SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

January 2009 NEWS

Volume 44, Issue 1, *Happy New Year!!*

Calypso, Bruce Peninsula, photo PP

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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 , Wayne Hingston

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

January 4, Toronto Botanical Garden, Sales at 12 noon, Program at 1 pm.

Joyce Medcalf: "AOS Awards Review".

The January speaker is SOOS member Joyce Medcalf, and her topic is 'A Review of the awards granted by the AOS Toronto Judging Centre (TJC) in 2008'. These are the awards granted at the TJC. As well, the awards include those granted at other shows in which our Toronto judges were active. She will explain these awards in terms of what they are, what they mean, and other arcane details unfamiliar to those of us who have not been bitten by the orchid judging bug.

Wayne Hingston honored for outstanding service to SOOS with an Honorary Life Membership.

At our December 2008 meeting Wayne Hingston was singled out for his long record of service to the SOOS membership. Wayne has been on the executive of SOOS for as long as anyone can remember. He was president for two consecutive terms, He has been teaching our new members about the finer points of growing through his annual Beginner's course and has also found time to lead the conservation committee for a number of years. He is currently our Show chairman which is also a repeat performance from an earlier time. Wayne has done exhibits for SOOS at other shows, he has auctioneered for us, he has arranged show speakers, and has always been available to step in where there was a need. Thank you Wayne.

SOOS President's Remarks

In the February newsletter, I will be speaking in excruciating detail about the Valentine's Day Weekend orchid show, so at this time just think good thoughts about it, consider what your role can be as helpmate, and contact Wayne Hingston or me.

What should a society such as ours be about? What should the emphasis be? Should the focus be broad?; should it be narrow? What follows is from my fevered brow. You will have other thoughts and ideas and if you pass them on to me, or to another director, maybe we can do something to move them along.

If any of you are asked what kind of a society or club SOOS is, 9 times out of 10 the answer would be "SOOS is a tropical orchid club where we come to buy, trade, and display orchids. We enjoy seeing like-minded people. We want to become better growers. We look forward to hearing of far-away places and the orchids that may be found there.". And this is an answer which is appropriate and to which we would all subscribe. My own background in horticulture and botany is native, woody plants: vines, shrubs, trees. And the societies associated with such an interest tend to do a great deal of field work. Herbaceous plants, including native terrestrial orchids, did and do come into play in such societies, and that was - and is - my first and abiding interest when it comes to orchids. There is a distinct difference between SOOS (and other tropical orchid societies) and the field naturalist ones, and that difference may be summed up in one word: conservation. In our by-laws, this word does exist, and as you know we recently donated $10,000 to the purchase and preservation of a wetland north of Kingston where orchids abound. We have a committee dedicated to conservation matters, and heaven knows I blather on about this subject a great deal. But it is small change in the overall SOOS lexicon. We all care about the environment, about habitat protection, and so conservation - be it in Ontario, Ecuador, Vietnam, wherever. Conservation ought to concern us. And we ought to make it a greater part of our society. Exactly how, in these perilous times, we do so is a point which the conservation committee wrestles with constantly. I'd like to see a few of the easy-to-grow native terrestrials made as available as Phalaenopsis or Cymbidiums are now. And I'd like to see orchid societies as a whole encourage orchid propagators to do for these gems what they have for Phragmipedium kovachii, to use a modern example. Turning briefly to where tropical orchids grow, the OCA concept - the Orchid Conservation Alliance (http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org/) - is dedicated to conservation through commitments from orchid societies to this objective. Too often when a new orchid is discovered, and it is showy, where the orchids are found in nature is soon denuded of all these plants. And of course the vast majority perish once removed from their natural habitat. "Short term gain for long term pain" holds true even in the plant world. So if I had a single objective (other than increased membership!) for 2009, it would be to broaden and deepen our interest in, and commitment to, conservation. Let's have fun. Let's each of us get to know more SOOS members. The society is as good as we make it. Thanks for being a member of SOOS, and may that bond continue, and be ever strengthened.

This is the start of a new year, so I will end with the hope that the year 2009 will be a joyous one for each of us, and a year of prosperity and good deeds for and by SOOS. To contact me: asiminasympatico.ca or 416-449-7907 or come to the Don Mills Arena Sunday afternoons (when there is no SOOS meeting) at 3:45 PM; bring your skates.

Taking stock at SOOS.

At the end of another year it is appropriate to evaluate performance and to thank those that have made a difference. SOOS is fortunate in that it has a dedicated and capable leadership group, that plans, organizes , promotes and oversees society activities throughout the year. SOOS is the principal sponsor of the American Orchid Society Toronto Orchid Judging Centre that judges orchids for AOS recognition of quality and culture on the first Saturday of each month at the Toronto Botanical Garden. This Centre provides judging services to all of Southern Ontario and Quebec as well as to societies in Northern New York state, Nova Scotia and Manitoba. Centre judges judge at shows, provide educational talks at society meetings, and assist in training new judges. More than ten of the judges are also members of SOOS, providing us with a valuable resource and link to the orchid world at large. One half of the proceeds of the December auction will go to maintaining the Judging Centre.

We have a strong and dedicated executive committee that

meets monthly after each meeting to plan and approve upcoming activities and events. On-going jobs are running the monthly meeting (President Tom Atkinson), providing speakers and demonstrations for the monthly meetings (Mario Ferrusi), organising the presentation and judging of the monthly show table (Iryna Bonya), running the monthly plant raffle (Treasurer Liz MacAlpine), refreshments (Joe O'Regan and Don Wyatt), managing the monthly plant and supply sales (Diane Ryley), new memberships and renewals (Hesse Pommells and Chee Chong), plant problem advice (Doug Kennedy), monthly newsletter (Inge and Peter Poot), annual summerfest lunch (Yvonne Schreiber), annual December auction (Jay Norris), December lunch (Yvonne Schreiber), orchid displays at other orchid shows (Joe O'Regan and Wayne Eyles), beginner's instruction (Wayne Hingston), Canada Blooms booth (Peter Poot), service recognition (Jay Norris and Inge Poot), hearts and flowers (Yvonne Schreiber). All of these members are ably assisted by others both on and off the executive who graciously volunteer their time and talent.

OK let's move it guys, the members are hungry!

Our enthusiastic and resourceful show committee (Wayne Hingston, chair) stages a large and important orchid show every February. This event involves the entire active membership in volunteering to set up and run the show. It is our major outreach event to promote our hobby and invite others to share. You are invited to show your orchids and assist in the event. Proceeds from our show help fund our meeting programs and our conservation efforts.

The very dedicated and important Conservation group (Wayne Hingston and now Kiet Tong) has its own conservation projects and makes sure we assist in other's conservation efforts.

SOOS success is the sum total of all of our participation. Be part of the team. Join us for 2009, and join me in a thank you to all of our volunteers of the past year. Peter Poot, Editor.

Welcome New Members

Junie Loo, Pat and Lynda Vuurman

Coming Events

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:
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 January 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 the January meeting. Volunteers enter the show for free.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at the January meeting. 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.

St. Catherine Show Results

Joe O'Regan placed an exhibit in this show for SOOS. Plants were provided by Aina Balodis, Wayne Eyles, John Spears, Don Wyatt, Pam Robertson and Joe himself**.** The exhibit received first for orchid society displays of 11-25 plants. Thank you all for your contributions and congratulations to the ribbon winners which were as follows:

Aina Balodis:
Second place for Cattleya hybrid
Wayne Eyles:
Second place for Paphiopedilum leeanum
Third place for Paphiopedilum helenae x Jolly Green Gem
Third place for Paphiopedilum Rory Jones
Don Wyatt:
Second Place for Maxillaria hedwigiae
John Spears:
First place for Dendrobium bigibbum compactum
Pam Robertson:
Third place for Colmonara Wildcat (Perfume Lilly)
Joe O'Regan:
Second place for Epicattleya Voila
Second Place for Doritanopsis Jiuhbao Red Rose
Second Place for Miltonia Herralexandre
Third place for Paphiopedilum S.Gatrix
Third Place for Paphiopedilum Ruby Leopard

AOS Judging Results

Toronto Judging Centre, December 6, 2008:
Laeliocattleya C. G. Roebling 'Beachview' AM-AOS 84 points, (Cattleya gaskelliana x Laelia purpurata) Wilson Ng.
Paphiopedilum Angela HCC-AOS 76 points (faireanum x niveum) Eric Lee.
Masdevallia deformis 'Brilliant Star' CCM-AOS 83 points, Mario and Conni Ferrusi.

Thank you SOOS. The judging centre depends on local society contributions to pay for rent, administrative, costs, photography, and educational materials and equipment such as computers, software and books. We are very thankful to SOOS for donating half of the money raised by the SOOS auction this past meeting. We also thank the many donors and bidders for their generosity. Peter Poot, Chair, Toronto Judging Centre of the AOS.

Part Two : Cattleya Breeding Characteristics, Jean Ikeson, photos by Steve and Mary-Jo Mc Nerney.
Cattleya harrisoniae/loddigesii (bifoliate)

C. harrisoniae 'Impassionata HCC-AOS,

These are another pair of species that were once lumped making sorting out which species was used in earlier hybrids a nightmare. Add that to the fact that they were often crossed - to make a supposed sib cross- and that leaves a mess. However each is charming in its own right. C harrisoniae tends to have taller, up to 50cm(20") pseudobulbs compared to those of C. loddigesii that reach from 30 to almost 40cm(12 - 15"), but the former species has flowers of better form and without the spotting characteristic of many clones of loddigesii. C harrisoniae 'Streeter's Choice' FCC is known for fuller, flatter flowers and its long lasting flowers, true even in the summer. When Jean brought them in from the greenhouse, she had them last up to

two months in all their grandeur. The white variety of loddigesii called 'Stanley's' has long been prized.
You can also tell the species apart by their flowering season, where C. harrisoniae blooms in the summer from a green sheath, while C. loddigesii blooms in the fall or early winter from a dry sheath.

Happily, plant size is not dominant in these two species as can be seen readily in Sc Crystelle Smith (Sc Beaufort X C.loddigesii, where Sc Beaufort is Sophronites coccinea X C. luteola),. It is a charming mini pot plant with the best having pairs of large rose pink flowers that have a white lip that has most of the interior flushed yellow. The cross is vigorous and easy to grow under Jean's conditions. Another famous cross is C. Henrietta Japhet, which became so famous that florists used the name "Japhets" to refer to cluster whites with good substance. C Valentine (C. loddigesii X C. warneri) figures in the pedigrees of many blues -when the coerulea form of C warneri is used - because it adds flat form with good substance to the mix, even though the flower shown in the slides had somewhat crimped petals, but a lovely ruffled lip.

The narrow lip, which in most clones of the two species tends to be folded back along the edges of the apex, is not dominant in hybrids. These two species generally produce flowers with a soft pastel background colour.

Cattleya amethystoglossa (bifoliate),
Like C bowringiana, this species is probably most useful as a stunning focal point for displays with its glossy, pink flowers, spotted magenta and offset by a lip that has a dark magenta apex. The numerous flowers are presented in clusters, held well above the foliage, on large plants. In breeding the species is used to increase floriferousness. While the plant size is not particularly dominant, since you start with a huge plant to begin with, it takes a few generations to bring it down to a reasonable size.

Floriferousness, heavy substance, strong, long flower stems and spotting of the flowers are dominant features.


C. bicolor

Cattleya bicolor (bifoliate)
Everyone has their favourite species and C bicolor is at the top of Jean's list. Tetraploid clones were discovered about 10-20 years ago and changed the standard for the species. The glossy flowers can be green to dark brown and are offset by a magenta lip and a column that varies from white to light magenta. The colour varieties in themselves are interesting but it is how these play out in hybrids that make a good story. Combine that glossy texture and heavy substance -which shows the colour to best effect - with a brightly coloured flower and the hybrids, when they work, are exceptional and glow like neon lights. And the lip with a strongly contrasting clear colour sets them off. The negatives are a spade lip that is relatively dominant, the tendency to crippling in offspring (could this be a funny ploidy effect??) and the tendency to muddy colours when parents of mustard shades are used. (Just in case you are not sure what a spade lip is: this is a lip that lacks side lobes. Therefore the lobes cannot curl around the column, leaving the column exposed.)

Although C. bicolor is itself a large plant, its size is not always dominant. For example, as in the cross with Brougtonia sanguinea. It produces the famous Cattleytonia Keith Roth. However, B. sanguinea generally overwhelms anything it is crossed with. The Broughtonia has lots of flowers per inflorescence, but the flowers have short narrow sepals, short round petals and an oversized wide round lip, all in magenta and of poor substance. The resulting hybrid has heads of round full, nicely balanced flowers in purple that have good substance and there is not a hint of a spade lip. The strongly upright stem is another contribution of the C. bicolor.

The same is true for lack of size dominance with Sc. June Bug, a cross of C. bicolor and Sc. Beaufort. The diminutive Sophronitis coccinea in Sc. Beaufort dwarfs the offspring for plant size. But the clone of June Bug shown had heavy, flat, but somewhat muddy, light olive sepals and petals with a light magenta blush on the apices and a magenta spade lip that had a yellow exterior and a yellow callus. Not bad, but no cigar!

An even less happy result was achieved in the cross of C. bicolor with the fairly full, flat, yellow Blc Jane Helton. The resulting Blc. Autumn Glow shown had fairly narrow, somewhat undulating, light olive sepals and petals. The colour scheme was saved a bit by the light magenta lip, but alas, it was a mostly spade -shaped lip.

So why does Jean love C. bicolor hybrids? Hybrids like Pot Egyptian Queen (C. bicolor X Pot. Esther Costar, the latter a cross of mostly orange, full flowers) are the obvious answer. The pictures shown of that cross exhibited the consistent quality and absolutely unusual and stunning colour. These should be seen to be believed. In photos, the clone ' Inner

Fire' just looks orange. But it is a cross between the fire in the best sunrise you have ever seen and new copper, and it just glows. The lip is yellow at the base and deep red at the apex and provides great contrast to the sepals and petals. When it first bloomed in the greenhouse, Jean screamed with joy, because she had never seen anything with colour like that before! A similar clone is 'Cloissonne'. The clone 'Black Diamond'- a very flat black-purple with a red spade lip that exposes the white column- has the same effect on people in collections everywhere. It is very dark; the red is so dark and saturated. The only problem is that it is probably a triploid and while there is one hybrid registered with it, Jean has never been able to get it to breed as a pollen or a seed parent.
This unfortunately is not an isolated case. Blc Indian Treasure, a cross with Blc. Golden Galleon, likewise has superb colour and good form but does not breed.

Cattleya granulosa (bifoliate)
This species is similar to bicolor in producing interesting colours in hybrids, increasing floriferousness and stem quality. It also has distinct fragrance that lasts for generations. The species has chartreuse sepals and petals that are usually spotted and narrower than in the preceding species. The petals and lateral sepals usually bend downward forming characteristic "knees" -especially in the lateral sepals. The lip is narrower than the one of C. bicolor and is white with purple veins.

While there are many hybrids using granulosa, none approach the quality and influence of the famous green with coloured lip, Lc Ann Follis. Lc Ann Follis is C. granulosa X Lc. Ethel Merman, where Ethel Merman contains over 30% of each of C. mossiae and Laelia (Sophronitis) purpurata, about 22% C. dowiana, 12.5% C. warscewiczii and 3% L.(S.) xanthina.
Three of the most recognizable green hybrids that are still popular in mericlones today are Ann Follis offspring: Blc. Memoria Helen Brown (Blc Xanthette X Lc Ann Folis), Blc. Lester McDonald (Lc Ann Follis X Brassavola digbyana) and Blc. Greenwich(Lc. Ann Follis X Blc. Lester McDonald). Just as in C. bicolor breeding, when you get a good hybrid, the quality is so consistent and so many outstanding clones occur that you just have to take a deep breath and sigh! We are all familiar with the clone 'Sweet Afton' of Blc Memoria Helen Brown, but Jean showed us 7 other great clones. The colour, substance and round form were terrific. The clones were mostly white with red in the lips, but a particularly nice clone 'Exquisite' had ice-green flowers of wonderfully full shape and a white lip marked heavily with orange and red. ..And Blc. Memoria Helen Brown breeds.

Blc. Greenwich 'Elmhurst' is surely one of the most common plants in any collection of under 100 plants and has been so for at least 20 years. Although Lester MacDonald is less well known, it is still worthy of attention. It is interesting to note that the second generation away from granulosa when mixed with digbyana, completely wipes out the spade lip. Of course that characteristic of digbyana,(although the flowers are of short duration in the species,) makes it so desirable for lip structure in breeding. Like C dowiana and aurea, the lip is recognizable for many generations and referred to in the trade as a "big brasso lip" and everyone instantly knows what you are talking about.
But note that when Lester MacDonald is crossed back to Ann Follis, the magenta lip comes back with a semi spade form. Every dominant characteristic has its limits!!!

Cattleya forbesii (bifoliate)
This is almost like the small Brazilian laelias with its small plant size, narrow rolled lip with a tiny mid-lobe, narrow sepals and petals and yellow to yellow green colour. However it has better flower size, at times approaching 4"(10cm) and it does not reduce flower size in hybridizing.
A note of caution: Plants labeled as forbesii are not infrequently hybrids -so look closely at the lip!

Most hybrids with forbesii are disappointing, because they retain the narrow segments and boring lip form of the forbesii parent. But when they work, all you can do is say wow. Both Blc. Cadmium Light (forbesii x Blc. Xanthette) and Blc. Waikiki Gold (forbesii x Blc. Pink Surprise) are wonderful full, flat, yellow flowers in their own right, but as parents they also pass on substance, pleasing colour and nice round form. But note that Blc. Xanthette is a complex line bred hybrid of dowiana/aurea and is also the other parent of the successful Lc Ann Follis when crossed with C granulosa. It takes two to tango and in this case, dowiana/aurea seems to be a perfect match for bifoliates. Interestingly in Waikiki Gold the Blc. Pink surprise is a cross of loddigesii and Blc. Glorious Gold, a golden complex hybrid that has dowiana, Luminosa and Mrs J Leeman (twice) , where Mrs J Leeman is a dowiana cross and a digbyana primary hybrid. The lesson here is that if you want something good out of forbesii, then use dowiana or aurea complex parents because they react to give you better than expected results.
This also follows for Cadmium Light. The geometric mean for the average of the petal width for the awarded clones of forbesii and Xanthette is 2.7 - anything above the geometric mean would suggest either one parent is dominant or they are synergistic. In this case the average petal width of the awarded clones of Cadmium Light is 4.1 - a full 50% larger

than expected. That is like winning the lottery. Unfortunately there are no awarded clones of Pink Surprise to repeat the experiment on its Waikiki Gold offspring. However, petal width is still a full 3.9 in Waikiki Gold compared to 1.4 for forbesii - an increase of more than 2 and one half times over the species parent. This analysis holds up when you look at other hybrids with a lot of dowiana/aurea genes when crossed with forbesii: for example, Memoria Helen Brown crossed with forbesii to produce Shanghai Jade and Living Gold crossed with forbesii to produce Magic Lantern. However, if you look at other crosses that do not involve dowiana or aurea, petal width is at best equal to the geometric mean and in most cases well less than the geometric mean!!! Perhaps this is the reason why results with forbesii are so variable-maybe they are actually predictable. Synergisms such as this is what makes the study of hybridizing so much fun!!!

Cattleya leopoldii/guttata/tigrina (bifoliate)

For a long time, guttata and leopoldii were considered the same thing and RHS registered hybrids as such. Now they are considered separate but leopoldii is being called tigrina, which simply adds to the confusion.

Flowers emerge from a green sheath in tigrina rather than a brown sheath as in guttata. Guttata is also very similar to granulosa but the isthmus of the lip is much shorter than in granulosa. Guttata is a smaller plant than leopoldii/tigrina. To add further confusion, Dr Carl Withner, the Cattleya and allied genera taxonomist, thought 'tigrina' was a separate species from leopoldii or guttata and that it had only 2 or 3 flowers/infl.!!! Guttata is usually a smaller plant at 20-30"(50-75cm) compared to the up to five feet(150cm) in leopoldii, and has fewer flowers than leopoldii/tigrina. Petals are also wavier and the column is exposed in leopoldii but totally covered in guttata. There are a wide variety of colour forms as in many of the other large bifoliates. Often the green forms breed the best colour because you lose the muddy effect of having multiple overlays of colour.

The glossy texture and heavy substance combined with a somewhat open but round form produce similar looking flowers no matter what parent you put on them with a few exceptions. You may or may not get spots. But the dominant isthmus lip comes through. An example is C. Landate : C. guttata X C. aclandiae, which looks like a larger C. aclandiae, that is beige, dark brown spotted sepals and petals and contrast supplied with the short white side-lobes on the magenta lip.

Another example was C. Bactia, a cross of C. bowringiana and C. guttata. The resulting flowers have a shape close to guttata, but the background colour of the sepals and petals is medium magenta and the spots are almost invisible. The substance is heavy and the texture glossy, but the shape is nowhere near the fullness and flatness of the bowringiana parent.

In C. Penny Kuroda, we again have the background white colour of the C . Summer Snow parent, while the C. guttata parent supplied spots and better substance.

Crossing C. Penny Kuroda with C. Brabantiae we get C. Lulu. Most Lulus will have the pink background colour coming from the C. loddigesii in the Brabantiae parent, but the form and spotting are mostly determined by C. guttata in the background of Penny Kuroda. Some are very nice!

Note that C. Fort Motte (the clone shown had poor bow-legged form but bright lilac segments with sepals and petals spotted red-brown), which is a hybrid of C. Mrs Mahler(C. bicolor X C. guttata) and C. Brabantiae(C. aclandiae x C. loddigesii), produces similar form but intense colour and itself has been a popular parent. Mrs Mahler (the clone shown had leathery, shiny brown sepals and petals and a magenta lip) is an interesting parent itself. There is a wonderful hybrid from that with C. violacea, where the violacea imparts wonderful clear violet colour that is intensified by Mrs Mahler and the gloss to produce the most stunning saturated deep violet flower I have ever seen. It is called C. Vivian Johns. Jean has a few of these in her greenhouse.

Cattleya aurantiaca (bifoliate)

Although generally known for its common intense orange form, it also exists as a white or yellow form. However, when you self the yellows, you often revert back to orange. Here is another species that is useful as a vigorous specimen plant that can produce clusters of up to 20 flowers. The poorer clones self fertilize so it

is usually better to use it as a pollen parent. Some people suggested that the white clones were not truly aurantiaca, but a natural hybridsuch as x guatemalensis, but they were awarded as such and the lip and form is consistent with the species. They are less seen now than the yellow forms.

Cattleya Chocolate Drop (guttata x aurantiaca) is another hybrid like Blc Greenwich 'Elmhurst' that usually finds its way into small collections because of its ease of growth and flowering. The deep red flowers with usually yellow columns are instantly recognizable. For a long time, that was the story, period. But hybridizers began experimenting with Chocolate Drop and using better and better parents with it to reach for flat form and increased segment width.

This hybridizing has been producing some spectacular results and many of these are showing up on the judging table. A good example is Blc Cherry Suisse, a cross with the wonderful parent, Blc Oconee (the 'Mendenhall' clone has full red flowers with a full round lip and a black-red triangle on the apex of the lip). The result is gloss, substance, and deep rich red colour with good form. But even used on something like B nodosa, the substance flattens out the flower and the rich colour livens up an otherwise homely petal and sepal colour in nodosa to make Bc Roman Holiday. The 'Remar' clone shown in the slides actually has more red orange sepals and petals than the photo showed and many other clones are yellow and have the occasional spot.

The sparse spots on the lip of aurantiaca, like the fine lines on the lip (obscured by the column) in nodosa, often produce lines or dots arranged in lines in their respective hybrids. Also the dominant dowiana lip from Oconee enlarges and frills the lip of guttata in Chocolate Drop, while the dominant lip from nodosa adds a flared tubular shape to the lip in Roman Holiday.

More Chocolate Drop hybrids: in general, Chocolate Drop increases flower count and in thin substanced flowers, it makes hybrids with heavier substance. A particularly happy result was achieved by crossing the somewhat thin red Slc Vallezac with Chocolate Drop. The hybrid Slc Anne Komine was illustrated with a clone with deepest red flowers, whose petals showed no hint of the droop found in the Vallezak parent and for contrast there were white streaks at the base of the lip. The flower count of 2-3 flowers in Vallezac was increased to 4-5 in the hybrid. What is to come next?? The prospects are exciting. Remember this is just the second generation from a cupped flower with narrow segments and a small, narrow lip!!!

Going to other hybrids with C aurantiaca, perhaps most surprising is the cross with Epidendrum alata. This species has narrow sepals and petals whose edges roll back in the basal one third. In the hybrid the petal width is greater than the visual appearance of either parent. I think what is happening is that the longitudinally rolled backwards alata is cancelling out the longitudinally rolled forward petals of aurantiaca to produce flat petals with the appearance of greater width.

We must mention Slc. Jewel Box, which is a cross of aurantiaca with the poorly growing red Slc Anzac. This cross flowers 2-3 times per year with 2-3 flowers per inflorescence and the plant size is very small compared to the size of the flower. It is often recommended for beginners!

Cattleya bowringiana (bifoliate)

While this is a very tall plant especially when in flower, it makes a stunning focal point in displays. Its numerous clusters of lovely round flowers held well above the foliage and bright colour add to its charm. The substance is not great however. The blue clones are usually fuller and larger in cultivation than the common lavender bowringianas. However, there are awarded lavender clones of superior size and fullness that are perhaps tetraploids or triploids.

Each of the following hybrids is what one might call a niche hybrid: Bc. Maikai (C. bowringiana x Brassavola nodosa) with its large spotted lips make a stunning show, even if the sepals and petals are rather narrow. C. Portia © bowringiana x C.labiata), like bowringiana, blooms in the fall and makes a wonderful display plant with beautiful round, flat medium-sized purple flowers with a darker lip blade. Do you remember the wonderful one in the Jardin Botanique display in a show in fall of 2007??

Lovely rosy tones are achieved by crossing Bc Maikai with C. walkeriana in the cross Bc. Little Mermaid, or crossing C. bowringiana with Broughtonia sanguine to give Cattleytonia Rosy Jewel. And a rosy jewel it is: the flowers are round, full, flat and have the rose colour set off by a dark purple lip. Richly coloured lips are typical of all of these hybrids. The blue clones of bowringiana are useful in increasing floriferousness in their offspring. It does not reduce petal width or natural spread.

Cattleya aclandiae (bifoliate)

This is a small growing species with relatively large fairly open, slightly cupped flowers. The base colour of the sepals and petals can vary from pale green to beige to light brown and these segments have dark brown spots. As mentioned earlier, the lip has tiny white side-lobes and a flat dark purple mid-lobe. The

species is most useful for producing spotted offspring especially when used with other spotted parents and for reducing plant size.

As can be seen with Lc. Jungle Elf (a cross with the tiny, yellow Laelia esalqueana) and Slc. Dixie Jewels (a cross with the red Slc Madge Fordyce), when the other parent recurves back slightly, it overcomes the cupped effect of aclandiae. The form and colour are not particularly dominant as each of these offspring look more like the other parent than aclandiae, although in each case the plant size is reduced, which is an important goal. For example crossing the tall C.loddigesii with C. aclandiae we get the shorter C. Brabantiae with flowers that look like spotted loddigesiis. There are exceptions: When crossed with C. guttata to get C. Landate the slightly bent back guttata straightens the aclandiae and as mentioned before under guttata you get a flat, larger aclandiae.

Cattleya walkeriana (bifoliate)

C. walkeriana 'Pendentive' AM-AOS,

This miniature species with huge flat, usually magenta flowers with darker "fish-tail" -shaped lips has several colour forms. Blue forms are becoming more common and are being used in breeding but as of yet, none of the ones using modern clones of walkeriana have bloomed so no one really knows how they will breed. But it should be interesting, we hope, over the next few years as we start to see the results. Walkeriana is dominant for small growth habit, although it 'wanders' in the pot or on the plaque and that characteristic can be transmitted to first generation hybrids. So breeders either love it for its full petal and sepal form and recessive lip form or they hate it for its rambling growth habit and lack of floriferousness. The scent is dominant and the white form has a particularly pleasing scent.

In the hybrids shown, the lobed lip has generally been bred out and the fact that the upper lobe flattens away from the column means that in hybrids, it flattens and widens the lip giving it a more dramatic effect. Surely this is a desirable trait, even if some judges consider it a terrible flaw!

If you look closely at the side view of Lc. Wayndora, you will see that it has a strongly tubular lip. The flower shown had very full, but not perfectly flat white flowers with a purple tinge at the edges and a deep purple lip. The hybrid, Lc. Memoria Robert Straight had the same colour scheme, but perhaps more rosy than purple, but the flowers were a bit less full, but very flat and of heavier substance. The effect of walkeriana on flattening out the lip is so dramatic, because it showed the abrupt change from deep pink to white near the column, thus highlighting the centre of the flower.

There are a few exceptions: Sc. Pink Doll with its small rolled lip in a pink flower has too much pumila and coccinea to allow walkeriana to open the lip as much as Jean would like, in a single generation. However the resulting Slc Sierra Doll clone shown had nice , full round flowers and a much larger lip than its Pink Doll parent and the undulated edge opens enough to show most of the column. Even if there is a notch in the apex it is not "fishy"!

One of the most famous C. walkeriana crosses is the cross with Laelia pumila, Lc Mini Purple. The flowers are like a flatter, heavier version of the pumila parent. It has been heavily awarded. However using it as a parent did not result in any improvement, since the other parents in the examples shown, were largely recessive. For example crossing it with the dramatic Lc Marie's Song retained only the splash petal and the bent back petal feature. The dramatic white bases of the segments were gone. A similar effect was seen with the stunning Blc Bryce Canyon 'Splendiferous' as the other parent. The clone of Blc Reisa shown was a poor pink version of Mini Purple, much too open to invite admiration.

One cross shown, Lc. Rosie's Surprise, a cross of walkeriana with Lc. Irene Finney seemed particularly charming. The flowers were much perkier than the huge, but droopy petaled Irene Finney and the colours were like a brighter version of the somewhat pale Irene Finney. The dark purple patch on the lip was especially striking in this version of the Irene Finney colour scheme.

One of the interesting effects of walkeriana is that the petals are slightly elevated giving the flowers of its hybrids a 'smiley face' effect. Happy flowers are nicer than droopy sad ones.

Using the Lc Memoria Robert Straight discussed above resulted in some very nice second generation C. walkeriana hybrids. Perhaps one of the most successful of these in terms of petal width is the cross with the superb standard semi alba Persepolis. The cross is called Hawaian Exotic and the petals in the Persepolis have been lifted, the lip opened enough to show the white and yellow base. The

colour of the lip apex in the clone shown was not as dark as in Persepolis, but the added colours visible in the lip made up for it.
Less successful was Potinara Hawaian Charisma, the cross with Potinara Hisako Akasuka. In the example shown, the lip was now disproportionately large, the dark purple colour of Hisako Akasuko was lightened and its round petals had been turned into squares! Well, the lip was more colourful, because orange was added to the yellow and light purple eyes.

But on the whole, when crossed with large ruffled complex hybrids, walkeriana reduces the ruffling on the petals and flattens them. Even in the second generation, walkeriana is flattening and reducing the twisting of the frills on Blc Bryce Canyon. Jean thinks this is an improvement on the lip although the petals in the photo shown could be better. Also walkeriana is doing its magic in the second generation of flattening and opening the upper part of the lip, as can be seen in Hawaiian Exotic, improving appearance. After all, it is generally the lip that is the focal point of the flower and perhaps that is why the genetics of the lip colour and form are so interesting.
Edited by Inge Poot.

December 2008 Show Table
by Iryna Bonya

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance	Laeliocattleya C. G. Roebling 'Beechview' *Wilson Ng*	Potinara. Mem. Irene Feil 'Ruby Red' AM/AOS *Wendy Hoffman*	Brassolaeliocattleya Hawaii Stars 'Paradise' *John Vermeer*
Class 2 Paphiopedilum	Paphiopedilum Angela *Eric Lee*		
Class 4 Oncidium & related	**Rossioglossum grande** ***Erika Lorincz***	Wilsonara Tigersette 'Wild Court' *Synea Tan*	

Plant of the month for December 2008 was the beautifully flowered *Rossioglossum grande* shown and grown by Erica Lorincz. Congratulations Erica! She bought the plant about 20 years ago from the late Dr. Ben Berliner. She summers it out of doors in a lath house. She brings it in, in the middle of September and winters it in a south facing bay window. She places it close to the glass where the temperature often goes down to 10 degrees Celsius (50F) even though the rest of the room is set for 20C (68F). She waters and fertilizes weakly, weekly and uses plain water every 3-4 weeks. The fertilizers are rotated and include fish fertilizer and MSU.

The plant does not get a dry rest, but the roots are so numerous, that the plant dries out fairly quickly. Humidity is supplied by the rest of the plants. The plant is potted in a mix of coconut chips, medium bark, charcoal, coarse perlite (spongerock) and some crushed eggshells.

Erratum: Please note that in the culture description for last month's **Acineta beyrodtiana** I inadvertently added a zero to the minimum temperature. The minimum should have read 5 degrees Centigrade not 50. Ed.

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 October and November newsletters. Please fill it out and 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.