

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

January 2008 NEWS

Volume 43, Issue 1



***Seasons Greetings to All. May the
New Year bring you lots of flowers.***



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

Next Annual Show: February 9-10, 2008, Get ready!!!

Program: The January 6 SOOS meeting will have as its guest speaker Margaret Hewings. Her subject will be "Wild Orchids of the Bruce Peninsula and Newfoundland". She is a SOOS member, and belongs to the Central Ontario Orchid Society (COOS) and the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) orchid Society. Margaret is the COC representative for the RBGOS and the Wild Orchid Conservation Representative. Her travels are extensive, and have taken her to many areas of Canada, the USA, Europe, and the Middle East to view Wild orchids in their natural habitat.

Toronto Botanical Gardens, Floral Hall

Sales 12:00,

Program 1:00 pm

**Your 2007 Membership Expires December 31, Please
Renew Now for Another Year of Quality Orchid
Meetings**

President's Message

Hello fellow orchid lovers.

This is my first note to you as president of SOOS. It is an honour which, when I joined the society in April 2004, was beyond even my vivid imagination. Events can sometimes move with an alarming speed, so with your help, let's continue what Jay has bequeathed us in his 2 full terms as our president. I will look to the senior members of the board for guidance so that my own unfamiliarity with the subtleties and history of the society do not go up in smoke.

You may think that those of us who were, are, or even will be SOOS president must have credentials in orchid growing as long as Methuselah's beard. Not so! What follows will, I hope, encourage you to be active members of the society. In the fullness of time, as we gain knowledge and confidence with orchids and their care, we would do well to consider a role on our board of directors; the society is only as good as what we put into it. My own background is, vocationally, a retiree after 40 years with IBM in software development. In hobbist terms, it is with native plants, ones that are indigenous to an area versus introduced. I am self taught, and have focused primarily on woody plants and their propagation: trees, shrubs, vines. The herbaceous members of the native plant community include many orchids, indigenous to Canada and other parts of North America and points south. When you purchase a Phragmipedium, it is a proud American, albeit from Central to South America. Look at our website, and our SOOS logo. It is of a native lady's-slipper orchid, the yellow one, *Cypripedium parviflorum*, though I am not rash enough to hazard a guess as to which of the 2 varieties it is. My initial and abiding interest in orchids is with the native terrestrials. And that is why I am a member of the SOOS Conservation Committee.

Please come up to me and say hello, or "Can we discuss.....?", or tell me your ideas or concerns at meetings. I found that when I joined SOOS, it was not always easy to get to know people. So, here is my email id: asimina@sympatico.ca . My colleagues on the board will tell you that I am addicted to email, so fire away! If you need to, you may reach me at 416-449-7907. When I first led

nature walks years ago, I thought that I had to have answers to all questions. With time I learned that the walk was a living organism composed of leader and walk attendees and that the leader will learn as much from the attendees as they do from him. SOOS is no different; we are all constituents of the society". We succeed or fail as a team.

Your New SOOS Board of Directors for 2008-2009

PRESIDENT-----Tom Atkinson
VICE PRESIDENT and LIBRARIAN----Yvonne Schreiber Past President- Jay Norris
TREASURER-----Elizabeth McAlpine
SECRETARY-----Susan Loftus
MEMBERSHIP-Secretary----Hess Pommels
DIRECTORS-----
Chee Chong----- Membership Assistant
Mario Ferrusi -----Program
Peter Poot-----Newsletter editor
Terry Kennedy
Laura Liebgott
Inge Poot
Wayne Eyles
Don Wyatt
Iryna Bonya
Marion Curry
Wendy Hoffman
Henry Glowka
Wayne Hingston
Calvin Wong
Joe O'Regan
Max Wilson

Toronto Judging Centre Auction

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the judges of the Toronto Judging Centre to first of all thank SOOS for allowing us to hold our auction at their Dec. Meeting. I would also like to thank all the donors, most are listed below, but unfortunately we may have missed a name or two. Lastly I would like to thank all the members of SOOS for being so supportive of this auction. The monies raised go a long way in helping the Centre pay its bills and purchase the latest books. Thank you again, Mario Ferrusi

Here is the list of those we were able to identify - there may have been some who dropped items on the table whom we missed - it was rather hectic.

Don Wyatt
SOOS
Bedford Orchids/Howard Ginsberg
Carol Boulet
Sherry Decyk
Eric Lee
Mario Ferrusi
Iryna Bonya
Wendy Hoffman
Annette Bagby
Conni Ferrusi
Schreibers Orchids
Terry and Doug Kennedy
Henry Glowka
Margaret Baird
Joe Oregan
Jay Norris
Jeff Pulis
Cathy McGlade
Inge and Peter Poot

A special thank you to all of you who brought the wonderful holiday food that capped off the afternoon.

Beginner Orchid Culture Instruction

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 Tuesday evenings at 7 pm: Only one left
January 8, 2008

Coming Events

January 2008

5, Toronto Centre Judging, 1 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden
6, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm
8, New Comers Meeting Toronto Botanical Garden Boardroom 7 pm.
16, Jump on Spring, TBG
19, Montreal judging

January 20-21, 2008

AOS Members meeting, Miami, Florida.

Jan 23-27: World Orchid Congress, Miami, Florida. The 19th World Orchid Conference, the most prestigious Orchid event in the world, comes to Miami January 23-27, 2008...Registration packets can be obtained by contacting registration@19woc.com or calling 786-621-9962.

February

2, Toronto Centre Judging, 1 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden
3, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm

Next Annual Show: February 9-10, 2008, Get ready!!!

16, Montreal judging

March

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

2, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm

8-9, RBG Orchid Society Show

13-16, Canada Blooms

15-16, London Orchid Society Show

29-30, Orchidexpo, Montreal

April

4-6, Genesee Orchid society Show, Rochester, NY.

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

6, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, 1 pm

19-20, Toronto Artistic Orchid Show

19, Montreal Judging

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*. The program is shaping up with the following confirmed to date:

- John Doherty from Zephyrus speaking on Disas,
- Howard Ginsberg, Montreal, speaking on the new mini-Cattleyas,
- Marilyn Light, OOS, on Chinese cymbidiums,
- Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids, Maine, on *Phragmipedium kovachii*,
- Bill Thoms, Florida on orchid culture

Visit the displays of plants and the art gallery with its exhibits of juried photography, fine arts and fine handcrafts. Better still, plan to enter one or more categories in the Show. Recognizing the increased availability of supermarket orchids, there will be demonstrations on orchids as cut flower arrangements for the home.

A fabulous gourmet, four course banquet (and COC auction) is planned for Saturday night at the International Restaurant of Algonquin College. In a superb setting, this will be a meal to remember. Taxes, gratuity and entertainment are included in the \$40 ticket. The COC annual general meeting will be held Sunday morning.

The official hotel for the meeting is the nearby Monterey Inn where a special rate of \$99.00 per room has been negotiated, a steal by Ottawa standards. Should you prefer, other Ottawa and nearby Quebec hotels are available: downtown (Marriot, Delta, and Crowne Plaza and others) should you wish to be close to the Parliament Buildings and the market; the Chateau Sheraton in nearby Gatineau is on the Quebec side but easily accessible by car to the Sportsplex, The Southway Inn is close to the airport and accessible to the Show via Hunt Club Drive.

The registration fee is \$80, which includes the cost of the banquet (\$40), the symposium seminars (\$20), and access to lunches (\$20). If purchased separately, lectures will cost \$5 each at the door.

Several other exciting events are planned for this meeting and will be announced in the February registration package. Registration forms for the COC meeting and Symposium and for registration of plants and art for the OOS Show will be available in early February online at the OOS web site and through the COC newsletter. Don't miss this exciting event. Mark April 26-27 on your calendar. Please distribute the attached poster to interested members of your society and remember to reserve the last weekend of April for what promises to be a very exciting Ottawa Show. Please visit our website at <http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com/> where you will find lots of information about the society.

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 Hollebhone, COC rep and COC meeting and Symposium organizer:

613-226-2395 jhollebhone@sympatico.ca



SOOS Display at St. Catherines
by Wendy Hoffman

Niagara Region Show results

The following members contributed to or helped with the SOOS display at St. Catherines: Wendy Hoffman, Lana Soosar, Joe O'Regan, Doug and Terry Kennedy, Monica Lee, Calvin Wong, Don Wyatt, and Mario Ferrusi,

There were ribbons to : Den Blue Violetta x Den Doctor Doyck (Lana Soosar)...1st

Paph William Mathews (Joe O'Regan)...2nd

Bulbo rothschildianum 'A-dori-bil' FCC/AOS (Doug and Terry Kennedy)...3rd

Enc diota var atrorubens (Monica Lee)...2nd

Catt bowringiana 'David Warren' (Wendy Hoffman)...3rd

Cym Autumn Green (Calvin Wong)...3rd

Thank you everyone and especially Wendy for doing the display.

Member News

If you hear of anything affecting one of our members, please let Wayne Eyles know at 905-629-1799 or krum@sympatico.ca.

AOS Judging Results

Niagara Region Orchid Society Show ,

November 10, 2007

Pleur. pansamale var *triangulabia* 'Gerda's Gift' CCM 87 pts. Joyce Medcalf (608 fls. & 169 buds on 109 infls.)

Coelogyne roehussenii 'Mary' CCM 84 pts. Wayne Hoeschle (603 fls. on 12 infls.)

Paph. Hamana Spice 'Crystal Star' HCC 77 pts. (P. Yerba Buena X *P. spicerianum*) Plant Exotica (Eric & Ellen Lee)

Toronto Judging Centre, Dec. 1, 2007

Paph. Ho Chi Minh 'Double Bubble' HCC 76 pts. (*P. delenatii* X *P. vietnamense*) Doug & Terry Kennedy

Masd. Freckles 'Yellow Doll' AM 81 pts. (M. Angel Frost X *M. decumana*) Mario & Conni Ferrusi

Masd. Malcolm Adams 'Dark Star' AM 83 pts. (M. Red Wing X M. Shuttreyana) Mario & Conni Ferrusi

Judging Centre News

At the last AOS trustees meeting the following personnel changes for the Toronto Centre were approved;

Student to Probationary Judge: Gilberto Arrieche,
Senior Judge: Margaret Baird,
Chairman for 2008: Peter Poot;
Vice Chair for 2008 Terry Kennedy.

SOOS VALENTINES ORCHID SHOW

Feb 9-10, 2008

All the sales tables for the 2008 SOOS VALENTINES ORCHID SHOW have been spoken for. You can find the list of vendors on the SOOS website and in this newsletter.

Do tell all your friends about the show and encourage them to attend the show. It will be spectacular.

You can help advertise the 2008 SOOS VALENTINES ORCHID SHOW by distributing the \$2.00off coupons. There are still people out there who haven't heard about the orchid show. Be sure to pick up some coupons at the January meeting.

There are still spaces for individual exhibits. Let Doug know if you are thinking about doing one. It doesn't have to be a large one.



Maxillaria psuedoreichenheimiana in a basket.
December plant of the month by Marion Curry

A special class has been created for those with only a few plants.

Class 8 Single basket/container of any number of orchid plants. Entries may not be part of a display entered in another class.

This allows you to showcase even a single plant or as many as you like. Peter has allowed lots of space for baskets. Here is a chance to experiment with your creativity. Ask anyone who entered this class last year to hear how rewarding the effort is. Even though it would be nice to know about your participation in advance, no last minute entries will be turned away.

Remember that there are several ways to participate in the show. All are equally important.

1. Plants: Prepare your beauties to enter them in your own exhibit, as an entry in the basket class or as part of the SOOS society display. Without your plants there will be nothing for the public to look at. You can't win a trophy or even a ribbon without entering the competition.

2. Volunteers: Many people in many different jobs are needed just to make the show run smoothly. Perhaps December was a little early to be thinking Feb 2007 but now it is time. Decide where your talents are most useful and sign your name. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Robin McLaughlin or Doug. Look for the volunteer signup sheets at the January meeting. Everyone's name should appear on at least one of them. HOSPITALITY and SECURITY need the greatest number of volunteers.

3. Clerks: You are guaranteed to learn something and you will work closely with the AOS judges. This is a great way to find out how and why plants get their ribbons. This takes only a few hours Sat morning.

4. Show Mini Tours: If you love your orchids and you like people, this is the job for you. You don't have to be an expert.

5. Show set-up: Are you too busy weekends? Your help would be much appreciated Thursday evening to lay out the show, set up tables and drape partitions.

If you can't make the January meeting, you can still volunteer by calling our Volunteer Co-ordinator at (416- 778 0014) or me at (905) 727-3319.

Doug Kennedy, Show Chairman

List of Show Vendors

Terry and Doug Kennedy, Orchids In Our Tropics, 15 Wilmac Court, Gormley, ON L0H 1G0 905-727-3319

Calvin Wong, Tropical Gardens Orchids, 27 Greenhill Avenue, Richmond Hill, ON, K4B 3W3 416-471-6939

Rob & Ruthanne Gardiner, Hamilton Greenhouse, 2247 2nd Concession W, RR #1, Lynden, ON L0R1T0, 519 647-3301

Eric and Ellen Lee, Plant Exotica, 4396
Steeles Ave, # E9, Box 67, Markham, ON, L3R
9W1, 905-948-8398

Robin McLaughlin, Ravenvision

Photographic, 1822 Gerrard Street East,
Toronto, ON M4L 2B4, 416-463-7411

Mario Ferrusi, Marsh Hollow, 1129 Cream
Street, Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0, 905-892-4187

Claudio Rossi, Cloud's Orchids, 2409
Honsberger Ave, R.R.#1, Jordan Station, ON L0R
1S0, 905-562-8950

John Doherty, Zephyrus Orchids, 2533 Byng
Road, Windsor, ON N8W 3G1, 519-256-0999

Gary Schreiber, Schreiber's Orchids, Box 88,
Zephyr, ON, L0E 1T0, 905-473-3405

Joe DiCiommo, DiCiommo Orchids, 414 Upper
Ottawa Street, Hamilton, ON L8T 3T1,
905-389-9339

Peter and Sherry Decyk, 512 Enfield Road,
Burlington, ON L7T 2X8, 905-632-1985

Lynne Guimond, Exotic Orchids Plus, 20474
Concession 8, Green Valley, ON K0C 1L0,
613-525-0164

Tom Shields, Orchids Primeval, 19 Lakeview
Ave, Toronto, ON M6J 3B2, 416 531 7082

Roger and An Li Sheng, 37 Mill Road, Ajax,
ON L1S 6J9, 905-426-3478

Joe Kunisch, Bloomfield Orchids, 251 W.
Bloomfield Road, Pittsford, NY 14534,
585-381-4206

Terry Kowalczyk, Flora Peculia, 24 Rockvale
Avenue, Toronto, ON M6E 3A9, 416-658-5359

Marie Farley, MFC Orchids, 6 Place du Moulin,
Ile Bizard, P.Q, H9E 1N2, 514-624-8236

TRAYS OF WATER AND THEIR EFFECT ON HUMIDITY

An interesting question was posed recently on the Orchid Electronic Mail Link. What was the effect, if any, of plants on their own surrounding humidity? I did some measurements on my own plants and discovered some interesting things. I used MICRONTA thermometer/hygrometers placing the sensor within the mass of foliage. Accuracy for this instrument is plus/minus 2% RH and 0.5 degrees C. I took all the measurements in my playroom where I normally grow some Phalaenopsis under lights (and over a tray of water). Since I had

recently brought in trays of Odontoglossums, Paphiopedilums, etc., because of frosty nights (they are quarantined in this room before moving their permanent winter location) I was able to measure the temperature and humidity in amongst these plants too. All had been equilibrated to the ambient temperature and humidity of the room for about twenty-four hours. Room temperature was 20.8 C; RH was 54%. I can report that there was no meaningful difference in Relative Humidity amongst plants growing in my setup over a tray of water (54%) or without water (51%). Neither was there a meaningful difference in Relative Humidity between different groups of plants, growing in different media. Temperature varied from 19.5 to 21.1 degrees Celsius from place to place within the room; humidity varied from 51% to 55%.

Humidity of the outdoor air was probably the more meaningful driver in this situation. When there is a small temperature differential between the outdoor and indoor air and when the outdoor air is somewhat humid (60% RH, its effect greatly overwhelmed any pebble tray humidifying effect. It will be interesting to repeat this experiment when the outdoor air is very cold i.e. -30C (yes, it gets that cold in Ottawa/Hull!). That is when I must rely on a vapour barrier between my growing area and the rest of the home to ensure the humidity generated through misting stays with the plants and does not escape into the house. We normally keep the house humidity at no more than 30% RH during the cold winter months to avoid excessive condensation on the windows (and in the walls). I repeated the experiment the next night before and after watering the plants. While there was still no meaningful difference between trays before watering, there was definitely an increase, from 58% RH to 70% RH, around the plants after watering. I presume that that this was caused through water evaporating from the surfaces of bark and foliage. Misting may be the best way to humidify after all.

Marilyn Light, Chairperson, COC Education Committee.

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Volume 6 - Number 4

December Show Table

Class	First	Second	Third
<i>Class 1</i> Cattleya Alliance	Brassavola subulifolia <i>Wendy Hoffman</i>		
<i>Class 2</i> Paphiopedilum	Paph. Salty 'Val' HCC/AOS <i>Anita Kho</i>	Paph. F. C. Puddle 'Bodnant' FCC/RHS, AM/AOS <i>Wendy Hoffman</i>	Paph. bellatulum <i>Wendy Hoffman</i>
<i>Class 3</i> Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance	Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Colorful Blue' <i>Anita Kho</i>		
<i>Class 4</i> Oncidium and related	Oncidium variegatum <i>Don McLeod</i>	Psychopsis papilio <i>Synea Tan</i>	Rodriguezia secunda <i>Synea Tan</i>
<i>Class 5</i> Cymbidium			
<i>Class 6</i> Dendrobium	Dendrobium Hilda Poxon <i>Erika Lorincz</i>		
<i>Class 7</i> All Others	Eria convallaria <i>Anita Kho</i>	Condylago rodrigoii <i>Anita Kho</i>	
<i>Class 8</i> Specimen Plants	Maxillaria pseudoreichenheimiana <i>Marion Curry</i>		

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Maxillaria pseudoreichenheimiana grown by Marion Curry. The plant was not just flowered nicely but also had pretty spotted leaves. Marion grows it in sphagnum moss under lights at the low light end of the light stand. She gives it good air movement, waters with rainwater and fertilizes weakly every one to two weeks. The relative humidity is 50% and night temperatures are 22C. Congratulations, Marion!