

NROS News

MAY 2018

Wednesday, May 9th., 2018

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church Hall
35 Queen Street North
Thorold

PROGRAMS

ANNUAL AUCTION



EXECUTIVE 2017-2018

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| President | Rick Rempel | 905-734-1588 |
| Past President | Colin Burns | 905-684-9705 |
| Secretary | Isabel Streeter | 905-682-7792 |
| Treasurer | Colin Burns | 905-684-9705 |
| Newsletter Editor | Lydia Stewart | 905-354-4110 |
| Membership | Joanne Madsen | 905-685-7478 |
| Librarian | George Streeter | 905-682-7792 |
| Publicity | Cheryl Maurice | 905-734-1257 |
| Show Table | Phil Hinman | 905-899-3606 |
| Hospitality | Barbara Berry | 905-227-4307 |
| Program Co-Ordinator | Rick Rempel | 905-734-1588 |
| AOS/COC Rep | Rick Rempel | 905-734-1588 |

Visit us on our updated website link:

www.cloudsorchids.com/nros

APRIL SHOW TABLE

Class 1 Cattleya Alliance

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------|
| C. skinneri 'Heiti Jacobs' | Phil Hinman | 1st. |
| Pot. Shinfong Dawn | Charlene/Ted | 2nd. |
| C. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin' | Phil Hinman | 3rd. |
| Lc. Fire Dance 'Patricia' | Phil Hinman | |

Class 2 Paphiopedilum

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|
| Phrag. Sargent Eric | Phil Hinman | 1st. |
| Phrag. Wossner Supergrande | Phil Hinman | 2nd. |
| Phrag. Mont. Fallu 'Behemoth' | Phil Hinman | 3rd. |
| Paph. appletonianum | Charlene/Ted | |

Class 3 Phalaenopsis

| | | |
|------------|--------------|------|
| Phal. ???? | Pete VanLoon | 1st. |
|------------|--------------|------|

Class 4 Oncidium Alliance

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|
| *****Onc. Catatante 'Orange Kiss' | Charlene/Ted | 1st. |
| Onc. Sharry Baby | Charlene/Ted | 2nd. |
| (Onc. maculatum x Odm. cirrhosum) | Charlene/ Ted | 3rd. |

Class 6 Dendrobiums

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|------|
| Coel. cristata 'Short Hills' | Phil Hinman | 1st. |
| Ang. germinyanum | Charlene/ Ted | 2nd. |
| Dracula hirtizii | Charlene/Ted | 3rd. |
| Coel. virescens | Phil Hinman | |

*****PLANT OF THE MONTH

BULLETIN BOARD

Meeting

Our May meeting will be our annual auction night. If you have never been to one, please try and make a point of coming out. It's great fun for everyone and Rick Rempel does a wonderful job as our auctioneer! Please bring your donations of anything of a horticultural or "plant" nature. Pottery, collectibles, plants, orchids, books, magazines, art, etc., will be very graciously accepted. If you have nothing of that nature, you may bring in items that are in reasonably good condition. Baked goods will also be accepted as auction items. Please feel free to bring any guests if you wish.

Open House

Clouds Open House will be held on the weekend of May 26th. & 27th. from 11 am. to 4 pm.
Workshop: Repotting @ Noon on Saturday Only

COOS Meeting

If anyone is still interested in car pooling to the Fred Clarke presentation on June 18th., please contact Rick or Ted.

Librarian

A big thank you to Kathy Burns for volunteering to take over the duties of Librarian. Thank you very much, Kathy!!

Goodies

A reminder to Cheryl Maurice and Joanne Madsen that they are the suppliers of goodies for the May meeting. Thanks, Ladies!!

Picnic

Kathy and Fred Wilkinson have graciously agreed to be our hosts for our annual pot luck picnic again this summer. A date of Sunday, July 15th. has been decided upon. More details and a sign-up sheet will be available at our May meeting.

Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival

The Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival will be held on June 1st., 2nd., and 3rd., 2018. The festival takes place on the northern Bruce Peninsula, based out of the town of Tobermory. The Park Visitor Centre, just off Highway 6 on Chi-Sintib'dek Road, is the festival headquarters. Here you can register for the festival, pick up a schedule of events and ask questions. Activities, such as the feature presentation, will be held at this location. Many of the field activities begin at these headquarters, but will visit locations in and around Bruce Peninsula National Park. Transportation between the headquarters and field sites is by private car-pooling.

Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival is Hosted by the "Friends of the Bruce District Parks Association" in partnership with Parks Canada.

More information can be found at <http://www.orchidfest.ca>

The following article is from the Canadian Orchid Congress newsletter of November, 2004.

Bulbophyllum barbigerum

No true nature lover and, certainly, no serious student, can ever fail to be fascinated by the multitude of fantastically shaped flowers which is the hallmark of the family Orchidaceae. No other family of plants can compare in this respect, and it seems as if nature had reached the highest peak of fantasy here. Surely, one of the oddest flowers one can ever see is that of the West African *Bulbophyllum barbigerum* Lindley, which comes from Sierra Leone and Nigeria. It was described and named by John Lindley in 1837.



On seeing this flower for the first time, one puzzles over it for a while before finding and understanding its various parts. The lip, over 1 cm, long, with its fuzz of bloodred hairs, is disproportionately large. The very small column and the minute petals are hidden in the basal cavity of the dorsal sepal. The hairs of the lip, up to 1 cm. long, many with fleshy thickenings at their tips, wave in the slightest breeze. This probably serves to attract insects. But the insect which can perform the act of pollination on this flower must be very small, because the pollinia on the small column are only minute grains. Do these insects not become entangled in the hairs of the lip? And what attracts them to the hidden column? The latter, which is only 1.5mm. long, has on each side of the apex a cylindrical, horn-like, 1.5mm. long wing which extends at a right angle to the column. Do these very odd wings serve some function in the pollination process? Perhaps as guidelines? At the base of the column is a group of blood-red papillae (minute, nipple-shaped glands). Perhaps these produce some ethereal excretion which our human senses are too dull to perceive but which attract the insects. This mystery may never be resolved, but if this arrangement did not function, this orchid would surely be long extinct.

A still greater mystery, however, is this; How could such a complex flower structure ever evolve? Which were the intermediate stages which led to this development? Surely it did not suddenly appear without a long series of trials. These stages of the plant's development have long disappeared in the dim past.

Bulbophyllum barbigerum is, of course, an epiphyte, growing on the branches of trees or on rocks. Its flat, one-leaved pseudobulbs are 2.5cm. high and 2.5 to 3cm. wide and are produced on a creeping rhizome. Its fleshy leaves are 8.5 to 10cm. long and 2.5 to 3cm. wide. The more or less upright flower truss (a raceme), up to 15 cm. high, is produced from the rhizome, directly behind the pseudobulb. The floral bracts (the bracts at the base, of the individual flower stalk, or pedicel) are about 1cm. long and persist after the flowers have fallen. The pedicel and ovary, which are marbled brownish red, are 0.8 to 1cm. long. The only conspicuous parts of the flower, besides the lip, are the sepals, which are about 1.5cm. long and 3.5 to 4.5mm. wide at the base. All three are concave at the base. The lateral sepals form a round chin (mentum) under the base of the lip. Their long-pointed upper parts are reflexed. All three sepals are greenish, flushed reddish outside (dorsally) and more or less blood-red with whitish tips inside (ventrally).

At Montreal, *B. barbigerum* flowers in April. As the accompanying photograph shows, *B. barbigerum* is in no sense an ornamental species, but its flowers are so odd and offer so much of interest that they never fail to attract attention. For that reason this species readily deserves a place in any orchid collection.



H. Teuscher, Montreal Botanical Garden, 4101 Est, Rue
Sherbrooke, Montreal 6, Canada.
Reprinted from AOS BULLETIN, JULY 1965

ONCIDIUM Intergeneric Hybrids

Pronounced: on-SID-ee-um

Crosses between various species and genera in the Oncidiinae tribe, have resulted in plants that have come a long way from the original species in beauty and ease of culture. These plants start blooming small with spikes of fancifully patterned flowers in shades of white, yellow, red and brown, and as they mature become large, robust plants with long stems of flowers.

Healthy Oncidiums start with healthy roots:

- Pot in a fine medium. Fir bark mixtures are best, with 0.5 to 1.0 cm chunks of bark, perlite and charcoal.
- Report when the medium starts to break down or when the new growth will be over the edge of the pot.
- Remove old medium if it is loose, any rotting roots or brown bulbs; choose a plastic pot that will allow for 2 to 3 new growths and position in the pot so that the new growths will grow from the middle to the edge.
- Roots should dry out somewhat between watering. When the plant is actively growing, water when medium has just begun to dry out but is still slightly damp. When the plant is completing its growth start to let it dry more, to encourage flowers rather than vegetative growth. When it is dormant, typically in winter, do not water until medium is almost completely dry. When watering, water thoroughly, with a volume of water at least equal to that of the pot.
- Do not use water softened in salt-consuming water softeners. Low mineral water is preferred, such as naturally soft water or rain water. If hard water is used, water very heavily to flush minerals.
- Fertilize weakly and frequently with a balanced fertilizer. One-eighth to one-quarter strength recommended by manufacturer for house plants every week in spring and summer and every two weeks in autumn and winter.



Healthy leaves produce more and bigger flowers:

- High light levels are appropriate. Leaves should be a light green, not yellowish (too much light) or dark green (too little light). They should be firm, not long and floppy (more light needed). A slight red blush indicates an ideal light level on some plants. A more pronounced red blush will indicate too much light.
- Four hours of sunshine on a windowsill (West or South) or 6-12" under an eight tube fluorescent fixture or under an HID sodium or metal halide lamp. Plant size usually prevents mature plants growing under fluorescent lights.
- Recent pseudobulbs should be firm; if wrinkled, check roots for rot, and repot if necessary. High humidity (such as enclosing the plant in a plastic bag) will aid recovery if most or all of roots lost, but be careful of rot.
- Oncidiums do best with 50-60% humidity but when mature will grow and bloom, although more slowly, in lower humidity. Use humidifier to raise humidity – humidity pans and misting minimally effective. Enclosing plant growing areas is effective but ensure fresh air and air movement to avoid mold and rot.
- Grow Oncidium hybrids in intermediate temperatures with 14°C minimum winter nights and 29°C summer day maximum. Ensure 6-12°C day/night difference to aid flower formation.
- Some varieties prefer slightly different temperatures:
 - Warmer temperatures: Brassia hybrids, including Miltassia, Beallara and Maclellanara.
 - Cooler temperatures: Odontoglossum hybrids, including Vuylstekeara and Odontioda.

Oncidiums usually bloom annually and the flowers individually last for three or more weeks:

- Maintain plant orientation while spike is growing for best display.
- Oncidiums often provide much superior flower size and color as mature plants than as first bloom seedlings.
- Buds turning yellow, wilting and falling prior to opening is from not enough energy in the plant to open the flower either because the light is too dim, the plant is too small, or the roots have rotted. Also due to ethylene gas (given off by ripening fruit), or large temperature changes.



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.