

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

December 2008 NEWS

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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.soos.ca Member of the Canadian Orchid Congress; Affiliated with the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society, and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance

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

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

Next Meeting: December 7, Toronto Botanical Garden, Sales at 12 noon, Program at 1 pm.

This is our much anticipated **annual auction and potluck meeting**. Proceeds of the auction will be split between the society itself, and the AOS Toronto Judging Centre.

Please bring some culinary treat (food) for sharing with fellow members. And dip into your cash reserves so that the items which you cannot live without and are available via the auction will be yours at the end of the day.

Vendors and Buyers please note: Sales start at 12 noon. We need to have time to set up the room and the vending stations without the interference of the public and members not involved in the setup process. Please do not attempt to buy or sell before 12 or during the meeting.

Your 2009 SOOS Membership Renewal form was included in the last two newsletters. Please fill it out and take it or mail it to the Membership secretary Hess Pommells, Apt. 503, 370 Dixon Road, Weston, Ontario, M9R 1T2. Membership remains at a bargain \$25 per calendar year.

SOOS President's Remarks

Hello fellow orchid lovers.

As the December 7 SOOS meeting at the TBG is an auction and potluck affair, I'll employ the latter concept as inspiration for this session of the (beloved) "President's Remarks" part of the newsletter. If you are looking for a clean flow through what you have started to read, disabuse yourself of the notion toute de suite!

This month, December, is based on the Latin word for ten, or decem. This is because the Roman calendar started in March of the given year. From September through December, the months reflect these numbers, 7 through 10.

For reasons which should be apparent to members, our current Vice President, or VP, Yvonne Schreiber has told us that she will not be able to step up to the job of SOOS president come January 1, 2010, just over a year hence. What I had been doing is keeping her in the loop on what I was doing behind the scenes so that she would have a leg up when she became president. By this time next year, we will be looking for new officers and directors of the society. I am asking each of you now, if you feel as if you would like, or would be willing, to succeed me as SOOS president, please talk with me. You have my email id, and my phone number. Even if you just want to know what the job entails out of interest's sake, let's converse. Keep in mind that I had a grand tenure of 4 years as a SOOS member before I was elected president; so lack of time in SOOS is no impediment to assuming this office. Give this a think, please. "You can do it. We can help!"

To make it official, the chairman's role of the SOOS Conservation Committee has been passed from Wayne Hingston to Kiet Tong. Kiet is an energetic young man with a passion for orchids of both the tropical and the native, terrestrial kind. Part of our mandate in the society is conservation. We are struggling with the restoration of native orchids locally and will continue to provide you with periodic updates.

Membership stands at the 250 person level as per the latest report which I received from Peter Poot. We really need to keep all of you as members. And we would also warmly welcome all new members.

Fall below a critical mass, and demise is sure to happen, and all too quickly. There will always be orchids available, but perhaps only Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums, both of which are delightful. But without a vibrant orchid society and our partners, the vendors, the orchid world would be vastly impoverished. Not to rain doom and gloom though. We have a Suggestion Box, courtesy Peter and Liz; please do tell us what you like, loathe, want to see introduced or tweaked. What I would hate to see happen is for a member to drift off without at least letting us know what we can do to restore her or his faith and interest in orchids and SOOS. Perhaps a Christmas gift of a SOOS membership to a botanically-entranced friend is in your plans?

The speaker program from Summerfest 2008 through September 2009 has been, and promises to be, terrific! Laura Liebgott, one of our directors, is a teacher. She volunteered to create a poster, in conjunction with some of her students; this poster shows the speakers and the dates on which they will be here with us. Unless I miss my guess, it's in the glass case in the lobby of the TBG. We hope that this artifact catches the eye of visitors to the TBG, and encourages them to consider membership in SOOS and, of course, to purchase orchids from our vendors.

We have started work on a new brochure for SOOS, under the direction of Terry Kennedy and Linda Kafka. Linda is the daughter of the late John Kafka, orchid grower extraordinaire. So the old adage that "The apple does not fall far from the tree" is one which holds true for Linda.

OK, that'll do it in the wrap-up for 2009. See you on December 7. And remember to bring something to eat, plus some orchid-related item for the auction.

As ever, I end these remarks by saying here are my email id: asimina@sympatico.ca and phone number: 416-449-7907.

Welcome New Members
Edward Cartwright, Marlene Young

Coming Events

December

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

7, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon

2009

January

3, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm.

4, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon

February

1, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon

14,15 SOOS Show, **Toronto Centre February judging**, Toronto Botanical Garden .

28, Mar. 1, RBG Orchid Society Show , **Toronto Centre March judging**, Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington.

March

1, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon

21-22, London Orchid Society Show

28-29, Orchidexpo, Montreal, **Montreal Centre judging**.

April

3, Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, Rochester, N.Y.

4, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm.

5, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, noon
11,12, TAOA show, Toronto.

18-19, Les Orchidophiles. de Quebec show, **Montreal Centre judging**, Quebec City.

25,26, Ottawa Orchid Society show.

The 30th Annual Orchid Show

22-26, American Orchid Society members meeting and show, Houston, Texas.

Newcomers' Meetings

Wayne Hingston will once again present his excellent series on the culture of the most popular types of hobby orchids. These sessions are for members who have just started in orchids and will be presented at the Toronto Botanical Garden Board Room on the following **Monday** evenings at 7 pm:

Dec 15, 2008

Jan 12, 2009

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

The 30th Annual Orchid Show



The show on Feb. 14 and 15, 2009 is our thirtieth show. Every year, the show committee has organized a remarkable showcase to display orchids. Thousands of visitors and members have

experienced the show. This year it happens on Valentine's Day, an occasion associated with love and beauty. We supply the beauty part of the equation.

Posters and Coupons will be available at the December meeting. If you want a large number of coupons, please call Wayne Hingston in advance of the meeting and they will be pre-bundled for you.

Our show would not be possible unless our members volunteer their time. I am asking that you decide how you want to help and sign up at either the December or January meetings. Volunteers enter the show for free.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at the December and January meetings. You can choose as many as possible and control your scheduling times. Your choices are:

Set-up/Take-down: Thursday and Sunday evening and Friday 10 to 6

Security: Friday, Saturday 10 to 5, Sunday 8 to 5

Kitchen: Friday, Saturday 10 to 5, Sunday 8 to 5

Clerking: Saturday morning 7 to 10 am

Cloak Room: Saturday 10 to 5, Sunday 8 to 5

Tour Guides: Saturday 12 to 4, Sunday 12 to 4

If you are unable to make the meetings or have any questions call Wayne Hingston at 905-649-2467.

Montreal Show Results

Joe O'Regan placed an exhibit in this show for SOOS. Plants were provided by Aina Balodis, Wayne Eyles, Jay Norris, Inge and Peter Poot and Joe himself. The exhibit received first for visiting orchid society, and third in the exhibits over 26 plants category. Thank you all for your contributions and congratulations to the ribbon winners which were as follows:

Aina Balodis:

First place for Howeara Lava Burst
Second place for Cattleya claesiana x Dubiosa
Third place for Colmonara Red Cat

Wayne Eyles:

First place for Brassavola hybrid
Second place for Phragmipedium Mary Bess.
Third place for Paphiopedilum Schaezchen
Third place for Paphiopedilum Rory Jones
Third place for Paphiopedilum Maudiae.

Joe O'Regan:

First place for Sc. Goldstone x C. Chocolate?
Joe also did a display for SOOS at the Niagara show in St. Catherines.

AOS Judging Results

Niagara Region Orchid Society Show, November 8, 2008

Paphiopedilum Berenice 'Mem. Don Van Londersele',
CCM-AOS 80 points (lowii x phiippinense)
Coelogyne zamboangense 'Rapier' CHM-AOS 82
points, Doug and Terry Kennedy.
Masdevallia Harold Ripley 'Nori's Gift' AM-AOS 84
points (Monarch x Marguerite)
Galeandra chapadensis 'Lyn Valley Bells' CHM-AOS
83 points
Tuberolabium kotoense 'Mort' CCM-AOS 83 points,
Dwayne Levy.
Habenaria lucida CBR-AOS

On Making an Orchid Display by

Erika Lorincz

I have been setting up small orchid displays at three orchid shows for nearly 20 years. These are mostly small tabletop arrangements containing invariably from 15 to 25 plants. The orchids change with the seasons, but the set-up and the paraphernalia are basically always the same. I thought about changing the set-up and bringing in some artistic aspects to the display, but then I asked myself: "What do I



Erika Lorincz display at the Niagara region show won the COC medal for most artistic display by an individual last November 8.

really want to say with my orchids?"

Because I do not have a greenhouse, the supply of blooming plants is quite often limited, and they have to be fresh, presentable and blooming for the duration of the show.

To bring the blooms into focus, I use black cloth in the background, as well as on the table top. My favourite orchids are species of Angreacoids, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, Pleurothallids, and small Vandaceous orchids. But hybrids are also used because of their beauty. I wrap all pots in moss and stage them at various heights using upturned pots. The front of the display is edged in with slivers of granite from the ancient rock formations of the Precambrian shield near Parry Sound and a small piece of dark bakelite gives the illusion of a still pond. Between the rocks and the orchids, I place some lichens. This is like a statement of contrast between the highly evolved and specialised orchids and the primitive lichen, a plant that can live on rocks without roots, bakes to a crust in the sun, softens to a sponge in the rain and gets its food from the nitrogen in the air.

Some times I use a piece or two of driftwood or a black screen. I light up the display with two small quartz lights from the side. This brings out the jewel like brilliance of red flowers and the lustre of white ones.

So I keep making my orchid displays the way I always do. I believe the French when they say: "The more things change, the more they stay the same". And what difference does it make anyway if a 4 billion year old rock in my display is used for another year. Editor. Erika does wonderful small well finished orchid

displays. By now we all recognise her trademark rocks and lichens. Thank you Erika for your displays and the philosophy.

Cattleya Breeding Characteristics

by Jean Allen-Ikeson (Edited by Inge Poot,
Photographs courtesy of AQ+ and Orchid Wiz)

Hybridizing is anything but cut and dry - it is a mixture of observation, more observation, science, art and luck!! As judges, if something has pleasing symmetrical form and strong clear colour, we are drawn to it although it may not be the 'ideal' form as defined by the judging handbook. Hybridizers work for flowers that advance towards the judging standard but are also pleasing plants when not in flower as well as being easy to grow and easy to flower.

What should be considered in hybrids?

1.Ploidy is a term used to specify how many multiples of the normal number(n) of chromosomes for the species are found in the plant in question. The normal condition for wild plants is that each chromosome is there in two versions and this is called diploid(2n). Triploids,(3n) have three versions of each chromosome -not necessarily all the same-usually don't breed, (because the division mechanism of plants is designed to pull apart pairs of the same chromosome and it gets all messed up when there are three copies present), but are often more consistent in a cross-more like a mericlone.---Tetraploids (four copies or 4n)produce larger flowers of heavier substance: this is particularly rewarded for catts because the pointing system gives them twice the points for substance than any other genus---because in the past they were the most desirable genus for the cut flower trade and the old standard catts tended to be floppy.

2. Unique breeding characteristics:

Blc. Ranger Six 'A-OK'was the only plant of about 900 seedlings that flowered white. And what a white it was! It had brilliant yellow and orange eyes in the lip-and became an important breeding plant.

Jerry Fischer sold an unflowered *Phragmipedium besseae* to a customer and some time later got an angry telephone call from this customer complaining that the plant had bloomed with a yellow flower, not with a red one. Jerry quickly asked the customer to return the plant and promised a guaranteed red flowering plant in return! He now had a yellow

besseae which would go on to be a prolific parent for many lovely crosses!

3.Does it breed?

Many of our hybrids are the result of luck and circumstance: both parents were in bloom at about the same time tempting the owner to play bee; if seeds result this is not the end of worries. Many seeds don't germinate or the seedlings die when they get out of flask. The cross must ACTUALLY produce seedlings that survive out of flask.

Cattleya trianae

C. trianae is a winter bloomer and the 5-6"(7.5 -10cm) flowers last up to a month. Compared to most large flowered cattleyas, the growth is compact. It has a ridge down the middle of the petal that helps stiffen the less than desirable substance. The ridge in the petals tends to persist for generations and is still showing on the petals of *C. trianae* hybrid *Lc Sergio Araujo* even though a ridge is absent in the *L. alarrii* parent. Some clones show 'feathering' of colour on the petals - this is genetic and NOT a virus. Like many species of cattleya, there are numerous colour varieties which open a huge pallet of colour for hybridizers.

The tendency for some clones to have dark petal tips(peloric or trying to be like a lip), especially in variety *mooreana* and other species such as *C. warscewiczii*, as well as *C. mossiae* and *C. mendelii* was a useful trait for later splash petal breeding that did not involve *C. intermedia* var *acquinii*. There is some suggestion that some clones such as 'President' FCC were derived from peloric forms early on, the same as has happened with *C. intermedia* var *acquinii*.

While many of the blue varieties were sterile, 'Blue Boy' was not.

In crosses, *trianae* reduces flower count per stem, the flowers tend to be crowded and dorsals can be 'floppy' BUT it is dominant for round flower form, the colour on the end of the lip and the yellow eyes in the throat. In many crosses, *trianae* contributes the round, flat form while *C labiata* contributes size. The great parent *C. Horace*, which is so dominant for flat, round form, is an offspring of *C. trianae*. That *C. Horace* is a great parent for form derives from the *C. trianae* species in its background. It is recessive for colour. Crosses involving *C dowiana* open the lip and this is discussed with *C. dowiana*.

But with the rest of the second generation hybrids, you could almost look at them in black and white and think they were all the same thing, they are so uniform with the exception of the lack of colour on the lip of C. Bow Bells. C. Bow Bells was a chance tetraploid trianae cross and was the first truly great large white cattleya and set a new standard along with its offspring C. Bob Betts (C. Bow Bells X C.



C. Bob Betts 'Goliath' (Bow Bells x *mossiae*)

mossiae). These flowers are large, flat, full and of heavy substance.

Bc Deesse(Bc. Ferrieres X C. Lamartine) is another second generation C. trianae cross. Deesse and its offspring Bc Mount Anderson (Bc Deesse X C. Bow Bells) were both tetraploids and some of the first to have a huge influence on standard white hybridizing, although the alba forms can have a faint pink flush, especially in high light.

C schroderae

The bright orange disk in the trumpet-shaped lip is dominant. The weak substance is recessive. It produces pale lavenders or pinks. However, the white clones were once used to improve form in white breeding. Many of the first white hybrids were actually very pale lavenders or blushed.

Comparing the effect of trianae and schroderae on L alaoirii: the flowers of the hybrids are relatively similar except for the dominant lip marking of their parents. Contrast of clear colour is always desirable in hybrids and the orange in the lip from schroderae adds drama to its hybrids.

The same genetic effects occur with crosses of these two parents, C. trianae and C. schroederae with an entirely different and distinct species, C aurantica. C. aurantiaca has many small orange to yellow

flowers in a crowded head and the petals tend to point forward. Yet in hybrids with the above mentioned species we get nearly identical, quite good form, but the lip patterns make them distinct. Please note that C Wolteriana (C. aurantiaca X C. schroderae) is not the same as C Woltersiana, where the latter is a parent of Horace (C. trianae X C.Woltersiana) and is itself a hybrid of dowiana, *mossiae* twice and other large standard catt species.

Cattleya labiata

C. labiata has a rich variety of colour forms, the long tubular lip and the good arrangement of the many flowers on upright stems is a bonus although the cupping of the petals is a minus. Substance is not great but is acceptable. C. labiata is fall flowering and can be forced to flower within a range of seasons by altering light levels. This was important commercially during the height of the cut flower boom. Most forms are lavender although the white forms were used extensively in breeding whites. The distinct fragrance persists for generations.

Like the two previous species, the lip pattern is also dominant and consists of dark colour partially separating the yellow in the throat. If you add C. dowiana to the mix, the lovely lips will be more open and flat and on top of that C. dowiana adds darkened veins in the lip.

The nice colours of C. labiata can be intensified by using C. dowiana. This can be seen in C. Nigrella (C. Fabia, a cross of dowiana and labiata X C. Ypres:, where Ypres is Fabia X Mrs Pitt and Mrs Pitt is dowiana X harrisoniana) showing how dowiana has intensified the colour of labiata to produce deeper red lavenders and purples.

Cattleya mendelii

The most important aspect is the rose pigments found in this species. However since mendelii tends to be recessive for colour but dominant for form like its great grandchild C.Horace, the breeding to get the colour to show is not simple. Only the saturated dark triangle on the lip is dominant and can persist for many generations.

C mossiae

Bloom time for cut flower producers meant that species that flowered during Christmas, Easter or the May - June Wedding season were favoured. C

mossiae therefore became known as the Easter Orchid. It is dominant for increasing the number of flowers per inflorescence and producing multiple leads, a trait also valued by cut flower producers. It has narrower segments than *C. labiata*, and petals that tend to arch and fall forward, which is difficult to breed out. The variety 'RE Patterson' was considered the best clone because of exceptionally upright petals and it produced hybrids whose petals did not droop. However the variety *reineckiana* 'Young's Variety' reputedly had ten inch flowers and was used to create *Lc Canhamiana* with *L. purpurata*. *Lc. Canhamiana* is still popular after 60 years, especially the blue forms.

Some great hybrids with *C. mossiae* are Lynn Spencer (Bob Betts X White Blossom) and Esbetts (Bob Betts X Estelle). *C. Princess Bells* a hybrid of *Empress Bells* X Bob Betts, yields outstanding whites, while *C. Irene Finney* is a rich spring lavender and *C. George King* is one of the best novelty colour peach/salmon parents for outstanding form on a relatively compact plant.

C. Ruth Gee is probably the best white ever made. It looks good year in and year out no matter what the culture. And there are a large number of superior clones. *Ruth Gee* contains 8 species but is 44% *C. mossiae* breeding.

Cattleya percivaliana

This species has relatively compact plant size for a large cattleya and produces multiple leads. However the flowers are much smaller than those of many other large flowered species. Also, the compact growth made it a desirable pot plant. The tetraploid forms are rather more flat and full than diploids and the clone 'Summit' is larger and therefore was considered more acceptable as a cut flower. It has strong aromatic fragrance that not everyone likes.

The species has a lip with an orange-gold tubular throat which flares to a flat presentation and changes abruptly to dark purple half-way down the lip, but leaving a lavender picotee around the edge.

A picotee inherited from this species frames the lip on many hybrids for generations. The orange in the throat and the rich lip colour are dominant. But for the most part the flowers on the hybrids are rather unexciting - only the compact plant size saves its bacon.

Cattleya warneri

C warneri is similar to *labiata* but blooms in the late spring wedding season and has smaller plant size. The lavender colour is clear, unlike the graininess of some other species. It, like most of the other large flowered species, has a number of colour varieties: white, semi alba, blue and rich lavenders, some of which are rather dark.

C. warneri passes on its wide leaves for many generations. It is also dominant for carriage and arrangement of the inflorescence although the form is mediocre. But the lip is what is recognizable in its hybrids. While it is known for its contribution to white breeding from a pure white form, it is in *coerulea*, BLUE, breeding that it is has been invaluable. Anyone who has grown *C. Sea Breeze* (*C. warneri* X *C. walkeriana*) knows that like *warneri*, it has compact growth that, unlike *C walkeriana*, is very vigorous and quickly turns into a specimen plant that is highly floriferous under a variety of growing conditions.

Cattleya lueddemanniana

C lueddemanniana is spring flowering and while a beautiful flower, it has weak substance, a low flower count and can sometimes be crowded. There are two forms: a larger, better formed coastal (lower elevation) form and an inland form which is darker and was the one used primarily in hybridizing. It is the colour from this form that has had such an important influence on purple breeding.

The most important hybrid of *C. lueddemanniana* is *Lc Lustre*, which is *Lc Callistoglossa*, a *warscewiczii* times *L purpurata* hybrid, with *lueddemanniana*. Descendants of this cross are noted for size, rich colour and magnificent quality. *Lueddemanniana* had a lot to do with the rich purple colour via *Lc Lustre* of the two famous tetraploid hybrids *Blc Norman's Bay* (*Bc Hartland* X *Lc Ishtar*, where *Lc Ishtar* contains *Lc Lustre*) and *Lc. Bonanza* (*Lc Cavalese*, which contains *Lc. Lustre*, X *C. Prospector*). *Lc Lustre* is the most used hybrid of *lueddemanniana* with 80 first generation hybrids. However no hybrids were created with *Lustre* between the late 60's and the late 90's when Frank Fordyce experimented with it. Unfortunately, like many of his 'experiments' that were registered, other than the odd comment during talks, we have no awards or photo records from which to judge his efforts. He was a bit like Goodale Moir in terms of being the mad experimenter breeding

everything with everything else.

Cattleya warscewiczii

C. warscewiczii, also known as *C. gigas*, is most used for its extreme size, often reaching 20" or more in natural spread. The form is open and the flowers have a tendency to fall forward. The sepals are long and narrow.

The most famous clone is 'Frau Melanie Beyrodt', which was known in the trade as FMB - a name that became so closely associated as a type that it took on the same stature as 'Japhet', standing for *C. Henrietta Japhet*, which was instantly recognizable to florists. FMB was very important in the development of semi albas. Semi albas are whites with red, magenta or purple lips. Alba simply means white flowers.

Another famous clone is 'Firmin Lambeau' FCC/RHS recognized as the first true alba form of the species. This clone played a very important part in learning how whites breed: most early hybrids with the other white forms of *warneri*, *mossiae* and *gaskelliana* produced only lavenders. It was not until the alba form of *labiata* was crossed with an alba *warscewiczii* to produce *C. Amabilis* that white *warscewiczii* hybrids were produced. This clued breeders into the fact that white breeding is influenced by two distinct genes. How they worked this out is the subject of some rather stunning articles in the 60's and 70's in the AOS Bulletin that read like a "CSI" TV show investigation!!!

It was the cross of the semi alba clone FMB with the *C. mossiae* 'Young's Variety' semi alba that produced the famous *C. Enid*. Its popularity and influence on hybrids is apparent in it being used to produce 374 hybrids. It was particularly important because it was floriferous and bloomed at any time of the year - an obvious commercial advantage.

Lc .Summer Belle 'Miss Liberty' is a modern hybrid of *warscewiczii* that has stunning colour , snowy white with a rich contrasting dark purple lip. The colour here is why semi albas continue to be so popular and why mini catt breeders strive to reproduce it on a smaller plant.

Cattleya dowiana and Cattleya aurea

C. dowiana and *aurea* are discussed together because in the earlier days of hybridizing they were lumped for registrations. There is no way of knowing which species produced which hybrid. There have been many attempts to definitely separate the two



***C. dowiana* 'Kathleen'**

but since they are both variable in colour, splitting the two on colour alone is impossible. Flushing occurs in both but it is the clearer yellow forms that we associate with *aurea* that are most useful for hybridizing. *Aurea* also tends to be more floriferous. Both are known as difficult to grow. They reduce the time that the flowers are open. Their open form with petals that curl into a cigar shape and flop forward is a problem that is usually quickly bred out of its hybrids. But it must be pointed out that *dowiana* and *aurea* are unlike all the rest of the species and the dominance of the lip over so many generations is staggering.

Slc Madge Fordyce, a lovely round, full red, is a cross of Sc Doris, a *Cattleya dowiana* x *Sophronitis coccinea* hybrid, and Slc Madd Max. The *C. dowiana* has flattened the tubular lip in the other parent, Slc Madd Max. It is the *C. dowiana* rather than the *Sophronitis coccinea* parent that has this strong trait. It is unfortunate to note that with the new taxonomy, there are now two Sc Doris's - the one containing *C. dowiana* and another that was Lc Doris and is a cross of *C. trianae* and *L. harpophylla*, where the latter is now a *Sophronitis*. One wonders how many other nightmares these changes will dump on us.

Flattening of the lip gives an impression of a larger and more dramatic presentation. The yellow 'eyes' just glow - a plus for hybridizers. However, some judges feel that the perfect flower must have the lip cover at least part of the column. Still, in miniature breeding , some of the species used to reduce size have tiny and/or tightly rolled up lips and in this case everyone agrees that *C. dowiana/ aurea* genetics help

a lot.

C dowiana and aurea are so different in terms of colour and lip from the previous species that it is not surprising that it has played such a huge role in hybridizing. Whether the parent is from one or the other of the two species is not as important as the quality of the clone used in hybridizing, as quality varies considerably for both.

Large full lips in cattleya hybrids of all sizes come primarily from dowiana or aurea and/or from Brassavola (now Rhyncholaelia) digbyana, either of which destroy the form of the rest of the flower. The C. dowiana/aurea is also a large flower. The large, full flat lip with prominent veins can easily be recognized six or eight generations later.

The other important characteristic for breeding is that the yellow intensifies the colour of the other parent frequently giving richer lavenders and purples. Yellow on lavender or purple to produce non sophronitis reds or red tones is commonly seen in cattleya breeding. The wonderful fragrance can also last for many generations.

Even on species such as Sophronitis coccinea and Laelia cinnabarina, C.aurea/dowiana have an immediate effect of enlarging and widening the lip. The form in Lc Charlesworthii (C. dowiana X L. cinnabarina) is something to not be desired but it is interesting when discussing breeding characteristics(it has red flowers with droopy petals but a flat lip, coloured red with a yellow centre). Although most Laelias are dominant for form, the cupping in the sepals and petals, the yellow in the lip and width of the lip which has been opened up are apparent. With Sc Doris, you get the best of both worlds - S. coccinea improves the overall form and reduces plant size while dowiana/aurea adds an improved lip and larger size flower. While Lc. Luminosa (C. dowiana X L. tenebrosa) would make most of us pass it by on a sales table,(it had brick coloured folded sepals and petals with a big purple lip) it never the less has had a huge effect on yellow breeding and is used to intensify colour in reds and purples.

One problem with dowiana is that some of its complex yellow hybrids such as Blc Buttercup had a tendency to cripple (which means the petals tend to fold in half), so that is why the yellow Laelias are so often injected to gain yellow colour and avoid this problem, although their form tends usually towards having narrow segments.

Looking at C. dowiana or aurea hybrids we see the

dominant influence of dowiana/aurea through many generations for rich art shades and a veined lip. We take it for granted, but it is surely the Phrag kovachii of Cattleya breeding for awe value!!

Cattleya intermedia

This is a distinctive compact growing species with numerous colour forms. The plant is bifoliate and the flowers are smaller than those of most unifoliate species. The most common form has pale pink perky flowers of heavy substance and a lip with a dark purple border to the tube over the column, formed by the side lobes and a dark purple apical portion of the spread out mid-lobe.

Selection of superior clones of the species and crossing them has produced fuller and therefore more appealing clones than the average. Indeed, the only two FCC's ever given to intermedia have been awarded since the year 2000 to improved clones, one white and one a pastel pink clone.

The influence of the peloric form 'acquini' is so great that it can almost be dealt with as a separate entity. While some of the large standard catts have flares on the ends of the petals or down the midvein, it is aquinii that plays such an enormous role in hybridizing and opened up an entire recognizable group called flares or splashes. There are certainly other species or combinations that produce flares in other colours such as Lc Trick or Treat but acquini is the king.

When C. intermedia var. acquini is used on a wide variety of parents, stunning offspring result. Blc.Horizon Flight (C. intermedia X Blc Buttercup) has and is still being used in hybridizing although the form in reality is often cupped and recurved. It is the stunning new colour combinations that made it such an outstanding parent in the 80's. The original cross produced less than 30 plants, nearly all of which offered useful possibilities as a parent.

All forms of intermedia are dominant for size, flower count, the pale colour (in non acquini parents)and are recessive for lip colour.

Look for Part II next month.

November 2008 Show Table

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance		Blc. Hwa Yuan Beauty 'Spice Girl' <i>Rosanna Li</i> Encyclia Orchid Jungle <i>Renu</i>	Sophronitis cernua <i>Rosanna Li</i>
Class 2 Paphiopedilum	Paph. barbigerum <i>Michael Hwang</i>	Paph. helenae <i>Michael Hwang</i>	
Class 3 Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance	Vanda Johanne Goutier 'Pomegranate' <i>Cathy Tacoma</i>		
Class 4 Oncidium & related	Oncidium <i>Rosanna Li</i>	Oncidium microchilum <i>Clair Brown</i>	Howeara Karen Martel <i>Anita Kho</i> Oncidium Rosy Sunset 'Pink Bouquet' <i>Renu</i>
Class 5 Cymbidium	Zygonisia cynosure 'Blue Birds' <i>Anita Kho</i>		
Class 6 Dendrobium	Den. bigibbum compactum <i>John Spears</i>	Dockrillia rigida (Den. rigidum) <i>Erika Lorincz</i>	Den. Peng Seng <i>Calvin Lo</i>
Class 7 All Others	Acineta beyrodtiana Tom Shields	Stelis nexipous <i>Anita Kho</i>	Maxillaria <i>Don Wyatt</i> Cyc. bathiorum 'Pink Dove' <i>Rosanna Li</i>



Acineta beyrodtiana grown by **Tom Shields** was chosen plant of the month. He grows it intermediate to cool (50degrees C. minimum in winter, not too hot in summer) in diffuse high light near a window. It is kept evenly moist in a mixture of Chilean sphagnum and coarse perlite in a wood slat basket. It gets half strength fertilizer once a week in summer. This very interesting plant produces an inflorescence that grows down through the medium like Stanhopeas. Our speaker thought that it might be Acineta superba. These two species can be very similar in colouring. Thanks Tom for bringing in a fine specimen for us all to admire.