

October, 1990

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1952

WHO: Illinois Orchid Society
WHAT: Monthly Meeting
WHEN: October 21, 1990
WHERE: CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
Lake-Cook Road, east of Eden's
Glencoe

FORMAT: 12:30 Workshop, followed by auction, raffle and short business meeting in the **Linnaeus Room** at about 1:15 p.m. Speaker will follow. Please have all plants for judging registered prior to 12:30 and deliver your plants for sale and refreshments for the social hour.

WORKSHOP: This month's workshop will be a discussion, with time for questions and answers, on mixes and techniques for potting orchids in general, but especially paphs and phalaenopsis. Two top growers--**Wilfried Losert** and **Tom Kalina**--will tell us about their recent experiences with potting media for these two genera. Tom gives careful consideration to the size and condition of his paph plants; Wilfried reports that for phals he is beginning to switch over from sphagnum moss to the new mix so popular with commercial growers, Pro-Mix, and he will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each.

PROGRAM: The speaker for the October meeting will be **Mrs. Emly S. Siegerist** of St. Louis, Missouri. Emly is a degreed botanist specializing in the study of the largest genus in the orchid family, the bulbophyllums. She has travelled the world in search of orchid knowledge, is widely published, and has been a member of the AOS Research Committee. She is also the Chairperson of the MidAmerica Research and Education Committee as well as an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society. She will show slides of many of the exotic flower forms associated with this important group of orchids.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sue Golan 708/234-6311

Our Mini-Show is history now and it was the usual IOS production: well done!

Howie Frank got his feet wet doing his first show and gave up his bear tickets to be there. (The employees he gave the tickets to have already called me begging me to schedule next year's show on the day of a bear game.)

New faces and familiar ones manned the various posts and made for a smooth and lovely show. Thanks to all of you. **Ed Helmboldt** and **Tom Swider** got everyone unloaded with dispatch and charm. **Lois Cinert**, **Pat Kralik** and **Laura Beard** got them registered. **Maggie Kuntz** and **Heddi** got them fed (and fed them all weekend).

Meanwhile **Jay Mullen** and **Carol Cloud** and **Wally Zielinski** set up the enormous sales tables with "**Amazing Grace**" **Freeman** as treasurer, seeing to it that the books will balance. That wasn't easy with plants also being sold from commercial growers by our staff of **Margie Casserly**, **Renate Schmidt**, **Wilfried Losert**, **Laima Sahigian** and **Morry Millman**.

Tried and true **Phyllis Kelly** was a fixture at the information table selling raffle tickets and promising to deliver the prizes almost anywhere. She lucked out when one winner was present at the drawing and the other lived in Morton Grove.

Howie had **Dorothy Nieter** at the information table selling the IOS and dendrobiums to all who passed.

The programs **Jack Coutts** arranged were better attended than last year's, thanks to **Blanche Coutts** and her travelling microphone. **Leo Schordje** and **Bill Rogerson** were lecturing on potting and mounting and culture. They apparently sold their audience on orchids because we signed up eight new members!

Linda and **Vic Schubert** were pushing brooms at teardown while **Tom Swider** pushed carts.

Joe Koss arranged the judging with his usual dispatch.

The following *silver awards* were given:

Lorraine Hayden - Ascocenda Ritters Gold

River Kwai Orchids - Exhibit

Arnold Klehm Orchids - Exhibit

N. E. Wisconsin Orchid Society - Exhibit

Laima Sahigian - Exhibit

Laima Sahigian - Cymbidium Pepita

Bill Rogerson - Laelia anceps 'Irwins'

Lorraine Hayden - L. C. Wriggii 'Blue Lagoon'

Wayne King - Paph micranthum

Sandy Swan - Phal Hausermann's Candy 'York'

River Kwai Orchids - Den Jhid Gold x Bangkok Green

Otto Leupi - Miltonia clowesii

Otto Leupi - Dendrobium cuthbertsonii

IOS Award - Laima Sahigian for exhibit

Show Chairman's Award - Bill Rogerson for B.L.C. Greenwich 'Misty Lime'

President's Award - Otto Leupi for Dendrobium cuthbertsonii

Chicago Horticultural Society Award - Lorraine Hayden for Ascocenda Ritters Gold

Those of you who won ribbons at the show should inform **Jim Spatzek** of your awards so that he can add them to the monthly point count.

At the AOS judging which followed the show judging, two plants owned by **Lorraine Hayden** of N.E. Wisconsin Orchid Society were awarded:

L. C. Wriggii 'Blue Lagoon' - J. C.

Ascocenda Ritters Gold - HCC 77points

Since we are in a show-time frame of mind, let's remember to plan our vacations so that we'll be here and available for the spring show February 22-24.

We will miss **Bob** and **Upar Bocinsky** when they move River Kwai Orchids next month. They have bought Madcap Orchids range in Fort Myers, Florida. Guess we'll just have to visit them down there.

We hit the jackpot in Volume 21 of the *Awards Quarterly* Summer 1990. The cover features a beautiful photograph of **Bob Wolf's** Epidendrum porpax 'Patience' which had received an 83 point CCM. It was photographed by **Bill Shaban**. The centerfold belongs to **John Stubbings** whose article "Judging Spotted Phalaenopsis" was presented there.

Speaking of phals, a new Phal alliance has been formed by **Tom Harper**, **Bob Gordon** and **Carlos Fighetti** who will be the president. You can get in on the ground floor and become a charter member for \$15, or \$28 for two years. The address is:

Phal Alliance, Inc.

P. O. Box 139

Cos Cob, Connecticut 06807-0139

They will publish a newsletter.

Bob Gordon has just revised that gem of a book *Culture of the Phalaenopsis Orchid*. Those of you who heard him when he spoke here last year know that he is Mr. Phal.

In his new book he answers the most frequently asked questions about phal culture during his many speaking engagements. The book has 50% more material than the original and covers the latest materials and methods. And, of course, it is amusingly written by the man who calls Phals "Our Lady of the Flowers". Soft-covered, spiral-bound, 190 pages, it's available for \$19.95 from:

Laid-Back Publications

276 East Shamrock

Rialto, California 92376

We will have a small display at the MidAmerica show in St. Louis the weekend of October 26th. If you have anything wonderful to send, call **Sue Golan** early that week for a drop-off point.

See you the 21st of October. May the Cymbidium weather continue!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the new members that have joined the IOS since the last newsletter was published:

Perle J. Cole
2455 W. Lunt
Chicago, IL 60645

William D. Dillman
1866 Sherman
Evanston, IL 60201

George M. Hrbek
1501 E. Sunset Terrace
Arlington Hts. IL.

Rich A. Jezioro
37021 N. Sheridan Rd.
Beach Park, IL 60087

Suki Kroeber
5324 Lyman
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Helen and Jim Nowicki
4630 Arthur Terrace
Greenfield, WI 53220

Lee and Marjorie Soule
820 Apache Trail
Lake Villa, IL 60046

Laura Stanley
516 Coronet Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025

Sandy Swan
3942 Arthur Terrace
Markham, IL 60426

Nichola H. Zina, M.D.
1018 Randolph St.
Oak Park, IL 60302

PEORIA SHOW

Please drop off any plants at **John Stubbings'** house at 2825 Weller Lane, Northbrook, on Wednesday or Thursday, Oct. 10 or 11. If anyone wants to volunteer to bring back the display, pls. call John @ 708/480-1532.

THE CULTURE OF CATTLEYA SCHILLERIANA

Otto Leupi

Cattleya schilleriana is an intermediate-size flowered species from southern Brazil. The habitat of *Cattleya schilleriana* is very limited and only found in about three creeks and their tributaries in the State of Espirito Santo. This species grows on trees found on steep cliffs overlooking deep gorges at an altitude between 800 to 2000 feet and always near waterfalls or cascades in a fairly sunny and lofty location.

This Brazilian bifoliate *cattleya* species has pseudobulbs which are up to five inches long and approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick. They carry two elliptical rigid leaves five to six inches long with very serrated edges on mature plants. The inflorescences emerge out of a little sheath and carry between two to five fairly long lasting flowers which only open about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way. These flowers have almost no fragrance. The petals and sepals range in color from dark red bronze to olive green brown with maroon spots. The fairly flat lip is the most remarkable aspect of this species, which can reach up to $2\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch in width on well grown plants. The color of the lip ranges from amethyst to clear purple striations on a white background. On younger flowering plants, the color of the lip can be a little bit muddy at the edges, but this disappears as the plant matures.

I grow *Cattleya schilleriana* in medium size potting material, either cork nuggets, charcoal, or firbark. This species does not develop a massive root system like a hybrid *cattleya*, and therefore repotting is not well tolerated. A plastic pot with additional holes at the bottom and around the lower portion of the pot works well, as well as a clay pot with slots. This is important for proper aeration and drainage of the root system.

Since we know that the habitat of this species exists primarily near permanent waterfalls or cascades, a very high level of humidity should be maintained as well as a large amount of air movement.

In my greenhouse, the plants are grown in full sunlight on an upper shelf where a fan is blowing directly down on them 24 hours a day. Shading of the greenhouse is kept to a minimum; only a little whitewash is applied from March to September.

New growths begin to appear in December or January, and the plant will bloom by April or May. The temperature in the greenhouse during December and January is around 52 degrees, and by the end of January, I raise it to about 55 degrees. During this time, I mist the plants once a day when the weather is cloudy, twice a day when it's sunny. As the weather gets warmer and the outside temperature reaches 80 degrees, I mist them three to four times a day. The root system of the mature plants is often inactive between the middle of December until after blooming in April or May; therefore, I water very lightly once a week just to keep the potting material a little bit moist and to prevent the root system from drying out. After the new roots appear, I slowly increase the watering and fertilizing. In summertime and particularly during hot spells, I water daily, adding a very minute amount of fertilizer. I recommend any repotting be done when the new roots are approximately an inch long. I hope this information will enhance your culture of *Cattleya schilleriana*.

Many thanks to Otto for submitting this information, so we all can benefit from his expertise.

*Notes from a Home Grower***CATASETUM, OR IS IT CLOWESIA?**

by Rozalia Rau

About ten years ago, I saw a strange looking orchid growing on a slab in a plant shop in New York. It had rather broad, pleated leaves rising from a bulb and about ten fragrant, weird looking flowers on an arching stem, which came from the base of the bulb.

There was no label and no one knew what it was, or even how to grow it. But I had to have it and was willing to take a chance.

In time I found that it was a catasetum and needed a rest period in the winter. I got very little information from books. Mostly the articles consisted of descriptions of various catasetum plants, but not much on how to grow them. So there I was, on my own.

'I Had to Have More'

Even though I wasn't certain of their cultural requirements, I had to have more different catasetums, and over a period of time this what I discovered.

They are among the most fascinating of all orchids. A single plant may carry both male and

Among the most fascinating of all orchids.

female flowers, bearing them simultaneously or at different times, but usually on different stalks. The male and female flowers differ markedly from each other in size, shape and color, the male flowers tending to be more contorted, the female flowers are simpler. In general, male flowers predominate, especially in cultivation. They're fragrant and their colors tend to be pale yellow, green or white, often spotted with brown or purple. The flowers

grow in clusters of seven to 15 on arching stalks. Each male flower has a mechanism on its lip that triggers the release of pollen when touched by an insect or inadvertently by the grower. The flowers last about seven days, and the plants typically bloom in the Summer. Some examples are *Catasetum fimbriatum*, *C. oersstedii* and *C. viridiflavum*.

The bi-sexual ones last about four weeks.

Clowesia are really catasetums with perfect (bi-sexual) flowers. These are the ones I prefer because the flowers last about four weeks and also are weird looking and fragrant. Some examples are *Clowesia scurra*, *C. suave*, *C. Grace Dunn* and *C. Rebecca Northen*.

How To Grow Them:

During their growing season, they prefer intermediate temperatures, high humidity, bright sun and a potting mix that will retain water, such as New Zealand sphagnum moss, rock wool or any mix that might be used for phals. Fertilize plants every third watering during the growing season with a high nitrogen (30-10-10) fertilizer. Repot each year in late Spring, just as new root growth begins.

When the plants are dormant, water about once a month, just enough to keep the bulbs from shrivelling and the roots from completely drying out.

Just When Are They Dormant?

All this is fine, but my biggest problem was determining when the plants were going dormant. I tried forcing plants into dormancy

after they finished blooming and found it to be a big mistake.

Let the plant tell you what its plans are.

In time I found that all the plants do not respond in the same manner, and it's best if you let the plant tell you what its plans are.

Clowesia russelianum sends out a growth in the early Spring. In July when the new bulb is half developed, one or two flower stalks grow out of the base of the bulb and bloom for four weeks. Then the plant keeps on growing through September until the bulb is mature. At that point the leaves start turning yellow and the plant is going dormant. Stop watering.

Watch the Watering

With *Clowesia Grace Dunn* the plant keeps growing until the bulbs are mature, and then the yellow leaves tell you to stop watering. After the leaves have dropped off, several flower stalks will appear with fragrant flowers lasting four weeks. If you make the mistake of watering while in bloom, the flowers will blast and drop off, and new growths will form.

Some Have No Rest Period

Some of the hybrid catasetums will form new growths while blooming and never bother to have a rest period.

If you have the room — and catasetums tend to become rather large plants — try growing them. You'll love their fragrance and crazy looking flowers, plus the fact that they really seem to have a personality all their own.



SUPPLEMENTAL JUDGING CENTER

The third session of the Supplemental Judging Center was held on Saturday, September 22, at 7 p.m. A total of 13 plants were entered, four of which won an award:

Paph henryanum HCC 79 points to **Leo Schordje** (Give Leo a hug when you see him. It was his first AOS award).

Phalaenopsis Amy Jean 'Addison Trail' HCC 77 points to **Orchids by Hausermann**.

Paph Fernbrook (Varuava x Maudiae) HCC 77 points to **Orchids Ltd.**

Paph Callo-Roth HCC 76 points to **Orchids Ltd.**

JUDGING STUDY GROUP

John Stubbings reports that a dozen or so members have signed up for the judging study group. The first meeting will be at John's house at 2825 Weller Lane, Northbrook, on Wednesday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. Please bring your AOS Judging Handbook and a plant in bloom. Handbooks will be available @ \$7.50 each if you do not yet own one. We hope to cover different subjects than last time.

Please call John @ 708/480-1532 if you need directions or if you cannot make it that day.

(The point score will be updated in the October newsletter.)

IOS POINT SCORE ACCUMULATIONS

JIM SPATZEK, chairman - (708) 498-4638

Monthly Judging Results - August, 1990

Fourteen people showed a total of 56 plants at the August meeting. Two special awards were presented, one for greenhouse and one under lights. The special awards were:

Plant of the month:

Greenhouse: L. Sahagian for Epidendrum fragrans

Under lights: Jim Pupelis for Paph stone ground

POINT STANDINGS

GREENHOUSE		LIGHTS	
L. Sahagian	101	M. Nichele	47
G. Freeman	67	M. Schmidt	44
O. Leupi	60	J. Pupelis	30
G. Steuben	41	J. Edwards	23
C. Hartman	30	W. Losert	20
J. Sikora	25	K. Vrabel	16
S. Golan	28	S. Maloney	11
C. Cloud	20	K. Langwell	10
J. Coutts	20	W. Krahl	10
J. Mullen	11	B. Glowacki	6
N. Radcliffe	10	N. Radcliffe	5
F. Cogswell	6	C. High	2
C. Thompson	5		
G. Dubenic	2		
		COMMERCIAL	
		River Kwai Orchids	160
		Cyps, Etc.	70
		Inverness Orchids	60

DATES TO REMEMBER

1990

October 20: AOS Judging at CBG

October 21: Monthly IOS meeting at CBG

October 17-21: AOS Fall Trustees Meeting,
Virginia Beach

October 26-28: Mid-America Orchid Congress
St. Louis

November 18: Monthly IOS meeting at CBG

November 24: AOS Judging at CBG

November 27: IOS Board Meeting

December 9: Christmas Party at Hausermann's

December 22: AOS Judging at CBG

1991

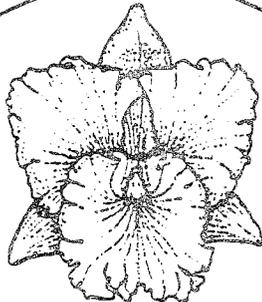
January 20: Monthly IOS Meeting at CBG

COMMUNICATIONS CENTRAL

This space is available for ads by members at a cost of \$5 per ad. Deadline for the November newsletter is October 21, 1990. Please submit your copy to Heddi Schellbach at address shown on this newsletter.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 27 at the home of Heddi Schellbach at 3825 Jarlath in Lincolnwood (1 block north of Touhy and east of Crawford).

All Board members and committee chairmen are encouraged to attend the meeting which is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. If you cannot attend or need directions, please call Heddi @ 708/674-4671.



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ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

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