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Membership: *Annual Dues $30 per calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Surcharge $15 for newsletter by postal service.*
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Honorary Life Members: *Terry Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Inge Poot, Peter Poot, Joe O'Regan, Diane Ryley, Wayne Hingston.*
Annual Show: *February 14-15, 2015*

Next Meeting Sunday, December 7 , in the Floral Hall of the Toronto Botanical Garden, Sales 12 noon, Cultural snapshots on the stage at 12:15 pm before every meeting. We now have cohosts - Wayne Hingston and Alexsi Antanaitis. This month: Growing Media and Repotting.

Program at 1 pm:
Annual Auction of orchid plants and plant related items; Donations of items for auction are always welcome if possible let Jay Norris know in advance at jay@ravenvision.ca

Holiday Social; Please bring a holiday dish to share for our social after the auction..

Please note: To preserve time and space for the auction and social there will be No plant show table, No Member sales table, and No raffle.

Be an early bird renew your Membership now at the membership desk, or you can renew at our website www.soos.ca

President's Remarks Welcome Orchid Lovers.

Where has the time gone? Watching the snow today made me realize that the holiday season is upon us. It is soon time for our annual auction and holiday get-together.

If you are donating plants, etc. for the auction, please let Jay Norris know ahead of time so he can inventory items on the computer. His email address is jay@ravenvision.ca . This will make it easier if things are recorded prior to the December meeting. Any last minute items can still be brought in on the Sunday and they will be recorded.

This brings me to the second part of the meeting. It is our pot luck in celebration of the holiday season. This social time will immediately follow the auction. Come out and join us and, of course, bring a tasty treat.

Remember there will be **no** show table, **no** members' sales table, and **no** raffle for December. We are leaving the time open for you to spend at the auction. What can be a better holiday gift than an orchid? Two orchids, maybe?

Thank you members whose surnames begin with **To** through **Z** for the great treats. We all enjoyed them.

Once again, we will be continuing our cultural snapshots. These will take place on the stage at 12:15 pm before every meeting. We are pleased that we now have two co-hosts - Wayne Hingston and Alexi Antanaitis. All are welcome to participate in these sessions. Topics to be covered are:

December 7	Media and Repotting
January 4	Light, Humidity, Temperature

Over the year, we have had some vacancies in positions. We require your help. Our programming position is vacant. If you are interested, please let me know. The position description will be posted on the scrolling monthly announcements.

Next year, we will be celebrating 50 years. We are still looking for suggestions and memorabilia that we can use to make this significant year even more special. If you have any suggestions, please submit your ideas to the box at the podium. You can also discuss your suggestions with any member of the executive.

We are continuing to have an early membership draw for two plants. If you have purchased your membership any time from September on, your name will be entered for one of these prizes. This raffle will continue on through to our first meeting in January. Get your membership early. Remember, you must be in attendance to receive your prize. Also, if you bring in a new person and they take out a membership, you are entitled to receive a free pass to our show. Good luck!

Thank you to all members who participated in the fall shows by loaning us their precious plants. We really appreciate your efforts in helping us with the SOOS display. Over the four shows, many ribbons were won. All ribbons awarded attest to the quality of plants you, our growers, have achieved. Again, thank you. Come February, we will be looking for those rejuvenated plants for our spring shows. The shows will begin with our own in February. Please keep this in mind and continue being as generous with your precious babies.
Thank you and we will see you at our next meeting.
Laura Liebgott
Questions or comments: Please contact me at:
lliebgott@rogers.com or 905 883 5290

Coming Events

DECEMBER

6, Toronto Judging Centre: Judges education 10 am, Broughtonia's by Andre Couture; Monthly Judging, 1 pm Toronto Botanical Garden. (business meeting)
7, **SOOS meeting,** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.
13, Montreal Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal.

2015

JANUARY

3 , Toronto Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, 1 pm Toronto Botanical Garden
4, **SOOS meeting,** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.
25, **SOOS meeting,** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.

FEBRUARY

14-15 SOOS Show+TJC Monthly judging
28, Mar 1 RBG Show **+** TJC Monthly Judging

MARCH

8, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.
14-15, Genesee Region Orchid Show, Rochester, NY.
21-22 London Orchid Show
20-22 Manitoba Orchid Show, Winnipeg.
*26-29 Saskatoon Orchid Show and Canadian Orchid Congress Annual Meeting, Saskatoon.
28-29 Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Show, Montreal.

APRIL

4 , Toronto Judging Centre, Monthly Judging, 1 pm Toronto Botanical Garden
5, **SOOS meeting,** Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm.
11-12 Toronto Artistic Orchid Show, Toronto.
11- 12 Quebec City Orchid Show
18-19 Ottawa Orchid Sodiety Show
*29- May 3 AOS Trustees Meeting – Portland OR

SOOS Annual Valentine Orchid Show, February 14 – 15, 2015 at the Toronto Botanical Garden

Our show date is fast approaching, are you ready? Participation gets you free entry to the show.

We will need your flowering plants for the **SOOS display** in the show. This year in honour of our 50th anniversary there will be a trophy for the best orchid in the SOOS display. So start grooming your potential winners.

We still have room for **more displays** in the show as well. Team up with another member or members and do your own creative display with orchids. Let Tom Atkinson know as soon as possible to reserve your space.

Our show also features an exhibition of orchid **art and photography**. Contact Judy Palmer (judypalmer39@yahoo.ca) for the rules and to reseve space.

To get a good attendance at our show we need you to help us **publicise our show**. There are posters and $2 off coupons available for you to distribute to friends, family, associates and public places. Pick some up at a meeting.

We need you to **volunteer to help** with **setup and teardown, kitchen food and drink distribution, show supervision (security), plant and coat check, show tours, clerking and judging.** Sign up sheets for these jobs with the details are at each of our meetings. Please sign up, we need you to pre-register yourself so we can prepare name badges.

Thank you for your help. Peter Poot, show chair.

AOS Judging Results

Please note, all of these awards are provisional until published by the American Orchid Society.

Toronto Judging Centre November 1, 2014:

Lc Tokyo Life HCC-AOS 76 points, DiCiommo Orchids

Cymbidium ensifolium Fu Shan 'Birmingham Emerald Chrysanthemum' CHM-AOS 81 points Jay Norris and Max Wilson

Cattleya Christian Starr AM-AOS 82 points, Peter and Trudy Norris

Mormodes Mark Mills AM-AOS 81 points B. Butts and C. Lefaive.

Note! The next judging will be held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, Saturday, December 6. Education and bi-annual business meeting : at 10 am. Judging at 1 pm. AOS Judging is a service of the American Orchid Society and is open to all! Bring us your flowering orchids. We need the practice.

Eastern Canada Orchid Society Ribbon Winners

1st Place Ribbons

Vanda Manuvadee FCC Jocelyn Webber

Phalaenopsis Hybrid Laura Liebgott

Catasetum tergusonii 'Loon Landing' AM/AOS Synea Tan

Paphiopelilum lowii Synea Tan

Cattleya Deese (Charles) PC/RHS Joe O'Regan

Phragmipedium Amitabha 'Shirley' Heinz Ernstberger

Vandofinetia White Crane Heinz Ernstberger

Oncidium Sherry Baby Heinz Ernstberger

2nd Place Ribbons

Oncidium Alicera Helmet Roth 'Carmela' Synea Tan

Dendrobium Hibiki Laura Liebgott

Paphiopelilum primulinum armeniacum Heinz Ernstberger

Paphiopelilum Alma Gevaert X venustum Heinz Ernstberger

Paphiopelilum Transvaal X Makerlii 'Jolly Green Giant' Heinz Ernstberger

Visiting Society

Display of 26 or more plants.

3rd Place Ribbons

Masdevallia Colossus Joe O'Regan

Paphiopelilum venustum attratum Synea Tan

Dendrobium tanii Synea Tan

Miltonia Mario Van Peebles Synea Tan

Laeliacattleya Ann Akagi 'Hillermani ' AM/AOS X Laeliacattleya San Bar Wonder Heinz Ernstberger

Rosettes and Trophy

Best of Miscellaneous Genera

Catasetum tergusonii 'Loon Landing' AM/AOS Synea Tan

Best of Cypripedium Alliance

Phragmipedium Amitabha 'Shirley' Heinz Ernstberger

Best of Oncidium Alliance

Oncidium Sherry Baby Heinz Ernstberger

Best Specimen Plant

Phragmipedium Amitabha 'Shirley' Heinz Ernstberger

Windsor Ribbon Winners

1st Place Ribbons

Masdevallia photograph Robin McLaughlin

phragmipedium abstract photograph Robin McLaughlin

Cymbidium Asilomar 'Wilson's Choice' photograph Jay Norris
Paphiopelilum Transvaal X Makerlii ‘Jolly Green Giant’ Heinz Ernstberger
Paphiopelilum lowii Synea Tan
Odontocidium Wildcat 'Blood Shots' Synea Tan
Dendrobium Sonia Heinz Ernstberger
Oncidium Sherry Baby Heinz Ernstberger
Phragmipedium Amitabha ‘Shirley‘ Heinz Ernstberger
Paphiopelilum Alma Gevaert X venustum Heinz Ernstberger

2nd Place Ribbons

Galeandra photograph Robin McLaughlin
Lepanthes saltatrix #2 photograph Jay Norris
Paphiopedilium St. Swithin Joe Madden
Paphiopedilium World Ventura Heinz Ernstberger
Miltonia Mario Van Peebles Synea Tan
Cymbidium ensifolium ‘Jin He’ Jay Norris
Laeliacattleya Ann Akagi ‚Hillermani‘ AM/AOS X
LaeliacattleyaSan Bar Wonder Heinz Ernstberger
Dendrobium tanii Synea Tan
Cymbidium sinense ‘Ri Xiang’ Jay Norris
Phragmipedium giganteum Synea Tan

3rd Place Ribbons

Lepanthes saltatrix #1 photograph Jay Norris
Paphiopedilium Rothschildianum X Sib 'Duya Red ‘X ‘Tiger ‘ Joe Madden
Paphiopedilium Susan Booth Joe Madden
Phragmipedium Peruflora’s Saltimbanco Heinz Ernstberger
Cymbidium goeringii ‘Tsai Yuen He’ Jay Norris
Cymbidium ensifolium ‘Fu Shan’ #1 Jay Norris
Cymbidium ensifolium ‘Fu Shan’ #2 Jay Norris
Bulbophyllum carunculatum Jocelyn Webber
Oncidium papilio var alba Ingrid Wauro
Oncidium (Aliceara) Helmet Roth 'Carmela' Synea Tan

Rosettes for Best in class
Odontocidium Wildcat 'Blood Shots' Synea Tan
Cymbidium Asilomar 'Wilson's Choice' photograph Jay Norris
Phragmipedium Amitabha ‘Shirley’ Heinz Ernstberger

Display from visiting society with more than 26 plants

Our society did very well in the ribbon department. A huge thank you to all our terrific growers who were willing to part with their plants.

Plant of the Month was won by Heinz Ernstberger’s charming Phragmipedium Peruflora’s Saltimbanco ‘Leanne’AM-AOS a year after it was awarded and this time carried one flower more than when it was awarded. The cross is the huge pink kovachii crossed with a very twisted green Phrag and the result is lovely! Heinz grows it in his 8’ X 12’ greenhouse. This greenhouse is supplied with T-5 and T-8 lamps going along both sides and the top to lengthen short days and brighten dull ones. The greenhouse has two shelves and the Phrag resides on the front part of the bottom shelf and only gets moved to the top when it is blooming. The temperature in the greenhouse is controlled by a thermostat that comes on when the temperature drops below 60F(15C) at night and below 70F(19C) during the day.. The plant is potted in a mix of bark, charcoal (not too much of this ingredient) and chopped sphagnum. Well done as usual, Heinz!

There was another interesting comment from Synea Tan on the culture of her lovely *Ionopsis utricularioides:* This plant is a twig epiphyte and must have excellent drainage. However Synea grows it very wet and it loves it.

Rupicolous Laelias of Brazil (Now correctly in the genus Cattleya), by Greg Allikas, Edited for an article format by Inge Poot

Continued from last month.

First this article will describe a selection of species that are found in the trade or are used in hybrids:
Laelia alvaroana described in 1999 by Francisco Miranda and named in honor of Alvaro Pessoa. Found near Nova Friburgo in Rio de Janeiro state.
In cultivation, *L. alvaroana* will often bloom 2-3 times a year, throughout the summer.
8 to 12, 2" golden orange flowers are produced on a 8-12" inflorescence.

Laelia angereri, discovered by Angera in 1971 in tall grasses at 1200m elevation in the Serra do Mane Pinheiro in NE Minas Gerais . Described by Guido Pabst in 1975.
The largest species among the rupicolous laelias *L. angereri* plants can reach a height of 2', pseudobulb and leaf. The inflorescence can rise another foot or two above the plant and carry 20 or more 1 ¾"-2” scarlet flowers.
Our speaker only knows of one hybrid with this striking species:

Laelia bradei from the area south of Diamantina***.***

In summer, 2-4 flowers are produced on an inflorescence that is twice as tall as the 3-4" plant. Found in a relatively flat habitat of 20 to 30 degree inclination where it often finds a depression or sheltered spot to grow.
It has been scarcely used for breeding but offers potential for creating attractive mini catts.

Laelia (Cattleya) briegeri 'Cheryl Lynn' AM-AOS, photo: E. Huber, Orchids+1.0

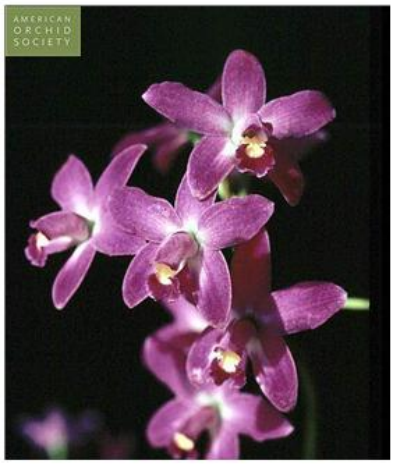
Laelia briegeri
Described in 1960 by Blumenschein - from Minas Gerais south of Diamantina between 950-1400m - latent flaring is often passed on to progeny.
One of the better-known members of the group, its canary yellow fairly full flowers of fine flat form have made it a popular species both as a collector's item and breeder. Latent flaring can express itself in its offspring.
There can be up to 8 flowers on a 6-12" inflorescence, but 3-5 is more common
Flowers are generally flat and have wide, nicely-shaped petals making it a popular parent among orchid breeders. To date 275 hybrids spanning 5 generations have *L. briegeri* in their background.

Cattleya Tokyo Magic '6-1' AM-AOS, photo C. Randolph, Orchids Plus 1.0

Some of the more familiar hybrids would be: *Lc*.(C.) Tokyo Magic (*Lc*. Irene Finney x *L. briegeri*). The example shown had flat white flowers, the lateral sepals had a yellow mid-vein, the lip was deep yellow on the proximal half and deep magenta on the distal half
Slc. Mine Gold (*Slc.* Jewel Box x *L. briegeri*) the flower shown in the presentation had flat orange somewhat star-shaped flowers with deep red veining and a solid dark red lip.
Lc. Hsinying Excell (Lc. Excellescombe x L. briegeri) the flower shown was white full, fairly flat, sepals and petals had a magenta flare , the frilled lip interior was yellow and the distal third was solid dark magenta.
Blc.(Rlc) Toshie's Magic (Blc. Toshie Aoki x Lc. Tokyo Magic). The clone shown was very striking. The sepals were yellow, the wider petals pink with a darker flare and the lip was solid red.

Laelia cinnabarina was introduced into England in 1836 – it grows between 700-1500m in the states of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais.
The flowers of *L. cinnabarina* are large but lack the good shape of the previous species. 5-8 well-spaced 2½" flowers are produced on a foot or longer inflorescence in the early spring. The flowers have very narrow sepals and petals and the lip tip curls under itself. The species has lent its bright red-orange color to generations of hybrids since the 19th century.
It is found on the Atlantic rain-forest mountains of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Espirito Santo states at elevations from 700-1500m. In their book, *Orchids of the High Mountain Atlantic Rainforest of Southeastern Brazil*, David Miller and Richard D. Warren, PhD write, "A true species of the high mountain fields, wherever scrub is low or absent; but it is also a colonizer of cleared roadside banks above 900m elevation." This may explain why it is a somewhat difficult subject for growers such as Greg who lives in South Florida. They have the sunlight and the wind, but their summer night temperatures rarely go below 75°F.

Laelia crispata was described by Lindley in 1839 as *L. flava* –It is found in Minas Gerais at 800-1500m - most



L. (C.) crispate 'Orchidglade' HCC-AOS, AQ+1.0

L. (C.) crispate 'Brazilian Gold' HCC/AOC
Photo: Australian Orchid Council, OW 11.0

widespread yellow rupicolous *Laelia* and the only yellow-flowered *Laelia* found on the iron ore mountains around Belo Horizonte. The AOS shows only purple examples under this name in the AQ+. Our speaker did not mention what the purple forms should be called.
A member of the audience, Liz Vodi mentioned that the same type of rock can be found in Muskoka, Ontario. It is hematite or magnetite, an iron ore. Other rocks that would be suitable are feldspar and quartz and apetite, the latter being a good source of phosphorus. Mica is a good source of magnesium and holds water well as a result of its layered structure. Avoid Fool's Gold which is a pyrite and releases sulphur when it comes in contact with calcium and precipitates the calcium out. The calcium is then not available for the plant. Potash sources are sedimentary rocks that stem from ancient

seafloor deposits. Anyway, any rocks you collect as potting medium must be baked in the oven for an hour at 400-450F to kill all sorts of nasty hitchhikers that are bound to be on the rocks.
Up until very recently, this species was called *L. flava.* It is found in Minas Gerais at 800-1500m. The bright chrome yellow flowers often have a slight "airplane shape" due to the petals being longer than the sepals. In the early spring, 5-10 flowers open nearly at the same time on a 10-18" inflorescence. Characteristically, they are bunched at the end of the inflorescence. *L. crispata* (as *L. flava*)has produced over 2000 hybrids spanning 11 generations. Some of the better-known are *Lc*. Pixie Gold, *Lc*. Magic Bell, *Slc.* Glowing Embers, *Lc*. Trick or Treat, *Lc*. Waianae Flame and *Pot*. Burana Beauty.

Cattleyanthe Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM-AOS, photo: A. Maximiano

L. (C.) caulescens 'KG's Diamond Dust' CBR-AOS, photo: Greg Allikas. Orchids Plus, 1.0

Laelia caulescens Described in 1841 by Lindley, from iron ore mountains around Belo Horizonte. It was formerly known as *L. crispilabia.* An orchid of somewhat confusing identity, you will most likely find plants offered for sale under its older name, *L. crispilabia.* This is one of the more widespread lavender species and is common in its habitat near Belo Horizonte. Non-flowering plants can sometimes be mistaken for *L. crispata* which is found in the same area. 5 or 6, 1¾" flowers are produced on a 10-12" inflorescence in early to late spring from a dried sheath. Flowers are generally a medium lavender color and of symmetrical shape but some plants can produce severely reflexed flowers. White and coerulea forms have been found.
One excellent hybrid has been produced with rare 'coerulea' forms of this species and *C. labiata*:
Lc. Marcelo Miranda (L. caulescens x C. labiata). The clone shown had flat, white, star-shaped flowers, whose lips had a wide purple edge.

Laelia endsfeldzii was described by Pabst in 1975 – It grows in Minas Gerais near Itutinga at 900m.
This species has flowers that are similar to, but smaller than *L. crispata.* The color is usually less intense tending toward soft butter-yellow. Eight to10 flowers open successively on a foot-tall inflorescence in early spring. Greg Allikas feels that, the flowers have a better symmetry than those of other tall-flowered yellow laelias; they are almost perfectly star-shaped with a nicely ruffled lip.

Laelia esalqueana flowers in the late spring from a new growth on small plants. Described by Blumenschein in 1960 and named after the acronym for the Escola Superior de Agricultura 'Luiz de Queiroz' in São Paulo state.
Small, 2-3" tall plants produce an umbel of 3-5, 1½" chrome yellow flowers in the late spring from a new growth. The inflorescence rises about twice the height of the plant and flowers are well-spaced.
Probably best known as one of the parents of the charming
Lc. Jungle Elf (*L. esalqueana* x *C. aclandiae*). This cross was illustrated with the clone 'Cheryl Isobe' AM-AOS, carrying two bright yellow somewhat star-shaped not quite flat flowers of heavy substance. The sepals and petals had red spots, the lip side-lobes were pale yellow and the mid-lobe intense red, the column was magenta.

Laelia fournieri A lovely species with white flowers offset by a bright yellow lip comes from Serra do Piedade, Minas Gerais from elevations of 1400-1700m – It is still occasionally referred to as *L. lucasiana* var. *fournieri*, once thought to be an alba variety of *L lucasiana.*
To confuse the name even more this species from Minas Gerais was once thought to be an alba form *of L. longipes*. Francisco Miranda told our speaker that he has seen whole colonies of this species with not a single coloured flower among them.
The species is easy to grow in Florida.

Laelia ghillanyi was described by Pabst in 1973, named after Anton Ghillany –comes from Serra do Cipo in

Minas Gerais. The photo showed a plant growing on top of an overhanging cliff with just a bit of “sugar” sand around the roots.

Plants of *L. ghillanyi* are short, rarely reaching more than 3" in height. In the late spring, 2-6, 1½-2" flowers are produced from a new growth on an inflorescence that just rises above the leaves. Flowers of *L. ghillanyi* usually have fine form with full petals and good overall symmetry. Typical coloration is concolor lavender or lavender with a white lip, but dark lavender and albescent forms also exist. One of the most attractive features of this species is the dramatic flaring exhibited on some clones, particularly on those plants found near the southern part of the distribution range. Sadly, to date, few hybrids have been made with this desirable species. *L. ghillanyi* exists in a rugged habitat where plants can be found clinging to volcanic rock faces, growing fully exposed with roots anchored in a rock crevice.

Laelia gloedeniana is another concolour yellow species that carried 8 starry flowers on an upright inflorescence in the clone shown.
It is endemic to the coastal mountains of Espirito Santo at about 5,200' (1600m). Reportedly rare, it grows near the bromeliad, *Pitcairnia decidua*.
Although the majority of the rupicolous laelias are found in Minas Gerais, *Laelia gloedenina* is endemic to the coastal mountains of Espirito Santo at about 5,200' (1600m). The plants are very distinct and easy to recognize, being more robust with thick, broad upright leaves and generally lacking any red pigment. Flowering occurs in late summer or fall.

Laelia kleberi was described by Francisco Miranda in 2005 as *Hoffmannseggella kleberi*; named after Dr. Kleber Lacerda. It is a variable species from Minas Gerais.
This newly described species is related to *L. bradei*. Both plants and flowers are larger and near alba flowers can be found of this species. The petals can be fairly wide or narrow.

Laelia liliputana is smallest member of the group; it was discovered by Ghillany in 1973; It is restricted to Serra do Ouro Branco in Minas Gerais at 1600m
Along with *L. kettiana, L. liliputana* shares honors as being the smallest members of the group and define the word cute. Plants average 1½" tall, rarely reaching the 2" mark. 1-2 flowers emerge from a new growth on an inflorescence that just reaches above the leaves. Both flower size and color are variable. Flowers can be just over ½" across, or up to 1". Color ranges from pale lavender with a barely yellow lip, to deep lavender with an egg yolk yellow lip.
Grow both species on granite or iron ore as mentioned under L. *crispata*, but do not grow them on limestone.
One notable hybrid exists,

Lc. Small Stuff (*L. liliputana* x *C. loddigesii*) was illustrated with a clone that had 4 well-arranged flowers of even pink with a tubular lip whose opening was nicely flared and ruffled and had a magenta landing platform. The throat was yellow with two small red eyes.

Laelia longipes Formerly *L. lucasiana* and before that, *L. ostermeyeri*; described by Cogniaux in 1896 Comes from Serra da Caraca Minas Gerais from 1400-1700m elevation. There it gets nightly mists. The habitat is drier in winter. Clouds move swiftly across the area, so not much moisture is left behind. They get water this way regularely, but dry out quickly.
This must certainly be one of the most striking species in the section with its gold lip(proximally white exterior and red lines in throat) contrasted against lavender flowers. Plants are somewhat variable and can be as short as 2½" and as tall as 5" or more. They can be green, or stained red with anthocyanin pigment making identification of non-flowering plants difficult. The flowers however are fairly consistent, varying mostly in the intensity of color and flatness. It blooms throughout May and June producing heads of 1½-2" flowers from each new growth. The inflorescence is about twice as tall as the plant and carries 3-5 flowers. Although *L. longipes* has not been used much as a parent, it has produced some attractive hybrids including
Lc. Tiny Treasure (*L. longipes* x *C*. Porcia)- and *Slc*. Mini-Beau (*L. longipes* x *Slc*. Beaufort) the clone shown had two peach flowers, accented by gold lips whose apices bore a small dark red flare. This cross is hard to grow in Florida because of the *Sophronites*(now *Cattleya) coccinea* in its background. It should be easier in the cooler Toronto area.

Laelia milleri was described by Blumenschein in 1960 – it is found in Serra da Moeda near Itabira in Minas Gerais – It is near extinct in nature
Certainly one of the most sought after laelias, *L. milleri* created quite a stir when it was discovered. Its habitat is rugged and plants can be found growing fully exposed or among debris on the crags of this small mountainous area. The region is under extreme pressure from iron ore mining pushing *L. milleri* to near extinction in its natural habitat.
Plants range in stature from 2-5". 3-6, 1½-2" fire engine red flowers are produced at the end of a tall 6-12" inflorescence. *L. milleri* has been used extensively in breeding programs to impart a rich color to hybrid cattleyas. Two of the better known hybrids are:
Bl. Richard Mueller (*L. milleri* x *B. nodosa*)which was illustrated with a clone that had yellow star-shaped flowers. The sepals and petals were faintly spotted red and the lip intensely so.
Lc. Rojo (*C. aurantiaca* x *L. milleri*) was illustrated with a plant that had seven slightly crowded, soft red flowers, whose lips had a yellow throat with red-dotted veins.
Lc. Heyitsred (Lc. Rojo x L. pumila) – is a hybrid that Greg created as a warmth-tolerant red minicatt. It looks

like an improved Lc Rojo with slightly more flowers of better shape.

Laelia rupestris is one of the most widespread members of the group; it is found at 400-800m between Belo Horizonte and Diamantina in Minas Gerais. Described by Lindley in 1842. Its habitat is on top of rocks with a bit of “sugar” sand covering.

Plant height can reach 6" or more and often have a glaucous surface. This is an adaptation to the extreme environment in which they grow, which especially in the north, is very hot and dry. Some of the habitats seem to approach xerophytic conditions with cactus and vellozia being the prominent plants. In the early spring, a 6" inflorescence is produced from the developing new lead. 3-6, 1½-2" flowers are arranged at the top of the spike. The flowers are light magenta, the lip is darker, but has an off-white throat.
A few hybrids have been made. One notable example being
Lc. Pink Crystal (*C. loddigesii* x *L. rupestris*) was illustrated with the clone ‘Caridad Quest’ AM-AOS. The inflorescence shown had six pale lavender star-shaped flat flowers whose segments gradually turned to white as the center of the flower is reached. The frilled lip had a yellow throat and a deep magenta tip.

Laelia sanguiloba Plants have been around for a number of years and known as *L. sulina*. Described by Withner in 1990 Flower shape and colour much like *L. cinnabarina and L. milleri***.**
One of only a scant few red or orange species in the section, *Laelia sanguiloba* is worthy of cultivation and use as a parent for creating colorful miniature cattleya-type hybrids. Plants of this Brazilian species have been around for a number of years and known variously as *L. sulina* and *L. flava* var. *micrantha*. The plants do indeed resemble those of *L. flava*. Carl Withner described the species from "Plants from Bahia without exact location" he encountered at Orquidário Binot in Petropolis. It is quite possible that the *exact location* was kept unknown by the collector and was not in Bahia at all. The habitat photo of the species as verified by the taxonomist present (F. Miranda), was taken far to the south in the Serra do Caraça of Minas Gerais! It grows in rock clefts, where the moisture stays a little bit longer than on the surface of the rocks.

Culture Of Rupicolous Laelias:
Greg Allikas discovered that the section can be divided into two cultural groups, by grouping them by plant size. This is perhaps not too surprising, since tall plants are taller to reach above the competing companion plants, while short plants have no competition and just huddle as close to the rocks they grow on for protection.
These two groups can give us a little insight as to how to grow these orchids. He usually gives them all a decided dry, cool spell in the winter by moving them all out of the shade-house for a little "toughening up". But because the TALL group has more defined growth patterns it is more demanding of a "rest" period. The SHORT group can be kept growing all year but also benefits from a short cool, dry rest period. The more or less vertical leaves of these species tell us that they grow under high light conditions in nature. Keep in mind though, that it is not always beneficial to duplicate nature, which can be overly harsh. Do grow your Laelias bright though.
The tall species grow in the spring; the growth matures by the fall. They are kept slightly drier and cooler in the winter. In Florida they flower in February and March-their spring. Give enough light to turn the leaves purple.
The short species have a longer blooming season and will flower from every growth that comes up during the growing period.
He hangs the tall species above the short species from a vertical wire mesh wall. This way he can water the short species more frequently while the tall species get their long obligatory rest in winter-with no accidental water dripping on them.
As mentioned with *L. longipes*, most species get a quick pass by clouds and then dry out quickly.

LIGHT:
In Florida, Greg grows them in a shade-house.
They are shaded from the Florida sun by only a layer of window screen. This does not mean that you have to though. The late James Nickou of Connecticut reported that the Laelias would actually die if subjected to full sun and recommended Cattleya conditions for them. He would not keep them with his Phals, but if you can grow bifoliate Cattleyas or Oncidiums there is no reason you can't grow rupicolous laelias. Despite their reputation they seem to be adaptable plants. These are mostly mid-elevation orchids from mountains in the 2000-4000 ft. range where the nights are cool. By all logic, he should not be able to grow them in Florida because of Florida’s constant heat and yet they thrive, although some do not always flower reliably because of high night temperatures.
Do not make the mistake of thinking that because these plants live on rocks that they are xerophytes. He waters his plants three (or more) times a week and fertilizes once a week during spring and summer

POTTING:
More important than light or water is how you pot them. He would strongly urge you to follow the suggestions that will discussed later. Sphagnum, fir bark, peat based "mud" may eventually kill these orchids. He has seen people successfully growing the laelias on driftwood, but lava rock, Aliflor and gravel are far easier media. On driftwood they need to be watered daily. He has been using the Aliflor and lava rock combination for four years with great results. IF you are having success with this group of plants using some other potting method, by all

means…carry on! Use the dictum: if it "ain't broke", don't fix it!

Now to the method of potting and the media used:

The plant to be repotted is gently removed from the original pot trying not to damage the roots.

A 4" (10cm) clay pot is probably the maximum size pot you will use.

The bottom of the new **Clay** pot gets a layer of **coarse inert rock** such as large grade lava rock(Toronto area source: Humber Nursery), ½" to 1" size, to keep the pot aerated and well-drained.

Next add a layer of **medium grade lava** rock. For larger plants use more, for smaller plants use less.

Place plant with oldest pseudobulb against the edge of the pot and begin filling in with **small grade Aliflor**. Secure plant with a rhizome clip – may need two, one from each side of the pot.

Let's review:

- Bright light, as for cattleyas
- Intermediate temperatures: 70-85f days, 50-65f nights. Can tolerate occasional higher or lower temperatures.
- 50-75% humidity and good air movement
- Water on wet-to-dry cycle, flush pots monthly. Don't let them get bone dry nor soggy wet.
- Balanced fertilizer twice a month (MSU?)
- Repot only when necessary, try not to damage roots (every 3-4 years, when the plant crawls out of the pot, or when the likelihood gets high that the medium may be salt encrusted)
- Clay pots, inorganic media
- Regularly check for scale (Use Dr Bronner's Peppermint Soap Spray for early infestations. It also works for mealy-bugs and aphids)

November 2 Show Table Ribbons

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance	Lc. Tokyo Life Joe DiCiommo	Lc. Tokyo Magic '6-1' Joe DiCiommo	C. dormaniana Marion Curry
Class 2 Paphiopedilium	**Phrag.Peruflora's Saltimbanco 'Leanne' Heinz Ernstberger**	Phrag. Giganteum Synea Tan	Phrag Pearcei x Dalessandroi Rosanna Li
Class 3 Phalaenopis and Vanda Alliance	Asconopsis Irene Dobkins ' Elmhurst' HCC/AOS Henry Glowka		
Class 4 Oncidium and related	Onc.Jiuh Bao Gold Synea Tan	Onc. Fragrant Fantasy Rosanna Li	Ionopsis utricularioides Synea Tan
Class 5 Cymbideae	Cym. ensifolium hort.var. 'Fu Shan' 'Birmingham Emerald Chrysanthemum' Jay&Max	Cym. ensifolium Jay&Max	
Class 7 All Others	Monnierara Millenium Magic 'Witch Craft' FCC/AOS Stanley Luk		
Class 9 Baskets and Displays	Basket Erika Lorincz		

We spend considerable time each month correcting names, spelling and format of your plant names. We do not catch every problem and sometimes guess at the wrong real name. Much of this can be avoided by you the exhibitor making sure you have the correct name clearly spelled out on your name and entry tags. Correct names matter!! The Editors thank you!