sandy savannas.

There are two biotypes:

The Kama biotype has bigger size, better form, paler colour, pale green foliage and is found on rocky slopes in full sun as a lithophyte.

The Karamasen biotype has smaller flowers, worse

form, but darker colour.

Flowering occurs from February to April and a second time from September to October to occasionally the beginning of November, just after the flowering pseudobulb matures.

The flowers emerge from a green spathe/ sheath and the sheath does not wither while the plant flowers. Very often there is a second smaller spathe/sheath inside the outer one.

There are one to 6 flowers per inflorescence with two being the norm.

The natural spread of the flowers is from 12 to 17 cm.

The substance of the flowers is good and the narrow dorsal sepal is erect. The lateral sepals are also narrow while the petals are quite full. The lip is tubular with a flared apex. The sepals and petals are pale purple. The lip colour is darker purple and there are two small eyes that go from orange inside the tube to yellow and finally white near the apex edge.

The flowers have a lemony fragrance.

The varieties found are type variety, alba, semi-alba, aquinii, coerulea (poorer form), coerulescens, rubra (more reddish) and concolor.

***Cattleya mossiae* Hooker** The species was discovered at La Guaira, a town close to Caracas in 1836 by Mr. Ward, an Englishman living in Caracas. Mr Ward sent the first specimen to Mr. George Green of Liverpool. It was described by Sir William Jackson Hooker in 1838 and named in honour of a Mrs Moss. To confuse the issue there are some invalid old names still floating around the literature about this species. The variety wagneri is now known as the forma alba and the variety reineckeana as the forma semi-alba.

The species is endemic to Venezuela and is the official national flower of Venezuela.

It grows between 9 and 11 degrees north latitude and between 66 and 70 degrees west longitude.

It is found at altitudes from 800 to 1,500 meters above sea level. It grows along the northern and eastern coastal extension of the Andes and shares its range with *C. lueddemanniana* and *C. percivaliana*. However it grows on the south sides of the mountain ranges while the other two species grow on the north sides.

The temperatures found there vary from 12 to 32

degrees Celsius.



*C. percivaliana* at the 19<sup>th</sup>. WOC photo by P.Poot

It grows in rather humid mountainous areas that provide moderate temperatures, but is adaptable enough to succeed in a wide variety of climatic conditions.

The species is almost always epiphytic.

Flowering occurs from the week before Easter (February/March) to June with the peak of flowering coming in May.

The flower spathe/sheath dries up several months before the flowers emerge. However, near to the flowering season the plants will produce another pseudobulb which will then flower with the older one from a green sheath. The result is lots of flowers.

There are 2 to 7 flowers per inflorescence.

The natural spread of the flowers is 12 to 23 cm.

The flowers are light purple with the lip decorated with dark purple veins in the tube, golden eyes and the lip apex is veined in red and flushed a darker purple. The petals tend to have "fallen shoulders" and the whole flower has poor substance. The latter trait is unfortunately passed on to its progeny in hybridizing.

The flowers have a rich, sweet vanilla fragrance.

The varieties found are the type form, alba, semi-alba, alba plena (totally white), concolor, coerulea, venosa and aquinii.

Since it overlaps the habitat of two species it is not surprising that we find natural hybrids. The hybrid with *C. percivaliana* is called *C. X peregrina* and with *C. lueddemanniana* it is called *C. X*

*gravesiana*.

*C. X gravesiana* is an attractive natural hybrid found east of Caracas. Its main fault is a weak dorsal sepal that usually folds over at the tip. The flowers range from 12 to 24 cm in natural spread, there are from 2 to 7 flowers per inflorescence. Plants usually have 1 to 3 inflorescences with the occasional plant producing 4 inflorescences at a time.

Many thanks to Gilberto Arrieche for providing me with his lecture notes which made the transcribing a lot easier. Inge Poot

## Library News

The following books have been purchased and will be added to the S.O.O.S. library at the T.B.G.

1. Orchids of the Dominican Republic and Haiti by Eladio Fernandez
2. The genus *Cymbidium* by David DuPuy
3. Tropical slipper orchids: *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* species and hybrids by Harold Koopowitz
4. Orchids of India: a glimpse by Sarat Misra
5. Orchids to know and grow by Tom Sheenan
6. Orchids: a practical guide by Michael Tibbs

Yvonne Schreiber, Librarian

## Your Society and your Newsletter

Soos exists because we share a passion for growing orchids. We can all make SOOS better by actively participating. If you have something orchid wise that you would like to share with other members, bring it to the attention of the president or write it up for publication in this newsletter. If you have surplus orchids you can sell them at the society sales table for a 10% donation to the society or you can donate them to the monthly raffle. To sell at the sales table call Diane Ryley at 416 762-1362 for the rules. If you wish to donate to the raffle call Elizabeth McAlpine at 416 487-7832. Either way we all win.

### April 2008 Show Table

Class	First	Second	Third
<i>Class 1</i> Cattleya Alliance	Epc. Siam Jade 'Water' <i>John Vermeer</i>	Epi. stamfordianum <i>Wendy Hoffman</i>	Pollardia tripunctata
<i>Class 2</i> Paphiopedilum	<b>Paph. roebelinii</b> <b>'Suzy' AM/AOS</b> <b><i>Wendy Hoffman</i></b>	Paphiopedilum Taiwan <i>Wendy Hoffman</i>  Paph. rothschildianum 'Commander' x self <i>Wendy Hoffman</i>  Paph. hangianum x micranthum <i>Eric Lee</i>	Phragmipedium Paul Eugene Conroy 'Twisted Tower' <i>Thanasak Talerngsri</i>
<i>Class 3</i> Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance	Dtps. Newberry Parfait AM/AOS <i>Henry Glowka</i>	Phalaenopsis No id <i>Susan Shaw</i>  Phal. Sweet Memory <i>John Spears</i>	Phal. Sogo Viogold <i>John Spears</i>  Ascocenda Kultana x Vanda Thanadee <i>Anita Kho</i>  Phalaenopsis Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS <i>Reva Starr</i>
<i>Class 4</i> Oncidium & related	Ticoglossum kramerii		
<i>Class 5</i> Cymbidium	Cymbidium No id <i>Mei</i>		
<i>Class 6</i> Dendrobium	Dockrillia wassellii (Dendrobium wassellii) <i>Erica Lorincz</i>	Den. hercoglossum <i>Eric Tai</i>  Den. nobile hybrid <i>Henry Glowka</i>	Den. moniliforme <i>Jay Norris</i>
<i>Class 7</i> All Others	Restrepiella ophiocephala <i>Jay Norris</i>	Schoenorchis paniculata <i>Anita Kho</i>	

#### PLANT OF THE MONTH

Paphiopedilum roebelinii 'Suzy' AM/AOS, also awarded at the judging the day before, grown under high intensity lights by Wendy Hoffman. About five years ago, Wendy got a piece of a P. roebelinii known to be in existence since the 1980's. The division was in rough shape, but she managed to bring it back to life and even bloom! How? A lot of root hormone and high humidity - up to enclosure into a plastic bag in the beginning. The plant is still relatively small and blooms for the first time, but one can already tell how exquisitely coloured its flowers are. Congratulations, Wendy!