

# SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY NEWS

## April 2011, Volume 46, Issue 4

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

**Membership:** Annual Dues \$25 per calendar year (January 1 to December 31 ).

**Membership secretary:** Hesse Pommells 416-245-0369, #503-370 Dixon Road, Weston, Ontario, M9R 1T2

**Executive:** President, Yvonne Schreiber, 905-473-3405; Vice-president, Elizabeth McAlpine, 416-487-7832; Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281; Treasurer, John Vermeer, 905 823-2516

**Other Positions of Responsibility:** Program, Mario Ferrusi; Plant Doctor, Doug Kennedy; Meeting Set up, Tom Atkinson; Vendor and Sales table coordinator, Diane Ryley; Web Master, Max Wilson; Newsletter, Peter and Inge Poot; Annual Show, Tom Atkinson; Refreshments, Joe O'Regan. Conservation Committee, Tom Atkinson; Show table, Iryna Bonya.



Marsh Hollow Display at SOOS 2011 Show, AOS Show Trophy, Silver Medal Certificate. Photo PP

Meeting Program Sunday, April 3, Sales at noon, program at 1 pm.

Once again it is time to find out about tricks of the trade, as well as tips uncovered by fellow society members, all of which will enable us to be even better at nurturing our precious orchids. There will be several workshops, and what follows is a list thereof, and who will be conducting each one. Thanks to Mario Ferrusi for setting these up again, and to the named people for agreeing to participate:

- Humidity in the home-----Alexsi Antanaitis
- Mounting orchids-----Mario Ferrusi
- Pest control for home growers---DVD-----Peter Poot
- Photography tips-----Robin McLaughlin
- How to handle bare root plants-----Doug Kennedy
- Orchids on the internet & OrchidWiz-----Max Wilson
- Orchid seed sowing and mericloneing-----Pitson Dantanarayana
- Repotting Neofinetia falcata-----Michael Hwang, Terry Kowalczuk

The idea is that every 15 or 20 minutes, you float from the current workshop to the next one which you wish to see. In the time available, you may see and ask questions in as many of these sessions as is possible or as you see fit.

**SOOS President's Remarks** The Social Break during our meetings seems to be a success. For our next meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, I am asking members whose last names start with the letter L to bring a treat to share. These treats should be finger foods only i.e. something that can be picked up with your fingers and does not require a plate or fork.

Last June, a number of our members opened their growing areas for a tour. This provided the members of our society places to visit and see how others are looking after their orchids. Are you interested in having the opportunity again this June to consult with some of our stellar growers? The designated weekend this year would be June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Is there anyone who would be willing to open his or her growing areas to other members of the society? Let me know please.

April is a very busy month for orchid shows. If you would like to leave the country, the Genesee Regional Orchid Society in Rochester, NY, USA is having their annual show on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Look on the Internet for their location. Closer to home is Orchidexpo in Montreal on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, the Toronto Artistic Orchid Society show on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Ottawa Orchid Society show on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Don Wyatt will be collecting plants for Orchidexpo and the TAOS show. Peter and Inge Poot will be mounting a display for our society in Ottawa. They will gladly transport and care for any plants that you are willing to loan to them for these displays.

In Webster's dictionary, a society is defined, in part, as "any number of people associated together ... with collective interests". Our collective interest is orchids. They intrigue us and we want to find out more about them. We want to own at least some of them. We are constantly learning something new about them.

We use our orchid society to try to fulfill these needs and desires. But your orchid society needs your support and interest to survive and to thrive. Do you have ideas or suggestions for programmes? What are we doing well? What could we do better? What aren't we doing now that you would like to see us doing? We all differ in the ways that we support our society. Some of our names appear on the executive or as directors. Others contribute to the show committee. But there are a lot whose names don't appear anywhere in print – all of you who volunteered to help at our show, spouses who support their partner in their interest in orchids, the people who look after the members' sales table, the show table, the plant raffle and refreshment at our monthly meetings. My heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you.

If have any questions, you can contact me at [yvoneschreiber68@gmail.com](mailto:yvoneschreiber68@gmail.com), or 905-473-3405. Or just speak to me at one of our meetings. Yvonne Schreiber

**PLANTS LOST** On the last night of our annual SOOS show this year, I left a small box of 10 Neofinetia falcata behind, all Japanese varieties. If someone found them and does not know who they belong to then please contact myself Terry Kowalczyk @ [tarasmk@hotmail.com](mailto:tarasmk@hotmail.com). This part of my collection is worth a lot to me. I just would like them back and I am offering a substantial reward to whoever found them by means of a valuable Neofinetia falcata variety.

## **Welcome New Members**

**Jay Wilson,**

**Michael Warmerdam,**

**Mona Lee,**

**Susan Mulrooney,**

**Machin Hassanein,**

**Julia Publicover,  
Dixie Taylor,**

## **Newcomers' Meeting**

***Monday April 18, 2011***

**7 pm in the Boardroom**

This will be our last meeting to discuss growing orchids before September. New members of SOOS are welcomed, as well as those that attended in the winter. We will review best practices and discuss the option of summering plants outside.

I encourage our newest members to arrive early (6:30 ?). I will bring booklets that summarize the basic cultural information. These booklets cost \$2 to cover photocopying costs. Summering outdoors will be discussed after reviewing watering, fertilizing, repotting, and light.

For information call Wayne Hingston (905-686-5697)

## **2011 Show**

- This should be the penultimate note that you read on this year's show. The reason for one more is that it takes time for us to receive and tabulate all of the expenses. When our treasurer, John Vermeer, tells me "Tom, this is it, the complete balance sheet for the show.", then and only then will I be able to tell you how successful the show was, from a monetary and quantitative standpoint.
- From the perspective of an attendee at the show, from your vantage point, and from mine, we can say that the show was a success. The way we know how many people paid admission is done in three steps: (1) we count the coupons, and that tells us how many paid the reduced fee (\$10

this year); that number was about 2600, perhaps a few more, (2) John tells us how much he deposited in the bank as a result of admissions; we then subtract the coupon fees (in our example, 2600 \* \$10) from that total, divide by the nominal admission fee (\$12 this year) and we have the balance, (3) we add the coupon numbers and the figure we just came up with for a total. By rough count it was between 3100 and 3200 paid admissions. This is in the range which we hope to realize every year

- Starting last September, you heard or read the "**no show? (then) no SOOS!**" mantra till you were quite tired of it. But it is true. As Jay Norris said at our most recent executive (i.e. directors') meeting, "If we have 2 disastrous shows in a row, our bank balance is essentially zero". It is the proceeds we generate at the show which enable us to have the splendid program which we roll out month in, month out, year in, year out.
- The most important thing for the chairperson to do is to make everyone in the society - whether you are part of the committee which puts the show together, or were a volunteer at the show, or whether because of circumstances in your lives it was not possible for you to help out, or whether you have just joined the society - feel good about the show. For a person such as I who is most comfortable banging the keys on a laptop, this is a challenge. Having helpmates with people skills is essential in such a situation, and indeed I had helpmates with these skills: bless you!
- To make a show work, we need people who accept a role, and then accept full responsibility for it. It is no sin to know you are in trouble, and ask for help. It is in fact a strength to know that assistance is required and to seek it out. This happens at every show, but a team pulls together; this is trite but so true. As far as I am concerned, there were few instances where this extra help was required and that is a testament to the work which the committee members did:
  - these are your committee members: Bob Dowzansky, Don Wyatt, Doug Kennedy, Frank Maine, Jay Norris, John Vermeer, Linda Kafka, Liz McAlpine, Mario Ferrusi, Marion Curry, Max Wilson, Sue Loftus, Susan Shaw, Terry Kennedy, Wayne Hingston. I need to include Iryna Bonya for the speaker program and the one whom I

have given the nickname of "benign dictator of the plant-&-coat check", Judy Torrie

- Thanks needs to go to those of you who were not on the committee but whose work as volunteers at the show was critical to our success. You were the face of the society to the public, and from the comments which I have received, you conducted yourselves magnificently.
- Those of you who entered a display, my thanks.
- And we all know that the public comes to purchase the many, varied, and colourful orchids which our vendors offer for sale. Where else would one find such a stunning array of beauties in one place, orchids which are common, and orchids which are a delight to the connoisseur? Certainly not at Rona or Metro!
- As you know, getting the word out to the public is one of the most important things we can do. Even before we had the posters and coupons ready, some of you were telling me that you would be taking many of each. And when I did bring these items to the meetings, I was astounded at how fast they disappeared, and then you asked for more. That was really touching and meant so much. My wife, Linda, reminds me constantly not to name individuals as I always leave out some folks who are equally deserving. So here is what I will do: mention 2 of you, with no names. But you should be able to recognize yourselves. And in doing it this way, I want each of you who helped with the delivery of posters and coupons to say "Hey, Tom is talking about me!" One of you spoke to me at the March meeting and told me your secrets for getting posters and coupons into libraries in your area. The other person took several bundles of posters and coupons to a very large shopping mall knowing that interest in orchids and in a good show would play well with customers at that centre. These are but two examples and, as noted, I am using to exemplify what all of you did.
- The committee will have a wrap-up meeting on March 29 at the TBG, 7 PM. We will look back at what we did well and what we had problems with. We will then look ahead and indicate what we might do better next time.
- The show is dead. Long live the show!

## Coming Events

### 2011

25-26-27, Manitoba Orchid Society Show

#### April

1, Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, Rochester, NY.

2, Toronto centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, Judges training 10 am, Judging 1 pm.

3, **SOOS meeting** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.

9-10, Orchid Expo, Les Orchidophiles de Montreal, and Montreal Centre judging.

16-17, Toronto AOA Show, Multi-purpose Hall, Center for Information and Community Services, 2330 Midland Avenue, Toronto,

Québec, "Orchidofolie 2011"

23-24, Ottawa Orchid Show.

**27th - May 1st** Orchids a la Louisienne AOS meetings, Shreveport, Louisiana.

#### May

1, **SOOS meeting** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.

7, Toronto Centre, Toronto Botanical Garden, Judges training 10 am, Judging 1 pm.

21, Montreal/Toronto semi annual meeting and judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal.

#### June

4, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, Judges training 10 am, Judging 1 pm.

5, **SOOS meeting** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.

18, Montréal Centre – Jardin botanique de Montréal

### AOS Judging Results, Toronto Centre March 5, 2011

Paph. sanderianum (12 plants AQ-AOS)

Paph. sanderianum 'Dr. John Doherty' AM-AOS  
84 pts.

Paph. sanderianum 'Sam Tsui' AM-AOS 84 pts.

Paph. sanderianum 'Madelyn Camille' HCC-AOS 75 pts.

Paph. sanderianum 'Jordyn Bryn' HCC-AOS 76 pts.

Paph. sanderianum 'Marcia Doherty' HCC-AOS 77 pts.

Paph. sanderianum 'Holly Nicole' HCC-AOS 77 pts.

All the above belong to John Doherty.

Lycaste Avalon (Always x Macama) AM-AOS 80 pts. DiCiommo Orchids

Cymbidium Jean Brummity (devonianum x eburneum) HCC-AOS 77 pts. Jeanne Kaeding

Dracula hirtzii forma xanthina 'Angel Glow' AM-AOS 84 pts. Mario & Conni Ferrusi

Dracula verticulosa var xanthina 'Colombian Beauty' AM-AOS 83 pts. Mario & Conni Ferrusi

Dracula verticulosa var xanthina 'Colombian Beauty' CHM-AOS 86 pts. Mario & Conni Ferrusi

Odontoglossum nevadense 'Beckendorf's Magic' CHM-AOS 84 pts. Mario & Conni Ferrusi

#### **London Orchid Society Show, March 19:**

Dendrobium ionopus '?' CHM-AOS 81 points, Calvin Wong

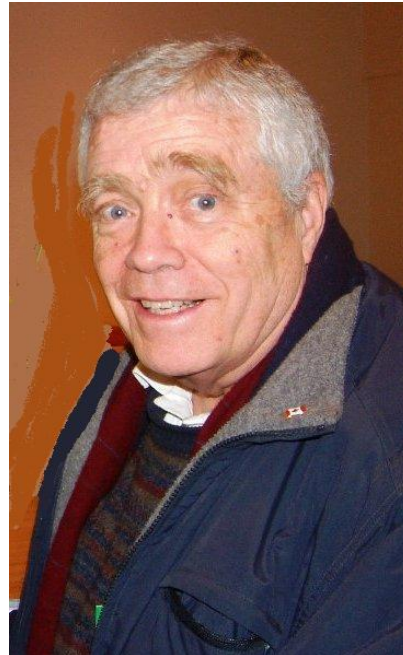
Angulocaste Santa Barbara 'Marsh Hollow' HCC-AOS 79 points, Mario & Conni Ferrusi.

Odontoglossum Stroperry '?' AM-AOS 81 points, Mario & Conni Ferrusi.

Odontocidium Tiger Parade 'Larry Sandford' HCC-AOS 79 points, Mario & Conni Ferrusi.

#### **Plant of the Month**

The plant of the month went to John Spears for his gorgeous *Phalaenopsis amabilis*. It is rare that one



can see this species grown and bloomed to the calibre that John achieved. The flowers were not just more numerous than is typical for this species, they were also larger and perfectly shingled. This is yet another plant from John's magical solarium, which seems to be a very happy orchid heaven. But maybe one of the reasons of John's successes is that he meticulously looks after his plants? Hmm... Congratulations, John!

#### **Orchid Ramblings....(by Inge Poot)**

Peter and I just came back from a nice orchid show in London, Ontario. The plants I saw there reminded me of portions of a talk I heard by Jason Fischer recently in Edmonton, Alberta.

An exhibit in London had a most unusual *Cymbidium goeringii* the little single flowered miniature Japanese cymbidium that has been in cultivation so long that more horticultural varieties have been selected than I can possibly cover here. The species has a strange scent!

The variety shown at the show had a single 3 to 4 cm green flower with white tips to the sepals and petals. It was charming and I presume the colour did not have to be forced as in the yellow and orange clones. In the latter the flowers would be muddy if they were allowed to grow in normal light. To get the clear pastels, the bud is enclosed in 8" tall black paper tube the base of which is anchored to the potting medium with a moss blanket. It does not allow green



pigments(chloroplasts) to form in the flower(s) and the tube is only removed when the bud is ready to expand. The potting medium is recommended to consist of layers of coarse, medium and fine (top) pumice. Hydroponic fertilizers such as MSU have to be used in this inert medium, but it stops rotting rather well.

Jason Fischer showed many varieties but two stood out for me: 'Shuran' with yellow flowers and white bracts (tube-bleached, of course) was the most spectacular, but also the most expensive at \$1000 per bulb...

More affordable was 'Mebina' with wide orange segments in the flowers and costing \$ 75 to 100 per bulb.

Another species seen at London in several displays was ***Sedirea japonica***.



Photo from Orchidwhiz

The Japanese name for the species is Nagoran, where Nago is the mountain it was named for and "ran" means "orchid". The plant looks like a miniature Phalaenopsis with pendant to arching inflorescences with somewhat open white flowers with red bars on the lateral sepals and magenta blotches on the lips. The intensity of the markings varies quite a bit and so does the flower size. This species' flowers have a lovely citrus scent and should be grown cooler than Phalaenopsis. Jason recommended the day highs to be in the 50's Fahrenheit that is above 10 degrees Celsius. He also warned that unlike Phalaenopsis the plants cannot be constantly wet.

Forms with round variegated leaves are the most prized in Japan and therefore cost the most.

The easiest Japanese orchid to grow is ***Neofinetia falcata***. The thing to remember with it is that the forms with lots of leaf variegation need to be grown in lower light.



photo from Orchidwhiz

The white flowers with more or less gracefully backswept sepals and petals and with a long curved spur are produced in few flowered inflorescences mostly in July. They have a delightful Pina Colada or butterscotch scent. The plants need a winter rest. My two plants are only now (middle of March) starting to grow new roots and need to get their annual repotting. They are grown in long strand New Zealand sphagnum moss potted in such a way that the interior of the moss ball is hollow. Terry Kowalczyk will show you how this is done at the April, 2011 SOOS meeting.

Some of the different variegations were shown in an exhibit at our own Valentine's Day show in Terry Kowalczyk's display. Someone walked off with a box of his special babies (probably confusing the box as one of their own boxes) at the close of the show and Terry fervently hopes that they get returned to him.

In the following varieties, I apologize for any misspellings of the Japanese names, since I did not get a chance to have them proof-read by Jason Fischer.

The variety 'Hanagoromo' has yellow variegated tips to the leaves and is the only variety that will breed fairly true from seed.

'Mangetsu' is a variety with yellow margins to the leaves and can be purchased for about \$300 per growth.

'Botannisshiki' is a variety with pink roots that have reddish growing tips.....neat!

'Syutenoh' or 'Red Emperor' has reddish spurs and root tips that shade from green to light red to dark red at the youngest portion.

'Benisuzume' is the best so-called "red" It actually has a pink tinge to the flowers. Its scent is different too –more like bubble gum.

'Hisui' or 'Jade' has green flowers and the flowers will be greener if the plant is grown cool, in low light.

'Kibana' has yellow flowers. It flowers before or after the peak bloom period of the white or pink flushed flowered varieties.

'Mumei' means 'no name' and means it is a variety selected by someone who has not given it a name.

'Manyiushage' is the last and to me the best of the varieties I will cover. This variety was shown at our show and given an award. It has white flowers, each with three gracefully out-curved spurs. Do not buy seedlings, since very few come true from seed.

## A Star is born.

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Our website is up and running. If you have any questions please feel free to email us at:

[crystalstarorchids@gmail.com](mailto:crystalstarorchids@gmail.com) or call

Eric Lee at (905) 478-8398.

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## March 2011 Show Table

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance	Cattleya (Laeliocattleya) Purple Cascade 'Fragrance Beauty' <i>Alex Antanaitis</i>	<i>Epidendrum pseudepidendrum</i> <i>Linda Gough</i>	Cattleya (Sophrolaeliocattleya) Sierra Doll
Class 2 Paphiopedilum	Paphiopedilum Macabre <i>Joe Madden</i>	Paphiopedilum Gold Dollar <i>Henry Glowka</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum liemianum</i> <i>Michael Hwang</i>
Class 3 Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance	<b><i>Phalaenopsis amabilis</i></b> <b><i>John Spears</i></b>	Doritaenopsis Mount Lip <i>Synea Tan</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis stuartiana</i> x <i>Sedirea japonica</i> <i>Jay Norris and Max Wilson</i>
Class 4 Oncidium and related	Wilsonara Tigrsette 'Wild Court' AM/AOS-RHS <i>Synea Tan</i>		
Class 7 All Others	<i>Phaius tankervilleae</i> <i>Jean Chang</i>		
Class 9 Baskets or Displays	Dendrobium basket <i>Sue Loftus</i>		