

SIOS

SEPTEMBER, 2009
Volume XXXII, Issue 9

NEWSLETTER

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY



Next meeting September 15th 7:00pm

OFFICERS

John Foley
President 718-996-1064

Frank Ariosta, M.D.
Vice President 732-564-0994

Joseph Schwab
Co-Vice President 1-646-272-9679

Colman Rutkin
Treasurer 718-816-0682

Michael V. Corace
Secretary 718-375-3177

AOS REPRESENTATIVE
Howard Fischer 718-981-4002

TRUSTEES
Ron Altman, D.D.S. 1-908-658-3055
Patrick and Carol Cammarano
718-948-6439
Gerry Cassella 718-698-3718
Dr. Olga Federico 718-987-0255
Sharon Jaffee 917-753-6066
Trish and Anthony Penza
718-816-4868
Karen Silverman 718-356-4482
Roy Fox 718-816-8187
David O'Dell 718-966-6174

NEWSLETTER
Kathleen Ruoti, Editor
718-967-6158

CONTENTS

Message from the President ...1
Show Table for August...2
Article from AOS...3-4
Monthly Checklist...5

The SIOS meets on the
3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm
at
All Saints Episcopal Church,
2329 Victory Blvd., SI, NY 10314

A Message from John

Hello Friends,

We missed you guys last meeting. I hope you enjoyed the "Frank Ariosta Show". I understand that he was quite GOOD!, Who knew? Not only can the man replace your hip, but he can show you how to repot a Cattleya!

I am not at all surprised. A man of many talents...as they say "once a teacher always a teacher".

When you consider the quality of the Cattleys he's shared with us on the showtable over the years, I'd say he chose a perfect topic for a demo.

I hope your plants survived the "summer" outdoors. Usually a summer outdoors make plants very happy little creatures, they seem to grow like hell and reward you with many blooms when they flower.

This summer, I fear, may have set them back several years! UGH!

I am Happy to welcome Carol Cammarano to the Board. Although the qualifications are somewhat less than a supreme court justice, Carol has been a player as soon as she joined the society. She's a natural for the board, and I am pleased she accepted my invitation. Welcome on board! (no pun intended)

We are meeting early this month. The 3rd Tuesday is the 15th.

Try to be there. Our speaker is Denis Delasandro. He's been a favorite of ours for years. A world wide orchid collector for over 30 years. He does have a story or two. Don't miss this one. I assure you will be entertained and educated.

So, till I see you all there
Be Well and be GOOD!

~John

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Speaker
DENNIS DELASANDRO

Dennis will discuss his 30 year journey
collecting orchids.

The SIOS welcomes
CAROL CAMMARANO
To the Board of Trustees

Show Table Tallies for August

GREENHOUSE

Frank Ariosta - 54
Dave O'Dell - 20
Colman Rutkin - 24

WINDOWSILL

Pat Cammarano - 5
Roy Fox - 7

LIGHTS

Joseph Schwab - 70
Olga Federico - 16



This article was taken from the August, 2009 AOS Newsletter. More articles like this can be found at:

<http://www.aos.org>

Join the [AOS Orchid Forum](#) online community today! The AOS Forum is back and better than ever. Our new software package features many improvements including private messaging, your own photo albums, RSS feeds, calendars and more. Tap into a knowledge base of experienced growers from all different climates and growing conditions. Get the best answers to your orchid questions. Share your photos and brag about your blooming beauties. A one-time registration is required.

Collector's Item:

Catasetum pileatum Rchb.f.

Pronunciation: Kat-ah-SEE-tum pee-lee-AH-tum (or pih-lee-AY-tum)



Ctsm. pileatum 'Riopelle', CCM/AOS
Grower: James Riopelle Portland, OR

This spectacular *Catasetum* is widespread from the island of Trinidad, throughout the basins of the Negro and Orinoco Rivers in Brazil and Venezuela and into Colombia and Ecuador. The first plants introduced into England were collected in Venezuela and introduced into cultivation by Linden. The species was described by H. G. Reichenbach in 1882 in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. Until 1921 this species was Venezuela's national flower. The Latin name refers to the adjective *pileatus* or "with a cap", in apparent reference to the hood over the broad lip formed by the carriage of the dorsal sepal and petals.

Catasetum pileatum is an impressive plant even out of flower. The fusiform (spindle-shaped) pseudobulbs grow about 16cm (about 6 inches) tall and the large leaves can reach 40cm (about 16 inches long) making typical plants nearly 60cm (2 feet) tall. Robust clones can be even bigger. *Catasetums* normally produce flowers of a single sex. The plants themselves are not constrained to one sex or the other as are some plants but any given inflorescence will usually carry flowers that are either male or female with male flowers more prevalent. Male inflorescences can reach 30cm (12 inches) long and carry up to 12 flowers reaching about 13cm (about 5 inches) across. Female inflorescences are typically shorter, fewer-flowered and the fleshy flowers are fewer in number. In some species in the *Catasetum* Alliance, the differences between male and female flowers are so striking that early taxonomists mistook female forms for different species. Inflorescences in this species are produced from near the base of the maturing pseudobulb typically in late summer or fall although plants are capable of flowering about any time. Mature pseudobulbs on well-grown plants may produce several inflorescences at once or spread out over a fairly long period of time.



Ctsm. pileatum 'Imperial', AM/AOS
 Grower: Martin J. Nathan, MD
 Los Angeles, CA

Male *Catasetum* flowers have a specialized trigger mechanism clearly visible in the center of this flower. *Catasetums* belong to a group of orchids pollinated by male Euglossine bees (sometimes called "orchid bees"). These bees are attracted to the powerful fragrances produced by these flowers and will swarm in large numbers. When a visiting bee accidentally trips the trigger, the pollinia are forcefully ejected from the anther cap and adhere to the bee's body. The tension in these triggers is substantial and pollinia can be thrown several inches (reportedly up to 6 feet if no obstacles are encountered) from the plant and at a speed measured in excess of 10 ft/second. The force involved in the impact appears to serve two purposes; first to cause the sticky pad to adhere firmly to the insect and second to get the insect to go to another flower.



Ctsm. pileatum
 'Kay Rinaman', CBM/AOS
 A rare yellow form
 Grower: James Riopelle Portland, OR

Catasetum pileatum is a lowland species where it occurs as an epiphyte. The species is adapted to hot, humid rainforest with only a short dry winter season and this is one species that may not go completely dormant for any period of time. Temperatures range from a maximum of 30C (86F) to a minimum of 15C (59F) and humidity is high at night even in the dry season. While actively growing, plants should be given as much water, warmth and humidity they will tolerate without damage to the foliage and ample fertilizer. These plants are heavy feeders and the goal is to produce the largest pseudobulbs as possible by the onset of late summer. After flowering and when leaves fall, the plants should be kept dry with high humidity and warm temperatures until the newly developing growths have roots about an inch long. With *Ctsm. pileatum*, this time interval can be quite short and successful growers provide a winter rest only if the plant's appearance indicates a need for dormancy. Plants are best grown potted. Some successful growers use straight sphagnum moss in clay pots top-dressed with time-release fertilizer (in low-humidity climates plastic pots will retain moisture longer). Others recommend bark or tree-fern based potting mix. Regardless of the mix chosen, it must hold adequate moisture, drain rapidly so excess moisture isn't a problem and aerate the roots.

Ron McHatton, August 2009

Monthly Checklist for September and October

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom. Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches ventricosum*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Lemboglossum bictoniense

Both *Lemboglossum* (syn. *Odontoglossum*) *bictoniense* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Lemboglossum bictoniense* is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Odcdm. Bittersweet* and *Odm. bicross*) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for *odontoglossum* beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum

Standard, green-leaved *paphiopedilums* begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

SIOS Staten Island Orchid Society
1306 Arden Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10312-4901



ADDRESS LABEL

Orchid Related Websites and Information

ORCHIDS ON THE WEB

For all you web surfers here are some sites you might enjoy visiting:

orchidweb.org

This is the AOS official website. It is a wealth of information on all things ORCHID

orchidmall.com

Looking for plants to buy? Here's a resource for you. Listing vendors from all over the world.

repotme.com

Everything you need to supply your orchid collection.

That's a start. Happy surfing!!