

NROS News

NOVEMBER 2017

Wednesday, November 8th, 2017

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall
35 Queen Street North
Thorold

PROGRAMS

Andrew Goddard
on
Phalaenopsis Species



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Visit us on our updated website link:

www.cloudsorchids.com/nros

OCTOBER SHOW TABLE

Class 1 Cattleya Alliance

*****Lc. Mari's Love	Phil Hinman	1 st .
Lc. Loog Tone	Phil Hinman	2 nd .
Blc. Williette Wong 'The Best'	Ted/Charlene	3 rd .

Class 2 Paphiopedilum

Paphiopedilum Lebaudianum	Phil Hinman	1 st .
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Class 3 Phalaenopsis

Phalaenopsis ?????	Pete Van Loon	1 st .
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Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

Bcd. Gilded Tower 'Yellow Star'	Ted/ Charlene	1 st .
Mtssa. Kauai's Choice	Ted/ Charlene	2 nd .
Odcdm. Tiger Parade	Ted/Charlene	3 rd .
Mtssa. Dark Star 'Orchidworks'	Ted/Charlene	

Class 6 Dendrobiums

Dendrobium White Rabbit	Astrid Fortin	1 st .
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Class 7 All Others

Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'	Phil Hinman	1 st .
Coelogyne usitana	Phil Hinman	2 nd .

Class 9 Vanda Alliance

Aerangis Mystaco	Ted/Charlene	1 st .
Vanda Pure's Wax	Phil Hinman	2 nd .

*****PLANT OF THE MONTH

BULLETIN BOARD

Meeting

Our November meeting will feature Drew Goddard as our guest speaker. Drew will be talking about Phalaenopsis species. He will also have plants for sale.

Christmas Party

If you haven't already, the sign-up sheet for our annual pot luck Christmas Party will be available at the November meeting. The date is December 13th. and the festivities will start at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your own plates and cutlery. The turkey will be supplied by the Society. It is a non-alcoholic party. We also like to have a gift table for the Christmas party, so if anyone has something they would like to donate for a gift, please feel free to do so. Thank you.

Membership

Another reminder to the membership that dues are now owing. Please see Joanne Madsen at the meeting or send her your payment to the following address:

Joanne Madsen
37 Grantham Avenue, South
St. Catharines, ON
L2P 3B3

If you pay by November 30th., your name will go into a prize draw. It will take place at the December Christmas Party and the winner must be present to receive their prize.

Hospitality

A reminder for Isabel Streeter and myself that we are the "Bringers of the Goodies this month. Thank you, Isabel.

Welcome

We would like to welcome some more new members.....

Susan Ellis
Pam Fenwick
Michele Horvat
Sharon Huisman
Griselda & Alex Reuther
Welcome, everyone!!!

Since we have a number of new members, I thought I would reprint the following article. I hope that there would be some tips there for our newer members.

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway.

These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these.

Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

(The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.)

General Orchid Culture: Leaves

Light

- Short, yellow leaves, too much light; long, dark leaves, too little light.
- Medium to light green leaves, standing erect correct amount of light.
- Reddish pigmentation is produced by some plants in the upper range of the correct amount of light. Slight reddish tinge is usually a sign of good light conditions. Heavy reddish coloration indicates light is too bright.
- Dark brown spots or yellowed areas on leaves may be sunburn – caused if temperature of leaf rises too high – leaves should not feel hot to touch.
- Light requirements vary:



Light	Windowsill	Greenhouse	Fluorescent lights
Low	Bright north or east 1-2 hours of sun	15% of summer light	100-200 watts/meter ²
Medium	East or west window 2-3 hours of sun	25% of summer light	200 watts/meter ²
High	West or south window 4 hours of sun	35% of summer light	400 watts/meter ²
Very high	South window 5-6 hours of sun	45% of summer light	Not recommended

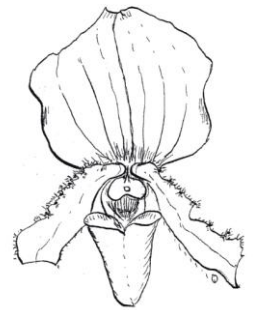
- Fluorescent lights: Use minimum of 40 watt fluorescent tubes and place light 10-20 cm above plants.

Temperature

- Different types of orchids require different temperatures:

	Night Minimum (Winter)	Day Maximum (Summer)
Warm	18°C	32°C
Intermediate	14°C	29°C
Cool	10°C	21°C

- Provide a 6-12°C difference between day and night temperatures.
- Strive to meet the minimum night temperature, as this often triggers flowering.



Humidity

- Orchids require a minimum of 40% relative humidity to grow reasonably. Plant health will continue to improve by raising the humidity as high as 60-70%.
- In lower humidity new roots have a more difficult time growing from the plant into the potting medium and/or may not form at all, leaves and flowers will not be as large.
- Raise humidity with evaporative wick type humidifiers and/or enclosing plant growing areas. If growing area enclosed, ensure it gets fresh air at least periodically.
- Do not compensate for low humidity with extra watering – continue to water when the roots need it (which will be more often in a low humidity environment) High humidity will reduce the frequency of watering required.
- Air circulation is necessary to avoid rotting in high humidity – the more humidity the more air circulation is required.

Pests

- Sowbugs can be treated with Pyrethrin based insecticides. Read and follow all directions and precautions.
- Fungus gnats can be treated with a drench of 5 mL of Ammonia in 1 liter of water.
- Use Neem oil as a biological control for spider mite and scale. Wait approximately one month to evaluate results.
- Insecticidal soap can be used for spider mite and scale. Repeated applications are necessary.
- Vapona strip can be used for control of thrips. Read and follow all directions and precautions. Three 3 day exposures at one week intervals work well. The spice Cinnamon can be used to treat rot.
- Metaldehyde will eradicate snails and slugs. Very toxic, read and follow all directions.
- General purpose insecticide, excellent for mealy bugs: 15 mL 35% Hydrogen peroxide (from hydroponics supplier), 20 mL rubbing alcohol, 2 mL dish or insecticidal soap in 1 L water, sprayed on the plant. Don't apply in bright sunlight. Reapply in 2 weeks if necessary.

This is one of two general culture sheets. The other on "Roots" as well as culture sheets on particular types of orchids are available from your society or on the web at <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/> and provide additional cultural information. For specific help with your orchids or further information join your local orchid society.



General Orchid Culture: Roots

Air

- Orchid roots require more air than roots of most other types of plants.

Potting

- Pot in a medium that provides air at the roots.
- Pot orchids that need a lot of air at the roots in a coarse mix of fir bark, possibly with charcoal chunks and perlite. Use granules of 1.5-2.5 cm diameter, larger in more humid growing areas.
- Pot orchids that need to stay moist and require less air at the roots in a finer mix of fine fir bark, charcoal and perlite. The granules should be 0.5-1.0 cm diameter.
- Wash medium to remove fine particles and if water absorbing, such as fir bark, soak for 8 hours or more to moisten.
- Other media, including sphagnum moss and coconut husk or fiber can also be used in a mix or by themselves; however, fir bark mixes are the most forgiving for new growers. Clay pots can be used to provide more aeration of the medium in humid areas, however, plastic pots are recommended as they minimize root damage on repotting.
- Put Styrofoam peanuts or coarser mix at the bottom of large pots to have consistent moisture level throughout the pot.
- Repot when plant growth reaches the side of pot, or when medium is breaking down (slip the plant out of its current pot to check). Repot when the plant is growing new roots.
- Roots may grow out of pot; this is not a reason to repot. Do not remove these roots.
- If medium is breaking down, shake off old medium when repotting and remove any decomposing, soft, brown roots as well as any pseudobulbs which are dead (no longer green in color). Use a sterile knife or razor blade to avoid spreading infections.

Watering

- Water when the roots have reached the degree of dryness appropriate for the type of plant rather than watering on a fixed schedule. This will be faster in hot weather or during cold winter weather when central heating lowers the humidity. Small pots dry out more quickly, particularly if the plant is large in comparison to the pot.
- Detect moisture level by the weight of the pot, by digging a finger into the mix, or by inserting a pencil into the mix and examining it for moisture.
- Use large amounts of water to thoroughly moisten the potting medium and roots, flush minerals and refresh the air around the roots. Water equaling the volume of the pot should run out the bottom. Pots should not stand in water.
- If medium is completely dry, water heavily several times at 30 minute intervals to remoisten.
- Orchids prefer water with a low mineral content, such as rain/snow water. If water is hard (high mineral content), repeat the watering after 30 minutes. Water should be room temperature or slightly warmer.
- Never water with water softened using a softening unit to which salt is added. The calcium in the water will have been replaced with sodium, which is toxic to orchids.

Fertilizer

- Fertilize weakly and frequently. Apply the fertilizer weekly, in a concentration such that half the recommended concentration for houseplants is applied over the duration of the recommended interval. If the fertilizer recommends applying 1 mL per liter once a month, apply 1/8 mL per liter weekly instead, so that 1/2 mL (4 x 1/8 mL) per liter is applied over the month.
- Fertilize when actively growing and less or not at all during dormant periods.
- If you use a highly mineralized water (hard water), water thoroughly with plain water about one hour before and one hour after fertilizing to avoid burning the roots.
- Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20.
- If rain, distilled, de-ionized, reverse-osmosis or naturally soft water is used, then calcium and magnesium need to be provided by the fertilizer. Hydroponics fertilizers usually provide these extra minerals.
- Too much fertilizer will cause burnt root tips and burnt leaf tips. Too little fertilizer causes pale yellowish leaves and increasingly smaller new growths.
- Foliar application of seaweed extract can be used to provide micro nutrients beneficial to plant growth. These nutrients can also be obtained by occasional use of fish fertilizer or weak manure 'tea' although continuous use will provide too much Nitrogen.



Cattleya labiata

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