

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY NEWS

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

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

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

Executive: President, Tom Atkinson 416-449-7907; Vice-president, Yvonne Schreiber, 905-473-3405; Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281; Treasurer, Elizabeth McAlpine, 416-487-7832

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

Annual Show: February 13 – 14, 2010



Cypripedium reginae photo by PP

Meeting Program Sunday, September 27: Our guest speaker will be Joyce Medcalf on "The Magic of Ecuador". Joyce is a member of SOOS and an orchid judge who travels widely.

Note: Also coming to SOOS: November 1, Henry Oakley from Great Britain on Lycastes.

Please Note: Our October meeting is September 27 and the October AOS judging is September 26 at the COOS show at the Hespeler Arena in Cambridge

Please help us be sociable: name tags: if you have a name tag, please wear it; if you do not have one yet, please purchase one. When we wear our tags, it shows we care and want to share our love of orchids.

Suggestion Box: This is your club. Tell us what you would like or what we do wrong. The box is at the refreshment table.

Early Membership Renewal. To encourage early renewal for 2010 there will be two draws for two orchid plants each time. 2009 Members renewing membership for the 2010 year who renew by the end of the November meeting are eligible for the December and January draws. Anyone renewing by the end of the December meeting is eligible for the January draw. A member is able to win only once. **So, renew and get yourself a chance at an orchid plant.**



SOOS President's Remarks

"The unbearable lightness of being" (an orchid lover)

Paphiopedilum Norito Hasegawa

Hello fellow orchid lovers. The wet conditions have vanished since my last note to you, and a very pleasant summer swept in afterwards. I have noticed, in our own garden, that the fruits and seeds on some of the plants are either non-existent, or are very slow in ripening. This phenomenon I attribute to the very cool, wet spring and the first half of summer. We should be seeing Catbirds now feeding on Pokeberry fruit – always a delight – but the latter are still green. Perhaps an autumn feast awaits these avian friends.

The sole charitable donation which the board has approved to date is one to the colour fund of the **Orchid Digest** publication. We do await input from the conservation committee in the hopes that a worthwhile subject, related to orchids either directly (e.g. land preservation) or indirectly (e.g. support of a horticultural institution which is supportive of orchid culture) can be found.

It was indeed a treat to finally see, meet, and hear Norito Hasegawa at our September 6 meeting. His comments on the eradication of native populations of orchids around the world – a phenomenon applicable to many other species of flora and fauna – is both sad, and a challenge. There are many ways that we, either as SOOS or as individuals, can help in this fight, from donating society funds to preservation and restoration, or even doing so in our own gardens and greenhouses.

Miracle Dieu, but we actually had one of our members step forward and say that he might be interested in joining the SOOS board of directors. That action rather made my day when he approached me and then spoke to Jay Norris. If a body, be it a company, a society, or even a board of directors, does not change, then it can atrophy. We get "contaminated", if you will, by thinking that there are only certain ways to go about our business. Newcomers, before they too succumb to this fatal condition, see things through innocent eyes; and that is why we do

ask you to seriously consider becoming a board member.

I give thought to revitalization of our society from time to time. Here are just 3 things which spring to my mind as I ponder how we can improve; and I hope that, as you read what I have jotted down, you too will have ideas which can be of benefit to SOOS:

- the speaker – workshop program which is the heart of all of our monthly meetings is set up by, and depends upon, Mario Ferrusi. If what you hear or participate in at the meetings does not meet all of your needs, why not bring your own ideas and "what if's" forward?
- one area which has changed almost frighteningly is the number of vendors on whom we draw for the splendid orchids which you and I crave, or are seduced by. There are far fewer vendors today, in the fall of 2009, than when I joined SOOS after the 2004 show. How can we revitalize this aspect of our society? The most obvious way is to buy more orchids! (This is a statement heartily endorsed by all of the vendors.) Another way is to support the vendors who are good enough to bring their orchids to our meetings and to our show. You can get el-cheapo Phalaenopsis orchids from Home Depot, but the consequence is fewer expert, caring vendors in business, a paucity of variety in the orchids available to us, and far less knowledge to draw upon for all of us
- finally, what is it that made you join SOOS? What made you remain as a member? If you have ever considered dropping out of the society, what were (or are) some of the reasons for this thinking?

I trust that the previous (revitalization) part of this monthly note has not depressed you. I did think – hard – about removing it, and having a "McHappy" only memo. Obviously, that thought entered my mind, there to die of loneliness. So do, please, give a moment or two of contemplation to what makes SOOS tick.

When you do contact me: asimina@sympatico.ca or 416-449-7907, or buttonhole me at the meetings.

Welcome New Members

Carolyn Young, Gay King, Lily Lo

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:

Dates are: September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14, 2009 and January 11, 2010

Coming Events

September

21, Newcomers meeting, Toronto Botanical Gardens Board room 7 pm.

26-27, Central Ontario Orchid Society Show and **Toronto Centre October judging,**

Cambridge Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Road, Cambridge, Ontario.

27, SOOS meeting Toronto Botanical Garden 12 noon!!!!!!

October

10-11, 2009, Niagara Frontier Orchid Society Show, Buffalo, NY

October 15 - 18th, 2009, Canadian Orchid Congress Annual Meeting , Symposium and Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale, at the George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42nd Ave, Langley, British Columbia.

October 14 -18, 2009, AOS members meeting and Southland Orchid Show at the Huntington Library, California.

19, Newcomers meeting, Toronto Botanical Gardens Board room 7 pm.

24-25, ECOS Show, Montreal

November

1, SOOS meeting Toronto Botanical Garden 12 noon,
Speaker Henry Oakley on Lycastes.

7, Toronto Centre judging, Toronto Botanical Garden, Semi-annual meeting 10 am, judging 1 pm.

13-14, Niagara Region Orchid Society Show, Ste. Catherines, ON.

16, Newcomers meeting, Toronto Botanical Gardens Board room 7 pm.

December

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

6, SOOS meeting Toronto Botanical Garden 12 noon, General Meeting to conduct elections, Annual auction, Pot luck social.

14, Newcomers meeting, Toronto Botanical Gardens Board room 7 pm.

Upcoming Orchid Shows

The fall show season kicks off with the Central Ontario Orchid Society show at the Hespeler Arena in Cambridge on September 26 and 27. SOOS will have an exhibit at that show and **Inge and Peter Poot** will need your flowering plants. So give them a call at 905-640-5643 if you will have plants to contribute to the display. The next show is the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society Show, October 10 and 11 in Buffalo, NY. Then the Eastern Canada Orchid Society show in Montreal October 24 and 25 (display by the Poots), followed by the Ste. Catherines show November 14 and 15. We will need plants for both Montreal and Ste. Catherines. **Don Wyatt** has volunteered to handle the display at the Ste. Catherines show.

AOS Judging Results

Toronto Judging Centre, September 5:

Coelogyne salmonicolor 'Milan' HCC-AOS, 79 points, Alan Salzman, Rochester, NY.

Stanhopea ruckeri 'Goodwood' HCC-AOS, 79 points, Inge and Peter Poot, Goodwood, Ontario.

Recent additions to the SOOS Library at the TBG. The first four titles are new books, the remaining titles are donations from Gary Schreiber's collection. These books and others

may be borrowed through the TBG Library by SOOS members.

1. The Genus Stanhopea by Rudolph Jenny.
2. The new Encyclopedia of Orchids by Isobyl la Croix
3. The Genus Paphiopedilum albino forms by Olaf Gruss
4. Huntleyas and related Orchids by Patricia A. Harding
5. The Slipper Orchids by Esme F. Hennessy
6. Monograph of the Genus Gongora by Rudolph Jenny
7. Native Ecuadorian Orchids : volume III by Calaway H. Dodson
8. Native Ecuadorian Orchids : volume V by Calaway H. Dodson
9. Flora's Orchids by Ned Nash
10. Commercial Propagation of Orchids in Tissue Culture by Kay S. Greisen
11. The World Wildlife Fund book of Orchids

Inge's Programme Notes for August 2,

Part 2

Miniature Orchids, by Margaret Webb (transcribed by Inge Poot)

New World Species

In the **Epidendreae** tribe we have the

Pleurothallidinae (Pleurothallis subtribe). This subtribe is comprised of a great variety of species from Central to South America. They are sympodial orchids without pseudobulbs for water storage and therefore cannot tolerate extended dry periods. Their habitat is usually shady and moist, but they occupy a wide range of vertical habitats, from sea level to 13000 feet. Therefore this group includes warm, intermediate and cool growers.

Pleurothallids love a humidity of 60% or more. They are easiest to grow in a greenhouse equipped with an automatic misting system.

Masdevallia rex from Ecuador and *Masdevallia constricta* from Peru are two similar species with horizontally held white tubular flowers with flared sepal tips and whose tubes and long sepaline tails are yellow. They are intermediate to warm growing.

Masdevallia glandulosa from Ecuador and Peru grows at 4000 feet (1200m) elevation and has pink tubular flowers with yellow and magenta lines in the throat and magenta dots on the flared part of the tube. It has a clove scent.

Masdevallia strobellii from Ecuador and Peru (intermediate growing) has fuzzy yellow flowers with swept back tails. An orange band runs horizontally through the flower. Dead flowers have to be removed.

Masdevallia yungasensis is a cool grower from Bolivia with magenta veined pink flowers.

Masdevallia chaparensis from Bolivia is used in hybrids to increase warmth tolerance. It has pink flowers with red-brown blotches outlined with lighter pink. It produces spots in its hybrids. (Mario Ferrusi uses it a lot in his hybrids!)

Masdevallia discoidea and *M. infracta* (intermediate to warm growing) both from Brazil have red flowers with a wide white edge at the place where the lateral sepals join the dorsal.

Masdevallia mejiana from Colombia likes intermediate to warm temperatures. It produces white flowers with long golden tails and a yellow horizontal stripe across the flower. There are a few minute pink freckles in the throat.

Masdevallia limax (cool growing) and *M. mendozae* (intermediate to cool growing) are two orange flowered plants from Ecuador. Both have their sepals completely fused to form a tube with only the tails separate and looking like feelers of snails. *M. limax* has a bulging base and is narrowest at the opening of the tube, while *M. mendozae* is narrowest at the base of the tube and becomes widest at the mouth.

Masdevallia chasei, a cool grower from Central America has small white flowers with droopy chartreuse tails.

Masdevallia calura from Costa Rica and adjacent countries is fairly warm growing and produces

handsome, glossy, deep burgundy-red flowers held on a level with the top of the leaves. They have long vertically held golden caudae or tails. Each scape can produce two long-lasting flowers, the second one produced when the first one falls off. As an added bonus, this plant can bloom more than once per year and each growth can produce a second inflorescence.

Masdevallia (or as recently renamed *Diodonopsis erinacea*) is a tiny, cute species with green to gold, very hairy flowers that are variously shaded with brown. They resemble hedgehogs, hence the name. The short caudae look like stamens or possibly antennae of butterflies. They are intermediate to warm growing and come from Panama.

Draculas are cloud forest inhabitants and thrive in moist, humid conditions. Humidity of over 70 % is needed for good results. Net pots or mounted culture will accommodate those with pendant inflorescences. Most of them are intermediate to cool growing. Most species have hairy flowers, especially on the exterior of the flower. Their lips are much more prominent than the lips of *Masdevallias* and tend to have a rough tongue like surface. They resemble knobby droopy noses or cheeky extended tongues! Most have small rounded flat petals with a dark eye-like spot in the centre. Some look like little devils, others like mournful clowns!

The examples shown were *D. cordobae* has pendant white three-pointed star-shaped flowers with red edges. *D. inaequalis* (Colombia) has white flowers with a shallow red-flushed tube, a pink lip and red swept-back caudae. *D. lotax* has a white flat flower with a deep red blotch contrasting beautifully with the white lip and straight, vertically held, red tails. *D. olmosii* (Panama) has gold flowers with a pink lip and curly red tails. It has a most realistic little urchin face in the centre!

The genus *Trisetella*, illustrated with the species *T. gemmata* from Colombia contains several tiny species, most of which have large elongated red flowers. The species shown looked like a red-brown and gold bug trying not to slide down an incline! Intermediate temperatures suit it well. The species *Trisetella hoeijeri* from Ecuador is quite different with white flowers that have red dots along the veins, a short pink lip and the lateral sepals are not fused but spread out like wings. The flowers look like little airplanes!

Lepanthes are absolutely wonderful little miniatures! They like a moist humid environment and seem to do well in an enclosed terrarium. Your transcriber is finally doing well with them by putting them into glass jars closed with a glass lid. The potting medium is live sphagnum moss. The jars are open a tiny crack and are kept in the house under lights near a north window. When I suspect the moss might be getting a bit dry, I water with rainwater and tip out the excess. Once every few months they get a very weak fertilizer (MSU) instead of rain-water. They flower several times per year!

The flowers of most species are so tiny, they have to be looked at with a magnifying glass to appreciate their intricate beauty. The petiole emerges from the spot where the heart-shaped leaf-blade joins the stem and the flowers are usually presented lying on top of the leaf blade. The typical flower has flat, full sepals, the laterals partly fused, slender, sickle-shaped petals and a very intricate lip-different for every species. Several flowers come in succession from each leaf. Most like intermediate temperatures and therefore like your transcriber's cool (for humans!), energy conserving home.

The species shown were *L. jayandellii* from Ecuador, a species with light brown sepals, a circular raised light red lip and curled bright red petals, *L. dictiota* is very colourful with a magenta, white edged dorsal, white lateral sepals, slightly expanded petal tops in yellow with red shadings and a pink and yellow, elongated lip. The *L. meniscophora* (Ecuador) shown had a white dorsal, pink lateral sepals with a white picotee, pale to dark pink petals and a red and white heart-shaped lip.



Lepanthes fiskei and *L. gargoyla* both from Ecuador have similar dark red flowers. *L. fiskii* has fairly wide, hairy leaves, while *L. gargoyla* has narrow, longer and pebbly-surfaced leaves. Both have yellow around the area covered by the deep red petals and lip and a yellow picotee on the laterals. The tips of

the laterals are extended into short tails, curved outward in *L. fiskii* and curved inward in *L. gargoyla*.

Lepanthes obtusa is a stunning species from Jamaica. It has pale magenta flushed leaf blades and fairly

large, brilliant all red, round flowers- in the example shown, two at a time.

Lepanthes papilio from the Dominican Republic has long branched inflorescences, made attractive by the regularly alternating arrangement of the green ovaries left behind by the fallen off flowers. The flowers themselves are fairly large, the sepals translucent peach and chartreuse, the petals fairly wide, deep orange on the top half and deep gold on the bottom half and the whole thing set off by the deep red, wide, two-pointed lip.

Lepanthes calodictyon from Colombia is gorgeous even when not in bloom. It has almost circular dark green leaves tessellated front and back with deep purple. The edge is ornamented with a chartreuse ruffled border. The flower is tiny, but looks like a deep red mosquito with translucent pale chartreuse wings. A stunner! (Intermediate to warm growing)

Lepanthes telipogoniflora is another stunner that is easy to grow. It has tiny, shiny green leaves and produces one to 2 cm round full, flat red to orange to beige flowers. The veins in the sepals are a little darker. The thread-like thin petals are dark red and the tiny lip magenta. The edge of the sepals may in some clones have a wide to narrow green to yellow picotee.

Pleurothallis is a genus of orchids that has recently been very much divided into other genera. Most plants like intermediate temperatures and are easy to grow.

Pleurothallis allenii from Panama has long slender leaves and peeking out from between them are the elegant long red flowers whose sepals and forward facing petals have a yellow picotee. They look like graceful ballerinas emerging from the wings of a stage!

Pleurothallis medina from Ecuador has a translucent, chartreuse, oval dorsal and fused lateral sepal with yellow main veins, slender, uplifted, soft orange petals and a wide deep yellow lip with a red blotch near the apex.

Pleurothallis dressleri (Central America) makes mats of tiny, fat round leaves and produces little dark-red, flushed with orange bell-shaped flowers that are at least twice the size of the leaves!

Pleurothallis (Specklinia) microphylla also from Central America produces mats of small leaves and sprays of chartreuse to yellow flowers that look like open beaks of birds.

Pleurothallis (Acianthera) wagneri (Panama) has larger upright leaves and inflorescences that lift the flowers just above the leaves. The flowers look like shiny, red-brown open bird beaks.

Pleurothallis pterophora from Brazil is shaped like the previous species but has snow-white sprays of flowers.

Pleurothallis amparoana from Panama has attained a certain notoriety because its stems of translucent yellow flowers have lateral sepals that look like a toilet bowl and the dorsal sepals for all the world like toilet lids! The flower even has hairs lining the bowl and lid edge, just like the washable covering of a real toilet!

Pleurothallis sarracania (now called *Acianthera braggae*) from Brazil has bunches of terete leaves and the dark red-brown flowers in the picture shown looked like two red slugs kissing!

Pleurothallis (Acianthera) aseroides, also from Brazil is similar, but tinier and in the example shown had a cluster of four heavy textured, slug-like, red-brown flowers, pushing out from between the mat of slanted terete leaves. The flower parts were fused so as to only leave a small opening at the tip, simulating a slug mouth.

Platystele is another genus with mostly very tiny members. Most like intermediate temperatures and humid, shady conditions and therefore are splendid prospects for covered terrarium or glass jar culture-again in pure sphagnum moss and rain water.

Platystele stenosyachya from Central America is a tiny plant that produces sprays of 0.3mm flowers of flat form, that remind me of *Dendrobium* flowers in miniature! The flowers are cream with a bright yellow lip.

Platystele reflexa from Ecuador is similar in growth habit and flower form as the previous species but the flowers are orange with red and gold shadings.

Platystele umbellate from Colombia is absolutely charming with its balls of red-brown, flowers that have big round lips of velvety texture. (Mine is always in bloom in its glass jar!)

Restrepia is another genus of easy to grow plants. They like intermediate to cool conditions and do not need to be as wet and humid as most other genera in this sub-tribe. They prefer a bit more light as well and more air movement. The flowers tend to have a

slender upright dorsal sepal with a knob at the end. The flat fused lateral sepals to which the small lip is pressed are hard to distinguish from the lip, because of their similar colour. The slender petals have knobs on the end. The flowers are produced in succession from the leaf blade base.

The four examples shown, all came from Colombia and Ecuador. All had translucent slender dorsals with three red veins – the mid-vein being much thicker than the others. All had thread-like red petals. The dorsal and petals had knobs on their ends. All had light columns hanging down like fat noses!

Restrepia trichoglossa had yellow lateral sepals and lip with an almost solid overlay of red veining and flushing leaving only the area near the apex yellow.

Restrepia elegans and *R. contorta* had yellow laterals with red dots. *R. sanguinea* had pink laterals with magenta dots and a bit of yellow overlay on the lip.

Scaphosepalum is a genus with upside-down flowers. The tails of the fused lateral sepals are usually bulging and the tips curved down like the horns of fighting bulls – hence the common name of “Water Buffalo Orchids”. Most prefer intermediate temperatures. The examples shown, all came from Central and South America. The flowers are produced successively on the branched inflorescences.

Scaphosepalum anchoriferum from Costa Rica has cream laterals and a deep red pointy dorsal. The markings on the laterals are rows of dots between the red veins, yellow pads with red dots on the base of the curved down yellow caudae. The lip is round, yellow with a red ragged edge.



Scaphosepalum fimbriatum has a similar colour scheme to the previous species, but the pads are not very pronounced at the caudae bases and

the slender curved caudae are covered with coarse hairs.

Scaphosepalum ovulare only has the upside down flowers, but three waxy sepals are all fused leaving just a small hole and the whole flower has very heavy substance. The flowers are beige with red-brown speckles. It is probably bird pollinated.

Scaphosepalum manningii has its flowers right side up. The dorsal is slender, red and erect. The laterals are fused for most of their length, yellow with pads along the central two thirds of the lateral sepals and just tiny out-facing caudae. The tiny lip has red shadings under it.

Zootrophion is the last genus covered in this sub-tribe. The plants require mostly intermediate temperatures. The flowers are like Masdevallias with the tips of the sepals fused and bent down, but with the sides more or less open. Flowers tend to be produced in pairs on the short inflorescence and look like the head of a bird of prey!

Zootrophion hypodiscus is yellow with red spotting and flushing near the base and near the tip of the flower.

Zootrophion dayanum has a very large opening, exposing the big bulging red lip. It looks like the tongue of the bird! The sepals are cream with red-brown stripes, yellow near the base of the flower.

Zootrophion atropurpureum has red brown flowers with darker veins, a green ovary and a small, rather rounded hole in the side of the flowers.

Zootrophion vulturiceps has white flowers with fairly small, narrow slits.

The next sub tribe in **Epidendreae**, the **Laelia sub tribe (Laeliinae)** is covered below:

The miniature members of this sub tribe thrive in bright light. They should be grown in small pots or on mounts to allow for thorough drying between watering. The species covered below are all intermediate growers.

Epidendrum longirepens (Peru) makes mats of short clustered stems, covered with little alternating thick leaves. At the end of each stem the plant can produce a glossy, chartreuse Cattleya-like flower that is as big as two leaves. Each flower has red shadings on the distal half of the flower parts and a shiny red orifice like crest on the claw of the lip. The lip beyond the claw is heart-shaped.

Epidendrum porpax (Central and South America) has a similar growth habit to the above species. The flowers have slender petals, but the lip is thick, rounded and glossy red, The sepals and petals can

vary from cream to dark brown. The lip has a well-marked cavity near its base.

Homalopetalum pumilio from Mexico forms mats of elongated clustered leaves and produces spidery cream flowers with light green lips that are at least three times as large as the leaves. The flowers are produced singly, but the well-grown plant shown had six blooming growths!

Leptotes bicolor from Brazil, grows intermediate to warm and produces fat little leaves in a clustered growth habit. The large star-shaped flowers are white with pale pink to dark magenta lips with tiny green side-lobes and a dark green to black column. The sepals and petals often curve a bit untidily.

Sophranites (soon to be called a *Cattleya*) *cernua* is a tiny fat little *Cattleya* whose flowers are adapted for bird pollination, by being of heavy substance with a nectary and a bright orange colour. (From Brazil, grows intermediate to warm)

Encyclia bractescens (from Mexico) is a small *Cattleya* like plant which produces sprays of dainty flowers with spidery brown sepals and petals and a big pink lip.

Isabella pulchella (Brazil) has a scrambling growth habit with tiny pseudobulbs and narrow terete leaves. The somewhat open flowers are produced singly but are fairly large in relation to the size of the plant and are a deep magenta.

Isabella virginalis, also from Brazil has a much more compact growth habit. It has its rhizomes and pseudobulbs covered by netting-like bracts that look like sacking! The single, white to pale pink flowers emerge from the "sacking" and have a red border around the anther cap. It grows at intermediate to warm temperatures.

The **Ornithocephlinae**, or **Ornithocephalus** subtribe was illustrated next.

Ornithocephalus and related miniature species grow in moderate light and need to dry out between watering. They grow well in small pots or mounted and are intermediate growers.

Centroglossa macroceras is a darling little miniature from Brazil! It produces a tuft of leathery slender leaves and at flowering time the large, white, non-resupinate (up-side down) flowers emerge from between the leaves and are held just beyond them. The flowers are full, a bit cupped and the uppermost lip has green veining on it. The chartreuse column has a beak on it. In the picture shown, the four flowers looked like white sweet peas that almost covered the little bundle of leaves.

Ornithocephalus inflexus from Mexico makes a tiny fan of succulent leaves and when well grown produces several little inflorescences that are a little longer than the height of the plant. The spikes emerge on the side of the plant that gets the light. The sprays are covered with two ranks of tiny white flowers each of which has a green beaked column.

Platyrrhiza quadricolor from Brazil is a miniature has little fleshy leaves that hug the potting medium or mount. The flowers are displayed in long erect sprays and look much like dainty *Oncidium*s with slender backswept chartreuse sepals and petals and a full, yellow lip with a horn on each side. The orange column provides a lovely contrast.

The last subtribe of the **Epidendreae** tribe covered in this talk was the **Oncidinae** or **Oncidium** subtribe.

Miniature *Oncidium*s and related species grow well in bright to bright filtered light and need to dry between watering. The species discussed below are intermediate growers.



Oncidium croesus from Brazil needs good drainage. It has the typical *Oncidium* foliage of two to three

slender leaves covering the bottom and the top of the small laterally (sideway) compressed pseudobulb. The inflorescence comes from the bottom of the newest pseudobulb and in the clone shown carried 6 large flowers per stem, but the little plant had at least three new growths and hence three inflorescences. The flowers are butter yellow. Sepals and petals are almost completely overlaid with shiny chestnut brown. The central portion of the lip is overlaid a deep red, becoming almost black around the crest.

Oncidium harrisonianum (Brazil) has a single leathery leaf atop each pseudobulb. The flowers are displayed on long branching inflorescences. The flowers are yellow with a medium brown overlay on the sepals and petals and a medium red blotch around the crest of the lip.

Macroclinium manabinum (Ecuador) has fleshy little leaves and the flowers look like a swarm of pink bees attached to the end of a stem! The petals have two darker pink vertical stripes and long pointy ends creating the bee effect. The column is long and slender with a big knob on the end and deep pink. The lip is pointy and pink. The dusty pink sepals have a white picotee and form the “wings” of the bee.

Macroclinium lexarzanum from Mexico is also pink and white, but the flowers droop and look more like little feather dusters! The sepals are more slender than in the previous species and all white. The petals and lip are pink with darker spots.

Sigmatostalix picta (South America) is a member of a genus whose columns look a lot like birds. The leaves in all the species your transcriber has ever seen, are thin and slender –on top of tiny pseudobulbs- and the growth habit is clustered. In this species the inflorescences are fairly long and horizontal and display the little yellow and brown “strutting turkeys” to perfection! The down-swept yellow and red-brown spotted sepals and petals form the “body” and the erect round red and yellow lip the “fanned tail” of the “turkey”.

Sigmatostalix graminea (Ecuador) forms a mound of tiny slender leaves with the bright yellow flowers peeking out shyly from between them. The lip is large and rounded and the sepals and petals slender and short and the sepals are a bit swept back. The petals are held flat and have a striking brown bar in the middle.

Scelochilus latipetalus from Peru produces pendant inflorescences of yellow and pink pea-like flowers. The whole flowers are yellow. The dorsal sepal and the fused lateral sepals are held like two troughs above and below the rest of the flower. The wide petals clasp the column and have their top third folded back and veined and flushed with deep pink. The lip has a deep yellow claw and two rounded apical lobes that are folded down and veined and flushed in softer pink.

Capanemia superflua from Brazil has a clustered growth habit and slender terete leaves. The wiry arched inflorescences are as long as the leaves and are produced in profusion. They are covered with tiny white flowers.

Psygmorhis titania from Costa Rica is a charming miniature with a tiny fan of leathery leaves. The large flowers emerge from between the leaves and unfold in succession just above the leaves. They have the typical *Oncidium* shape and are all yellow with a bit of light brown flushing. This species is a twig epiphyte and tends to be short-lived – probably because twigs tend to be short-lived too! They need 50-60% humidity.



Plant of the Month

The plant of the month is *Cycnodes Wine Delight* bloomed by Iryna Bonya – two unusually long inflorescences of many fragrant flowers the colour of good red wine and healthy green foliage. Iryna grows it in the basement at the end of a 20” tall shelf under four T8 light tubes. Even though the plant is fairly big and almost touches the lights, it grows in a small 4” pot with open medium of bark, coconut chips, lava rock, tree fern and sphagnum moss with a half teaspoon of slow release fertilizer. The plant is watered and fertilized weakly once a week, so it dries between watering, but gets misted every other morning to help the humidity and upset the spider mites. It did not go dormant after its last blooming, so it was just moved to a slightly bigger pot with some slow release fertilizer. Congratulations Iryna.

September 2009 Show Table

Class	First	Second	Third
<p>Class 1</p> <p>Cattleya Alliance</p>	<p>Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Brassolaeliocattleya) Haw Yuan Beauty 'Pearl' HCC/AOS, <i>John Vermeer</i></p> <p>Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Sophrolaeliocattleya) Samantha Duncan 'OrangeTart' HCC/AOS <i>John Vermeer</i></p>	<p>Sophrolaeliocattleya Love Castle 'Kurenai' AM/AOS, <i>John Vermeer</i></p>	<p>Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Potinara) Shinfong Honey 'Happy New Year', <i>John Vermeer</i></p> <p>Cattleya maxima, <i>Peter Norris</i></p>
<p>Class 2</p> <p>Paphiopedilum</p>	<p>Paphiopedilum Pinocchio x bellatulum, <i>Manuela Lapuente</i></p>	<p>Paphiopedilum moquettianum x ?, <i>Manuela Lapuente</i></p>	
<p>Class 3</p> <p>Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance</p>	<p>Aerangis kirkii, <i>Calvin Lo</i></p>	<p>Aeranthes grandiflora, <i>Calvin Lo</i></p>	<p>Aerangis mystacidii, <i>Calvin Lo</i></p> <p>Aerangis punctata, <i>Calvin Lo</i></p>
<p>Class 4</p> <p>Oncidium & related</p>	<p>Aliceara Helmut Rorhl 'Carmela'</p> <p><i>Synea Tan</i></p>		
<p>Class 6</p> <p>Dendrobium</p>	<p>Dendrobium chrysotoxum, <i>Rosanna Li</i></p>	<p>Dendrobium farmeri, <i>Rosanna Li</i></p>	
<p>Class 7</p> <p>All Others</p>	<p>Cycnoches chlorochilon, <i>Stephen Chen</i></p>	<p>Pleurothallis nipterophylla, <i>Joyce Medcalf</i></p> <p>Catasetum expansum, <i>Joe O'Regan</i></p>	<p>Catasetum laminatum, <i>Joe O'Regan</i></p>
<p>Class 8</p> <p>Specimen Plants</p>	<p>Cycnodes Wine Delight AM/AOS, <i>Iryna Bonya</i></p>		