

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

November 2019, Volume 54, Issue 10 Meeting since 1965

Next Meeting Sunday, November 3, Floral Hall of the Toronto Botanical Garden.

- ★ **Vendor sales noon to 1pm.**
- ★ **Noon, Culture talks on the stage by Alexsi Antanaitis. Topic ?**
- ★ **Program at 1pm. Our guest speaker** George Hatfield, owner and operator of [Hatfield Orchids](#) in, Oxnard, CA will speak on Cymbidiums. George is an AOS and Cymbidium Society judge and a hybridizer.
- ★ **Monthly show table. Bring your flowering plants for show and tell and points towards our annual awards.**
- ★ **Raffle**

President's Remarks Welcome Orchid Enthusiasts. Fall has come, although as I write this in mid-October, the temperatures in my area have not yet neared freezing, so my plants are still outdoors. The cool nights are helping set buds on my Phalaenopsis, and helping to "harden off" the summer growths of my Cattleyas, which should lead to a bountiful display of blooms over the next few months. I've already moved a few plants with buds indoors under lights, in order to speed up the opening of the blooms. The rest of my plants will come indoors over the next 2 weeks (or faster if the weather necessitates, i.e frost warnings).

I hope that your plants have enjoyed the summer, and are getting ready to bloom this fall. We would love to see your blooming "babies" on the Show Table at our November meeting. Please bring them along.

By the time that you receive this newsletter, Cathy Dunn will have travelled to Windsor to put on our Society's display for the Windsor Orchid Society Show, October 26 – 27. **The next show at which SOOS will be the represented is the;**

- **Essex County Orchid Society Show & Sale, Nov 16 & 17, 2019**
- **at Visitation Parish Hall, 5407 Comberside Rd, Comber, Ont.**
- **Don Wyatt will be designing the SOOS display**

Don will be on the lookout for plants, so please help him out by sending some of your plants on a road trip to Southwestern Ontario. They may even come back with some awards.

Thank you in advance for those members who generously lend their precious plants. The SOOS displays could not happen without you.

Our future meetings for the remainder of this year are as follows;

- ★ Nov.3 George Hatfield, [Hatfield Orchids](#) , Oxnard, CA Cymbidiums
- ★ Dec.1 Annual Auction and Potluck Celebration

With the annual auction just around the corner in December, now is the time to start thinking about what plants, books, growing materials, and any other orchid related (or even non-orchid related) items that you might be able to donate to the cause. Let Liz McAlpine know if you have items available for the auction, so she can start preparing the list.

Terry Kennedy, our Program Director, has been busy arranging for a group of wonderful speakers in 2020, including [Jean Allen-Ikeson](#) ,(Dundas, Ontario), [Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids](#)

(California), [Shawn Hillis, Garden Slippers](#) (Calgary, Alberta) (Cypripediums) and [J&L Orchids](#) (Connecticut). Thank you Terry for all of your hard work.

Now is the time to get your 2020 SOOS memberships, and to qualify for the Early Bird draw. The earlier you purchase or renew a membership, the more opportunities you will have to win the draw for a blooming orchid at the November, December and January meetings. You must be in attendance to win the orchid draw, so if your name is chosen and you are not in attendance, we will draw again until a winner is chosen. All names go back into the draw for the following month, **so purchase your membership early to increase your odds of winning.**

Thank you also to those members whose names begin with the letter S through Ta, that supplied treats for the October meeting.

The members whose names start with the letters “To through Z” are scheduled for November’s treats.

As you know, SOOS is a volunteer run organization, so please consider donating some of your precious time to your orchid society to assist in its operations. We will be electing a Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 term at our December meeting, and this is your chance to help shape the future of SOOS. Please see or contact John Vermeer for details, if you may be available.

Our show committee can also always use more help, please see or contact Cathy Dunn at any time.

We will see you soon. John Vermeer.

We are on facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/298874747302722/>

And www.facebook.com/SOOSOrchid/
on Instagram at
[instagram.com/soosorchid/](https://www.instagram.com/soosorchid/)

2020 SOOS Annual Show Committee

Elegance

I have the pleasure of inviting all orchid aficionados to contribute to our 40th Orchid Show and Sale to be held February 8th and 9th, 2020 at the TBG. Our show is gearing up to be another smash hit.

Our special guest artist this year will be Kelvin Sue, the son of Synea Tan. Kelvin’s beautiful artwork will be on display and for sale in the Floral Hall.

For the young at heart, we will be having our first ever Youth Programme on the Sunday afternoon! Our plan is to have activities that parents and youth can do together.

As you can imagine, there is lots to be done to have such a wonderful show; tasks both large and small. In particular, we are looking to augment our hospitality team by adding another organizer in the kitchen. If you love to put menus together, this is the job for you. Alternatively, if anyone is a member of the Legion, Lions or Elks whose organization might be interested in catering for us, please let me know as we might just go that route.

The volunteer sign-up sheets will be out at the regular Sunday afternoon meetings. Please see Michelle who will help you find a task that you will enjoy doing. Volunteers do not need to be a member of SOOS. High school students can receive credit towards their volunteer hours.

Our awesome poster and coupons for the Show are ready to be distributed. Please feel free to put up posters and hand out coupons be they printed or digital. The personal touch works the best.

Last, but not least, our show is about showing orchids, yours as well as those of vendors and other societies. It is not too early to start grooming your plants for either your own exhibit or for the SOOS exhibit.

Please contact Cathy Dunn at show@soos.ca if you have any questions or comments.

Come be part of the fun in creating a great Orchid Show and Sale! Cathy Dunn, Show Chair.

Plant of the month for October 6, 2019



Yvan Richard got the honours this month with his robust Cattleya C. G. Roebling ‘Beechview’ AM/AOS. The plant carried 3 beautiful almost white flowers with dramatic

tubular purple lips.

He originally got the plant from Synea Tan. He keeps it in a South facing window. He waters weekly. He fertilizes weakly once per month, but stops once the plant shows a sheath –usually in August. At that time he also lets it dry out a bit more, watering only every 7-10 days. His mix contains One centimeter pieces of cork, expanded clay, bark and charcoal. Well done Yvan!

Coming Events 2019.

October

26-27, Windsor Orchid Society Show, Windsor, Ontario.

November

2, TJC Monthly AOS Judging and semi annual business meeting at TBG.

3, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm,

9-10, Niagara Frontier O.S. show, Buffalo, NY.

16-17, Essex County OS show

16, Monthly Montreal AOS judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal

December

1, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales 12 noon, program 1 pm,

7, TJC Monthly AOS Judging at TBG.

14, Monthly Montreal AOS judging, Jardin botanique de Montreal

AOS Judging Results

COOS Show awards September 28., 2019:

Catasetum Tom Pickens 'B-C' AM/AOS 82 points

Bernie Butts and Chuck Lefaive

WOS display 'Fall Colours' AOS Show Trophy, Silver Certificate 85 points, Windsor Orchid Society

Phalaenopsis deliciosa ssp *deliciosa* 'Ketracal-white' CHM/AOS, Drew Goddard

Paphiopedilum helenae 'Our Tropics Butterscotch' HCC/AOS 79 points, Terry and Doug Kennedy

Barbosella cogniauxiana 'Ariete Acazar Biljan' CCM/AOS 80 points, Angele Biljan

TJC October 5, 2019:

Catasetum arietinum 'B-C' CHM/AOS 80 points, Bernie Butts and Chuck Lefaive

Catasetum B-C Fernande 'Oscar' HCC/AOS 78 points, Dr Oscar Dalmao

Paphiopedilum villosum f. *aureum* 'Piping Rock' AM/AOS 81 points, Leslie Ee

Catamodes Dragons Glade 'B-C' AM/AOS 83 points, Bernie Butts and Chuck Lefaive

Next judging November 2, 2019, 10 am at the TBG. Business meeting at 10 am, AOS judging at 1 pm.

AOS Judging is a service of the American Orchid Society and is open to all! Bring us your flowering orchids.

Central Ontario Orchid Society Show SOOS Display Ribbons:

First place ribbons

Paphiopedilum Rollie Wilson, Best in Show, Show Trophy David Bryan

Laelia anceps David Bryan

Doritaenopsis Taida Pearl 'Taida Pink Lady' David Bryan

Catasetum expansum Joe O'Regan

Paphiopedilum Harvest Dream, Synea Tan

Paphiopedilum Sakaki 'Synea' AM/AOS, Synea Tan

Potinara Mark's Valentine 'Blood Orange' John Vermeer

Rlc. (C. Purple Doll 'Midnight Velvet' AM/AOS x Rlc.

Rubescence 'SVO' AM/AOS) John Vermeer

Second place ribbons

SOOS Exhibit, Don Wyatt

Cattleya Valentine 'Coerulea' David Bryan

Paphiopedilum Petula's Sensation David Bryan

Epidendrum summerhayesii Laura Grant

Epicattleya Kyuguchi 'M Sano' mutation x *Cattleytonia* Why Not 'Super Nova' Laura Grant

Ascocenda Viboom Sunset Laura Grant

Oncidium Wild Cat 'Blood Shots' Synea Tan

Phalaenopsis Jong's Red Son Synea Tan

Phalaenopsis - Pink Hybrid Monica Lee

Third place ribbons

Phalaenopsis Princess Kaiulani, Synea Tan

Zelenkoa onusta, Synea Tan

Dendrobium bracteosum x sib (Red), Chee Chong

Paphiopedilum (Macabre Station 'Burgundy Flare'

HCC/AOS x *wardii* 'New Dimension' AM/AQ/AOS) Cathy Dunn



flora-peculia 

orchidées japonaises
japanese orchids and orchid species

Terry Kowalczuk

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About SOOS

Web site: www.soos.ca ; SOOS Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/298874747302722/> Member of the Canadian Orchid Congress; Affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance.

Membership: Annual Dues \$30 per calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Surcharge \$15 for newsletter by postal service Membership secretary: Liz Mc Alpine, 189 Soudan Avenue, Toronto, ON M4S 1V5, phone 416-487-7832, renew or join on line at soos.ca/members.

Executive: President John Vermeer,; 905-823-2516 Vice-President ? Treasurer, Cathy Dunn, Secretary, Sue Loftus 905-839-8281; Past President Laura Liebgott, 905-883-5290

Other Positions of Responsibility: Program, Terry Kennedy; Plant Doctor, Doug Kennedy; Meeting Set up, Yvonne Schreiber; Vendor and Sales table coordinator, Lynda Satchwell; Library, Liz Mc Alpine; Web Master, Max Wilson; Newsletter, Peter and Inge Poot; Annual Show, Cathy Dunn; Refreshments, Joe O'Regan. Conservation Committee, various C.C. members; Show table, Synea Tan, Cultural snapshots, Alexsi Antanaitis, Directors at large Marion Curry, Jay Norris, Sherry Xie, Eric Tai, Anne Antanaitis.

Honorary Life Members: Terry Kennedy, Doug Kennedy, Inge Poot, Peter Poot, Joe O'Regan, Diane Ryley, Wayne Hingston.

Next Annual Show: February 8 and 9 , 2020



Honey I Shrunk The Orchids by Kristen Uthus

transcribed by Inge Poot

Photos by kind permission of Kristen from her talk, unless otherwise credited.



Kristen started her lively talk, by telling us about how she got bitten by the orchid bug by being seduced by the sheer cuteness of miniature orchids! It all started about 5 years ago when she was in college studying Ecology and Evolution, when she was seduced by a miniature *Dendrobium moniliforme* for sale at a stall selling

Japanese orchids in a Farmer's Market. She ended up working part-time for a Nursery selling Japanese orchids and when asked if she wanted a full-time job decided to offer to buy the business - with her husband's OK - and was accepted. And before she knew it she became a commercial orchid grower. She added other miniature plants to her selection and thus appealed to a much larger clientele.

She limits herself to miniature orchids, but found that different authors define miniature orchids differently:

- ▶ **Rebecca Northern:** <6" (not including inflorescence)
- ▶ **Stephen Frowine:** <12"
- ▶ **Mid-America Orchid Congress:** <6" (mini Catts are <10")
- ▶ **Alex Challis:** anything smaller than typical for the genus
- ▶ **And she herself:** "I know it when I see it"!

Size varies even when you consider different specimens in the same species or even strain. She illustrated it with a picture showing an immensely tall man and a very short one. The short man was a quarter the size of the tall one. In every litter of puppies – even pure-bred ones some will just never grow as large as some of the others. Even comparing different strains of corn, some strains will be much taller than others. In birds a hummingbird will never be as big as an albatross. Grasses can be as large as trees as in bamboos or as short as eco-grass.

Miniature plants contain fewer cells than larger plants. The number of cells is influenced by:

- ▶ Genetic constraints
 - ▶ Natural (upper limit)
 - ▶ Additional breeding

In other words : a rose bush will never be the size of an oak tree, but a given species can be bred and selected for traits such as size (big or small)

This *Dendrobium kingianum* was selected from amongst many seedlings for its small size and dark flower colour. By crossing the darkest and smallest of a



Dendrobium kingianum

group of plants of for example the same species, we get ever more of darker and smaller progeny with every generation this selective crossing is done.

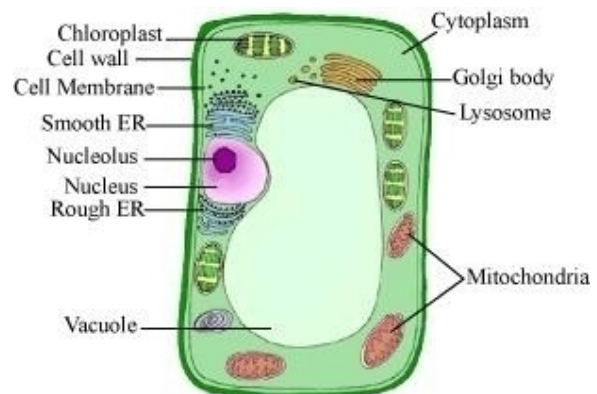
Miniature orchids are no harder to grow than their larger brethren.

If you and your friend buy the same plant from the same vendor, why might they differ in size after a

year?

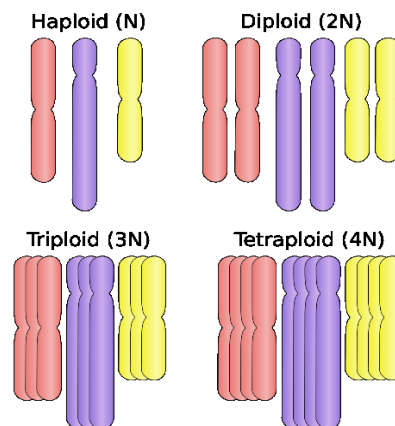
Environmental factors affect whether a plant will reach its full genetic potential. Factors such as sun, fertilizer and water have a big effect.

Cell size has a minor effect on plant size.



Plant cell

Cell size is affected by the "ploidy" of a plant, or by how many copies of the different types of chromosomes typical for the particular plant the cell's nuclei actually contain.



Ovules and pollen grains of a normal plant contain one copy of each type of chromosome. Its chromosome number is said to be "haploid". In the example shown the plant has three different chromosomes – shown as being different in length and colour- the latter for clarity.

The cells of the vegetative part of the plant usually contain two copies of each type of chromosome. They are said to be "diploid".

If the number of chromosomes in a fertilized ovule is doubled, by for instance treating the seed with colchicine, the resulting plant will have cells with 4 copies of each type of chromosome. It is said to be "tetraploid".

The ovules and pollen grains of a tetraploid plant will have a diploid number of chromosomes! If it is crossed with the haploid pollen or ovules of a normal plant, the resulting seed will have three copies of each type of chromosome. It is said to be "triploid". **Phalaenopsis schilleriana** 'Pink Butterfly', a popular mericlone is triploid. It is very hard to breed with a triploid because most ovules and pollen grains get an irregular number of chromosomes and the resulting seed ends up being not viable.

Why you should consider miniatures:

On the LHS is the picture that sold you on adding a greenhouse to your house. In no time at all it will actually look like the picture on the RHS:



You can put off the evil day by buying mostly miniatures!!!



If you cannot resist some big plants think of all the miniatures you can hook onto its pot rim without appearing to fill the greenhouse!

Or you can hang a sheet of welded wire netting vertically into any gap and hang it full of miniatures without taking much space at all.

If you grow in an apartment and summer your plants on a balcony you can hang either welded screening

along back walls and over the rail and fill them with your little plants. There is also a special type of hanger available that has little platforms along a wire that

support the bases of your mini-pots and suspend them in a regular and decorative manner.

Care of hanging plants exposed to the outside will mean that most have to be watered at least once a day – they dry out too fast.

Plants whose roots must never dry out are better housed in a closed aquarium with a little fan, some standing water on the bottom of the aquarium and wire netting all around to hang your humidity and moisture loving miniatures. LED lighting is best for illumination. The sun could cook things in the enclosed space. Someone is always trying to find a home for a used aquarium, because they are tired of the fish dying..... Your gain!

Glass jars and balls are great for individual plants. Sphagnum moss is a good medium to use in these small containers, but it must be changed fairly frequently or it gets overgrown by bacterial slime.

Remember that large plants have larger pots that dry out slower. So the minis you hang from its rim will need far more frequent watering.

Some minis have such pretty foliage that you can enjoy them without any flowers at all. **Dendrobium moniliforme** has forms with very short stature and all sorts of variegation on the leaves. To get the flowers the species must have a cool dry rest in the winter. Since the clones with the pretty leaves often never flower well, some growers never give them the dry rest that makes them lose their leaves, but then flower. Instead they keep them going all year and just enjoy their cute stature and splendid leaves.

Why grow a huge Cattleya when a cute **Cattleya coccinea** can be grown which has a flower (red, full, flat too!) that is huge compared to the size of the plant.

Why grow huge Vandas when you can grow the former **Neofinetia**, now a **Vanda falcata**? There are thousands of selected clones of that species and they are best appreciated close up: for instance the variety **Houmeiden** whose root tips are purple!



Vanda falcata hort. var. Houmeiden

Hybrids with **Vanda falcata** usually retain the **falcata** plant and flower characteristics, but may take on the colour of the other parent. The blue Vandachostylis Lou Sneary is a good example. It looks like a slightly taller growing **falcata** with blue flowers. Good clones are quite blue!

The former **Ascocentrums** now **Vandas** are all miniature and very cute, as well as showy when in bloom.



The cold tolerant **Vanda cristata** flowers when quite small with dainty light olive flowers that have a white lip with lurid dark red drips descending from the base of the lip: the Halloween Orchid! However, eventually most plants cease to be minis...

They need less light than most vandas.

Amazing minis are also available in the allied genera **Angraecum, Renanthera, Aerides, Aerangis.**

Many minis can be appreciated solely for their leaf colours.

There are lots of mini Dendrobiums on the market with the most attractive leaf coloration- as mentioned before.



Lepanthes calodictyon

There is the famous **Lepanthes calodictyon** with tiny red flowers held above the middle of the leaf and what a leaf it is! Who needs the flowers! Slightly cupped round green leaves with a crisped edge and the interior veined in purple. And it likes intermediate

temperatures not cold like most *Lepanthes*.

Then there is the stunning **Macodes petola**. It has dark green leaves covered with glittering silver tracery. It is very warm growing and must be kept moist all year, but reduce watering in the summer. (65F nights, 80-85F days)

Equally warm growing is **Maxillaria reichenheimiana** with lots of shy beige and white spidery flowers, but flamboyant leaves whose upper surfaces are boldly spotted white.



Pleurothallis dodsonii

The cooler growing **Pleurothallis dodsonii** (nights 56-58F, days 72-76F) has wide pointy green leaves liberally dotted black. The small maroon flowers held along the mid-vein of the leaf bearing it add a bit more colour, but are not really necessary for the charm of the plant.

Sedirea japonica has recently been transferred into the genus *Phalaenopsis*. As with

Vanda falcata the plant has been in cultivation in Japan for a long time and mutations with lovely variegated leaves have been lovingly preserved. The plant looks

like a miniature *Phalaenopsis* but has short inflorescences of quite showy white flowers with purple barred sepals and purple spotted lip. In its native habitat it gets very cool, drier winters and warm wet summers and really likes to dry out slightly between waterings. Water it when the roots turn white. When grown mounted the roots may turn white every day! Grown in a basket it is hard to over-water it.

Some species have leaves with a pebbly texture such as **Porroglossum hystrix** whose new leaves are pink-veined, **Dendrobium cuthbertsonii** a cool grower that only tolerates some warmth during the day and must never dry out and **Vanda falcata hort. var. Kinginrasha** with fragrant flowers.



Dresslerella pilosissima

Dresslerella pilosissima has the cutest hairy bunny-ear leaves! It is so cute that you will forgive its ho-hum flowers!

The *Dendrobium*

s of section *Dockrillia* have the most interesting terete leaves. **Dendrobium wassellii** has upright pencil-shaped leaves, **Dendrobium linguiformis** has fat tongue-shaped leaves that are arranged alternately on a creeping stem. **Dendrobium cucumerinum** has little fat spiny leaves that look like miniature cucumbers! All three species produce dense, short or longer sprays of spidery white flowers.

Leaf Shape
Australian *Dockrillia*-type *Dendrobiums*

D. wassellii *D. linguiformis* *D. cucumerinum*

Among the *Pleurothallis* are also species with amazing leaf shapes even if their colour is just green! **Pleurothallis portillae** has elegant long narrow leaves bent in along the edges and bent into a bow shape along their length. The flowers are also quietly pretty in beige and dark red lip!

Pleurothallis dilemma has long, outward curved terete leaves that have the leaf bases lengthened and looking like two bunny ears sticking up above the rest of the downward directed blade. The small, red-brown flowers are pressed to the leaf.

Then there are the plants with leaves arranged into miniature fans.

Erycina pusillum

not only has cute leaves but also very showy yellow dancing lady flowers.

Plants should get low light, especially in summer.

Water

heavily in summer, much less so in winter. Temperatures: winter 58-62F nights, 79-84F days. Summer 67-71F nights, 85-88F days. Good air movement, always. Reduce water when growth is complete in fall. Good humidity at all times. (OW 5.0 from Baker and Baker)

The genus *Ornithocephalus* is full of delightful miniatures. An example is ***Ornithocephalus bicornis***. The little fan of slightly flattened leaves produced sprays of white and green flowers, with well-grown plants being just full of inflorescences! It is an intermediate to warm growing plant.

Next our speaker showed us plants with “braided” leaves.

Angraecum distichum

has long stems covered by tiny crowded alternate leaves producing a braided effect. It will also produce lots of little white flowers all along the braided leaves.

Microsaccus griffithii has slightly larger leaves than the previous species, while

Lockhartia bennettii has much thinner and more elongated leaves forming the braids.

Now we get to miniatures that charm with their stunning flowers:

Angraecum leonis not



Angraecum leonis

only has nice sickle-shaped leaves arranged in a fan, but also lovely white fragrant flowers that are large for the size of the plant

But the most dramatic of the miniatures with stunning flowers is ***Cattleya coccinea***.

This lovely miniature

needs a large difference between day and night temperatures to be able to metabolize. Also it needs good water and never dry out completely. Cool growing. Do not let the potting medium get stale.

Cattleya walkeriana is a delightful little gem with purple

flowers—very large for the size of the plant. Intermediate temperatures suit it best, lots of water in the summer, but kept almost dry in the winter. Kristen advises keeping it in a pot with no medium, because the fleshy roots rot if kept always wet.

Brassavola is another genus of just a few species but they are all miniature. The ones with round terete leaves need high light. They have white flowers that are delightfully fragrant at night.

Another dramatic miniature is ***Dendrobium jenkinsii***. It has a clustered growth habit and produces large yellow and orange flowers. It needs a dry rest for a month in winter with increased light to induce flowering. The diurnal temperature difference in winter gets quite high being 23-24 F degrees or 13 Celsius degrees.

The related species *Dendrobium aggregatum* now called ***Dendrobium lindleyi*** has multi-flowered inflorescences with somewhat more rounded flowers than the previous species. For best growth and flowering, it needs 10C winter nights and a dry rest for at least a month. Mist when bulbs get too shrivelled.

Dendrobium bellatulum has short pseudobulb clusters and cream flowers with a yellow lip whose throat is red and orange.

The plants are not easy to grow since they require a 7-9C degree diurnal temperature difference in summer and an 11- 18 Celsius degrees one in the winter. They require high light. They are cool growing. Reduce watering in winter and let plants get barely dry between waterings.

Dendrobium parishii has short fat pseudobulbs and produces bright magenta fairly large flowers from the



Cattleya coccinea



Erycina pusillum, Photo Jose Portilla OW 5.0



Microsaccus griffithii and Lockhartia bennettii

deciduous pseudobulbs. The flowers have a scent reminiscent of raspberries. This is another plant that needs very high differences between day and night temperatures in the winter while it gets a dry rest for 1-2 months. But do not let the plants get too dry –mist if the bulbs shrivel too much.

It is a cool grower.

A wonderful hybrid Dendrobium is **Dendrobium Hibiki**. It has clusters of magenta flowers but the lip is red-orange and yellow. The flowers last 5-6 months and you may actually get tired of them!!!

The next group of miniatures are all Angraecoids.

Aerangis fastuosa has small plants and comparatively large heavy-textured white flowers. Really precious! Give it house temperatures during the day and 7 Celsius degrees less for the nights and just a bit cooler in the winter. It needs diffused light, must never dry out completely but should get less water in the winter.

Aerangis luteo-alba looks like a minute white flowered Phalaenopsis with a red nose (column)! Absolutely charming, but not the easiest plant to keep alive. Orchid Wiz via Baker and Baker says it likes warm summer daytime room temperatures but likes much cooler nights. Nights should be 10-13 Celsius degrees cooler than the days. Their natural habitat is at humid stream sides with less rainfall for two months in the summer and 4 months in the winter. Simulate this by misting in the mornings and watering thoroughly every two weeks.

Aerangis mystacidii is another miniature with a little fan of fairly wide leaves. It produces its charming descending inflorescences full of little white star-shaped flowers with long drooping spurs in September to October. They like Phalaenopsis light, but are cool growing with a large diurnal temperature difference. Keep wet, but less so in winter and the medium should be fresh.

Aerangis hildebrandtii has descending inflorescences with tiny rust colored, star-shaped flowers. Really cute!

Next : Terrestrials:

Ponerorchis graminifolia is a warm growing, high light plant that is hard to get but has an incredible range of flower colours – one prettier than the other.



Ponerorchis graminifolia

lots of water. That means annual repotting! Most are cool growing, but some can take some heat, especially if the light given is not too strong:

Dracula lotax with off-white flowers and dark red tails (caudae) is one of the easiest Draculas to grow.

Also try **Masdevallia benedettii** an elegant species with narrow, tall, dark maroon flowers and yellow tails. Intermediate to warm growing.

Scaphosepalum schwertifolium and **Specklinia megalops** are two interesting Pleurothallids that are warmth tolerant.

Bulbophyllums are another huge group of orchids that contain many miniatures. Most need good light but some can take low light.

Bulbophyllum Jeff's Favorite is a charming example



Bulbophyllum Jeff's Favorite

Other miniatures:

Leptotes bicolor with terete little leaves and creamy white flowers that sport a purple lip

Paphiopedilum armeniacum has lovely marbled small rosettes and huge golden yellow slipper flowers. Water from below. This species does well at home temperatures.

Sarcochilus is an Australian genus of all miniatures. Some wonderful hybrids have been created coming in many colours by now. They grow intermediate to cool and need intermediate light.

Bigger is not always better!

Platystele repens is very tiny, but so pretty!

There are too many other delightful platysteles to list even a fraction of them!

Water less thoroughly but more often!

Chinese Cymbidiums are another large group where many

selections have made in the Orient from just a handful of their native species. They do best in an inorganic potting mix. Water them often. Give them lower light than you would Standard cymbidiums, especially if you have a variegated clone. Fertilize in May, June and July only. Kristen has found the best way to bloom them is to buy them in bud!!!!



Platystele repens

Conclusion:
Bigger is **not**
always better



Oct 6, 2019 Show Table Ribbons

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance	C. (Sc.) C.G. Roebling 'Beechview' AM/AOS Yvan Richard	<i>C. maxima</i> John Barnes Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Pot.) Mark's Valentine 'Blood Orange' John Vermeer	Cattleya Sung Ya Green Connie Charlton Rhyncattleanthe DiCiommo Benedetto Joe DiCiommo
Class 2 Paphiopedilium	<i>Paph villosum</i> Leslie Ee	Paph. Harvest Dream Synea Tan Paph. Angela Synea Tan	Phrag. Incan Treasure Ingrid Wauro Phrag. Incan Treasure Joe DiCiommo
Class 3 Phalaenopsis and Vanda Alliance			
Class 4 Oncidium and related	Oncidium Wildcat 'Blood Shots' Synea Tan	Brassia no name Sue Loftus	
Class 7 All Others	Clowesetum Jumbo Eden 'B-C' AM/AOS David Bryan	Catasetum Francis Nelson Joe O'Regan Ctsm..Orchidglade 'David Ranches' Joe O'Regan	