



The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An affiliate of the American Orchid Society

April Meeting

Roger West

A small group was present for this meeting. No new news was discussed. We had a speaker this month and she talked about species that were cold and warm growers. Isabel Lopatin focused on species that grew in the two Tropic zones. The Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn were the areas that these wildly adaptable orchids grew. In other words, orchids that you could grow either cold or warm. Dendrobiums were the main genera discussed, and the type that the speaker grew in her basement and in windows. The talk was informative as she discussed the growing culture on these supposedly easy to grow plants. The show table was very full for this time of the year and was dominated by five large specimen plants. Look at the list below to see if you can figure out which were grown into specimen plants.

Chondrorhynchus

Steve Steiner

I noticed a plant labeled “Chondrorhyncha discolor” in bud and I thought I could write an article about the genus. I have a book “Huntleyas and related orchids” by Patricia Harding and thought I was all set. I have 2 clones of C. discolor and Chondrorhyncha lendyana as well as a C. discolor hybrid.

Imagine my surprise when, according to Ms. Harding, it turned out that none of the plants were still considered Chondrorhynchus. C. discolor is now Warczewiczella discolor. While C. lendyana “Frisky” is now Stenotyla lendyana “Frisky”. The hybrid, Cochleanthes aromatica x C. discolor is now probably Warczeleanthes Overbrook “Willow Pond”.

In any event, Warczewiczella discolor has 1 – 2 inch flowers. It grows in low light and high humidity in Central America and northern South America and Cuba. It has a beautiful violet-blue lip. Stenotyla lendyana also grows on tree trunks in humid forests. It grows from Mexico to Panama around 1600 meters. The flowers are yellow and are reflexed (comet shaped). They are less showy but still charming. They measure about an inch. The plant puts out more flowers than the showier W. discolor. Isn't that always the way.

The hybrid has the most spectacular flowers, maintaining the blue-purple lip and a beautiful fragrance. It is twice the size of the named clone, “Lil”, and about 3 times the size of the unnamed clone of W. discolor.

I grow them in low light in my usual medium (New Zealand sphagnum moss with a little bit of coarse perlite and tree fern. I pack the medium as loosely as possible, just enough to keep the plant from tipping over.) I repot infre-

quently since the roots are very brittle and I always break a fair number of them. They all tolerate my cool winter temperatures (50 degrees and sometimes lower) but could probably grow just as well at intermediate temperatures.

If you are planning to buy one, I have only seen them sold as *Chondrorhyncha*.

Lastly, a note about clonal names, some people or companies receive so many awards that they tend to give the same clonal names to most of their awarded clones. “Willow Pond” came from Ben Berliner’s collection and “Frisky” came from Ann and Phil Jessup.

April 2016 Meeting Speaker: Isabel Lopatin on Temperature Tolerant Orchids

Maryanne Laukaitis

At the April 17, 2106 meeting, Amherst Orchid Society was fortunate to have Isabel Lopatin from the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society (www.mhos.us.com) as our guest speaker. (Many thanks to Keith Tibbetts for arranging her visit.) She had a well organized set of slides with nation flags, maps and photos. Her topic, and personal interest, are orchids which are truly “temperature tolerant.” That means those plants that can take a wide range of temperatures – from the cold extreme of less than 45 degree F to 90 degrees F and up. Clearly, Isabel has done quite a bit of research to find the species and background information on their native environs. She chooses plants which will tolerate her specific growing area and its conditions.

Isabel described her “temperature tolerant” growing area: a stairwell and landing adjacent to a sliding glass door to a deck, with a skylight. This landing area gets quite cool, gets good morning light, and has a high ceiling, with good air circulation. In keeping humidity high in this area, she manages to maintain the “buoyant” atmosphere which many high mountain growing orchids prefer. Plants are put out on the deck for summer. But, when they are inside, and there is snow on the deck, there can be too much reflected light and there is a need to use shade cloth! So, the lesson here is to monitor your conditions and make adjustments. Isabel says, “you don’t learn from success.” You learn by observing what’s going wrong and making corrections.

In spaces which vary greatly in temperature, light and humidity, you must watch the level of each and carefully balance. Adjust watering – water but not too much in the cold, keep humidity high to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling. Humidity can be raised by keeping the floor damp and keeping wet clay pellets around the plants. At the same time keep an eye out for bacterial rot and pests.

Isabel then described various species and their native countries, gave a flag identification quiz, and handed out a few plant prizes to members who could correctly identify the countries to which the flags belonged.

In general, species that live at the edge of tropics, but in high mountains can have temperature tolerance. She gave a brief profile of a number of orchids – I’ll mention just a few.

Phalaenopsis japonica (formerly *Sederia japonica*) can take some cool temperatures into the 40sF, but must be watered and not allowed to be bone dry. It is found in Japan and Taiwan.

Vanda falcata (formerly *Neofinitia falcata*) tolerates temperatures in the 30sF, but it lives in deciduous forests, so it requires shade in the summer, and sun in the winter.

Jensoa type Cymbidiums are small and tolerate a huge temperature range. One is *C. goeringii*, which has been cultivated in East Asia for at least 1000 years.

Coelogyne cristata is native to the Himalayas, and receives lots of rain the summer, endures a cold but drier winter. However, due to winter fog it receives less light with high humidity. It should receive some watering during our long New England winter, and not allowed to go bone dry. We had some lively discussion on whether the dry rest or the cold induces flowering.

Certain *Dendrobiums* are very tolerant, but you must know your plant's habit. Some are deciduous so watering is cut back, but misting to keep pseudobulbs plump is required. Many do well on mounts in order to dry off between waterings. Flowering is best on second year growth. Looking up the species and the weather patterns of the area from which it originates is the key to your success. Isabel recommends this book: "Orchid Species Culture: *Dendrobiums*" (by Charles O. Baker).

Australian *Dendrobiums* are very tolerant. The popular *Dendrobium kingianum* originates on the East coast of Australia, lives on rock and receives some rain year round. It can stand temperatures from 25F into the 100s. Pot it in rocky stuff and use a bulb pan (shallower than a standard clay pot).

Mexican *Laelias* are recommended. Grow on oak mounts in high light. They are frequently found growing in coffee plantations. (Mmm, two favorite plants in one place!)

And, we learned that *Oncidium ornithorhyncum* is now called *Oncidium sotoanum*. But it's still tolerant of a wide range of temperatures, and smells of "musty church pews." Plants with this parentage seem to be prone to black spotting, but it is accepted as just part of the plant's nature. The spotting is thought to be a fungus.

Some of the Brazilian *Cattleyas* can tolerate low temperatures, however, they are only subjected in nature to a few hours of this, and then the sun warms them up again. Their winter is generally in the 50sF.

Many thanks to Isabel for driving the long distance to visit us. In addition, Isabel sent this email:

"Keith, I have never had so much fun speaking at an orchid society as I did at Amherst, Sunday. First of all, the members were paying attention, and second of all, the show table was magnificent. We get a great variety of plants at Mid-Hudson, but usually not as well grown and certainly not as huge."

Isabel

...here are the species I mentioned:

Phalaenopsis japonica (formerly *Sedirea japonica*)

Vanda falcata (formerly *Neofinetia falcata*)

Ascocentrum pumilum

Coelogyne cristata

Cymbidium goeringii

Cymbidium kanran

Cymbidium lowianum

Dendrobium nobile

Dendrobium thyrsiflorum

Dendrobium aduncum

Dendrobium hancockii

Dendrobium unicum

Dendrobium loddigesii

Denrobium monoliforme

Dendrobium kingianum

Dendrobium x Delicatum (natural hybrid of *kingianum* and *speciosum*)

Euchile mariae

Laelia anceps

Oerstedella centradenia

Oncidium sotoanum (formerly *Oncidium ornithorhyncum*)

Gomesa crispa

Leptotes bicolor

Maxillaria ubatubana

Cattleya cernua (formerly *Sophronitis cernua*, really favors heat, just likes a few cool hours on winter nights)

Cattleya walkeriana (not bloomed by me)

Helpful Hints

From Steve Reardon:

Only use one sprayer for each chore. Do not mix sprayers...

For example, use:

One for fungicide

One for fertilizer

One for water (fertilizer one will do)

One for fish emulsion or seaweed

and so on.

So, you purchase a bunch of little ones - or - save the spray bottles you get from other products and press them into service. Don't make that mistake of taking the weed killer spray bottle and put good stuff in to spray on your orchids!

From Maryanne Laukaitis:

Clean your pump sprayer frequently to unclog the spray nozzle and other parts where particles can accumulate.

Disassemble, flush out and reassemble. When filling the sprayer with anything other than plain water, filter through a few layers of fine synthetic fabric to catch particles, such as undissolved fertilizers.

Do YOU have a Helpful Hint? Please contribute by emailing a few sentences to maryanne@research.umass.edu.

Show Table April 2016



Masdevallia Lollipop 'Pinky', Liz Marinelli



Jackfowliara Appleblossom, Marge Tanguay



Paphiopedilum Winston's Pass, Steve Reardon



Lycaste campbelli, Steve Steiner



Phalaenopsis Fangmei Sweet 'Maui Sunset', Karen Steward



Phalaenopsis Little Gem Stripes, Sheron Tuohey



Dendrobium linguiforme, Marc Gray



Renanthera monachica, Keith Tibbetts



Cattleya Aquifinn 'Natures Best', Leilani and Harold Norman

Dendrobium kingianum, Maryanne Laukaitis



Cattleya Ahmad Sheikhi, Keith Tibbetts



Brassavola Little Stars, Roger West



Paphiopedilum Pink Fred, Marge Tanguay



Paphiopedilum Chiara, Steve Reardon



Cattleya Little Miss Charming, Roger West



Vanda Pakchong Blue, Keith Tibbetts

Show Table April 2016**Sheron Tuohey**

Phalaenopsis Little Gem Stripes

Tom McCurry

Cattleya Love Castle

Maryanne Laukaitis

Dendrobium kingianum

Laeliocattleya Hsin Buu Lady 'YC'

Roger West

Cattleya Little Miss Charming

Cattlianthe Jewel Box

Brassavola Little Stars

Leilani and Harold Norman

Cattlianthe Easter Rabbit

Cattleya Aquí-Finn 'Natures Best'

Jackfowliara Appleblossom 'Woodlands'

Liz Marinelli

Masdevallia Geneva Spots

Masdevallia Lollipop 'Pinky'

Steve Reardon

Paphiopedilum Chiara

Paphiopedilum micranthum

Paphiopedilum Magical Contrasts

Paphiopedilum lathamianum

Paphiopedilum Winston's Pass

Keith Tibbetts

Dendrobium unicum

Dendrobium primulinum

Renanthera monachica

Vanda Pakchong Blue

Vanda Xena

Cattleya Ahmad Sheikhi

Guarianthe skinneri alba 'Little Debbie'

Pleurothallis diabolica

Marc Gray

Dendrochilum parvulum

Dendrobium striolatum

Pleurothallis schweinfurthii

Bulbophyllum nymphopolitanum

Dendrobium schoeninum

Dendrobium striolatum 'nthrn. Form Frills' AM/AOS

Dendrobium linguiforme

Karen Steward

Vanda Cherry Blossum

Phalaenopsis Fangmei Sweet 'Maui Sunset'

Phalaenopsis Susan

Marge Tanguay

Cattlianthe Fire Dance 'Patricia'

Jackfowliara Appleblossom

Paphiopedilum Pink Fred

Stenosarcos Vanguard 'Fireball'

Holly Rainaud-Loss

Oncidium Sharry Baby

Steve Steiner

Lycaste campbelli

Dendrobium mohlianum

Cymbidium Tiny Tiger

Scaphosepulum sp. (Ecuador)

Dendrobium gonzalesii

Dendrobium Adastra

Bob Meyer

Paphiopedilum Spot Glen x Winston Churchill

Upcoming Events

Next meeting is May 15th, 2016, at the Munson Memorial Library at 2 pm. Those with last names M, N, O, and P, please bring a dish to share. Thomas Mirenda, Orchid curator from the Smithsonian, will be the speaker this month.