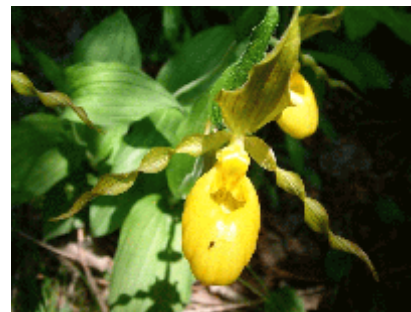


# SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

established in 1965

## March 2009 NEWS

Volume 44, Issue 3



Cypripedium calceolus NE of Toronto  
photo by PP

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

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**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](http://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:** 2010, Get ready!!!



Stanhopea connata

photo by PP

### March 1, Toronto Botanical Garden, Sales at 12 noon, Program at 1 pm.

Inge Poot will introduce us to the Stanhopeas. These are the orchids that must be kept in baskets so that the flowers can come out of the bottom and hang down. There are many Stanhopeas, but they are often misnamed and the differences can be small. Inge will show us what to look for and also give us cultural information for the different kinds.

**If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, this will be your last newsletter. So, please renew now.**

**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.**

## SOOS President's Remarks

Hello fellow orchid lovers.

It is Monday, February 16 and today we have things to celebrate. Let me explain in chronological order. On January 17, Don Wyatt and Joe O'Regan represented SOOS at the Vietnamese Association of Toronto's Tet, or Lunar New Year, Festival held on the CNE grounds - inside of course. Joe created a splendid display, Don was his ebullient self, and between them they handed out over 3000 tickets to our own show. In joining with the Vietnamese community, we are acknowledging them, their culture, and that Vietnam is home to many marvellous plants, including many of the Asian lady's-slipper orchids, the Paphiopedilums. And, not quite by chance, we hope to whet the appetite of our Vietnamese-Canadian citizens to the joys of SOOS membership.

Other than exhaustion, today's feeling is of exhilaration. With a sure hand at the tiller of the show committee (Wayne Hingston), with extraordinary publicity (Linda Kafka), and all the members of the committee doing marvellous work, we were well prepared for whatever happened. If you attended then you know that the crowds were huge on both days, unbelievable numbers really. The vendors did remarkable business, and for that they will be giving thanks. The Floral Hall was chock-a-block full of splendid displays and hordes of thrilled visitors, not to mention overworked security volunteers! It is always dangerous to try to name the key players, but this fool will rush in. Bob Dowzansky in the kitchen, Sue Loftus and Marion Curry on security, Susan Shaw and Kiet Tong on art and photography, Mario Ferrusi for judging, Jay Norris for photos of judged orchids, Max Wilson for registration, Laura Liebgott for our great society display (plus those who this year were very generous in providing orchids to her), Don Wyatt for set-up, Terry & Doug Kennedy for many, many things (including both of their progeny as help!), Liz McAlpine for finances, Joe O'Regan, Hess Pommels and Chee Chong for membership, and \_\_\_\_ (place your name here)\_\_\_\_. (Heaven help me if I have forgotten anyone! If I have, let me know, and rest assured, I will post an addendum in the April newsletter!) Plus all the societies from far and wide, the vendors for wonderful plants and great displays, and all those who signed up to help from Thursday evening set-up to Sunday post-show tear-down. The Toronto Botanical Garden staff have been most helpful, both before the show and at it. If ever Mother Nature was in a good mood it

was for this year's show; weather can make a show (2009) and it can break a show (last year's weather was far from halcyon, if you have not blocked the memory from your mind).

On February 21, Henry Glowka and I will (future tense as I write) / did (as you read this) handle the SOOS booth at the "Get the Jump on Spring" held at the TBG. This is an event which had traditionally been held prior to our show, and which we used as a means to publicize our extravaganza. So this year we will employ it as outreach to let the gardening public know about orchids, the attendant joys (and occasional sorrows), and the benefits of SOOS membership.

Finally, I am looking forward to the March meeting (on the 1st) as Inge Poot will be speaking to us on the fleetingly flowering yet ever so gorgeous American beauties, the Stanhopeas. When these gems were first introduced (from meso-America) to Europe, the name assigned to them was the Aztec one, Coatzonte coxochitl; it is a pity that more of the world's plants could not have respected what the indigenous peoples who knew and used these plants saw fit to call them. But I digress, as usual. So see you March 1!

To contact me: [asiminasympatico.ca](mailto:asiminasympatico.ca) or 416-449-7907.

## Welcome New Members

**Julia and Perry Adams, Nisa Baksh, John Bobjurica, Isla Carmichael, Senie Cheung, Mary Faghani and Ellie Maleki, Sylvia Hartunian, Joanne Knowlton and Jim Hoffman, Yolande Leblanc, Heather McKechnie, Mary and Fred Patterson, Linda Peacock, Belinda Tham, Paul A. Wilson.**

### In Memoriam

**Joyce Bain a former member and orchid vendor passed away on Wednesday, Feb 4, 2009.**

**Our condolences go to her family.**

## Coming Events

2009

### February

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.**

## Up the creek without a paddle in Amazonia by Peter Poot.

Our recent trip to Ecuador and Peru in connection



The ill fated canoe

with the Andean orchid conference and show in Quito included a pre-conference trip to a research station in the Ecuadorian upper Amazon. We were all full of expectations of seeing wonderful tropical orchids and wildlife in the Amazonian jungle. We were told to bring

rubber boots, sun screen, insect repellent, flash lights and multiple changes of clothes. Little did we know what awaited us.

The first and last days of the trip were spent travelling to and from the station by plane, river-boat (large canoe like vessel with an outboard motor ) and mini-bus. The station lies within territory (Yasuni park) run by an oil extraction company which required us to submit to airport like security screening at the end of the river-boat trip. The station was a comfortable place with private guest rooms, air conditioning and hot showers. To stop the generator noise the electricity was turned off overnight.

At the station we saw our first orchids and wildlife. The orchids were planted on stumps and trees around the station. The wildlife was a semi wild tapir that had been brought up by the station staff. That evening our guide took us (13 of us) for a walk in the woods with



Tapir

our flashlights and boots to observe possible wildlife (insects and frogs mostly which he was very adept at spotting and identifying including some huge spiders). We heard lots of monkeys and birds, but

what animal is going to stay around for a troop of 15 humans in big boots? For some the highlight of the evening was crossing a creek on a single slippery tree trunk in the dark.

The next day we left the station early in the morning (6:30 am) for a river trip in a large outboard motor driven canoe. We travelled downstream for a couple of hours spotting various birds in the sky and on tall trees, and noted that orchids similarly were mostly invisible up in very tall trees. Our voyage downstream came to an abrupt end at a large tree that had fallen across the river. Somehow our motor also died at that point and would not restart. Our native boatman with lots of advice from three engineers and one medical doctor , none of whom had any outboard motor expertise, tried all the tricks in the book, but got nowhere. Between our guide and the boatman, (a native chief) it was finally decided to try to pole the boat back upstream at least back to where the road crossed the river on a bridge at the native village. No one had any idea how long this might take, but it was something to do until help might come. Some bamboo poles were cut ( paddles were not available in the woods) and the journey upriver commenced without the roar and the stink of the motor, but also without any sign of other humanity. We did spot a



Baby Anaconda

couple of river dolphins, a baby anaconda and various birds and insects. The boat had to be kept close to the shore and within manageable currents to allow for poling while the rest of us helped by pulling on overhead vegetation and paddling with spare seat boards and hands. After a couple of hours our guide became exhausted and the rest of us took turns at poling. Manoeuvring upstream around bends was a challenge. At times we went backwards or stood still in the water. We kept looking for that bridge around every bend in the river. Bathroom stops were also challenging as it involved crossing quicksand like mud at the river edge, but nobody lost their boots. Finally at around 4pm, to the relief of our guide, a search party from the station arrived and took us in tow.

Day 3 we were to climb up a 50 ft high observation tower above the tree canopy to do some bird and orchid spotting. Yours truly does not like heights at the best of times. The ladder to the top was vertical and Inge and I gave up at the first platform. We went back down and on exploring in the surrounding forest found a downed tree full of orchids.

In the afternoon of day 3 we visited a local Indian village. Unfortunately, because of a transportation scheduling glitch, we arrived late after all of the village inhabitants except the chief (our boatman) and his wife and small child had left to go and collect their monthly oil company money. The chief and his wife entertained us valiantly. He was dead accurate with his blow gun and she sang us a welcome and sold us her handicrafts. What I thought were fenced in sand-boxes for the kids turned out to be sand-beds for hatching turtle eggs that they had harvested. Upon hatching the little turtles were grown on in protected ponds for later release back into the river with some to be kept for growing on and eating.

Day 4 was spent travelling back. Even though we saw few orchid flowers, the jungle experience with its many forms of plant and insect life made the trip worthwhile. My body still shows the effect of the many insect bites 2 weeks later. Next time bring gloves, make better use of the insect repellent, and don't get stuck down river.



Award presentation to Yvonne Schreiber

## The 30th Annual Orchid Show

**THANKS from the SHOW**

As Show Chairman, I would like to sincerely

thank everyone that contributed to the success of our 2009 Orchid Show. Preliminary numbers indicate that the show is perhaps our best ever attendance. Without your efforts the show would never have been so good. Our strength as a society is based on the willingness of its members to help. Thanks for everything that you did, no matter how small it seems.

Wayne Hingston.



Best plant of Show, Paphiopedilum Hampshire Treasure 'Yvonne' AM-AOS. Yvonne Schreiber

**Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show 2009**  
**TROPHIES and AWARDS**

	DISPLAY	
Display class 1 (1-10 plants - Amateur)	Henry Glowka	
Display class 2 (10+ Amateur)	Kingston Orchid Society	
Display class 4 (11-15 plants)	Hamilton Greenhouse - Rob & Ruthanne Gardiner	
Display class 5 (16-25 plants)	Marsh Hollow - Mario Ferrusi	
Display class 6 (more than 25 plants)	Orchids In Our Tropics – Doug and Terry Kennedy	
Display class 7 (Education)	Peter and Sherry Decyk	
<b>CANADIAN ORCHID CONGRESS AWARD:</b> Most artistic exhibit	Les Orchidophiles de Montreal	
Best of genera allied to Cattleya Classes 11 - 17	Plant Name <b>Epidendrum stamfordianum var leanum</b>	Display/Grower <b>Les Orchidophiles de Montreal</b>
<b>WALTER NORMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY</b> for Best Cattleya Classes 18 - 28	<b>Blc. Cloud's Poison Elf</b>	<b>Cloud's Orchids</b>
<b>GARY SCHREIBER MEMORIAL AWARD</b> for best Paph species Classes 29 -32	<b>Paph. boxallii 'Yvonne'AM/AOS</b>	<b>DiCiommo Orchids</b>
Best Paphiopedilum Classes 33 - 41	<b>Paphiopedilum Hampshire Treasure "Yvonne" AM/AOS</b>	<b>SOOS/Yvonne Schreiber</b>
Best Phragmipedium Classes 42 - 45	<b>Phragmipedium China Dragon</b>	<b>Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens</b>
Best Vandaceous Classes 46 - 59	<b>Angcm. sesquipedale</b>	<b>Cloud's Orchids</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL PHALAEOPSIS ALLIANCE TROPHY</b> for best Phalaenopsis Classes 60 - 76	<b>Dtps. Newberry Parfait 'Picotee AM/AOS</b>	<b>Henry Glowka</b>
<b>JOHN KAFKA MEMORIAL TROPHY</b> Best Oncidium Classes 77 - 89	<b>Colmanara Wildcat 'Bobcat'</b>	<b>Wayne Eyles</b>
Best Cymbidium Classes 90 - 93	<b>Cym. Art Koester 'Crosman'</b>	<b>Genesee Region Orchid Society</b>
Best Dendrobium Classes 94- 100	<b>Dendrobium nobile var alba</b>	<b>Marsh Hollow - Mario Ferrusi</b>
Best Pleurothallid Classes 101 - 105	<b>Dracula mopsus 'Hoosier' CHM/CCM/AOS</b>	<b>Marsh Hollow - Mario Ferrusi</b>
Best Miscellaneous Classes 106 - 111	<b>Lycaste Leo 'Patrick' AM/AOS</b>	<b>Orchids in Our Tropics Doug and Terry Kennedy</b>
<b>WILSON NG TROPHY</b> for Best specimen plant Class 114	<b>Dracula mopsus 'Hoosier' CHM/CCM/AOS</b>	<b>Marsh Hollow - Mario Ferrusi</b>
Best Photograph Class 116a, b & c	<b>Paphiopedilum (in leather emboss)</b>	<b>Venkat Venkataramanan</b>
Best of non-photographic orchid art Classes 115, 177-120	<b>Bulb. Elizabeth Ann</b>	<b>Kelvin Su</b>
<b>BEST OF SHOW</b> Best plant in show	<b>Paphiopedilum Hampshire Treasure "Yvonne" AM/AOS</b>	<b>SOOS/Yvonne Schreiber</b>
<b>AOS SHOW TROPHY:</b> Awarded under the provisions of the judging handbook for the best display in the show.	<b>Orchids in Our Tropics Doug and Terry Kennedy</b>	

**February 2009 Show Table by Iryna Bonya**

<b>Class</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<i>Class 1</i> Cattleya Alliance	<b>Brassolaeliacattleya</b> <b>Pamela Hetherington</b> <b>'Coronation' FCC/AOS</b> <b>Peter Norris</b>	Laelia autumnalis <i>Tom Shields</i>	Sophrolaeliacattleya Tangerine Jewel 'Magnifique' x Sophrolaelia Minipet 'Sunset Valley' <i>John Vermeer</i>
<i>Class 2</i> Paphiopedilum	Paphiopedilum tranlienianum <i>Rosanna Li</i>	Phragmipedium Eric Young <i>Anita Kho</i>	Phragmipedium Randy MacDonald <i>Synea Tan</i>
<i>Class 3</i> Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance	Phalaenopsis parishii <i>Don Wyatt</i>	Asconopsis Jiaho's Orange 'Jiaho' <i>Synea Tan</i>	
<i>Class 4</i> Oncidium & related	Rossioglossum Rawdon Jester 'Munchner Kindl' <i>Jay Norris and Max Wilson</i>	Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS <i>Synea Tan</i>	Oncidium eurycline <i>Anita Kho</i>
<i>Class 5</i> Cymbidium	Galeandra chapadensis <i>Anita Kho</i>		
<i>Class 6</i> Dendrobium	Dendrobium nobile hybrid <i>Henry Glowka</i>		
<i>Class 7</i> All Others	Lycaste cruenta <i>John Spears</i>	Restrepia sanguinea 'Walter' AM/AOS <i>Anita Kho</i>	Pleurothallis dilemma <i>Anita Kho</i>
<i>Class 8</i> Specimen Plants	Maxillaria variabilis <i>Jay Norris and Max Wilson</i>		

Plant of the month – Blc. Pamela Hetherington 'Coronation' FCC/AOS grown by *Peter Norris* and bloomed by his son Jay in his absence (these kids!). Gorgeous specimen of probably 20-25 years old with humungous fragrant pink flowers. Won't make it to the show in its perfect state, sadly... Jay says the key to good cattleya blooming is to let them soak in as much sun as possible when summered outside - this particular plant was getting at least 4 hours of direct sun daily. Apparently, keeping it in a south-facing window, as Peter does, also helps. Congratulations, Peter!

## SHOW Committee Meeting

I would like to have a Show Committee meeting at the TBG in a Studio on March 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm. I need to confirm the rental arrangements but am confident that the date will work. Everyone can attend to review our 2009 show or submit your comments to either Wayne Hingston or Tom Atkinson.



Bob Dowzansky in the kitchen

## AOS Judging Results

### SOOS Show and Toronto Judging Centre February 14, 2009.

*Lycaste xanthocheila* CHM-AOS 82 points, Doug and Terry Kennedy

*Sophrocattleya* Tokyo Life 'Crystal Star' (Tokyo Magic x Circle of Life), AM-AOS 81 points, Eric and Ellen Lee.

*Sophonites coccinea* 'Heart's Delight' HCC-AOS 76 points, Mario and Conni Ferrusi

*Masdevallia* Rainbow Tiger 'Raspberry Stripes' HCC-AOS 78 points, Mario and Conni Ferrusi

*Dracula mopsus* 'Hoosier' CCE-AOS 91 points, Mario and Conni Ferrusi

*Masdevallia* Fandango 'Let's Tango' AM-AOS 81 points, Mario and Conni Ferrusi

*Oncidium volox* CBR-AOS, Jardin Botanique de Montreal.

## Orchids for Sale

Due to illness, I need to sell some of my collection. There are various types and prices. Please contact Kelli Miles at 519-621-5708 or e-mail me at km-miles@hotmail.com.

## Part 2: Andrea Niessen's Colombian Orchids, transcribed by Inge Poot

The genus *Maxillaria* was illustrated with two of the large white species, *Maxillaria lehmannii*, a species with white flowers and a yellow lip that has brown edges and *Maxillaria huebschii*, another large flowered species with white flowers that have pink tips on sepals and petals and a broad yellow lip. Both species are very similar to the genus *Lycaste* in form and flower presentation.

The *Stanhopea* tribe was illustrated with *Acineta superba* and *Lueddemannia pescatorei*. Both species are warm to intermediate growing, have long pendant inflorescences, the former with bowl-shaped beige flowers with red dots and red interiors of the petals and the latter with more open flowers that have brown sepals and while the petals, lip and column are yellow.

*Houlletia odoratissima*, also of the *Stanhopea* tribe and also warm to intermediate growing, has upright to descending inflorescences with 5 to 12 handsome flowers. The flowers are flat, but with narrow segments, deep red-brown, to yellow with an orange overlay on the sepal apical halves, while the lips are white and the columns yellow.

Along the road cuts there will be *Elleanthus* and *Sobralia* species. Both genera have tall stems with alternating plicate leaves and when not in bloom look very much alike.

*Elleanthus sediroi* has clusters of tiny crowded purple blooms at the top of the stems, while *Sobralia virginalis* has single, flat, full, *Cattleya*-like white flowers with gold markings in the lip. Each flower lasts only one day, but they are produced in succession. Since there are 43 different white *Sobralia* species, the nomenclature is in quite a mess!! Up to now they tended to be all called *S. virginalis*! Eric Christenson as well as other

taxonomists are trying to sort out the mess.

A rare short species is *Sobralia andrea* with open, somewhat floppy purple flowers. It is warm growing. *Sobralia roezlii* another giant with long, branched inflorescences of pale purple flowers with dark purple markings in the lip, will probably be moved into another genus.

Orchideas Del Valle are close to Cali in the Cauca Valley. They have one greenhouse in the valley at 1000m (3000ft) elevation and another on the mountain at 2000m (6000ft) elevation. **The Cauca Valley** is between the western and middle mountain chain of the Andes. Most is now used for sugar cane cultivation, but some orchids are found on the remaining trees. The average temperature is 25 degrees Celsius with extremes of 16 to 30 degrees.

A *Cyrtopodium paniculatum* found a foothold near the top storey on a four-level downtown Cali parking garage wall! This species has curious tapered pseudobulbs that are densely clothed with pointy leaves. The long upright branched inflorescences bear many chartreuse, red-speckled flowers with yellow lips that are high-lighted with orange side-lobes.

In the remaining swampy areas is found *Eulophia alta* with 3m inflorescences of about 20-30 laterally compressed flowers with light olive sepals and petals and a deep rose lip. Unfortunately it is hard to grow the plant away from its native environment.

This area is home to the lovely *Cattleya quadricolor*. It bears pairs of snowy white, full, slightly cupped flowers that have a gold chevron at the base of the lip, a purple chevron neat the apex of the lip and a red blotch in between the chevrons!

*Rodriguezia secunda* with its dense sprays of perky little pink flowers that have a white column, are found on many of the trees, all through this area.

Going up the mountain to 3500 -3800m elevation we get into cloud forests with lots of *Pleurothallids* until we reach the sulphur springs. Beside the springs is found a thicket of *Epidendrum frutex* with cream flowers.

In an open area at this high elevation, on volcanic soil, grew *Masdevallia racemosa* with brilliant red flowers that look from afar like little *Phragmipedium bessiaes*! A National Park is located in this area with an interesting trail that reaches 3500m elevations and ends at the hot springs. Eco-tours take advantage of the lovely scenery and will see many *Telopogons* along the trail. The vegetation around the hot springs is often like a lovely rock garden with lush cushions of moss interspersed with purple or green grass clumps

and red or brown mats of some other creeper. Clumps of light green lichens and bright green aloes provides even more variety.

The low growing *Epidendrum fimbriatum* was in the same habitat and produced little white flowers, shaped like *Cattleyas*.

Another curiosity slowly grows near the hot springs, the agave-like *Espeletia*. Among the top tuft of leaves grow fuzzy mustard-coloured flowers that look like pipes in a rack, complete with black "ash" in the bowl!

There are no orchids on the highland on the barren top of the mountain, just below the 5000m snowline. Going from the top of the middle mountain chain eastward we get into the next valley called the Magdalena Valley. Here we find *Cattleya trianae*. This plant must have its roots exposed to do well. Line breeding is being done by Orchideas Del Valle with this species to get plants that have good form and grow easier. One such clone is 'Ginerva' The typical colour is light purple with a dark purple tip to the lip and a golden throat of the tubular lip. Orchideas Del Valle has some very nice dark purple, blue or white clones from this line breeding programme.

Not all dry uplands have no orchids. On some you find *Odontoglossums*. They use their bulbs to store water.

Other plants found in the Magdalena Valley are:

*Cattleya mendelii*, is a light purple species with the base of the lip white with red streaks. The rest of the lip is dark purple.

*Schomburgkias*, called *Laelias* right now (but don't change your labels yet, since the nomenclature is in flux right now) have long inflorescences that raise a ball of crisped, waxy flowers into the sun.

*Cattleya warscewiczii* has light purple flowers with a dark purple lip that has two yellow eyes. Some clones of the darker variety *Sanderana* have nice flat shape. But the loveliest clone shown was the variety *semialba* 'Katia'. It has flat full white flowers with a very colourful lip. The base is rose-pink, the opening of the lip has a central bar of red veins flanked by yellow blotches and the apex of the lip has a large central magenta blotch, leaving a white margin.

The last species from this warm area is *Cychnoches barthiorum*. It produces a pendant inflorescence packed with round full, light olive flowers edged with rust. The lip is dark olive at the base and a white fringed disk as the apex. The latter are the male flowers. The female flowers are much fewer in number and all olive green. Hermaphroditic flowers tend to be just one per inflorescence and look like a thick male



*Cattleya warscewiczii* v. Semi alba 'Katia'. Photo courtesy Andrea Niessen

flower.

The next area discussed is **the Orinoco Basin**, a large low lying area east of the eastern Andes mountain chain. The climate is very different there: 6 months wet and 6 months dry.

*Cattleya schroderae* grows on trees along rivers crossing the hilly areas of the basin. The flowers are white to pink with a yellow blotch at the opening of the trumpet shaped lip. Most clones have red veins in the yellow area. Only selected clones have upright instead of curled back dorsal sepal tips.

These trees also harbour *Catasetums*. *Catasetum* discolour with upright inflorescences bearing loosely arranged chartreuse flowers that have a tubular pointy deep red lip with whiskers on each side. *Catasetum pileatum* was illustrated with a tightly arranged seven-flowered inflorescence whose ice-green large full flowers looked very elegant and serene. Both species often grow on palm trees -well out of reach of grazing animals- and can only be collected in the dry season.

*Maxillaria parkerii* (syn. *lancasterii*) is a pretty species with gold sepals, white petals and a lip with a white edge and reddish throat.

Trees overhanging rivers harbour *Cattleya violacea* with its lovely, very flat medium-sized magenta flowers. The lurid *Coryanthes mastersiana* can also be found. It has very complex flowers that have large beige, red-dotted folded back lateral sepals, exposing the maroon, phallic lip with its attached reddish bucket. The clone shown had an amazing four flowers on the pendant inflorescence.

On guava trees you can find the curious, if not

beautiful *Triseuxis falcata*. It has leaves like a *Tolumnea* and branched inflorescences with flowers that look like female *Begonia* flowers! There is a large swollen green, shaded with rust, ovary with a beak, at the end of which is a tiny white flower. I am ashamed to say, that the immature green ball-shaped guava in the picture was more arresting!!!

The last area covered was **the Amazon basin**. It lies south of the Orinoco basin and is even larger than the latter. This area is so wet that it is not well explored. The aerial view shows a muddy river cutting serpentines through a swampy forest.

Plants found there follow:

*Sobralia* cf. *elegans* is a small *Sobralia* with hooded white flowers growing epiphytically. There sure would not be any well-drained road cut for it to grow on!

*Cochleanthes amazonica* the well-known little beauty with the large white flowers that have a huge blue-purple veined lip is one of the plants growing there.

*Chaubardia klugii* has no visible pseudobulbs and just has plicate leaves forming a fan. From the base of the fan emerge dainty white flowers, one per flower stem, that are laterally compressed.

*Braemia vittata* also has plicate leaves, but produces an upright multi-flowered inflorescence with spidery red-brown, cream edged flowers.

Climbing into the trees is *Vanilla pompon* with flat, chartreuse open flowers that have a trumpet shaped lip. The lip is cream with a fringed margin and a gold throat.

*Scuticaria stelei* has hanging pencil shaped leaves and a flower with flat yellow sepals and petals that are liberally spotted red-brown. The lip is cream, has an expanded apical lobe and has a few red veins.

*Zygosepalum lindenii* has a fan of leaves and a few-flowered inflorescence with flowers that have narrow dark brown sepals and petals and an expanded white lip that is heavily veined and blushed with red.

*Lycaste macrobulbon* was shown growing in a pot in a greenhouse. The plant was leafless and covered with short-stemmed flowers that had flat full chartreuse sepals and cupped yellow petals and lip. The large *Neomoorea irrorata* grows there as well. It has large pseudobulbs bearing two to three large plicate leaves and bears an inflorescence with about a dozen 5cm flowers that are orange with white around the column and a butterfly shaped lip in white red and yellow.



Eriopsis sceptrum

Photo courtesy Andrea Niessen

Eriopsis sceptrum is another large plant that looks like the previous plant, but has wrinkled pseudobulbs and long upright, many-flowered inflorescences with yellow flowers that have red edges. The lip is flat, three lobed, with the long basal portion brown, the apical portion white with red dots and a yellow edge. The column is white, becoming green towards the anther cap and has big white wings that are edged with yellow. Lovely flowers! It is found growing above rivers.

The last pictures were of the Orchideas Del Valle exhibits at their Cali show and Andrea Niessen ended her talk by urging us to come to Cali on **November 19, 2009** to see the next show. It should be impressive!

#### Equipment for sale

I have retired and closed my micropropagation/flasking business. I now have a commercial-sized Market Forge steam sterilizer (autoclave); a Bausch & Lomb dissecting microscope and an Ohaus fine balance (3 decimal places) for sale. All would be ideal for establishing or expanding an orchid micropropagation or flasking facility.

I can be reached at [vhildebrandt@sentex.ca](mailto:vhildebrandt@sentex.ca) or ph 519-821-4736.

I appreciate your help in seeing this equipment goes to an appropriate individual.

**Cloud's Orchids**  
**Special Spring Catalogue Preview**  
**February 28 & March 1,**  
**11 am. to 4 pm.**  
For details, visit our web site at  
[www.cloudsorhids.com](http://www.cloudsorhids.com)