SASKATCHEWAN ORCHID SOCIETY
APRIL 2022 VOLUME 38, ISSUE #7

NEWSLETTER

Saskatchewan Orchid Society

Editor's Note: The newsletter is distributed electronically (blind copied so addresses remain private) to all members for whom we have an email address. If you do not receive an emailed newsletter please email info@saskorchids.com to update your contact information.

Future Meeting Dates:

Sat Apr 23, 2022 in person @ Elim Church
Sat May 14, 2022 in person @ Elim Church

SOS Executive

President:	Tracey Thue
Vice-President:	Vacant
Past President:	Bob Lucas
Secretary:	Donna Carlson-O'Keefe
Treasurer:	Cheryl Grummet
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Newsletter:	Tracey Thue
	Tobi Fenton
COC/AOS Rep:	Tom Kondra
Speakers:	Heather Anderson
Webmaster:	Calvin Lo
Facebook:	Sara Thue
Web Address:	www.saskorchids.com
Email:	info@saskorchids.com

facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saskorchidsociety?

Mail Address: SOS, Box 411, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3

The general meeting will be held in-person at Elim Church, and by Zoom
Saturday, April 23 @ 1:30 pm CST

The Silent Auction Fundraiser is the main activity of this meeting.
Please see page 2 of this newsletter for the link to the Zoom meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SOS IS RETURNING TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS!

ELIM CHURCH
419 Slimmon Road, Saskatoon

Use Entrance B, left hallway, Classrooms 7 & 8

Lots of parking, easy access.

Masks and Covid-19 vaccinations required. If you are experiencing any symptoms (cough, fever, sore throat), please stay home, even if you have tested negative with a rapid test.

Who remembers how our meetings run?!

Sign in at the entrance and pick up your name tag. Visitors please put your name on a visitor's sticker.

We won't be serving treats or coffee this month, since we are still requiring masks to be worn to protect each other from Covid-19. Please be mindful of each other!

MEETING AGENDA:

Meeting Start @ 1:30pm

If you are bringing items for the auction, please arrive a bit early to set up

Silent Auction

This will run throughout the meeting; see page 4 for details

Announcements

From Calvin Lo, who will be presiding over this meeting in Tracey's absence

- SOS Executive Introductions
- Secretary or Treasurer position open
- Plant order information - Heather & David
- Resources information - Don & Tom
- Auction purchases information

Problem corner

Bring any sick plants in a plastic bag please to prevent spreading!

Show & Tell

Please bring your flowering orchids, put the on the Show & Tell Table, and share with the membership how you grow and flower them. Photos will be featured in the May newsletter.

The meeting will be presented on Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

Saturday, April 23 2022 @ 1:30 PM CST

If you are unable to join the meeting in person, please join on Zoom by clicking on this link:

https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/91568272724?pwd=YzhMTFZWcWFuK3Z5VjNSRlEvcFhBQT09

SOS EMAIL CONTACTS

Plant orders go to: orders@saskorchids.com
General requests or queries to:
info@saskorchids.com

Secretary Position is OPEN!

We need someone to step forward and fill the position of Secretary for the SOS. Cheryl Grummett has been willing to continue in this role but really wants to retire! Please speak with any member of the executive if you are interested.

SOS Membership Early Renewal Incentive!

Renew your SOS membership in April or May and receive a $5 voucher for the Resources table!

PLANT ORDERS

Ecuagenera and **Ten Shin Orchids** orders:
The plants were to be delivered to the Foothills Orchid Society Show. However, due to a double-booking of the venue, the show has been moved from May to September.

Heather and David have arranged to have the plants from **Ten Shin Orchids** to be shipped to Vancouver in April with an OSA order. The SOS order will then be shipped from Vancouver to Saskatoon. Watch for a delivery date in late April.

The **Ecuagenera** order will be shipped to Calgary with an FOS order, scheduled to arrive in late April. *There will be a shipping charge from Calgary to Saskatoon, but that should be counter-balanced by an increased order discount.*

Watch your email inbox for news of plant pickup in late April!

Upcoming Speakers:

May 14, 2022 - T.J. Hartung from Vallarta Botanical Gardens, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Sept 2022 - Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, California, USA

Oct 2022 - Cordelia Head, J&L Orchids, Connecticut, USA

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION
SOS FUNDRAISER

Bring your orchids and orchid-related items to add to the auction. Bid sheets will be distributed by email and available from the treasurer at the meeting.

Members auctioning items can specify the percentage of the sale price to be donated to the SOS, either 50% or 100% of the sale going to the society. Minimum bids can be specified.

Photos of the orchids' flowers are a great selling feature!

If you send a list of your auction plants to info@saskorchids.com SOS webmaster, Calvin will make up photos on sticks for you to put in the plant pots when you bring them to the meeting.

Questions?

Email Calvin at the above address.

Place your items on an auction table, each item with its own bid sheet.

Bidding will begin at the start of the meeting and continue throughout the meeting. Bids must be made in $1 increments.

As bidding ends for a table, the last name on each bid sheet takes the item!

Purchases must be paid for in cash or cheque to the Treasurer at the Secretary & Treasurer Table.

This is our main fundraising event of the year and it's open to all, including non-members, so invite friends and family!

American Orchid Society Western Canada Judging

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show, March 22, 2022
Photographer: Alexey Tretyakov

***Paphiopedilum* (Mystic Quest x Double Magic) HCC/AOS** 77 pts.
Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids
(Clonal name to be announced; award provisional pending hybrid registration)

***Acidanthera thysana* 'Kittiwake' CBR/AOS**
Exhibitor: Leda Bower
(Award provisional pending SITF identification)

Show Trophy 'Memoria Mike Miller' ST/AOS 83 pts.
Exhibitor: Bryan Emery

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 27, 2022, 1:00 PM CST

LOCATION: Zoom meeting, moderated by Dean Chesterman of the Orchid Society of Alberta.

The first portion of the meeting included the Orchid Society of Alberta, Manitoba Orchid Society, and the Saskatchewan Orchid Society. There were at least 57 participants.

Dean Chesterman welcomed the speaker, Martin Motes, Ph.D., of Motes Orchids in Florida. Motes Orchids is Florida's oldest orchid nursery; their website is www.motesorchids.com

Presentation:

Martin Motes, speaking on the topic, Temperature Tolerant *Vanda* Hybrids

Martin started his presentation with what he called a "shameless piece of propaganda" for his wife's comic novel, Orchid Territory, a cult bestseller by Mary Motes. "Love and intrigue among the flowers".

Two species often used for breeding *Vanda* hybrids:

- *Vanda sanderiana*:
  - Breeds flat full flowers
  - Large slow maturing plants
  - Cold sensitivity
  - High light requirements

  About 75 years ago, some folks in Hawaii decided that they were really in love with *Vanda sanderiana*. They loved the big full flat flowers and they didn't mind that they were large slow-maturing plants that were cold sensitive and required high light. A mature plant is about as wide as Martin's arm is long – they are huge plants and the architecture of them is all wrong. He will explain that later.
- *V. dearei*:
  - Also breeds large cold sensitive plants
  - Clear yellows hybrids are rare, emerging only in the best progeny.

Plant Architecture:

Plant architecture of *V. sanderiana* and other *Vanda* sections differ in both leaves and roots. *V. sanderiana* leaf shape is an evolutionary adaptation to the very bright light in its near-equatorial habitat in Mindanao. Its leaves are quite distinctly folded so that when light comes from certain directions, one half of the leaf will cast a shadow on the other half. At our latitudes in the fall, as the sun sinks slowly southward, the leaf is self-shading and the plant gets less light.

Most *Vandas* have leaves that are much flatter and much more efficient light gatherers. It is no mystery why *Phalaenopsis* grow so quickly and bloom so soon They have large flat leaves that are very efficient light gatherers.
Similarly, if one looks at the roots of *V. sanderiana*, the roots are all clustered at the base, while the root systems of most *Vandas* are much more adventitious (forming from non-root tissue such as stems or rhizomes) and much more vigorous.

Selecting for *sanderiana*'s flower qualities leads to late maturation. Dr. Motes showed a slide of two different flowering *Vanda* plants, both blooming for the first time. One of them was a tall plant from Thailand, showing a lot of healthy foliage and a cluster of flowers of a lovely full shape. The other plant was about one third the size, blooming at about 34-35 months from seed. The flowers did not have as desirable a shape as the larger plant, but by the time this plant reaches the size of the other, it will have bloomed twenty or twenty-five times. Mr. Motes said that over his sixty years of growing orchids, he has learned that no-one wants a plant that is just foliage. Flowers are not the most important thing; to paraphrase Yogi Berra, they are the ONLY thing!

When you breed for *sanderiana*'s desirable flower shape, you are also breeding for its late maturation, so you get plants with lots of foliage before you get the flowers, which is not desirable.
When you talk about cold tolerance, you have to talk about *V. coerulea*, which is a major species in *Vanda* hybridization. It comes from elevations of 1000m or more in the Himalayas, from India through China.

There are improved strains of *V. coerulea* coming out of Thailand, although DNA analysis indicates that they are actually hybrids. However, they do give better cold tolerance and they do improve the flower form so that standard primary hybrids such as *V.* Rothschildiana (*coerulea* x *sanderiana*) have a fuller, flatter flower.

You can cross the improved *V. coerulea* to more advanced hybrids, such as Motes Indigo. The result is progeny in a wide range of colours and with a lot of vigour. One example is Mary Motes: its best flowering produced 53 flowers that were 5" across on a single flower spike.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Primary hybrids can be bred outward to increase size as in *V.* Arthur Lauffenberger. There was an Arthur Lauffenberger in his display at the Vancouver Orchid Show, and at the end of the show, Asian breeders were stealing flowers from the plant to get pollen because they didn't have anything as good that. You can also breed them back to *V. coerulea* to increase cold tolerance and to intensify colour and pattern as in *V.* Joan Margaret Sutton.

Another parent that they use to increase the tessellated (lattice-like) pattern is *V.* Violetta 'Mary Motes' HCC/AOS, which is a cross between *V. tessellate* and *V. coerulea*. This hybrid has flowers with a distinctive purple colour, vivid markings, and very long stems with 18-20 flowers on a stem. They bloom almost non-stop for them, and even here they would probably bloom three or four times a year. They use this one extensively in breeding because, with *V. tessellata* 'Mary Motes' in its background, it produces dark-coloured flowers.

Though elusive, whites can also be bred from *V. coerulea alba*. Martin showed a slide of Rose Sutton *alba*, which is a product of Rothschildiana using the alba forms crossed back to *coerulea alba*. These would probably be good plants for us to grow here since they have broad leaves and good cold tolerance. They are still working on good stable whites, but a lot of them have *coerulea alba* in their background.

Another plant that they use for breeding is *V. suavis*, which comes from Java and grows at elevations of about 2000 m. It is actually easier to grow in a temperate greenhouse than there in southern Florida. They wanted to use it for breeding because of its spotted pattern of colour and its exceptional cold tolerance. It produces vigorous hybrids with boldly marked flowers such as the lovely *V.* Gordon Dillon 'Lea' AM/AOS, which has been a best seller for decades. With this is mind, they crossed *V. suavis* to *V.* Motes Indigo which is a distant *suavis* hybrid, and produced the highly successful *V.* Mood Indigo. Martin showed a slide of three of these hybrids, all beautifully spotted flowers. These would be good hybrids for us to think about growing because they have good cold tolerance, are very vigorous, and bloom several times a year.

V. Fuchs Delight is a hybrid with *suavis* in its background. They took a clone of one that had a good spotting pattern and crossed it back to *suavis* to produce the highly awarded *V.* First and Last. The flowers of the plant he showed were about 5½" across and were very boldly marked. Seven or eight of these have received AOS awards recognition.

When you cross it to *Ascocentrum* section hybrids such as *V.* Yip Sum Wah, you get fuller formed flowers. Size can be increased in the second generation. One such hybrid is *V.* Ann Reaben Prospero, which can be bred back to spotted yellows to produce consistently spotted yellows. Some yellows are coming out of Thailand, but they have a low flower count. *V. suavis* has very long stems, so using it in the breeding program can produce hybrids with longer stems and higher flower counts.

V. denisoniana and *V. dearei* both produce yellow offspring. However, *denisoniana* is an Himalayan species from elevations of nearly 1000 m and, like *coerulea*, has much greater cold tolerance than *dearei*. It is also a smaller plant than *dearei*, and produces much clearer yellows on smaller plants. Martin showed a picture of their clone 'Mary Motes' which received an AM when the flowers were not yet fully opened, and an FCC when the pale orange flowers were fully mature. It is a beautiful plant with broader leaves, better cold tolerance and lower light requirements than its parent.

For quite a number of years, the Thais did not use *V. denisoniana* for breeding because they were committed to concolor flowers and were not particularly interested in spotted flowers. *V. denisonianas* in cultivation often produces spotted progeny due to some integration with *V. brunnea*; the natural hybrid between the two is *V.* x *hebraica*. An example of a spotted *denisoniana* hybrid is the awarded *V.* Motes Honeybun. However, selection for clarity of colour (no spots!) can produce clear flowers such as *V.* Motes Buttercup, which has also received several awards.

Crossed to *Ascocentrum* section hybrids, *V. denisoniana* can produce fuller flowers with a range of colour in such hybrids as *V.* Motes Tangelo (orange with white spots), *V.* Motes Arabesque (yellow with maroon spots), *V.* Miami Hot Spots (white with maroon spots), and more recently, *V.* Molly Fairwater (dark pink to red with large indistinct white spots).

V. denisoniana can yield profoundly spotted flowers like *V.* Meg Laughlin (creamy yellow with large irregular brown spots, very fragrant, easy to grow) and great subtlety of colour in tertiary hybrids like *V.* Foxy Lady (cream covered in a multitude of brown spots) which was awarded by both the AOS and the RHS.

V. motesiana, another Himalayan species, has great potential to produce the tessellated colour pattern when crossed to select standard types. They had an accidental hybrid appear out of their Thai bloodlines which had the red tessellated pattern *coerulea* in a yellow and they registered it as *V.* Thai Checkers. They like to give the Thais credit for their breeding. There has been lots of orchid piracy with plants out of Thailand being registered by other growers, especially those in Florida. *V. motesiana* has long been confused with *V. stangeana*, but *stangeana* is not even a valid species, as you can read in Dr. Motes's recent monograph.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

V. Motes Tiger Gold is a result of crossing *V.* Thai Checkers back to *V. motesiana* and shows a strongly tessellated red pattern. However, the underlying colour that you see in these secondary tessellated hybrids, and even more clearly in *V.* Rose Sutton when it was bred to *V.* Peggy Foo, are glossy yellows, so they are still using *motesiana* in their breeding. There is good temperature tolerance in these fairly compact plants.

V. merillii's typical form shows the reddest reds in *Vanda* species aside from *V. curvifolia* in section *Ascocentrum,* but *merillii* has much bigger flowers and a glossy texture that comes through in several generations.

The early Hawaiian and Australian breeders were not fond of using *V. merellii* in their programs because of the shape of the flowers. Theoretically, colour and form are equal on the judging scorecard, but in actual fact, they tend to favour form over colour. Most *Vanda* petals are described as clawed, narrow at the base broadening into a spatulate shape at the ends, and *V. merrillii* probably has the worst form of any species in that regard. However, it produces some wonderful hybrids with rich colour and glossy texture, and Martin feels that it has been somewhat neglected. Crossed to *V. cristata*, it produces *V.* Mellow Days, and crossed to *V denisoniana*, it produces *V.* Somthawil. Both are quite cold tolerant and easy to grow. *V.* Motes Bloodstone and *V.* Thai Pagoda are two more *merrillii* hybrids that demonstrate the red colour and glossy texture.

V. Ruby Tuesday is the result of Motes Orchids' imitating one of the most successful of all the Hawaiian *merrillii* hybrids, which is *V.* Red Gem. They crossed *V. merrillii* back to a member of the *Ascocenda* section, *V.* Yip Sum Wah, to produce *V.* Ruby Tuesday. This was highly successful and a very good bloomer.

V. Motes Hot Chestnut was the result of their looking at the ancestry of the standard Thai *Vandas* that were produced by a breeder named Sharon Gracks (sp?). One of the qualities that the Thai growers selected for in producing dark colours was found in *V. merrillii*, so Motes crossed *merrillii* back to one of Gracks's hybrids and produced *V.* Hot Chestnut. It has won awards from both the RHS and AOS.

V. cristata is a small, exceptionally cold-loving plant with broad flat leaves. It is found at elevations of 2000 m. They used to be able to grow it quite successfully at their greenhouses in Redland, Florida, but now with global warming, the climate has gotten warmer in South Florida and this species now struggles there. However, the pale green sepals and petals and the brilliantly coloured lip make for some great breeding. They have crossed it back to *V. sanderiana* to produce *V*. Joan Yuhas, and to *V*. Rasri Gold to produce *V.* David Junka.

V. Paki is probably their most successful *Vanda* ever. It crosses the cool-growing *V. suavis* with the cool-growing *V. cristata*. More than a decade ago he took some plants over to England and sold a number of them, and about four years ago, a *V.* Paki 'Esther Motes' appeared on the cover of The Orchid Review, having received an AM from the RHS. They grew much better in England than they ever did in South Florida; they are very cold tolerant plants.

Crossed back to a standard yellow, they produced V. Motes Goldflake, and crossed back to a *Vanda* from the *Ascocentrum* section, they produced *V.* Paki Long. This latter one shows "flaring" in the petals; one of the things that *V. suavis* does in its hybrids is producing that sort of flaring, the filling-in of colour between the more boldly marked spots.

V. Kekaseh ("Kekaseh" means "sweetheart" in Malay) is the hybrid between *V. cristata* and *V. insignis*. On the AOS scorecard, the lip is allowed a total of only 3 points; unfortunately, in most Vandas, and especially in the hybrids Martin had been showing us, the lip is the most colourful feature or most prominent feature or both, so *Vandas* don't get enough credit when getting judged. This is true of *V*. Kekaseh. Martin has a beautiful one blooming in his greenhouse, so he plans to self-pollinate and raise "a million more" of these because the world needs more *Vanda* Kakaseh!

When *V.* Arjuna (a *V. insignis* second generation hybrid) is crossed with *V. cristata*, the result is *V.* Naoki Kawamura. About ten of these have received AOS awards recognition in the last two years, three of them FCCs and the rest AMs.

V. Lauren Gardener *(V. cristata* x *V. tessellata*) is named for Lauren Gardener who did DNA research on *Vandas* for her doctoral dissertation. The section *Cristata* had been moved to a separate genus *Trudelia*, but it turns out that the section *Cristata Vandas* are actually closest genetically to *V. tessellata* than any of the other sections. Lauren Gardener and David Roberts were early collaborators with Martin on his monograph but went different directions in their careers before the monograph was complete, so Martin had to finish it on his own.

The hybrid of *V*. Lauren Gardener bred back to *V. insignia* shows the brilliant pink lip and should have good cold tolerance.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

As for *V. tessellata* itself, the clone 'Mary Motes" is as near black as anything you are likely to see. *V. tessellata* is one of the parents of *Papilionanda* Mimi Palmer. Theoretically the other parent is *V.* Tan Chay Yan, but no one can see any Tan Chay Yan in Mimi Palmer, and when the hybrid of *tessellata* x Tan Chay Yan was remade in Singapore, it looked nothing like. Mimi Palmer. Mimi Palmer is a beautiful flower, and the clone that Martin showed has won numerous awards from Asian orchid societies and the AOS under a variety of clonal names. It is very sweetly fragrant, smelling like frangipani. In fact, most of the hybrids Martin had been showing are sweetly fragrant.

Pda. Mimi Palmer has been bred to *V. luzonica* by Bill Thoms on the west coast of Florida to produce *V.* Cindy Banks, which has won an award of quality. It has a pattern of brown spots on yellow. Martin bred Mimi Palmer to *V. tricolor* to produce *V.* Motes Toledo Blue, which has won several AOS awards, and which usually has a pattern of *pink* spots! This is an example of why it is never a good idea to register a grex when you have only seen one or two bloom! The first one to bloom was a steely blue like Mimi Palmer, but nearly all the rest have been pinks; all of the awarded ones have been pinks. It is a very pretty flower and very tolerant.

Crossing *Pda.* Mimi Palmer to the complex hybrid *Pda.* Fuchs Delight gives *Pda.* Overseas Union Bank, which does have blue spots.

If you cross *V.* Motes Toledo Blue back to *V.* First and Last, you produce a hybrid named *V.* William Catherine, after the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The cross was made in Singapore using plants supplied by Motes Orchids.

V. Arjuna, the backcross of Mimi Palmer, remade with a superior *tessellata*, has been a success and has also produced award-winning progeny. Three awarded clones are 'Wink' (named after Martin's mother-in-law), 'Illumined' and 'Enlightened'. They have proved to be excellent parent plants.'

V. Arjuna bred back to insignia produces *V.* James Adamson. These come in a range of colours, some with beautiful purple lips, but nice and big and broad and very boldly marked.

V. Karnda, an early *tessellata* hybrid, has yielded striking colour in *V.* Blue Tahourdin, a hybrid that has received recognition from both the AOS and RHS. This demonstrates the range of colour that you can get from the Sri Lankan forms of *tessellata*, which is now reckoned to be a separate subspecies from the Himalayan ones. They are now calling the Sri Lankan forms, subspecies *tessellata*, and the Himalayan forms, subspecies *tesseloides*.

The cross of *V. tessellata* to *V*. John de Blaise, a more standard *Ascocentrum* hybrid, has produced award-winning hybrids in a wide range of colours.

V. tessellata can be bred back to blues to get hybrids such as *V*. Motes Mosaic and *V*. Erica Cizek Dann. Such hybrids could yield blues of the intensity of the highly successful *V.* Princess Mikasa, which has a *tessellata* hybrid in its distant ancestry. That gives the saturated colour that you get in Princess Mikasa.

Motes Orchids has done some breeding of *V. tessellata* to blues for a long while, and now they are breeding the blue *tessellata* hybrids back to *V. tessellata* 'Mary Motes', which, as we saw above, is almost black in colour, and are producing some really intense colours. As an example, they took *V*. Mary Motes 'Gloire de Dijon' that won the Best Vanda in Show and a gold medal at the World Orchid Congress in Dijon, and bred it back to *V. tessellata* 'Mary Motes' and produced *V*. Motes Midnight 'Blind Judgement' AM/AOS. The flowers are very dark, almost black - a beautiful and very successful hybrid.

Another black hybrid is *V.* Karina Motes 'Motes Midnight' JC/AOS (*V.* Violeta x *V.* Mary Motes), so dark that it had to be photographed in front of a light background instead of the usual black background.

These are hybrids that could be grown in Canada.

Alba forms of *tessellata* also exist, e.g., *V*. tessellata 'T. Orchids.' They can produce almost white flowers such as *V*. Thanantess. V. Dear Jay is a *tessellata alba* hybrid that can be crossed back to *Vandachostylis* Monica Brick to produce a very free-flowering hybrid with white flowers and a brightly-coloured lip.

V. tessellata 'Karina Motes' is pale green with a pink lip. They are also using it extensively in breeding to produce whites with coloured lips.

V. testacea has long been confused with *V. parviflora* and, in much of the literature, you will see *V. parviflora* listed as a synonym for *V. testacea*. However, the two plants are very different. There is a difference in the lip shape, the way the petals are carried, and the plant architecture. *V. testacea* will bloom on small plants with only a couple centimetres of stem length, but they will eventually grow into plants that are 50-60 cm. tall. *V. parviflora*, on the other hand, only gets 7-8 cm tall. Martin considers them to be two different species.

They are interested in *testacea* species because of the long stems. An example of one of its hybrids is *V.* Stephen Scott Young (*testacea* x *tessellata alba*), bright yellow with a white lip, carried on a long stem. It flowers nearly non-stop for them.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Vandachostylis Voja's Little Bird, when crossed with *testacea*, gives *Vandachostylis* Michael Dean, a delightful miniature that is very easy to grow. It has very broad leaves and could probably be grown on a windowsill. The violet lip of *testacea* comes out in this hybrid.

V. Motes Golden Imp (*cristata* x *testacea*) has proven to be a very successful hybrid and a very successful parent. One of the problems with *cristata* is that it usually only carries two or three flowers per stem. *V. testacea* can have flower spikes nearly a metre tall with thirty or more flowers, so crossing the two together produces a very satisfactory miniature hybrid. It has also been very successful as a parent.

V. Arthur Ashe Patterson (*testacea* x *garayi*) also has much longer flower spikes and is quite colourful (yellow) and free-flowering.

Martin went over to the Philippines about four years ago and went to their big show in February. They had hundreds of *V. lamellata* var. *boxallii* in bloom, but Motes Orchids' new Award of Quality strain is so good that the worst of them is better than the best that they had there. There is no need for anyone to ever take a *V. lamellata* var. *boxallii* out of the jungle again. Motes Orchids likes the bold markings of *V. lamellata*, and the fact that they have long flower stalks, nearly a metre long. In Motes Orchids' strain, there are 35-37 flowers per stem and the flowers are spaced well apart. One of the problems in standard Vanda breeding is the flowers are too crowded together and they tend to eclipse one another. Breeding *V. lamellata* to standard yellow Vandas produces hybrids like *V*. Shades of Amber and *V*. Motes First Light. The flowers each have their own space and often they are improved in shape.

*V. lamellat*a and *V. sanderiana* have been found to be more closely related genetically than anyone thought before DNA research was done on them. Their hybrids are very free-flowering and vigorous.

Two other hybrids of *lamellata* with Vandas of the large-flowered Ascocentrum section are *V*. Marty Brick and *V.* Fulford's Gold (also available as a mericlone). These brilliant hybrids get their long stems and high flower count from *V. lamellata*. The long flower spikes allow the plants to carry the flowers above the foliage.

Motes Orchids has re-made primary hybrids like *V.* Loke (*lamellata* x *luzonica*) and *V.* Blue Buttons (*coerulescens* x *lamellata*) using the new strains of *lamellata*, with superior results, e.g., longer flower spikes. *V. luzonica* has nice broad leaves, so these hybrids would be good for us to grow in Canada.

When they crossed *V*. Miami Snow Drop back onto *V. cristata,* they produced *V*. Motes Lemon Tart, which has a brilliant lip against a pale background. At least one of these has been awarded an AM by the AOS. It should be easy for us to grow here.

V. insignis, whose large lip and glossy texture produced early successes like *V*. Kekaseh, has been neglected by many modern breeders. However, it has long been one of Motes Orchids' favourites, and especially now because they have produced a new superior strain of it with a big broad flat lip. They crossed a *V*. Kekaseh back to a standard Thai type that they got out of Singapore, and got an award for it. They named this hybrid V. Singapore Sweetheart, to indicate its origin.

The lip on *V. insignis* has always been the big thing about them but the name "insignis" means "marked", so the markings that it can produce are also important. An example that Martin showed earlier, *V*. James Adamson (Arjuna x *insignis*), shows strong markings and also a broad purple lip.

The Himalayan species, *V. bensonii*, while not in itself an overly impressive species, has two very important qualities that make it an outstanding parent. (1) It has very long stems that carry numerous flowers. (2) The colour on the back of the flower is a very pale violet. One of the things that makes *V*. Princess Mikasa so successful as a hybrid is that its colour is saturated. When you look through a Vanda flower spike of hybrids of most standard breeding, you see white backs of flowers, and this is aesthetically disturbing. In *V. bensonii* hybrids such as *V*. Janet Hiddleston, winner of awards from both RHS and AOS, you see that the back of the flowers is darkly coloured. Other hybrids show very long flower spikes where each flower has its space. Those are very important qualities aesthetically, and they come from *V. bensonii*.

V. coersulescens will bloom on very small plants, as small as 3 cm stem length, but they will eventually grow as big as *V. coerulea*. However, they take a while to get there! They are capable of producing small compact plants, and they are a cool grower. There is a pink form that is a small plant that stays small. This may prove to be a separate species when the DNA analysis is complete. *V*. Blue Buttons is one of its hybrids, when crossed with *V. lamellata* var. *boxallii*. It has brilliant flowers on long stems.

V. liouvillei is a favourite of theirs because of its large lip. Usually when you are measuring flowers, the lip is about the same length as the tepals but, in *V. liouvillei*, the lip is longer than the lateral sepals. They have been breeding with it in hopes of producing larger, longer lips. *V*. Motes Mahogany (*liouvillei* x *merrillii*) has a lip exceeding the length of the lateral sepals and takes on the colour and glossy texture of *V. merrillii*. The texture of *V. merrillii* comes through for three, sometimes four, generations.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Another of its hybrids, *V*. Motes Blue Bird (*liouvillei* x *testacea*), has very long stems with multiple flowers. It will be in bloom for well over a month before the last flower buds open.

V. flabellata ("flabellata" means "flag") is a very compact plant with big broad leaves. The flowers have a very colourful lip and the sepals and petals are mottled, although there are some alba forms with green sepals and petals and a white lip. One of its hybrids, *Vandaschostylis* Voja's Little Bird x V. *testacea*, is a small plant but a very steady bloomer.

The cross with *V. falcata* produces *V.* Hiroshima Choice, which is very free-flowering. *V. falcata* is well known for its cold tolerance. Other *V. falcata* hybrids are *Vandachostylis* Lou Sneary (*V. falcata* x *Rhynchostylis coelestis*) and *V*. Virgel (*falcata* x *cristata*). Both are cool growing. The colour of the lip in *falcata* is transmitted separately from the colour of the sepals and petals so, if you want colour, you have to breed to plants that have a colourful lip.

V. curvifolia has long been used to produce compact plants. The problem with it however is its deeply furrowed leaves, which means that it is a high light plant. Many Ascocentrums, although the plants may be smaller, are not the best plants for temperate greenhouses.

Better choices are plants such as *V. garayii* and *V. miniata. V. garayii* has much broader leaves and is more compact; its bright yellow colour is exceedingly dominant into the second and third generations. The true *V. miniata*, which is often confused with *V. garayii,* has much broader leaves and is a small plant, and they have been using it quite successfully in breeding.

The one they really love, however, is *V. ampullacea*, but it is the most reluctant to breed. It has nice big broad leaves and is a compact plant. They try to breed it to everything in the world and they do not get a lot of success. When they do, they get some happy, happy flowers. Its flowers have nice full shape and a beautiful rose colour.

V. christensoniana is a more leggy plant but it has real vigour, which can be seen in the adventitious roots that are emerging around the flower spikes. If you cross it with *V. ampullacea*, you get *V*. Motes Adorbs, which has won many cultural and quality awards. They grow it like a weed, and would be a good one for us to have.

Hybrids can surprise you. They crossed a *V. tessellata alba* with *V. ustii* (formerly *V. luzonica* var. *immaculata*). The *tessellata* was yellow with a white lip, and the *ustii* was white with a red lip, so they expected to get white flowers with coloured lips. However what they actually got was a yellow flower with a purple lip. The explanation: the *V. ustii* was actually a pale greenish white flower with a red lip; the *V. tessellata* was actually a tan flower with a blue lip that happens to be an alba form. When you cross the two, the colour comes through on the lip. The dominance of the *V. tessellata* purple comes through, and you get this new hybrid, *V.* Jay Mullen.

There is still much to be done and much to be discovered in Vanda hybridization.

Martin then showed a slide of their Vanda exhibit at the Dijon World Orchid Congress. At the end of the international judging, they swept the awards for Vandas: the only Vandas receiving medals were from Motes Orchids. Martin had taken a number of plants to use for Show and Tell in a presentation. However, the organizers of the WOC would not allow him to put them on display unless he put them in an exhibit. So, his wife was given half a dozen ferns and she put together an exhibit. As a result, they received one gold medal, two or three silvers, a couple of bronze, and Best Vanda in Show.

Shockingly, the next World Orchid Congress was in Miami and they did not even participate. Martin was not invited to speak. If you read his wife's novel, Orchid Territory, you will find out about the Byzantine politics of south Florida orchids.

While this WOC was going on, Motes and others put on the Tamiami International Orchid Festival, which has since grown into a show with more than 55 international vendors. This year it will take place on the third weekend of May.

Martin closed with a spectacular slide of what temperate greenhouses can look like 365 days per year with the right Vanda hybrids. He invited everyone to come to Miami to see!

Dean Chesterman thanked Dr. Motes for his impressive presentation and then invited questions from the participants.

Q. Can you grow Vandas under low humidity?
A. Today in south Florida, they are going to have a relative humidity of 28% and temperature near 80F. Under those conditions they have extremely high potential of drying. However, now is when they grow their Vandas best. You can grow Vandas under low humidity, but you have to be sure to water the bejesus out of them. Water them until the roots turn over-all dark green, not mottled half white and half green. They grow them here in Florida bare-root or in open baskets, and growers do the same in Thailand, but that does not mean you should be growing them like that up there. You should probably grow them in clay pots with a small amount of bark or wood chips and charcoal. Make sure to saturate the roots. This time of year, they will water their Vandas often twice a day, and in Thailand, where the humidity is lower, they water them morning and evening as a matter of course. The important thing is

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

observation: observe the roots of your Vandas. They should be constantly growing. Keep them well-saturated and, however low the humidity, they are going to be happy if you give them enough water.

Q. Can you comment on fertilizer?
A. There was an article in *The Orchid Review* a little over a year ago which gave an update on what is known from the Michigan State University study. The article recommends a ration of 3:1:1 (nitrogen:phosphorus:potassium), with extra calcium and magnesium. Vandas are heavy feeders, so you should fertilize every fifth to sixth watering. He recommends Peters Excel, 15-5-15 Cal-Mg; they have used it for a long time. There is a local company that makes a version with a little less phosphorus that seems to work even better. The rule of thumb for watering Vandas: water the Vandas first of all your orchids and, when you are finished the others, water the Vandas again. The first watering gives the roots a chance to absorb some of the water and fertilizer, and the second watering gives them the chance to absorb more water. Water adheres to water better than it adheres to any surface, even an orchid root, so you have to get the root wet before you really get it wet. After you get them wet, you let them barely dry out before watering again. So, another rule of thumb: if a Phalaenopsis looks like it needs water, you should water it; if a Cattleya looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow; if a Vanda looks like it needs water, you should have watered it yesterday.

Q. Has anyone bred *V. testacea* x *V. falcata*?
A. Yes, they have. He was discussing this with Dave McDaniel of Orchids Classics, who has done a lot of remarkable breeding with *V. falcata*. Dave sent them some of his plants to raise. Martin is not sure if the hybrid is theirs or Dave's. It is a very compact, very successful little hybrid. You want to increase falcata's stem length, number of flowers, and colour of the lip; *testacea* does all of that.

Q. More of a comment - the participant has a *V. coerulea* hybrid hanging bare-root near a south window. He keeps a bucket of water nearby and, every couple of days, dunks the plant into the bucket of water. It has re-bloomed for him a couple of times, so it has whetted his appetite to try more Vandas.
A. You could now move on to more *V. coerulea* hybrids or *V. cristata* or *V. suavis* hybrids. They would probably do very well for you.

Q. Also a comment - here in Edmonton in the winter, when we do get sunshine, even if only for four or five hours, the light intensity can be quite extreme when the sun reflects off the snow. So you would be surprised at what we can grow here in terms of light-requiring plants.
A. When he was in Calgary a number of years ago, Martin met several successful Vanda growers. In south Florida, they have more sunlight than many places in the tropics so, if they keep their seedlings warm, they can grow Vandas faster than they grow them in Thailand. Use what is available to you in your environment.

Dean Chesterman thanked Martin for his very interesting presentation.

The first part of the meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

The second part of the meeting was convened at 2:35 pm. It was chaired and moderated by Tracey Thue and was restricted to members of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society. There were at least 16 participants.

Announcements:

- Tracey welcomed the participants to the second part of the meeting.
- Tracey commented on Martin Motes' presentation, noting the fascinating Vanda hybridization that is being done, and also the sometimes cut-throat competition among Vanda breeders in Florida.
- The executive has decided to resume in-person meetings starting with next month's meeting, which will be on Saturday, April 23, 1:30 pm at Elim Church. We will be trying a hybrid format with an in-person meeting and a Zoom link as well. The meeting will be chaired by Calvin Lo, as Tracey will be away. There will be no presenter, but we will have our annual silent auction fundraiser, as well as Problem Corner, Show and Tell, etc. Details will be in the newsletter.

Comments from the Executive:

None

Problem Corner:

Q. Not a question, but Tracey commented that she put a Dendrobium outside today. It had been "looking like hell for quite a while," she said. (Secretary's note: That'll smarten it up!)

Q. A member has a *Phalaenopsis* Sogo Vivien with two flower spikes. One of the spikes has a little branch coming from a node on the flower stem. She wonders if that is normal. It is a very healthy looking plant.
A. Yes, this is normal. The plant will hold the spikes with the flowers for quite a long time and, if the plant is vigorous, it will put out more spikes. Its energy will first go to open the existing buds and then will go to the new spike.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

It was suggested that after all the present flowers on the existing spike have finished, she could cut the stem off about an inch above the node, and this would encourage the new spike to grow. It was also suggested that this could be a keiki.

Q. A member has a *Phragmipedium* that she got form Ching Hua. It hasn't really grown much and is stretching up rather than producing a compact arrangement of leaves at the base.
A. The plant could be looking for light; it might need more light.

Q. A member has a problem with moss growing too fast in his terrarium and it is choking out his *Lepanthes*. He is always pulling the moss off his plants.
A. Other members have had this problem, too. The moss in their terrariums looks nice but is overtaking the mini plants. They just remove it by hand; some use tweezers to do it.

Show and Tell:
Sherry Fensom showed *Vanda cristata*.

Leah Adams showed *Phalaenopsis* Sogo Vivien. She has had it for about a month.

David Schwinghamer showed:
- *Coelogyne fimbriata*, which he grows in a large terrarium among bromeliads and begonias. It blooms constantly. He got the *Coelogyne* from Heather Anderson.
- a tree frog
- a veiled chameleon (from Yemen), which lives with his large Cattleyas. She eats mostly mealworms, which David feeds to her by hand, so no bugs get on his plants.

Tracey Thue showed:
- *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* '10' that belongs to Sara Thue. Sara got it in 2015 from Calvin Wong at Tropical Gardens Orchids.
- *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* labelled 'red', a first bloom seedling that Sara got from Ecuagenera last year. Sara hoped that it would be closer to a red colour than her '10', which is orange, but it actually looks about the same colour. She grows them both in sphagnum and Perlite in net baskets in a tank under cool to intermediate conditions. She hangs them up high next to the LED lights.
- *Coelogyne mooreana* 'Brockhurst' HCC/AOS, which she got from Terry Letendre in Edmonton in 2019. She first saw this plant in a display at a show in Alberta. It blooms out of a new roll of leaves and after it finishes blooming, the leaves continue to develop into a pseudobulb. This plant has just started blooming and will develop a musky fragrance when the flowers are more mature.
- *Paphiopedilum* Hawaiian Skies, which she got from Paph Paradise. The second flower is now open. It has lovely mottled leaves.

Don Keith has some Draculas blooming but he will wait to show them next month when he can do it in person.
He has a *Dracula vampira*, which has six flower spikes and is a sequential bloomer, so he gets new flowers every two weeks.
In answer to a question, Don replied that Draculas do not feed much. He has more than 50 of them potted in sphagnum moss and coarse Orchiata or Perlite. When he used to grow them in Orchiata, he would fertilize them every three months and he would still get black spots on the leaves from too much fertilizer.

Other Discussion:
Tracey and Tobi would like photos for the newsletter sent to them by April 13, as they would like to get the newsletter out the week before the meeting on April 23.

In answer to a question, David reported that Ecuagenera has received our order and is working on it, but he and Heather haven't yet heard when it will arrive. Nor have they heard when the Ten Shin order will arrive.

Adjournment: 3:04pm

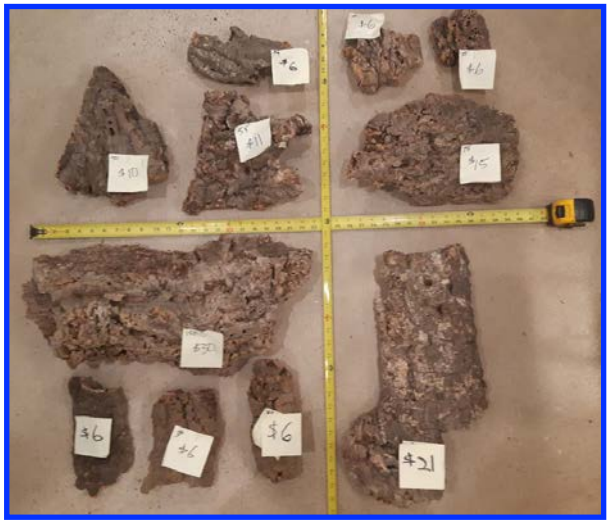
ORCHID MARKET

Visit Don and Tom at the Resources table!

They will have these and more supplies for your orchid growing needs.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, Don is willing to provide orchid supplies to SOS members for pickup this month. **Place orders by 8:00 pm Saturday, Apr. 23, 2022.** Orders will be ready for **pick up after 10:00 a.m. Sunday, Apr 24, 2022.** Please pay with exact cash, by cheque made out to the SOS, or pay Don by e-transfer.

Email Don at donkeith@sasktel.net



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Fir Bark	3L bag fine or medium (please specify)	$6.00
Orchiata Pine Bark	3L bag fine, medium or med-coarse (specify)	$6.00
Orchiata Pine Bark	40L bag, fine, medium or med-coarse (specify)	$52.00
Perlite	4L bag medium/coarse	$4.00
GrowStones	3L bag, 1/4 - 3/8" or 1/2 - 3/4"	$6.00
Sphagnum moss, N.Z.	8L compacted 12L compressed	$12.00 N/A
Grodan Grow Cubes	3L bag, 0.4" cubes 7L bag 0.4" cubes	$5.00 $10.00
MSU fertilizer	1 cup 13-3-15 for tap or RO water	$5.00
Oyster shells	1 cup bag	$0.25
Marphyl Soil Enhancer	500 ml bottle	$11.00

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Cork slabs	Various shapes, sizes (see photo above)	$6 - $32.00
Inflorescence clips	Small, brown or green	10 for $1.00
Rhyzome clips	Small Med/Large	$1.00 $1.25
Clear Pots	2 1/4 x 2 1/4 square	$0.50
	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 round	$0.50
	2 3/4 x 2 3/4 round	$0.75
	4 x 4	$1.25
	4 1/2 x 4 1/2 slotted	$1.50
Net Pots	3"	$1.25
	3.5"	$1.25
	5"	$1.50
	6"	$1.75

SHOW AND TELL

Grown by Inger Almquist

***Tolumnia* Moriyama Starbright 'Red Star'**

I bought this from Ed Cott, Ontario, in November, 2021. It sits in south window exposure and watered with distilled water every 2-4 days so the sphagnum moss stays moist.

Grown by Lynn Campbell

***Phalaenopsis* Lioylin Wild Card**

I bought this miniature phal from Ching Hua in the last order. It was a last minute decision as I have never purchased a phal from our vendors. But it was inexpensive and I loved the name, so I took the plunge. A whole $5.00 if I remember. It grew a stem from between two top leaves, and a small leaf on that, then it grew a spike out of the leaf! The flower finally opened 2 days ago and what a nice surprise. It's almost green with dark red/purple blotches.

Grown by Tracey Thue, Photo by Sara Thue

Coelogyne mooreana 'Brockhurst' HCC/AOS

Known as 'The Queen of Coelogynes', this lovely species is found in montane cloud forests of Vietnam. The cultivar 'Brockhurst' apparently has larger flowers and more yellow markings in the throat than other cultivars. I grow my plant under bright lights, intermediate temperatures, in a mix of coarse fir bark, perlite, and chopped sphagnum moss.

I purchased my plant from Terry Letendre at the OSA show in 2019 and it has flowered every spring. It has a subtle perfume that changes as the flowers age.

Pat Randall

Cattleya Blue Velvet

I got this from Cheryl Adamson in 2017. It has bloomed every year since with 1 or 2 blooms. It is very nicely scented and the bloom is large for the size of plant.

Cattleya Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah' AM/AOS

I got this as a tiny seedling from Cloud's Orchids in 2013. It took a few years but it has been blooming reliably for a number of years now. Not too much scent but the flowers last long, and are so cute!

Grown by Sara Thue

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii

Dracula hirsuta

Aerangis fastuosa

***Cattleya* Paprika 'Golden Delight'**
(formerly *Sarcolaeliocattleya*)

Grown by Donna Carlson-O'Keefe

I got this one from Monica DeWit in 2011. As the name might suggest, Cattleya Paprika usually has orange flowers but this one is bright yellow with a bit of an orange flush. It usually has two flower buds at once, but the second one often gets fertilized and produces a seed pod instead of a flower. It has a daytime fragrance of citronella, kind of like Mr. Clean.

***Phalaenopsis* NOID**
My husband bought me this from the reknowned grower, Costco, in 2018, It has bloomed reliably ever since. I love the large lemon yellow flowers.

Grown by Calvin Lo



Encyclia bractescens

I got this as a three-pseudobulb plant in 2019 and it has grown into a monster. Very easy to grow and clearly quite floriferous! Grown under lights and mounted.


Aerangis fastuosa

An adorable Madagascan miniature that is night fragrant. Here are two clones. The flower to plant ratio is excellent.



Thrixspermum saruwatarii

A wonderful epiphyte from Taiwan with small apple-blossom flowers that smell fresh and reminiscent of spring!

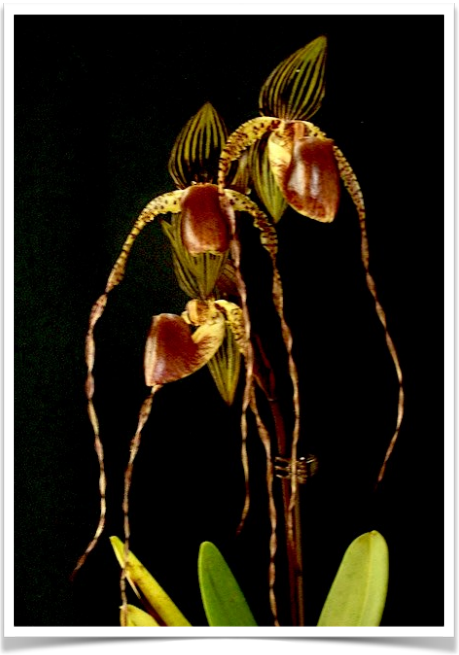
Grown by Bob Lucas

***Cattleytonia* Why Not 'Round About' AM/AOS**

This plant was not claimed after the raffle at the COC 2002, which we hosted. Since I was the last out of the building, I took it, thinking it might be claimed later. It never was, so I've been growing it and selling divisions into the Society for 20 years. Now I have two flasks that Cody made with this as one of the parents. A gift that keeps on giving.

***Phalaenopsis* (Chingruey's Fancy x Miro Sun)**

I received a compot of these from Mark Krasny of Montreal. This is the first to bloom, a large flower, 7.1 cm natural spread, on a small seedling. I cannot wait for it to grow up.



***Paphiopedilum* Prince Edward of York x *Paph. adductum*)**

Paphiopedilum adductum is a favourite of breeders to reduce the size of the large *rothschildianum* crosses. It works.

***Phalaenopsis* Miro Sun**

A mericlone I purchased from Kingfisher Orchids last fall. Probably the best red I have seen. I have a seed pod on it already.

THE ROOT TIP

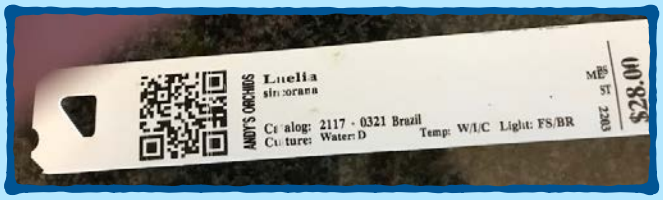
The Ultimate Label

By Heather Anderson

Cheryl Adamson and I visited an Open House at Andy's Orchids, Encinitas, CA on March 20. We spent about two hours in the greenhouses. They seemed to go on forever and we could have easily spent the whole afternoon at Andy's. As well as thousands of orchids, Andy had a good selection of unique houseplants. We were fortunate to have Andy help us with our purchases.

The labels were really impressive. The name of the orchid, its catalogue number, and its native region were included on the tag. Also culture information, covering watering, temperature and light requirements. The price was also part of the tag. Finally, the QR code provides further information about the plant, as well as a picture of the bloom.

Andy gave us a sheet with cultural tips. Included on the sheet was The Plant Tag Key. For example, the *Laelia sincorana* tag identifies Water as 'D'; that is the abbreviation for dry, which is 1-2 waterings/week. Temperature is indicated as W/I/C, or warm/intermediate/cool. Light is FS/BR, or full sun to bright indirect sunlight.



For your information, if you are visiting the US and travelling by car, you can bring up to 50 houseplants back to Canada, for your own use, without any CITES, Phytosanitary, or other paperwork. Check out the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website for more information.