

NROS News

JANUARY 2018

Wednesday, January 10th., 2018

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall
35 Queen Street North
Thorold

PROGRAMS

Canadian Orchid Congress
Presentation on
Lycaste



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Visit us on our updated website link:

www.cloudsorchids.com/nros

DECEMBER SHOW TABLE

Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

Oncidium noezliana Ted & Charlene Kretz 1st.

Class 6 Dendrobiums

***** Dendrobium kingianum Ted & Charlene Kretz 1st.

Class 7 All Others

Lycaste Red Jewel Ted & Charlene Kretz 1st.

*****PLANT OF THE MONTH

BULLETIN BOARD

Meeting

Happy 2018 to everyone and hope you all had a wonderful holiday!! We will be having a Canadian Orchid Congress presentation on the orchid genus called Lycaste. If you are interested to learn more, bundle up and come join at the Wednesday meeting.

Christmas Party

Well I hope all our members had a great time at the Christmas Party. Thanks to everyone that brought their potluck dish and everything was delicious!! Also, thanks to everyone that donated a gift to the Christmas raffle. Thanks to Isabel Streeter for ordering the table linens. Thanks to

Kathy Wilkinson for the pointsettas for the dinner tables. Thanks to Joanne Madsen and Isabel for cooking the turkeys. Also, a special thanks to Susan and Sandra Yee for the lovely violin duo of Christmas carols. Thank you very much, ladies!

Membership

To those members that have not yet done so, we ask that you please pay your \$20.00 membership to continue receiving your newsletter. Please see Joanne Madsen at the meeting, or send your cheque to her address:

37 Grantham Avenue South
St. Catharines
L2P 3B3

If we don't receive your dues as soon as possible, the March 2017 newsletter will be your last. Thank

you.

Hospitality

A reminder to Barbara Berry and Betsy Foster that they are signed up to bring the sweets to have with coffee at the meeting. Thanks, ladies!

The following article is courtesy of the AOS magazine.

Monthly Checklist for January and February



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel' HCC/AOS is a good example of this winter-blooming species.

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious

of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.



In the fall Phalaenopsis should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

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

PLEUROTHALLID

Pronounced plur - oh - THAL – id

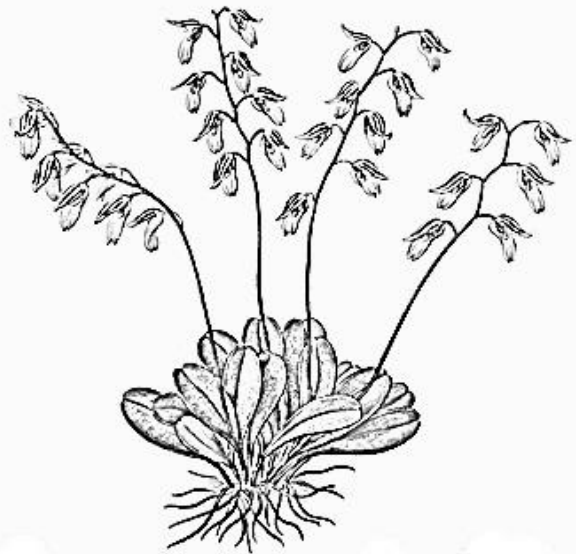
Most of the plants are native to the cloud forests of Central and South America, where they thrive on low temperatures, high humidity and low light, at medium to high elevations.

They range from very small to large plants. Some are epiphytic, some lithophytic and some terrestrial.

The Pleurothallid genera has recently been divided into some 44 different genera so far.

Excellent specific information can be found at the web site of the Pleurothallid alliance.

<http://www.pleurothallids.com/>



Specklinia grobyi (syn *Pleurothallis*)

Healthy Pleurothallids start with healthy roots:

- Many Pleurothallids are best mounted due to their growth habit.
- If potted, the pot size depends on the root mass. Use the smallest possible pot.
- Use small slabs of styrofoam in a bit larger pot to reduce media volume when accommodating top-heavy plants.
- Pot type depends on your conditions and the specific plant. Use plastic, clay or mesh pots.
- Media depend on your conditions, size of plant and its root structure.
- Media should be fast draining, but retain some moisture.
- Sphagnum moss with small / tiny pieces of styrofoam to open up the media so it drains faster.
- Tree fern or fine bark may also be used.
- Water with naturally soft water that is low in dissolved minerals and salts or rain water. Never use chemically softened water.
- Re-pot yearly or as needed, preferably not in the heat of summer.
- No rest period.

Healthy leaves produce more and bigger flowers:

- Fertilize very weakly, weekly, with 1/8th to 1/4 of the recommended strength. Pleurothallids are not heavy feeders.
- Low light levels. Never full sun.
- Minimum 70% humidity needed.
- Most require cool to intermediate temperatures. Minimum low 5°C to a maximum high 25°C (for short periods), day temperatures best around 16-20°C. Some need warmer nights, 15°C.
- All need at least a 10°C drop in temperature at night.
- Neem oil, used with care, can solve aphid problems. ½ tsp Neem oil, ¼ tsp dish detergent in 500cc (½ Litre) water.
- Good, gentle, air movement is essential.

Pleurothallid plants may have a few flowers continuously or flushes of flowers several times a year.

Space prevents more detail here. The general "Orchid Culture" sheets in this series, available from your society or on the web at <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/> provide further cultural information. For specific help with your orchids or further information join your local orchid society.

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